

The Silver Lining

A photograph of a lighthouse on a cliffside at sunset. The lighthouse is white with a red roof and a glowing lantern room. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm orange glow over the scene. The ocean waves are visible in the background, and a dark, forested hillside is on the left.

*Ye are the light of the world.
A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.*

Matthew 5:14

August 2006

Sermon by Bro. Greg Stieglitz, Indianapolis, IN

Isaiah 6 and St. Luke 4

Part of the beauty of this chapter (Isaiah 6) is that we know what truth and what power came from the lips of Isaiah. We know Isaiah's ministry. We know his prophesy. We know the fulfillment. So when we come back to see the time at which he was called, we can take courage. Because we see that in his vision even, Isaiah says, Woe is me! He says, I am undone. Why? Because I am a man of unclean lips. He says, and I dwell in the midst of the people of unclean lips. For mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts. (Isaiah 6:5). He recognizes God in His power.

But then what happens? Verse six, the seraphim flies unto him having a live coal in his hand which he had taken from the altar. "And he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged." Isaiah 6:7. So there is nothing that Isaiah did. There is nothing Isaiah did to become worthy of this call. But God, in this case the seraphim, touches his lips with the live coal and says thy sin is purged. Now you go. Now you speak.

In the same way, there is nothing that we have done to earn our salvation. There's nothing that we have done to go from becoming a sinner to becoming righteous before God. But it is simply that live coal. It is the blood of Christ that covers our sin. So now we go from a place of being unworthy to a place of being called. We cannot use our sin as an excuse because God says, I take your sin away with the blood of Christ. Because of that, you are worthy. Because of that now, you are called. Now you can't stand back and say, woe

is me, anymore.

I think sometimes we want to do that. That we say woe is me, because we are not worthy. We can't be asked to do that because we have things in our past that are not pleasing to God. And God says, the past is covered with the blood of Christ. That sin is covered. Now go forward but go forward with confidence and go forward without excuse. Go forward in the power of God because our mouth has been touched. Our lips have been touched by the hand of God. Saying, go forth now and speak the truth. That is when we can see Isaiah's powerful ministry.

There was some pain in the life of Isaiah. But he went forth in power. That is what God wants us to do. He says, don't stand back. Don't stand aside. Don't say that I can't do that. But go forward and allow me to fill in the gap. Don't go forward because it is your own power. Don't go forward with your own message, because then you are going to fail. Go forward with the message of God. Go forward with the message of the truth. And in your life, live a message of the truth. You will not fail but you will have the backing of the Creator and He will guide your thoughts. He will guide your tongue. He will give you the words to speak. But we have to go forward in confidence. We can't stand back and wonder, what if.

"And he said, Go, and tell this people, Hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye indeed, but perceive not." Isaiah 6:9. "Then said I, Lord, how long? And he answered, Until the cities be wasted without inhabitant, and the houses without man, and the land be utterly desolate, And the

Lord have removed men far away, and there be a great forsaking in the midst of the land." Isaiah 6:11,12. As long as there is someone to speak to, as long as there was someone to pray for, as long as there is someone to love, that is what God asks us to do. How long?

Sermon continued on page 44

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

Light From The Word



Writings based on God's Word

August 2006

Life's Ultimate Decision

Each of us makes many decisions every day. Some are quite insignificant and are made without a great deal of thought or prayer. Some decisions impact primarily ourself. Other decisions are weighty and will impact us throughout our life and throughout eternity. Some decisions impact many people, including generations yet unborn.

There is no decision that we are called upon to make that will have a greater impact on our future and the future of those who come after us than the one we make about serving God. The church we attend, the level of commitment we make to the church, the degree to which we become involved in the church, and the level of commitment our church has to following the Word of God all have lifetime and eternal consequences for each of us.

Moses recognized the importance of the need to serve God. He "...refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season" (Heb. 11:24-25). After having received the Ten Commandments from the Lord, he saw the idolatry of the children of Israel. Moses' anger was great and, after punishing them for their sin, he asked "...Who is on the Lord's side? let him come unto me..." (Ex. 32:26). All sons of Levi went unto Moses. There were three thousand who did not choose to serve the Lord. They were not given a long time to decide. The scripture tells us that those who chose not to serve God were put to death "...that day..." (Ex. 32:28).

Joshua required a similar decision, with a similar time limit. In explaining the fate of those who would serve false gods, he said "...choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served ... or the gods of the Amorites, as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" (Jos. 24:15). Apparently at that time most of the children of Israel said "...God forbid that we should forsake the Lord, to serve other gods. For the Lord our God ... brought us ... out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage..." (Jos. 24:16-17).

