

The Silver Lining



*And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal,
proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.*

Revelation 22:1

June 2006

Sermon by the late Elder Bro. David Mangold, Roanoke, IL

St. John 3

We have here read some of the immortal words of the Savior – words that are well known in the world. But then yet, it is still true in the world today as it was in the days of the Lord Jesus, as He mentioned here in the beginning, “If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things?” St. John 3:12.

It is indeed a great reason why God was willing to do so much for the world. As we were reminded in this text, “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” St. John 3:16.

When we consider the great, the devastating destruction which sin and Satan have brought upon humanity, it is without a doubt that in Heaven in the presence of the Creator of all things, there is great sorrow. Even that same sorrow which exists in the heart of God’s people here on Earth, it must also to some extent exist in the heavens.

We have testimonies that those thoughts and those feelings which God’s people have here on Earth, that similar thoughts exist in the presence of God. We believe in a living God, do we not? And we also know that only then, if we have received the true life of God, when the Spirit of life and of truth dwells in the heart of man, can he be in communion with God. And as we find at another place, from which I take it that those joys which exist in the hearts of true believers are also found in Heaven, the Savior Himself, I believe, said that among the angels in heaven there is more joy over a sinner that repents than over ninety and nine who have no need of repentance (St. Luke 15:7). Is not that also the feeling that exists in the heart of God’s people? That same joy.

And we find that the Lord Jesus, when He was on Earth, He was entirely under the guidance of the Spirit of the Father. The conditions here upon Earth by which He was surrounded did not prevent the Lord Jesus from doing the Father’s will. And

even so, beloved ones, in this our day and time, we often feel sorry and have sympathy for our loved ones, our brothers, who are separated from their families and homes and from the assemblies of God’s people, surrounded by many evils and many trials and temptations to endure. But, dear ones, we have all reason to trust in the Lord, and to believe that if they keep in constant communion with God, if they watch and pray at their post, that they may in their place, wherever they are led, be a light in this world. These times of trials and of sorrow are no doubt also for some good.

And those who have received the true spirit of childhood and of adoption, and who have been redeemed from the power of Satan, they are called upon to also let their light shine. Even as all of us who are God’s children, it is our duty that we let our light shine here in this world. For it is the work, it is the power of Satan to influence even the believer to try to go through this life rather unnoticed, to escape the eyes of reproach which we can see in this world: the enmity of evil, of Satan, and of those who serve him. But dear ones, our calling is to be a light and to testify of our Savior and His ways.

And therefore let us one and all put our hope and trust in the Lord. Let us not be too much concerned with what befalls us here in this life, but rather let us be concerned that our hearts and our minds may be full of Godly light, and that the light of Jesus Christ our Lord may show itself and manifest itself in us His followers. That is our duty.

It came to me this morning, listening to the word of God, it seems to me the most important duty and first duty that we have here on Earth as children of God is that we might be wide awake in the Spirit, that we rouse ourselves. We know in this life, in the natural life already, where a certain person in their business, whatever it might be, if they are diligent, if they are wide awake, and they do not spare their labors, we know

that blessing follows diligence.

A diligent worker usually reaps a harvest for his work, and when we consider (if I may speak of it) in our communities where the people of God live, we usually find them plenty diligent as far as their earthly labors are concerned. They are plenty diligent in seeking a profit, in seeking gain. And when we consider it, that really is what makes the country look well,

Sermon continued on page 44

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

Light From The Word



Writings based
on God's Word

June 2006

Blessings From God

In the previous editorial, the folly, disappointment and emptiness of "What will ye give me?" was discussed. The alternative to selfishness and greed is to strive for blessings from God. Several examples of selfishness and the grief it brought were cited. How can we attain the standards of those of Smyrna to whom Christ said, "I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich)" (Rev. 2:9)?

Just as we can find examples in the Bible of the results of a life of sin and greed, so also can we find examples in the Bible of the results of a life of self sacrifice and obedience to God that will result in attaining God's blessings.

There is, of course, no better example than that of Jesus Christ. The selfless example He offered will serve us well. We may think that because Jesus was the Son of God, there were no battles against temptation that He needed to fight. The beginning of His ministry and the end of His life tell us that such was not the case. After His baptism and after fasting for forty days and nights, Satan came to tempt Him with an easy way to receive bread, a basic need of life, with an "opportunity" to prove if God would be with Him at all times, and with power and glory. In all three cases He answered Satan with the Word of God (Mt. 4:1-11). Throughout His ministry, He relied upon the Word and power of God.

As Jesus faced severe trial prior to His crucifixion, as He pleaded with God to help Him complete the very mission for which He came to earth, Satan was there, tempting Him to find another way. Three times His "...soul (was) exceeding sorrowful, even unto death..." (Mt. 26:38). He prayed "...if it be possible, let this cup pass from me:..." (Mt. 26:39-42). Each time, however, He added "...nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt" (Mt. 26:39).

If it was necessary for Jesus to be in total submission to God, can anything less than total submission take us to a safe haven? Holding any selfish desire for ourselves will put us in danger of eternal separation from God.

We are promised that if we serve God without reservation we will be blessed beyond our comprehension. In answer to

Peter's question of the value of following Christ, Jesus said "And everyone that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life" (Mt. 19:29). Nothing we could gain for this life is worth more than our salvation. That point was also emphasized when Jesus asked "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul" (Mk. 8:36-37)? There are examples in the scripture of individuals who were willing to give all that they had to serve God. The poor widow put only two mites into the treasury. It was all she had. Jesus said "Verily I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury: For all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living" (Mk. 12:43-44).

The widow of Zarephath had only a handful of meal in a barrel and a little oil in a cruse. She was gathering sticks so she could make a final meal for herself and her son to eat, knowing there was no more and they would then starve to death. Elijah asked her to make a little cake for him first and then make one for her and her son. She was promised "The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the Lord sendeth rain upon the earth" (I Ki. 17:14). How difficult it must have been to take that little bit of meal and oil and give it to a stranger when she and her son had so little. Because of her willingness to give all, "...she and he and her house did eat many days" (I Ki. 17:15).

In Hebrews 11 we can read of the faith of many who were willing to sacrifice all they had and be obedient to the Lord. Verses 33 through 38 graphically describe what they endured to serve their God. Just a few of the trials were scourging, stoning and being sawn asunder. Through faith they endured these afflictions.

Of the eleven disciples who remained faithful, history would indicate that ten of them died a martyr's death. John was banished to the isle of Patmos where he received the Revelation of Jesus Christ. Paul spent his adult life travelling and spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ, eventually giving his life for the Lord.

What lessons are there for us? We need to be extremely careful we are not so fascinated by material possessions that we allow them to become idols. We have many opportunities to share what we have with those who are less fortunate.

We often hear the term "sacrificial giving" and we appreciate the opportunities we have to share with others. However, for most of us we are really only giving of our abundance. In addition to sacrificial giving we need to pray earnestly that we can follow sacrificial living. We know that "...by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:" (Eph. 2:8) and that "...we have redemption through his (Jesus) blood" (Eph. 1:7).

As we observe the examples of those who went before us, who gave their all, including many who gave their life, we certainly need to spend much time in prayer and self examination so we are not overcome by the world. To each of the seven churches that were addressed in the book of Revelation there was a promise to him that overcometh. The promises included access to the tree of life, to not be hurt by the second death, to receive the hidden manna, power over nations, that Christ will confess our name before God and His angels, to be a pillar in the temple of God, and to sit with him in his throne. (Rev. 2 & 3).

Jesus Christ asked one thing for himself - that we remember His suffering and death. This small request can be distracted by a world that offers so much as we travel through this life. If we are not careful, we will not attain our goal. It is so easy to sing "To win this precious treasure and matchless pearl I would give honor, wealth and pleasure, yea, every earthly good; I gladly would surrender the dearest thing which might obscure my Sun's bright splendor, and rob me of His light." (Life and Full Abundance in Jesus, verse 3 Zion's Harp #178).

Do we lightly sing these words and stubbornly cling to what the world offers us? Surely each of us want to remember His suffering and death and be among the overcomers.



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

Developing Churches In Japan

The Churches in Japan are deeply grateful for the gift of salvation found through the atonement of the Lord Jesus. The good news of the Gospel was brought to Japan by the Holy Spirit working through caring brethren, some of whom have gone to their reward.

The purpose of this article is to share some aspects of what it is like to start an "Apostolic Christian Church" in places like Japan, where there are many local customs, idols, and enticing worldly elements which created problems from the beginning. In addition, we face Satan's common attempt to confuse the simplicity of being saved by grace through faith (Eph. 2:8-10).

There were times when some of these obstacles became overwhelming and it was very disturbing when some of the brethren left the faith. However, in each time of trial our merciful Father and loving Lord gave enough grace and courage to continue. It can be expected that whenever one tries to bring the Gospel to a new area, there will be a very strong temptation to make some compromises, believing that the salvation message would be better received by omitting teachings such as holy greetings, order of worship, discipline, abstaining from worldly entertainments, etc., along with retaining some questionable local customs. May we always, by God's grace, strive to apply the whole counsel of the Word, which will lead to a true conversion and sanctified life.

"The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple." (Psalms 19:7)

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

After 50 years of experience it has been learned that if one is going to develop a new Apostolic Christian congregation, it is best to encourage early on the adoption of the beliefs and practices of the denomination. There is a debt of gratitude to those early leaders who sincerely believed in and taught these teachings in Japan, where they have become firmly embraced.

In order for this to occur, it was essential to be able to observe believers who were living in accord with the biblical precepts which they were teaching. Once again, there is deep appreciation for all who provided these living examples by visiting us or living for a time in Japan. There is a continued need for such examples and it is hoped that the Lord will send faithful brothers and sisters to fill the need.

As the first generation in our churches is approaching retirement age, we recall that some of our ministering brothers often mentioned that the church would grow when children of the first generation would mature. This has been our hope when we had little hope. When it finally came we could rejoice to see some of them repent. It is the Lord who can lead souls to repentance, and it has been a great blessing to have children of believers in Japan repent and become children of God.

Also, believing parents' living examples, as committed joyful followers of Christ, have been an important influence. May this be

an encouragement for all of us as parents to be steadfast, committed examples. We continue to pray that many more children of the first generation will repent, while we look to those of the second generation with even stronger hope, as they will have an even greater heritage of godly influence.

It is the sincere desire of the Japanese brethren to grow as Apostolic Christian Churches in harmony with the biblically-based teachings and practices which have proven to be so beneficial. Past experience shows us that now and then old issues come back and the temptation arises to eliminate some of our teachings and practices to "enhance" church growth. The history of Christianity in general, as well as that of the Apostolic Christian Church, has demonstrated that such an approach leads to great spiritual loss and can even lead to apostasy. Many churches that once had sound biblical teachings have lost them over time by employing more broadly appealing approaches and making associations with other groups, which have led to dilution of the Gospel message. Much prayer is needed so that the Lord will give grace and wisdom for all of us to be vigilant in promoting sound doctrine and resisting the onslaughts of the enemy.

Though slow, the churches in Japan are growing and becoming more firmly grounded in the Word of God. There is yet much room to improve and there is strong commitment to do this, by the grace of God. We should all be thankful that our heavenly Father is patient and our Lord is longsuffering, and that He will help us all to grow and mature if we have a sincere desire to follow Him.



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

Child Sponsorship in Haiti, Guatemala, Jamaica and Mexico

With deep appreciation we sincerely thank everyone who is presently sponsoring a student with Apostolic Christian Child Sponsorship. May God bountifully bless each of you for your giving heart (1Thess 5:18).

In 2003 the number of sponsored students though our program was 600 and today it is over 900 students. We are very thankful that God has blessed many students and has increased the sponsors and students proportionally.

The Child Sponsorship Committee recently traveled to Haiti in 2003, Jamaica in 2005 and Guatemala in 2006. What do we see? What questions do we ask? What are the hearts of the field office personnel? We appreciate the sincerity and like mindedness of those that we work with and through.

First the World Relief National Board approves the sponsorship program to missions in other countries and then the Child Sponsorship Committee's mission is to ensure the funds and correspondence are handled appropriately. The Child Sponsorship Committee is responsible to the World Relief National Board, to the church and ultimately to God for the funds that are collected and distributed to the students.

Guatemala is a new country that has been added to the Child Sponsorship Program. With the National Board's encouragement we started to sponsor twenty-five students and now have a new target of fifty students. The Child Sponsorship Committee just returned from a visit to Guatemala and personally met the administrating organiza-

tion, the staff and students at two schools, one where students are being presently sponsored and a second school where we can start sponsoring students.

As we found in Haiti and Jamaica, the schools are for the very poor and the poorest of the poor. The school in Guatemala City has little or no parental involvement in the students' lives. The students are not allowed to take their textbooks home, because the parents would sell them. The school meets in the afternoon in maintenance sheds after other children have left the regular school property. There are 240 "street children" who regularly attend school in the "sheds." We met the Child Sponsorship students.

After visiting the school, they asked if we would like to see where the students lived. Sad, sad conditions. The only reason we could visit this tough area was that the principal was taking us. Our driver would not take us by himself and said fifteen minutes was long enough. As we walked up the trail between the shacks, the principal met a young man about 17-18 years old who graduated from her school and said "this is one of the success stories." We are thankful that all the students are being taught about Jesus and His love. One of our devotions in Guatemala was on Matthew 10:42 about giving a cup of cold water to one of these little ones, he shall in no wise lose his reward.

The Child Sponsorship Program does not have the answers to the poverty of the world. Many times the questions are way beyond our grasp. We do believe that God sees the acts of kindness of the sponsors who give, volunteers who collect and distribute the funds, field offices who administer the funds in

the field, teachers in the Christian schools and most of all the students who are taught about Jesus Christ.

Where are we going? Where He leads, we will follow. Pray for discernment that where God is leading, we will willingly follow. Maybe God will lead you to sponsor a child who is attending a school and being taught about Jesus Christ and His love. May God bless each of you.

To apply for a student

The cost to support a student is \$25 per month. To apply for a student to sponsor please fill out the following. A student will be assigned to you and you will be sent further information.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ St _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Please check preference:

- Haiti Guatemala
 Mexico Jamaica
 Wherever

If possible I would prefer:

- Boy - Age _____
 Girl - Age _____
 No Preference

Child Sponsorship Office

ACWR Child Sponsorship
 PO Box 36
 Morton, IL 61550
 Phone: 309-266-6080
 E-mail: childsponsorship@acwr.org

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

“This people have I formed for myself; they shall shew forth my praise.”

Isaiah 43:21

The residents of our homes are thankful for the times of beautiful weather that can be spent outdoors. There have been trips taken to Peoria to enjoy walks along the riverfront. Some have gone to concerts or out to eat with friends. Oakwood Estate held a field day in May. Every Oakwood resident participated in events such as tug of war, a hula-hoop contest, the 40-yard dash and softball throw. The fun was heightened with the delights of popcorn and a snow cone machine! Several Timber Ridge residents once again took part in Special Olympics. It was an exceptional year for our participants, with many residents bringing home gold medals!

Though we are saddened in the death of several of our residents over the past few months, we are happy to be welcoming new residents to Timber Ridge. We are thankful for the blessing of being part of each other's lives. Residents and staff look forward to getting to know and developing new friendships with our newcomers.

GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

Kurt and Kristen Slagel

Have you left all for Jesus? Have you dropped your nets and started following Him? What is keeping us from a complete, devoted life to the only One who can give us life, eternal life? We can be so encouraged by Jesus' calling of the twelve disciples

(Luke 5:8-11, 6:12-16). Jesus had prayed the whole night before He called the disciples. He took His mission of “catching men” seriously. It humbles our hearts to think that it probably wasn't any different for us that Jesus prayed “all night” for us before He called us to repentance. We serve a loving, merciful God!

It's convicting to read how the disciples left everything familiar to them and followed Jesus. They were willing to give up their life of comfort and routine to serve with Jesus and be “fishers of men”. The disciples were then involved in Kingdom work - work that would last beyond their lifetime.

Jesus' ministry was so relational. He made “house calls,” to Simon Peter's mother-in-law when she was sick. He could've spoke the words and she would've been healed. But, He went to her house and stood over her as He healed her (Luke 4:38-39). Jesus ate with the publicans and sinners. He took time with Nicodemus and talked to him late at night. Jesus lived a life of sacrifice and service, and He calls us to that same kind of life!

Let's be encouraged and challenged as we reflect on the mind and life of Christ—clothed with humility, full of love and mercy, dedicated to relationships, and obedient unto death, even the death of the cross (Philippians 2:8)!

Whether we're serving at Gateway Woods, in a prison ministry, our families, or our neighbors across the street, Jesus calls us to be fishers of men. We have all the right gear: God's Word and His Holy Spirit. Every day is a great day for fishing!

News

On Friday night, May 19, Gateway Woods held its annual Recognition Dinner to acknowledge staff members who have reached significant

milestones and members of our Board of Directors. What a blessed evening! We are very thankful for each staff member God has brought to Gateway and all of the time and effort each one puts into this ministry. A very sincere thank you goes to our outgoing Board Members and their wives for their years of selfless service and leadership. They are Bro. Keith and Sis. Dort Leman (Goodfield) and Bro. Dave and Sis. Geralyn Beard (Toledo). We also welcomed our new Board members and their wives. They are Bro. Jeff and Sis. Lisa Banwart (Eureka) and Bro. Mark and Sis. Kelly Ramseyer (Detroit).

Gateway Woods Adoption Program officially started in May 2003. In our three years of operation we have been very blessed to work with many Christian families who have answered the call to adopt children who might not otherwise have a family. With the help of International Adoption Agencies, we have been able to assist families in adopting children from Russia, China, Guatemala, Ukraine, Columbia, and Liberia. We are in the process of completing paperwork for families adopting from Ethiopia, Haiti, Vietnam, and Indiana. We have also helped to place many children born here in the United States. Gateway Woods has assisted almost 60 families with their adoption paperwork and over 50 children have been placed in Christian homes. We praise God for the work He is doing through us.

Home Based Services has been in operation for 7 years here in Indiana. During that span, approximately 225 people have received in-home counseling. Our clientele come from local county agencies, as well as private families calling to receive help in a lost world. Our main purpose is to

give people hope, as so many are hurting for one reason or another. Our ultimate goal is to help families see that the best help they can receive is through Jesus Christ.

Gateway Woods School welcomes Bro. Todd Stoller (Princeville) as our newest Teacher. We appreciate Bro. Todd's willingness to serve in this ministry. Please remember him in your prayers, as he begins teaching in August.

We are so very thankful to all the Brothers and Sisters who volunteer at Gateway over the summer. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Bro. Eric Huber at 888-443-4283

Please continue to pray for this Apostolic Christian ministry to troubled children and families. Now more than ever, a hurting world needs the Christ-centered services of Gateway Woods. Thank you for making this possible through your support.

We are grieving with our house-parents, Bro. Marc and Sis. Diann Grim, who lost their 6 month old son, Marcus, to SIDS (crib death) on May 22. In your prayers, please lift up Marc and Diann and their sons, Isaac and Micah, along with the residents in their house, as they grieve and adjust to the loss of this precious baby boy. Grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Wilma Kieser and Earl and Jan Grim (Bloomington, IL).

ARIZONA, PHOENIX **Ron and Ev Hoerr**

"Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses."

I Timothy 6:12

Communion services were held on

April 22. What a humbling and blessed experience it was to remember the suffering of our Lord and Savior.

Elder Bros. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago), Ed Schwartz (Bluffton), and Tom Klotzle (Altadena), were here assisting Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich in the ordination of Bro. Herb Knochel Jr. What a blessing to listen to the counsel and encouragement given by the power of the Holy Spirit! May God bless Bro. Herb and Sis. Laurie as they walk with God and our church family.

Sis. Shirley Mohrman's great-granddaughter was born April 25. Chloe Lee is the daughter of Sabrina and Steve Copus.

May 3 was the birth date of Brett Phillip Howell. His parents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Valerie. Grandparents are Mike and Betty Howell and Bro. Larry and Sis. Sherryl Knobloch (Lester, IA).

A reception was held for our graduates at church on May 7. We wish God's blessings to each one who now begins a new stage of life.

On May 13, we were delighted to hear of the engagement of Sis. Amber Greenbank to Bro. Joel Virkler (Taylor, MO). Their parents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Patti Greenbank and Bro. Stan and Sis. Beth Virkler (Remington, IN).

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT **Jane Hodges**

Douglas Hodges, the youngest son of Sis. Jane, graduated from Arizona State University on May 11, with a business degree in finance. At this time, he plans to continue working in the Phoenix area.

We welcome Bros. Phil Bertsch (Bluffton North, IN) and Jordan Stroup (Bluffton). They plan to work in the Prescott area for a couple months and worship with us.

We are thankful for the ministry support from Phoenix this last month. They included Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich (Sis. Nancy), Bro. Herb Knochel (Sis. Laurie) and Bro. Ken Lawson. May God richly bless all of them and their families for their service and love.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA **Suzanne Klotzle**

This month has been a slow one with visitors, but alive and active within our own congregation. It is the beginning of summer, and all over Southern California, mountains are turning green, skies are blue and breezes are warm ... Praise God.

Being a smaller congregation, we are thankful God has led Bro. Don and Sis. Tina Jackson and their daughters, Sis. Amy, Sis. Christi and Taryn, from Bay City, MI, to re-locate to Altadena. We pray God's blessings on them as they come to the city and get settled.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO **Yasmin Koehl**

As we feel the warmth of sunnier days, we anticipate soon welcoming summer... and any visiting brethren traveling our way! If you're planning to vacation in San Diego, please come and worship with us. Our small church gladly welcomes visitors and enjoys the blessings of love and fellowship we experience as a body of believers.

On May 6 we enjoyed a blessed weekend with Elder Bro. Ron and Sis. Nancy Schambach (Elgin, IL) as he came to lovingly assist in serving Communion. It was a very special time for our congregation as even Bro. Rory Strahm was able to attend. We felt the Lord's presence amongst us and we're truly thankful to feel so closely united as brothers and sisters

in Him.

Many of us experience the blessings of having earthly fathers who represent and have given us a glimpse of our heavenly Father in heaven. May we all give thanks to God and then to our dads this Father's Day as we reflect upon the difference our fathers have made in each one of our lives.

**ONTARIO, KITCHENER
CANADA**

Johanna Fortenbacher

We were so thankful to have two visiting ministers with us this month. They are Bro. Rob Meyer (Sis. Anne, Bluffton North) and Bro. Jim Ramseyer (Sis. Marlene, Bay City). May the Lord bless your labour and willingness to come.

Note of Thanks:

A very sincere thank you to each of you who remembered me in prayer about my recent surgery. Those prayers were certainly felt. As I was reminded "the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much" (James 5:16). The cheery cards and gifts were appreciated as well. May God be glorified.

Sis. Johanna

**COLORADO, DENVER
Ann Gonglach**

My broken body thus I give
For you, for all; take, eat, and live:
And oft the sacred rite renew
That brings My wondrous love to
view.

Gospel Hymns #606, vs.3

On May 6, we spent a blessed time in Holy Communion with our Lord.

Much was accomplished at our annual spring clean-up and our church building is again ready for

summer visitors! We appreciate the efforts of head trustee, Bro. Tom Katanic, in organizing this event.

We're glad to have with us Bro. Ted and Sis. Andrea Orcsik, who have moved to Colorado from Detroit, MI.

