

The Silver Lining

A landscape photograph showing a large, leafless tree on a grassy hill. The sky is blue with a rainbow visible on the right side. The text is overlaid on the image.

*And it shall come to pass, when I bring a cloud over the earth,
that the bow shall be seen in the cloud...*

And I will remember my covenant...

Genesis 9:13-14

July 2006

Sermon by Elder Bro. Mark Streitmatter, Bloomington, IL

Isaiah 22:15-25 & Revelation 3

This is all in red (Revelation 3), the revelation of Jesus Christ. Speaking in this first section, in chapter 2 and 3, are Jesus speaking to individual churches, the seven churches scattered throughout - I think most of them - are what is modern day today Turkey. So we are going to pick it up half way where he writes to three of the churches: Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea.

Again, each church is very different. Some very troubled. Some doing well. There have been lots of philosophies of what exactly these seven churches represent. Some would say the eras of time - I don't know. That might be true. I like to take it pretty literal. I think it is written to churches and it is written to us as a church as a whole, and our weaknesses or strengths. And then as individuals, there will be certain strengths and weaknesses brought out here. We need to be honest enough as a church and as individuals, to acknowledge where we need to change and where we need growth. Issues that Jesus - that's who's writing this - Jesus wants to speak to our heart.

I find it to be very difficult to be honest with ourselves. You find that to be true too? It is very easy to identify what is wrong with these churches as we read it. It is very easy to identify someone else's weaknesses. It is very difficult to identify our own and then have the courage to have the Holy Spirit change us and to correct or convict us in righteousness as the scripture says.

So as we read this, let's think about our church and let's think of it as individuals and see where the areas - and again, it is easy to have blinders on and not see ourselves. So let's all, as we read, let's have a prayer that God reveals, that we have the courage then to respond, to either repent or be encouraged, whatever the area that God is speaking to us.

Three very diverse churches, very different issues. Not unlike us as churches and as individuals, having all different situations and battles and trials. The church at Sardis is probably best captured in this phrase, "...I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead." Rev. 3:1. Their reputation was a church that

was alive. That was the word on the street. I know thy works. Thou has a name that thou livest. It says to me that people said, that Sardis church, that church is really alive. And art dead.

I don't know if you noticed, both in Sardis and Laodicea, their opinion of themselves was diametrically opposed, was completely opposite of what Jesus thought of them. That is a very harsh warning and a very strong challenge for us as a church and us as individuals then to look at our hearts and to see how our walk with Jesus really is. Not as we see it. As Jesus sees it. Not as we think it. But as the Holy Spirit reveals it.

Don't you love that phrase, "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches." Rev. 3:6. Do you have an ear to hear? All say, of course we have an ear to hear. Do you have a spiritual ear that you can hear what God says? Are you so consumed with other things? Are you distracted with your own thoughts? Are you taking time to listen? The church at Sardis didn't.

There are some similarities between them and the church at Ephesus. We won't go read it. That is the first church he addresses in the beginning of Revelation chapter 2. Ephesus, the Ephesians church was a church that was doing tremendous good. If you go through that one in Ephesus, it is fascinating. They address those who are sinful. They do all kinds of wonderful things, works and even do them in the name of Jesus. Then Jesus says, but you have lost your first love, so repent (Rev. 2:4,5).

Sardis is Ephesus deteriorated further. Not only have they lost their first love, they are now continuing to do works and appear to be alive when they are completely dead. Hypocrisy. Again, as a church and then as individuals, are you living? Are you pretending to be alive in Jesus or are you really alive? How does one measure that? How do we know? Jesus says in different places, I can't think of where it is at right now, He says to somebody, depart from me thou worker of iniquity because I never knew you (St. Matthew

7:23). Good works, men as trees by fruits are known, living overcoming lives, are all good indications. But they are indications. They are just indications. At the end of the day, we need to take it back to the root, what motivates you to do what you do? Why did you come to church? Why do you do out-

Sermon continued on page 44

The Silver Lining subscriptions are due from the following churches. Please collect in:

August

1. Philadelphia, PA
2. Fairbury, IL
3. Wichita, KS
4. Minneapolis, MN
5. Milford, IN
6. Lamont-Gridley, KS
7. Ft. Lauderdale, FL
8. Croghan, NY
9. Altadena, CA

Suggested Donation: \$11/subscription

Next correspondence due:
For August Issue
(16 June News - 15 July News)
Due: 20 July 2006

The Silver Lining (Vol. 61, #7)

1389 County Road 1600 N
 Roanoke, IL 61561

USPS 496780

Published Monthly By The Apostolic
 Christian Church of America

Counselors:

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(e-mail is preferred)

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 309-923-7359 (fax #2)

Periodical non-profit - postage paid at Roanoke, IL 61561, and additional offices. The subscription rate is a donation. Send zip number with address. Remember to send changes of address. Send both old and new addresses (with both zips). Postmaster send address changes to:

The Silver Lining
 1389 County Road 1600 N
 Roanoke, IL 61561

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

Light From The Word



Writings based
on God's Word

July 2006

Look We For Another

John the Baptist was being severely tried. The work that he had been sent to do was nearly accomplished. His primary mission was to announce that "...the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Mt. 3:2). Each of the Gospels tell us something about his task. He was to inform the world that the promised Messiah was here. John was "The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight" (Mk. 1:3). The Gospel of John gives a more detailed account of John's responsibility (Jn. 1:6-8 & 19-28).

John introduced Jesus to the world, "...Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sins of the world" (Jn. 1:29). John baptized Jesus (Mt. 3:13-15) "...and saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And to a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased" (Mt. 3:16-17).

In spite of all this, while John was in prison his faith was tried. He sent two of his disciples to Jesus to ask him "...Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another" (Mt. 11:3)? Jesus told John's disciples to "...Go and show John again those things which ye do hear and see: The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them" (Mt. 11:4-6). John was reassured that Jesus was in truth the Son of God, the promised Messiah.

Jesus then asked the multitudes what they were looking for when they went to see John. There was confusion among the masses about John and his mission. In our time there is also much confusion and we could ask the same question of the masses about Jesus Christ: what are you looking for?

It may be that there is more effort to find the truth today than at any time in history. People are searching for answers. Scientists are trying to solve all kinds of mysteries from cures for diseases to the origin of mankind. God has allowed mankind to unravel many mysteries and to cure many illnesses. Much

good has been found for this life; however, in spite of all of this effort to find the "truth" there is still much confusion. Men are "Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth" (II Tim. 8:7) because they seek the truth in the wrong places.

We should not be surprised at the emphasis on searching for truth. Daniel prophesied this when he wrote "...many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased" (Da. 12:4). Amos clarified the problem even more when he wrote "Behold, the days come, saith the Lord God, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord; And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the Lord, and shall not find it" (Am. 8:11-12).

The confusion and lack of contentment is so great that many do not know what they want nor do they know where to look for peace. Of course, if they do not know what they are looking for, they will not know where to look, nor recognize it if they find it.

The world makes many promises designed to make us happy. Unfortunately, the closer we come to gaining the solutions offered by the world, the greater the disappointment among those who are searching. Part of the problem, of course, is that the world can only offer material goods to solve our problems. Materialism does not solve the inner problems of mankind.

So what do we look for? What will bring true peace and contentment? The answers to the problems of discontent are readily available. Imagine for a moment that you could find a friend with the following characteristics: He is all powerful and eternal. "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, ... which is, and which was, and which is to come the Almighty" (Rev. 1:8); "(He) is faithful..." (I Co. 1:9) "...and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (I Jn. 1:9), "... (He) is love," (I Jn. 4:7). He is good; He gives us His grace; He is holy, merciful, righteous, wise, gentle, forbearing, compassionate, available, jealous for us and a righteous judge; He has no pleasure in the death of

the wicked, is like no other, is majestic, perfect, sovereign and forgiving.

We would also do well to consider the following characteristics and how they impact our lives. First, of course, is that He came and "...shed (His blood) ...for the remission of sins" (Mt. 26:28). There is no greater gift anyone has given to mankind than this. How would we like to know someone who could heal the sick, raise the dead, calm the storms, bring comfort to the distressed, live and teach the message of salvation, teach us how to pray, feed the multitudes, put to silence the critics, teach us about faith, forgive our sins, heal sick minds, and teach us the real meaning of love?

Surely there is neither a list that could be compiled about any human being nor any benefit we could gain from the world that would come close to equaling the blessings we receive by having a friend like the one just described. Although there is no human friend who could do all of the above, there is a friend of human beings who meets, and far exceeds the above criteria. "...We have found the Messiah..." (Jn. 1:41).

The world has long sought for the truth and, for all the searching and research that has been done, they have not found it. They have sought the truth in the things of the world instead of in the Creator. "(They) changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the creator..." (Ro. 1:25). However, the children of God have found the truth "...thy (God's) word is truth..." (.. 17:17). Since we have found the Messiah, why would we seek for another? We have found God, the One who "...so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (Jn. 3:16). "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you" (Jn. 15:13-14). Clearly we will find nothing better than our heavenly Father and His Son Jesus Christ.



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

Preparation for Mission Work

The Scriptures give us guidance in the preparation of our hearts and minds for the communication of the Gospel message. We must build upon the right foundation, the solid rock of Jesus Christ. Following are ten areas to consider when laying this foundation.

1. Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. (Acts 2:38; Luke 24:47)

2. For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God. Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. (Ephesians 2:8; Romans 5:1; Hebrews 11:6)

3. Be holy as God is holy. Being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy. And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. (Romans 6:22; 2 Corinthians 7:1; 1 Peter 1:16; Ephesians 4:24)

4. Seek humility of heart and mind. Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of

you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility. But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering. (1 Peter 5:5; James 4:6; Colossians 3:12)

5. Surrender our heart to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded. Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus. Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ. (James 4:7-8; Philippians 2:5; 2 Cor. 10:5)

6. Pray without ceasing. And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us. Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; and for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel. (1 John 5:14; Philippians 4:6; Ephesians 6:18-19)

7. Abide in Christ. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches. He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. If ye

abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming. (John 15:4, 5, 7, 10; 1 John 2:28)

8. Walk in the Spirit. For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth... and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness. (Romans 8:5,14; Acts 1:8; Acts 4:31,)

9. Commit to read and obey the Word of God. Jesus says, "If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever."

Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. (John 14:15-16; John 17:17)

10. Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. (Mark 16:15; Matt 28:19-20)



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

Eastern Europe

Since establishing the Antioch not for profit corporation in Vladimirescu, Romania, the European Committee finds it necessary to send a delegation there semi annually in order to comply with Romanian law and to coordinate efforts in helping our brethren. Things are not getting better for the average person, and World Relief aid continues to be needed. Therefore a trip was made into Romania May 18-25.

Financing of Antioch

All of the efforts of the Antioch Corporation have been financed by specified donations restricted for that purpose, and not taken from our annual distribution from the World Relief Board. Further information is available upon request, as noted at the end of this article.

Work on the guest house

A team of German brethren accompanied the Americans, and spent most of their time completing details on the guest house on the property. All that remains is a little insulating and installation of furniture. We now have a place that will comfortably sleep twelve persons in three bedrooms, two of which have their own lavatories. There are two full baths with showers, plus a fully equipped kitchen, so visitors can be self-sufficient, which removes a big load on the small number of members in that area that formerly had to entertain all visitors.

The policy is that anyone coming to the compound to pick up clothing from our warehouse there may sleep overnight at no costs, with the same arrangement for work teams.

The house is intended for use by Europeans or foreigners visiting Romania, but a modest voluntary

contribution toward expenses will be asked. House rules will be posted.

Distribution Center

At the time the team was there, the clothing warehouse was totally full, and a container of used clothing had just arrived from Goodfield, IL, and more is coming from Germany.

While we were there, a truck arrived bringing part of the BDC food package shipment, in which were included about 1,200 pairs of new shoes, which are vitally needed by our poor brethren with large families and very small incomes. With what was already there, this makes over 2,000 pairs, which should be a big help.

None of this would have been possible without the financial support of brethren. As with many of our efforts in Eastern Europe, this one seems to be functioning very well. We are paying Bro. Filip Augustinov a very modest wage to manage day-to-day activities.

Picking up the clothing

During the short week we were there, three groups came from Ukraine, where conditions are difficult. Fewer than 15% of families have indoor plumbing, and they have very large families, many with more than 12 children. These clothes are an enormous assistance.

Filip has arranged that when a group comes privately to pick up clothing for themselves, they must pay their own travel costs. However, if they will fill their vehicle with compressed bundles of clothing plus adult Depends which we are shipping in on a regular basis, 25% of their travel costs will be paid by the corporation, because it then benefits the entire congregation.

All brethren throughout Eastern Europe have equal access with the same rules to everything we ship to Antioch. Filip says this is one program that is functioning nearly perfectly! As time goes by, there is great potential for further use, which only God knows. We can only express deep appreciation to the thousands of volunteers who have helped with the aid to Romania through the years.

Meeting with Ukrainians

Elder Vasile Paladean plus three deacons met with the group on Tuesday, May 23, and many things were discussed. There has been a change since the handling of our funds has been transferred to two deacon brothers, who are now held responsible for distributing funds sent into Ukraine. This is going to require some adjustments on everyone's part, and we need to work together on a new system using different brothers. We feel in the long run this will be a positive move.

Mafia presence is very high, and one brother in the meeting testified that a visitor came to his house and said he heard that this brother had received money, demanded to know where it came from, and wanted his share. This is very dangerous, and causes us to be very careful in the way we distribute funds, which is why we recommend only using official channels.

More information

Anyone wishing more information on the Antioch program may contact Bro. Gene Lehman, Secretary of the European Committee for World Relief.

Phone: 219/261-3313

Email: opalehman@midwaynet.net.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

Perhaps you recall the poem below. Its author is unknown. It is indeed a poem of encouragement and we can appreciate how God inspires individuals to pen such verses. We are reminded through this writing how God cares and provides for His Creation.

Surely God uses each one of us to encourage one another, even as did the person who wrote this poem. We can be thankful for the persons God has put into our lives to love us and to encourage us.

God knows all about relationships. He created relationships and He wants a relationship with each one of us through His Precious Son, Jesus. He also wants us to know that He loves us and will care for us, His creation, created to love and to serve Him.

The Robin and the Sparrow

Said the robin to the sparrow,
"I should really like to know,
Why these anxious human beings
Rush about and worry so."

Said the sparrow to the robin,
"Why I think that it must be,
That they have no Heavenly Father,
Such as cares for you and me."

Included in Christ's "Sermon on the Mount" in Matthew 6 are the encouraging verses which state:

...take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on ...

...behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?

...and why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: and yet I say unto you, that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these...

...wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and tomorrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?

...therefore take no thought saying, What shall we eat? Or, What shall we drink? Or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?

...for your Heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things...

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

...take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself...

And in Matthew 10:29, 30, and 31...

...are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father...

...but the very hairs of your head are all numbered...

...fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows...

GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

Margo Waibel

I have a book in my classroom called *Through My Eyes*. It tells the story of Ruby Bridges, a young African American girl who helped integrate New Orleans schools in the 1960's. She was one of the first African Americans to attend a "white" school. She eventually had to be escorted to school by federal marshals,

but the end result was a changed system in New Orleans. The title struck me today because I thought of how life appears through the eyes of a Gateway Woods resident. The kids talk about being "locked up" and how they just want to "get out of here." Yet through my eyes as a staff member, I see Gateway as a great chance to tell the residents about Jesus, teach them skills that they're missing, and model good relationships.

Now how about our lives, from our perspective? We mumble and complain when things don't go right for us even though we've been given the key to life through Jesus. We fret about finances, the weather, and the future. We quickly forget the many promises in His word. What a contrast from "through my eyes" from God's view! The Bible makes it very clear how much God loves us and wants the best for us. Jeremiah 29:11 - 13 says, "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart." What a wonderful Father who cares about us, knows us, and loves us! May we always be encouraged when we think about our lives through the eyes of our Father.

News

Gateway Woods is pleased to announce the engagement of one of its employees. Sis. Jenny Rufener (Leo) was announced to Bro. Zach Bertsch (Bluffton). Sis. Jenny is one of our Adoption Case Managers and she has been employed here since 2003. We are so very thankful that God has led these two individuals together. Please lift them up in prayer as they

begin their walk together.

Gateway Woods currently has a number of job positions waiting to be filled. Please be prayerful that God will provide us with the right individuals for the job. These positions include: two sets of Houseparent couples, English teacher (Sister), and full-time Counselor.

We are so very thankful and encouraged for the Sunday Schools and Vacation Bible School students who have become involved in our Furnish-a-Room Project. This project is designed to provide furnishings for Gateway Woods' fourth group home scheduled to open later this year. Please consider donating or organizing a fund-raiser toward furniture, appliances, and supplies for abused, neglected, and delinquent youth. We are looking to Sunday Schools, Vacation Bible Schools, Young Groups, churches, individuals, and potlucks. There is still a great need to continue to raise the funds needed to complete this project. May God bless you for your willingness to give so others can have what we all take for granted.

Our summer volunteers continue to stay busy with different projects both on and off campus. We have four long-term volunteers and a number of short-term volunteers blessing us this summer. Long-term volunteers include: Bro. Morgan Langhofer (Phoenix), Bro. Ryan Funk (Peoria), Sis. Charla Zollinger (Sardis), and Sis. Marcy Kaiser (Tremont). If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Bro. Eric Huber at 888-443-4283. We are thankful for each Brother and Sister who is willing to sacrifice his or her time and come and volunteer at Gateway. It is a true blessing to be able to labor for our Great God!

On Saturday, June 17, a graduation open house was held at the Gateway Woods School for one of our former residents, D.J. Brooks. We are

thankful that D.J. has worked hard to obtain his G.E.D. We pray that he will always put God first in his life.

Finally, please keep your eyes and ears open for 2006 Auction opportunities. If you have never attended an auction in the past, please consider coming to our 30th Annual Auction on Saturday, August 19. We are trusting in God's provision to meet our needs through His people. May He bless you!

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

“Your world will grow bigger and
you'll stumble and you'll fall.
Your questions won't be simple
like they are when you are
small
You can count on His promise,
when life is in a spin.
God says He'll be near you if you
call on Him.”

Change is sometimes the only constant thing in our lives. The wonderful thing is that God is even more constant than change. His love for us and strength is always there even as people and situations change around us. We have been reminded of that several times over the past couple of weeks here at the preschool as we have had to say some goodbyes and some new hellos.

The teacher of our 3 year old class, Sis. Beth Hill, felt moved by the Lord to move back to her home in Mansfield, Ohio. We will miss her so much but are so thankful too that we had the opportunity to be a part of her life. She did a great job here and touched many lives, big and small. We pray and know that the Lord will bless her for her willing spirit and be with her as she moves on in her life.

We also said goodbye to several of our 5 year olds that will be going to kindergarten in the fall. Some of them have been with us since they were 2 years old. As children usually do, they had attached themselves quite firmly to our hearts. We will miss them but we hope our mission was accomplished and that the truth was planted deep in their hearts.

We ended our school year with our annual graduation program. The children practiced so hard to get their parts just right and their little songs to sound in tune. It was a challenge to get 28 little people under the age of 5 to walk in line, sing, say their parts, not make faces, and keep their hands down all at just the right times. When the big night came, though, they all did the best they could and it really did turn out just right. That night was a great reminder that what we do here every day, when it is fun and when it is not so fun, really is worth it and is making a difference in the lives of these children.

Now our summer has begun! We are excited to have some new faces that have joined our crowd. We have been having a great time learning in the great outdoors, swimming, swinging, picking dandelions, making sand birthday cakes, and getting dirty.

**ALABAMA, ATHENS
Louise Hall**

Our annual Memorial Day singing was held at the Tennessee Fellowship Center this past month. The theme of the weekend was “Footsteps of Jesus”. We want to thank the ministers that spoke, Elder Bro. Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan, Taylor, MO), Bro. Todd Stoller (Sis. Pam, Latty, OH) and Bro. Tom Waldbeser (Sis. Susan, Atlanta, GA). Also with us was our Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Sis. Roberta) and ministers, Bro. Fred Funk (Sis. Diane,

Morton, IL) and Bro. Paul Gasser (Sis. Joyce, Akron, OH). We want to thank each one who traveled the distance to sing and fellowship with us. Also to everyone who helped us out in bringing food and items for the auction. Above all we praise and thank the Lord for His everlasting love and goodness.

Also on Memorial Day weekend, we said goodbye to Sis. Beth Hill from Mansfield OH. She had been teaching here at the preschool and was such a special addition to our congregation. We will miss her and we thank her for following the Lord's calling and touching our hearts as she did. God bless you and be with you, Sis. Beth.

Other ministers that were here with us over the past several weeks were Bro. Nathan Steffen (Sis. Marilyn, Elgin, IL), Bro. Gary Endress (Sis. Evelyn, Bradford, IL), and Bro. Ted Luginbuhl (Sis. Stephanie, Rittman, OH). God bless you for your willingness to do God's work.

Our congregation has elected a new trustee. Bro. Kerwin Edelman will be replacing Bro. J.R. Hall. Our other trustees are Bro. Buddy Lynn and Bro. Tim Hall.

We wish our high school graduates, James and Trey Haggenmaker (grandsons of Bro. Ed Haggenmaker) and Misty Barnes (granddaughter of Ola Mae Barnes), the best as the move forward in their lives.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX **Ron and Ev Hoerr**

"And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ."

II Thess. 3:5

On May 28, Bro. Floyd and Sis. Clara Banwart's family came to

Phoenix to prepare and give a lovely birthday dinner for Sis. Clara's 95th birthday. There were five generations of the Banwart family and church families at the Mountain View Villas activity center. May the Lord continue to bless this dear family.

Bro. Ed Sauder (Sis. Bonnie) came from Roanoke to serve at our Vacation Bible School, what a blessing it was to hear God's Word. Bro. Dan Dubach (Sis. Bethany) from Prescott was also here and shared the Word with us. We were additionally blessed as the students gave a program to bless the Lord in song and verse. Other visiting ministers were Bro. Curt Kaufman (Tucson), Bro. Ken Wuethrich (Indianapolis) and Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein (Francesville). God is so gracious!

On May 29, Ryan James was born to Bro. Jeff and Sis. Candace Klopfenstein. We will miss their dear family as they move to the Peoria, IL, area, where Bro. Jeff will begin his pactice.

Our hospital patients were Sis. Eleanor Hill, and our friend, Bob Rebbec. Bro. Jesse Delph continues to need our prayers as he patiently waits for his Lord to take him home.

May 17th was our annual business meeting and election of those who will be serving this term. Sunday School Assistant Superintendent: Bro. Keith Hinrichsen; Trustee Treasurer: Bro. Bill Woodruff; Trustee Interior Maintenance: Bro. Joe Greenbank; Lunch Fund: Bro. Ellsworth Niemeyer; Song Leaders: Bro. Doug Huette and Bro. Morgan Langhofer; Usher: Bro. Jerry Tooley and Bro. Andy Knochel; Congregational Room Coordinators: Bro. Todd Baum and Bro. Adam Ebert. May God richly bless those who have served in the past term and give strength to those who will serve us in the future.

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT **Jane Hodges**

We welcome into our church family, Lane and Elizabeth Koehl and their three children, Bridget (6 yrs.), Kate (4 yrs.) and Kenton (18 mths.). They have moved here from Morris, MN. We thank the Lord for their safe arrival and pray that He will bless them as they adjust to their new location in Prescott Valley. Lane's parents, Bro. Ken and Sis. Karen Koehl, came with them to help them move into their house, so they also assembled with us to worship for two Sundays before returning home.