Elijah also emphasized the impor-

tance of choosing quickly to serve the Lord. In confronting Ahab and the prophets of Baal, he called upon the children of Israel to make a decision. "...How long will ye halt between two opinions? if the Lord be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him..." (I Ki. 18:21). By the end of the day the prophets of Baal were slain.

Jesus also taught the people that they must make a decision about who they would serve. He had told His followers that they must eat His flesh, drink His blood and endure many trials. Having said this, "many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him" (Jn. 6:66). We can feel the sadness in Jesus' voice when He said to the twelve, "...Will ye also go away?" (Jn. 6:67). Peter understood the importance of the question and answered "...Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life. And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God" (Jn. 6:68-69).

Too often there are those who seem to think it is not particularly important that we make an early decision to serve God. We are living in a country in which we have the freedom to choose who we will worship, how we will worship, and when we will worship. Many of us know of individuals who, very late in life, found their salvation. For this we are thankful because we do not want anyone to suffer eternal condemnation. Because it is possible to be saved with a death bed conversion, there are people who think timing is not a significant factor. The Word of Life has been available to us all of our lives. Sunday after Sunday we expect to be able to go to church and hear the Word of God. We do not expect that our access to the Gospel of Jesus Christ will soon be denied. As long as there is life, there is hope.

It seems that one of the most effective tools that Satan uses is to try to convince us that there is plenty of time to decide about serving God. He tries, quite successfully, to convince us that we have all the time in the world to serve God so there is no reason to rush the decision. While it is important that we count the cost of serving God, we must not tarry too long.

Undoubtedly all of us would agree that the time will come when we must die. Most of us will agree that at the time of our death

"...every one of us shall give account of himself to God" (Ro. 14:12) and "...where the tree falleth, there it shall be" (Ecc. 11:3). We are taking a serious risk by thinking that there is plenty of time to serve God, "For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night" (I Th. 5:2). We are taught "But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only" (Mt. 24:36).

Time is not endless for any of us. We must make a decision to serve the Lord without delay. Paul reminded us of this when he wrote "...Today if ye will hear his voice, Harden not your hearts, as in the day of provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness:..." and repeated the urgency "...To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin" (Heb. 3:7-13). We can only benefit from Christ's shed blood if we "...take up his cross and follow (Christ)..." (Mt. 16:24).

The urgency of the decision to serve God goes far beyond our own life and eternal destination. Imagine the impact on future generations of those who reject God's call and live for the pleasures of this life. On the other hand, think of the influence of faithful servants of God as they upheld the faith and provided a foundation for future generations to build upon.

Parents may think that they will allow their children to make their own decision about serving God. However, if we do not teach our children the truth and the value of God's Word by what we say and by the way we live, we are teaching them that God is not important. We are reducing the likelihood that they will serve God. If we do not teach them by example the importance of choosing to serve God, we are teaching them that it is acceptable to serve Satan.

We cannot escape responsibility for teaching the Truth to those who come after us. Paul, in his letter to Titus reminds us of the importance of the aged men and women to teach the younger to "...be in behaviour as becometh holiness..." (Titus 2:3). Holy living is living as God wants us to live. "...be ye holy; for I am holy" (I Peter 1:16).

An editorial committee of elder brothers is preparing articles for this section of the Silver Lining to address some of the special needs of our times. Suggestions for subjects are welcome and can be sent to: Silver Lining Editorials, 1398 Spring Hill Dr, Orville, OH 44667-9023.



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

Charitable Giving

The Bible contains many spiritual directives for charitable giving. It helps us to understand when we should give, how much we should give, what we should give, to whom we should give, and what our attitude should be when we give. In the Old Testament tithes and offerings were an obligation, but in the New Testament they are an opportunity to serve God, and are usually referred to as "giving" rather than "tithing." Believers count it a privilege to be able to give, being exhorted "to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, it is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35).

Since we are simply stewards of what God has given us, all that we are and everything that we have comes from, and belongs to, the Lord. Our earthly life and material possessions are temporal and will pass away. If we trust in our own strength and in uncertain riches, our faith is misplaced. "Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not high minded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate..." (I Timothy 6:17, 18).

Principles of giving

In giving, we are instructed to give early and regularly of our first fruits (I Cor. 16:2), during prosperous and hard times. "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith" (Gal. 6:10). If we plan to give of our first fruits, we will be certain to have laid up for the Lord so we will have something to give when the opportunity arises. Waiting until the end of the year

to give may be beneficial from an earthly viewpoint, but it certainly doesn't satisfy the scriptural directive to give early.