**CONNECTICUT
ROCKVILLE
Amber Rocke
Laura Virkler**

"And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me."

Luke 22:19

This month we had the precious privilege to partake of the Lord's supper in Holy Communion together. It is always stirring to think back to the cross on this solemn occasion and be thankful for what was done there for us. With us for the weekend was Elder Bro. Dennis Warner (Sis. Esther, Lester, IA).

This month also is the time we celebrate our mothers, and all the deeds of love and kindness they perform so often. May we never take for granted the time they spend in caring for their families and those in our fellowship and community. With us on this weekend was ministering Bro. Ben Walder (Sis. Juanita, Congerville, IL). We are grateful that he was willing to be used in our midst. Also visiting this past month was ministering Bro. Dale Zeltwanger (Sis. Rachel, Morris, MN). May he also be blessed for his efforts while with us.

There have been healthy babies born to two families recently. Elise Rose was born to Bro. Doug and Sis. Heidi LaPlante, and joins a big brother Drew. Elise's grandparents are Bro. Leo and Sis. Sherri LaPlante

and Bro. Wally and Sis. Judy Carlson. May God be with each who are raising young children to love and serve Him in all things.

We also want to officially welcome from Congerville, IL, Bro. Doug and Sis. Jan Young and their two boys, Chase and Gage, as they make their home here in Rockville. We pray they will feel welcome among us and that they will be blessed in this new beginning.

Our thoughts and prayers are with those who have lost loved ones recently. We sympathize with Sis. Mary Wagenbach, her husband Bro. Dale, and their children as they mourn the loss of Sis. Mary's father, Bro. Curt Zuercher. Our prayers are also with the family of Peter DeCarli who passed away in the past week, who leaves his wife, Leona DeCarli (Lanz), and many family members and friends. We also sympathize with our friend and convert, Ashley Yurgal, who recently lost a dear grandfather. May God be near each who are grieving the loss of loved ones and in time fill in the void that is left when those close to us pass away.

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
WASHINGTON
Henrietta Meyer**

Blest be the tie that binds
Our heart in Christian love
The fellowship of kindred minds
Is like to that above.
When we asunder part
It gives us inward pain
But we will still be joined in heart
And hope to meet again.

Hymns of Zion 156:1,4

On May 13, Ken and Roberta Belsley invited us into their home for a farewell brunch for the Subra family. Renaud, Suzi, Aidan and Kieran will be moving to San Diego next

month.

Our visiting ministers this month were Bro. Ken Hoerr (Sis. Darlene, Peoria, IL), Bro. Shawn Metzger (Sis. Sandy, Philadelphia, PA), Elder Bro. Duane Farney (Sis. Karen, Croghan-Naumburg, NY) and Bro. Jesse Bedolla (Sis. Bonnie, Detroit, MI). Other visitors were from Wilmington, DE, Leo and Francesville, IN, Rittman, OH, Rockville, CT, 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 blessed over the past two months to have several visiting ministers. Visiting were Bro. Clint Schmidt (Winthrop, MN), Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Sis. Judy, Chicago, IL), Bro. Ron Jones (Portland, OR), Bro. Mark Gerber (Sis. Barb, Bluffton, IN), Bro. John Jackson (Bay City, MI) and Bro. Marvin Steffen (Sis. Rhea, N. Ft. Myers, FL). We pray that God would bless His servants.

Bro. Tim Sauder (Sis. Jenny)

came and brought us a presentation on Gateway Woods. It was so moving to see the work that is being done on behalf of those children. We pray for blessings on the work that is done in God's name.

We gathered for a Good Friday evening service and then celebrated His rising on Easter day with a Sunday service followed by a picnic. Our thanks to those willing hands that make the extra effort for the children and the adults, too.

Our prayers for comfort are with Bro. Ed and Sis. Vi Gerber on the passing of Bro. Ed's sister, Sis. Sara Kipfer. It's never easy to lose a loved one. God is our strength in all things.

On Mother's Day there was acknowledgment for all the good things that our mothers do and have done for us. We are so thankful for them. At noon the children and a few of the brothers served the women to mark this special day.

We have returned to singings for our Wednesday evening services at 7:30 until our winter members return.

**FLORIDA
NORTH FORT MYERS
Naomi Vogel**

The last of our winter residents have gone north, so our congregation has dwindled to between 15 and 20. We are often blessed with summer vacationers and occasional honeymooners to add to our little gathering of worshippers.

Bro. Byron Stoller (Gridley, IL) ministered to us on April 23, and Bro. Roger Sauder (Ft. Lauderdale, FL) used the book of Ruth for his Mother's Day message on May 14. We sincerely appreciate your willing service and your wives who support you!

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Carolyn Siegle in the loss of two sisters recently: Bernice Rudin from

Phoenix, AZ, and Sis. Evelyn Rudin from Cissna Park, IL.

Our dear Bro. Orié Heinold from Francesville, IN, went home to be with the Lord last week. Bro. Orié and Sis. Louise were not able to spend the winter with us this past winter and we missed them. Our minister, Bro. Vic Beer, and his wife, Sis. Dottie, and several of our winter residents are related, so our thoughts and prayers are with all of you!

As we embark on another hurricane season, we are reminded that the Lord is in control of everything and our destiny is in His hands.

**FLORIDA, SARASOTA
Robin Wiegand**

Greetings to all. We would like to take this opportunity to thank our local ministers, Bros. Jeff Streitmatter, Ron Koehl and Virgil Kaeb, for their continued support. During these summer months we appreciate their faithful dedication to help guide us on our spiritual pathways.

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Sis. Mabel Belsley (Morton, IL) and Sis. Norma Blume (Wolcott, IN). Both were familiar to us in the Sarasota church for many years. We look forward to a glad reunion with them one day. Retired Elder Bro. Ben Maibach had hip replacement surgery. We pray for a speedy and complete recovery.

Our Sunday School recently spent a blessed day together, which included visiting a museum exhibit describing the history of the Bible. All who attended were richly blessed.

Keep looking up!

GEORGIA, ATLANTA**Kevin Kipfer
Benjamin Stoller**

Hearty heartfelt greetings from Atlanta. We were excited to hear that our dear Bro. Mark Lindberg (Bro. Rich and Sis. Julie) was announced to be engaged to Sis. Laura Vercler (South Bend, IN). We are also happy to announce that Larry and Melinda Gramm, previously from Chicago, IL, have relocated to North Carolina. We look forward to fellowshiping with them.

On May 14, we enjoyed Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein (Francesville, IN) and Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH). It was truly a blessing to have them share the scriptures with us. On May 21, we were also blessed to have Bro. Justin Koch (Washington, IL) and Bro. Duane Rocke (Minneapolis, MN), along with their wives.

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE**Sheila McCoy
Doreen Moser**

"Now then we are ambassadors for Christ..."

II Corinthians 5:20

We are grateful for several visiting ministers this month. Elder Bro. Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN) assisted our Elder Bro. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL) for Communion service. Other visiting ministers were Bros. Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL), Nathan Wieland (Goodfield, IL) and Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN). Just as our ministers are such willing ambassadors for Christ, may we all strive likewise.

We are thankful to Sis. Michelle Knobloch, Sis. Jill Stahl and Bro. Jim Jepson for their years of dedicated service as Sunday School teachers. May God bless our new Sunday

School teachers, Bro. Shannon Stahl, Sis. Peggy Anliker and Sis. Heidi Schock, as they begin their terms.

Nichole Moser (Gary and Sis. Doreen) and Eric Edwards (Mark and Jeanette) were united in marriage on May 19. One of the scripture passages they chose to have read at their wedding and that we all need to remember: "Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; forbearing one another, and forgiving one another... And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness." Colossians 3:12-14. Eric and Nichole will reside in Madison, WI.

Joe Darlington (Jerry and Sis. Sandy) is our high school graduate. May the Lord direct his path as he starts a new chapter in his life and heads for college.

Surgical patients this month have been Sis. Doreen Moser (Gary) and Sis. Marlene Mueller (Bro. Art) who actually had two surgeries. Sis. Marlene still needs another surgery later this summer, so let us be mindful of her in our prayers.

The Best Refuge

In sorrow and pain, Thy trust do retain
In Jesus the merciful Saviour.
When burdened with care, when thou wouldst despair,
Then call on thy loving Redeemer.
He'll lighten the load, and level the road
And bear thee on hands of compassion.
In patience then bear all trial and care;
Above streams of bliss will refresh thee.

**ILLINOIS
BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL****Ann Nussbaum
Jen Heiniger**

"I will bless the Lord at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth."

Psalms 34:1

We are thankful for our visiting ministers this month. These included Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit), Bros. Scott Wegman (Taylor), and Jeff Thames (Washington) as well as Bro. Ed Sauder (Roanoke) who led our Family Night worship.

We praise the Lord for the birth of healthy babies. Bro. Brad and Sis. Kara Martin welcomed their fourth child, Miles Raymond, on April 5. He joins Harrison, Davis, and Tessa at home and is a blessing to grandparents, Bro. Tom and Sis. Jay Martin and Bro. Mike and Sis. Sharon Menold of Princeville. Bro. Ray and Sis. Jeanie Haerr welcomed granddaughter Morgan Ray on Easter Sunday. Her parents are Nelson and Max Haerr. Bro. Bob and Sis. Laura Kieser recently welcomed three grandchildren to their family. Mason Ryan was born to Bro. James and Sis. Jennifer Kieser on February 6. Gweneth Joy came on March 22 to Andy and Holli Kieser. Finally, Bro. Shannon and Sis. Sharon Witzig welcomed Sheldon Wayne on April 7.

The death of a believer is also cause to bless the Lord. Our dear Sis. Millie Vogel went to her eternal reward on April 26. Our prayers are with Sis. Ellen Vogel and her family in the loss of their mother. It is a comfort to know we can mourn in hope and rejoice in our heavenly home.

**ILLINOIS, BRADFORD
Steve Endress**

We appreciated having visiting

ministers with us recently. Bros. Steve Martin (Eureka, IL) and Ed Fritz (Washington, IL) were used in the Lord's service on our behalf.

We welcome Bro. Greg and Sis. Kristin Johnson to our congregation. They recently moved from the Lester, IA, area. We are thankful that they have chosen to live in our area and fellowship with our church. May they feel at home here.

We have been blessed with another birth during this month. Bro. Jeb and Sis. Kristy Joos welcomed their first child, Wyatt Andrew, on April 19. Grandparents are Bro. Ralph and Sis. Jenny Joos and Bro. Dennis and Sis. Doris Miller (Sardis, OH).

Loren Stoller, son of Bro. Nate and Sis. Sherrill, and Bro. Brandon Baer, son of Ron and Sis. Deanne, graduated from high school this May. We congratulate them on this accomplishment and wish them well in the future.

Our prayers are with Bro. John Endress (Sis. Lucille) and little Lane Joos (Bro. Tyler and Sis. Tonya) during their recent hospital stays. We are reminded that health and vitality can be taken from mankind at any age. We do well if we remember our frailty and place all trust and confidence in God.

**ILLINOIS
CHAMPAIGN-URBANA
Karla Aberle**

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

you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

Matthew 26:26-29

Our church took Communion earlier this month and we are very thankful to Elder Bro. Don Braker (Sis. Eileen, Kansas City, MO) for his help.

Our church was very excited to have another marriage announcement this past month! Our Sis. Krista Banwart was announced to Bro. Doug Stoller from Chicago, IL. Sis. Krista has been in St. Louis, MO, for several years and is the daughter of our Elder Bro. Wayne and Sis. Charlen. Bro. Doug is the son of Bro. Gale and Sis. Sonia from Princeville, IL. Our thoughts and prayers are with them as they begin this new journey together.

We are thankful for our visiting ministers this past month. Bro. Scott Wegman (Sis. Dawn, Taylor, MO), Elder Bro. Tim Funk (Sis. Debra, Peoria, IL), and Bro. Loren Schrenk (Sis. Betsy, St. Louis, MO) all visited and ministered to us.

Note: Champaign Church does not have Wednesday evening church services during the month of August.

**ILLINOIS, CHICAGO
Rachel Meyer**

Greetings from Chicago. This past month found us sharing the special blessing of Holy Communion. We are thankful for this time of self-reflection, examination and spiritual rejuvenation.

It is a joy to share that we have a number of dear ones who have moved to Chicago. We extend a welcome to Bro. Brandon and Sis. Mindy Rinkenberger, and their children, Kelli, Kyle and Ashley, as they have

moved from Phoenix, AZ. Bro. Eric and Sis. Gina Hodel, and their children, Ethan, Kara and Ty, have moved here from Washington, IL. Sis. Callie Prevo has moved here from Gridley for employment. This is a wonderful blessing for our church family and we hope that all of these loved ones will feel at home among us.

It is also a great blessing to report that we have two new converts in Chicago. Bryce Westfall (Bro. Dave and Sis. Julie) and Ryan Eisenmann (Bro. Brad and Sis. Cindy) have turned to the Lord. This is another blessing that uplifts our hearts and we pray these young men can feel the love and support of all. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

Bro. Norm and Sis. Gloria Stahl are happy to welcome a new granddaughter, Moriah Sue. Little Moriah's parents are Bro. Craig and Sis. Raelynn Plattner from Nashville. We wish this dear family much happiness as they bring their daughter into their home.

We were pleased to hear the engagement announcement of Bro. Doug Stoller (Bro. Gale and Sis. Sonya, Princeville, IL) to Sis. Krista Banwart (Elder Bro. Wayne and Sis. Charlen, Champaign, IL) from our St. Louis congregation. May God be near during this special time of preparation and we look forward to having Sis. Krista as part of our Chicago church family.

Bro. Kent Rager (Sis. Jill) mourns the loss of his grandfather, Bro. Carl Rager, from Latty, OH. We are reminded that along with times of joy there are times of pain. These are the seasons of life. May God be with the Rager family.

We would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to Bro. Ted Witzig, Jr. from Morton, who took the time to present an inspiring Women's Semi-

nar along with a congregational evening message. I do not believe we can ever hear too much godly encouragement or advice.

A few weeks ago while driving, I was approaching a large intersection when a small white light above the regular stoplights started to blink. Here in Chicago and the suburbs, when that light goes off it is a warning that emergency vehicles are heading our way. Since there are three lanes of traffic going each way, a lot of times there is not much space for the ambulance or fire truck to get through – unless people heed the warning light, slow down and pull off to the right. You may wonder why people just don't listen to the sirens, but often they aren't heard until they are right behind the drivers. Between noises outside, talking on cell phones, music playing loudly and a myriad of other factors, the sirens can be missed. Therefore, we have that blinking white light to get our attention.

I believe this correlates well with our spiritual lives. If we are approaching danger, perhaps making inappropriate decisions or starting to head down the wrong path – a blinking white light goes off inside our spirit. It's God! He is trying to get our attention ... warning us to pull over, turn around or wake up and pay attention to what is happening to us and around us. This is such a marvelous blessing. But we have to follow what He is saying to our spirit. And then we must decide. Do we listen and follow the warning or do we ignore God's voice and go on full steam ahead? Only you and God know what choices you have made. Only God and I know what choices I have made. My heart praises God that He is the God of second chances. He has plenty of blinking white light bulbs to spare.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

**Pam Walder
Andrea Walder**

Our Sis. Evelyn Rudin passed from life into eternity. She leaves behind her husband, Bro. Ben, and a son and daughter-in-law, Gary and Elizabeth Rudin of Buckley. We trust God will continue to provide comfort for the sorrowing.

Our hospital patient this month was Rhonda Knight (Wes). We are thankful she is again assembling with us.

Visiting us on the pulpit this month were Bros. Paul Zimmerman (Forrest, IL), Darren Plattner (Champaign, IL) and Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL). We appreciate God's Word being spoken by these brothers and may they continue to be inspired by God's Holy Spirit.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

Rachel Schrock

"The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel; To know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding; To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, and judgment, and equity; To give subtly to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion..." (Prov. 1:1-4). "Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain; but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates." (Prov. 31:30-31). These are the words at the beginning and ending of this book of many instructions. Words that we are thankful that our fathers and mothers have taken to heart in times past. As we set aside special days to remember our parents this time of the year, may we each one strive to copy their godly examples.

We rejoice with Erin Zimmerman (Bro. Ben and Sis. Kathy) who has taken her parents' instructions to heart in recent days. May she feel our love and prayers as she begins her repentance.

Our love is also extended to Bro. Dave and Sis. Sandy Steiner and their family as they welcome Mindy Roseann into this world. Mindy arrived on April 26 and is being loved by her big brothers, Samuel, Aaron and Silas, and her big sister, Marie.

Thankfulness is also felt for our Elder Brothers who continue year after year to gather together and discuss issues for our benefit. We appreciated hearing their words of loving exhortation and encouragement through the reading of the Memorandum recently. We also felt the love of the brethren as we partook of Communion together. Elder Bros. Aaron Steffen (Sis. Loretta, Alto, MI) and Ron Schambach (Sis. Nancy, Elgin, IL) assisted our Elder Bro. Bob Walder in these duties.

Other ministering brethren whom have visited us this past month include Bros. Mark Schmidgall (Sis. Lisa, Eureka, IL), Sid Kaufman (Sis. Sandra, Cissna Park, IL), Glen Braker (Sis. Audrey, Princeville, IL) and Gene Lehman (Sis. Verna, Wolcott, IN). We extend our sincere thanks to each of you for continuing to instruct us in the ways of godliness and wisdom.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN

**Amy Gasser
Miriam Gasser**

We are grateful to the ministering brothers who taught and inspired us during their recent visits. They were Bros. Dan Koch (Tremont, IL), Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA), Todd Stoller (Latty, OH), and Ben Walder (Congerville, IL).

“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

Romans 10:17

Ashley Scheffler has expressed her need for salvation and has begun her repentance. She is an NIU student whose home is in Washington, IL. We look forward to seeing her, when she returns to northern Illinois in the fall.

Because their church had to close its doors, John and Otto Klein, Katharina (Kathy) Mohr, Kathy Stefan, and Maria Bayer have been assembling with us. We welcome them!

“Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.”

Matthew 5:6

Congratulations and God’s blessings to our high school seniors, who have reached one of life’s milestones. This year’s graduates are Mary Braun (Bro. Gene and Sis. Sue), Alan Kellenberger (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Debbie), Grant Kellenberger (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Julie), Nicole Kellenberger (Bro. Daryle and Sonia), Christopher Leman (Bro. Keith and Sis. Libby), Jaclyn Leman (Doug and Melinda), Shawn Moore (Bro. Larry and Sis. Beth), and Alex Steffen (Bro. Gary and Sis. Lois).

“Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.”

Psalms 37: 4-5

We continue to lift in prayer those with serious medical conditions. Sis. Debbie Sauder recently returned

home after going to California for treatments, and Sis. Joyce Schifferer underwent a second surgery. It was good to see both of them in church recently. Bro. John Schrenk (Sis. Pauline) spent a brief time in the hospital.

In the past month, funeral services for Bro. Eugene Kellenberger (Sis. Velma) were held in Washington, IL. Our sympathy is extended to all Bro. Gene’s family, many who are from the Elgin area. Some of his sisters and brothers are Verona Schock, Bro. Elvis Kellenberger (Sis. Marilyn), Bro. Keith Kellenberger (Sis. Ida), and Sis. Kathy Schifferer (Bro. Tom).

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

Cindy Stoller

Lisa Metzger

The graduating class this year includes the following: Sis. Kelly Blunier (Bro. Kurt and Sis. Livy), Sis. Ashley Edelman (Bro. Keith and Sis. Nadine), Robert Getz (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Mary), Bro. Aaron Hoerr (Bro. Norman and Sis. Connie), Bro. Jarod Leman (Bro. Chris and Sis. Marlene), Bro. Jonathan Leman (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Kathy), Sis. Holly Martin (Bro. Alan and Sis. Sharon), Sis. Heidi Schmidgall (Bro. Paul and Sis. Kris), Jeremy Stoller (Bro. Jim and Sis. Janet), Sis. Lanae Zimmerman (Bro. Mark and Sis. Cheryl) and Ryan Zimmerman (Bro. Dale and Sis. Sue). “In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths.” (Proverbs 3:6) May each one look unto the Lord as they go onward and forward in life.

There have been three new babies born to families in our Eureka church. Bro. Phil and Sis. Rebecca Braker, along with Hannah, Daniel, Caleb and Jacob, welcome home Jared Phil. Grandparents are Bob

and Sis. Janice Stoller (Lamar, MO) and Bro. Charlie and Sis. Karen Sinn. Bro. Kevin and Sis. Brenda Vierling are thankful for the safe arrival of their daughter, Dawn Abigail. Grandparents of Dawn are Bro. Jim and Sis. Linda Vierling and Bro. Gary Huber and Karen Huber.

Bro. Nathan and Sis. Cheryl Wiegand, and their son Reuben are thankful for their precious little Trina Joy. Trina has some serious heart defects and has remained in the hospital thus far. We pray for this dear family and entrust them to God’s almighty and perfect will. Trina’s grandparents are Dale and Sis. Freidora Wiegand and Bro. Stan and Sis. Lola Stoller.

Furthermore, our prayers continue for Bro. Nelson Martin (Sis. Maryellen) who has had a lengthy and very uncertain stay in the hospital sustaining severe head injuries. Also, Sis. Laura Kupferschmid and Sis. Clara Kempf have spent time in the hospital. May the Lord’s healing be accomplished according to His perfect will.

Bro. Lewis and Sis. Arletta Martin celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in recent days. We are thankful for their loving example and wish them God’s richest blessings as they press on towards the heavenly goal.

Sis. Natalie Getz (Bro. Allan and Sis. Nathalia) is engaged to Bro. Dale McCasky (Fairbury, IL). Also, Bro. Randy Huber (Bro. Gary Huber and Karen Huber) was announced to Sis. Lindsay Hoerr (Bro. Mark and Sis. Carolyn). We pray for these couples as they venture into a new phase of life. “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.”

Bro. Chance Knapp (Bro. Steve and Sis. Lori) and Sis. Shelly Hinrichsen (Bruce Hinrichsen and

Cathy Appleyard) were united in marriage on May 7. We are thankful to welcome Sis. Shelly to Eureka, and pray for the Lord's blessing on their new home and marriage.

We were thankful to have visiting ministering Bro. Kent Getz (Elgin, IA) with us for a Sunday. May the Lord richly bless and provide for him and his family as they labor in His vineyard.

Our congregation has bid a final and fond farewell to Sis. Corine Hartter. Her surviving brother is Bro. Richard Hartter (Sis. Verna, Goodfield, IL). We are thankful to remember Sis. Corine's faithful example, and trust the Lord will comfort the sorrowing.

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY
Anna Schmidgall
Lila Fehr

We were privileged to partake of Holy Communion this month. We would like to extend special appreciation to our Elder Bros. Tom Stock (Cissna Park) and Wayne Anliker (Forrest) for assisting our Elder Bro. Rick Plattner. Bro. Al Schambach (Remington, IN) and Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT) were also willing to be used as vessels to preach God's Word to our congregation.

Two families have been blessed with babies this month. Little Aiden Karl was welcomed home by his parents, Bro. Nathan and Sis. Jennifer Teubel, his brothers, Milan and Bryce, and his grandparents, Walter Teubel and Bro. Chris and Sis. Kay Steffen. Bro. Mark and Sis. Tania Bazzell have a new little daughter named Summer Elaine. Summer's siblings are Dakota, Justus, and Cheyanne. Grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Carol Bazzell and Skip and Helen Voeste.