A farewell dinner and fellowship singing was held on Saturday, June 10, for Sis. Kara Drayer. She left on June 13 to return to Bluffton to live and marry Bro. Shawn Leman of Bluffton on July 23. We will miss her smiling presence, but wish her the Lord's blessings.

Our visiting ministers this last month included Elder Bro. Peter Petrovic (Sis. Marian, San Diego), Bros. Herb Knochel (Sis. Laurie, Phoenix), and Curt Kaufman (Sis. Caroline, Tucson). May the Lord richly bless them and their families for their labor of love for us.

ARIZONA, TUCSON **Lisa Knapp**

On May 20, we were privileged to hear the testimonies of our friends, Doug and Young Bauer, an evening we were all blessed to be a part of. Then on Sunday, May 21, Doug and Young became our brother and sister in faith following their baptisms. It has been a long time since we had witnessed baptisms here in our little church. We sometimes forget how encouraging and uplifting these kinds of weekends can be to us as Chris-

tians. It was truly good for us to be there. We pray God will bless Bro. Doug and Sis. Young as they begin a wonderful new part of their lives. We wish to thank Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix) and our deacon, Bro. Herb Knochel (Phoenix), and their wives, Sis. Nancy and Sis. Laurie, for spending the weekend with us and making this truly special event possible. Praise God for His continuing goodness.

I neglected to send in a column last month. I don't think there was any news to report so I seemed to have picked a good month to forget!

We hit a high temperature of 107 yesterday so my denial of summer's arrival is officially over! Our mornings and evenings are still fairly cool and pleasant as is usually the case in June.

We would like to welcome Bro. Troy Plattner from Washington who will be spending the summer in Tucson interning at a local law firm. We hope he can appreciate our little church and growing city in spite of the dry heat!

We are enjoying spending time with Bro. Gene and Sis. Marge Fehr who have come back to Arizona from Illinois. We missed them greatly when they moved back to Illinois and we are happy to have them back, for whatever amount of time it may be!

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA **Suzanne Klotzle**

"Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us that we should be called the sons of God..."

I John 1:3

This is an encouraging verse from our six-week Bible Study on 1st John. Bro. Joe has led us in Spirit-filled discussion using John's instruction to

believers! It has greatly benefited those who have participated.

After nine months of being a part of our church family, we bid farewell to our dear Bro. Eric Frantz, as he returns to his home in Remington, IN. He has greatly contributed to our small congregation by teaching Sunday School and assisting our song leaders.

Our Young Group recently enjoyed a short trip to Rockville, CT, over Memorial Day weekend. We greatly appreciate their willingness to host a fellowship weekend, and share in their excellent New England hospitality!

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO **Yasmin Koehl**

As a small church, our congregation feels so blessed with the number of summer visitors we've been receiving. How encouraging and uplifting it is to fellowship with our brethren whom we have met before or meeting for the first time. We particularly have been blessed with many brethren from Hungary. Our hearts are turned heavenward as we gather together from far and near and in one accord, raising our voices in praise unto our Lord and Savior.

Amongst our visitors were ministering Bros. Mike Rieker (Sis. Carol, Peoria, IL) and Joe Klotzle (Sis. Sue, Altadena, CA). We deeply appreciate the love and sincerity these brothers demonstrated as they shared God's Word with us. We were encouraged to answer God's call to turn to Him and to surrender our all in whatsoever Christ asks of us.

Bro. Brent Wagenbach joined a work team in Jamaica. We're thankful for his efforts there and especially to have him safely back with our congregation again.

And so, farewell to you, beloved

brother,
as now we part and say our fond farewell!
Should we again be meeting one another,
then may we find that in you still doth dwell,
the love of Christ, that first and dearest treasure,
that always fills our hearts with grateful pleasure.
Zion's Harp #114

For over a year we have been richly blessed by the presence and support we received from having Bro. Phil Rassi amongst us. His willingness to be of service and His steadfast faithfulness will never be forgotten. Our prayers for God's nearness and continual guidance go with him as he moves back to Kansas City.

KITCHENER, ONTARIO **CANADA**

Johanna Fortenbacher

We were thankful to have with us this month many visiting ministers and extra company, especially on Memorial Day weekend.

The ministering brethren this month were Bro. Mike Baumann (Sis. Lily, Mansfield), Bro. Nandor Weisz (Sis. Jolan, Somogyeggyes, Hungary) Bro. Ted Luginbuhl (Sis. Stephanie, Smithville) and Bro. Warren Schlatter (Sis. Cindy, Junction)

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

Psalms 127:3

Another family is blessed with the safe arrival of a baby boy. Matthew Allan Tomic was born June 14. Thankful parents and siblings are Bro. Tim, Sis. Melanie, Christopher, Brian and Jonathan. Grandparents are Bro. Kurt and Sis. Luanne Kaeb (Alto, MI) and Bro. Costa and Sis.

Erna (Kitchener/Naz).

COLORADO, DENVER
Ann Gonglach

“For the Lord God is a sun and shield: The Lord will give grace and glory: No good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly. O Lord of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in thee.”

Psalm 84:11,12

Bro. Paul Zimmerman (Sis. Loretta, Forrest, IL) was our visiting minister on June 4. We're thankful for many visitors, especially during these summer months, who take time to worship with us.

Sis. Erin Hodel (Roanoke, IL) is engaged to our own Bro. Caleb Leman (lately of Roanoke, IL), son of Elder Bro. Mike and Sis. Deb Leman. They are planning an October wedding. May God bless this young couple as they seek to serve Him together.

Bro. Doug Hohulin has joined our Sunday school staff. We're grateful to those willing to serve the Lord through serving our children.

CONNECTICUT
ROCKVILLE
Laura Virkler
Amber Rocke

No more complaining, no more
grieving,
But grateful praise shall be my lot;
Although chastised, amid oppression,
Thy love and grace forsake me not.
The paths that seem to us the
darkest
Are blessings rich, although dis-
guised;
All things for good shall work to-
gether
To them that love Thee, Jesus

Christ.
Zion's Harp #66

Oft times we must be reminded that we each do have a cross to bear. However, it is such comfort to be assured of God's presence even through the most difficult times of life. May we be thankful for the many blessings that God has given us.

We rejoice with several families as they have been blessed with the birth of another child. Bro. Kevin and Sis. Katie Zahner welcome Darren Paul into their home. His older siblings are Ryan and Brandon. Grandparents are Bro. Curtis and Sis. Sally Zahner and Elder Bro. Kevin and Sis. Cheryl Ryan. Bro. Chad and Sis. Jennifer Virkler rejoice with the birth of Hannah Elisabeth. Her siblings are Abigail, Caleb, Ethan and David. Grandparents are Bro. Terry and Sis. Cindy Virkler and Michael and Debra Hufnagel. Rob and Amy Tarantino gave birth to their first child, Kami Ida. Her grandparents are Richard and Eriko Tanantino, and Bro. Dale and Sis. Harriet Zahner. May the Lord richly provide much grace for each growing family.

“The Lord is good to those whose hope is in Him, to the one that seeks Him.” (Lamentations 3:25) It is certainly our prayer and desire for each family member or friend, who has graduated this month, that each one would strongly consider the will of the Lord as they determine the next chapter in their life. Graduates among us include Jenna Helinski (Fred and Julie), Ben Wagenbach (Bro. Dale and Sis. Mary), Martin Hoffman (Bro. Mike and Luann), Christy Spielman (Sis. Jody), Jessica Luginbuhl (Bro. Mark and Robin), Kaitlyn Winans (Craig and Dawn), Diana Schneider (Robert and Kim), AnnMarie Hoffman (Bro. Steve and Sis. Joan), and Ashlee Hunt (Kenneth and Sis. Karen). We rejoice with each gradu-

ate, and pray for God's blessing upon them.

We are thankful for the handful of visitors that have taken the time to fellowship with us. We appreciated the tremendous love and support from all of the Young Groups that made the special effort to spend time in the Rockville area on Memorial Day weekend. We pray that we will meet again. May the Lord be with you each one through another month.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
WASHINGTON
Henrietta Meyer

Greetings be to you, our brethren
To our sisters in the Lord.
Here from far and near assembled,
Gathered here in one accord.
Welcome, welcome, all ye loved
ones
Greetings in the Savior's name.
Hymns of Zion 7

It is always a blessing to go to church and meet our visitors. Summer is just beginning and we have already had lots of visitors.

Ministering Brothers serving us this month were Bro. Jim Vierling (Sis. Linda, Eureka, IL), Bro. Mark Gerber (Sis. Barb, Bluffton, IN), and Bro. Bro. David Hartter (Sis. Beth, Sabetha, KS). Other visitors this month were from Phoenix, AZ; Morton, Forrest and Washington, IL; Akron, OH; Silverton, OR; Bern, KS and Rockville, CT.

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**

“The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few; pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest.”

Luke 10:2

We were grateful for the labourers that came and shared God's Word with us this past month. Visiting brethren were Bro. Clint Schmidt (Winthrop, MN), Bro. Darren Plattner (Sis. Sue, Champaign, IL) and Bro. Virgil Kaeb (Sis. Suellen, Sarasota, FL).

We gathered once again for our monthly potluck and were blessed to have a few visitors join us. All are always welcome to join in the fellowship and good food.

Father's Day was a good time to remember and be thankful for our heavenly Father as well as our earthly fathers. May all the dads be richly blessed and experience His grace in their lives.

We are rejoicing that our friend, Lisa Tortoriello, has been announced for peace. Lisa lives in the Ft. Lauderdale area and has been worshipping with us for quite some time. Though we are few in number, God is present.

**FLORIDA
NORTH FORT MYERS
Naomi Vogel**

On May 21, our little Ft. Myers church family met at the home of Sis. Carolyn Siegle's daughter and son-in-law's house and boarded their cruise boat, The Cookie Cutter (her daughter's nickname is Cookie), for a very enjoyable boat ride. We stopped at a waterside restaurant for dinner before returning. It was a blessed time of fellowship and observing the beautiful scenery God created for us to enjoy!

I'm sure it is hard for many to fathom, but on June 4, there were actually as many visitors at our church as home folks. In fact, we had three visiting ministers. Bro. Ron Bollier (Indianapolis, IN) ministered to us in the morning and Bro. Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL) had the afternoon service with Bro. Matt Kaufmann, also from Bloomington, offering additional comments. It was such a blessed day and we thank these ministers for serving us abundant spiritual food and their wives for supporting their husbands in the Lord's service!

Note of Thanks:

I have personally experienced the healing power of the Great Physician after surgery for a knee replacement on May 17. My sincere thanks for all the prayers, cards and phone calls during my recovery time. God bless you!

Naomi Vogel

**FLORIDA, SARASOTA
Robin Wiegand**

We were blessed to have ministering Bro. Art Ingold (Rittman, OH) help guide us on our heavenly pathways. We were also blessed to have retired Bro. Glenn Price lend ministering support in the absence of our

active ministers, and we thank him for that.

This is a special month for the Sarasota Church family. On Father's Day there was an engagement announcement. Bro. Matt Koehl, son of Bro. Ron and Sis. Carol Koehl, became engaged to Sis. Emily Endress (Morton, IL), daughter of Sis. Joanni and the late Bro. Fred Endress. They are planning to be married on Sunday, September 17. We are so excited to have Sis. Emily join our Sarasota family, and we welcome her with open heart and arms.

May God continue to bless each and every one of you.

**ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE
Doreen Moser
Sheila McCoy**

“Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Ephesians 5:20

Thanks be to God...

For earthly fathers, that have a heavenly Father and have taught us to follow God as we celebrated Father's Day this month.

Thanks be to God...

For reunions with loved ones here on earth. The Goodfield and Belvidere Sunday School children and parents gathered together this past month to renew friendships from the Mexico mission trip. The fellowship of the saints will be one thing we can take into eternity.

Thanks be to God...

For loving Brothers and Sisters who worked diligently to host Vacation Bible School again this year, and for the children and parents who attended. “You are a special creation of God” was our theme and the Bible verse used was “I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made;

marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well." (Psalm 139:14). Bro. Ted Schock and Bro. Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL) were the speakers for the Bible study class.

Thanks be to God...

For His healing mercies, strength to overcome health obstacles and peace and joy in our daily struggles. Sis. Marlene Mueller was in the hospital this month and will be facing another surgery next month. Please keep her in your prayers.

Thanks be to God...

As we celebrate the freedoms we have in our country in the month of July and continue to pray for loved ones who are in foreign countries fighting for others' freedoms.

Thanks be to God...

For the growing crops, the blooming flowers, the rain that God sends just at the right times, for the peaceful moments watching the stars, sitting by a crackling fire, the smiles and joy of a child. The list could go on and on. What are you most thankful for?

"And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him."

Colossians 3:17

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

The past month has been filled with both intense joy and deep sorrow, a time of beginnings, and a time of farewell to two dear souls. Through it all, we trust in God's great love and plan for our lives.

Our hearts go out to Bro. Marc and Sis. Diann Grim of Leo, IN, and formerly of our congregation, for the loss of their six-month-old son, Marcus Jeremiah, who went home to Jesus on

May 22. We extend our sympathies and continued prayers to Marcus's grandparents, Bro. David and Sis. Wilma Kieser, to his great-grandmother, Sis. Jean Kieser, and to his many aunts, uncles, and cousins who are part of our congregation.

We grieve, too, with Bro. Rich Zimmerman of Roanoke, at the passing of his wife, Sis. Betty Feller-Zimmerman, on June 5, just four short months after their wedding. We lift the Feller and Zimmerman families up in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to surround them in peace and comfort.

Others in our congregation are battling illnesses, and we are in continual prayer for God's healing touch.

We are thankful and praise God for the May 31 arrival of Noah Michael Anliker, the first child of Bro. Michael and Sis. Mindy Anliker. Grandparents are Bro. Wendell and Sis. Karel Anliker of Francesville and Bro. Roland and Sis. Carol Rumbold of Roanoke.

Bro. Jon Knapp (Sis. Andrea) recently graduated from college, as did Whitney Koehl (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Tami), Sis. Amanda Loy (Bro. Matt and Sis. Barb), and Bro. Jim Martin (Sis. Edna, Princeville, and the late Bro. Ray). We also have a number of recent high school graduates to recognize: Nicholas Greico (Dr. Jerry and Sis. Debbie), Levi Heimer (Bro. Curt and Sis. Sue), Bro. Dustin Huber (Bro. Dave and Sis. Debbie), Sam Ifft (Bro. Gary and Sis. Peg), Bro. Clark Kaeb (Bro. Dave and Sis. Brenda), Sis. Rebecca Maurer (Bro. John and Sis. Emily), Sis. Julissa Rabe (Bro. Derek and Sis. Julie), Bonnie Stevig (Bro. Larry and Sis. Barb), and Bro. Alex Zimmerman (Bro. Denny and Sis. Pam). May God direct the paths of these graduates as they begin the next phase of their lives.

Our Bible Class students joined

others from throughout the state at the 40th Annual Apostolic Youth Fellowship on June 4 at Illinois State University. We pray that the lessons from the day will be put to use and that many young hearts were touched.

The theme from this year's Vacation Bible School, June 5-9, was "Wanted: Men after God's Own Heart." Our VBS speakers were Bro. Nate Lehman (Denver, CO), Bro. Steve Baner (Gridley), Bro. Randy Mogler (Washington), Bro. Darren Plattner (Champaign) and Bro. Kevin Knapp. We sincerely thank these ministering brothers for presenting powerful messages throughout the week. We also thank those who provided the blessing of special music: His Own and Living Water, both from Gridley; the Bloomington Men's Octet; and the VBS students.

Bro. Nate Lehman was also a Sunday speaker on June 4, and Bro. Mark Gerber (Bluffton, IN) was welcomed to our pulpit on May 21. We appreciate their service in bringing us the Word.

We rejoice with Bro. Joel Beer and Sis. Patty Triplett, who exchanged wedding vows in Peoria on May 28. The couple's parents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Jan Beer and Bro. Wilbur and Sis. Louise Triplett of Peoria. We wish the newlyweds God's blessings.

June 11 was the wedding day for Sis. Marla Martin and Bro. Rob Leman. Parents of the couple are Gerald "Pooch" and Louise Martin of Princeville and Sis. Helen Leman of Roanoke and the late Bro. Bill Leman. May God richly bless this couple as they begin their lives together. We thank visiting Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke), Bros. Erik Givens and Craig Martin (Princeville) and Bro. Andy Moser (Valparaiso, IN), who shared the pulpit that day.

We extend a warm welcome to the

Bro. Mike and Sis. Marie Stork family, who recently began worshipping with us. Their children are Kyler, Michaela, and Kaden. We also welcome Bro. Roger and Sis. Janet Farney and Nick Osborn to our church family.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD

Steve Endress

We appreciated the labors of Bro. Matt Steffen (Princeville, IL) in the ministry on our behalf.

Bro. Ben and Sis. Katie Endress welcomed their fifth child on May 30. Elijah Kenneth is welcomed home by siblings, Corbin, Marissa, Maria, and Mallory. Grandparents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Becky Endress and Bro. Richard and Sis. Marilyn Slutz.

Bro. Matt and Sis. Tracy Kieser welcomed their sixth child on June 13. Eva Marie is welcomed home by siblings, Erica, Erin, Joel, Emma, and James. Grandparents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Wilma Kieser and Sis. Gloria White (Princeville, IL) and Claude White (Rossville, IN).

Our church selected Sunday school teachers during this past month. Bro. Ralph Joos (Sis. Jenny) and Sis. Ida Kellenberger (Bro. Keith) were chosen to assume this weighty responsibility. We appreciate the efforts of Bro. Bill Endress (Sis. Renee) and Sis. Julie Ringger over the past number of years as they willingly gave of their time and energy to instruct our young people in the way of righteousness.

We bade farewell to Audrey Nogent. She is a French foreign exchange student, living with Bro. John and Sis. Wanda Kinsinger, who assembled with us and brought us much joy. We also bid farewell to Bro. John and Sis. Wanda Kinsinger and family as they move to East Peoria and plan to assemble with the Washington congregation. Sis. Kendra Baer plans

to live with them and we wish her God's nearness and blessing as well.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Verle and Sis. Vonnie Kieser at the passing of their father, Bro. David Kieser, of Princeville, IL. Bro. David had the responsibility of shepherding the Bradford congregation for several years and many of us have pleasant and fond memories of his care for the church.

CHAMPAIGN-URBANA

ILLINOIS

Karla Aberle

June 25 was the wedding day of our Sis. Erin Metzger and Bro. Dustin Funk from Peoria. Sis. Erin is the daughter of Sis. Jeanne Metzger and Bro. Dustin is the son of Elder Bro. Tim and Sis. Debra Funk from Peoria. Visiting ministers on the pulpit that day were Bro. Fred Funk (Morton) and Bros. Mike Rieker and David Obergfel (Peoria). The newlyweds have made Peoria their first home and we wish the Lord's richest blessings as they make this new beginning.

I neglected to include the new college graduates in last month's article. Our new grads from the University of Illinois are Karen Kieser (Bloomington, BS in Molecular and Cellular Biology), Sis. Gretchen Steffen (Cissna Park, BS Nursing), Sis. Heidi Knobloch (Morton, BS Special Education), Bro. Caleb Wyss (Goodfield, BS Civil Engineering), Bro. Brent Young (Fairbury, MS Architecture), Bro. Scott Wettstein (Gridley, BS Engineering), Bro. Jonathon Aupperle (Peoria, BS Agriculture Economics) and one graduate from the local community college, Sis. Jacklyn Kellenberger (Elgin, Veterinary Technology.)

On June 10, Bro. Bob and Sis. Wilma Simpson celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary! They have two

children: John (AnnMarie) and Leigh (Steve Schamp) and 3 grandchildren. They were surprised with a reception to help them celebrate this wonderful milestone.

Vacation Bible School took place the second week of June with the theme "Making Melody in Our Hearts." The kids enjoyed the singing, instruction and the craft projects where they got to construct various melody-making instruments. A special thank you to Sis. Michelle Stoller and Sis. Wendy Waibel for all their work in making this year's VBS a memorable one for the Sunday School kids.

Our Sis. Lorna Clauss experienced the loss of her sister this past month. Sis. Betty (Feller) Zimmerman passed away from a brain tumor. She was the wife of Bro. Richard Zimmerman from Bloomington. Our prayers are with Sis. Lorna and her family.

We would like to thank our visiting ministers from the past month: Bro. Dennis Rassi (Fairbury) and Bro. Marshall Heinold (Ixtlan, Mexico).

Note of Thanks:

"We wish to express our thanks to all who sent messages and to those who attended our surprise reception for our golden wedding anniversary on June 10. This was planned without our knowledge by our son, John, and his wife and by our daughter, Leigh, and her husband. We feel truly blessed!"

Bob and Wilma Simpson

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Rachel Meyer

Greetings from Chicago. Today I was able to turn off the air conditioning and open the windows. Such a beautiful breeze blew through the house; the air smelled fresh and

earthly. Praise God for His creation!

A bundle of joy has arrived in the home of Sis. Katrina and Aridio Cordero. Little Schandy is welcomed by big sister, Yirennny, and brother, Zahony. Of course, I would be remiss if I did not add that Schandy's beaming grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Kathy Schlatter. May God be with this dear family.

It is a pleasure to report that Sis. Michelle Bachtold from Forrest, IL, is now a part of the Chicago congregation. Sis. Michelle is enrolling in a Physician's Assistant program. We welcome her and look forward to fellowshiping with her.

Vacation Bible School Week arrived June 19 through June 23. It is a special joy to see the excitement on the children's faces and to know they are making memories to last a lifetime. Our theme was, "God's Timeline: It's His-Story." Monday evening Bro. Ron Kipfer (Bluffton, IN) spoke about "The Six Days of Creation". Tuesday evening brought Elder Bro. Mark Streitmatter (Bloomington, IL) who spoke about "Corruption: Adam and Eve Sin". Teaching us Wednesday evening was Bro. Frank Sauder (Roanoke, IL) who spoke about "Catastrophe: Noah's Ark". Thursday evening we were joined by Bro. Bob Beebe (South Bend, IN) to hear about "Confusion: One Race and The Tower of Babel". Rounding out the week our Bro. Greg Rassi spoke about "Christ, Cross & Consummation". It was a tremendous blessing to have these brothers share the Word with us. The entire week was very uplifting spiritually for all ages of our congregation.

We would also like to sincerely thank the VBS committee who spent much time organizing and planning for this blessed week. The amount of time and concentration it takes to organize VBS week is immense. May God truly, richly bless you.

My niece, Ashlyn, who is 2 years old, has acquired a fear of storms. As spring has brought some stormy weather, her fears have grown. Her parents have been comforting her, and assuring her that Jesus is in her room with her to protect her and help her not to be scared. Some time has passed, and my sister told me the other day Ashlyn spontaneously said, "Jesus will hold me when there is a storm cloud." The weather was fine that day, but she must have been thinking about Jesus. With her simple faith, this 2-year-old unknowingly comforted me, too.

We all get anxious and scared about various things and may feel alone and overwhelmed. Because we are human, the concerns may cause us to feel that Jesus does not hear our prayers or care. Jesus longs to assure and protect us. Let us allow Him to hold us. We only need a simple faith to recall this tremendous truth. "I will both lay me down in peace and sleep: for thou, Lord, only makest me dwell in safety" (Psalms 4:8).