In addition to material blessings, we should give of our time and talents. This is oftentimes more difficult because they are so valuable to us. We are to give to our Lord, to our Church, to our family, to our brethren, and to our community. We are instructed to give according to what we have and our ability. We are to give with simplicity, freely, regularly, responsibly, cheerfully, honestly and sincerely. Giving of our time and material blessings is important, but giving of our love is more important than any gift we could possibly give (I Cor. 13). Love for the Lord should be the primary motivation for all giving (Col. 3:23).

Opportunities for giving

There are many opportunities for giving near and far within the Apostolic Christian Church and its charities. Giving starts where needs are seen firsthand. "But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?" (I John 3:17). Through the Church, alms giving assists brethren, friends and others who are in need. Local Church contributions and volunteers also help with needs in their community.

Apostolic Christian Mission Committee and World Relief significantly broaden opportunities for volunteer activity and financial outreach, nationally and internationally (Eastern Europe, Mexico, India, Caribbean, and Child Sponsorship). Church Building Funds, Home for the Handicapped, Gateway Woods,

Counseling Services and church nursing homes further expand opportunities for giving.

Longer term gifting supplements current giving thru endowment funds of the Church and its charities. Long-term gifts provide the foundation for newly initiated or on-going Church projects, and are resources for disasters and unexpected Church needs. The Apostolic Christian Church Endowment Fund accommodates brethren and friends making lifetime or longer-term gifts for the benefit of the Church and related charitable organizations. It also facilitates anonymous gifting, giving to multiple church funds, and planning for gift enhancing opportunities.

A blessing

By giving bountifully, we shall also reap bountifully (II Cor. 9:6). It is an opportunity to receive a blessing from the Lord (Malachi 3:10). We would not want to limit that blessing by restricting our giving to some specific amount of money, time or talent; for the gospel of Jesus Christ, as presented in the New Testament, does not emphasize a percent of income or resources that we give. The blessing received may not be measurable in a material or earthly way; but we are promised there shall not be room enough to receive it if we prayerfully, and in faith, fulfill the gospel message by sharing what God has given us with those in need.

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APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
World Relief

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

World Relief Project Presentations

Every time we go to one of these meetings, we feel such an enormous blessing to have been there for the day and to hear first hand the on-site speakers along with all the emotion that goes with what they've experienced.

This expression is typical of many who take a break from their busyness of life to attend one of the annual World Relief Project presentations. World Relief has established two annual meetings a year. Held on the second Saturday of November and rotated between the Apostolic Christian churches in Indiana and all churches eastward is called the Eastern World Relief region. Held on the second Saturday of March and rotated between the Apostolic Christian churches in Illinois and all churches westward is called the Western World Relief region.

This presentation is for the general assembly of the Apostolic Christian Church. Every brother, sister and friend is invited and if you attend, you may find your heart stirred beyond your imagination. It began in the 1960's as a woman's sewing group where sisters gathered together to share ideas of sewing projects for the basic needs of the poor. As more brethren responded to the call of the Holy Spirit in our stewardship responsibility, this meeting, in the mid 1970's, developed into an overview of current projects sparked by a wide range of brothers and sisters, young and old.

What might you experience at a typical meeting? Brethren will give 15-30 minute presentations, often with the aid of Powerpoint, to share the prayers answered in providing humanitarian aid and volunteer

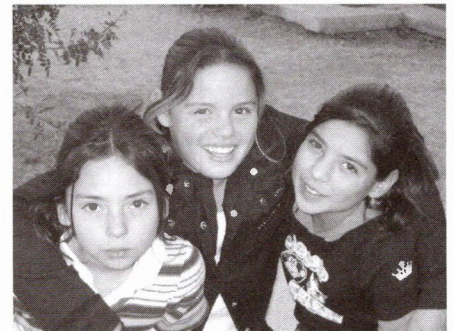
labor to alleviate human misery and suffering throughout the world, done in a way that is a Christian witness and brings glory to God.

Expect to hear about six hours worth. This presentation includes a cross section of World Relief projects, from local to international. We are deeply appreciative for the contributions and support the past forty-five years. You are invited to attend a meeting to discover how World Relief is often multiplying a dollar in the third world in ways not possible here in the U.S.