The Lord is still calling souls to re-

pentance, and we are thankful that Kent Steidinger has answered that call. We rejoice with Kent's parents, Bro. Martin and Sis. Trisha Steidinger.

We rejoice with Bro. Dale McCasky and Sis. Natalie Getz (Eureka, IL) as their engagement was recently announced. Bro. Allen and Sis. Nathalia Getz (Eureka, IL) and Christine McCasky are their parents. God grant them grace as they plan their lives together.

Our hospital patients this month were Paul Hoffman, and Sis. Natasha Knapp. We continue to pray for God's grace and nearness for our dear Sis. Natasha and her family.

ILLINOIS, FORREST
Jill Wenger
Lori Leman

Elder Bro. Dave Graf (Akron, OH) and Elder Bro. Rick Plattner (Fairbury, IL) assisted our own Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker with Holy Communion on April 29. We thank these Elders for their part in that holy, solemn evening spent remembering the suffering and death of our Lord.

Bro. Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL), Elder Bro. Curt Frank and Bro. Chris Wuethrich (both of LaCrosse, IN) also visited Forrest and we thank them for their willing service on our behalf.

Within a week's time, four couples were blessed with new babies in our congregation. Welcoming their first-born son, Connor James, home are Bro. Tim and Sis. Myra Mueller. Grandparents of Connor are Bro. Ray and Sis. Shelly Steidinger and Bro. Ron Sr. and Sis. Loida Mueller. Bro. Adrian and Sis. Shawna, Micah and Audrey Bachman opened their hearts and arms to Kaden Gabriel. After a stay in the hospital due to an infection, little Kaden is home again.

Thankful grandparents are Bro. Jeff and Sis. Wendy Gutwein and Bro. Larry and Sis. Donna Bachman. Bro. Phil and Charlotte Leman have been in our prayers these last few weeks while Charlotte was hospitalized before and after the birth of a precious daughter, Kari Grace. Charlotte is home but baby Kari, born premature, is needing some extra time in the hospital. Her excited siblings are Kirk, Kay, Gary and Gail. Grandparents of Kari are Bro. Glen and Sis. Kathryn Fehr (Fairbury, IL) and Sis. Donna Leman. Also, welcoming Ava Renee into their family circle are Bro. Garrett and Sis. Bethany Kupferschmid. Grandparents of little Ava are Bro. Ed and Sis. Renee Wenger and Bro. Al and Sis. Wanda Kupferschmid. How precious babies are!

Bro. Glen Steidinger (Sis. Holly), Bro. Wayne Honegger (Sis. Eleanor) and Sis. Virginia Blunier (Bro. Homer) are all on the mend after a hospital stay. May God continue to be with each one.

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

Proverbs 3:6

This is our wish and prayer for our many graduating seniors this month. Those graduating from high school are: Ashley Aberle (Bro. Mark and Sis. Laverne), Amanda Bradley (Dan and Mary), Rochelle Gerber (Bro. Alan and Sis. Marcia), Sarah Ifft (Bro. Duane and Sis. Mary), Kay Leman (Bro. Phil and Charlotte), Bro. Seth Leman (Bro. Fred and Sis. Brenda), Zachary Roth (Bro. Ken and Sis. Deb), Ben Rudin (Bro. Craig and Sis. Trudy), Caitlin Schaffer (Bro. John and Sis. Sally), Heather and Heidi Schaffer (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Martha), Betsy Steidinger (Bro. Glen and Sis. Holly), Sis. Crystal Stoller

(Bro. Greg and Sis. Jill) and Jaylin Teubel (Bro. John and Sis. Lavonne). May the Lord bless each one with wisdom and understanding of His will in their lives.

Note of Thanks:

Words cannot express what is in our hearts at the outpouring of love and support that we have felt during our time of sorrow. We wish to thank each one for their deeds of kindness. Your thoughtfulness won't be forgotten. May God richly bless each one.

In His love and ours,

Bro. Paul and Sis. Dawn Stork

Elijah, Jared, Isaiah, Lucas and Tamra

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

**Rita Bauman
Amber Grimm**

“And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

II Peter 1:5-8

Through faith, Sis. Shelly Hinrichsen (Bruce Hinrichsen & Cathy Appleyard) and Bro. Chance Knapp (Bro. Steve and Sis. Lori, Eureka, IL) were united in marriage. Their wedding took place on May 7.

Congratulations to the graduates from the class of 2006! Graduating this May were Kirk Getz, Cassie Gerber, and Keith Grimm. We trust they have gained much knowledge through school, but pray that they can rely on their knowledge of Jesus

Christ to see them through the remainder of their lives.

Bro. Richard Hartter's sister, Sis. Corine Hartter, passed away this month. We pray for temperance and patience for the family in this hard time.

We are so thankful for the example of godliness given to us from the ministers of our faith. Special thanks to our visiting ministers this month: Bro. Matt Steffen (Sis. Deanna, Princeville, IL), Bro. Mark Schmidgall (Sis. Lisa, Eureka, IL), and Bro. Mark Zimmerman (Sis. Cheryl, Eureka, IL).

Spending time in the hospital recently were Bro. Don Ott (Sis. Carolyn) and Sis. Pearl Nohl. We can show our brotherly kindness by continuing to keep these two in our prayers.

Charity is abundant in the Rinckenberger family with the birth of another son, Milo Rinckenberger. Welcoming him home are Bro. Scott and Sis. Heidi and siblings, Simeon and Isabelle. May God bless this growing family.

Note of Thanks:

We wish to express our heartfelt thanks in the loss of our mother, Sis. Vera Heinold, and Bro. Glenn's illness. We appreciate the deeds of kindness, cards, gifts, memorials, and especially the prayers. We are humbled by and grateful for our wonderful church family. Through your intercession we received healing and strength. May God bless each of you.

Bro. Glenn and Sis. Bev Joos

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

Perry A. Klopfenstein

I have heard it said that God cannot answer the prayers He does not hear. That is, if they are not uttered. The lesson here is that we should pray a lot (even without ceasing). God hears and answers prayer. That

should be an encouragement to all of us. It's certainly no secret that when the day is begun with a sincere, kneel-down prayer, it goes better. It's a comfort to know that God will take our burdens and cares, and if we trust Him, the day will proceed nicely for us.

We are praying for Darcy Poppin, the little daughter of Dave and Sis. Peggy Poppin, who has health issues. Also in our prayers is Sis. Ruth Rinckenberger, who will undergo surgery on June 19.

The marriage engagement of Sis. Laura Vercler to Bro. Mark Lindberg (Atlanta, GA) was made known. She is the daughter of Bro. Tim and Sis. Sonia Vercler of our home congregation. He is the son of Bro. Richard and Sis. Julie Lindberg (Atlanta, GA). They are planning a September 24 wedding, and we wish them God's rich blessings. It is a joy they sought God's will in this matter.

Toward the end of May the crops in this area were mostly planted. Timely rains came as God answered the prayers of the planters. Farmers can plant, but it is God that gives the increase. The same is true spiritually. Man can plant and water, but it is God that gives the increase. Parents can teach and train their children, Sunday School teachers can labor Sunday after Sunday before their students and ministers can preach year in and year out, but it is only God who can give the increase. Let us pray that the hearts and ears of the unconverted will be opened so repentance can occur and the path to eternal life can begin through Christ Jesus. It was His act at Calvary, and the shedding of His blood and His ultimate death (for us) that saves our soul. From this beginning gift of salvation, may God give us grace to continue on in obedience and overcome to the end, by His grace.

We are privileged every Sunday to

sing the deeply-meaningful hymns from the Zion's Harp Hymnal. The lyrics are so very meaningful. On May 28, we sang the following words from "Boundless Mercy," (page 220):

To me is given, boundless mercy,
A gift that I did not deserve;
Such wonderous love, It is so marvelous,
That such for me should be reserved.
But since I know, I will rejoice,
And praise His mercy with my voice -
And praise His mercy with my voice.

And then in verse two we sing a phrase that always impresses me and I am sure many others which reads, "And I, who naught but wrath did merit, Shall now in grace with God abide." How unworthy we all were in our unconverted state, yet God was indeed merciful and forgiving—and still is on a daily basis. Our thanks to Him should be ongoing and unceasing, along with fervent prayers that those in darkness will hear the voice of God calling them to a new life in Christ Jesus; and that the Spirit will compel them to repent and become converted.

ILLINOIS, MORTON
Annette Tanner
Julie Bahr

On a day with the sun shining, both houses looked the same. The house on the rock and the house on the sand. But when the winds came and the trials came, the house on the sand couldn't stay standing. Our graduates have many decisions before them. Our prayer is that each one will choose to STAND; building their lives on the Rock foundation of the Lord Jesus Christ. Elder Bro. Ted Witzig Sr. (Sis. Cindy) held our May

Family Worship Service to honor our graduating seniors. The graduates are Sis. Abby Witzig, Sis. Katie Ritthaler, Sis. Morgan Kaiser, Bro. Aaron Funk, Molly Mayo, Jerod Koch, Lacey Braker, Samantha Krantz, Nathaniel Leman, and Fred Sollberger. Let God impart His faithfulness to you each one.

I'm sorry to be late in reporting that some time ago we bid farewell to Gary and Evelyn Davis along with daughters, Amber and Amy, who moved from Morton to Tucson, AZ. We wish them God's blessings.

Our Communion Supper was held the evening of April 29. Visiting ministers were Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Sis. Jeannine, Mansfield OH) and Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Sis. Julie, Oakville, IA). Thank you for being a blessing to Elder. Bro Ted Witzig and the Morton church, as well.

Josie Grace was the name chosen for the new baby girl born March 9 to Ben and Sara Harkins. Sis. Sandy and Darryl Nelson are the thankful grandparents.

Little Haley Marie was born April 18 to Bro. Scott and Sis. Janelle Sauder. Little sister Ashley and grandparents, Bro. Gene and Sis. Joyce Strunk and Bro. Marvin and Sis. Mary Sauder, welcome her home.

Bro. Jim and Sis. Valerie Steffen are grandparents to a new baby girl, Josie Neil, born to Jeff and Kara Steffen on April 20. Big brother Jaden and Kansas grandparents, Bro. Neil and Sis. Evelyn Hartter (Bern), also welcome her home.

Baby girl, Aspen Marie, joined thankful parents, Nick and Sara Armstrong, on March 28. Sis. Kathryn and Todd Grimm are first-time grandparents.

Sis. Mabel Belsley (Bro. Robert) passed away April 27. Her children are Sis. Joannie Endress, Sis. Joyce Hirstein (Bro. Ted), Roger Belsley

(Marty, Champaign) and Randy Belsley (Joan). Our deepest sympathy is extended to each one.

Other deaths include Arthur Hoerr, brother - in - law to Sis. Dorothy (Bro. Robert) Frank. Sis. Geneva (Bro. Gerry) Sullivan's father, Bro. Richard Guthrie (Kiowa, KS), passed away May 5.

Janet Rassi, wife of Bob Rassi, also passed away recently. Sis. Lillian Getz's brother, Maynard Fehr (Tucson, AZ), died this past month. On May 13, Sis. Edna Fite went home to be with her Lord. She is an aunt to Sis. Cindy Wiedman (Bill), and also to Bro. Ted (Sis. Joyce) Hirstein.

Note of Thanks:

Our family would like to thank everyone for the outpouring of all the support and prayers during our dear wife, mother and grandmother's hospital stay and her going to be with the Lord. May God richly bless each of you.

In Christian Love,
Bro. Bob Belsley and family

ILLINOIS, PEORIA
Kristin Menold
Carissa Klopfenstein

On April 19, Bro. Tim Roecker spoke at our bi-monthly Family Night service. On May 3, Elder Bro. Mark Streitmatter (Bloomington, IL) spoke at our family night service. His topic was "Building His Church on the Pillars of God's Word."

On April 22, the Peoria Choir hosted their annual Benefit Dinner under the direction of Bro. Wayne Klopfenstein. Proceeds from this event were donated to local charities such as the Esther House, The Berean Prison Ministry, a bus to help with transportation at our home on Skyline Drive, and the Pinghu to Peoria Host Program.

The theme for this year was "I Will Praise Him." In addition to the Peoria Choir, special performances were given by the Covenant Chamber Choir, and a trio composed of Bro. Bob Hoerr, Sis. Mindy Kaisner, and Bro. Ken Ober. The food was catered by Bro. Dean and Sis. Holly Ramseyer, whose cooking and culinary skills delighted all.

On April 30, Bro. Benjamin Hodel (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Gail) was announced for engagement to Sis. Kristen Regier (Bro. Dana and Sis. Martha Kay, Princeville, IL). The wedding is scheduled for August 13 in Princeville.

On May 14, Bro. Chris Esterling (Bro. Tim and Sis. Jeanne) was announced for engagement to Sis. Amanda Fritts (Rolland and Kathy, Bluffton, IN). Their wedding date is to be announced and will take place in Bluffton North.

On May 7, we enjoyed our monthly hymn sing with songs from the 6-8 grade Sunday School and the Goodfield Choir. We were so blessed by their hymns of inspiration.

On May 4, our church held a service in honor of The National Day of Prayer. It was a wonderful time to come together in prayer and worship.

On March 27, Alia Nicole Grimm was born to her parents, Bro. Brett and Sis. Lena Grimm from Morton. She is welcomed by her sisters, Jacie Rae and Naya Elizabeth, and her grandparents, Bro. Dave and Sis. Rita Sauder and Bro. Mark and Sis. Kathy Grimm (Morton, IL).

Ben and Marissa Studebaker from Morton are proud parents of a new baby boy, Aedan Edward, who was born on April 10. Grandparents are Leslie and Sis. Connie Woodcock and Ken and Jane Studebaker from Congerville.

We wish to congratulate our high school graduates!! These include:

Clayton Aupperle, (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Cindy), Sis. Brittany Brecklin (Thomas and Karen), Sis. Andi Gerst (Bro. Jim and Sis. Diane), Sis. Alyssa Hoerr (Bro. Todd and Sis. Sallie), Kurt Hoerr (Bro. Jack and Sis. Jody), Sis. Polly Hoerr (Bro. Carl and Sis. Debby), Sis. Angie Knobloch (Bro. Loris and Sis. Pat), Daniel Kummer (Bro. Chris and Sis. Patty), Katie Marx (Bro. Randy and Sis. Becky), Sis. Jenna Rieker (Bro. Jim and Sis. Jane), Joel Stickling (Bro. Chris and Sis. Marsha).

On May 6 and 7, the Peoria Young Group was happy to host young groups representing 29 different churches. The topic of the Peoria Invite was "Guarding Your Heart" and the theme verse was Proverbs 4:23, "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life."

After registering, the young people split into groups and participated in various work projects including grading Bible studies for the Berean Prison Ministries, and yard work, painting, landscaping, and singing at the home on Skyline Drive. They met for dinner, singing, and a message from Elder Bro. Tim Funk at the Fellowship Hall afterward. Following the afternoon service on Sunday, the entire group of around 250 young people sang two songs for the congregation. We thank all for making the effort to come and be a part of this wonderful weekend and pray that you received a blessing as we did.

We welcome a new family to our congregation, Steve and Tarla Gibbs and their children, Taylor (5 years old) and Tara (2 ½ years old). Also, our new Bro. Dale Graf, who was baptized in April at our home on Skyline Drive.

We continue to remember Bro. Dale Hunziker as he battles with cancer. Also, Bro. Kenny Plattner and Bro. Dave Dunbar for health, and

Chris Erkert as she recovers from surgery.

Our sympathy is with Bro. Herman and Sis. Eva Jean Schaefer with the passing of Eva Jean's brother, Richard Knapp, from Cissna Park.

Vacation Bible School will be June 12-16. The students will be exploring the 10 commandments and learning more about Moses and the Israelites.

Peoria is hosting the next Single Focus Weekend on July 15-16. Information has been sent to a contact person from every church. All working singles are welcome to come, build friendships, and hear speakers on the topic, The Abundant Life (John 10:10).

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

(Bro. Nick) Knobloch, Sis. Wilma Martin, and Sis. Virginia (Harry) King. May God provide courage and strength in times of need.

We rejoiced with Bro. Dean and Sis. Dawn Herrmann as they welcomed a little son, Noah David, into their family on May 5. His thankful siblings include Sis. Kim (Bro. Matt)

Zimmerman, Bro. Greg, Bro. Grant, Scott, Laura, Todd, and Elise. Thankful grandparents include Bro. Marvin and Sis. Jane Leman (Bradford) and Bro. Noah and Sis. Evalyn Herrmann.

We extend our sympathy and prayers to Sis. Loretta Rumbold in the loss of her sister, Sis. Mabel Belsley, from Morton.

Our High School graduates this year include Sis. Amanda Herrmann (Bro. Doug and Sis. Angie), Nathan Braker (Bro. Glen and Sis. Audrey), Bro. Greg Herrmann (Bro. Dean and Sis. Dawn), Bro. Tristan Herrmann (Bro. Roger and Sis. Darlene), and Bro. Kyle Plattner (Elder Bro. Jim and Sis. Marlene). Our prayers are with them that they feel God's guidance and direction during this important time in their lives.

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

**Dee Fehr
Doris Fischer**

We rejoiced to hear of the establishment of three new Christian homes, as evidence of God's work in the lives of His children. Sis. Rachel Feucht (Bro. Randy and Sis. Carol) is

engaged to Bro. Jeremy Schlipf (Bro. Bart and Sis. Twyla) of Gridley, IL. We also heard the engagement of Bro. Nate Hodel (Bro. Brent and Sis. Marge) to Sis. Jamie Knochel (Bro. Jim and Sis. Kay) of Bay City. Bro. Mark Lindberg (Bro. Rich and Sis. Julie, Atlanta, GA) is engaged to marry Sis. Laura Vercler (Bro. Tim and Sis. Sonia) of Gridley, IL. Though Lindbergs live in Georgia now, they remain close to our hearts.

Bro. Bob and Sis. Marilyn Ott are thankful to have a new grandson. Nathan Donald Adams was born on March 30 to Joe and Lisa Adams of Champaign. Nathan's paternal grandparents are Don and Joan Adams.

Special thanks to the visiting brothers who have shared God's Word from our pulpit. Bro. Ralph Garber (Morton) joined us for Family Worship in April, and Bro. Fred Funk (Morton) and Bro. Justin Koch (Washington) also shared our pulpit in April. As the Apostle Paul did, we also "thank (our) God upon every remembrance of you." Phil 1:3

In April we heard the news of Sis. Lisa Gerber's diagnosis with leukemia. As a church body – both locally and brethren from far away – we hold this dear sister and her family up in prayer. Bro. Byron and Sis. Lisa have had some trying moments in recent weeks as treatment began and as they remembered milestones in the life and death of their son, Micah. I'm thankful to report that at this time, Sis. Lisa's leukemia has gone into remission. She undergoes more procedures in the future, and I'm sure they will appreciate your continuing prayers on their behalf.

Note of Thanks:

We want to thank you for the cards, gifts and phone calls Gene received when he celebrated his 80th

birthday. He had pneumonia at the time, and the cards were such a blessing.

Bro. Gene and Sis. Marge Fehr

ILLINOIS, TREMONT Teresa Rowell Sheri Allen

O Mother, when I think of thee,
Tis but a step to Calvary;
Thy gentle hand upon my brow
Is leading me to Jesus now.

Tabernacle Hymns #294

What a beautiful verse to think about when we think of our mothers. Many of us had the wonderful privilege to be brought up by God-fearing mothers who brought us to church and taught us about Jesus. As we heard in a sermon on Mother's Day, the biggest joy a mother has is to see her children come to Jesus.

We were blessed to have three visiting ministers with us this past month. Bro. Bob Pfloderer (Morton, IL) presented a topical lesson for us on Wednesday night, April 19. Bros. Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL) and John Hartman (Fairbury, IL) preached to us the next Sunday. May the Lord bless these dear brothers as they blessed us with the teachings of the Holy Spirit.

We were saddened to say a somewhat unexpected and earthly goodbye to our Bro. Curt Zuercher. Bro. Curt leaves behind his wife, Sis. June; sons, Bro. Jerry (Sis. Kathy), Bro. Byron, Nathan (Nichole), and daughters, Sis. Ann, and Sis. Mary (Bro. Dale) Wagenbach (Rockville, CT). Several grandchildren also will miss their grandpa. Also, Sis. Darlene Kaeb's brother, Melvin Barth (Springfield, IL), passed away. Our prayers are with these families as they sorrow.

We have a few in our congregation

who have spent some time in the hospital or have been ill. Bro. Dave (Sis. Eunice) Beutel, Bro. Tom Koch (Bro. Dave and Sis. June), Sis. Emma Aberle, and Sis. Vera Aberle are all under the care of physicians. We pray that they will all feel the comforting hand of the Great Physician.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

**Nancy Knepp
Barb Banwart**

How beautiful the creation is, refreshed by spring rains! The earth is again carpeted with green and adorned with blossoms.

What a fitting time for the arrival of a new baby boy! Cliff Herbert has been warmly welcomed into the family of Bro. Herb and Sis. Lori Leman. His delighted siblings are Kendra, Clayton, Kandace and Carli. He was born May 8 and also enjoys the affection of grandparents, Bro. Carl and Sis. Lydiann Wyss, and Bro. Jim Leman (Roanoke, IL).

Bro. Dave Oberfel (Sis. Cathy, Peoria, IL) was a visiting minister on April 30. May the Lord always inspire our brothers who occupy the pulpit.

Several from our congregation have visited the hospital recently. We are grateful that Bro. Eugene Funk (Sis. Kathryn) and Bro. Lloyd Schumacher (Sis. Betty) are back with us in church. Bro. Ron Kellenberger (Sis. Carole) is thankful to bring back a good report from his visit to Mayo's recently.

We extend our sympathy to the family of our Bro. Eugene Kellenberger who passed away. He is the father of Bro. Randy (Sis. Ruth) and Bro. Ron (Sis. Carole). Bro. Elliot and Sis. Pam Yudenfriend laid to rest Bro. Elliot's mother, Shirley, recently. And Bro. Harvey Martin (Sis. Sharon) lost his sister, Sis. Mabel Belsley, of Morton. May God be the

Comforter of those who mourn.

In joy or in sorrow, still follow thy Lord,
And, looking to Jesus, still trust in His Word.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

**Amber Steffen
Amy Gerber**

"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:19

The Lord will fulfill all our needs. How encouraging to know that God is not intimidated by our needs, and He only wants us to rest in Him. Even when it seems we will break under the weight of our burdens, God will sustain us.

Our prayers went out to Mark and Grace Baumgartner as they are struggling with the death of a child. Grace lost baby Vivian Marie on April 19, only a week before she was due. Mark is the son of Bro. Tom and Sis. Marilyn Baumgartner and Grace is the granddaughter of Sis. Barb Pfister (Bro. Tom, dec.). We are praying that God will hold Mark, Grace and their daughter Ava close to Him as they travel down this path of grief.

We also remembered Sis. Rosie Aschliman (Bro. Ralph) in our prayers. Sis. Rosie's father, Roy H. Larhman, passed away on May 8. We pray God will place His comforting hand upon all affected.

We were so thankful to see a soul come to the Lord. Jesse Terhune made a beginning this month and surrendered all his heart to our Lord. He is such an encouragement at 85, reminding us all that God will never quit calling souls.