"...and a little child shall lead them"

Isaiah 11:6

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

Pam Walder

Andrea Walder

Our high school graduates are Ben Kaeb (Bro. Max and Sis. Beth), Justin Steffen (Bro. Rod and Sis. Beth) and Mindy Stock (Elder Bro. Tom and Sis. Karol). We wish them God's guidance and nearness.

We were thankful to have ministering Bro. Dan Moser (Elgin, IL) with us this past month and pray that God might bless him and his family for his willingness to be used in the Lord's service.

Our Vacation Bible School was held on June 5-16 this year. May the

seeds that have been planted in the students' hearts during these two weeks bring forth fruit in their lives. We appreciate the labors of the following ministering brothers during the evening Bible Class sessions: Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL), Bro. Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL), Bro. Ed Fritz (Washington, IL) and Bro. John Hartman (Fairbury, IL).

We rejoice with Bro. Arlyn and Sis. LaNae Rudin in the birth of their grandson, Blake Timothy Leman. His parents are Bro. Tim and Sis. Traci Leman (Eureka, IL). Bro. Fred and Sis. Joan Waldbeser are also thankful to welcome a new grandson, Isaac Philip Waldbeser. Isaac is the son of Bro. Phil and Sis. Charlotte Waldbeser (Elgin, IA).

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Vernon (Joanne) Clauss with the death of his sister, Sis. Betty Feller-Zimmerman (Bloomington, IL). Our prayers are also with Bro. Ben Rudin and Bro. Alvin Rudin (Sis. Dorothy) with the passing of their brother, Lester Rudin. May our Comforter be with each of these families that is grieving the loss of a loved one.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

Rachel Schrock

As we pull the weeds in our earthly gardens, we must make sure that we get them by their roots or they will come right back. We were reminded recently that it is the same way in our spiritual lives – if we do not weed out the roots of bitterness, anger, strife and other sinful thoughts, these feelings will keep coming back. Also, when we are weeding we must use care not to hurt the good plants as it seems they are harder to grow and easier to harm. This is so much like the good fruit of the Spirit in our lives – these characteristics are sometimes hard to put forth and are easily

bruised. It takes diligent nurturing and time on our knees and in the Word to assure that our spiritual fruit continues to thrive.

We are thankful for those who minister to us each Sunday and Wednesday night, helping us to weed and prune our spiritual lives. This past month Bro. Bill Dotterer (Sis. Sharon, Lamar, MO) visited our congregation. May he and all the ministering brethren feel our love and prayers as they labor for the Lord.

Our love and prayers are also extended to those from our congregation who have recently relocated to other areas of the country. Bro. Doug and Sis. Jan Young and their family now reside in Rockville, CT; Bro. Rudy and Sis. Katie Wiegand and their family have moved to Wisconsin; and Bro. Matthew Zimmerman (Bro. Fred and Sis. MaryEllen) has accepted a job in the Elgin, IA, area. We miss them all very much but trust them into God's continued care.

We pray for God's guidance to also be with our graduates as their lives undergo change as well. Graduating from high school this year are Sis. Whitney Anderson (Bro. Jon and Sis. Cyndee), Jacob Hartman (Bro. Bob and Sis. Lisa), Kary Leman (Bro. Ed and Sis. Gail), Sis. Miranda Luthi (Bro. Troy and Sis. Vanessa), Derek Payne (Hal and Rhonda), Sis. Allison Rapp (Sis. Sara and the late Bro. Philip), Lisa Roth (Bro. Alan and Sis. Joanne), Janel Wettstein (Bro. Larry and Sis. Marilyn), Reuben Wettstein (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Emily), and Caleb Zobrist (Bro. Mike and Sis. Susie). Sis. Rachel Knapp (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gay) graduated from Illinois State University with a bachelor's degree in education. Rebekah Hoerr (Bro. Max and Sis. Suzanne) has received her bachelor's degree from Wesleyan University in nursing.

Our prayers are also with Molly Hartman (Bro. Bob and Sis. Lisa) as

she recovers from foot surgery. Thankful that she is doing well on the road to recovery.

We rejoice with Bro. Brad and Sis. Deanna Wiegand as they welcomed little Kayleigh Sue into their home on June 14. May they feel God's guidance as they began raising their family to honor and serve Him.

Note of Thanks:

I would like to thank our congregation and all who have shown me such love and support through these past months. Your support through words and deeds of kindness have been greatly appreciated, and I want to thank you for them. Please continue to pray for me for "I need the prayers of those I love."

In Christ's name,

Sis. Lori Knapp

ILLINOIS, ELGIN

**Amy Gasser
Miriam Gasser**

"Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price."

Isaiah 55:1

It is encouraging that Julie Herold, who has been seeking the Lord, has recently begun her repentance. Our prayer is that she will grow in grace and understanding, experience God's overcoming power, and eventually feel His wonderful peace.

During the month, we appreciated the services of three visiting brothers who assisted our local ministers in bringing forth the Word of Life. They were Bros. Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN), John Rowell (Burlington, IA), and Alan Schambach (Remington, IN).

Sis. Kay Kellenberger (Bro. Keith and Sis. Ida of Bradford, IL) has returned home, after teaching for two years in Japan. Though she will be missed there, we wholeheartedly welcome her back into our midst!

Those requiring medical treatment were Bro. John Schrenk (Sis. Pauline), Sis. Marge Wewetzer (Bro. Bill), Sis. Joyce Schifferer, and Quinn Schieler (Bro. Eric and Sis. Nancy). Where prayers have been answered, we are thankful. May strength and healing be granted to those who are still in need, according to God's will.

Our sympathy goes to Bro. Ken Lindoerfer (Mary) in the June 8th passing of his brother, Carl, of Huntley, IL. Carl was preceded in death by his parents, two sisters, and five brothers. Carl is also survived by his wife, Lois, his sister, Lucille Skeels of Elgin, his two sons, grandchildren, and a great-grandson.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

**Cindy Stoller
Lisa Metzger**

We are thankful to welcome three souls into the Body of Christ. Bro. Gabe Knapp (Bro. Steve and Sis. Lori), Sis. Kristin Stoller (Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Sherry) and Sis. Jodi Wuethrich (Bro. Rick and Sis. Brenda) were baptized on June 11. May God's grace ever be with them as they travel on through life.

The following visiting ministering brothers assembled with us recently: Elder Bro. Rick Plattner (Fairbury, IL), and Bros. Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA), Don Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN), Nate Wieland (Goodfield, IL), Byron Stoller (Gridley, IL) and Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL). We appreciate their labors on our behalf and pray the Lord will richly bless them and their families.

"Lo, children are an heritage of

the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward.”

Psalm 127:3

Bro. Matthew and Sis. Lisa Schmidgall are thankful for the safe arrival of their firstborn, Trenton Matthew. Happy grandparents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Kary Schmidgall and Bro. Richard and Sis. Maribeth, all of Eureka.

Our hospital patients this month include Bro. Lester Martin and Bro. Brian Cottrell. Surely there are many more with special needs of which we are unaware. Let us remember to continually lift up our brethren and friends to the Lord in prayer; for we know that “the effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

Lila Fehr

Anna Schmidgall

Our high school graduates this year are Sis. Tiffany Edelman, Sis. Natasha Knapp, Sis. Rachael Steidinger, Ryan Fehr, Brad Kafer, Blake Nestor, Kalin Stoller, and Reid Zehr. May God guide them in their lives and richly bless them.

We enjoyed a week of Vacation Bible School in June. The enthusiasm of the students is encouraging and our prayer is that God’s Word and His wonderful Plan of Redemption is taught. Ministers who came and spoke to the Bible Class were Bros. Mark Zimmerman (Eureka, IL), Joe Dotterer (Bloomfield, IA), and Ken Eisenmann (Cissna Park, IL).

Other visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL) and Bro. Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL). We are thankful for their willing service in preaching God’s Holy Word to us.

ILLINOIS, FORREST

Jill Wenger

Lori Leman

“Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love...” We feel some empty spots in our congregation as we have three families who have recently begun assembling elsewhere. Bro. Todd and Sis. Betsy Zimmerman are worshipping with the Blooming- ton, IL, congregation. Bro. Roger and Sis. Janet Farney have also moved to Bloomington and are assembling there. Bro. Adrian and Sis. Shawna Bachman have moved to Nashville, TN, and are supporting the small church there. We pray that God will continue to bless and guide these couples and we hope that they all come “home” often to visit.

We want to thank our Sis. Shirley Ifft (Bro. Larry) for her years spent in Sunday School teaching our children. We give our prayers and support to Sis. Carol Leman (Bro. Ernie) who will replace her and to all of our Sunday School teachers who have the responsibility of sowing the seed in those young hearts.

Our prayers are with our Sis. Donna Bachman (Bro. Larry) as she spent time in the hospital and with Blake Hall (Bro. Don and Barb) as he continues to undergo treatments for his cancer. May God be with these families and strengthen them for whatever lies ahead.

We are thankful for visiting ministers that have taken time to speak to our Bible Class during Vacation Bible School. This year the ministers were Bro. Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL), Bro. Matthew Rassi (Chicago, IL), Bro. Nate Wieland (Goodfield, IL), Bro. Matt Steffen (Princeville, IL) and Bro. Frank Sauder (Roanoke, IL). We pray that the words that they spoke will fall on listening ears and that it will bring forth fruit. Other visiting ministers this month were Bro. Jerry

Bauman (Rittman, OH), Bro. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH) and Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN). May God bless these brothers for being willing to be used in His service.

Note of Thanks:

We gratefully thank you for the prayers, love, kindness and very many other things you graced us with when Sis. Virginia was in the hospital and since returning home. We felt your prayers for us as they gave us comfort, strength and healing. We greatly appreciated your love and thoughtfulness. May God’s joy and peace be yours in full abundance.

Bro. Homer and Sis. Virginia Blunier

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

Amber Grimm

Rita Bauman

“And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.”

Genesis 2:18

Our congratulations to Melody Kieser and Joe Cramer who were married on April 15. Their parents are Bro. Alfred and Sis. Marie Kieser and Dave and Diane Cramer (Metamora).

Mindy Wyss and David Stalter chose June 17 for their special day. Parents of the couple are Bro. Dale and Sis. Susie Wyss and Lon and Debbie Stalter (Morton). We wish these couples God’s blessings for a long and happy life together.

We are thankful for our visiting ministers this past month. They were Bros. Justin Koch (Sis. Marsha, Washington, IL), Brad Eisenmann (Sis. Cindy, Chicago, IL), Doyle Frauhiger (Sis. Jane, Bluffton, IN), Tom Leman (Sis. Marlene, Denver, CO), and Dennis Kaufmann (Sis.

Bonnie, Bloomington, IL). We trust God will be their Rewarder.

Sunday, June 25, was our annual Sunday School Picnic. We want to thank our outgoing teachers, Sis. Joyce Kloter, Sis. Beth Wiegand and Bros. Nate Sauder, Rick Bauman, Joe Wiegand, Larry Wiegand and Mike Wiegand for their years of service in teaching our young people the Word.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY Perry A. Klopfenstein

"In the end, we will conserve only what we love. We will love only what we understand. We will understand only what we are taught."

—*Baba Dioum*

During the weekend of June 24, our community celebrated its Sesquicentennial, its 150th year of existence. Gridley, Illinois, was founded 14 years prior to our Apostolic Christian Church which was established here in 1870. Heritage and legacy are important aspects of society, both in a secular and spiritual way. It has been said the further back we look the further ahead we can see. Also, those who fail to remember history are doomed to repeat it. We learn from the past; and especially from our spiritual past in which we have a wonderful heritage to uphold. Practice and preservation go hand in hand; that is, if we practice the Biblical applications (from the Bible), it will enhance the preservation of our faith. May we all have the grace to do so because we are charged, in this generation, to leave a worthy legacy to those who follow, if the Lord tarries.

We appreciated the preaching efforts of Bros. Brace Wieland (Leo, IN) and Ron Bollier (Indianapolis, IN).

Sis. Ruth Rinkenberger had surgery and is recovering nicely.

Bro. Chad and Sis. Janice

Wettstein and children are moving to Beloit, Wisconsin, and will attend the Belvidere, Illinois, congregation. He has taken a job as manager of a hog operation. We wish them well.

At our annual business meeting in June, several were chosen for duties in our church as follows. Song leaders: Bros. Tim Kaupp and Roger Wiegand. Trustee: Bro. Keith Zimmerman. Usher: Bro. Jaron Schlipf. Sunday school teachers: Sisters Rita Metz and Jeanette Feucht, and Bros. David Ringger, Doug Hodel, Matt Feucht and Brian Steffen. Fellowship Hall Board: Bro. Casey and Sis. Jamie Knobloch. Sunrise Manor Board: Bro. Lyle Wettstein.

A son, Roman James, was born to Bro. Andy and Sis. Amber Zimmerman. He is their firstborn child. This occurred on June 17. Grandparents are Bro. Keith and Sis. Linda Zimmerman, Gridley, and Bill and Linda Hoerr, Peoria. Great-grandparents are Sis. Marge Meiss, Gridley, John and Lois Zimmerman, Fairbury, and Bro. Bob and Sis. Ilene Haefli, Peoria. We extend our sincere best wishes to these new parents as they train up their son.

We are in sympathy with Jim and Traci Brown over the loss of Traci's stepmother.

Vacation Bible School was held on June 5-9 under the theme "Fret Not...the Lord has Promised a Blessing" (Psalm 37). Speakers were Bro. Kevin Knapp (Bloomington, IL), Elder Bro. Ted Witzig, Sr. (Morton, IL), Bro. Al Schambach (Remington, IN), Elder Bro. John Laukhuf (Latty, OH), and Bro. Bob Beebe (South Bend, IN). We were thankful for these inspiring presentations.

A wise teaching for all of us in these times is found in II Timothy 2:2, "Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ." Ours

is a high calling, and we must "soldier on" each day.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

Visiting ministers are welcomed and appreciated here in Morton as our ministers have many responsibilities to other occasions and other congregations, in addition to their own Morton congregation. So those who graciously share of their time, we extend thankful hearts. Ministering brothers who visited us: Bro. Scott Schaffer (Sis. Gigi, South Bend, IN), Bro. Richard Gramm (Sis. Samantha, South Bend, IN), Bro. Glenn Dill (Sis. Marilyn, Tremont, IL) for our Family Worship topic "What Can I Do?". Bro. Tim Hohulin (Roanoke, IL), Bro. Trent Meiss (Eureka, IL), Bro. Steve Baner (Gridley, IL), Bro. Scott Wegman (Taylor, MO) and Bro. Trent Schrock (Leo, IN) all gave of themselves for our Adult Bible School. The topic being Hebrews 13:8 "Jesus Christ, the Same Yesterday, Today and Forever". What blessedness each evening as we pondered over scriptures with our speaker on JESUS - The Prophesied, The Preacher, The Resurrected Savior, The Righteous Judge, and The Only Begotten. We can only graciously say "Thank You" and God's blessings be upon you each one. Included in our thanks, we want to remember our visiting singing groups from Roanoke, Bloomington, and Gridley, IL.

God saw fit for the long term care facility, Apostolic Christian Restmor, to break ground and begin their building project. Many years have been invested in seeing this project finally come to this point. The Morton Fellowship Hall is also seeing a renovation at this same time. We ask our Silver Lining believing family to please commit these two projects to prayer.

God has guided the betrothal of

Sis. Emily Endress to Bro. Matt Koehl (Sarasota, FL). Sis. Emily is the daughter of Sis. Joanni and the late Bro. Fred Endress. Bro. Matt is the son of ministering Bro. Ron and Sis. Carol Koehl. A wedding date of September 17 has been chosen.

New little lives have arrived to bless our congregation. On May 17, baby boy Henry Samuel blessed first-time grandparents, Bro. Doug and Sis. Carol Getz. Parents are Casey and Katie Getz. On May 18, baby girl Keely Zan also blessed first-time grandparents, Bro. Jon and Sis. Christie Zeller. Her parents are Jesse and Suzanne Zeller. Then on May 23, baby boy Jacob Kristopher was born to Steven and Ammie Porter. Little Jacob has a big sister, Lauren. We are thankful to report one more first-time grandparents, Bro. Roger and Sis. Marjorie Ackerman are excited for baby girl, Emma Ann, born to Andy and Sara Vlietsra, Ft. Collins, CO. Congratulations with God's blessings to each family.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA
Carissa Klopfenstein
Kristin Menold

We are happy to announce the birth of Ava Grace who was born on May 29. Her parents are Bro. Rodney and Sis. Kristin Menold, her grandparents are Bro. Timothy and Sis. Joan Reinhard of Peoria, and Bro. James and Sis. Louise Menold of Bern, KS. Congratulations and may God bless you as you enter this new phase of life as parents for the first time.

Bro. Ted Hirstein (Morton, IL) visited our congregation on June 14 for Family Night. His topic was "Actions of a Godly Servant". We thank him for making the effort to come and give us this message.

Vacation Bible School was June 12-16. The theme for the adult Bible

Class, comprised of graduating 8th graders through the young group, was "Improving Your Serve". We were privileged to have Bro. Jedd Rocke (Goodfield), Bro. Erik Givens (Princeville), Bro. Ted Hirstein (Morton), Bro. Jeff Thames (Washington), and Bro. Matt Kauffmann (Bloomington) as speakers. Thank you, Brothers, for your presentation and for being a part of this event.

The theme for our Kindergarten-7th grade was "Exploring the Ten Commandments". The group of youngsters sang a few of the songs they learned for the congregation the following Sunday. It was quite impressive to hear their songs, one of which included the Ten Commandments in order. It was apparent by their confidence and enthusiasm that they enjoyed their week and learned a lot. Thanks to all the teachers who worked so hard to put this together.

Bro. Dale Hunziker is in our prayers as he deals with the effects of cancer. Also, Sis. Chris Erkert, Sis. Katy Hoerr, and Jerry Hoerr as they deal with health issues.

Attention single working people. Mark your calendars for the Single Focus Weekend which is scheduled to take place on July 15-16 at the Peoria church. If you have not received information about this, talk with your Young Group president or contact Sis. Crystal Klopfenstein. We would love to have you come and be a part of this uplifting weekend.

We pray this summer will be a time for making many memorable moments with your friends and family. What a joy it is to serve such a wonderful God who has created so much beauty and life. All creation sings of his greatness. How precious to be able lift our voice and join in the cacophony of praise to our mighty Savior, worthy is His name.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE
Connie Christ
Vera Baer

"Charity never faileth." I Corinthians 13:8 was read June 16 at retired Elder Bro. Dave Kieser's funeral. After suffering a heart attack, he'd asked that all pray he could go to his heavenly home. We are thankful his wish was granted but extend our sympathy to his loved ones who feel a void in their heart. Among those missing him are his children: Bro. Verle (Sis. Lavonne) from Bradford, IL, Sis. Karen (Bro. Harold) Steiner, from our congregation, and Sis. Patricia (Bro. David) Meister from Peoria, IL; many grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Sis. Lisa (Bro. Keith) Knobloch also is missing her father, Bro. Bob Pfledderer (Francesville, IN), who was also relieved from his earthly cares and concerns.

Along with the thought of the love chapter, Marsha Knobloch and Alan Koehler were united in marriage June 17. Her parents are Bro. "Nick" and Sis. Gladys Knobloch. We wish them happiness in their union.

Bro. Jim and Sis. Helen Knobloch have shown an example of love, being married 50 years. May God grant them many blessings.

Bro. Curt Kaufman. (Tucson, AZ) gave us the message from God's Word, Wednesday evening, May 31. Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL) directed out thoughts on Father's Day to a thankful mind for our Heavenly Father. We appreciate both of these Brothers' willingness to come and share His Word.

Quinn Steffen (Bro. Matt and Sis. Deanna) has answered the Lord's loving call for him to live for the Lord. May the Lord grant him grace to overcome the world.

"And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest

on these is charity.”

I Corinthians 13:13

Bro. Doug Stoller (Bro. Gale and Sis. Sonia) was announced to Sis. Krista Banwart (Elder Bro. Wayne and Sis. Charlen, Champaign, IL). Bro. Doug has been living in the Chicago area. Sis. Krista has made St. Louis her home church. It is wonderful the way God works and provides for His children!

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Doris Fischer

Dee Fehr

Vacation Bible School was held the week of June 12-16, the theme being, “The Way, the Truth, and the Life”. First, we must ask God to prepare our hearts, then count the cost, followed by choosing the right path and preparing for battle. These steps will then lead us to the new testament (covenant) in Christ’s blood. We appreciate the ministering brothers who were willing to take time out of their busy schedules so that this year’s Bible School could be a blessing to all who attended. They included Bros. Wayne Wiegand (Goodfield), Paul Zimmerman (Forrest), Curt Rassi (Tremont), Mark Schmidgall (Eureka), and Chuck Kellenberger (Elgin).

We offer our congratulations and best wishes to the high school graduating class of 2006: Matt Bates (Bro. Steve and Sis. Diane), Sis. Leah Bertschi (Bro. Rich and Sis. Bev), Rachel Fischer (Bro. Keith and Sis. Dori), Bro. Travis Leman (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Julie), Bro. Zach Mayer (Bro. Dan and Sis. Kim), Sis. Heather Rocke (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Eva), Bro. Jonathan Sauder (Bro. Frank and Sis. Kathy), Bro. Jared Stoller (Bro. Ed and Sis. Boni), and Sis. Olivia Wuthrich (Sis. Val Wuthrich and Bill Wuthrich). As you

move on to schools of higher learning or enter the workplace, may you always look to the Lord for guidance and wisdom.

Bro. Kevin Knapp (Bloomington) spoke on Philippians Chapter 4 at our May Family Worship. We were reminded that worship and worry are mutually exclusive – they cannot exist in the same heart. “Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.” Phil 4:6.

The engagement of Bro. Caleb Leman and Sis. Erin Hodel was made known. Their parents are Elder Bro. Mike and Sis. Deb Leman (Denver), and Bro. Brad and Sis. Patti Hodel. On June 11, the wedding of Bro. Rob Leman and Sis. Marla Martin took place in Bloomington. Bro. Rob is the son of our Sis. Helen (and the late Bro. Bill) Leman. On June 18, Bro. Jordan Schroeder and Sis. Katelyn Thames were married in Washington. Their parents are Bro. Duane and Sis. Rachel Schroeder, and Bro. Jeff and Sis. Brenda Thames.

Bro. Tim and Sis. Cathy Hohulin eagerly welcome another granddaughter to their family, as Reagan Nicole was born to daughter and son-in-law, Staci and Jerime Barrett, on May 20.

Precious memories, unseen angels,
Sent from somewhere to my soul;
How they linger, ever near me,
And the sacred past unfold.

Bro. Rich Zimmerman was only given four months of memories with his dear wife, Sis. Betty, but they are precious ones indeed. As we rejoiced with them at their marriage in February, so we sorrow with Bro. Rich at Sis. Betty’s passing on June 5.

Others have precious memories of parents who have recently departed from this life. Bro. Bob (Sis. Marilyn)

Ott lost his father, Bill Ott, on June 3. Sis. Connie (Bro. Jim) Hodel’s father, Marvin Lascelles, passed away on June 2.

Note of Thanks:

Thank you so much to you all for your prayers, cards and gifts sent following my surgery and during my six weeks of therapy at the Home. All was very much appreciated. May God richly bless you one and all.