Milford, IN is the Eastern region's host on November 11, 2006 and Fairbury, IL is the Western region's host on March 10, 2007. Following is a quick synopsis of some projects presented at the March 2006 meeting held in Bern, Kansas:

The Heifer Project was one of the first humanitarian aide experiences for World Relief. Instead of handing food to the hungry, this mission's goal was more long-term. They give animals to the poor while teaching them general care and how to breed. Then, the animals multiply, providing family food for a year instead of a week. A brother shared how his father was prompted by the Spirit to participate in this project. At supper he told his five sons of his interest to donate some of their Hampshire hogs. The boys were quite willing and followed their father to the gilt pen, but were taken aback when he took out his orange marker and labeled their "state Fair entries" as the hogs to be donated! "Why couldn't Dad mark some of the others?" Without any State Fair entry that year, the lesson of true sacrifice was learned for these young men... when we're serving the Lord, He wants our best since He gave us His all.

Living in our abundant land, we tend to rest assured that our basic needs will be met, perhaps presumptuously. But many don't possess this assurance, even around us. Midwest Food Bank, located in Bloomington, IL, was created with the mission to be a first responder to local and national disaster needs. Currently assisting 282 food pantries, you can learn more about them at www.midwestfoodbank.com.



The Casa Vida y Esperanza orphanage in Magdalena, Mexico, established in 2004, is an important international mission project for our Church. It is an opportunity to help children in need and proclaim God's message of salvation. Imagine living in the daily grind of poverty, along with an haunting emptiness from spiritual poverty. Most of these children don't know their earthly father, but through your gifts and prayers, the orphanage staff seeks grace to teach them of their Heavenly Father's love so they can be given the choice of repentance and giving their hearts to Jesus, the safest place of trust.

Attendees also heard about the work in Biloxi, Mississippi, the Child Sponsorship program, Haiti, India, and more. As we consider the many needs and opportunities available, we trust that God will find a place for many talents to be used.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

How should we have a meal prayer at Timber Ridge? At our group homes and smaller settings, it is easier to accomplish this task. But at Timber Ridge large numbers of residents are divided into several dining times for each meal. The space to serve meals is limited. A large number of individuals use wheelchairs and other equipment at these times. Often the transition between the dining times can cause noise, and excess movement of people and equipment.

Should we have a prayer for each group eating? Should it be a silent prayer? A spoken prayer? Creatively, staff and residents decided to have a prayer spoken over the intercom for the meal, prior to anyone entering the dining room. Someone would be selected to do this task. At times, residents who use augmentative communication devices to speak have participated in the "intercom prayers". The process and outcome for having these prayers has been interesting.

First, staff and residents decided to use scripture as intercom prayers. Several scriptures were initially selected for this purpose. An example was Psalm 145:15. The prayer would go like this: "Dear Lord...I will extol Thee, my God, O King; and I will bless Thy name forever. Every day I will bless thee; and will praise Thy name ever and ever. Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness is unsearchable. We thank Thee, Lord, for the food we eat. In Jesus name we pray. Amen."

Other scriptures have been used as well. Interestingly, prayers

heard throughout the building can be a blessing. For some residents who may not have the cognitive ability to understand all of the words, "intercom prayers" have served as prompts that the meal is ready. It structures and defines the next event of the day, the meal. Other residents and staff have the opportunity to worship as they hear the prayers.

We are beginning to learn that scripture used as prayers can be a blessing. Do you think the Lord might like hearing His word spoken back to Himself by His people?

GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME Ed Graf

"...and there arose another generation after them which knew not the Lord, nor yet the works which he had done for Israel. And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD..."

Judges 2:10,11

While the United States is identified as a Christian nation (more so than any other developed nation), the trends are disturbing. In 1990, 86% of American adults identified themselves as Christians. As of 2001, that number has dropped to 77%. It seems that evil abounds around us. Yet should we wonder why? God's Word tells us that when the people do not know God, they do evil in his sight.

As believers, what should be our response? Jesus told his disciples to: "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 always, even unto the end of the world." (Matt 28:19, 20).

We have an obligation to teach the lost about Jesus. Thanks to your support, the staff at Gateway Woods has the opportunity to teach about Jesus, His love, and salvation on a daily basis. Many of those who hear the Good News are doing so for the first time. We are continually amazed to see how many youth and their families have no knowledge of God and His plan of salvation. Thanks for helping us fulfill Christ's command.

NEWS

4th House Update: On June 27, earthmoving finally began and we were truly underway with the construction of our 4th group home. Delays have turned into opportunities to refine the plans, raise additional funds, and secure additional commitments for donated materials and labor.

We are very encouraged in every way, especially with the Furnish-A-Room project. So far, most of the furniture, equipment and appliances are paid for or pledged. Sunday Schools, Vacation Bible Schools and families have responded so surprisingly and generously. In addition, a challenge to our staff has produced an amazing result. We are so thankful and encouraged. There are still a few rooms yet to be funded. Please call us at 888-443-4283 to learn of the opportunities.