This month, four little souls made their way into the world. On April 26,

Bro. Kent and Sis. Jodi Reinhard welcomed Daylin Orval. Daylin's grandparents are Sis. Ann Reinhard (Bro. Ken, dec.) and Bro. Steve and Sis. Irene Frauhiger. Saela Jane was greeted by Doug and Kristy Gerber on April 30. Bro. Lee and Sis. Jennie Gerber are Saela's grandparents. May 1 marked the arrival date for Krew Mason. Krew's parents are James and Kristen Clark and grandparents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Jan Kaehr. Daphne Lee announced herself to Bro. Chad and Sis. Stephanie Lantz on May 11. Daphne's grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Kathy Lantz and Bro. Steve and Sis. Renee Reinhard. Bro. Chip and Sis. Angie Topp have been in our prayers as they plan to adopt Gavin Christian from China on May 27. What a joyful time for these couples.

Also celebrating this month were the families of five converts who were baptized. May 7 was a special day for Bro. Jamin Steffen (Bro. Bob and Sis. Marcia), Bro. Travis Tonner (Bro. Tim and Sis. Susie), Bro. Joel Fiechter (Bro. Mark and Sis. Shelly), Bro. Jarin Tucker and Sis. April Fiechter (Bro. Lynn and Sis. Ronda). Our hearts rejoiced with them on this happy weekend.

This month we were blessed with many visiting ministers. Bro. John Steiner (Sis. Carol, Oakville, IA), and Bro. Dan Dubach (Sis. Bethany, Prescott, AZ) joined our congregation on April 23. Elder Bros. Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan, Taylor, MO) and Tom Klotzle (Sis. Jody, Altadena, CA) shared Communion with our congregation on April 29. On May 7, Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Sis. Judy, Chicago, IL) assisted with baptisms, and Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North, IN) was with us on May 10. We are truly thankful for our ministers and their willingness to travel.

Our congregation rejoiced with a couple announced for engagement. Bro. Kris and Sis. Ann Frauhofer announced the engagement of their son, Bro. Travis, to Sis. Jenna Steffen of Bluffton North (Bro. Keith and Sis. Kay). On a memorable note, we also congratulated Bro. Don and Sis. Mary Gerber as they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. What a wonderful portrayal they are of Christ's love!

**INDIANA
BLUFFTON NORTH
Darren Drayer
Tiffani Schladenhauffen**

"Therefore if any man be in Christ he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new."

II Corinthians 5:17

Kinsey Kershner is a new creature in Christ as she decided to give her heart to Him this month in repentance. Kinsey is the daughter of Bro. Dan and Sis. Jacki. We pray that she will feel the Lord's love and strength as she seeks to follow Him.

We were blessed to have several babies born this month. On April 19, Bro. Brad and Sis. Lindsay Zimmer became parents to another son, Bodie Allen. Little Bodie Allen joins big brothers, Will and Evan, and big sister, Lanie. The joyful grandparents are Bro. Dean and Sis. Cyndee Fiechter and Jim and Cheryl Zimmer.

Then on May 8, Lucia Claire came into this world. She was welcomed by her parents, Bro. Ryan and Sis. Sarah Corkwell, and her brother, Wyatt, and sister, Elsa. The happy grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Mary Jo Troxel and Bob and Telida Corkwell.

Bro. Jerry and Sis. Lois Drayer are the grandparents of Ethan Bruce,

the new son of Bro. Bruce and Sis. Heather Drayer (Leo, IN). Likewise, Bro. Steve and Sis. Irene Frauhofer are the grandparents of Daylin Orval, the new son of Bro. Kent and Sis. Jodi Reinhard (Bluffton, IN). We rejoice with each of these families and are prayerful for them as they raise their children in the Lord.

We also have two new, happy engaged couples. The first is Sis. Jenna Steffen, daughter of Bro. Keith and Sis. Kay, and Bro. Travis Frauhofer (Bluffton, IN), son of Bro. Kris and Sis. Ann (Bluffton, IN). The other couple is Sis. Amanda Fritts, daughter of Rolland and Kathy, and Bro. Chris Esterling (Peoria, IL), son of Bro. Tim and Sis. Jeanie (Morris, MN). We pray for God's richest blessings as their love grows for the Lord and for each other.

We were blessed to host this spring's College Weekend with the topic of spiritual warfare. The visiting ministers that were willing speakers were Bro. Dan Dubach (Sis. Bethany, Prescott, AZ), Bro. Ron Bollier (Sis. Edie, Indianapolis, IN), and Bro. Trent Schrock (Sis. Heidi, Leo, IN). It was a very encouraging weekend and was great to see so many young people with a passion to follow Christ.

We had our annual spring church cleaning this month. This always serves as a reminder of how much we appreciate Bro. Jeff and Sis. Peg Yergler, and the hard work they put in every week.

The Young Group honored their mothers by serving lunch on Mother's Day. We have been so blessed with such godly mothers and women in our church, so many good examples for us to follow.

We are prayerful for Sis. Leota Reinhard (Bro. Glen) as she spends some time in the hospital this month.

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

Isaiah 41:10

**INDIANA
FRANCESVILLE
Barbara Huber
Jessica Murray**

Greetings beloved brethren and friends in the living name of Jesus! Our past month has been pretty eventful at Francesville!

The weekend of April 29-30 was richly blessed for us as we were privileged to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of five converts. They were Shanna Rayburn (Bro. Jim and Sis. Barbara); Brandon and Rosa (Mojica) Wuethrich (Bro. Rick and Sis. Judy); and Annie and Nicholas Wuethrich (Bro. Mark and Sis. Lynne). We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Mike Leman (Sis. Deb, Denver, CO) travel here to assist our Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein with this precious work.

The testimonies were uplifting as we again were made aware of the magnificent grace of God and His ability to reach a soul in all ages of life. It was such a joy to greet them as our Brothers and Sisters in the Lord on Sunday. We are so thankful to God that He sees fit to give us these glimpses of His love and even a look at Heaven and His joy over sinners who repent!

"These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, that your joy might be full."

John 15:11

We then were blessed to share Communion on the next weekend. Again we were made aware of God's precious provision for us as we com-

memorated Christ' suffering and death with five new members in our Christian family circle.

Our beloved Sis. Priscilla Anliker has suffered a stroke and is recovering at her home. We offer our fervent prayers that God will be near her and her dear family through these difficult days.

"For thou art my hope, Lord God: thou art my trust from my youth."

Psalms 71:5

Bro. Phil and Sis. Amber Lemman lovingly welcomed their new daughter, Brie Alexa. She joins big brother Ethan and big sister Camille. Happy grandparents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Sandi Ward and Bro. Doug and Sis. Margaret Lemman. It is our prayer that God richly blesses this precious family circle and grants His grace to raise these little ones for Him!

"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand."

John 10:27, 28

After a full life of following our faithful Shepherd, our Bro. Orie Heinold (Sis. Louise) passed away on May 8. His cheerful, loving countenance will be missed in our congregation, but we are thankful that he is now in the presence of the Lord. We extend our loving prayers of sympathy to all of his family circle.

Sis. Amelia Schini (Bro. Albert, deceased) entered into eternal rest on May 16. She lived a fruitful life for Christ and will be deeply missed. Her church home was Remington but since she has resided at Parkview Village and Home for several years, she was near and dear to our hearts. "And this is the promise that he hath

promised us, even eternal life." I (John 2:25) How thankful we are that both Bro. Orie and Sis. Amelia lived their earthly days so that they can now receive this promise.

Our graduation program was held on May 17. Bibles were presented to Emily Gutwein (Bro. Steve and Sis. Linda); Tom Lemman (Bro. Doug and Sis. Margaret); Bro. Blair Neihouser (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Sue) and Erin Pelsy (Bro. Dale and Sis. Terry). A memorial Bible was also presented to Bro. David and Sis. Kelly (Emch) Zeltwanger in loving memory of their son, Nathan, who would have graduated with this class. His absence was lovingly noted.

Many beautiful insights were presented in word and song to the graduates. They were encouraged to remember that they would always have a church fellowship praying for them as they go on to their various life pursuits and to seek the Lord's guidance for their lives also.

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

Matthew 6:33

So, in this span of thirty odd days in Francesville, IN, we have witnessed the cycles of life with the birth of a precious child; graduations from high school; testimonies and baptisms of five precious souls; illness and recovery; and, the ultimate transition, the passing into eternal life of a brother and sister in Christ. May we gather faith and courage to continue trusting in the safety of living in submission to Jesus and endeavor to fulfill our earthly days as a glory to God.

"So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto

wisdom."

Psalms 90:12

**INDIANA
INDIANAPOLIS
Gail Bradford
Sandy Lichtle**

Bro. Bill and Sis. Gail Bradford have experienced both joy and sorrow this month. Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Bill and Sis. Gail as his sister, Shirley Brown, of Phoenix, AZ, went to be with the Lord on April 22. May the Comforter bring the family peace and strength during this time of loss. We rejoice with Bro. Bill and Sis. Gail on the birth of their grandson, Gibson Joseph Bradford. Gibson was born on April 24 to Bill and Brandy Bradford (Greenwood, IN).

On May 6, we had the blessing of sharing Holy Communion. We appreciate the labors of love of our Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign, IL) and Elder Bro. Bruce Hohulin (Sis. Charlene, Goodfield, IL) who humbly served us. May we daily remember and be thankful for the price Jesus paid on the cross for our sins.

Congratulations to our graduates this year. Our high school graduates are Sis. Anna Bollier (Bro. Ron and Sis. Edie), Torey Guingrich (Bro. Dan and Sis. Sandy), and Sis. Marta Witzig (Bro. Fred and Sis. Nancy). Our college graduates are Sis. Melanie Levy (Bro. Roger and Sis. Sue), Sis. Trisha Sauder (Bro. John and Sis. Peg, Morton, IL), and Sis. Katie Schwab (Bro. Tim and Sis. Rachel, Wolcott, IN). Sis. Keyna Martinez (Bro. Joshua) and Bro. Aaron Zeller (Sis. Julie) graduated from medical school. We pray God will bless and guide our graduates as they begin a new phase in life.

We were blessed to have two visiting ministers on Sunday, May 14.

Bro. Ken Lawson (Sis. Sharon, Phoenix, AZ) and Bro. Garry Bucher (Sis. Lois, Valparaiso, IN) shared God's Word with us. We appreciate their willingness to be used in the Lord's service.

INDIANA, LACROSSE

**Bethany Johnson
Julie Rocke**

Many thanks to our visiting ministers this month: Bros. Dan Stoller (Sis. Deb, Remington), Lucas Frank (Sis. Crystal, Detroit), Ted Steffen (Sis. Sandy, Alto), John Leman (Sis. Ruthann, Wolcott), and Jim Butikofer (Sis. Diana, Iowa City). May God richly bless you as each of you blessed us with your time and talents in sharing the Word of God.

We want to wish Caleb Heinold and Sis. Kayla Heinold (both children of Bro. Gene and Sis. Evie Heinold) God's blessings on their graduation from college. May they ever continue to seek His guidance in their lives.

Sis. Pearl Nuest celebrated her 90th birthday in May. We are thankful for every year that God has given and pray that He will continue to be with her in the future.

We are thankful that Sis. Connie Knobloch is assembling with us again after a short illness.

We rejoiced with our dear Sis. Barb Troxel when her engagement to Bro. Bob Beer from Milford, IN, was announced. We trust that they will feel God's direction and blessings as they make preparations for their wedding and life together.

Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to Sis. MaryAnn Feller in the death of her brother, Bro. Orie Heinold (Sis. Louise) of Francesville. Also grieving his loss is his sister-in-law, Sis. Sis Heinold.

In the family of God, we rejoice to-

gether and we share sadness. We had a farewell singing for Caleb Heinold as he plans to move to Lester, IA. We are thankful that he is able to be with some of his family there, but we will miss his smile and pleasant personality in our congregation.

INDIANA, LEO Ethelyn Schlatter

Sympathy is extended to our retired Elder Bro. David Bertsch on the passing of his uncle, Herman Bertsch, age 99. Herman lived at The Cedars for 13 years, and is survived by his wife of 75 years, Helen, and three children, 7 grandchildren, 9 great - grandchildren, 10 great - great grandchildren.

We rejoiced with Sis. Abigail Schrenk, and Sis. Tianna Stieglitz on the weekend of April 22-23 as they gave their testimonies of God's grace and their faith in the shed blood of Jesus. We witnessed their burial of the old man in baptism on Sunday. Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL) came to help Elder Bro. Lynn in this rite. We appreciated Bro. Earl and Sis. Dixie coming to share with us.

We pray for blessings on the engagement and coming marriage of Sis. Terri Gramm and Bro. Bob Witzig (son of the late Bro. and Sis. Ed Witzig), Gridley, IL. Sis. Terri's parents are Bro. Don and Sis. Rosella Gramm of Gridley, IL. We welcomed Bro. Ron Bollier and family from Indianapolis, IN. It is always good to have him return to "home base".

Bro. Sylvan Pulfer had a second surgery and regained his strength quicker this time. Our prayers are for God's sustaining grace for him and Sis. Irene.

Prayers for restored health and strength go up to our Heavenly Father for retired Elder Bro. David and Sis. Marie Bertsch, who are at pres-

ent in nursing care at The Cedars. They hope to return home soon.

Two new babies arrived. Ethan Bruce joined the family of Bro. Bruce and Sis. Heather Drayer on April 29. He has a big brother, James, and sister, Dayla. Grandparents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Lois Drayer (Bluffton North, IN) and Jim and Karen Brudi (Bluffton, IN).

Bro. Erik and Sis. Carrie Wiegand welcomed Larissa Lyn on May 17. Siblings are Savannah, Jonas and Clair. Grandparents are Bro. Ron and Sis. Barb Wiegand and Bro. Mark and Sis. Connie Rocke (Goodfield, IL).

Bro. Brian Knudstrup and Sis. Julie Waibel were honored at a singing wedding shower on May 20.

"O Lord of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in thee."

Psalms 84:12

INDIANA, MILFORD Carlton Beer Carol Haab

"Therefore shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh."

Genesis 2:24

In our small congregation we are always delighted to hear an engagement announced. We have been very blessed this spring as we rejoice with four couples now planning their weddings. Best wishes are extended to Sis. Sonya Beer (Bro. Bob and the late Sis. Linda) and Bro. Brad Bertsch (Bro. Mike and Sis. Carmon, Bluffton, IN); Rick Bowerman (Bro. Bob and Sis. Sue) and Carla Yoder (Don and Beth); Sis. Kristi Schlipf (Bro. Rich and Sis. Kathy) and Bro. Jeremy Reinhard (Bro. Jerome and

Sis. Gail, Bluffton, IN); and Bro. Bob Beer and Sis. Barbara Troxel (La-Crosse, IN). May the Lord bless each of these couples with love and may they feel His nearness as they plan their lives together.

We want to congratulate our college graduates this spring. They are Sis. Katie Schlipf (Bro. Rich and Sis. Kathy), Rhett Mikel (Russ and Sis. Pat) and Bro. Regg Beer (Bro. Fred and Sis. Pat). Our prayer for these young people is that they would feel God's guiding hand as they journey into the working world.

Bro. Cap Beer (Sis. MaryAnn) spent some time in the hospital recently. He is now home, but still undergoing tests. May he feel our prayers for God's healing touch to be upon him.

Spring is a wonderful time of renewal. After the cold of winter, it is so refreshing to see the beauty of the colorful flowers, the green grass, the crops emerging in the fields, and the many birds returning. God's hand is on all of it.

For every aspiration of the heart
God has made a living vital counterpart
In buds of beauty, fragrance, color,
form;
And each glad spring these blossoms
are reborn.
As long as God sends forth His
graceful flowers,
Man's heart can hold no dismal,
haunted hours.
They are His breath, a loving
benediction,
Blessing the soul's sweet search
for recognition.
—*Mabelle A. Lyon*

INDIANA, REMINGTON
Beth Virkler
Tammy Waibel

We greet you in the name of our

Lord. Some wonderful things have been happening this month. The Lord is good in all things.

Visiting ministers this past month were: Bro. Ted Luginbuhl (Sis. Stephanie, Smithville, OH), Bro. Gary Anliker (Sis. Edith, Elgin, IL), Bro. Herb Knochel Jr. (Sis. Laurie, Phoenix, AZ), Bro. Steven Stieglitz (Sis. Jane, Leo, IN) and Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Sis. Leonda, Leo, IN). Thank you to all of our visiting ministers for their time that they gave to share the Lord's words.

Sis. Lorrene Schieler spent some time in the hospital due to a slight stroke. She is back at Parkview Haven now. May the Lord watch over you during your recovery.

Bro. Stan and Sis. Beth Virkler would like to announce the engagement of their son, Bro. Joel Virkler, to Sis. Amber Greenbank (Bro. Joe and Sis. Patty, Phoenix, AZ). Lord willing, they are going to have a fall wedding. May the Lord richly bless this union.

We have three graduates this year: Bro. Trent Bahler (Bro. Tim and Sis. Lynette), Sis. Ruth Virkler (Bro. Stan and Sis. Beth) and Sarena Wahl (Bro. Fred and Sis. Libby). May you listen to the Lord wherever you may go on your journey.

“Let not your heart be troubled; ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself, that where I am, there ye may be also.”

Two souls have left this earthly home. On Mother's day, our dear friend, David (Charity Isabell) Pratt, lost his stepmother in an accident. You know that we will be praying for

the whole family in your time of sorrow. Pat also leaves behind a husband, Jerry Pratt, of Francesville, IN; a daughter, Missy (Mark) Tanner; sons, David (Charity) Pratt, Ron (Teresa) Landis, Duane (Tammy) Pratt, Vincent Pratt and Scott (Tammy) Pratt; 12 grandchildren and two on the way. Pat lived for her grandchildren.

Sis. Amelia Schini went to her heavenly reward on May 16 in Francesville, IN. What I find wonderful is that she served the Lord for 73 years. To live that long living for the Lord is a glorious thing. Preceding her in death is her husband, Bro. Albert. She leaves behind: sons, Bob Schini Sr. and Bob Schini Jr. (Heather); daughters, Sis. Marlene (Bro. Tim) Ringger, Norma (Tom) Goepfrich and Alberta (Chris) Kaehr; 10 grandchildren; 5 great-grandchildren; brothers, Melvin (Marge) Scharlach and Wes Scharlach; a sister, Doris (Dick) Zeltwinger. Preceding her in death is her sister, Aldine Taylor. We will all miss her here at church and we are praying for her family right now in their time of sorrow. Ministering Bro. Randy Gudeman (Sis. Becky, Francesville, IN) helped our Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus officiate the funeral. Thank you and your family for taking the time to come and assist our ministers.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND
Amy Gerst
Laura Vercler

“Faith of our fathers, living still....”

As Father's Day approaches, how thankful we can be that we have been given such a blessed heritage by our fathers in faith.

We appreciated Bro. Walt and Sis.

Sharon Rager (Toledo, OH) coming to visit us and share God's Word with us this past month. We are thankful for their willingness to serve.

Bro. Tim and Sis. Melisa Gerst welcomed little Jenna Kay into their family on May 7. Her siblings, Anelyse and Joseph, were also excited to meet their new sister. Grandparents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Connie Gerst (Iowa City, IA) and Bro. Lon and Sis. Sandy Butikofer (Elgin, IA). We are all thankful for her safe and healthy arrival.

Sis. Laura Vercler (Bro. Tim and Sis. Sonia, Gridley, IL) was announced to Bro. Mark Lindberg (Bro. Rich and Sis. Julie, Atlanta, GA) on May 14. We wish God's richest blessings on this couple as they prepare to begin their life together. Their wedding is planned for September 24 in Gridley, IL.

We have several graduates this year. Thomas Langhofer (Bro. Marty and Sis. Lavilla) and Kyle Lehman (Bro. Don and Sis. Jill) finish high school this year. They both plan to go to college for higher education. Sis. Keyna Martinez (Bro. Marty and Sis. Lavilla) has graduated from medical school in Indianapolis. Bro. Joshua and Sis. Keyna have returned to South Bend where she will begin residency. Bro. Caleb Schafer (Bro. Scott and Sis. Gigi) graduated from college as well and has moved with his wife, Sis. Laura, to Austin, TX, to begin employment as an architect. May God grant grace and guidance to each one as they finish one chapter of their lives and begin a new one.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO

Ed Lester

Greetings of love to everyone once again. We have been very blessed and busy here in Valparaiso this past month. We had our annual spring

program. Also, a Francesville singing group performed some songs for us. Thanks for your kind voices. We want to thank everyone involved with the program for their hard work and dedication.

Our Sunday school traveled to Milford this past month. They would like to thank the Milford church for being such kind hosts.

We are thankful that we were allowed to take Communion with our Lord this year. Again, thanks to Elder Bro. Dan and Sis. Jenna Kilgus (Remington) for sharing Communion with us. Everyone at Valparaiso would like to thank Bro. Jeff and Sis. Sue Neihouser (Francesville) for fellowshiping with us this past month.

We at Valparaiso would like to express our love and sympathy to Bro. Bob and Sis. Marguerite Hoerr during the passing of Sis. Marguerite's brother, Alan Beer.

INDIANA WEST LAFAYETTE

Andria Sprunger Hollie Meister

We had our Easter Program on Palm Sunday. The Sunday School students did a wonderful job bringing us the Easter story.

Visiting ministers this month have been Elder Bros. Akito Inoue (Tokyo), Curt Frank (Lacrosse, IN), John Lehman (Bern, KS), and Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO). We appreciate their willing efforts to serve us.

At this time of year we think of our seniors graduating and pray that God would direct their paths. Our high school graduates are Kurt Schieler (Bro. Duane and Sis. Suzanne), Kyle Walder (Bro. Russ and Sis. Darlene), and Matt Widmer (Bro. Neal and Sis. Kris). We also had one Purdue grad, Sis. Amber Lehman (husband, Bro. Tim). Congratula-

tions to you all!

On April 29, we had a farewell singing and dinner for Bro. Gordon and Sis. Kathy Gerber. They are relocating to Illinois. We will miss them and wish them God's blessings and guidance now and in the future.

This month was also the wedding of Bro. Shane Beer and Sis. Stefanie Schwab. We rejoice with them and their parents, Bro. Steve and Sis. Connie Beer (Leo, IN), and Bro. Mark and Sis. Shari Schwab (Wolcott, IN). Our sincerest congratulations are extended to them as they begin a new life together.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Elaine Bahler Lowell Bahler

After a brief illness, Sis. Norma Blume was carried by the angels to the land of rest on April 25. She and Bro. Glenn moved back to Wolcott just a year ago from Sarasota, FL, and we feel blessed to have enjoyed her presence for this short period of time. Our sympathies are extended to her dear husband and children: Sis. Glenna (Bro. Mike) Minniear, Jeffrey (Cynthia), Craig (Kathy), Bro. Larry (Sis. Lynell), and Kent (Robin). Also to her sisters: Phyllis Baird, Beverly Blume, Sis. Frances (Bro. Alfred) Bahler, and her brothers: Bro. Richard (Sis. Viola) Stoller and Larry (Judy) Stoller. May they feel God's comforting arms around them.