Sis. Malinda Gerber

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Teresa Rowell

Sheri Allen

We were thankful for the opportunity to have two visiting ministers this past month. They are Bro. Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL) and Bro. Darren Fehr (West Bend, IA).

On June 16, Jillyn Miller was joined in marriage to Kenny Lee. Jillyn’s parents are Bro. Dick and Cindy Miller. Also preparing for marriage are Joel Koch and Natasha Wiegand. Joel’s parents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Amy Koch. Our prayers are with each of these couples.

We rejoice with Bro. Galen and Sis. Betty Rocke as they welcomed their new daughter, Megan Renee, into this world on June 14. Emily is now a big sister. Thankful grandparents are Sis. Kathy Rocke and Bro. Art and Sis. Eula Mogler (West Bend, IA).

We continue to keep Bro. Bob Wagenbach in our prayers as he has been spending time in the hospital. We pray he can experience comfort and healing during this time.

We wish Sis. Michelle Bachtold farewell. She has been worshipping with us for a few years and is now moving to Chicago. Our love and prayers go with her.

This past week has been Vacation Bible School. It is so sweet to watch

the children go home each night excited about what they have learned. There are many seeds being planted in each of these little hearts. We are so thankful for each of the teachers and others that make this week such a special time for the children.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

Barb Banwart

Nancy Knepp

A sister taught two ten-year-old neighbor girls how to make strawberry jam. A young brother mulched flower beds for an older sister who needed help. "And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." (Matt. 25:40)

In the past month, we have seen many examples of serving Christ. We are thankful Elder Bro. Ron Messner returned home safely from his trip to Haiti. Many willing servants assisted with the annual Bible Class Breakfast, Vacation Bible School, and ACYF day. On Memorial Day we remembered those who died in serving our Lord and country.

Praying our high school graduates, Sis. Amy Folkerts (Bro. Gary and Sis. Linda), Erin Rocke (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Janine), Clint Prather (Bro. Bob and Sis. Marlene), Jason Slagel (Bro. Tim and Sis. Barb), and convert Layne Steffen (Bro. Scott and Sis. Marvella), will serve and continue to serve the Lord as they have been taught.

Thanks to Bro. Lenny Meyer (Sis. Charlotte, Chicago, IL) who served us so faithfully on a Wednesday evening. Bro. Matt Gerber (Bro. Neil and Sis. Leesa) is serving in Ixtlan, Mexico, assisting with the work there. Sis. Rebecca Laubscher (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Gloria, Cissna Park, IL) is serving in Morelia, Mexico, for the sum-

mer.

On Father's Day, we witnessed the wedding vows of Sis. Katelyn Thames (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Brenda) and Bro. Jordan Schroeder (Bro. Duane and Sis. Rachel, Roanoke). As they vowed to serve each other until death, they were reminded to always keep "serving" God first. Bro. John Bradle (Sis. Jill, Roanoke, IL) had the morning service on Abraham, the Father of Faith.

Bro. Bill and Sis. Joan Schick shared a moving presentation of their service to the orphans of Magdalena, Mexico. We were reminded that God loves and values the lives of each of these children as much as we love and value our own children and grandchildren. Surely, every day, they are serving "the least of these".

As the church faithfully serves in prayer, we remember Sis. Lorene Wiegand and Sis. Pearline Streitmatter, who were hospitalized, and the many relatives of Dean Banwart (Irene, West Bend, IA), who grieve his untimely death. We also sympathize with Sis. Edna Simon whose brother, Henry Lauffenberger, passed away.

"What a day that will be" when we gather around the throne and serve Him directly. "And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him." (Rev. 22:3).

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

Amber Steffen

Amy Gerber

"But he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord."

II Cor. 10:17

The Lord has certainly been working mightily in the Bluffton congregation within the last month! Our God is a powerful God, and an all-con-

suming fire, and we praise Him as we announce eight new converts. Jerod Kieser (Bro. Dan and Sis. Lora), Bart Frauhiger (Bro. Kris and Sis. Ann), Krista Fiechter (Bro. Don and Sis. Suzie), Rachele Grube (Bro. Jay and Sis. Ronda), Audrey Reinhard (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Jodi), Ashley Fiechter (Bro. Brian and Sis. Deb), and Kaitlyn Brooks (daughter of convert Matthew Brooks) have all recently made a beginning. Our sincerest prayers go with these new converts as they seek a deep and personal relationship with the Master.

As we have welcomed these converts into the fold, we also rejoice with four couples as they bring a new addition into their families. On May 27, Jerome and April Isch gave birth to little Aidan Jerome. Following Aidan on May 20 was Ephraim, who was born to converts Kenny and Lynnette Frauhiger. Ephraim is also welcomed by his big brother, Aden. Lydia Marguerite was born to Bro. Nick and Sis. Leah Baumgartner on June 8, and is welcomed by her loving sister, Rachel. Finally, Bro. Chip and Sis. Angie Topp have finally welcomed Gavin Christian home after traveling to China to adopt him. Gavin was born on July 5, 2004, and is now getting to know his two older sisters, Alivia and Marianna. We ask God's blessings on these families, as many changes and blessings are sure to come in the years ahead.

As changes come in all our lives, there are two couples who have started a new chapter in theirs. We rejoice as we see how God's hand has touched the lives of Sis. Tanya Frauhiger (Bro. Kris and Sis. Ann) who has felt the Spirit leading her to marry Bro. Ben Girod (Sis. Carla). Celebrations are also being felt in the Bertsch household as Bro. Zack Bertsch (Bro. Mike and Sis. Carmon) has announced his engagement to Sis. Jenny Rufener (Leo, IN). Her

parents are Bro. John and Sis. Janice Rufener (Smithville, OH). Our prayers and love reaches to these two couples as they look forward to God working mightily in them together.

In these joyous times, it's often easy to overlook those in each congregation that are hurting and in need of our prayers. However, the faith and prayers of so many believers is always needed, and strengthening. Our Sis. Amy Fiechter has moved to Magdalena, Mexico, recently, and we lift her up in prayer, knowing that she is following a sincere calling from God in this mission! Sis. Leota Reinhard (Bro. Glen) underwent heart bypass surgery and asked for the prayers of the congregation. All went well, and after four bypasses, she is recovering well. Bro. Rick Stucky (Sis. Cathy), as many know, has been suffering for a while with leukemia. He has had a tough road, and is currently doing better; however, prayers are still crucial. Jimmy VandenTop is currently undergoing another round of chemo treatments and is definitely in need of constant prayers for him and his family. So many times we underestimate the power of prayer, yet each case here is evidence that God works through these times, whether in strengthening us, or in the healing of others.

Our Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz has been in Haiti for a while this month. During this time, he experienced many blessings and heartache as he witnessed the situations surrounding dear ones there. The congregation's prayers certainly have gone with him during this time, and we continue to lift up the brethren in Haiti's various regions.

Finally, the first two weeks in June have been exciting ones here in Bluffton, as we had our annual Bible school. The theme this year has been "His Name is Jesus", and has been an immense blessing to all involved. We

pray that God would bless this time and that the seeds that have been planted there would grow into much more.

**INDIANA
BLUFFTON NORTH
Tiffani Schladenhauffen
Darren Drayer**

There is joy in the camp, for a sinner has come home. Jerod Kieser, the son of Bro. Dan and Sis. Lora, has been born again. We rejoice with him and his family.

Bro. Dale and Sis. Carol Gerber are the grandparents of Mackenzie Alexis, the daughter of Adam and Lisa Hohulin. Mackenzie, who joins a brother, Christian Thomas, was born on May 11.

Hayden Jolloff, the young son of Bro. Rob and Sis. Kristina, spent time in the hospital this month. Let's be prayerful for them.

We are also prayerful for Bro. Tim Jolloff (Sis. Robin), Bro. Vernon Gerber and Sis. Aldulla Pulver as they have spent some time in the hospital this month.

On May 21, we wished our high school graduates well at our annual graduation breakfast. Our graduates are Bro. Logan Aschliman, Chase Baumgartner, Jesse Blair, Eric Bucher, Lucas Gerber, Taye Gerber, Sis. Beth Harris, Bro. Jerod Kieser, Bro. Kyle Mueller, Sis. Hannah Rauch, Sis. Javon Steffen, and Sis. Jenna Steffen. We also want to thank their teachers, Bro. Todd Gerber, Bro. Jeff Yergler, and Bro. Dave Brinneman, for their work in the Sunday School.

On May 21 our congregation joined with the Bluffton brethren to dedicate our new Fellowship Hall. It was a delightful evening of sharing and singing. We look forward to many years of joy in our new Hall.

June 11 saw the first wedding re-

ception in the new Fellowship Hall: I was joined in marriage to Sis. Amanda Brudi. Her parents are Jim and Karen Brudi. My parents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Lois Drayer. Praise the Lord for His guidance in our lives.

"Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."

Matthew 9:16

**INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE
Barb Huber
Jessica Murray**

Greetings loved ones. I want to start by sharing what I received out of one of the services this month that really made a difference in my daily walk. Are you fully dressed today? When we look in the mirror, this should be our checklist:

Loins: girt about with TRUTH

Torso: breastplate of RIGHTEOUSNESS

Feet: shod with the preparation of the gospel of PEACE

Head: helmet of SALVATION

Hands: sword of the SPIRIT

Whole body: shield of FAITH

Backpack, handbag, or briefcase:

WORD OF GOD

If you have all these items, now you may go about your day with the best looking outfit in the world.

Bro. Bob and Sis. Joy Huber and their children were recently home for a visit. How great it is to visit with them and learn about the changes God is making in many lives through Jesus Christ. Bro. Jan and Sis. Val Gutwein and their family returned from a month of classes and training for the work they do in Haiti. God bless your many loving efforts and guide you through your daily walk.

We want to thank our ministering brothers who visited us this past month. Bro. Steve Ringger (Sis.

Myra, Bluffton North, IN) had a wonderful topical Bible study on Finances: A Measure of our Treasure. Thank you, Bro. Steve, for your time and love that went into the study along with the outline that we can reference often. Bro. Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi, Alto, MI) shared the service Sunday morning while our hearts were once again opened up to God's teachings. Thank you, Bro. Ned, and please take our love to your home church.

Many were left grieving and rejoicing this past month as our Heavenly Father took home three to be with him. Our prayers and love are with Sis. Norma Pfladderer and family as they laid to rest Bro. Bob Pfladderer, a dear husband, father, grandfather, uncle, and brother.

Also, Bro. James Denton (Sis. Sharon) and family grieve as his dear mother, Eunice Denton, has gone on to her reward. Wilma Clauss (Paul) also laid to rest her brother this past month. May you all lean on the Lord and the church family as you mourn your losses.

As we have several that have had surgery or have spent time in the hospital this past month, we will not mention them by name. We will, however, hold them and their families up in prayer in love. May our great Physician continue to do His will in their lives.

Note of Thanks:

Many thanks to all for their loving kindness during the passing of my mother. Your cards, prayers, words of encouragement, food, flowers, and love are so greatly appreciated. Thank you to our loving church family.

Love in Christ,

Bro. James Denton and family

**INDIANA
INDIANAPOLIS
Sandy Lichtle
Gail Bradford**

As summer continues, many in our congregation travel throughout the country, and even the world. These trips include vacation destinations, family visits and charitable efforts. Sis. Anna Bollier recently returned from a weeklong work project in Magdalena, Mexico. Sis. Ginny Zeller and her daughters, Sis. Suzie Zeller and Katie Zeller, are spending time in India helping Bro. Stan and Sis. Andrea Gutwein in their ministry.

Our Sunday school children and youth joined friends from the community at Vacation Bible School, based on the theme of "courage." Lessons based on the Bible verse from Joshua 1:9 demonstrated how the students can apply Bible teachings to their daily lives. The week ended with a program attended by parents, siblings and friends. This annual event provides us with an opportunity to share God's Word with some who might never hear it otherwise.

"Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest."

Joshua 1:9

**INDIANA, LACROSSE
Bethany Johnson
Julie Roche**

"God be with you till we meet again." (Hymns of Zion, #216).

Several from our congregation are traveling this month. Sis. Megan Wuethrich (Bro. Chris and Sis. Carla) left for Japan for one month and Sis. Jessica Feller (Bro. Joe and Sis. Jackie) traveled to India for one month. We pray that God will be with

them in their journeys and that He will bring them safely home again. Our dear friend, Kristi Massner (Bro. Randy and Sis. MaryLynn), has taken employment in Philadelphia, PA, and was able to be with us for a few weeks before she left to begin her new job out there. We look forward to seeing her sunny smile whenever she comes back for a visit.

Congratulations and God's blessings to our high school graduates – Ryan Elcock (Keith and Sis. Ruth Elcock) and Lindsey Schneider (Bro. Calvin and Sis. Jeannie Schneider). Our prayer is that they will seek God's direction as they choose a career and work toward that goal.

Our congregation was blessed to be able to help with several community work projects from May 30 – June 3. Many thanks to all those who helped with labor, food and other assistance during that time.

Summer is here and it is time for Vacation Bible School. The younger children enjoy songs, stories and crafts while the older students join the congregation in the assembly for topical Bible presentations. The topic of the week this year was "The Value of Truth". Bro. Dave Zehr (Sis. Vicki, Gridley, IL) spoke to us on "The Value of Being True to God". Bro. Gary Sinn (Sis. Paulette, Latty, OH) and his family joined us on Wednesday evening to bring us the topic of "The Value of Being True to Others". Friday evening we enjoyed Bro. Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi, Alto, MI) and the topic of "The Value of Being True to Yourself". Our deep appreciation to these brothers for their time spent in preparation on our behalf and for their willingness to travel and share God's Word with us. May they be richly blessed, as we were by their efforts. Thank you also to the teachers who prepared for and taught this week. We enjoyed the week of learning and fellowship, both in the assem-

bly and in the Sunday School.

INDIANA, LEO Ethelyn Schlatter

Sunday, May 21, we welcomed Bro. Bill Waibel (Sis. Carol) and Bro. John Jackson (Sis. Peggy, Bay City, MI) as they shared the Bread of Life.

We are never prepared for separation, but parting with a baby is very sobering. Marcus Jeremiah Grim, 6 months old, son of Bro. Marc and Sis. Diann, was received into Jesus' arms on May 22. Surviving besides his parents are two brothers, Isaac and Micah; grandparents from Bloomington, IL, Bro. David and Sis. Wilma Kieser and Earl and Jan Grim. Elder Bros. Lynn Stieglitz and Mark Streitmatter (Bloomington, IL) conducted the memorial service, reading from Mark 10 "allow little children to come unto Me" and Isaiah 54, "when physical clashes with the eternal it draws us to have interest in heaven in our hearts".

June 3-4 was a very special weekend for four of our converts, as we witnessed their testimonies and baptism. We welcomed Sis. Abby Klopfenstein (Loren and Sis. Rita), Sis. Kirsten Sauder (Bro. Tim and Sis. Jenny), Sis. Shannon and Bro. Kyle Fiechter (Bro. Ken and Sis. Brenda).

We appreciated the ministry of Elder Bro. Ted Witzig (Sis. Cindy, Morton, IL), Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen, Kansas City, MO), Bro. Jeff Thames (Sis. Brenda, Washington, IL) and Bro. Ed Sauder (Sis. Bonnie, Roanoke, IL) who all came for this blessed time of rejoicing.

On May 30, Jonathan David Plattner was welcomed into the home of Bro. Dana and Sis. Kim. He has two brothers, Taylor and Joshua, and a sister, Brooke. Grandparents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Jayne Plattner (Goodfield, IL) and Bro. Skip and Sis.

Pat Meister (Peoria, IL). Congratulations to all.

We have two high school graduates, D.J. Brooks (Gateway Woods) and Kami Klopfenstein (Bro. John and Sis. Linda). And two college graduates, Sis. Laura Fischer who graduated from St. Frances with a degree in professional writing. She is the daughter of Bro. Paul and Sis. Leanne. Justin Brown graduates from U. of Texas with a degree in civil engineering. He is the son of Pam Brown and grandson of retired Elder Bro. David and Sis. Marie Bertsch.

We continue to pray for those who feel the infirmity of the flesh. Bro. Sylvan and Sis. Irene Pulfer have been attending services half a day. Sis. Ruth Garman (Louis) had surgery and will be taking treatments, but is thankful it has not limited her activity or church attendance.

Sis. Jenny Rufener's engagement to Bro. Zachary Bertsch was announced on June 11. We rejoice with them and their parents, Bro. John and Sis. Janice Rufener (Smithville, OH) and Bro. Mike and Sis. Carmon Bertsch (Bluffton North, IN).

We welcome Bro. Todd Stoller (Princeville, IL) who has elected to teach at Gateway Woods.

Today, June 19, there is great rejoicing as VBS starts. The children are excited to learn and fellowship. The hope of the church is in our children trusting the great I AM.

INDIANA, MILFORD Carlton Beer Carol Haab

Our annual Milford-South Bend VBS was held June 12-16. The theme for this year was "Spiritual Gifts", which is a very complex and interesting subject. Spiritual gifts can usually be noted in others, but not easily recognizable in our own lives. Topics and guests speakers for the week were:

Overview of Spiritual Gifts – Bro. John Baumgartner (Bluffton North); Why We Should Use Our Spiritual Gifts – Bro. Jeff Neihouser (Francesville); How We Should Use Our Gifts - Bro. Brace Wieland (Leo); and Building Gifts – Bro. Byron Stoller (Gridley, IL). Throughout the week we were reminded that spiritual gifts are given not for competition, but to accomplish His purpose for us to complete His work here on earth. They should be used to bring glory to God, not to ourselves. Needless to say, it was a very thought-provoking week which has whetted our appetites to learn what our individual spiritual gifts are and how we can use them to God's glory. We sincerely appreciate all the time and effort each brother put into the topic he brought to us. Also, a heartfelt thank you to the groups providing special music each evening, which is definitely a spiritual gift! We are very grateful to the committee members who made this week possible.

"Safe in the arms of Jesus, Safe on His gentle breast, There by His love o'er shaded, Sweetly my soul shall rest..." (Hymns of Zion, #218). Our love and sympathy go out to Sis. Briana Wuthrich (Bro. Troy) in the death of her grandfather, Bro. Bob Pfladderer (Sis. Norma, Francesville, IN). May she feel God's comfort and look forward to that reunion in heaven.

Bro. Lynn Fiechter (Sis. Ronda, Bluffton, IN) recently shared the Word with us. May he be blessed for his labor of love on our behalf.

"Faith of our fathers, holy faith!" (Hymns of Zion #85). While celebrating Father's Day with our dads, our prayer is that we did not forget the love and mercy shown to us by our heavenly Father. One of His special gifts to us is the wonderful Christian example our earthly fathers have shown us as they guided our lives

with love.

**INDIANA
REMINGTON
Tammy Waibel
Beth Virkler**

Amalee Rose entered the world on June 10 as Ellie's little sister. Her parents are Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Amanda Scheitlin. Grandparents are Bro. Rolyce and Sis. Lori Scheitlin along with Bro. Dan and Sis. Deb Stoller, all of Remington.

Bro. Evan Stoller (Bro. Dan and Sis. Deb) experienced an emergency appendectomy. With the technology improvements regarding surgical procedures in the past decade, it's easy to have surgery and not miss a Sunday at church. It's also easy as a reporter to miss some who have had surgery when they aren't absent long enough from church to inquire about them. So please accept our apologies as reporters if your name has been missed in previous months from the stated hospital list.

We are rejoicing as a congregation to observe the Holy Spirit's power in calling Chuck Lehman unto repentance. Chuck's father (late Bro. Irvin and Sis. Dorothy) was the Elder of our congregation in the mid 1960's. The prayers of parents are laid as incense upon the altar of God. (Revelations 8:3,4)

Vacation Bible School guest ministers for the week of June 12-16 were: Bro. Frank Sauder (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL), Bro. John Reinhard (Sis. Pam, Bluffton, IN), Bro. Paul Kilgus (Sis. Carmen, Fairbury, IL) and Bro. Ted Luginbuhl (Sis. Stephanie, Smithville, OH). We also experienced the blessing of three visiting ministers on regular Sunday services: Bro. Darren Plattner (Sis. Sue, Champaign, IL), Bro. Ed Fritz (Sis. Sally, Washington, IL) and Bro. Ken Weerts (Sis. Myrna, Cissna Park, IL).

**INDIANA, SOUTH BEND
Amy Gerst
Laura Vercler**

Our South Bend congregation enjoyed VBS week this past month with the Milford, IN congregation. We were blessed to have four visiting ministers come to share with us. They were Bro. John Baumgartner (Bluffton North), Bro. Jeff Neihouser (Francesville), Bro. Brace Wieland (Leo), and Bro. Byron Stoller (Gridley). Our topic for the adult program/Bible class this year was Spiritual Gifts. Each one of us learned a great deal during the week and have many lessons to apply to our daily lives. Also, a special thanks to all the brothers and sisters who willingly gave of themselves to teach the younger children.

"Our fathers' God to thee,
Author of liberty,
To Thee we sing:
Long may our land be bright
With freedom's holy light;
Protect us by Thy might,
Great God, our King!"

As we celebrate the founding of our country this year, may we realize that our liberty is a gift from God. Even more important is the gift of spiritual liberty which has been made possible by the shed blood of our Savior. May our lives reflect thankfulness for both of these precious liberties.

**INDIANA
WEST LAFAYETTE
Andria Sprunger
Hollie Meister**

We were so blessed in this past month to have been able to host Vacation Bible School for the West Lafayette church and community. It was a

joy to serve, worship and praise God and learn of the great heroes of old. Many thanks go out to all those who worked so hard to plan and facilitate all the activities and teaching.

Our prayers go out to the Pfladderer family. Sis. Lorene Furrer (Bro. Brian) and their family lost their father and grandfather, Bro. Bob Pfladderer (Sis. Norma), to severe blood clots. Bob was also the grandfather of Bro. Kevin Gutwein (Sis. Laura) and great-grandfather to Kevin and Laura's three children.

We thank Bro. John Eberhardt for visiting West Lafayette to help serve in sharing God's Word.

**INDIANA, WOLCOTT
Elaine Bahler
Lowell Bahler**

"The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof."

I Cor. 10:26-28

At this time and season, we see the evidence of the fullness of the Lord's earth through the fields lush with plants as well as the trees and shrubbery.

May 19 was the arrival date of Edie Aline, a baby girl born to Bro. Greg and Sis. Mary Beth Lehman. She is welcomed by siblings, Kimberly, Sis. Maria, David, Adrienne, and Daniel.

On Wednesday evening, May 24, Bro. Brace Wieland (Sis. Brenda, Leo, IN) was here for our special Bible topic. We were challenged, through the book of Colossians, to determine what is the "truth." May we ever be able to discern what God requires of us. Thank you, Bro. Brace.

Sunday, June 11, was a blessed day for us with two visiting ministers. Bro. Ken Eisenmann (Sis. Sharon) and Bro. Sid Kaufmann (Sis. Sandra) of Cissna Park, IL, favored us with a visit, along with several others of

their congregation.

On June 3, Alex Schieler (Bro. Dave and Sis. Merri) and Lisa Lachmund were united in marriage. She is the daughter of Kevin and Nancy Lachmund of Brookston, IN. We wish them God's blessings as they begin their lives together. Their address is: 524 13th Ave, Two Harbors, MN 55616.

Brett Schwab (Bro. Jon and Sis. Wendy) is to undergo surgery for a bone graft to repair a broken collar bone sustained in a fall several months ago. Our prayers are with him.