Church collections, individual cash gifts, donated materials, and commitments from skilled volun-

teers have brought us within \$70,000 of our total goal for this 8000 sq. ft. home for troubled teens. It is our hope and confidence that as construction continues, others will be inspired and encouraged to join in this exciting project and to have it ready and paid for by the time children and staff move in later this year.

New Faces: We are especially thankful that God continues to bless us with new staff. We are pleased to announce the hiring of Bro. Todd Stoller (Princeville, IL) and Bro. Lonnie Bertsch (Bluffton, IN). Bro. Todd and Bro. Lonnie will begin teaching at the Gateway Woods School in August. Please remember to pray for them both as they adjust to their new job and surroundings.

We are also thankful that God has led Bro. Nathan and Sis. Rachel Mueller (Bluffton, IN) to become Alternate Houseparents, beginning in October. There are still a number of positions waiting to be filled at Gateway Woods. Open positions include:

4th House Houseparents, 4th House Alternate Houseparents, 4th House Assistant Houseparent, English Teacher (Sister), and Counselor.

Volunteering: Gateway Woods has been very blessed to have more than 25 volunteers already this summer. Some have been here a week; others have been able to remain for longer periods of time. If you have a heart for volunteering, please contact Bro. Eric Huber at (260) 627-2159 or eric.huber@gatewaywoods.org.

Board of Directors: The Board of Directors has recently approved a Strategic Plan which includes

building our capacity to help even more struggling children and families. The plan also includes efforts to measure and increase the effectiveness of our Christ-centered services. This is a plan to increase quantity and quality. We are thankful that God continues to bless our organization through your support.

Neighborhood Assistance Program: Gateway Woods has been awarded a \$15,000 Neighborhood Assistance Tax Credit for the operation of the new 4th House. This means that donors who contribute toward this project after July 1, 2006, are eligible to receive a TAX CREDIT equal to 50% of their donation, up to \$15,000 of tax credit. Certain limitations apply. Please call Bro. Andrew Gerber at 260-627-2159 ex. 113 or andrew.gerber@gatewaywoods.org.

Auction: We look forward to seeing you at the Auction on August 19, 2006. Please be prayerful for good weather and a good turnout. Please be looking for more information in the upcoming Summer 2006 edition of The Gate Post. Please contact your Representative with any questions you might have or feel free to contact us at (260) 627-2159. May God bless you for your support!

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

The bright sunshine and heat has been just the right ingredients for our days of swimming this summer. We get the same little question every morning, "are we wimmin' today?" I was observing them playing in their little pools the other day

and was noticing the difference in how girls and boys play. The girls are sitting in the water with their little cups and water toys and pretending to have tea parties, playing house or church, getting baptized or playing school. Their ideas never seem to run out. Then you look over to the boys and they are completely opposite. They never see them sit down and they are constantly throwing water, splashing, dunking each other and just having a great time. You never have to look very far when you are with a group of preschoolers to find something to be amazed by.

The days of our summer program are almost over. Our 5 year olds will very soon be starting kindergarten. Some of them are so excited they can hardly wait, but then some of them think their preschool teachers simply just need to become their kindergarten teachers. We really are going to miss them and it has been such a joy to see them change and grow. I was reminiscing with one of our 5 year olds about how little she was when she first started attending here and now how big she has gotten and how much she has learned. She said, "Is there anyone in this school that looks like me?" I said, "Hmm, you mean as cute as you?" and she said, "No, as smart as me." Yeah, she is a smart little thing and I guess you can look smart but then we had to have a little talk about pride.

We have started enrolling new students now for the school year. Our official school year starts on August 7. We are thankful that it is looking like we will have a good number of students to start off with. We continue to pray and trust that the Lord will fill our preschool

to its capacity with children, and fill its teachers' hearts with patience, love and a mind full of wisdom.

ALABAMA, ATHENS

Louise Hall

We were blessed this month by a few large groups that traveled here to worship with us. Thank you to all of you from Roanoke and Princeville, IL. They both came on a bus that was filled to overflowing with not only people, but love and enthusiasm. We were blessed and inspired to meet all of you and see God's Spirit alive in you.

Visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Jim Plattner (Sis. Marlene, Princeville, IL), Bro. Wayne Leman (Sis. Julie, Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Gary Tonner (Sis. Diann, Bluffton, IN). Thank you for your willingness to come the distance to preach of God's love.

In the hospital over this past month was Sis. Ruby Ross, Sis. Eunice Kelly, Kendra Coulter, and Bro. J.R. Hall. We continue to pray for healing and comfort for them.

Our prayers go out to the family of Pam Craft, who passed away a few weeks ago. She was the niece of Sis. Naomi Hall.