Before a host of witnesses, Sis. Stefanie Schwab (Bro. Mark and Sis. Shari) and Bro. Shane Beer (Bro. Steve and Sis. Connie, Leo, IN), both of West Lafayette, IN, exchanged their vows and were joined in holy matrimony on May 7. We offer our warm congratulations to this dear couple and pray God's blessings on their marriage. Sharing their joy and

God's Word on this special day were Elder Bros. Lynn Stieglitz (Sis. Leonda, Leo, IN), Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, LaCrosse, IN), Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Remington, IN), and ministering Bros. Andy Moser (Sis. Diane, Valparaiso, IN), Bob Meyer (Sis. Ann, Bluffton North, IN), and Randy Gudeman (Sis. Becky, Francesville, IN).

Thank you to Bro. Tom Troxel (Sis. LuAnn, LaCrosse, IN) for visiting and sharing God's Word with us. We deeply appreciate and ask God's blessings upon those who faithfully serve in the ministry.

Congratulations to Sis. Katie Schwab (Bro. Tim and Sis. Rachel) who received her degree as a Physician Assistant. May God, the Great Physician, direct her path as she enters a new phase of life.

Graduating from high school are Marissa Schwab (Bro. Mark and Sis. Shari), Brett Schwab (Bro. Jon and Sis. Wendy), Tyler Bryant (Mike and Sis. Nancy Scott), and Nick Boyd (Dan and Patricia Anaya). We extend our congratulations and pray that God will bless them in their future endeavors.

Note of Thanks:

The family of Sis. Norma Blume would like to express our sincere appreciation to each one who remembered us with cards, visits, floral arrangements, food, and most of all, prayers during her hospitalization and passing. Our hearts were surely touched by the many kind and thoughtful deeds.

Bro. Glenn Blume and family

IOWA, BLOOMFIELD
Barbara Schock

What a treasure I have in this wonderful peace,

Buried deep in the heart of my soul;
So secure that no power can mine it away,
While the years of eternity roll.
Tabernacle Hymns #149, vs.2

We rejoice with our convert, Angie Wuthrich (Bro. Roger and Sis. DeAnn), as she believes that she is at peace with God and man. We look forward to hearing her testimony and welcoming her into the fold sometime in the future, Lord willing.

We were blessed with two visiting ministers this month. Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Sis. Roberta, Smithville, OH) was here April 29-30. We extend our heartfelt thanks as he assisted our Elder Bro. Doug in serving holy Communion. This is always a special time of the year for us as congregations as well as each one individually, when we examine ourselves, as guided by His Holy Word. For several this was the first time of partaking of holy Communion as Brothers and Sisters in Christ . It always gives us pause to wonder how it might be the next time we partake of Communion, who will be missing? Or whom might be added among us? Or perhaps the Lord may have returned and we all will be partakers in the kingdom of Heaven. We wished Bro. Andy and Sis. Roberta could have spent more time with us, but we appreciated the time they gave of themselves, knowing they did it out of their love for the Lord and the brethren.

Also, Bro. Brad Funk (Sis. Laura, Garden Grove) was here on Mother's Day. We thank him also for his labor of love in the Lord. We always appreciate their visits . May God bless each of these brothers.

IOWA, BURLINGTON
Laurie Schulz
Krystal Knapp

Greetings in our Saviour's name! As Mother's Day has passed, let us remember the many hours our mothers have labored for us. Most of all for the many times they have spent on their knees on our behalf.

We were blessed with a visiting minister this past month. Bro. Brad Gudeman (Sis. Teresa, Bradford, IL) shared the Word of God with us. We thank him for his willingness to serve our small flock.

"Our love shall not diminish, nor fade nor wane away..." We are happy for Bro. Kyle Knapp and Sis. Kelli Lanz as they were united in Holy Matrimony on April 23. Their parents are Bro. Brian and Sis. Lorna Knapp and Bro. Keith and Sis. Tonya Lanz (Oakville, IA). We wish them the Lord's blessings as they strive for the heavenly goal hand in hand.

Madison Renee has joined her sister, Dilynn, at home. Thankful parents are Marty and Kim Taeger. Grandparents are Bro. Richard and Sis. Dorothy Taeger. May God grant them wisdom in raising their children.

IOWA, ELGIN
Gloria Frieden
Heidi Butikofer

In 1936 a national Father's Day committee was formed to set aside one Sunday out of the year to express our gratitude and appreciation to our earthly fathers. As this third Sunday in June approaches, may we thank our Heavenly Father for the earthly fathers that He gave us. And may each father be submissive to the Biblical instructions to teach (Deut. 6:7), train (Pro. 22:6), nurture (Eph. 6:4), control (I Tim. 3:4), and provide for (II Cor. 12:14) their children.

Nathan and Melissa Schupbach

are happy to announce the arrival of their second son, Dylan Louis, who made his arrival on May 11. Big brother, Colton, and grandparents, Terry and Kaylene McNally and Bro. John and Sis. Janet Schupbach, are also thankful for this new addition to their family circles.

Our thanks to Bro. Darren Fehr (Sis. Nora, West Bend, IA) for bringing his family and for sharing God's Word with us.

We are thankful for God's healing hand on our two hospital patients this past month: Tammy Callahan (Jeff), surgical, and their son, Alex, medical.

Our sympathy is extended to Kurt Kramer (Danette) in the loss of his father, Lloyd Kramer.

My apologies for missing one of our college graduates in the May issue of the Silver Lining. Mike Starkweather (Beth) has completed his John Deere training at NICC. Bro. Rollyn Aberle (Tremont, IL) has completed his training in Dairy Herd Management. We truly appreciated having Bro. Rollyn here during his training at NICC.

Address for Aaron Butikofer (Bro. Lon and Sis. Sandy) who is currently serving our country in Iraq.

SGT Butikofer Aaron
HHC 1-1333 INF
Unit #6000
APO, AE 09333-0000

IOWA, IOWA CITY Diana Butikofer

The angels in heaven are rejoicing with us, for two more souls have begun their walk with the Lord. Rebekah and Joshua Snodgrass (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Becky) turned control of their lives to God and we pray they will continue to follow His guiding and trust in His will every day.

Elder Bro. Wayne Grimm (Sis. Rose, West Bend, IA) and Bro. Joe Gerst served us Holy Communion last weekend. We appreciate the reminder of Jesus' death and suffering on the cross and the magnificent sacrifice He made for each of us that day. Bro. Wayne and Sis. Rose stayed for Sunday also and we are grateful for Bro. Wayne's ministry on the pulpit.

Bro. Joe and Sis. Connie Gerst welcomed a new granddaughter this month. Jenna Kay was born to Bro. Tim and Sis. Melisa Gerst (South Bend, IN) on May 7. We look forward to seeing her when her family comes back to Iowa to visit.

IOWA, LESTER Polly Metzger Gloria Moser

The safe arrival of four little babies has brought joy to these families. Bro. Derek and Sis. Connie Knobloch welcomed Tayton Roger into their family on April 19. Big brother, Talin, along with grandparents, Bro. Melvin and Sis. Wilma Knobloch and Bro. Roger and Sis. Ilene Hartter (Sabetha), will give him much love and attention.

On April 26, Lance and Janice Bullerman became first-time parents to a precious son, Micah James. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Chuck and Sis. Vicki Leuthold. Angie Sue Knapp was a special addition to the home of Bro. Kevin and Sis. Cari Knapp. Siblings, Nathan and Tara, are happy for a new playmate. Bro. Chuck and Sis. Vicki Leuthold and Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gay Knapp (Congerville) are her grandparents. Bro. Steve and Sis. Elizabeth Warner are thankful for the birth of Leah Ann born on May 8. Big brothers, Nathan, Ryan and Ethan, are delighted with a little sister to love. May God bless these dear

families as they raise their children in

His ways.

Hospital patients this past month were Sis. Emma Meyer, little Micah Gherian (Bro. Micah and Sis. Marcy), Sis. Lois Metzger and Sis. Marie Knobloch. We pray God will provide healing and strength to all that are suffering from illnesses and physical afflictions according to His will.

Our dear Sis. Martha Feucht has recently moved to the Lyon Manor Rehab Center. Trusting that God will be by her side as she makes the transition during the last miles of her pilgrim journey. Her address is:

Martha Feucht
Lyon Manor
Box 268 1010 S Union
Rock Rapids, IA 51246

We bid farewell to Bro. Greg and Sis. Kristen Johnson who have relocated to Bradford, IL. We welcome Scott Metzger back to the Lester area. We pray that God will continue to bless and direct them all.

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

Revelations 21:4

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Larry and Sis. Sherryl Knobloch and family at the death of their father and grandpa, Gordon Ellis. Our thoughts and prayers are also with Elder Bro. Dennis and Sis. Esther Warner as they also grieve the loss of their father and grandpa, Elmer Warner. May our loving Father comfort each one during their time of loss.

"Who can find a virtuous woman?"

For her price is far above rubies.”

Proverbs 31:10

May we remember to thank God for our dear mothers. We were blessed with a visit from Bro. Larry Bahr (Ft. Scott) on Mother's Day.

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

Proverbs 3:5&6

As the school year draws to a close, we want to remember our graduates as they embark on further education or various careers. We pray that they will allow the Lord to direct their paths. High School graduates include: Cassie Beverage (Arlyn and Nancy Metzger), Sis. Andrea Knobloch (Bro. Stan and Sis. Dawn), Nate Knobloch (Bro. Dan and Sis. ReJean), Sis. Anita Knobloch (Bro. Terry and Sis. Elaine), Kayla Larson (Jerry and Debbie), Todd Moser (Bro. Donn and Sis. Joyce), Deann Popkes (Bro. Greg and Sis. Lori), Kendra Ver Beek (Tim and Sis. Becky) and Matthew Warner (Bro. Stan and Sis. Sue). Completing college degrees this spring include: Joe Barber (Mike and Sis. Donna), Sarah DeHaan (Bro. Tim and Lois), Chris Leuthold (Bro. Doug and Char Leuthold) and Evan Metzger (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Joleen).

We will soon be commemorating Father's Day. May we always appreciate our earthly fathers. Some of our fathers have passed on and many fathers are raising children. May we always be thankful for their loving counsel and instruction.

IOWA, OAKVILLE

Rosalie Wiegand

Sharla Wiegand

“Each step I take, my Saviour goes before me.” On April 23, wedding vows were exchanged between Sis. Kelli Lanz (Bro. Keith and Sis. Tonya) and Bro. Kyle Knapp (Bro. Brian and Sis. Lorna, Burlington, IA). We are thankful Bro. Paul Eisenmann (Burlington, IA) was here to help on the pulpit.

“Where He leads I'll follow.” (GH #788) Following the Lord's guidance, the engagement of Sis. Jaclyn Schaer (Bro. Dave and Sis. Sandy) and Bro. Terry Goodpaster (Sylvia Chamberlin, Warren, IN) was made known on May 7. We certainly wish this couple God's richest blessings.

“At the feet of Jesus is the place for me, There a humble learner would I choose to be.” (GH #75) On Mother's Day, we were blessed to have visiting ministering Bro. Scott Wegman (Taylor, MO) preach the Word.

IOWA, WEST BEND

Sue Schneider

Lori Skoglund

Farewell, farewell, let me go on
That endless rest to share;
Be faithful till the Saviour calls,
Farewell, till we meet there!

Hymns of Zion No. 194 was chosen by Bro. Paul Demiter to be sung at his graveside. These words echoed his hope and faith. Our Bro. Paul passed away on April 21 after a struggle with cancer. Survivors include his wife, Martha; a daughter, Renae Demiter of Thayer, IA; a son, Roger (Kristine) Demiter of Story City, IA; and one granddaughter. Also surviving are siblings: Helen (Zarko) Reljin, Akron, OH; John (Erika), Akron, OH; Dan (Barb), Peoria, IL; Susan

(Leonard) Ritchey, Rittman, OH; Esther (Keith) Slagle, Fort Dodge, IA; Delores (Harry) Yost, Valley City, OH; Ed (Diane), Barberton, OH; Carl, Wadsworth, OH; Phillip, Medina, OH; Kathy, Wadsworth, OH; Sis. Sarah (Bro. Greg) Henico, Wadsworth, OH; Eleanor (Gary) Thompson, Chillicothe, OH; and Mike (Cindy), Wadsworth, OH. Bro. Paul was a wonderful example of one whose heart was in heaven although his feet traversed this sod.

We appreciated the efforts of our visiting ministers as several spent time with us on Mother's Day weekend. Proclaiming God's Holy Word were Elder Bro. Dennis Warner (Sis. Esther, Lester, IA); Bro. Dale Moore (Sis. Cheryl, Elgin, IA); and Bro. Virgil Metzger (Sis. Mary, Chicago, IL).

On May 4, Edison John joined the family of Bro. Matt and Sis. Rachel Fehr, and Loren, Annie and Kyle. Little Edison's grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Paula Schmidt and retired Elder Bro. Wayne and Sis. Kathy Fehr (Portland, OR).

On May 15, Bro. Denton and Sis. Rose Knobloch welcomed a new son into their lives. Denver John has four happy siblings: Calla, Dalton, Dexter and Dawson, and two sets of grandparents, Bro. Martin and Sis. Doris Zaugg and Bro. Melvin and Sis. Wilma Knobloch (Lester, IA).

Sis. Ruth Metzger spent time in the hospital for pneumonia and is now recuperating at home. Little Garrett Fehr (Bro. John and Sis. Wendy) and Amanda Knobloch (Bro. Cameron and Sis. Tammy) were surgical patients. May all who have afflictions of the body experience the healing hand of God.

May 6 was the wedding day for Jacob Akridge and Brandi Schmidt (Jamie and Linda). We wish them a lifetime of love and God's blessings on their marriage.

With the same love and gratitude that we honor and remember our mothers, we respect and honor our fathers on Father's Day. Their role as guardian and guide of the home is an enormous responsibility. May each father ask for and receive Divine instruction and help in fulfilling this task and may the blessings of the good Lord follow.

"Blessed is everyone that feareth the Lord; that walkest in His ways. For thou shalt eat the labour of thine hands: happy shalt thou be and it shall be well with thee. Thy wife shall be as a fruitful vine by the sides of thine house; thy children like olive plants round about thy table. Behold that thus shall the man be blessed that feareth the Lord."

Psalm 128:1-4

"Now therefore hearken unto me, ye children: for blessed are they that keep my ways. Hear instruction and be wise, and refuse it not."

Proverbs 8:32-33

It is our prayer that those graduating will wisely utilize the instruction they have received over their many years of schooling. Completing the requirements for high school graduation are the following: Jason Banwart (Bro. Kent and Sis. Beth); Calvin Bruellman (John and Cindy); Aaron Fehr (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Charlotte); Dustin Fehr (Jeff and Beth); Amanda Gerber (Bro. Dave and Sis. Diane); Natasha Jordan (Kevin and Julie); Kris Messner (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Audrey); Paige Metzger (Jerry and Joy); Audrey Mogler (Bro. Tim Mogler and Gloria Mogler); Garrett Wirtz (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Trela); and Kurt Zaugg (Bro. Pat and Sis. Julie).

JAPAN, TOKYO

Jana Klaus

Greetings from Tokyo! We held our yearly business meeting this May with many good discussions and a few changes. We will miss Sis. Kay Kellenberger taking her turn in the lunch rotation as she plans to return to Elgin this June. In a small congregation, most everyone has a number of tasks, but we pray we will all continue to labor in unity for our church. Sis. Kay Kellenberger's relatives paid us a nice visit before she returns. They were Bro. Tom and Sis. Kathy Shifferer and their son, Bro. Jason, and Chad Kellenberger (all of Elgin). We thank them all for coming and fellowshiping with us. A special thanks to Bro. Tom for his afternoon Bible lesson on Luke 12:1-12 in which he relayed some of his experiences while in the Vietnam War, as that is when he first came to Japan.

We extend a hearty welcome to Sis. Meagan Wuethrich (Bro. Chris and Sis. Carla, LaCrosse, IN), a great niece of Sis. Marie Inoue's, who has come to experience Japan, kindly helping out the Klaus family, being with her Inoue relatives, and supporting our little congregation. We pray that her month stay will be a blessing in many ways!

KANSAS, BERN

Sheri Edelman Rita Menold

Our congregation was so happy to hear the engagement of Bro. Scott Strahm (Bro. Richard and Sis. Edie) to Sis. Emily Koehl (Bro. Arnie and Sis. Sharon; Morris, MN). We wish Bro. Scott and Sis. Emily God's guidance and many blessings as they plan for their life together!

Bro. Dayton and Sis. Wanda Menold welcomed little Tyler Rodney on May 9! Excited siblings are Amber and Thadd. Tyler's

grandparents are Bro. James and Sis. Lou Menold, and Bro. Rodney and Sis. Arlene Grimm (Sabetha).

Bro. Myreon and Sis. Lori Menold are excited to welcome their first child, little Colin Jay! Elder Bro. John and Sis. Connie Lehman, and Bro. James and Sis. Lou Menold are the happy grandparents! May God bless our young couples with grace, patience and wisdom as we raise our precious children!

Two couples are happy to have the title as grandparents, again. Bro. Wayne and Sis. Linda Edelman are thankful for the arrival of another granddaughter, Megan Beth Zollinger, born to Scott and Bethany of Silverton, OR. Bro. Neil and Sis. Evelyn Hartter are also thankful that granddaughter Josie Neil has arrived safely! Josie is the daughter of Jeff and Cara Steffen of Morton, IL.

We thank Bro. Gary Brown (Sis. Jane, Forrest, IL), Bro. Jeff Bahr (Sis. Janice, Kiowa, KS), and Bro. Ken Schneider (Remington, IN) for ministering to us this past month!

Sis. Pearl Miller underwent heart surgery this past month. We thank God for his healing powers and pray that Sis. Pearl will continue to regain her strength!

We want to extend a warm welcome to Bro. Bill and Sis. Leona Wulf who have moved to our Nursing home facilities from Lester, IA. We pray that they may feel at home as they assemble with our Bern congregation.

What makes a Dad

God took the strength of a mountain

The majesty of a tree,
The warmth of a summer sun
The calm of a quiet sea,
The generous soul of nature,
The comforting arm of night,

The wisdom of the ages,
 The power of the eagle's flight,
 The joy of a morning in spring,
 The faith of a mustard seed,
 The patience of eternity,
 The depth of a family need,
 Then God combined these qualities,
 When there was nothing more to add,
 He knew His masterpiece was complete,
 And so,
 He called it ... Dad.

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT
Karen Kellenberger

Oh the bitter pain and sorrow
 That a time could ever be,
 When I proudly said to Jesus
 "All of self, and none of Thee",
 Yet He found me; I beheld Him
 Bleeding on the accursed tree,
 And my wistful heart said faintly,
 "Some of self, and some of Thee",
 Day by day His tender mercy
 Healing, helping, full and free,
 Bro't me lower, while I whispered
 "Less of self, and more of Thee",
 Higher than the highest heavens,
 Deeper than the deepest sea,
 Lord, Thy love at last has conquered
 "None of self, and all of Thee",
 Lord, Thy love at last has conquered,
 "None of self and all of Thee."
 # 149 Gospel Hymns

We sincerely appreciated the visits of several visiting ministers. Sharing the Gospel message were Bro. Greg Braker (Sis. Wendy, Lamar, MO), Bro. Jim Kaeb (Sis. Diane, Bern, KS), Bro. Max Reimschisel (Sis. Judy, Wichita, KS), and Bro. Cory Metzger (Sis. Jodi, Wichita, KS).

As I write this, my husband, Bro.

Rick, is hospitalized at KU Medical Center. We thank everyone for their love and prayers on his behalf.

KANSAS
LAMONT-GRIDLEY
Eileen Bahr

"You never know" what can happen by word or deed. Elder Bro. Doug Schock invited one of our young men to help on a hurricane work team. He worked with the young brethren and felt the companionship. The day after returning home, he had to speak with Elder Bro. Jay. May 6, Bro. Doug Schock came for Jacob Knobloch's (Bro. Tom and Sis. Jeri) testimony and baptism. We welcome him as a brother in our congregation.

April showers didn't quench the spirits of the Chicago congregation busload. The fellowship and worship was especially enjoyed with guest ministers, Bros. Lenard Meyer, Matthew Rassi and Brad Eisenmann. God washed everything clean for Sunday with the sun shining in His beautiful blue sky, and new green grasses on the prairie.

On May 15, Timon William Emch was born to Bro. Brandon and Sis. Maria Emch (Kansas City, MO). Thankful grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Susan Emch.

KANSAS, SABETHA
Dawn Strahm
Rebekah Beyer

Once again we have been blessed with several visiting ministers. Bro. Ned Stoller (Alto, MI) and Bro. Larry Bahr (Ft. Scott, KS) were with us this past month. Elder Bros. Bob Walder (Congerville, IL) and John Lehman (Bern, KS) assisted our Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzell in serving us Holy Communion. It was a precious and sacred time for us all as we came together as a congregation to partake of

the Lord's Supper!

Bro. Rod and Sis. Arlene Grimm were happy to welcome a new grandson into their family circle. Tyler Rodney was born to Bro. Dayton and Sis. Wanda Menold (Bern, KS). Siblings, Amber and Thadd, welcome home their new brother.

Sis. Marie Marti was laid to rest in Lamar, MO, on May 1. We will miss our dear Sis. Marie, but are thankful for the times she made Sabetha her home and rejoice that she has now gone to her home in heaven above. Our sympathy is extended to all of her family.

The engagement of Sis. Emily Koehl (Bro. Arnie and Sis. Sharon, Morris, MN) to Bro. Scott Strahm (Bro. Richard and Sis. Edie, Bern, KS) was announced. May the Lord continue to guide these two souls as they look forward to their upcoming union.

Our church enjoyed an evening of fellowship and singing during the all-church potluck on Sunday, April 30. We so often find a special blessing in spending times like this with our church family!

Notes of Thanks:

We want to express our deep gratitude to everyone for the many acts of kindness shown to us for our 50th wedding anniversary and again expressed to us following Arleta's surgery.

May God bless each one for your kind deeds.

Bro. Harvey and Sis. Arleta Wenger

We are very thankful for all the thoughts and prayers of loved ones. The many cards, calls, gifts, and visitors encourage and lift us up.

May God bless each of you.

Bro. Carl and Sis. Sharon Strahm and our family

We want to thank our church family for all the prayers, the cards and the things you did for us while I was sick. Everything was much appreciated.

May God bless each of you.

Sis. Ruth Hertzel (Bro. Frank)

KANSAS, WICHITA

Emma Miller

Bros. John Lehman and Ed Strahm were in Wichita for a business seminar and took the time to assemble with us for Wednesday night services on April 26.

We were shocked to hear that John Holliday was suddenly called home to his Maker on May 1. John and his wife, Cecily, assembled with us in former days and undoubtedly will be remembered by the Kansas City congregation in the same manner. John is survived by his wife, his daughter Selena, her husband, and four grandchildren and the members of the Sis. Lillian Bowers family.

Our annual Mothers' Day banquet was held on the evening of May 6. This is a special time in the Wichita congregation to renew memories of former times. We appreciate the efforts of the planning committee responsible for the event.

Bro. Howard and Sis. Ann Warner's daughter, Roi Ann, has been undergoing serious medical problems and related surgery. RoiAnn, herself a grandmother, has been in our prayers for healing.

We had a special treat on May 14 when Bro. Richard Gramm (South Bend, IN) and his wife, Sis. Samantha, and two daughters assembled with us. Bro. Rich used the first chapter in second Timothy as he stressed the importance of believing mothers and grandmothers in today's families.