Our combined Vacation Bible School was hosted by Remington this year. Hopefully, the seed that was sown can find fertile ground and bring forth fruit.

IOWA, BLOOMFIELD

Barbara Schock

Greetings! Time flies. It seems like it was only last week that I wrote the last Silver Lining article. Yet it is time again to write it. Time is a precious thing, and we need to "redeem our time" taking the time to spend time in prayer, and giving the Lord some time of our busy lives.

This month we are thankful that we had some visiting ministers that took the time to come and share the Word with us. On June 4, Bro. Kim Sutter (Sis. Vonette, Taylor, MO) was here for the day. Also the same weekend, Elder Bro. Ron Schambach (Sis. Nancy, Elgin, IL) was here on Saturday night, as he spent Sunday in Garden Grove. We thank these brothers for their time and effort and pray that the Lord will richly bless them.

I apologize for leaving out a graduate in last month's news. Ruth Teubel (Bro. Paul and Sis. Charlotte) graduated from college in May also.

This month, we as a nation will take the time to celebrate our inde-

pendence on July 4. Even as we celebrate Independence Day, think about the independence that we gained when we accepted the gift of salvation from our Lord Jesus Christ. Do we take the time to thank Him for all that He has done for us, in fighting the battle against death and winning for us salvation? Just take the time to think about it!

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Krystal Knapp

Laurie Schulz

We rejoice with Brett Wulf (Bro. Leroy and Sis. Carolyn) as he feels at peace with God and man.

Ray and Alice Defenbaugh are thankful for the safe arrival of their newest grandson, Luke Hamilton Kinneer. Luke's parents are Mark and Jennifer Kinneer.

Our congregation bids a sad farewell to Bro. Dallas and Sis. Christy Massner as they move to West Bend, IA. We appreciate the time and duties they've done here and are sure West Bend will be blessed by their presence.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Milo and Sis. Arlene Weissinger at the passing of Milo's sister, Philippine Kramer.

We held our Sunday School election this month. New teachers are Bro. Michael Messner (Sis. Rachel), Bro. Kyle Knapp (Sis. Kelli) and Sis. Laurie Schulz. May we remember to keep them in our prayers.

We appreciate Bro. Jerry Wagenbach's (Oakville, IA) willingness to help out on the pulpit. May God ever bless him.

IOWA, ELGIN

Gloria Frieden

Heidi Butikofer

"Let the word of Christ dwell in

you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."

Colossians 3:16

What a wonderful ministry are "psalms, hymns and spiritual songs". We learn, very early in life, that Jesus loves us as we hear the words, "Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so." Our love and confidence in God's Word, the Bible, grew as we sang "the B-I-B-L-E, yes, that's the book for me, I stand alone on the word of God, the B-I-B-L-E." What further teachings we received as we sang, together, in Sunday school, "All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small, all things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all." "Trust and Obey for there's no other way, to be happy in Jesus but to trust and obey." "Watch and Pray the tempter may be near you, keep the heart with jealous care." How many may have been brought under conviction as they sang the words to "Almost Persuaded"? We continue to be comforted and encouraged as we sing "Jesus knows thy sorrow", "God will take care of you", "God is our refuge" and "What a friend we have in Jesus." From the Zion's Harp we are further encouraged in our Christian walk as we sing "Strive Aright", "Be True, Be True", "Endure and Be Still", and "The Christian's Cross". As the years pass on, hymns such as "At Home 'tis well" and "Forever with the Lord" become more meaningful to us. It doesn't matter what kind of singing talent we have, every hymn can be a sermon in itself as we listen to the words we are singing.

What a blessing is a new addition to each family circle, and in this small congregation, we consider the arrival of each little one as a blessing and encouragement to our church family.

This past month we were blessed with the arrival of little Isaac Philip Waldbeser (Bro. Phil and Sis. Charlotte) on May 22. Lisa, Molly, Luke and Laura also welcome Isaac as their sibling. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Gene and Sis. Shirley Nester (Lester, IA) and Bro. Fred and Sis. Joan Waldbeser (Cissna Park, IL).

We welcome Bro. Matt Zimmerman (Bro. Fred and Sis. MaryEllen, Congerville, IL) into our midst as he recently moved to this area. May he be blessed as he continues to follow God's direction.

Our prayers are with Sis. Beulah Butikofer (Bro. Bert) as she recuperates following surgery.

"To obey is better than sacrifice."

1 Samuel 15:22

My Sunday school students are learning Bible teaching beginning with each letter of the alphabet. For the letter "O" the teaching is, "Obedience is better than sacrifice." One of my students was having a hard time remembering what the last word was and asked for a hint. I told her that it started with the letter "s", so she quickly came to the conclusion that obedience is better than "spankings". I had to chuckle, but how true it is, obedience is much better than to have to bear the punishment for disobedience.

IOWA, IOWA CITY **Diana Butikofer**

Our new Sunday School teachers for next year are Sis. Emily (Bro. Larry) Peterson and Bro. Bob (Sis. Barb) Fehr. Sis. Jeanette Moser was chosen for a second term, and Sis. Sharon Gerst and Bro. Chris (Sis. Sara) Hattan will soon complete their terms. We sincerely appreciate the work these teachers have expended on behalf of our children and trust

they have also received a blessing for their commitment. We pray the new teachers too will receive wisdom and blessings as they seek to teach the children more about our Lord.

Our prayers are with Bro. Larry (Sis. Emily) Peterson as he recovers from shoulder surgery.

We pray that our Elder Brothers and those helping to host will be strengthened and guided by the Holy Spirit as they seek His will in preparation for the Conference.

IOWA, LESTER **Gloria Moser** **Polly Metzger**

"For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater."

Isaiah 55:10

On May 27, Ethan and Trixie Metzger were blessed with a little bundle from Heaven, Erica Jean. Her grandparents are Bro. Wes and Sis. Esther Moser and Bro. Harvey and Sis. Mary Metzger. May God bless them as they raise their daughter.

Colin Moser and Camille Moser (Bro. Rick and Sis. Lori) have been announced for peace. We rejoice with them and we look forward to their baptisms.

We are always so thankful to hear that a soul is repenting. Paul Messner (Bro. Henry and Sis. Charlene) is seeking his salvation. May he feel the nearness of God as he starts this path.

Bro. Pete Van Wyhe (Sis. Susan), Sis. Vicki Leuthold (Bro. Chuck) and Bro. Paul Leuthold (Sis. Betty) have been hospital patients this month. We want to remember them, and others who have been ill, with our prayers.

We appreciate our visiting ministers this past month: Bro. Galen Rokey (Bern, KS), Bro. Paul Kilgus (Fairbury, IL), and Bro. Duane Rocke (Minneapolis, MN). May God bless them for their efforts.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the family of Dean Banwart of West Bend, IA, and from our congregation, his sister, Sis. Janet and Bro. Roger Knoblock, his mother-in-law, Sis. Emma Meyer, and sisters and brothers-in-law, Sis. Doreen Meyer, Bro. Pat and Sis. Twyla Meyer, Bro. George Meyer, and Earl and Barb Meyer, and many nieces and nephews. Dean's wife, Irene, is formerly from Lester. We pray that God will comfort them all and ease their sorrow.

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

Congratulations and God's blessings to our 2006 high school graduates! They are Sis. Janella Gerst (Bro. Charles and Sis. Charlene), Orrin Lanz (Bro. Monte and Sis. Kelli), Sis. Renee Lanz (Bro. Keith and Sis. Tonya), Sis. Janae Schulz (Bro. Roger and Sis. June), Joel Steiner (Bro. Tom and Sis. Jo Ann), Sis. Candace Wagenbach (Bro. Dave and Sis. Charlene), and Colt Wiegand (Bro. Brian and Sis. Cindy). May they look to their Lord and Saviour for guidance.

We appreciated having visiting ministers with us recently. Bro. Joe Gerst (Iowa City, IA), Bro. Bruce Frank (Cissna Park, IL) and Bro. Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL) were used in the Lord's service on our behalf.

On June 12, our dear Sis. Emma Vierling passed from this life. We extend our sincere sympathy to her sister, Sis. Esther Vierling, and her many nieces and nephews. What a blessed hope the true and faithful

have of entering into that Rest one day. May God be near to comfort each one.

Our heartfelt sympathy and prayers go to Sis. Patty (Bro. Ed) Stoller on the loss of her sister, Pam Hoschek, who was diagnosed with cancer only a short time before. It's a comfort to know that the Lord knows and shares our sorrows.

IOWA, WEST BEND

Sue Schneider

Lori Skoglund

We bid farewell to our dear Sis. Ida (Banwart) Schmidt on May 23 as she peacefully passed from this life at the age of 95. Despite the fact that Sis. Ida had been deaf since late in her teenage years, she was still able to communicate so well with others. What a joy it must be for her now to actually hear the angels singing! Survivors include three children: Sis. Marilyn (Bro. Lyle) Zeltwanger, Valparaiso, IN; James (Sherry) Schmidt and Chuck (Carol) Schmidt. She also leaves behind two brothers, Ervin (Nettie) Banwart and Fred (Iva) Banwart, 16 grandchildren, and 30 great-grandchildren. Bro. Herbert Knochel, Jr. (Sis. Laurie, Phoenix, AZ) and Bro. Kevin (Sis. Sandy) Banwart held the services for their grandmother. We were comforted and reminded of the benefits of good Christian "patterns" in our lives.

Our area's annual Youth Fellowship Weekend was hosted by West Bend this year. Many young adults from churches in Minnesota and all over Iowa traveled to spend time together while being encouraged spiritually and making new and renewing old friendships from years gone by. Bro. Dale Frank (Sis. Christine, Oakville, IA) spoke, reinforcing the theme of the gathering which was "Where He leads I'll follow." We appreciated his willingness along with

the other ministers who spent the weekend with us: Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Sis. Sandy, Morris, MN); Elder Bro. Paul Messner (Sis. Jan, Winthrop, MN); Elder Bro. Dennis Warner (Sis. Esther, Lester, IA) and Bro. Floyd Frieden (Sis. Jan, Elgin, IA).

Bro. Marc (Sis. Jamie) Banwart and Sis. Missy (Bro. Dave) Zaugg lost a loving grandfather and Ervin (Nettie) Banwart a loving brother with the death of Fred (Iva) Banwart who passed away recently. Sherry (Jim) Schmidt has lost her brother-in-law, Jim (Beulah) Langerman, also. We extend sympathy to those whose lives are clouded with sorrow at this time.

Missy Leman (Bro. Dale and Sis. Lezlee) and Daniel Wise (Mike and Bernie, Emmetsburg, IA) exchanged marriage vows on May 27. May they strive together to maintain love and peace in their home.

Bro. Noah (Sis. Emma) Gerber, Sis. Madeline Banwart and little Thomas Fehr (Bro. Cory and Sis. Jennifer) have been our hospital patients this month. We commit each who suffer bodily afflictions into God's tender care and keeping.

We welcome a new couple into our community and the West Bend Church. Bro. Dallas and Sis. Christy Massner have moved here from Burlington, IA.

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

Isaiah 26:3-4

JAPAN, TOKYO

Jana Klaus

Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI) kindly gave of himself to hold a mid-week Bible Study twice at the church while he and his wife, Sis. Bev,

were in Japan for a week. It was a good question and discussion time with several friends and seekers present. We hope and pray that hearts were touched by the Holy Spirit. Bro. Mark and Sis. Bev were here for the ordination service of Bro. Andrew Klaus as deacon of Shioda Church. It was held Sunday afternoon, May 28, and two carloads from Tokyo could go out together to Shioda. It was a very humbling, but encouraging time of exhortation and Bro. Andrew and Sis. Jana plead for and appreciate prayers of support.

Bro. Akihiro and Sis. Carrie Itoh (Tremont, IL) were our special visitors on June 4. They had come to show their love and support at the ordination service out in Shioda as they plan to make Shioda their home church when they move to Japan this coming September. We thank Bro. Akihiro for his afternoon Bible Study and our prayers go with them both as they prepare to come.

That same evening, we had a special supper together at church with Bro. Greg and Sis. Sharlene Moser and their three oldest children, Joshua, Jason and Abby (Roanoke, IL), as they had just flown in that afternoon to visit their cousins, the Klauses. They were on their way to Vietnam to pick up little two year old Joanna Minh Tam to take home and add to their family. Our prayers go with them for God's blessings and help.

With joy and thankfulness we welcome back Bro. Kan Umemura after a 6 year stay in America. Thank you to the Bloomington Church and all who showed him love and guidance during his stay. It is such a joy to see his smiling face and have his added support each Sunday. He is job hunting now and we trust the Lord will open the right door.

Sunday, June 11, was a rather emotional day as we had a meaning-

ful Holy Communion service together (thank you to Elder Bro. Akito for his service) and then said farewell to Sis. Kay Kellenberger who moved back to Elgin, IL, after supporting our congregation for 2 years. We are so thankful for the bond of love we have across the oceans because of what Jesus Christ did for all of us. Sis. Kay will be greatly missed, but we count it a rich blessing to have been partakers of her love and support and know all will be in each other's thoughts and prayers.

We say a big thank you to Sis. Meagan Wuethrich (Sis. Marie Inoue's great niece, LaCrosse, IN) who came for a month to help out the Klaus family as well as be a support to our church. We could feel her love and appreciation for all the believers and friends here and welcome her back anytime!

KANSAS, BERN
Sheri Edelman
Rita Menold

We rejoice with the angels that Barry Stoller has begun his repentance. May God be with him as he begins a new path of life in the Lord!

Darcie Kaeb (Bro. Jim and Sis. Diane) and J.D. Jackman (Mark and Kim Jackman of Sabetha and Chris and Teralee Searles of Holton) have announced their engagement and upcoming August wedding. We pray for God's guidance and blessings in their lives as they become one.

Toby Edward Kellenberger was born on May 20 to first time parents, Bro. Gale and Sis. Belinda (Sabetha, KS). Bro. Darrel and Sis. Gloria Stoller are the happy grandparents in Bern! Ava Grace was born to Bro. Rodney and Sis. Kristin Menold (Peoria, IL) who are also first time parents. Bro. James and Sis. Lou Menold are excited grandparents. May the Lord guide these families as

they raise their babes!

Bro. Anthony Esslinger (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gerty) has moved to Illinois. We will miss Bro. Anthony and pray for the Lord's continued guidance in his life as he worships with the Washington congregation.

Bro. Lee Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata, TX) was our visiting minister this month. Thank you for your words of wisdom as we labor in the Lord's vineyard.

Our recent graduates from college are Bro. Brandon Edelman (Bro. Earl and Sis. Donna) with a degree in administration and Sis. Bethany Strahm (Bro. Wilfred and Sis. Verona) with a degree in nursing. Graduating from high school are Jacob Edelman (Bro. Rod and Sis. Joleen), Stephanie Edelman (Bro. Earl and Sis. Donna), Darcie Kaeb (Bro. Jim and Sis. Diane), Matt Kaeb (Bro. Paul and Sis. Joan) and Monica Strahm (Bro. Ed and Sis. Ramona). Joanna Trujillo, who was a foreign exchange student living with Bro. Earl and Sis. Donna Edelman, has also completed her education here in the U.S and has returned to Ecuador. May God lead these graduates as they decide what paths to take next.

The vacation Bible school theme this year was "Kids Under Construction". We hope each child received a blessing from attending.

Our thoughts are with our hospital/surgical patients this month. Sis. Diane Kaeb (Bro. Jim), Sis. Pearl Miller, Bro. Waymer Esslinger, Bro. Joe D. Rokey (Sis. Kathy) and Bro. Dan Edelman.

Note of Thanks:

We so much appreciate the prayers and deeds of love received from the church since the onset of Myron's medical condition. May God bless each one.

Sincerely,

Bro. Dale, Sis. Shelby, and Myron

Strahm

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT
Karen Kellenberger

We were pleased that four of our young people graduated from high school and were publicly presented with their Bibles following the afternoon service. Those graduates are Mikayla Boge (Bro. Bill and Sis. Jan), Sis. Alyssa Banwart (Bro. Don and Sis. Aleta), Rachel Kraft (Roger and Chris), and Sis. Adrienne Bahr (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Maria). May the living words in their new Bibles be lamps unto their feet as they journey through their lives ahead of them. I was reminded of the autographed entry in the back of my high school yearbook thirty-four years ago by a converted friend of mine. She wrote, "All things that are worth doing are done with God and all things done without God are not worth doing". It laid a conviction on my heart to think about repenting and allowing Jesus to be Lord of my life.

We enjoyed the presence of visiting ministering Bro. John Steiner (Sis. Carol, Oakville). We were uplifted by his inspired messages.

This union of our hearts
Shall stand through grace in Jesus;

We walk the path of life,
While cheer and trust increases.
Where God in truth abides,
Where two join hand and heart,
We find a three-fold cord,
Not lightly rent apart.

Zion's Harp #79

Bro. Ryan Lewis (Tom and Kathy) and Sis. Amber Kellenberger (Bro. Rick and Sis. Karen) were united in Holy matrimony. That Sunday we appreciated visiting ministering Bro. Justin Moser (Sis. Robin, Altadena), Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen,

Kansas City), and our Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern). May God's wonderful love radiate in this new couple's home all the years of their marriage.

Little Alex Williams (Dan and Taira) was a hospital patient, as was Bro. Rick Kellenberger (Sis. Karen), who also underwent surgery for his lung. He is home and gradually improving.

A picnic capped off a week of vacation Bible school. We enjoyed the little program that the teachers and students presented, which shared some of the projects and songs they learned, honoring Jesus.

As we look forward to the Fourth of July, we know that each year of being able to celebrate true freedom gets more precious as we consider the times in which we are living. Let us be ever thankful our praiseworthy God is in control.

KANSAS, KIOWA
Janice Bahr
Jenny Stewart

"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."

II Timothy 4:7-8

Such could have been the words of our dear Bro. Rudy Bahr (Lamont-Gridley, KS) who fell asleep in the arms of his Lord this past month. We express our deepest sympathy to his dear wife, Sis. Eileen; daughter, Sis. Paula (Minneapolis, MN); sons, Bro. Jeff and family (Kiowa, KS), and Sam (St. Louis, MO).

Death would be so much sadder if it were not for the hope we have

through the shed blood and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. This is the only way we can smile through our tears when our loved ones are called home.

It was our turn to hold services at the rest home this month, and we would say a special thank you to all who shared in the service – especially our children – the elderly love them so much and enjoy their songs of praise.

We would like to extend our congratulations to Vanndy Frieden, son of Bro. Larry and Sis. Millie Frieden, on his graduation from college. It is our prayer that God will grant him direction for his future.

KANSAS
LAMONT-GRIDLEY
Eileen Bahr

We thank our rotating ministers, Bros. Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA) and Rex Frieden (Lamar, MO) and their families for serving us. With Rudy being "in and out" of the hospital, I kind of "lost out".

Our family wants to thank everyone for the many kindnesses and support you gave us during Rudy's illness and death on June 3. As I sit here alone just before dinner, Farmer Bahr will not be coming in for dinner. The thought came to me, "Do you suppose he's telling stories to the children up in heaven?"

KANSAS, SABETHA
Rebekah Beyer
Dawn Strahm

The ending of Spring and the beginning of Summer bring about change for many people. Graduating from High School in May were Megan Gruber (granddaughter of Sis. Marj Edelman), Heidi Hartter (Bro. Tim and Sis. Charleen), Alec Krogmann (Frank and Sis. Julie), and Trevor Young (Roger and Janice).

This year our Sunday School Picnic was held at Mulberry Creek. We enjoyed a picnic potluck, fellowship, and other outdoor activities at the park.

We wish to thank our visiting ministers this month for their traveling efforts and lending of the Word. They included Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Sis. Jeni, Bluffton, IN), Elder Bro. Wayne Grimm (Sis. Rose, West Bend, IA), and Bro. Dale Zeltwanger (Sis. Rachel, Morris, MN).

God has blessed first-time parents, Bro. Gale and Sis. Belinda Kellenberger, with a son, Toby Edward, on May 20. His grandparents are Bro. Gene and Sis. Marian Kellenberger and Bro. Darrel and Sis. Gloria Stoller (Bern, KS).

Sunday School teachers elected for the 2006-2007 session are Bro. Gordon Huber (Sis. Sharlyn), Bro. Kurt Grimm (Sis. Hannah), and Sis. Molly Grimm (Bro. Kent). May the Lord guide them as they teach our youth.

Our congregation keeps Sis. Ulista Banwart in our prayers during the passing of her grandmother, Sis. Caroline Banwart, of Lamar, MO. Sis. Caroline lived in our area and worshiped with us for a time.

Convert Kenna Kellenberger (Bro. Brad and Sis. Teresa) has found peace with God and man and seeks baptism the weekend of July 15-16. May the Lord be her guide and strength as this joyful time approaches!

Oft I read the blessed Bible, how
 God sent His precious gift;
 how our Lord in love and mercy,
 came the sinful load to lift...
 I am never weary reading, hearing
 of His wondrous love;
 how His loving tender mercy,
 draws us to His home above.
 —Reading God's Word,
 Hymns of Zion, #75

KANSAS, WICHITA

Emma Miller

The annual church business meeting was held at the conclusion of afternoon services on May 21. Because of our small numbers, there were few changes made in the various duties necessary for the operation of the church.

The family of Sis. Lisateen Strahm, from Sabetha, and the late Bro. Loren Strahm, gathered in Wichita the weekend of May 27-28 for a wedding and family reunion. They worshipped with us on Sunday. It was good to have the assembly room filled and the song service amplified. All of Sis. Lisateen's children were represented with the exception of one son and one daughter. I was reminded of Psalm 127:3-5. "Lo, children are a heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. As arrows in the hand of a mighty man; so are the children of the youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them."

When I learned of Bro. Richard Gutheri's death in Kiowa, I thought back to when I learned to know him fifty-six years ago. Some years later I was present when a young convert gave his testimony and gave credit to Bro. Richard for being a witness to him by his even temper during the heat of the harvest season. The young convert compared Richard to the average harvester who gave vent to his frustrations when breakdowns occurred. The convert wanted that same control in his life.

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON

Barb Huber

"In thee, O Lord, do I put my trust: let me never be put to confusion."

Psalm 71:1

The Lord was certainly good to us as ministering Bro. Mark Steiner (Sis. Sue, Smithville) came to share the Word of God with clarity, with purity, and lack of confusion. Your efforts and labors of love to minister to our small assembly were greatly appreciated. May the Lord bless you and your family for your faithfulness to Him. We pray for memory and grace to apply His Holy teachings to our daily lives that we may live lives that are pleasing to God.

We were blessed with the fellowship of other visitors assembling with us from LaCrosse, IN; Chicago, Eureka, IL; Akron, Junction, and Rittman, OH.

Fellowship truly edifies and is an encouragement to our small flock, so we do 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, IXTLAN

Claudia Gonzalez

"He watereth the hills from his chambers: the earth is satisfied with the fruit of thy work."

Psalm 104:13

The rainy season just started; the fields are getting green and ready to produce their crops. The Lord is faithful to satisfy our needs through the fruit of His work!

Our congregation is very thankful and appreciative to have Bro. Matt Gerber among us to help in God's spiritual fields here in Ixtlan. Welcome!

On May 26, many of us got together to do the general cleaning of the church as we do every year.

Thanks to everyone for your help!

"The Lord recompense thy work, and a full reward be given thee of the Lord God of Israel, under whose wings thou art come to trust."