The theme of our vacation Bible school this summer was "Camping in Canaan". The Sunday school children got to experience what it may have been like to be an Israelite. They camped out in the heat in tents and a few of the activities included a hike to the 'Promised Land', collecting 'manna' at sunrise and sitting around a fire hearing teachings about God. We found it impossible to truly be able to feel what they felt but our prayer was

that we could make the message clear to the children that we are on a similar journey today. We are blessed and things go much smoother when we obey God's Word and see the good not the bad. On the other hand, the blessings are not so abundant when we choose not to live according to God's standards.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX

Ron and Ev Hoerr

"Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass."

Psalm 37:5

We gathered on the evening of July 15 to hear the testimonies of Ellen and Laura Wiegand. It was so touching and memorable for each of us. They were baptized on Sunday, July 16. Their parents are Bro. Greg and Sis. Lynn Wiegand. Their grandparents are Bro. Dick and Sis. Nelma Eastman (Roanoke) and Bro. Elton and Sis. Loretta Wiegand (Eureka).

On July 13, Kole Henry Hysong was born to Nick and Kolette Hysong. His grandparents are Garry and Sue and Bro. Ellworth and Sis. Lois Niemeyer.

Bro. Nick and Sis. Suzanne Gutwein, with family, are being transferred to China for his employment. We will surely miss them.

Two young men from Oregon will be joining us for worship as school permits them. We welcome Ryan Bance (Silverton) and Tristan Jones (Portland).

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT

Jane Hodges

Sis. Rowena Furrer (Bro. Jim) was voted in as Sunday School teacher of the younger class to replace Sis. Kara Drayer, who moved back to Bluffton.

We were blest to be able to host a group of around thirty from Bluffton the weekend of July 1. Then the weekend of July 23, we had several brethren that included Prescott in their travels after attending the Metz family reunion that was held in Flagstaff, AZ. Elder Bro. Arthur Metz (Sis. Elizabeth, Silverton, OR) was part of that group and ministered God's Word to us. We hope they all enjoyed their visit to Arizona and pray the Lord will bless them for their support of our church.

We are thankful also for the other ministering brothers this last five weeks, which included Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich (Sis. Nancy) and Bro. James Emch (Sis. Gina), both from Phoenix, Bro. Duane Reutter (Sis. Kay, Rockville, CT) and Bro. Brad Bauer (Sis. Sandy, Tucson, AZ). May the Lord richly bless them and their families for their love and support.

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp

We were happy to host a work team traveling through Tucson on their way to Magdalena, Mexico. As always, we enjoyed their fellowship and were encouraged to see so many people traveling out of their comfort zone to help those less fortunate. We pray their week was uplifting and productive and invite them back to Tucson again soon. We were blessed that they had a

minister in their group. We thank Bro. Brad Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) for his service to us on the pulpit. May God richly bless him and the entire work team for their efforts.

Our summer heat is being interrupted for our monsoon season which we always thoroughly enjoy. Our hot, sunny mornings turn to dark, gray afternoons with crackling thunder and lightning and the much prayed for rainfall. We are delighted by these "summer shows" and so thankful for the relief they bring from the heat. God is so faithful.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA **Suzanne Klotzle**

"And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love, and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world."

1 John 4:16-17

We have been blessed by the continuation of our Bible study in I John. As our 3-week segment comes to a close, we can look back and marvel on the three definitions of God; Life, Light and Love.

This year has been a non-typical California summer, with temperatures soaring in the triple digits. And with the heat coming, the people are leaving. There have been a few meetings where our congregation was a slim 13 attendants. But it is still a blessing to see how the faithful few gather even from long distances. While some of our ministers were traveling, it was a blessing to have Bro. Lucas Frank (Sis.

Crystal, Detroit, MI) visit and share the Word with us.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO **Yasmin Koehl**

Summer is a special time for us as we experience the blessings of many visitors. Among our visitors was ministering Bro. Jim Meiss (Phoenix, AZ) with his wife, Sis. Candy, and their family. We appreciated his willingness to serve us and pray the Lord's blessings upon him for his love.

We truly have been blessed with brothers and sisters who are willing give of themselves in the capacity God calls them to. We would like to thank Bro. Terry Koehl (Sis. Yasmin) for his time and efforts as a Trustee. We also like to extend our thanks to Sis. Stacy for her labors as a Sunday school teacher. God's blessings to you both for your love and service to our congregation.

Our new Sunday School teachers our Sis. Linda Fulop (Bro. Denes and Sis. Joy) and Sis. Breana Wagenbach (Bro. Doug and Sis. Lillian). Bro. George Gramm (Sis. Willow) is our new trustee. May each one of you feel our thankfulness for your willingness to be used and the many prayers of our congregation on your behalf.