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON

Barb Huber

Greetings in the precious faith of our dear Lord and Saviour! "Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ." (II Timothy 2:3)

What a privilege it was to partake of Holy Communion and remember our dear Saviour who shed His blood, allowing His body to be broken for each of us. Our Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Sis. Roberta, Smithville, OH) was assisted by Bro. Curtis Frank (Sis. Lila, LaCrosse, IN) in serving us the Lord's supper on April 22. We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to these dear Brothers and pray God's special blessings for their efforts and labors of love. Other ministering brethren this past month were Bro. Tim Hohulin (Sis. Cathy, Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Ron Heiniger (Sis. Kayleen, Bloomington, IL). We're always strengthened when we hear God's Word and want to thank you dear ministers who labored to serve in the Lord's vineyard. We also appreciated other visitors who came to fellowship from Chicago, Cissna Park, and Fairbury, IL.

"Hearken unto thy father that begat thee, and despise not thy mother when she is old. The father of the righteous shall greatly rejoice: and he that begetteth a wise child shall have joy of him."

Proverbs 23:22,24

On June 18, we honor our fathers. How thankful we should be for our faithful fathers who have taught us the truth and God's plan of salvation. How much more thankful we should be to our Heavenly Father, for His mercy and compassion, in sending

His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Saviour.

We extend a warm and hearty welcome to all who may be in our area or travelling through to worship with us. You may contact Bro. Doug Germann (859) 224-8710; Bro. Lester Huber (859) 745-2541; or Bro. Jan Neukomm (859) 273-8574.

MEXICO, MAGDALENA

Gloria Gonzalez

Saludos de amor a nuestros hermanos!

"I am the Lord, the God of all mankind, is there anything too hard for me?"

Jeremiah 32:27

We are thankful to the Roanoke Bible class for giving of their time, hard work, and love with us and the children. Sharing God's Word with us were Bro. Frank Sauder and Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman.

On April 20-21, Bros. Jerry Tooley, Marshall Heinold, and Elder Bros. Jon Kokanovich, Wayne Banwart, and Tom Hoffman were here for a CVE Board meeting. We will continue to be prayerful for the Board as they meet again during June in Washington, IL.

Bros. Seth Gerber and Joel Rinkenberger were privileged to travel to Acapulco, Mexico, to encourage and study with the believers there. Bro. Joel will also be serving here in Magdalena for the next four months.

We were encouraged by the visit of Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz and his wife, Sis. Jeni, as well as Bro. Fred Funk and his wife, Sis. Diane, who were here to share God's Word with us.

We have been given another opportunity to share Christ's love in caring for hurting children. Lupita

arrived May 23 after being abandoned by her adoptive parents. Join us in praying that she can adjust and hold fast to Psalm 27:10, that "when my father and mother forsake me, then the Lord will take me up."

MICHIGAN, ALTO
Terri Huber
Rose Watson

Praise be to God for the calling of Craig Huber (Bro. Ryan and Sis. Terri) to repentance. We pray that the Lord will guide and direct him as he begins his new journey with Him.

Our congratulations go out to our high school and college graduates this year. Sis. Melissa Blough and Hannah Knudstrup who both will be staying local for college in the fall. Sis. Megan Pardo who will be leaving us in the fall for Illinois State University. Bro. Jon Gerst graduated from Michigan State University with a Landscape Design degree, who also will be moving and making Leo, IN, his home church. Billie Stouffer graduated from Central Michigan University with a degree in teaching, who will be moving to Fenton, MI. Bobbie Jean and Katie Sue Meyer are graduating from Michigan State University's Agricultural program degree. Jessie Oesch-VanderMculen also graduated with a Child Development degree. May God be with all of you as you begin new pathways in your lives.

Also, we would like to congratulate Destini Sanders (Bro. Ed and Sis. Julie) and Jamie Goff (Ron and Renee) as they were united in marriage this past month. May God bless them as they begin their new life together.

Thank you to Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Ruth, Wolcott, IN) for visiting us and sharing the Word with us this month.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Bro. Ott Schlatter (Sis. Pat) who is now back home recovering from surgery and hospital stay. May God continue to watch over and heal him.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY
Sarah Knochel
Janelle Ramseyer

April 30 was the wedding day for Bro. Chad Wieland (Bro. Merle and Sis. Elaine) and Sis. Rebekah Ruegsegger (Bro. Glenn and Sis. Maria). As another young couple establishes their home in our congregation, we pray that God would be in the midst of them.

We are thankful that Bro. Trent Schrock (Sis. Heidi, Leo, IN) was able to be with our congregation for Bro. Chad and Sis. Rebekah's wedding. We also appreciate Bro. Jesse Bedolla (Sis. Bonnie, Detroit, MI) for his willingness to serve our congregation on Mother's Day.

Funeral services were held May 1 for Sis. Leah Ramseyer. We want to remember her siblings, Sis. Helen Ramseyer and Bro. Earl Ramseyer, and her nieces and nephews in their time of sorrow. Sis. Leah stood as a pillar in our congregation for many years. She will be missed.

We gathered together on May 10 to remember Holy Communion. We thank Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Sis. Loretta, Alto, MI) for being with us for that special occasion.

On May 14, we bid farewell to Bro. Don and Sis. Tina Jackson and their three daughters, Sis. Amy, Sis. Christi and Taryn. As they make their home in the Altadena area and worship with the brethren there, we pray that God will bless them and keep them in His constant care.

Our congregation rejoices with two dear souls as their engagement was announced. Sis. Jamie Knochel

(Bro. Jim and Sis. Kay) and Bro. Nathan Hodel (Bro. Brent and Sis. Marge, Roanoke, IL) have sought God's will for their lives and He has blessed them. May God be with both of them in the coming days.

The end of the school year is quickly approaching and with that we have several graduates this year. May God lead and direct each of these young people as they go into the workforce or further their education. Congratulations to Shawn Curtis (Jim and Laurel), Cassie Knochel (Jerry and Michelle), Laura Knochel (Bro. Jim and Sis. Kay), Megan Meylan (Bro. Gene and Sis. Carol), Stan Schlatter (Bro. Ken and Sis. Pam), and Scott Schmidt (Mike and Sis. Cheryl). Bro. Pierre Szabo (Bro. Frank and Sis. Gail) has graduated from Michigan State University and has sought employment in the Lansing area.

Our prayers are with Bro. Windsor Mosher and Bro. Fred Ruegsegger (Sis. Marilyn) as they have each spent time in the hospital. We pray that each of these brothers will have a speedy recovery.

Note of Thanks:

We wish to thank every one for all the prayers, cards and visits during Leah's illness and also for the memorials in her name. God bless you all.

Helen Ramseyer

Earl Ramseyer and family

MICHIGAN, DETROIT
Tiffany Wieland
Kay Rauhe

"Pray without ceasing."

I Thessalonians 5:17

We are always encouraged to pray for each other, and at this time it seems even more appropriate as

many in our congregation have either lost loved ones or have been hospitalized.

We were saddened to hear about the death of Sis. Leah Ramseyer of Bay City, MI, and our thoughts and prayers are with her family. Sis. Mabel Belsley of Morton, IL, passed from this life into eternity to be with the Lord. Our love and sympathy to her three sisters-in-law, Sis. Arlene Belsley, Sis. Lois Belsley, and Sis. Lorene Maibach (Ret. Elder Bro. Ben), and may they find strength in His presence, and comfort in His love. Bobby Jean Smyth of Hawaii passed away. Praying her mother, Virginia Smiley, and her sister, Barb Maibach, find comfort in the promises of Jesus to restore hope and peace to their souls. Our deepest sympathy, continued prayers and love to Sis. Mary Weigele (Bro. Ernie) on the death of her father, Bro. Richard Guthrie, of Kiowa, KS. May they feel God's nearness and presence in the days ahead.

"...The God of love and peace shall be with you."

II Corinthians 13:11

Our love and prayers to Ret. Elder Bro. Ben Maibach, Sis. Barb Johnson, and Sis. Eloise Bahr as they were recently hospitalized, but we are so thankful that they are back home and worshipping with us again. John Reardon recently had significant health problems and is still hospitalized. We will continue to pray diligently for John and his family. Bro. Ernie Weigele and Dorothy Leman recently had surgery, and our prayers and thoughts are with them as they recuperate.

Our heart-felt thanks goes to visiting ministers, Bro. Dennis Kaufmann (Sis. Bonnie; Bloomington, IL) and to Bro. Matt

Kaufmann (Sis. Rebekah; Bloomington, IL) for sharing the Word with us. We so appreciate visiting ministers, Bro. Doug Harmon (Sis. Lanna; Toledo, OH) and Bro. John Jackson (Sis. Peggy; Bay City, MI) for conducting church services at Woodhaven Retirement Community recently. We sincerely appreciate their willingness to "serve the Lord with gladness" (Psalms 100:2). Bros. Rod Wieland, Nate Knochel and Matt Oesch accompanied Bro. John, and our thanks goes out to them, as well.

Congratulations to Trisha Hitz (Bro. Tom and Sis. Cindy) as she graduated from Washtenaw Community College and received an Associates Degree in Fine Arts, Photography. May the Lord bless and keep her in His care now and in her future endeavors.

What a joy and a blessing to be able to celebrate and honor our special moms on Mother's Day!

To those who comfort with a Mother's hand...we thank you.

To those who encourage with a Mother's praise...we applaud you.

To those who love with a Mother's heart...we honor you—

Not just on Mother's Day...always!

"...If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and His love is perfected in us."

I John 4:12

Note:

In the fall of 2005, our Detroit church had a "bring a friend weekend". Someone accidentally took my ¾ length beige coat by mistake. The label inside my coat is "Liz Claiborne". The coat I have is "Larry Levin". Please check the label on the coat you have. The coat was given to me as a gift from a deceased sister.

Thank you.

Please call (734) 762-7789

**MINNESOTA
MINNEAPOLIS
LaRae Dill**

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

Proverbs 3:5,6

These verses are familiar, yet always appropriate and a source of inspiration for graduating seniors, of which we have four in our congregation this year. Graduating from metro-area high schools are Chelsey Messner (Bro. Doug and Sis. Sue), Laura Stewart (Bro. David and Sis. Diane), Haley Messner (Jason and Nancy), and Brooke Kent (Darcy and the late Sis. Rachel). Many here can recall the beautiful voices of these four, even as little girls, singing in local Christmas and Easter programs. We wish them all God's blessing. We also congratulate Tera Deragisch Runquist (Bud) who completed her Master's in Education from St. Mary's University.

Many from our congregation enjoyed the testimony and baptism of Brett Messner (Winthrop, MN). We appreciate Brett's fellowship as he attends the U of M.

May always brings the annual "spring housecleaning" of our church building. Many thanks to our church trustees for their work, organization and extra hours on this project.

Maxine Larson and Ben Dill are at peace with God; we rejoice with them.

"Ye that fear the Lord, trust in the Lord: he is their help and their shield."

Psalms 115:11

MINNESOTA, MORRIS

**Heidi Nohl
Sheila Reuter**

Two families in our congregation have been blessed with new babies. Anna June was born to Eric and Sis. Bridget Backman. Her sisters are Paige and Natalie. Grandparents are Duane Adams, Becki and Ronnie Schmitz and Bro. Steve and Sis. Cathy Backman. Kendra Jo was welcomed into the home of Bro. Mitch and Sis. Janell Koehl, and big brother Clark. Grandparents are Bro. Harv and Sis. Debra Joos and Bro. Randy and Sis. Shirley Koehl. We wish God's blessings upon these families.

The engagement of Sis. Emily Koehl to Bro. Scott Strahm of Bern, KS, was announced. Their parents are Bro. Arnie and Sis. Sharon Koehl and Bro. Richard and Sis. Edie Strahm. Also announced was the engagement of Bro. Chris Esterling to Sis. Amanda Fritts from Bluffton North. Their parents are Bro. Tim and Sis. Jeanne Esterling, and Roland and Kathrine Fritts. May God bless these couples as they make plans to be joined together as one.

Hospitalized this month were Bro. Shane Jones, Bro. Mike Schmidgall, and Sis. Norene Moser. We trust God will heal where it is His will.

We sympathize with Sis. Linda Wulf (Bro. Jerry) on the loss of her brother, Ronald Ebnet.

Graduating from high school this year: Amanda Fehr (Bro. Gary and Sis. Sandy), Casey Gramm (Bro. Tim and Sis. Gwen), Paul Koehl (Bro. Guy and Sis. Lynette), Levi Koehl (Bro. Roy and Sis. Jenell), Kent Luthi (Bro.

Aldean and Sis. Charlotte), Ken Messner (Bro. Sid and Sis Cheryl), Heidi Wulf (Bro. Stan and Sis. Pam), and Justin Wulf (Bro. Jim and Sis. Twyla). Graduating from higher schools of learning: Todd Nohl (Bro. Larry and Sis. Bonnie), Jeff Schaefer (Bro. Stan and Sis. Bev), and Gwen Koehl (Bro. Arnie and Sis. Sharon). We trust that all will go well for them in the future.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

**Rachel Steiner
Julie Schmidt**

The Sunday School children prepared and served our annual Easter breakfast. We appreciate the efforts of the children and teacher.

The ordination service of our new Elder Bro. Paul Messner (Sis. Jan) was April 22 and 23. What a blessing to feel God's guidance in this important matter. We pray that God will grant Bro. Paul the needed grace and wisdom for this important duty. We appreciate Elder Bros. Dennis Warner (Sis. Esther, Lester, IA), Wayne Grimm (Sis. Rose, West Bend, IA), and Art Nohl (Sis. Sandy, Morris, MN) for being here and assisting with this important work.

We want to especially thank retired Elder Bro. LeRoy Messner (Sis. JoAnn) for their years of service in leading our congregation. We appreciate all the time and effort extended on our behalf.

The angels rejoice over each and every sinner who answers His call. Landon Messner (Elder Bro. Paul and Sis. Jan) has answered the call and has found peace. We are thankful that God is still calling souls and that dear loved ones are willing to answer.

Two souls were baptized this month. They are Brett and Brendon Messner (Bro. Dean and Sis. Wanda).

Assisting with this important work was Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi (Sis. Sandra, Lamar, MO). We appreciated them taking the time to travel to our area and to worship with us. We also appreciate Bro. Duane Rocke being with us that weekend, and being willing to be used for our benefit.

We had the blessed privilege to partake in Communion exhortation and Holy Communion this past month. It was a special time as it was Elder Bro. LeRoy's last time to serve Communion as he assisted Elder Bro. Paul.

Hospital patients this month include Lowell Demm (Shirley), Sis. Hazel Schmidt (Bro. Elmer), and Sis. Sue Sward. We pray God's healing hand upon each one.

Note of Thanks:

Sis. Sue Sward would like to thank everyone for their thoughts, prayers, and cards during and after her recent hospital stay.

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY

Garry and Marty Rokey

We are thankful that Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Sis. Loretta, Alto, MI) could assist our Elder Bro. Don Braker with Holy Communion this spring.

Also we appreciate Elder Bro. Wayne Grimm (Sis. Rose, West Bend, IA) for his assistance in the proving and baptism of our dear Sis. Brittany Fehr (Bro. Joe and Sis. Joan). May God's grace and blessings be with her as she begins her walk with the Lord.

Other visiting ministers include Bro. Tim Zimmerman (Sis. Barbara, Lamont-Gridley, KS), Duane Metzger (Sis. Ruth, West Bend, IA), Justin Koch (Sis. Marcia, Washington, IL) and Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha, KS). Many thanks to these brothers for their la-

bors.

May God bless the Washington, IL, church choir for their beautiful singing and fellowship as they spent a weekend with us in April.

We rejoice with our dear friends, Anna Donahue and Rebekah Whitehead, as they have turned to the Lord in repentance. Rebekah is the daughter of Bro. Ron Strahm (Cindy).

Recently we elected a second food committee to alternate with the first committee elected in January. They are Sis. Joan Fehr (Bro. Joe), chairman, Sis. Tina Fehr and Sis. Holly Wales.

Recent graduates are Bro. Scott Kellenberger (Bro. Randy and Sis. Karen), high school; and Sis. Dona Fehr (Bro. Bob and Sis. Barbara, Iowa City, IA) and Bro. Kenton Snyder (Bro. Greg and Sis. Kara), both from college.

New little additions to our church are Brock Randy Kellenberger (Bro. Neal and Sis. Kim) who joins big brother, Cailer; and Timon William Emch (Bro. Brandon and Sis. Marie) who joins big sister, Anna. May God bless these growing families.

MISSOURI, LAMAR

**Becky Marti
Mindy Braker**

We were blessed to partake of Holy Communion this past month. Elder Bro. Tom Stock (Cissna Park, IL) was here to assist our Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi.

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

Revelation 21:4

On April 27, our Sis. Marie Marti

passed from this life. We extend our sincere sympathy to Sis. Caroline Banwart (Sabetha, KS), Bro. Alfred and Sis. Carolyn Banwart, and Elder Bro. Don and Sis. Eileen Braker (Kansas City, MO). What a blessed hope the true and faithful have of entering into that rest one day. May God be near to comfort each one.

Sis. Sharon Braker (Bro. Jay) spent time in the hospital this month. We are thankful she is at home again.

Congratulations to Caleb Braker (Bro. Jay and Sis. Sharon), Evan Braker (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Carol) and Sis. Rachel Stoller (Bob and Sis. Janice) as they graduate from high school, as well as David Braker (Bro. Roy and Sis. Judy) and Keith Kellenberger (Bro. Curt and Sis. Martha) as they finish college. May they look to the Lord that He might direct their paths.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

Krista Banwart

Visiting ministers this past month included Bro. Ron Bollier (Sis. Edie, Indianapolis, IN), Bro. Mark Schmidgall (Sis. Lisa, Eureka, IL), Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Sis. Jane, Bluffton, IN), Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign, IL) and Bro. Steve Ringger (Sis. Myra, Bluffton North, IN). Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North, IN) assisted our Elder Bro. Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan, Taylor, MO) with Communion service this past month as well. We appreciated sharing Communion together and remembering the goodness of God who treats us not as we deserve to be treated...but with mercy.

We are thankful for God's goodness and His guidance with the engagement of Sis. Krista Banwart (Elder Bro. Wayne and Sis. Charlen, Champaign, IL) to Bro. Doug Stoller

(Bro. Gale and Sis. Sonia, Princeville, IL).

We are also thankful for God's goodness in Bro. Loren's continued recovery following his radiation treatments.

Matthew Schrenk (Bro. Loren and Sis. Betsy) graduated from the University of Illinois and is now seeking a new career as well as a new life in Christ. We pray for God's guidance for him in this crucial stage of his life.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Sally Haerr

I've been reading the book of Proverbs (Holy Bible) this month and am continually amazed at the wisdom for daily living in this book. If only I could memorize and “hide in my heart (Psalm 119:11) this wisdom and direction for an obedient walk with Christ Jesus. As I write this, I'm reminded of the hymn “Obedience to the Word” (Zion's Harp #142). It starts out by saying “Thy word O Lord forever is a mirror where we see, our faults and duties...” and then the fifth verse ends by saying “... yet grace enough is found in God to live with Him anew” – a worthwhile hymn to read through or sing if you can.

There is probably nothing more uplifting to a congregation than the news of precious souls turning their lives to Jesus for salvation. Adam Adrian (Bro. Rusty and Sis. Amy) and Jacob Gehring (Bro. Brad and Sis. Ellen) are two young men who have made that choice and we rejoice with them and the angels in Heaven! Read Luke 15:7 (Holy Bible).

Graduation – what a wonderful accomplishment to be a graduate. I often think of it as the closing of one door and the opening of another. The good news is that we can choose to enter that new open door with Jesus as

our Guide or we may go on our own self will. If we have been taught of Jesus' caring love for us, we know without a doubt which choice is best. Jesus is the answer.

The five graduates honored with a special service, given by our Elder Bro. Kent Heimer and followed by a reception, were: Adam Adrian (Bro. Rusty and Sis. Amy), Sis. Kaitlyn Hoerr (Bro. Scott and Sis. Anna), Amanda Lutener (Gary and Bonnie), Leigh Anne Miller (John Miller and Connie Blue) and Dustin Shawl (Bro. Jim and Sis. Kris Sutter).

Our topical Bible study for this month was given by Bro. Scott Wegman. We were encouraged and admonished to "guard our hearts" (Proverbs 4:23). We realize that we live in a sinful world but, as this study pointed out, we have many choices to make each day that will either help or hinder our spiritual well being.

We were shocked and deeply saddened by the sudden death of Gene Riney (Irene). He was loved by so many and he will be missed by a loving family and our entire community. He left behind many precious memories for his wife and five children and many grandchildren. We are also thinking of Sis. Kris Sutter (Bro. Jim) and Sis. Kay Sutter (Bro. Rich) who lost a dear aunt in a car accident this past week. Life is short compared to eternity. We must never take one moment for granted. Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to the families of these loved ones.

Those sick/hospitalized in the past month include Sis. Lois Sutter (Bro. James) and Sis. Marge Gerst (Bro. Arnie).

**NEW YORK
CROGHAN-NAUMBURG
Hope Graves**

Our prayers have been with Bro.

Clyde Virkler and Gladyce Farney who have undergone surgery and hospitalization. We are thankful that they are both home and doing well.

Note of Thanks:

We would like to thank all who remembered us with prayers, cards and in any way in the sudden loss of our beloved father, grandfather and great - grandfather, Clement Briot. May God richly bless all.

Bro. Duane and Sis. Karen Farney and family

**NEW YORK CITY
Secaucus, New Jersey**

We would like to invite any visitors to the New York City area this summer to worship with us. We have services planned for July 2, August 6, and October 15. They will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn in Secaucus, New Jersey. We begin singing at 10:15 am in the morning with pulpit service beginning at 10:30 am. We do have a lunch break, and then begin afternoon services at 12:30 pm.

If you are planning to visit the New York City area for vacation or business, please call Bro. Ben Wiegand at (215) 295-4526 for assistance and to let us know how many to expect for Sunday services. We would be glad to provide directions on how to get to the hotel, or you can contact them directly at (201) 864-1400.

**OHIO, AKRON
Rachel Pamer
Mara Henico**

Visiting ministers this month include Bro. John Steiner (Oakville, IA) on April 20, and Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL) on April 22 who helped our Elder Bro. Dave Graf serve Communion. Also Elder Bro. Merle Hartzler (Rittman, OH) vis-

ited us and Bro. Michael Baumann Sr. (Mansfield, OH) came to share in the wedding service of Bro. Daniel Pamer (Bro. Steve and Sis. Arliss) and Sis. Rachel Steidl (Bro. Don and Sis. Nan) on May 14. We are thankful our new couple plans to attend Akron, and we are also thankful Bro. Ted and Sis. Anna Gherian have made Akron their home church.

Our sympathy goes to the family of Bro. Greg and Sis. Sarah Henico in the loss of her brother, Bro. Paul Demiter (West Bend, IA).

We rejoice with two families in our congregation who have new babies this month. On April 25, Bro. Ben and Sis. Joanne Henico welcomed their baby boy, Simon Paul. Grandparents are Bro. Greg and Sis. Sarah Henico (Akron, OH) and Bro. Alph and Sis. Denise Maibach (Rittman, OH). On April 29, Bro. Tim and Sis. Angie Zarkovacki, along with big brother Alex and big sister Rebekah, welcomed Heidi Elizabeth. Grandparents are Peter and Margaret Zarkovacki and Ivone Chant and Edward Koppert.

We thank all of our Sunday School students, teachers, single members, and converts for lunch on Mother's Day. We appreciate all who helped coordinate and bake for the special day.