Ruth 2:12

Once again we thank Bro. Bryan Stoller and his clinic team for the great labor of love in the eye clinic here in Ixtlan.

We are also blessed by our visitors this summer. We are glad and appreciate their help and the time that they spend sharing God's Word.

MICHIGAN, ALTO

Rose Watson

Terri Huber

We would like to congratulate Kendra Oesch on her high school graduation. Kendra's parents are Ken and Sis. Denise. We are sorry that she was not mentioned last month!

A healthy baby girl was joyfully welcomed home by Bro. Terry and Sis. Rose Watson. Delila Rose will be cooed over and cared for by not only her parents, but also big brother, Andrew, and her grandma, Linda Koehl, and grandpa, Dennis Koehl. God bless this growing family as they set forth on the path to raise a precious child in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

As is normal on this earth, the good news and exciting times are mingled with pain and discouragement. There are those in our congregation who have experienced serious health problems, and we praise God they are all home and recuperating. Please remember Bro. Aaron Steffen, Sis. Darlene Goodwin, and Bro. Ott Schlatter in prayer for continued health improvement.

We are delighted to welcome Listyn Capman, who has begun her

repentance in our church. She has a tender heart desiring to serve the Lord, and joins our worship and fellowship with enthusiasm. Her mother is Tracy Capman.

The annual Father-Son Campout was eagerly anticipated and occurred over a very hot weekend, to everyone's complete satisfaction. What a great time for fun and making of memories and traditions! Along the same lines, it is the time of year when we entrust our junior and senior high school kids to the Apostolic Christian Boys and Girls camps. I just want to take a moment to tell those who volunteer and make these camps a reality that they have been a tremendous blessing to our family and to the Alto church young people who have attended. They have experienced spiritual encouragement, a feeling of unity in the Apostolic Christian faith, and a taste of young group travels to come. A big thank you from those of us who live "on the outskirts"!

Our thanks to Bro. Bill Waibel (Sis. Carol, Bay City, MI) for sharing God's Word with our congregation.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY
Sarah Knochel
Janelle Ramseyer

Greetings of love in our Saviour's name!

Brad and Gina Senkowski are thankful for the safe arrival of a daughter, Ellie. Ellie is also welcomed home by a big brother, Samuel. We are thankful that prayers have been answered as Ellie has spent some time in the hospital since her birth. Ellie's grandparents are Bro. Gene and Sis. Carol Meylan.

We have several who have spent time in the hospital this past month. We pray that the Lord will be with Bro. Neil Mosher, Bro. Brian (Sis. Char) Wieland, Sis. Florence Wieland, and Sis. Shirley (Bro. Gary)

Wright as they are now at home and recovering.

"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance."

Psalm 33:12

We are enjoying the warmth of summer here in Bay City. In just a few weeks it will be July 4th; a day where, as a nation, we celebrate our independence and freedom. How thankful we should be that we have been given the opportunity to freely worship our Heavenly Father.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT
Kay Rauhe
Tiffany Wieland

Our congregation was shocked to learn of the sudden passing of Jason Allen. At such a relatively young age, his passing came without any warning, reminding each of us that none of us are promised tomorrow and that we should each be redeeming our time while we have life. We want to remember Jason's parents, Bro. Pat and Sis. Jeanie; his grandmother, Sis. Lois Belsley; his sister, Ann-Marie Mason (Carl); and the many other friends and family who mourn Jason's unexpected passing. May they find comfort in His Spirit and may they find hope in the faith that Jason claimed in repentance before being called from this life into eternity. We want to express our appreciation to Bro. Ron Heiniger (Sis. Kayleen, Bloomington, IL) for traveling to Detroit for the funeral and taking part in the funeral service.

This month, our congregation was privileged to witness the marriage of Sis. Michelle Bahr (Bro. Phil and Sis. Dawn) and Bro. Aaron Stoller (Bro. Jim and Sis. Tam; Latty, OH). We wish them God's richest blessings as they begin their married life to-

gether, and pray that theirs can be a Christ centered union. We will miss Michelle as she makes her residence in Latty with Aaron, but we look forward to the times that they can return to visit. We appreciated Elder Bro. John Laukhuf (Sis. Marsha; Latty, OH) sharing in the wedding service with our Elder Bro. Mark Bahr.

We were privileged to hear the testimony of Bro. Jeff Matejin and witness his baptism the following day. We rejoice with his mother, Sis. Mira Matejin, as we welcome him as a Brother in Christ into the Family of God. We were also encouraged to learn that Angie Gasser (Bro. Randy and Sis. Sue) has decided to turn her life to the Lord and seek Him in repentance. We want to remember both Angie and Bro. Jeff as they each strive daily to take up their cross and follow Him.

Several other ministers visited our congregation this month. Bro. Steven Stieglitz (Sis. Jane; Leo, IN) and Bro. Justin Koch (Sis. Marcia; Washington, IL) shared in the Sunday services, and we pray that they will be blessed for sharing God's inspired Word with our congregation.

There are several in our congregation that had surgery this month. They include Bro. Ernie Weigele (Sis. Mary), Sis. Mary Weigele (Bro. Ernie), and Sis. Sheryl Maibach. We thank the Lord that each is recovering well.

MINNESOTA
MINNEAPOLIS
LaRae Dill

"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you...."

John 14:27

Braden Mogler (Bro. Kent and Sis. Mary) is at peace, and we rejoice with

him. Braden is home for the summer from his college home with the Altadena, CA, congregation, and it is heartwarming to see God working in his heart.

Many prayers for God's peace and presence were said for our Sis. Paula Bahr, as her father, Bro. Rudy Bahr, passed away. Bro. Rudy and Sis. Eileen's visits here were enjoyed by all, but especially by many of our local children who loved hearing stories told by Farmer Bahr. We can recall summer nights on Sis. Paula's deck, or cozy October evenings around her fire place, listening to Bro. Rudy tell stories - what great memories. We extend our sympathy to the entire family.

Bro. Dennis and Sis. Diane Rassi (Fairbury, IL) visited on a recent Sunday with their family enroute to northern Minnesota. Thanks so much for your visit and service.

"Now the Lord of peace himself give you peace always by all means."

1 Thessalonians 3:16

MINNESOTA, MORRIS
Sheila Reuter
Heidi Nohl

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of Edward Mohrman who passed from this life. His children are Roger (Marlene) Mohrman, Diane (David) Martin, Debb (Joel) Boettcher, and Cindy (Keith) Price. He also has several grandchildren and brothers and sisters. We are very thankful that Edward found the grace to repent a few days before he died. Our prayers are also with Rod and Shari (Schmidgall) Olsen on the passing of his father, Gerald Olsen. We pray God will comfort these families as only He can do.

We offer our congratulations and best wishes to Brian Reuter and Valerie Leofler who were married

this month. Parents of the couple are Bro. Jim and Sis. Carolyn Reuter and Paul and Evbie Leofler. We pray God will bless them as they begin their life together.

Julia May was born to Bro. Paul and Sis. Heidi Wulf. Also welcoming her home are Megan and Jeremy and grandparents, Bro. Beirne and Sis. Joyce Messner and Bro. Dennis and Sis. Judy Wulf. May God grant them grace to raise their children in the fear of Him.

We bid farewell to our convert, Lane Koehl, his wife, Beth, and their children, Bridget, Kate and Kenton. They have moved to Arizona and will be attending the Prescott, AZ, church. We pray that God will bless them as they move and help them feel at home in Prescott.

We rejoice with Jilaine Furrer (Bro. Tom and Sis. Jill) as she has begun her repentance. It is such a blessing to see souls turn to the Lord and we pray she will feel God's nearness and the love of the brethren as she continues on in this way.

We wish to congratulate Tonia Schmidgall on her graduation from college. Tonia is the daughter of Bro. Dave and Sis. June. May God richly bless her and her future endeavors.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP
Rachel Steiner
Julie Schmidt

Greetings in the Lord!

Prayers have gone out for our hospital patients this month, which have been Gene Schmidt and Sis. Beckie Ebling (Bro. Adrian). Same day surgery patients have been Sis. Geri Messner (Bro. Marvin) and Bro. Mike Messner (Sis. Joyce). We're thankful each has restored health and has returned home.

We so appreciate the labors of love of those who have served as Sunday School teachers. Those whose terms

have expired are Bro. Verl Schmidt (Sis. Jamie) and Sis. Joleen Elder (Bro. John). Recently elected into a four-year term has been Sis. Jamie Schmidt (Bro. Verl) and Bro. Nick Schmidt (Sis. Julie). Substitutes are Bro. John Elder (Sis. Joleen) and Sis. Rachel Steiner (Bro. Glen).

We rejoice with Bro. Adrian and Sis. Beckie Ebling as they welcome little Chloe Phyllis into their hearts and home on May 28. Excited siblings are Iszak, Gabryel, Abbigayle, Phoebe and Malakai. May God grant them parental wisdom as they raise this little one.

We always enjoy visitors who pass through or make Winthrop their destination. We welcome each one.

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY
Garry and Marty Rokey

We certainly appreciate the labors of Bro. Bob Beebe (Sis. Sue, South Bend, IN) as he spoke to the singles group, June 3, and ministered to our congregation on Sunday, June 4. Joining Bro. Bob on Sunday, Bro. Glen Funk (Sis. Sally, Wichita, KS) also labored in the Lord's vineyard. Thanks, dear brothers, for your efforts.

Vacation Bible School was held the week of June 5. At the end, June 10, Bro. Curt Rassi (Sis. Kathy, Tremont, IL) conducted a topical Bible study. Bro. Curt and Bro. Brad Eisenmann (Sis. Cindy, Chicago, IL) then proclaimed the Gospel on Sunday, June 11. We thank these dear brothers for their labors.

"O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!"

Psalms 8:9

MISSOURI, LAMAR**Mindy Braker
Becky Marti**

We were thankful for several visitors Memorial Day weekend. We especially appreciated Bros. Rod Bajema (Sis. Twyla, Lester, IA) and Jim Koehl (Sis. Hildy, San Diego, CA) being willing to serve us in the ministry.

We enjoyed a blessed weekend June 3-4 when we could hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of four dear souls. We welcome Bros. Evan and Darin Braker (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Carol), Bro. David Braker (Bro. Roy and Sis. Judy) and Sis. Lisa Stoller (Bob and Sis. Janice) into the household of faith. We thank Elder Bros. Dennis Warner (Sis. Esther, Lester, IA) and Bob Walder (Sis. Gloria, Congerville, IL) for assisting with this work. Also among our many visitors that weekend were ministering Bros. Beirne Messner (Sis. Joyce, Morris, MN) and Glen Braker (Sis. Audrey, Princeville, IL).

Our Sis. Caroline Banwart was able to lay down her earthly cross on May 31. We extend our sympathy to her family in their loss – her daughter, Sis. Eileen Braker (Bro. Don, Kansas City, MO), and her son, Bro. Alfred Banwart (Sis. Carolyn), and their families. Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzell (Sis. Ellen, Sabetha, KS) was here to assist our ministering brothers with the funeral service. Sis. Caroline had lived the last several years in the Sabetha Home.

Our prayers were with Bro. Raymond Braker (Sis. LuEtta) as he spent a few days in the hospital this past month.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS**Krista Banwart**

Thanks to those who have included our St. Louis church this summer as part of their travels. Visiting

ministers have included Bro. Tim Roecker (Sis. Diane, Peoria, IL), Bro. Wayne Leman (Sis. Julie, Roanoke, IL), and Bro. Kim Sutter (Sis. Vonette, Taylor, MO). We welcome two new faces to our congregation: Bro. Jonathon Aupperle who is now employed in this area and also Sis. Jan who was married on Father's Day to Bro. Dave Roberts from here. We hope they feel God's nearness here as they have in the past; it's wonderful to know that as we walk with Him, wherever we go He is already there.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR**Sally Haerr**

"Ring the bells of Heaven there is joy today..." (Tabernacle Hymns #202). This song is a true expression of our hearts when we hear of more souls repenting and seeking salvation through Jesus. Our two newest converts are Nathan Sutter (Dan and Sis. Tina) and Aaron Adrian (Bro. Rusty and Sis. Amy). We now have 11 converts. It is important that we remember to encourage them with notes and prayers.

On May 14, the engagement of Bro. Joel Virkler (Bro. Stan and Sis. Beth, Remington, IN) and Sis. Amber Greenbank (Bro. Joe and Sis. Patti, Phoenix, AZ) was announced to the church. Bro. Joel has made Taylor his "home" church for some time and we rejoice with him in this new blessing and look forward to getting acquainted with Sis. Amber.

We have enjoyed and been blessed by many visiting ministers this month. On May 28, Bro. Rustin Meister (Sis. Amanda) and Bro. John Rowell (Sis. Nelda) spent the day with us. We are thankful that they were willing to serve us.

On June 7, Bro. Loren Schrenk (Sis. Betsy, St. Louis, MO) came to present a Topical Bible Study on "repentance". It was a real blessing to us

and hearing his speech so clearly, after all he has gone through battling mouth cancer, it was a double blessing.

On June 11, Bro. Curt Kaufman (Sis. Caroline, Tucson, AZ) and Bro. Neal Widmer (Sis. Kristine, West Lafayette, IN) came and ministered God's Word to us. In a closing prayer a brother from the congregation thanked God for the "good old fashion preaching". And that is just what we heard. The basics of salvation, step by step. May we never be guilty of hearing only and not taking action. James 1:22 says, "be ye doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves."

That same blessing-packed day we had our annual Sunday School picnic and program which was the culmination of a week-long Vacation Bible School, an exciting, learning experience for all those who take the time and effort to participate. From the youngest to the oldest, each child, teacher and project is special. This was also a "welcome home" to all those who spent a week in Jamaica working at the deaf village there. Many prayers were offered up to our Heavenly Father on behalf of each traveler, student and teacher. When we pray we feel the faithfulness of a loving, caring Saviour as He hears and answers our prayers.

On June 18, Bro. Dave Roberts (St. Louis, MO) and Sis. Jan Stratton were united in marriage. Bro. Dave is the son of Sis. Carolyn Roberts and the late Bro. Dave Roberts of Bluffton North, IN. Sis. Jan is the daughter of Bro. Mike and Sis. Cheryl Stratton. May they have joy in the journey as they walk together with Jesus as their guide. Elder Bro. Kent Heimer and Bro. Ken Wuethrich (Sis. Lyn Indianapolis, IN) conducted the wedding service. Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern, KS) and ministering Bros. Loren Schrenk

(Sis. Betsy, St. Louis, MO) and Ron Joos (Sis. Christy, Bloomfield, IA) were also in attendance. Bro. Loren Schrenk and Bro. John had a powerful "Father's Day" morning message. Based on the Word of God, fathers, you have a huge responsibility! May God help you all!

"I will meet you in the morning, just inside the eastern gate..." (Gospel Hymns #815). This hymn was a great comfort to Sis. Marian Pflum and her children, Bro. Keith Pflum (Sis. Tami), Sis. Tricia Grimm (Bro. Don) and Dave Pflum (Teena, Minneapolis, MN), as they let go and trusted a loving Saviour to usher their loved husband and father through those Eastern Gates. Bro. Lyle Pflum passed away June 16 after a 30-year battle with Parkinson's Disease. As Elder Bros. Jon Schmidgall (Sis. Julie, Oakville, IA) and Kent Heimer pointed out during the funeral service, Sis. Marian certainly fulfilled her wedding vow ... to love and cherish in sickness and in health. We will continue to lift her up in prayer.

Among those receiving medical attention in the last month were Bro. Paul Haab (Sis. Kathy) and Bro. James Sutter (Sis. Lois).

NEW YORK CROGHAN-NAUMBURG Hope Graves

We had a potluck and singing on May 20, when six brothers traveled to our area. We enjoyed other company on Memorial Day weekend and spent Sunday evening at Cape Vincent for a potluck and singing. Joining us for the weekend were retired Elder Bro. Gene Pamer and Elder Bro. Dave Graf (Akron, OH).

We were blessed to have Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzell (Sabetha, KS) with us for Communion on June 10. It was a blessing to have Bro. John and Sis. Esther Rauhe able to visit us that

weekend and share a potluck dinner and the Lord's supper with us.

A graveside service was held on June 3 for Miriam Schulz. We pray the Lord will be with each of her family members.

Our prayers extend to Bro. Gerald Lehman and Sis. Bessie Farney who have both been hospitalized this month. We hope and pray that Sis. Bessie will be able to return home and attend church again soon.

Married on May 27 was Marcy Farney (Allen and Kathy) to Lance Petzoldt. We wish them both the Lord's blessings and presence in their marriage.

Graduating this spring from college is Marcy Farney Petzoldt, Jackie Purvines, Joseph Virkler and Kelly Virkler. High school graduates are Amos Bush, Jacob Farney, Thomas Farney, Brian Hirschey, Ryan King, and Philip Virkler. We wish them all the Lord's grace as they enter this new phase of their lives.

NEW YORK CITY Secaucus, New Jersey

"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

Matthew 18:20

We were thankful to have more than just two or three at our May services. Visitors from Chicago, Philadelphia and Rockville came to worship with us and blended hearts and voices together, as we had a blessed day of singing, fellowship and meditating on God's Word. Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Sis. Michelle) ministered the Word to us, and we trust that each was instructed in the ways of righteousness.

Our Church has two additional reasons to be thankful as we have two recent new additions. A baby boy, Mi-

chael Loren Schaefer was born to Craig and Tammy Schaefer. He joins an older sister, Sarah, at home. Also, Nelson and Max Haerr welcomed their first child, a daughter, Morgan Ray, into their home. May God grant His wisdom to both parent and child and bless them with good purpose, as they begin this new season of life.

We have additional services planned this year for 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 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 Mara Henico Rachel Pamer

He the head, and we His members,
He the light, and we the glow,
He the Master, we His brethren,
In true fellowship we grow.

It is a wonderful blessing to feel God's nearness as we enjoy our fellowship with our home brethren, as well as those that visit us. We are thankful that ministering Bro. Ben Walder and his wife, Sis. Juanita (Congerville, IL), were able to assemble with us this past month. Also, Bro. Jerry and Sis. Martha Bauman (Rittman, OH) visited our congregation. We pray that God will bless these brothers for their willing service to us! We are always thankful for

those who encourage us with their visits!

We rejoice with Kevin Greenbank (Ken) and Eric Steidl (Les and Judi) as they have now graduated from high school and look forward to the future. We trust that God will grant them the grace to always put their trust in Him and allow Him to direct their paths.

Even as we are thankful for the energy of youth, we realize that there comes a time when we are done here on earth. Our prayers are with Sis. Esther Fritz as her sister, Irene, recently passed away. We trust that God will be near her and grant her an extra measure of peace and security in His providence.

How long has it been since you thanked God for good health? As we hear of others who experience various ailments, it makes us thankful for the many times we have had good health. We are thankful that Mary Leidal has been able to come home from the hospital after a short stay. While Adam Graf (Bro. Eric and Sis. Erika) and Naomi Steidl (Bro. Andy and Sis. Mary) currently have casts, we are thankful that God has created our bodies in such a marvelous way that they are able to heal with time.

Lord, Thou Creator, glorious is
Thy kingdom
In all the world we sing of Thy
great fame
The hosts of heaven with all the
true and faithful
Eternally shall praise Thy holy
name.

OHIO, COLUMBUS **Nancy Banks**

As we slowly made our way across a field by tractor yesterday while repairing fence, we noticed the beautiful blue sky with the fluffy white clouds and the contrast offered by the

vivid shades of green of the woods next to the pasture. It reminded this author of the many reasons to be thankful for God for all He provides for us, including nature's wondrous palette of colors in early summer.

We are also thankful for the ministering brethren who are willing to share God's Word with us. Bro. Todd Graf (Akron, OH) and Bro. Dan Goric (Rockville, CT) visited Columbus this month. It was wonderful to have a large group of families from the Akron congregation spend a Sunday with us as they returned from a weekend in Hocking Hills.

OHIO, JUNCTION **Cindy Schlatter**

Our High School graduates this year are Cody Etter (Rob and Barb Brink), Mitchell Manz (Bro. Lester and Sis. Karen), Richard Manz (Bro. Russell and Sis. Vera), Evan Schlatter (Bro. Ed and Sis. Cheryl), and Travis Schlatter (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Laurie). We extend our congratulations to them and pray that they can look to our Heavenly Father for guidance in their future plans.

We were thankful to hear that our convert Tara Schlatter (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Laurie) professes to have the wonderful gift of peace. We will continue to pray for you, Tara, as we all look forward to that time in the future where we can hear how the Lord has worked a miracle in your heart.

June 10-11 was a blessed weekend for us as we had Invite-A-Guest weekend. We would like to thank ministering Bro. Beirne Messner (Morris, MN), Bro. Todd Graf (Akron, OH), Bro. Steve Pamer (Akron, OH), Bro. Greg Stoller (Forrest, IL), Bro. Gary Brown (Forrest, IL), and Bro. Greg Braker (Lamar, MO) for laboring on our behalf. May the Lord richly bless you. Many thanks also to all those

that made the effort to come and spend the weekend with us as well to those who organized the weekend.

Malia Brooke arrived on June 16 to bless the home of Bro. Chris and Sis. Erica Manz. She is welcomed home by Shana, Adrian and Ashton as well as grandparents, Bro. Larry and Sis. Joyce Wenninger (Latty, OH) and Bro. Don and Sis. Connie Manz. We wish this dear family much grace and wisdom as they raise their precious children.

We recently replaced the carpet in our assembly room, and we were not able to have our normal mid-week services that week. We appreciate the hospitality of our neighboring congregations as we could gather with them to worship.

OHIO, LATTY **Amanda Steffen** **Carmen Eisenmann**

Our congregation was blessed with many visiting ministers this month. They were Bro. Dale Wulf (Sis. Becky, Lester, IA), Bro. Dan Stoller (Sis. Deb, Remington, IN), Bro. Ron Kipfer (Sis. Linda, Bluffton, IN), Bro. Bob Meyer (Sis. Ann, Bluffton, IN), Bro. Vic Bauman (Sis. Brenda, Smithville, OH), Bro. Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue, Detroit, MI), and Bro. Doug Harmon (Sis. Lanna, Toledo, OH). On Wednesday evening, June 7, the Junction congregation joined us for church. With them were ministering Bros. Don Manz (Sis. Connie), Ben Manz (Sis. Carolyn), Tony Manz (Sis. Denise), and Warren Schlatter (Sis. Cindy). We are thankful for their willingness to preach the Truth.

Tianna Lyn was born into the home of Bro. Curt and Sis. Lisa Sinn on May 16. She was welcomed home by Chelsea, Tiffany and Cameron. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Ray

and Sis. Ann Sinn and Bro. Dale and Sis. Becky Wulf (Lester, IA).

June 2 was the wedding day for Andrea Drinnon (Paulding, OH) and Jay Klopfenstein. Jay is the son of Bro. Keith and Sis. JoAnne Klopfenstein. On June 4, Bro. Tyler Gerber (Ricki and John Gerber, Smithville, OH) and Sis. Janna Sinn (Bro. Stan and Sis. JaNahn) were united in marriage. Bro. Aaron Stoller (Bro. Jim and Sis. Tam) and Sis. Michelle Bahr (Bro. Phil and Sis. Dawn, Detroit, MI) were married on June 10. We pray a special blessing on each of these couples as they begin their lives together.