Sis. Stacy Koehl (Bro. Jim and Sis. Hildy) has felt God's direction to continue her schooling in Morris, MN. We've been blessed to have been a part of her life for many years and are thankful to see the Lord working in her life. We pray God's blessings upon her new endeavor and also pray that His presence would continue to be manifested in all she does.

KITCHENER, ONTARIO **CANADA**

Johanna Fortenbacher

We were thankful this month to have with us on the pulpit Bro. Todd Graf (Sis. Lydia, Akron, OH). May we never take for granted the loved ones who come to serve us and any visitors who come here. We appreciate this very much.

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths."

Proverbs 3:5-6

These verses are what we hope and pray all mankind takes to heart. We are especially reminded of this proverb, though, when we see three from our congregation entering high school this fall. Graduating from grade eight this spring were April Schlauch, Eva Toth, and Naomi Ursu. God be with each of you.

COLORADO, DENVER **Ann Gonglach**

Guest ministers this past month have been Bro. Jeff Bahr (Sis. Janice, Kiowa, KS), Bro. Gary Endress (Sis. Evelyn, Bradford, IL), Bro. Fred Funk (Sis. Diane, Morton, IL), Bro. Chuck Kellenberger (Sis. Debbie, Elgin, IL), Bro. James Knapp (Sis. Lisa, Congerville, IL) and Bro. Tim Zimmerman (Sis. Barbara, Lamont-Gridley, KS).

Our prayers are with Bro. Norm and Sis. Eleanor Geyer (Morton, IL), who spend summers in Colorado, as both are experiencing health problems.

We're happy that Britany Moser

(Tom and Dawn, Garden Grove, IA) has professed to having the peace of God in her heart and desires to be baptized. She has been living in Denver for most of the year while she attends school. Benjamin Martin (Bro. Mike and Sis. BethAnn) has begun repenting. These young people are in our thoughts and prayers. May the Lord guide and sustain them.

“For I the Lord thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee.”

Isaiah 41:13

**CONNECTICUT
ROCKVILLE
LauraVirkler
Amber Rocke**

This month we were blessed to have many visitors with us. Among them were ministering Bro. Paul Schmidgall (Sis. Shawn, Morris, MN), Bro. Greg Stoller (Sis. Jill, Forrest, IL), Bro. Curt Rassi (Sis. Kathy, Tremont, IL), and Bro. Warren Schlatter (Sis. Cindy, Junction, OH). It was a blessing to have these brothers with us, as well as all who made a point to include Rockville in their travel plans. We pray all will be blessed from the fellowship we shared together.

Bro. John and Sis. Rhonda Garrow have two baby girls, Jenna Marie and Jaela Rose, who join older brothers, Thomas and Colin. Grandparents are Bro. Bernie and Sis. Marie Garrow and Bro. Curt and Sis. Sally Zahner.

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
WASHINGTON
Henrietta Meyer**

Summer is always a special time for us. We get lots of vacationers

and we have young folks spending the summer in the area. This year we have Sis. Lanae Knapp (Chicago) who is working as a nanny.

Our visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Rick Plattner (Sis. Mary, Fairbury, IL), retired Elder Bro. Marvin Leman (Sis. Jane, Bradford, IL) and Bro. Matthew Kaufman (Sis. Rebekah, Bloomington, IL). Other visitors this month were from Philadelphia, PA; Congerville and Cissna Park, IL; Morris, MN; Lester, IA; and Indianapolis, IN.

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

If you are planning to visit Washington, D.C. for vacation or business, please call Bro. Adam and Sis. Liz Hermann (703) 212-7339 or Sis. Henrietta Meyer (703) 904-8301 for assistance and to let us know how many to expect for Sunday services. If you would like to get together on Saturday evening, please let us know that as well. We would be happy to have an evening of fellowship and/or singing.

**FLORIDA
FORT LAUDERDALE
Renee Mangold**

We were thankful to have with us a few visiting ministers this month. Visiting were Bro. Erik Givens (Sis. Debbie, Princeville, IL) and Bro. Ron Jones (Portland, OR). We pray for God's blessings on the ministers and their families that visit and support us.

We were rejoicing this month as we witnessed the testimony and baptism of Sis. Lisa Tortoriello. Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL) was with us on this blessed and happy occasion.

**FLORIDA
NORTH FORT MYERS
Naomi Vogel**

Our Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz and his wife, Sis. Jeni, were here for a visit and Bro. Ed ministered to us on July 2. We always look forward to their visits and beseech God's blessings on their service on His behalf. After services, we all went out to eat together and enjoyed good food and blessed fellowship!