Adam Henico had the opportunity to go to Biloxi, MS, over spring break on a work team. We are thankful for his willingness to help the hurricane victims and for his safe return.

Note of Thanks:

We wish to thank each of you loved ones for your prayers, cards, calls and sympathy to us at the time of the death of our brother, Bro. Paul Demiter.

Trusting that God's will is best,
Bro. Greg and Sis Sarah Henico and family

OHIO, COLUMBUS

Nancy Banks

We are thankful for the visiting ministers that shared God's precious Word with us this month. Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH) and Bros. Gary Sinn (Latty, OH), Dale Stoller (Fairbury, IL), Tim Gerber and Mike Bauman Jr. (Mansfield, OH) labored on our behalf.

What a wonderful Mother's Day for Bro. Bill and Sis. Becky Sauder as they witnessed the baptism of their daughter, Danielle. We welcome Sis. Danielle and pray for God's blessings and wisdom as she seeks the Lord for daily guidance. We were also fortunate that day to have the Young Group provide our lunch at noon and appreciate their efforts to give the mothers an afternoon off.

Our heartfelt congratulations to Bro. Matt Miller (Sis. Wendy) for his recent graduation from Capital University Law School. Our prayers are with this young couple as they begin this new phase of their life.

OHIO, JUNCTION

Cindy Schlatter

We appreciated the visit by Bro. Darrel Stoller (Bern, KS) as he brought forth the Word of Life this past month. May our Heavenly Father bless him for his efforts on our behalf.

What a joy it was to hear that Jim McCullough (Sis. Julie) has decided to walk that straight and narrow way led by our Father in Heaven. To hear of another soul answering the call certainly makes our hearts rejoice and we pray that more will come while He continues to call.

Tytus Manz (Bro. Sam and Sis. Shelby) and Sis. Inez Rose both had minor surgeries. We are thankful they each got along well and had quick recoveries.

Our congregation enjoyed a blessed weekend May 13-14, as we were able to add two more precious souls into the fold. We rejoice with Bro. Brian and Sis. Renae Schlatter (children of Bro. Ralph and Sis. Sheila) as they gave their testimonies and were baptized. There truly is no higher standing than to be a child of God! We would like to thank Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN) for being with us this weekend along with Bros. Mark Steiner (Smithville, OH), Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH), and Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH).

OHIO, LATTY

Amanda Steffen Carmen Eisenmann

There is an old saying that goes, "April showers bring May flowers." However, this year, the opposite proves to be true. We had flowers in April, but so far during the month of May, there have been plenty of rain showers. Long, dreary and rainy days not only can saturate the ground, but also can prove to be depressing for one's soul. Our Father in Heaven wants us to keep Him in mind and give thanks in all things, even for what mere humans perceive as too much rain.

We were extremely blessed with many visiting ministers. Elder Bros. Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan, Taylor, MO) and Ron Messner (Sis. Pam, Washington, IL), and Bros. Chuck Kellenberger (Sis. Debbie, Elgin, IL), Curt Rassi (Sis. Kathy, Tremont, IL), Warren Schlatter (Sis. Cindy, Junction, OH), Jerry Bauman (Sis. Martha, Rittman, OH), Arnold Gerst (Sis. Marjorie, Taylor, MO), Doug Harmon (Sis. Lana, Toledo, OH), Justin Koch (Sis. Marsha, Washington, IL) and Earl Beery (Sis. Susie, Rittman, OH) visited us this past month. We are so thankful that these

ministers were able to give of their time and hope that God blesses them for it.

Vinc and Natalie Krzesinski will always remember April 22 as a special day in their lives, for that was their wedding day. Rejoicing with the couple are Bro. Keith and Sis. Connie Krzesinski and Bro. Dwight and Sis. Lori Stoller. A few weeks after their wedding, Natalie, began her repentance, giving the families another cause for rejoicing!

Sis. Elizabeth Wieland moved from her apartment in the Villas to the Assisted Living next door. Sis. Ruby Stoller (Bro. Jud) was a surgery patient this past month. Our prayer is that God will grant His grace to these souls.

Bro. Carl Rager has gone on to his eternal reward. He leaves behind three children, Bro. Walter (Sis. Sharon, Toledo, OH), Sis. Eileen Whitman (Bro. Dick) and Sharon Parady (Robert, Payne, OH) and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. This kind-hearted man lived a full 96 years and our prayers are with those who are left behind. May God grant them much needed grace in the times to come.

Latty was privileged to host the National World Relief Board meeting on April 21-23. The weekend went very smoothly and much was learned about the inner workings of World Relief.

One happy family this month is Bro. Mark and Sis. Diane Sinn's. Lori Diane was born on April 29. Luke, Weston, Julie and Tyler welcome their new sister at home.

A few families and young couples traveled to Wolcott the weekend of March 11-12 for a "Sing For Your Supper" event. Those who attended want to send out a special thank you to the Wolcott congregation for their

kind hospitality.

Our 2006 high school graduates are Kim Wenninger (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Della), Holly Stoller (Bro. Todd and Sis. Pam), Sis. Cassie Greutman (Bro. Greg and Sis. Kristy), Josiah Stoller (Bro. Dale and Sis. Jodi), Daniel Rager (Bro. Curt and Sis. Denise), Brock Williamson (Bro. Jason and Sis. Wendy), and Thad Sinn (Bro. Todd and Sis. Janet). Congratulations on this milestone!

OHIO, MANSFIELD Esther Baumann

"All the way my Savior leads me;
What have I to ask beside?"
—*Fanny Crosby*

We pray our graduating high school seniors will echo the words of this beloved hymn as they enter the next phase of their life. The graduates include: Staci Beer (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Robin), Angela Foss (Rick and Sis. Susan), Ashley Gabor (Scott and Lori), Nathan Hitchman (Linda Sauder), Jordan McFarland (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Denise Sauder), Bethany Miller (Bro. Roger and Sis. Dorina), Lanae Sauder (Bro. Dan and Sis. Pam), Meghann Sauder (Edward and Paula), Veronica Sauder (Mark and Diane), and Tara Thompson (Gary and Susan).

Please continue to pray for our recently hospitalized patients: Ron Kirschenmann (Vickie) and Sis. Kay Rufener (Bro. Ron).

Our sympathy to the family of John Ebinger, of our 'sister' church, who recently passed away. He is the brother of Sis. Lillian Miller (Bro. John) and the brother-in-law of Sis. Linda Webel (Bro. Pete).

Sincere thanks to Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Sis. Loretta, Alto, MI) for his service to us in the ministry

this past month.

OHIO, RITTMAN Hannah Beery Sarah Bauman

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

Matthew 6:33

Ben Stoller (Bro. Rob and Sis. Joanne) has decided to lay aside the world and seek the kingdom of God. May he continue to feel the many prayers that are offered on his behalf.

Lonnie and Lisa Tanner welcome another boy, Dylan Wade. He is also welcomed home by big brother Hayden. Grandparents are Joe and Sis. Karen Riggenschach.

Bro. Alpha and Sis. Denise Maibach welcome another grandchild, Simon Paul. Bro. Ben and Sis. Joanne Henico (Akron, OH) are first-time parents.

Renee Nussbaum (John and Sis. Cynthia), Ellen Daw, Sis. Jane Klotzle (Bro. Irwin), Blake Stoller (Brian and Debbie), Sis. Brenda Zollinger (Bro. Rudy), Bro. Harold Widmer (Sis. Carole), and Sis. Virginia Widmer (Bro. Dan) were hospitalized this past month. Our prayers continue to be with these loved ones.

"The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore."

Psalms 121:8

Our high school graduates this year are: Ashley Bauman, Reid Beery, John Cannon, Alicia Gasser, Andrew Hanzie, Jayna Hartzler, Amanda Hilty, Tyler Mills, Paul Pope, Rachel Powell, Sis. Kelly Ramsier, Drew Rupp, Rachel Rupp,

Rachel Steiner, Sis. Laura Stoller, Whitney Stoller and Sarah Widmer. As they now move on to new chapters in their lives, may each one put God first and look to Him to direct their future. Truly we want to wish each one God's richest blessings.

On April 30, Sis. Crystal Riggenschach (Bro. Bob and Sis. Lorie) and Bro. Tim Zollinger (Bro. Ken and Sis. Becky) of Smithville were united in marriage. Visiting minister here that weekend were Bros. Don Manz and Tony Manz (both of Junction, OH).

May 7 was the wedding day for Bro. Sandor Davidovics (Peoria, IL; son of Irma Davidovics) and Sis. Rachel Miller (Bro. Michael and Sis. Norene). We're thankful they are making the Rittman area their home, and welcome Bro. Sandor to our congregation.

We had several visiting ministers for Bro. Sandor and Sis. Rachel's wedding, which included: Elder Bro. Andy Stoller, Bro. Vic Bauman (Smithville, OH), Bro. Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH), Bro. Paul Gasser and Bro. Ron Palitto (Akron, OH). Also, Bro. John Steiner (Oakville, IA) and Bro. Steve Pamer (Akron, OH) ministered to us this month. Once again, we want to thank these brothers for all their efforts. May God be their Rich Rewarder!

"Heaven and earth shall pass away; but my word shall not pass away."

Mark 13:31

OHIO, SARDIS Eric and Jami Hartzler

All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
The Lord God made them all.

Children's Harp #1

Our congregation is thankful for the safe arrivals of two new babies. Bro. Jeb and Sis. Kristy Joos (Bradford, IL) welcomed their first child, Wyatt Andrew, on April 19. Wyatt's grandparents are Bro. Ralph and Sis. Jenny Joos (Bradford, IL) and Bro. Denny and Sis. Doris Miller. Also, Bro. Seth and Sis. Faith Beard had a little girl, Mara Esther, on May 2. Older sisters, Olivia and Greta, help to welcome Mara to their family. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Dee Beard and Bro. Bruce and Sis. Lois Maibach (Smithville, OH). May these two couples look to God for wisdom and guidance as they raise their little ones.

We are also thankful for visiting ministering Bro. Gary Maibach (Sis. Mary Ann, Smithville, OH) who shared the Word with us one Sunday this month. May the Lord bless Bro. Gary and Sis. Mary Ann for their willing efforts.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE

**Ruth Gasser
Edith Miller**

We've had two visiting ministers during the past month. May God bless the efforts of Bro. John Reinhard (Bluffton, IN) and Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL).

Several have needed to be in the hospital, and we're always thankful for God's healing where it is His will. Sophia Lusk (Mike and Terry), Bro. Harold "Ted" Beery (Sis. Rhea) and Melaney Nieman (Doug) have all experienced a time of confinement.

Bro. Bruce and Sis. Lois Maibach are thankful for another granddaughter. Mara Esther was born to Bro. Seth and Sis. Faith Beard (Sardis, OH) on May 2.

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

Eccles. 12:1

This would be the wish for our high school graduates. Those who have reached this milestone are Brian Lancaster (Boyd and Teri Nieman), Kristine Lancaster (Boyd and Teri Nieman), Phillip Maletich (Bro. Dave and Sis. Connie), Lisa Roth (Terry and Sandy Hanzie), Deborah Rufener (Bro. Larry and Sis. Susan), Sis. Joy Rufener (Bro. John and Sis. Janice), Cynthia Stoller (Ron and Cynthia), and Nathan Zollinger (Bro. Ken and Sis. Becky).

OHIO, TOLEDO

**Teresa Rywalski
Rebecca Beard**

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

Psalms 127:3

Brad and Holli Shields and Isaac are thankful for the safe arrival of Haven Elisabeth. Our prayers are with them as they show another one of God's children His ways.

On Saturday, May 6, Toledo hosted the Eastern Elder Conference. We wish to thank these dear brothers who are laboring on our behalf.

Elder Bro. Dave Graf (Sis. Barb, Akron, OH) helped Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH) serve Holy Communion to us. What a blessed evening it was to sit together and partake of the Lord's Supper.

Graduating from college this spring are: Sis. Brooklynn Lehner, Molly Sauder, Klint Manz, and Sis. Jill Maibach. As they begin this new chapter in life, may they look to their

Heavenly Father for guidance.

The church was full the weekend April 22, as it was "invite a friend" weekend. How wonderful to greet brothers and sisters that we have not seen for awhile.

Our prayers are with Bro. Walt Rager (Sis. Sharon) and Sis. Freda (Rager) Rehkla and families in the passing of Bro. Carl Rager (Latty, OH). May they look to God who can give true comfort in this time of loss.

Visiting ministers who served us from the pulpit this past month were: Bro. Robert Beebe (Sis. Sue, South Bend, IN), Bro. Ben Manz (Junction, OH), and Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH).

The call of salvation has gone out and has been answered by Missy (Mark) Benware. May she look to her Heavenly Father as she begins her walk on the path of life.

OREGON, PORTLAND

Brianna Strahm

We were blessed this past month to hear our Sunday school children relate the story of Christ's resurrection through song and verse on Easter Sunday. It is our prayer that each of these young souls will retain what they have learned and one day seek the Lord in humble repentance. We would also like to express our appreciation for the efforts put forth by our Sunday school teachers. We wish God's richest blessings upon them for lending their time and talents in this important work.

Our congregation recently decided to install an air conditioning unit in our building. As of this writing, this work is being carried out this week. We also plan to begin a remodeling project in the near future that will result in an additional baby room. We trust this will resolve our ongoing issue of such limited space

for mothers with infants and young children. We wish to thank the brothers involved in these projects for their labors on our behalf.

Our visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Betty), Bro. Todd Zollinger (Sis. Michele), and Bro. Ed Knecht (Sis. Judie), all of our Silverton, OR, congregation. May the Lord richly bless these brethren for their willingness to serve.

OREGON, SILVERTON

**Cindy Metzger
Melissa Kuenzi**

There are two new babies to welcome. Clayton James was born to Bro. James and Sis. Tonya Schneider on April 25. His grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Linda Kuenzi and Bro. Jim and Sis. Sandra Schneider (Forrest, IL).

Megan Beth was born to Scott and Bethany Zollinger on May 8. Her affectionate big brother is Ethan. Her grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Shirley Zollinger and Bro. Wayne and Sis. Linda Edelman (Bern, KS).

Bro. Cliff Kuenzi (Violet) was ill and spent time in the hospital. He is home again at the nursing home. Jordan Bence (Bro. Sam and Sis. Lily) has a broken arm and had surgery on his ankle following an ATV accident.

April 30 was the wedding date for Bro. Ryan Kuenzi and Sis. Kara Schieler in Goodfield, IL. Their parents are Bro. Terry and Sis. Ann Kuenzi and Bro. Brian and Sis. Teresa Schieler (Goodfield, IL). We welcome Sis. Kara to our church family.

Thanks to Bros. Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy) and Ron Jones (Sis. Liz) of Portland for ministering to us in the past month.

PENNSYLVANIA PHILADELPHIA Nathan and MaryElizabeth Gasser

As spring and summer approach, we look forward to spending time outdoors enjoying God's beautiful creation, and many of us have travel plans, backyard picnics, and summer vacations to look forward to. May we remember to thank Him for these blessings, and may the Spirit guide our walk in the coming months, that we might use these opportunities to His glory.

We appreciated having Elder Bros. Dennis Warner (Lester, IA) and Duane Farney (Croghan, NY) along with their wives with us this month, as they were in the area on vacation. In addition, we appreciated ministering Bro. Fred Witzig (Indianapolis, IN) and his family who spent the week in our area. We thank all of these Brothers for sharing the Word with our congregation this month and would extend a warm welcome to any traveling through to worship with us.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE Mike and Monica Fritz

We rejoice with Bro. Craig and Sis. Raelynn Plattner, who welcomed Moriah Sue into their home and hearts on May 17. We pray that God will richly bless Moriah and her family. Siblings are Anissa, Jonathan, Emily, Zachary, and Elijah. Grandparents are Bro. Eldon and Sis. Waneta Plattner (Bern, KS) and Bro. Norm and Sis. Gloria Stahl (Chicago, IL). Great-grandparents are Bro. Silas and Sis. Della Metzger (West Bend, IA).

We have been strengthened by the Living Word, brought to us recently by our visiting ministers: retired Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen (Sis.

Marilyn; Elgin, IL), and Bros. Lucas Frank (Sis. Crystal; Detroit, MI), Dennis Rassi (Sis. Diane; Fairbury, IL), and Steve Sauder (Sis. Mary; Tremont, IL). In addition, we have been blessed by the fellowship with brethren and friends visiting from Elgin, Fairbury, Forrest, and Tremont, IL; Detroit, MI; and Smithville, OH.

If you are traveling in or through the Nashville area, please plan to worship with us. The following churches are scheduled for services in the near future: Indianapolis, IN (6/18); Bern, KS (6/25); Roanoke, IL (7/2); Sardis, OH (7/9); Cissna Park, IL (7/16); LaCrosse, IN (7/23); Chicago, IL (7/30). If you are planning to worship with us, please call ahead to confirm our schedule. We also usually meet on Wednesday evenings for a song service and would welcome any 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, AUSTIN (formerly San Marcos) Amy Ringger Serenity Ringger

"And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear."

Is. 65:24

We've noticed that each one of our mama goats knows instinctively the voice of her own baby. If the kid cannot see the mother, it will call and the mother will immediately answer in return; sometimes when the kid has not even quit bawling. As I was listening to them during a morning milking, the above verse came to mind.

When we feel God has answered a

certain prayer of ours, we then often realize that He had been preparing the answer before we even knew what to pray for. One way we particularly notice this happening is when God prepares the way for brethren to move here and support our small church fellowship.

Bro. Caleb and Sis. Laura Schafer (Bluffton North) have moved to our area for work. We trust all will go smoothly as they adjust to life in Central Texas, and in our small church here.

Our ministers this month were Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley), Bros. Jim Koehl (Sis. Hildy, San Diego), Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi, Alto), and Duane Reutter (Sis. Kay, Rockville) and we enjoyed visitors from Congerville and Oakville.

Upcoming churches serving us are these: Bluffton (June 18), Mor-ton (June 25), Washington (July 2), Detroit (July 9), Roanoke (July 16).

We extend a warm welcome to anyone who may be in the area to worship with us, even midweek we may meet at times although we don't have a regular schedule for it. 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, perhaps even a month or more if possible, so that we can accommodate you more readily in our weekend gatherings. See the ministers' directory for local contact information.

Directions to our church are these: from the intersection of Hwy 71 and 21 on the west side of Bastrop, go east to the first exit (a landmark is a Ford dealership) onto the frontage road. Immediately turn left and proceed east on the frontage road about 4/10 of a mile, and the church is on the right. It is located about 18 miles east of the Austin airport. The address is 1025 Highway 71 West,

Bastrop, TX 78602. It is a one-story building with limestone siding.

In the church, there are two furnished bedrooms for the ministers to use when coming for services. When you contact someone about coming for services, please let them know if you would like to use the bedrooms during the time you are here.

TEXAS, McALLEN Joyce Nohl

As we were traveling north to Minnesota I noticed how green everything was. In the midst of the green trees, every once in a while a bright yellow tree would be shining through all the green. The thought came to me that this is how a Christian should stand out. In the world, do we stand out like the yellow tree or do we blend in? It's something for me to think about.

This month we had Bros. Gerry Hertzell (Sis. Ellen, Sabetha, KS), Matthew Steffen (Sis. Deanna, Princeville, IL), and Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata, TX) serve us. We thank each one for sharing God's Word with us.

We also enjoyed retired Elder Bro. Ed Lanz and his wife, Sis. Joan, as they assembled with us.

If you are going to be in the McAllen area, we extend a warm invitation to worship with us. Our address is: Holiday Inn Express, 1921 South 10th Street. Turn South 1 1/2 blocks off the Expressway (Highway) on 10th Street. Services will be held at 10:30 and 12:30. Please contact Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Joyce Nohl (956) 581-8266; Sis. Kim Kaiser (956) 357-2591; Sis. Erin Knobloch (956) 357-1657; Andy and Kristi Plattner (956) 433-9844 or (956) 607-8329; Pam McMaster (956) 787-7881; Bro. Aaron and Sis. Sandy Kipfer (winter only) (956) 581-5612.

TEXAS, ZAPATA Sandy Leman

We were blessed this month with much-needed rain. It is good to see the green plants revitalized by life-giving water. We are reminded that many around us are also in need of the Living Water our Lord offers freely. We pray that they will answer His kind invitation.

Sis. Mary Plattner took a trip to Iowa in May to see her family, and I am looking forward to a trip to Illinois in June to see mine.

VERMONT, NORWICH Areli & Kirby Reutter

Greetings be to you, our brethren, to our sisters in the Lord; here from far and near assembled, gathered here in one accord!

Hymns of Zion, #7

Without brothers and sisters willing to assemble from both near and far, our gathering in Norwich would not be possible. While we highly esteem the presence of all our visitors, this month we were especially grateful for ministering Bro. Floyd Graves (Sis. Linda, Croghan, NY) and our counseling Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Sis. Cheryl, Rockville, CT). May the Lord prosper the labor of these dear brothers in their own respective flocks.

We are so thankful that other congregations as well are also willing to share their ministering brothers to serve the least of the flocks. These dear churches include Smithville, Rittman, Junction, and Akron OH, and Tremont, IL.

We invite all to come and worship with us in the beautiful Northeast. Please call Bro. Kirby Reutter at (802) 776 - 5293 to help us plan for your attendance. Services start at

10:15 in the morning and at 12:15 in the afternoon. Sunday school for all ages is held in the morning. Everyone is welcome!

To arrive at our meeting place, please take exit 13 from Interstate 91 onto Route 5 and proceed .7 miles to 344 Main Street. Look for the two-story Grange building (painted

gray) on the right side of the road. There is a fire house to the rear of the building. Please park along the street.

Also, if you are interested in purchasing head coverings made by Sisters from Ixtlán, México, please contact Sis. Areli Reutter at the number listed above. An inventory of the

coverings is available upon request.

Peace and love impel the greeting,
greetings do our love impart;
Christian greetings are a blessing,
as a prayer console the heart!

Hymns of Zion, #7



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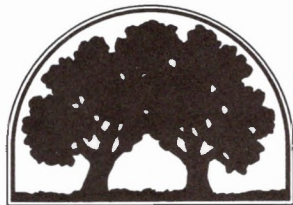
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Bible Distribution
PO Box 30
1254 S. Main Street
Bluffton, IN 46714
Phone and Fax 260/824-5587
E-mail: bibledist@parlorcity.com



Teaching Position Available

Gateway Woods is excited to announce an opening for a teacher position at Gateway Woods School. Student census will be expanding with the addition of a 4th group home. Gateway Woods School is a fully accredited educational facility serving 5th-12th grade students who have difficulty in public school.

Qualifications include a Bachelor's Degree in Education and/or an active teacher's license. Special Education Certification and previous teaching experience is especially useful, but not required. If you hold these qualifications and have a heart for children, please ask the Lord if this is the position He has in mind for you. For more information please contact one of the brothers listed below.

Kirk Plattner
 Director of Education
 PO Box 151,
 Leo, IN 46765
 1-888-443-4283

Lynn Stieglitz
 Counseling Elder
 15417 Doty Rd.
 New Haven, IN 46774
 260-657-1033

Interested in Houseparenting?

Houseparenting at Gateway Woods offers an opportunity for a couple, directed of the Lord, to come to work in a full-time on going ministry at Gateway Woods. We are expanding and have need for several couples. This position offers competitive wages and benefits and a close relationship with brothers and sisters whose hearts and lives are dedicated to a common mission with an eternal reward. If you feel the call to explore these possibilities, please call one of the brothers listed below.