We rejoice that Seth Wenninger (Bro. Larry and Sis. Joyce) has decided to turn his back to the world and serve Jesus as his Lord and Saviour. May God give him grace to become a truly converted person.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Carolyn Baird and Sis. Dolores Grant (Bro. Tom) as they have spent time in the hospital this month. May God give them healing according to His will.

Vacation Bible School was held June 12-16. We pray that the lessons the children were taught will stay with them through the rest of their lives.

OHIO, MANSFIELD

Esther Baumann

We rejoice with converts Maria Tucker (Dan and Sis. Barb) and Melinda Robertson (Steve) as it was announced they have received the peace of God. We are also thankful to learn that Wesley Beer (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Tammy) and Archie and Amber Tucker have begun their repentance. Continue to pray for all of them as they grow in God's marvelous ways.

Precious little Eli James, first-born of Bro. Jared and Sis. Ab-

bey Keever, arrived safely into this world on June 6. Thankful grandparents are Clair and Sis. Bev Keever and Bro. Ed and Sis. Laura Ramsey.

A hearty welcome home to Sis. Bethany Hill (Bro. Chip and Sis. Sieda). She was in the Athens, AL, Preschool serving the Lord this past school year.

Warm congratulations to Archie Tucker (Dan and Sis. Barb) and Amber Tschantz (Bob and Trisha) who were married on June 3.

We are grateful to Bro. John Grimm (Sis. Julie, Columbus, OH) and Bro. John Rowell (Sis. Nelda, Burlington, IA) who served us in the ministry this past month.

OHIO, RITTMAN

Sarah Bauman Hannah Beery

We were thankful this month for the many visiting ministers that were used in our congregation. Sharing in the Word were Bro. Steve Pamer (Akron, OH), Elder Bro. Dave Graf (Akron, OH), Elder Bro. Bob Walder (Congerville, IL), Bro. Mark Steiner (Smithville, OH) and Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH). We appreciate the diligent efforts these brothers extend on our behalf.

On May 20, our congregation was privileged to hear testimonies of faith from four converts. Sis. Alicia Gasser (Bro. Neil and Sis. Donna), Bro. Adam Gasser (Bro. Neil and Sis. Donna), Sis. Bethany Dotterer (Bro. Robert and Sis. Mardel), and Sis. Cymbal Rigggenbach (Bro. Bob and Sis. Lorie) all were baptized on Sunday. We rejoiced together in the goodness of our Saviour!

John and Sis. Cynthia Nussbaum welcomed their fourth daughter on May 16. Lorraine Elizabeth joins her older sisters, Rachel, Rebecca and Renee. Grandmother is Marie Nussbaum.

Thomas and Shelly Baltic brought home a bundle in the birth of Isaac Richard. He'll celebrate his birthday on May 23. Grandparents are Bro. Daniel and Sis. Betty Baltic (Indianapolis, IN).

The Bro. Tony and Sis. Cherie Stoller family also rejoiced in the birth of Grace Ellen Marie on June 2. Completing the family are children, Bailey, Alayna and Jack. Grandparents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Jeannette Stoller and Jeff and Elsie Maibach.

Jehu Marvin arrived on June 15 to the Bro. Joe and Sis. Kendra Ramsier family. Older siblings, Elizabeth, Kenneth, Brenda and Esther, are excited for another boy in the family. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Marvin and Sis. Terri Ramsier and Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Janice Steffen (Forrest, IL).

Jason Musser and Tana McGuire were joined in marriage this past month. Parents of the couple are Bro. Michael and Sis. Luann Musser. We wish the Lord's richest blessings upon the Mussers as they create a new home.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to those who were hospitalized this month. We hope and trust that Sis. Marguerite Gasser, Sis. Margaret Winkler (Bro. Stanley), Sis. Lillian Maibach (Bro. Andrew), Bro. Harold Widmer (Sis. Carole), Sis. Erma Ingold and Sis. Beverly Moore (Randy) all have felt the strength and love of our Lord during this time.

OHIO, SARDIS

Eric and Jami Hartzler

"For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come."

I Cor. 11:26

Our congregation partook of Holy Communion on Saturday evening,

May 20. We are thankful Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Sis. Michelle, Philadelphia, PA) was able and willing to assist our Elder Bro. Ken in serving the Lord's supper. What a blessing to be reminded of Christ's suffering, death and resurrection and His undying love for mankind.

"A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:"

Proverbs 1:5

We rejoice with our graduates and pray that they will look to the Lord for guidance and wisdom. Sis. Angie Figel (Bro. Rob) has graduated with an Associates Degree, Sis. Charla Zollinger (Bro. Gary and Sis. Terry) has graduated with a Bachelor's Degree, and Craig Zollinger (Bro. Gary and Sis. Terry) has graduated from high school.

Our prayers for speedy recovery from surgery are with Sis. Janet Indermuhle (Bro. Allen) and Baylee Figel (Bro. Andy and Sis. Cyndi). Also, Sis. Martha Indermuhle was hospitalized. May the Great Physician grant healing and comfort.

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

The flowers of springtime bright
and fair
Disperse their fragrance sweet and rare,
So consecrate the bloom of youth,
And seek His friendship, grace and truth.

Hymns of Zion #135, vs. 1-2

On Saturday, June 10, we had our annual Sunday School picnic. It was a

beautiful day of fellowship, food, and games. We are thankful for Bro. Dean Hartzler (Sis. Jan, Rittman, OH) being able to share a message with us at the end of the day. May God bless each one who put forth the effort to make the day special.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE

**Ruth Gasser
Edith Miller**

There shall be showers of blessing;
This is the promise of love;
There shall be seasons refreshing,
Sent from the Saviour above.

Gospel Hymns #315

The blessings of God have been showered again upon us in the physical and the spiritual sense. Our visitors this past month have included those who minister God's Word. We have appreciated the labors of Bros. Lucas Frank (Detroit, MI), Bill Brake (Sardis, OH), Joe Dotterer (Bloomfield, IA), and Nelson Beer (Milford, IN). We pray that our brothers may continue by God's grace to speak the Word of truth, and that we may be faithful hearers and doers of the Word, not taking these blessings for granted.

Our convert, Laura Gasser, has felt the blessing of God and experienced peace, hoping to give her testimony to the congregation in time. Her parents are Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Suellen Maibach (and the late Bro. Greg Gasser). May she continue to grow in faith and grace. We also wish this to our latest convert, Whitney Price, who is seeking the Lord's will and direction in her life.

Doug and Melaney Nieman have an added blessing in their family with the birth of Hunter Jayce on May 19. His grandparents are Bro. Denny and Sis. Kay Nieman, and siblings are Logan and Shania, who eagerly await

his arrival at home, since he needed to spend extra time in the hospital. Bro. Mike and Sis. Susie Walder are thankful for the safe arrival of Grace Lilly on June 8, as she joins Evan, Grant and Trinity at home. Her grandparents are Bro. Melvin and Sis. Irma Walder (Champaign, IL) and Bro. Fred and Sis. Eva Grawunder (Akron, OH). May these families look to God for help to bring them up in His ways.

June 4 was a special day for Bro. Tyler Gerber and Sis. Janna Sinn, as they became one in the Lord at Latty, OH. May God bless this union and may they look to Him for the central focus of their lives. Parents of the couple are Ricki Gerber and John Gerber and Bro. Stan and Sis. JaNahn Sinn (Latty, OH).

The engagement of Sis. Jenny Rufener (presently of Leo, IN) and Bro. Zach Bertsch (Bluffton, IN) was made known to us on June 11. Bro. John and Sis. Janice Rufener are Sis. Jenny's parents, and Bro. Mike and Sis. Carmen Bertsch (Bluffton, IN) are Bro. Zach's parents. May the Lord guide them in this engagement time and throughout their life together.

Sis. Bonnie Nieman continues to need our prayers as she undergoes extensive medical treatment and has not been able to assemble with us for some time.

OHIO, TOLEDO Teresa Rywalski Rebecca Beard

Our prayers are with Sis. Clara Beard who recently had surgery. May she feel God's healing touch.

Sharon Harris is thankful for the safe arrival of a new grandson, Jacob Edwin Harris II. His parents are Jacob and Danielle.

Visiting this month on the pulpit were Bro. Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue, Detroit, MI), Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter

(Sis. Emily, Junction, OH), and Bro. Sam Schlatter (Sis. Linda, Junction, OH). God bless the willing hearts of these brothers for their service in teaching us God's Word.

We send our prayers and love with Sis. Brooklynn Lehner as she is moving to Illinois to further her education. We hope that she will return to visit us as time allows.

OREGON, PORTLAND **Brianna Strahm**

We appreciate Silverton ministering Bros. Harvey Kuenzi (Sis. Jennifer) and Ed Knecht (Sis. Judie) for their willingness to serve us this month. Later in the month we were also blessed by a visit from Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen) of our Champaign, IL, congregation. May the Lord richly bless these brothers for their selfless labors on behalf of God's people.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with our Bro. Ron Jones (Sis. Liz) as he bears the affliction of a serious ongoing eye infection. As of this writing, the Lord has blessed him with a measure of healing for which we are thankful. How thankful we can be that God's grace is sufficient for every trial in life. If it would be God's will, we wish him a complete recovery in the days ahead.

Note of Thanks:

A special "thank you" to the many beloved brethren for the birthday wishes on my 80th birthday. "Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost." Romans 15:13

In Christian Love,
Bro. Robert Miller

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

Trent Joseph was born on May 30 to Bro. Nick and Sis. Lori Stadel. Trent's siblings are Trevor, Kiersten, Malinda, Kassandra, and Miranda.

A special thanks to our outgoing Sunday School teachers. We appreciate the extra time given each week to teach our children. The five new teachers that will begin this fall are as follows: Bro. Jason Kuenzi (11th & 12th), Bro. James Schneider (6th), Bro. Jason Snook (4th), Sis. Shonda Maul (2nd), and Sis. Alice Metz (1st).

Bro. Greg Wackerle and Bro. Eldon Metz have been selected to serve as additional trustees to help out with our new fellowship hall building duties.

Fellowship hall update: There is still some outside brick work to be completed and inside painting projects are underway.

Bro. Ron Jones (Sis. Liz) from Portland served us on the pulpit this month. We appreciate his regular visits to our Silverton church.

PENNSYLVANIA **PHILADELPHIA** **Nathan and**

MaryElizabeth Gasser

As we welcome the longer days and warmer temperatures of summer, we are reminded of the beauty and the wonder of God's creation. As we enjoy spending time outdoors this summer, let's remember to share our appreciation for His goodness with our children, our friends and neighbors, and those who most need His love in their lives.

We appreciated having Bro. Tim Gerber (Mansfield, OH), Bro. David Hartter (Sabetha, KS) and Bro. War-

ren Zahner (Rockville, CT) share the Word with us this month. It is encouraging to hear the same Word taught to us by each of His faithful servants. We invite all those who may be traveling out east this summer to consider spending a Wednesday evening or Sunday worshipping with us in Philadelphia.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE **Mike and Monica Fritz**

We are thankful to God that He has led a new family to the Nashville area. Bro. Adrian and Sis. Shawna Bachman and their children, Micah, Audrey, and newborn Kaden, moved here from Forrest, IL, over Memorial Day weekend. We pray that the Lord will strengthen and encourage them as they follow His leading in their lives.

We have been greatly blessed in the past month by the Living Word, so ably brought to us by our visiting ministers: Bros. Justin Koch (Sis. Marcia; Washington, IL); Tony Manz (Sis. Denise; Junction, OH), John Reinhard (Sis. Pam; Bluffton, IN), and Fred Witzig (Sis. Nancy; Indianapolis, IN). Also, we have been encouraged by the fellowship with brethren and friends visiting from Congerville, Eureka, Fairbury, Forrest, and Washington, IL; Bluffton, Indianapolis, and LaCrosse, IN; Bern, KS; Alto, MI; and Junction, 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: LaCrosse, IN (7/23); Chicago, IL (7/30); Leo, IN (8/6); Remington, IN (8/13); Francesville, IN (8/20); Alto, MI (8/27). If you are planning to worship with us, please call ahead to confirm our schedule. We also usually meet

on Wednesday evenings for a song service and would welcome any mid-week visitors. Contacts are Bro. Don and Sis. Faye Sauder (615) 373-8928; Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica Fritz (615) 952-9933; and Sis. Gwen Leuthold (615) 356-5755.

TEXAS, AUSTIN
Amy Ringger
Serenity Ringger

The Dedication for our new church was held June 11. It was a memorable occasion for everyone present. Visiting ministers were our counseling Elder Bro. Bob Walder (Sis. Gloria, Congerville), Bros. Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata), and Dennis Rassi (Sis. Diane, Fairbury).

Isaiah 66:1-2 was read; "Thus saith the Lord, The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool: where is the house that ye build unto me? And where is the place of my rest? For all those things hath mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith the Lord: but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word."

From the dedication exhortation: "Everything is God's, the heaven and the earth, and is lent for our use, sometimes as a test to see how we'll use them. Will it be an honor to God? We dedicate this building as a house of worship but there needs to be a continual dedication of our lives so that those who come here, friends or visitors or children, might see that here is a people who are trying to walk humbly with their God."

We appreciate the willingness of everyone who helped in the effort and will be grateful for the ongoing prayers and help of the brethren that the church here in Austin will be a glory to God.

One of the ways you can help us is

to visit. Since we have facilities in the church to keep people overnight, we extend an invitation for several extras to come along with the minister on each church's turn. We enjoy having visitors join us for a singing on Saturday and/or supper and singing on Sunday. Please keep it in mind as the Lord opens the way.

Our ministers this month were Elder Bros. Lawrence Luthi (Sis. Sandra, Lamar), Bruce Hohulin (Goodfield), and Bro. Bob Beebe (Sis. Sue, South Bend), and we enjoyed visitors from Francesville, Eureka, Atlanta, and Bluffton North. Also, we were blessed with a Wednesday evening service when Bro. John Jackson (Bay City) was in Austin for a business trip.

Upcoming churches serving us are these: Akron (July 23), Rittman (July 30), Taylor (Aug. 6), Chicago (Aug. 13), Smithville (Aug. 20), Oakville, (Aug. 27), Bluffton North (Sept. 3), Minneapolis (Sept. 10).

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. And we have a church sign in the front now!

In the church, there are two furnished bedrooms, plus a sleeper sofa, 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
DALLAS/FORT WORTH
Judith Fehr

Greetings from Dallas/ Ft. Worth.

Summer is truly here, even though as I write we are still several days from the first day of summer. It's been hot, but this is Texas and we enjoy it.

We were very happy to have Bro. Lucas Frank (Detroit) share God's Word with us on May 7. Accompanying him was Curtis Kaiser (Detroit).

On June 4, Bro. Max Reimschisel (Sis. Judy, Wichita) was here to lead us in worship. We thank the brethren for their time, talent, and willingness to serve us, even though we are so few.

We are canceling worship services from the middle of July through August, as those of us here will be traveling to other areas.

We hope to resume the schedule again in September, the Lord willing.

We wish all a happy and safe summer.

Many thanks to the visitors who joined our worship services. We are always happy to have anyone who wishes to join us. To those who have been here, please, come back soon.

We welcome anyone living near or traveling through the area to worship with us. We currently meet in Grapevine, TX, at the Holiday Inn Express just northwest of the DFW airport, near the intersection of Highways

114 and 121. To reach the hotel while traveling either direction on Highway 121, exit on Main Street; the hotel is on the south side of the highway. For worship times or other information, please contact Sis. Judi Fehr (972-956-0597) or Beverly and Ralph Riggerbach at (817-741-1502)

TEXAS, ZAPATA

Mary Plattner

We are now having our season of year when our winter visitors have returned home and our local residents are traveling. We encourage anyone coming to South Texas to call if Zapata is in your travel plans.

We will miss Sis. Sandy Leman as she is making plans to return to Illinois after spending time in the Zapata area where she has worked for some time. She will be working in Peoria.

We have been blessed with several rains which have made the landscape green again. Our lake remains low due to the extended drought we have had.

VERMONT, NORWICH

Areli and Kirby Reutter

"O, how lovely is the morning, when it is begun with God!" / "I was in

the Spirit on the Lord's day." / "Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre."

All of these words were song, read, or referenced when we gathered to worship in our little flock of Norwich. All of us who live in northern New England typically drive up to two or three hours to be present in body and Spirit on the Lord's day (whether at Norwich or Rockville), which often requires us to rise "very early in the morning." It was refreshing to be reminded that this small sacrifice is an ancient tradition of those who seek the Lord.

Of course, the dear ministering Brothers who serve us often come from other regions of the country altogether. We are truly humbled that Brothers would travel so far to serve the very least of the saints. This past month, we were privileged to hear the meditations of Bro. Gary Maibach (Sis. Mary Ann, Smithville, OH) and Bro. Earl Beery (Sis. Suzie, Rittman, OH). May the Lord multiply their labours unto His glory.

In addition, we are thankful that our dedicated ministering Brothers from Rockville continue to support the work as well. In fact, we hardly consider them visiting Brothers!

This month Bro. Dan Stoller (Sis. Diane) and Bro. Duane Reutter (Sis. Kay) also occupied the pulpit.

We invite all to come and worship with us this summer. 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 or your congregation are interested in purchasing head coverings hand-made by Sisters from Ixtlán, México, please contact Sis. Areli Reutter at the number listed above. Sis. Areli grew up in Ixtlán and has a collection of coverings ready for distribution. An inventory is available upon request.



"Zion's Melodies" Instrumental CD

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

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.

- NOTICE - Repair and Distribution of Worn Bibles & Bible Story Books

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BIBLE DISTRIBUTION

The Bible Distribution Center which was formerly in Leo, IN has been moved to Bluffton, IN.

All books, including Bibles, in English and other languages, plus Bible Story Books which have been approved by the Apostolic Christian Mission Committee, are available for those who wish to distribute them in the name of Jesus Christ.

The book inventory is computerized, and the personnel at Bluffton can drop ship to nearly any address.

To order, contact,

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Bible Distribution
PO Box 30
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Teaching Position Available

Gateway Woods is excited to announce an opening for an English teacher 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. Also you must be a Sister in the Apostolic Christian Church. 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?

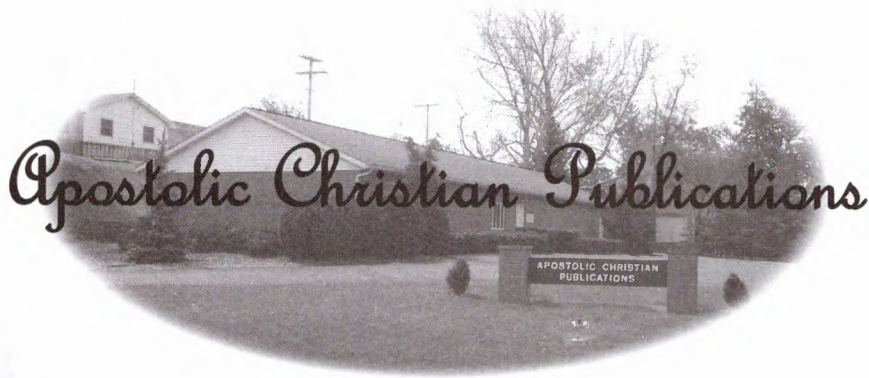
Houseparenting at Gateway Woods offers an opportunity for a couple, directed of the Lord, to come to work in a full-time on going ministry at Gateway Woods. We are expanding and have need for several couples. This position offers competitive wages and benefits and a close relationship with brothers and 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.

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Lynn Stieglitz
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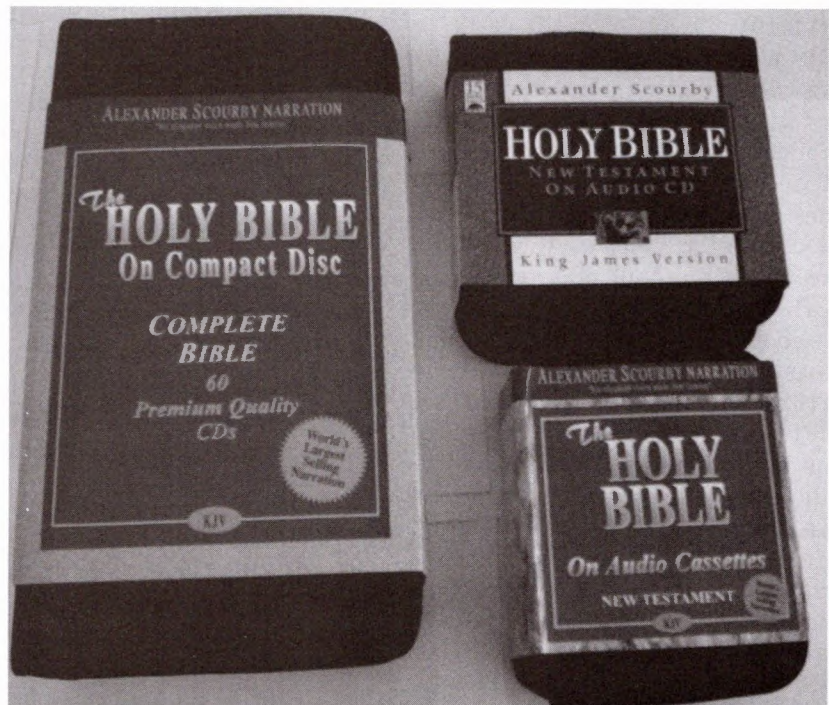
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reach? Why do you live an overcoming life? Why do you love your brother and sister? Why do you do things? It matters why. It is important that we do. But it is also important to ask the question, what makes me tick? Who am I? Sardis had let that facade become who they were. So that people said Sardis is alive. And they were dead.

So He warns them, and again, if we find ourselves, the Holy Spirit searching our heart, convicted of something here, the answer is not to despair. It's to repent. The answer is not to say oh woe is me. It is to turn to God. All of these messages, no matter how dire, even the church at Laodicea, the lukewarm church, He calls them back to Himself. God does not chastise us because He doesn't like us. He chastises us because He loves us. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten, He says (Rev. 3:19).

"Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die..." Rev. 3:2. So there was a little flicker of light still there. He references that in verse four. "Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments..." Rev. 3:4. So there was a remnant of people there and He is challenging that remnant. He is challenging us to flick that flame and reunite it. Take that little flame and turn it into a fire. Again that can apply to us as a church or it can apply to us as an individual. If our flame is about ready to flicker out but there is still a flame, God does not want us to stay there. He wants us to be alive. He wants us to light that fire. To be watchful and strengthen. To be watchful is to be aware, to be spiritually aware of what is happening around you. Be spiritually aware and involved.

Strengthen the things which remain. Are there good things happening? Strengthen those. In our church and your individual lives, strengthen. Take our strengths and build on those. Sometimes the best way to deal with weakness is to take the strengths and build on it. To walk away and to walk towards something good.

And are ready to die... I pray that is not the case in our church here and I pray that there is no one here that is a believer that is in a Sardis situation,

where they are dead and ready to completely die spiritually. I pray that is not true. But if it is true of you, the answer is to repent and to strengthen that which remains.

Brother Matt talked about this, "...for I have not found thy works perfect before God." Rev. 3:2. God is not seeing a completeness in Sardis. He is not seeing a reality. The church at Sardis, there was a large Jewish gathering, a large Jewish colony there at Sardis. I don't know what kind of an influence - the history books don't completely tell us - what kind of influence that was having on the church, if that is what was causing them to get distracted was the pressure from the Jews around them. We'll find, as we read in Philadelphia, that was definitely one of the issues. Possibly it was true at Sardis also.

"Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard..." Rev. 3:3. Where do we go back to? We go back to when we first were touched by God. We go back to the Word of God, our foundation and we remember - we heard about that this morning too - how God has worked. We remember what is the right way and where we are off the path.

"...and hold fast, and repent." Rev. 3:3. And then the warning, "...If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee." Rev. 3:3. God is going to judge. It is fascinating, this Revelation 3 is a fascinating one to study because many of the phrases in here, we as Christians use to talk about unbelievers, don't we? "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock..." Rev. 3:20. "I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire..." Rev. 3:18. A lot of these phrases out of here we talk about with the unbelievers but this is written to the churches. This repentance, this humility, this coming to God, this drifting away, these harsh warnings of judgment, are written to the church. Written to individuals, written to the church at Sardis as a whole. Written to us as individuals, written to the church here as a whole. Going to come as a thief.

Then He talks about again, the remnant. "...have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy." Rev. 3:4.

What makes us worthy? That we are walking in the garment of Jesus Christ. That we are walking clothed with His righteousness. That we walk by faith. The just shall live by faith (Romans 1:17). That we are living lives in Christ Jesus. Being sanctified, being set apart for His purposes.

Then He repeats over and over here, He that overcometh, he that overcometh (Rev. 3:5,21). Are we overcoming the world? Are we living lives of victory in Christ? He calls us to. Again, what is the root? This is what overcomes the world, even our faith. Our faith in God then propelling us to godly lives. Propelling us to good works. Not the other way around. Not the good works to be like Sardis and to cover up. Not good works to distract and to pretend. Not to be hypocrites. But out of a true heart of faith then to produce works, to live godly lives.

Then He uses kind of a double negative, "...I will not blot out his name out of the book of life..." Rev. 3:5. Those who do not know Jesus will have their names not in the book of life. Here is a challenge for us to have our names there. How do we keep them there? By continuing to have faith in Jesus Christ. To live for Him.

"...but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels." Rev. 3:5. That's one of a number of powerful statements in here. Of how Jesus Christ in this endeavor, as we read these churches, we think about our own heart, we can sometimes become despairing, can't we? Can sometimes be fearful and yet we see that God is on our side. He is going to confess us before the Father and before His angels. God is with us as we endeavor to be faithful. As we endeavor to submit our lives to Him. As we endeavor to not be a hypocrite, to be truly alive, not putting on a false front of being alive. The Father will be with us. Not only on that day when He professes our name but in our lives, walking with us protecting us. These are His churches. Jesus is writing these letters to draw us to Him.

The church at Philadelphia - the word Philadelphia means brotherly love. Philadelphia is, I think the only church in here that doesn't get some pretty strong words. He starts off in verse seven, "...he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David,

he that openeth, and no man shutteth..." Rev. 3:7. That is actually a reference to Isaiah 22:22 that I read. "And the key of the house of David will I lay upon his shoulder; so he shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open." Isaiah 22:22. It is in context of Israel being in the middle of being overtaken, I believe in this case it was Persia and then being restored and that whole battle when they continued to be overtaken by others. He just continues to give them an encouragement that He is with them. In that case, a prophetic - how did I read that? - "...key of the house of David...", okay a reference to Jesus, "...will I lay upon his shoulder; so he shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open." All of Israel would have recognized David as this powerful king who had held their nation together. Now as they were being invaded and taken out, a reference to the key of the house of David is a reference, not only a messianic reference to Jesus, but also a reference to strength. That God is with you. That is exactly what He is doing here in Revelation, to this church at Philadelphia. A church that was under intense persecution from the Jewish synagogue, the Jewish community here. All of the Jews, both those who were messianic or Christians now and those who were not, would have recognized this phrase from Isaiah 22 as an anointment. As a 'God is with you' statement. As in, yes this truly is the Messiah, Jesus Christ. Yes, this is where the power is because that Jewish community in Philadelphia would have been really pressing on this new church to try and sink it and oppress it. We will see some of those phrases in here.

So He starts out with that reference to get their attention right away. I am the Messiah. He said, "...These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David...", I am the promised Messiah. I speak authoritatively here, He is saying to Philadelphia, because He knows this letter isn't just going to be written by the believers but by the unbelievers. It is a little bit of a comfort and a rebuke to the Jewish people to understand that they have rejected the true Messiah, the true key of David.

He that openeth and no man shutteth. Notice the power. He that openeth nobody can shut. If I open it, I open it, Jesus says.

Verse eight, "I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name." Rev. 3:8. A faithful church. A church under persecution. A church under intense struggle but a church that was faithful. Again, written to us as a church, written to you as an individual. Are you there? Are you under some intense struggle? Are you faithful? Are you standing on that strength of the key of David? If He has opened the way, nobody can shut it, whether it is the church at Philadelphia, the church at Bloomington or you as an individual.

"...set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength..." Rev. 3:8. That is interesting that He says to the strongest church of the seven, or the most godly church of the seven, that you have a little strength. I don't know what it means, to be honest. But I think it is fascinating. It is almost as if to help us remember that no matter how God is working in wonderful ways and preserving us under persecution or whatever we are going through, we still just have a little strength. It is still all about God. I don't know if that is what it means.

"...hast kept my word..." Rev. 3:8. I don't know if that is a key phrase. It appears to me to be. The church at Philadelphia kept His word. Have not denied His name. They have professed His name and they have kept His word.

"Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee." Rev. 3:9. That would have been a statement that would have really stirred up the Jewish community in Philadelphia. First off, He calls them the synagogue of Satan. I doubt that they would have appreciated that very much. Second, He says, you are not really a Jew. That would have really stirred them up. What He was saying to them is, look, those who are true Israelites are those who follow the faith of Abraham and you can see that

developed in Hebrews or Romans and many other places in the New Testament. Those who are the seed of Abraham.

Remember when the Pharisees attacked Jesus a few times and they said, Father Abraham. Jesus rebuked them back, didn't He. He said, no, no. If you were of Father Abraham you would be following the faith of Abraham. He went on to say, before Abraham was, I am. That upset them so much they stoned Him, or tried to anyway but He got away (St. John 8:58,59).

I don't know what this phrase, "...I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee." Rev. 3:9. I don't know what that phrase means, as many of the teachings in Revelation. Even if you study diligently you will struggle to find what exactly some of these mean. I am not sure what that one means.

"...to know that I have loved thee." But the end message is to help that church at Philadelphia to hang in there and recognize, that even though right now the Jews had authority with the Roman government and was oppressing this church at Philadelphia, what He was saying is look, in the end, I love thee. You are the one that is worshipping me. Stay faithful to Me. They might be trying to make you bow down right now but in the end, every knee shall bow, every tongue shall confess that Jesus is Lord (Romans 14:11).

He repeats in verse ten, "Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth." Rev. 3:10. I don't know what exactly that means. But He is telling them, in their moment of trial, He is going to keep them. He is going to preserve them. He is going to be with them even in a great hour of temptation.

"Behold, I come quickly..." Rev. 3:11. Behold I come quickly. When you are in great persecution, when you are in pain, when you are going through struggle, it matters how long, doesn't it? It matters how long we need to hang in there. Jesus gives this church at Philadelphia the promise. He gives us the promise, I am coming quickly. No

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temptation taken that is not common to man that God will make a way of escape (I Corinthians 10:13). God knows how much we can handle.

"...hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown." Rev. 3:11. Above all things, brothers and sisters, we want to keep our salvation. Our faith in Jesus Christ. We want to keep that and He calls it a crown here. I don't know if that equates to the helmet of salvation or if it is talking about the crowns in the other part of Revelation that He is going to give (Rev. 2:10). I don't know the exact reference, but I know it symbolizes salvation. We are going to be joint heirs with Jesus Christ. Don't let anybody take that away. No philosophy of man, no temptation, no trial, within or without.

"Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God..." Rev. 3:12. Again, I think another reference to both comfort the Christians there and to also rebuke the Jewish community there. A pillar in the temple of God. Remember the Jewish synagogue? There were certain areas people couldn't even go into. As he uses this pictorial, as a pillar in the temple of God, a symbol of strength, a symbol of power. A pillar is something that is strong and symbolizes strength and authority. The Roman empire, the many pillared buildings.

"...and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God; and I will write upon him my new name." Rev. 3:12. Again, to the faithful, to those of us who are believers, to those of us who are following Jesus Christ, He gives all these tremendous encouragements. He is going to write on us a name. I think it says in another place in Revelation, He writes on their forehead a new name (Rev. 2:17). It gives us this pictorial of new Jerusalem. In another place in Revelation I think it is, it talks about new Jerusalem coming down out of heaven (Rev. 21:2). This four square, three dimensional, new Jerusalem. Unlike the Jerusalem today, in our dimension, this New Jerusalem comes out of heaven in this cubicle city coming down out of heaven from my God. (Rev. 21:16,17)

Again a symbol of power. A symbol to these people here, those Jews that were so focused on current Jerusalem, there is going to be a new Jerusalem.

And again, "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches." Rev. 3:13. What is the Spirit saying to your heart? If He is whispering something to your heart, respond to it. Jesus is saying it to our heart because He loves us! Because He doesn't want us to remain as either the Sardis church, as a hypocrite or if we're a Philadelphian in our heart and we are being faithful but we are struggling, being faithful but we feel persecuted, faithful but we feel lots of pressure, don't worry about the synagogue of Satan. Worry about what God has said to our heart.

Then probably the strongest of all, to the church at Laodicea, it is a sad one. It is a church that has grown lukewarm. I don't believe, I can't remember here as we read through it, we will check, I don't believe there is anything positive said about the church at Laodicea. And again, He starts off by saying, "...These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;" Rev. 3:14. Why do you think He started like that? Because He is about to tell them they are lukewarm. The Holy Spirit whispers to your heart that you need a change. That you are not walking, whether it is the Sardis church or now the Laodicean church where you become lukewarm, then don't blame me for saying it! Take it back to the scripture and make sure it is Jesus that is whispering. That is what Jesus is saying here. He is saying, this isn't about man. This is a faithful and true witness. This is scripture that is going to speak to our heart. It is Jesus, the One who loves us. The beginning of the creation of God. The Creator. The One who made you. So if He rebukes you or chastises you, it is good! Again, remember our human tendency is to overlook our own failings.

"I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot." Rev. 3:15. The city of Laodicea was a ways away from water source. So it had two choices to get it. One from, I forget the city, Hierapolis or something like that, where there was natural springs, hot springs. In

fact, I think in Turkey those still exist today. But by the time they pumped that water seven miles or however many miles it was to Laodicea, it was lukewarm. If it were hot, it would be good for what? Therapy, for bathing, for cooking. But lukewarm, you either got to heat it or cool it. They could also get it from some of the hills. It was cool there but by the time it came down, it was lukewarm. So He used an illustration right from their town. Right from them.

God often does that, doesn't He? He grabs us with something right in our own life and our own heart. He says, 'You know, Mark, about that business deal, about that statement you made to somebody about the way you are living, that is hypocrisy.' He sometimes uses an illustration, doesn't He? Does He ever use your children? Ever use your neighbors? He does me and He did to Laodicea to communicate a very, very serious issue. The language by itself tells the story. "So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth." Rev. 3:16. It doesn't take a theologian to recognize the seriousness of that statement.

Look at the deception. And again we need to have the humility and the honesty to look at our hearts and really think about where we are with Jesus. Where we are walking with Him. "Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods..." Rev. 3:17. A very affluent community. Apparently maybe the church was too. Laodicea was. "...I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing..." Rev. 3:17. What arrogance! What arrogance to think any of us need nothing. Again, it is interesting to read the history. It is important that we apply it as a church. It is very important that you apply it as an individual. "...and knowest not that thou art wretched and miserable, and poor, and blind and naked:" Rev. 3:17.

Now I hope that none of us are that far from understanding where we are at in our relationship with God. That is pretty dramatic when you think you are rich and increased in goods and in need of nothing and you are poor and naked and blind and about to be spued out of God's mouth. Hopefully none of us are there. But if so, what would you

want? What would you want? You would want to know, wouldn't you? I would. I would want to know.

So even if the gap's maybe not there, maybe we think this, 'I'm okay' and God says, 'Well, no, actually you need to repent'. Let's close the gap. Only the Holy Spirit can whisper to your heart issues, can't He? I could talk for hours. It wouldn't do any good unless the Holy Spirit whispers to your heart and to mine. What was going to wake up Laodicea? Only the Spirit. Not a man. Only the Spirit.

What's He counsel? Counsel him to give it up? You are going to get spit out? That's not God's counsel. Give it up. You have been like this for twenty years - maybe there is somebody here that has been lukewarm. You have to testify of that. Maybe like Sardis, everybody thinks you are alright! I don't know. The Holy Spirit knows. If He is whispering to your heart, listen to these words. "I counsel thee to buy of the gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich..." Rev. 3:18. You see He really does want you to be rich! He really does! It's just got to be on His terms! It's just got to be real! It's got to be hot water or cold water good for drinking. It can't be lukewarm. You can't play games with God. He knows! He knows my heart! I could stand here and preach a sermon or do anything, God knows my heart!

"I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment..." Rev. 3:18. Jesus' blood is what the white raiment is. "...that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear..." Rev. 3:18. Even in this Greek-Roman time, when the Olympics ran naked and all kinds of goofy stuff, they all recognized nakedness in public was a bad thing, was a shame. So He uses that illustration that we all can understand. The shame of thy nakedness does not appear. Because that's what it is going to be like if we stand before Jesus playing games. If we stand before Jesus and we're really not clothed in His blood or the robe of righ-

teousness. He sees through. He knows.

"...anoint thine eyes with eye-salve, that thou mayest see." Rev. 3:18. Another specific illustration that the city of Laodicea was a medical mecca center. They had lots of things going on. A lot of technology, ways that they were helping people, both hearing and in this case it was an eye-salve. They had invented eye-salve that did something to help with eye troubles. I can't remember the name. But it was a famous name beside that. Poldies or somebody's eye-salve. So they would have recognized that right away. He is saying, spiritually, take that eye salve. Put it on your eyes that thou mayest see. Remember what I said at the beginning, it is so easy to see the weaknesses of others. It is so hard for us as a church body, whether Bloomington or the Apostolic denomination or you as individuals, it is so easy for us to see the faults of others. So hard to put on the eye salve and to see clearly.

"As many as I love..." Rev. 3:19. He wrote this because He loves you. He wrote this because He loved the church at Laodicea. You know, when you read that, I am going to spue you out, it almost sounds like He doesn't. But He does! Right? He does! He was only going to spue them out because that was their choice. "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent." Rev. 3:19. Let's turn back. Isn't that what repent means? Turn back to what's right. What's biblical.

I love this ending picture. I love this picture. Please picture this in your mind's eye. Whether your gap is clear over here like Laodicea or maybe you just identified a little gap or maybe you are just going to start praying to see the eye salve come on to open your eyes. But picture this scene. I picture Jesus standing at the door of my heart. Can you picture that? "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock..." Rev. 3:20. Can you picture that? Knocking on your heart. Look what He wants. This goes for an unbeliever and it specifically applies to us as believers. I stand

at the door and knock. He stands and knocks. He wants to come in. He wants to heal. He wants us to stay in the mouth. He wants us to be hot, alive, on fire for Him. Cold, cold drink of water. Service. Helping others.

"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock. If any man..." Rev. 3:20. Not a select few. You know it is fascinating, there has always been just a remnant in many places; in Israel, in Sardis. But that is not God's plan. He wants everyone to be alive. Not to be faking it like Sardis but to be really alive. "...if any man hear my voice..." - you see when He stands and knocks, He beckons. He says come. Wake up. Hear my voice. Don't believe the world. Have you been sucked into some false teachings? Have you been sucked into some luke-have you been drifting off into lukewarmness? That is not what I want. Come back. As He knocks, He speaks.

"...I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me." Rev. 3:20. At the end of the day He wants to dine. He wants that intimate communion. That is what it is - to sit and to sup. Back then they would sup out of the same bowl. Sup together. That communion, that intimacy. We sit down and eat with people we love over Thanksgiving, don't we? We go to lunch with someone we want to talk with. That is what He wants.

"To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne..." Rev. 3:21. I don't even know what that means exactly. I think of the reference, it says that we are going to be joint heirs (Romans 8:17). But to sit with me in my throne? There is only One who is supposed to be on the throne. For some reason now He is going to let us come sit, I guess.

"...even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne." Rev. 3:21. He stands and knocks. He speaks to your heart and mine. Then He says, "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith..." Rev. 3:22, to the church in Bloomington, to Mark, to you.



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.

HAITI					
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					
CCCD	March 23-31, 2007	Kingston	Terry Miller	Construction	40

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Rich Bertschi	309-467-6110		lemangm@mtco.com
Tom Hitz	734-454-9229	734-454-9259	thitzhome@juno.com
Bill Rager	419-263-2989		
Jon Zeller	309-266-9009		gzeller@mtco.com
Rick Wuethrich	219-567-9488	219-567-2542	topnotch@home.ffni.com
Troy Struber	309-925-2603		tstuber@highstream.net
Ron Palitto	330-336-5373		rcp@lek.net
Ted Habegger	260-694-6765		tjh@adamswells.com
Phil Isabel	219-261-3541		philisabel@earthlink.net
Dean Pashak	989-662-7685		dwpashak@charter.net
Stan DesCarpentrie	309-467-3898		srdjed@mtco.com
Rusty Adrian	573-769-3650		radrian@centurytel.net
Terry Miller	309-923-7274 (north) 941-485-4302 (south) 309-696-7804 (cell)	same same	

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

Director of Nursing Needed

The Apostolic Christian Home of Eureka has an immediate opening for a Director of Nursing. This is a full-time salaried position responsible for coordinating the overall operations of our nursing department. Interested individuals should possess a current RN license, management experience and be a team player.

This is a wonderful opportunity to make a difference in the lives of the elderly in a loving, Christian work environment. For more information regarding this position please contact:

Tom Hoffman
Apostolic Christian Home of Eureka
P.O. Box 128
Eureka, IL 61530
(309) 467-2311
(309) 467-2075 fax
thoffman@each.org

Mexico Work Teams 2006

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

Location	Date	Project	Coordinator	Phone	E-mail
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:

Printed Sermons
6082 N. 2800 East Rd.
Forrest, IL 61741
or phone (815) 657-8798

The Apostolic Christian Preschool has an immediate opening for a teacher directed of the Lord, with a degree and/or experience in Elementary or Early Childhood Education. It is a wonderful experience to teach children about the Lord in a loving, Christian environment. If you feel the call and want to find out more please contact:

Bro. Mike Moore
(256) 729-0620
8653 Beechwood Rd.
Athens, AL 35611
Email: ALM@aol.com



REMEMBERING

Our Spiritual Heritage

This is another letter written by Elder Johann Schlipf, Daurenberg, Germany, on August 7, 1902. It is from the booklet "To The King's Administration of Justice." The recipient of the following is not known.

Your letter of February 23 has reached me, for which I express my heartfelt thanks and rejoice very much that you, dear brother, do think of me even though we are separated by such a great distance.

But the Spirit is everywhere; wherever our thoughts go there we are. Our mortal body is now often the hindrance that we do not get together as we would wish to do, but this will change in time. The true believers who faithfully serve the Lord in this world will once possess the new earth, as our Saviour did say, "Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth."

In the first resurrection those who will be found worthy to be awakened will arise in a new glorified body and the burdensome flesh or body will stay behind. There the spirits will meet again; and those who knew each other here on this earth and were united with God, the Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ, in fellowship of peace and love will then live and praise God forever, without ceasing.

He is the Mediator; otherwise we could not have become God's chil-

dren. Therefore, what great love did the Father show us that now we are called the Children of God. Oh, what grace, what great mercy and love did God have to us poor mortals whom He had chosen before the foundation of the world was laid, and in the acceptable time and day of grace did call to us through His saving Word to be His people and His own.

Oh, what a wonder is His grace which we should at all times appreciate and prize highly, as the psalmist writes in Psalm 103, "Praise the Lord, Oh my soul, and forget not all His benefits." Here on earth, where Satan reigns and works, it requires love and faithfulness to our Redeemer and Saviour that we fulfill our promise which we made to Him at the time when we sought Him with tears — that He may save and redeem us from sin and the power of death.

Our soul did sigh for redemption and for the liberty of the Children of God. This was only made possible for us by being submissive and humbling ourselves, and through earnest prayer and watchfulness.

Now we can be preserved through the power of God, and grow and increase under the faithful care of the Father, if we heed the warnings and admonishments, and hearken to the chastising voice of the Holy Spirit, and follow and obey Him. As our

Lord and Master teaches us, "Watch and pray that ye fall not into temptation: the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak."

I rejoice with all my heart that you can appreciate the redemption from sin and death, and now the Saviour said to the one that was made whole, "See to it, you have been made whole, sin no more so that not anything worse may befall thee." May God, our loving Father protect us from such evil, so may His grace abide with us. Here in this life there are many temptations where it takes watchfulness and obedience and faithfulness to be steadfast and true to the end. Amen.

The Lord Jesus bless these words to your heart. I would also wish to have written to your dear brothers but you can let them partake of this for writing is getting somewhat hard for me. Hearty greetings to you all, and all your loved ones. I wish you everything good.

Your brother in Christ who loves you,

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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“The Case for Obedience”

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

There are times when the Lord Jesus Christ told people, “Thy faith hath saved thee. Go in peace.” (Luke 7:50). This is in line with what the New Testament teaches as a whole, that we are saved by grace through faith and not by our works. However, I notice that there are other times when the Lord emphasized obedience, as if to inform us that if we really believe in Him, we will obey.

Jesus told the rich, young ruler, in Mark 10:21, “One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me.” I believe that Jesus wanted the young man to believe enough to have an obedient heart. If the young man had said that he would do whatever Jesus tells him to do, I believe that Jesus would have increased his treasures on earth as well as in heaven, and may have told him he needn’t sell all.

We should also note, that Jesus did not only tell him to sell

all that he had, but also, that he should take up his cross and follow Him, which means that he should live a godly and holy life, as much as possible by the grace of God.

In the latter part of Chapter 25 in the Gospel of Matthew, we read the account of what is called The Great White Throne of Judgment. In verses 35-36, the Lord Jesus Christ tells those on His right hand, all the wonderful works they had done while on earth. There is no record here about their faith which prompted those works, only the works are mentioned. In my opinion, once again, the Lord Jesus was indicating that if you really believe, you will be obedient to His Word, which teaches us to love our neighbor as ourselves. I believe we can say that obedience is not an option. The only thing to be discussed in this regard is, “What does His Word teach us to do and not to do?”

The Apostle Paul writes to the Romans 16:19, “For your obedi-

ence is come abroad unto all men.” After 15 chapters of explaining how we are saved by grace and not by works, he makes the above statement. Why is that? I think it is because people can’t see our faith, all they can see is our works, including our attitude and our demeanor.

The Apostle Peter writes in his first epistle, 1:14-15, “As obedient children ... be ye holy in all manner of conversation.” In verse 22, he further states, “Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit.” If I would say that, I would be misunderstood as teaching that we purify ourselves in or by obeying the truth. I believe this might be paraphrased to read that our having been purified by Christ becomes visible by our obeying the truth.

The Apostle John writes in I John 3, “For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments.” It appears that obedience goes with true faith.

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*But they that wait upon the Lord
shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings as eagles;
they shall run, and not be weary;
and they shall walk, and not faint.*

Isaiah 40:31



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