Assisted Houseparent Needed

Gateway Woods has appreciated the Lord's blessing of being fully staffed with Assistant Houseparents for some time now. We are expanding our Residential Program, so we will have an opening for a single sister to work in a full-time ministry with troubled children. The Assistant Houseparent position offers competitive wages and benefits and a close relationship with brothers and sisters whose hearts and lives are dedicated to a mission with an eternal reward. If you feel the call to explore the possibilities, please call one of the brothers listed below:

Ed Graf
 Residential Program Director
 PO Box 151,
 Leo, IN 46765
 1-888-443-4283

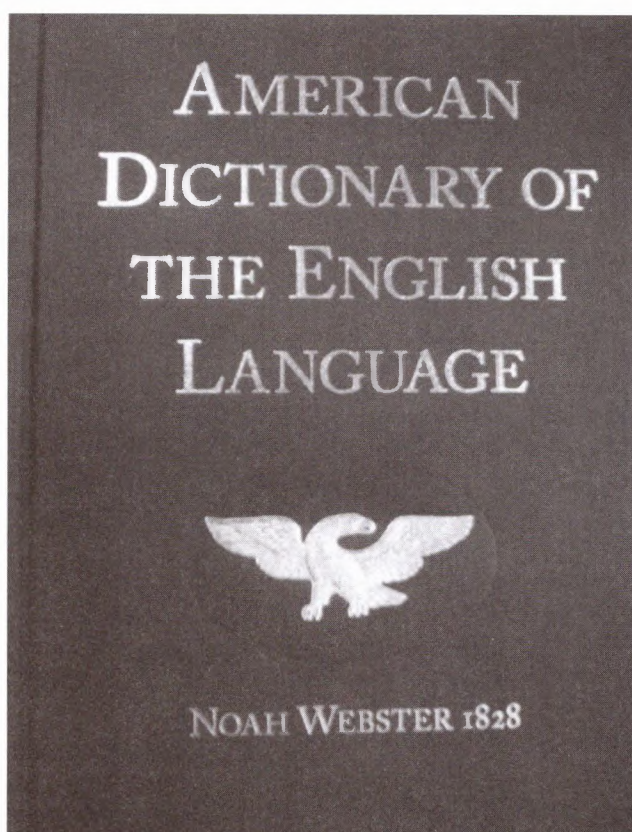
Lynn Stieglitz
 Counseling Elder
 15417 Doty Rd.
 New Haven, IN 46774
 260-657-1033



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Sermon continued from page 2

that is, when anyone has a farm, for instance, if they labor, and if they are alert, their farm shows improvement, does it not? But beloved ones, why should that not be true in the household of God?

If the Lord teaches us to be diligent in our earthly calling, and we can see the fruit thereof, should we fall behind in our spiritual calling in our life of faith? The same thing is true in our life of faith. If we in the Church of God are diligent, and if we observe the teachings of the Word of God and exercise ourselves therein, it will bear good fruit. We will have reason to rejoice, and the Lord can thereby be glorified. Perhaps every one of us are in need of it – I feel for my heart. We must once in a while rouse ourselves. We must watch that we do not become sluggish and careless, that we rouse ourselves, awaken the talents and the gifts, which God has entrusted unto us.

If the Lord sees in us a willingness, if He sees that we appreciate His blessings and His gifts, and that we will first of all seek the Kingdom of Heaven and its righteousness, we have a promise in the Word of God: All these other things shall be added unto us. In other words, our life, our heart and mind shall first be filled with concern and with diligence with our heavenly calling, and our earthly business and occupation shall take second place. If we stand in that condition, dear ones, we can rest assured that the Lord will be merciful, He will bless. He loves those who appreciate His kindness.

We have read here, as already mentioned, “If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things?” St. Luke 3:12. Really, the Lord Jesus often used earthly things as an illustration of those thoughts, which He tried to impress upon His hearers, and as already mentioned, just as certain as labor and diligence will bring a return in an earthly occupation, just as certainly, diligence and labor in the service of the Lord will also bring a return. It will bring an eternal reward.

It is truly remarkable. Sometimes we have the privilege to perhaps drive a certain road where perhaps we have never been before, and it oft times strikes me how those people who live on a strange road whom we never have met, the same reward that we have for diligence and for labor they also have. The Lord has given it that way, that he that tills the soil and that labors in the field, if he does his work right he will have a return for it. And so likewise, dear ones, in this life of faith, when the time is here to labor, when the time is here that the Lord has given us the opportunity to labor for Him, will anything be accomplished if we are not diligent? But if we become careless, if we leave it to the other ones, and we ourselves try to go through life and leave it all to the others, then we try to escape the cross of Christ.

“And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.” St. John 3:14,15. That illustration, beloved ones, also has a deep meaning for us all. Perhaps most all who have assembled here know of that occasion, when in Israel the anger of the Lord was kindled and the fiery serpent came upon them. And all those who were bitten of those serpents had to die, and a great number of people in Israel died from those poisonous serpents. And we find there how the Lord gave unto Moses a certain way in which they could escape death, a miraculous way indeed. He made a brazen serpent, something, which could of itself certainly not be of any help. But unto those who looked to that brazen serpent which was raised there at the command of the Lord – we can thereby see how much value there is in the commands of the Lord. When the Lord speaks a word, and even though it would seem foolish, it would still have in it Godly power and feeling. And that was true of that brazen serpent: Because Moses lifted up that serpent at the command of the Lord, everyone who looked up to that serpent after they had been bitten, with a prayerful heart, we read that they

did not have to die – that they lived. There was a similitude unto that which God would do in later days, as we have been reminded here. (Numbers 21:5-9)

And beloved ones, it occurs to me: We who have looked up to Jesus Christ hanging on the cross, suffering and dying for our sins, is that the only time when we should look up to Him? We have been redeemed, we have been saved, when we looked up to the crucified Christ and when we there, in the Spirit, saw His blood flowing for our sin. But beloved ones, is it not our duty as long as we live here on this Earth, while we are going through this life, must we not continually look up to the Savior all the way as we go through this world and lifetime? Must we not look to the Lord Jesus as our example and our teacher? Truly in our life here on Earth, if we have through faith in the crucified Christ found remission of sin and escaped that yoke of Satan, we would surely again come under that yoke and would again become victims of death if we would not continue to look up to our Savior.

He who died on the cross, He lived also before He died on the cross. And after His death on the cross we look to the resurrected Christ and to this day we have the blessed privilege of the fellowship of His Spirit. He is not one who died and remained in death, but He arose victor over death and the grave. “He arose,” as we sing in a hymn, and now we have that blessed privilege, all who have been redeemed through His precious blood, that we can live in Him and with Him. We have the blessed privilege to be guided and led of Him if it is our heart’s willingness. As long as our heart is willing to bear the cross and to follow Him in obedience, He has promised to be the Good Shepherd, to give unto us the wisdom, the words and the thoughts that we need so that we may be in this world a light even as He was. As He was a light in the world, a teacher and a laborer for His Heavenly Father, even so it is His will that those who have been redeemed by His precious blood would also be servants of God.

“For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.” St. John 3:17. A most precious Word, is it not? We know there is no other way about it: The ungodly, that must be condemned. When we were guilty of sin, when we were laden and burdened with sin, we were under condemnation. But that condemnation was a righteous one, was it not? We read in the fore reading of what is right, what is equal between man and man, and that which God there gave as a law. There was nothing wrong about it: As man did unto his fellow man, so it should be done to him again. That was the law, but beloved ones, God has found – and it has pleased God to open unto the world – a better way. And how precious for us who live in this time of the new covenant that God has led us and brought us unto this wonderful way, and that He has also prepared a way so that those who believe in Jesus Christ need not to be oppressed but that they have this liberty. I am speaking of the conflict between the old law and the new.

We know in this world and time, especially in days of conflict, as it is at the present time, where that law again comes into effect – an eye for an eye, or a life for a life. It cannot be otherwise where there is war: Where a soldier is battling for his country, if he should not be killed, he must kill the other man. That is about the only way that a war can be waged.

But how precious it is, dear ones, that the Lord has prepared the hearts of men, that even those who have power and authority in this latter day and time make allowances for God’s peculiar people, for those who have become followers of Christ, who for that reason do not have the liberty any more to demand an eye for an eye, who because that they did not have to pay the debt of their own sin but have received as a free gift the remission of

their sin, because of that truth they do not have the liberty to repay evil for evil. As we were reminded this morning, it is our calling to refrain, to not avenge ourselves, neither repay evil for evil.

Forasmuch as the Kingdom of Christ is not a kingdom of this world, it is a kingdom apart, we are not called to be a kingdom or a nation here on Earth; we belong to God’s eternal kingdom, and this life here on Earth is merely a time of preparation. And how should we be thankful, how should we even esteem those who are governing our nation at this time, those who are in authority and power, that they have that tolerance within their heart, even in this day and time of stress, to provide a way where God’s true children, the followers of Christ, can follow Him and can serve their country within the limits of the laws of the new covenant where they have the opportunity to repay good for evil instead of evil for evil.

And beloved ones, I can see in that privilege, I can see therein an opportunity. We often speak of it, and we know that even those of our young men who are doing non-combatant duties who are serving, for instance, in the medical corps, we know what their duties are. If a fellow soldier is wounded on the battlefield, their duty is without any other weapon but perhaps a first-aid kit to go there and take care of the wounded. They are to care for those who have been wounded and are suffering. And beloved ones, when we consider and also know that God is almighty and that He is everywhere, He also has promised, as the Savior has said in His sermon on the mount: “Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.” St. Matthew 5:7.

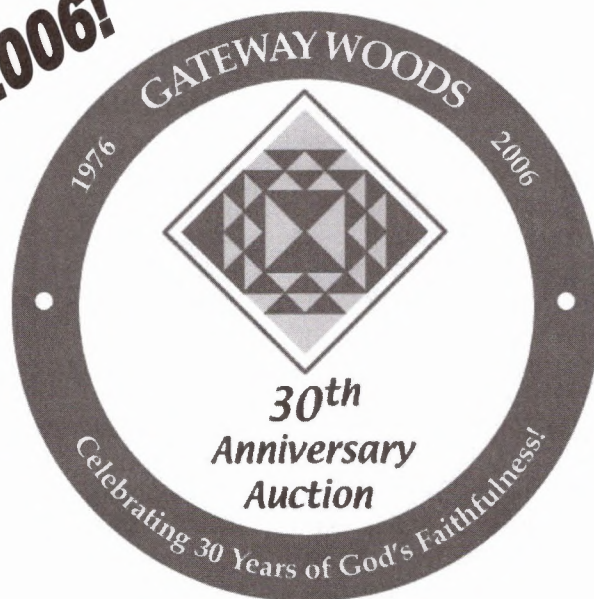
Beloved ones, that duty which a young man must perform in the service of his country and in the service of his fellow men, even having the opportunity to give a little first aid to his

enemy, I believe for my heart there is a privilege therein. The almighty and all-wise God who sees and knows all things, He knows how to recompense and how to reward. And we heard in the psalm this morning, “The Lord preserveth all them that love him...” Psalm 145:20. Should we be too much concerned for those who are in the service of the Lord, even when they are in the service of their country? Because of the dangers by which they are surrounded, should we be too much concerned for them? I believe faith speaks to us in another way. The faith of the fathers, the faith of those who trusted in God in all ages, did not prevent them from approaching the areas of danger. We know that danger is on every side, and oft times I believe there are young men who are right here at home that are in greater danger than perhaps another one who is serving in his duties in the fear of God and trusting in the Lord. May God grant it unto us all, beloved ones, we who are at home, and those who cannot remain at home, that our faith in God, our trust in Him, may be our staff and our comfort.

It may yet be possible, dear ones, for the Lord to prepare for His name great glory and honor, in that He will fulfill His promises and He will show special favors unto those who trust Him and who love Him. The testimonies which we have in the Word of God – that God will do this and He will do that for those who love Him – have you ever heard of it, that God failed in His promises? The promises we have in the Word of God, they can and they will be fulfilled. The main thing is that we trust in Him, that we love Him, and obey His commandments.



August 19, 2006!



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

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

Caring & Sharing: All proceeds go to fund the 5 Christ-centered programs of Gateway Woods, which serve over 200 children and families each year.

Food: Enjoy delicious homemade pies, sandwiches, breakfast items, lemon shake-ups, potato curls, ice cream, and much more!

Children's Activities: Supervised children's activities are offered throughout the day. Children have a wonderful time at the Auction!

Great Items: Each year, our supporters donate many fabulous and creative items. This year will be no exception! There are items of interest for all ages, shapes/sizes, and shopping preferences.

For the Whole Family: Coming to the Auction is a great way to wrap up the summer as a family. We hope to see you on August 19!

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Zion's Melody Music CD

An a cappella singing CD of hymns from the Zion's Melodies recently was recorded with the intention of helping the brethren become more familiar with the Zion's Melodies. The CD consists of 17 hymns and the title of the CD is "The Homeward Journey". Anyone who is interested in purchasing CDs can order from the Homeward Journey, PO Box 20, Fairbury, IL 61739; or e-mail fairview@Route24.net or call: (815) 692-2572 (days) and ask for Sally. The cost is \$12.00 per CD plus shipping (media mail, unless first-class is requested). All proceeds of the CD, beyond expenses, will be contributed to The Good Samaritan Fund of Fairview Haven Nursing Home, Fairbury.

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A CD has been recorded containing one verse each of all 67 hymns in the Zion's Melodies hymnal, played on a digital piano. It is hoped this recording will be helpful in learning these hymns which are historical to our church, but may be new to many of our brethren today. The cost is \$5.00 per CD plus shipping if necessary. Proceeds beyond expenses will be donated toward further preservation and sharing of Apostolic Christian historical material. To keep costs low, the CD will be sent in a slim jewel case without an insert (the track numbers correspond directly to the song numbers). The title is simply "Zion's Melodies" and it can be ordered by the following options:

Phone: (309)448-2422 - ask for Chet

Mail: ZM on Piano, 319 First Street, Congerville, IL 61729

Email: chetrink@juno.com



CARIBBEAN BOARD PROJECTS - 2006/2007

All volunteers should contact the project coordinator. Should you not be able to contact the coordinator, for Haiti direct your inquiry to Bro. Rich Bertschi, Ph. 309-467-6110, E-mail lemangm@mtco.com. For Jamaica, direct your inquiry to Bro. Mike Rassi, Ph. 1-309-359-3020 or E-mail michael_rassi@hotmail.com.

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ORG.	DATE	AREA	COORDINATOR	PROJECT	CAPACITY
MEBSH	October 6-13, 2006	Les Cayes	Dean Pashak	Clinic Roof	12
AWA-FRW	November 10-17, 2006	Les Cayes	Rick Wuethrich	Vocational School	4
AWA-T	November 10-17, 2006	Les Cayes	Troy Struber	Water Aid	5
Palm Grove	November 10-17, 2006	Les Cayes	Tom Hitz	School Roof	12
AWA-B	December 1-8, 2006	Les Cayes	Bill Rager	Vocational School	2
MEBSH	December 1-8, 2006	Les Cayes	Ted Habegger	School Roof	11
MEBSH	December 8-15, 2006	Les Cayes	Phil Isabel	School Roof	11
MEBSH	January 5-12, 2007	Les Cayes	Ron Palito	School Roof	11
MEBSH	Jan. 26 - Feb. 2, 2007	Les Cayes	Dean Pashak	School Roof	11
SEED	February 9-16, 2007	Les Cayes	Dale Frank	Agriculture Aid	9
Palm Grove	February 9-16, 2007	Les Cayes	Stan Descarpentrie	School Roof	11
SEED	March 9-16, 2007	Les Cayes	Dale Frank	Agriculture Aid	11
AWA-T	March 16-23, 2007	Les Cayes	Troy Struber	Water Aid	5
AWA-FRM	March 16-23, 2007	Les Cayes	Rick Wuethrich	Vocational School	4
AWA-B	March 16-24, 2007	Les Cayes	Bill Rager	Vocational School	2
MEBSH	March 23-30, 2007	Les Cayes	Rich Bertschi	School Roof	9
Palm Grove	TBD	Puit Sales	Tom Hitz	School Roof	11
MEBSH	Apr. - May 4, 2007	Les Cayes	Jon Zeller	Construction/Maintenance	11
MEBSH	May 4-11, 2007	Haiti	Tom Hitz	Caribbean Evaluation	Invitation
AWA-FRW	June 1-8, 2007	Les Cayes	Rick Wuethrich	Vocational School	4
AWA-T	June 1-8, 2007	Les Cayes	Troy Struber	Water Aid	5
AWA-B	June 1-8, 2007	Les Cayes	Bill Rager	Vocational School	2

JAMAICA

COORDINATOR	PHONE	FAX	E-MAIL
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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 2006

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

Location	Date	Project	Coordinator	Phone	E-mail
Magdalena	July 8-15, 2006	Construction	Rick Kaisner	847-942-1174	rick@kaisner.org
Magdalena	July 15-22, 2006	Construction	Duane Meyer	785-336-3385	dhmeyer@bbwi.net
Magdalena	July 22-29, 2006	Construction	Tyler Banwart	620-223-1362	tybanwart@hotmail.com
Juarez	September 20-27, 2006	Medical	Cheryl Herrmann	309-385-1082	cherylh@mtco.com



U.S.A. BOARD WORK PROJECTS

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

Kansas: Paul Kaeb
 Phone: 785-284-3261
 Cell: 785-547-5269
 E-mail: paulkaeb@ksiconveyors.com

Iowa: Martin Zaugg
 Phone/Fax: 515-379-1693
 Cell: 515-320-2404

Illinois: Marvin Sauder
 Phone: 309-925-4171
 Fax: 309-925-4171
 Cell: 309-339-9894
 E-mail: mmksblf@dpc.net

Indiana: Tom Neuenschwander
 Phone/Fax: 260-824-4773
 E-mail: tsneuen@adamswells.com

Ohio: Ken Zollinger
 Phone: 330-925-6370
 Fax: 330-927-6370
 Cell: 330-466-2247

If anyone is serving in our Armed Forces that would appreciate receiving a printed sermon, please send their name and address or email address to:

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REMEMBERING

Our Spiritual Heritage

The following letter was written by Elder Johann Schlipf, Dauernberg, Germany, to the congregation at Elgin, Illinois, on December 3, 1884. It is from the booklet entitled, "To The King's Administration of Justice" authored by Elder William A. Stettner of Elgin. In 1884, the church at Elgin was only three or four years old.

In our Lord Jesus, my beloved brethren in Elgin, Illinois, U.S.A. Who with us have received the grace of life in Christ Jesus. God grant to you much grace, mercy and peace through the knowledge of Jesus Christ, our Lord, that you may not be in want of any good gift, but rather have life and that more abundantly, so that your lips may overflow with praise to God.

You are all in my heart, and day and night I walk in the spirit among you, only you cannot see me. Just this past night, when I had sleepless hours, I was in the spirit in Elbing with the loved ones there, in Hungary, in Switzerland, in Alsace, in Baden and in America, to and fro among the brothers and sisters. I had to say to myself during the night, "Had I but wings I would fly over the mountains and valleys," so fervently was my feeling for the dear ones whom we know and especially for those who departed from us according to the body, in which you are also included. My wish for all of you is that you live in love, peace and unity to the honor of the name of Je-

sus Christ, for we all bear His name.

We are all so poor and needy from our own self to serve our God, according to His good will and pleasure, and to keep His commandments. But with His grace and power we can in obedience of His good will walk according to His pleasure, and bring joy to our Father's heart.

He loves us dearly as the Apostle writes, "Behold what manner of love has the Father bestowed upon us that we should be called the children of God." Oh, what treasure it is to be a child of God, redeemed and delivered from the wrath which is to come over all the ungodly and their works. But unto you who fear God shall shine the Sun of Righteousness and Salvation, under the shadow of His wings. What precious promises do the children of God have, those who are true in love and faith until the end.

The true Shepherd, Jesus Christ, give unto you shepherds to pasture you in all teachings and wisdom, that you may live, that you may grow and increase in all knowledge of good and obedience of the truth. I also feel as did John when he wrote, "I have no greater joy than when I hear that my children walk in the truth." But contrariwise, when they do not walk in the truth it causes much grief to our Lord, and to His servants. For then the other sheep have to eat what they have spoiled with their feet.

I beseech you, my beloved ones, be diligent to keep the unity of the

spirit through the bond of peace, that you may obtain peace. For blessed are the peacemakers. Love one another as we have received the commandment from our Dear Lord. The author says, "Make my love real, pure and true, that it may not be deceitful."

Hold fast onto humility, for God resists all who are proud, but to the humble He gives His grace. Beware that you do not fashion yourselves like the world, but prove what is pleasing to the Lord, as the Apostle writes, "Do not walk anymore like the others do in the vanity of their minds." Tobias said to his son, "Vanity let neither in thy heart nor in their words reign or live." For through vanity many have been led astray by the tempter and have become a spoil of Satan.

Therefore, warn one another, and admonish one another, as it is needful for your own protection and safekeeping in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit and brotherly love, which is the bond of perfection.

My hearty greetings to you all. Remember us in your prayers, that we, with you, may be kept to eternal life and remain by the grace of God the brother who loves you in the Lord.

Johann Schlipf

Edited by Perry Klopfenstein

Next Issue:

More data from The King's Administration of Justice

The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean

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“Provoke Not Others to Wrath”

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

“And ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath,” is a familiar scripture. It is a very thought provoking statement, that is, it causes me to do some thinking.

The word "provoke" is most often used in connection with something undesirable, such as a child's wrath, but it is also used in connection with something desirable, such as in the scripture, "And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works." Hebrews 10:24. It is also desirable that we do some thinking. In the end, we must give an account of ourselves. "So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God. On that day we cannot pass the responsibility to someone else."

As a father I understand that we should not provoke our children to wrath, that is, we should not make them angry unnecessarily, by not being able to control our own emotions. I believe that we should avoid using our children as an outlet for

our own stress or frustrations. That is not always easy as they are younger than we and are an easy target. We are supposed to control ourselves as we try to control our children.

However, I have been thinking that if this is true in our relationship with our children, it is almost certain to be true in regard to our relationship with others, as well. If we like for others to be kind and respectful in reasoning with us, then we should be kind and respectful in reasoning with them. The Lord Jesus Christ said, "And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise." Luke 6:31.

In our relationship with our brothers and sisters in Christ, as well as with other adults, if we fail to show them love and respect, even when we disagree with them, it may not provoke them to wrath so much, as simply discourage them to the extent that they say to themselves, "What's the use? He puts himself above me, as if he

has all the answers. I want out from under." It seems to me that in warning our children, and in warning other adults, we do have to use the scripture in reasoning with them. Perhaps we need to say, "I'm concerned about you because it is written in the Bible like this and it is best to follow the Bible. If you see anything about me that is not in accordance with the Bible in your opinion, please tell me and I will surely consider the matter carefully and prayerfully." It is very difficult, if not impossible, for anyone to correct us, if they feel that we are not open to correction.

As fathers, and as children of God, it is important that we do not provoke others to wrath and discouragement. Most of us need encouragement, and especially our children need encouragement. May God help us to be a good example to them, by what we do and by what we say, and not to provoke them to wrath.

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*And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth
which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind,
and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that it was good.
Genesis 1:21*

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