Bro. Vic Beer had surgery on his knee to repair a torn ligament. We are praying for a rapid recovery for him.

On July 16, the first couple to arrive at our church was greeted with water running out the door when it was opened. Early in the week, a pipe above the kitchen area broke and flooded the kitchen, dining room, Sunday school rooms and into the assembly room a little, so a clean-up crew was called and they arrived at the end of the first service to begin clean-up. We ate our lunch outside in our picnic shelter and cancelled the second service so they could continue their work. Hopefully we can get it all put back together before the "Snow Birds" arrive.

**FLORIDA, SARASOTA
Robin Wiegand**

Greetings to all. We had several visiting ministers join us this past month: Bro. Erik Givens (Princeville, IL), Bro. Vic Bauman

(Smithville, OH) and our own Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann. May blessings be upon them and their families for sharing God's Word.

Bros. Miklos Bozzay and Jeff Streitmatter II had surgery and are doing well. May God continue to bless their recovery. Bobby Cochran, Sr. is also scheduled for surgery this month, and we ask for prayers on his behalf as well. Retired Elder Bro. Ben Maibach continues to recuperate well from his hip replacement, for which we are thankful.

We are enjoying some additions to our Sarasota church family, even if it is for a short time. Sis. Kristi Hill (Columbus, OH) will be here for the summer and Jacki Wettstein (Bloomfield, IA) is attending College here. We are thankful for both of them.

We are also excited about the engagement of Bobby Cochran, Jr. (son of Sis. Paulette and Bobby Cochran, Sr.) to Rebecca Eldridge (daughter of Vickie Chandler and Don Pearce of Venice). They plan to be married November 25 in our Fellowship Center. We look forward to their union and share in their joy. May God's rich blessings rest upon them, and may He keep all in His love and care.

GEORGIA, ATLANTA

Kevin Kipfer
Benjamin Stoller

Cheerful greetings from Atlanta. How grateful we should be for the awesome blessings showered upon us. One of the blessings that we enjoy is the fellowship of our brethren. This past month we have been blessed with many visitors. We were thankful for Elder

Bro. Mark Masters (Sis. Jeannine, Mansfield, OH) and their family taking time out of their travels to be with us. On July 16 we enjoyed many visitors as well. We especially want to thank Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Sis. Leonda, Leo, IN) and Bro. Clint Schmidt (Sis. Magdalena, Winthrop, MN) for sharing the Word with us.

On Wednesday, July 19, we enjoyed a Bible study on the condition of our world and our role as Christians today. Though today we feel like our world is full of people who call evil good and good evil (Isaiah 5:20), there is still plenty of hope of the work that can be done in this world if we are willing servants of our mighty God. Let us give all of ourselves to Christ.

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE

Doreen Moser
Sheila McCoy

Be still, my soul; the Lord is on thy side
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain...

Sis. Marlene Mueller (Bro. Art) has once again had surgery. She has patiently dealt with all that was sent her way and is recovering and thankful that all is hopefully behind her.

Leave to thy God to order and provide
In every change He faithful will remain.

Bro. Shannon and Sis. Jill Stahl welcome Karissa Marie into their family. As there will be many changes in their lives, may they leave the many cares and concerns

in God's hands as He will surely provide. Bro. Norm and Sis. Gloria Stahl (Chicago, IL) and Bro. Edwin and Sis. Carol Baurer (Princeville, IL) are the blest grandparents who will get many chances to be faithful and guiding lights to Karissa.

Be still my soul; the Lord doth undertake,
To guide the future as He has the past...

Ryan Schock (Bloomfield, IA) and Bro. Rudy Troxel (LaCrosse, IN) are here for summer internships. Keith Kellenberger (Lamar, MO) has moved here for employment and is making Belvidere his church. May they all trust the Lord to guide their future and we hope they feel at home in Belvidere.

Be still my soul;
Thy hope, thy confidence let nothing shake.

As our children prepare for the school year, may their hope and confidence not be shaken by the world in which they live, but may they remember to place their confidence in the Lord above.

Be still my soul.

ILLINOIS BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

Jen Heiniger
Ann Nussbaum

I need the prayers of those I love,
While trav'ling o'er life's rugged way.

That I may true and faithful be,
And live for Jesus every day.

Hymns of Zion #201

We thank the Lord for our visit-

ing ministers this month. They were Bros. Nate Lehman (Denver, CO), Arnie Gerst (Taylor, MO) and Garry Bucher (Valparaiso, IN). We thank these visitors for their services on our behalf.

The angels in heaven are rejoicing with Bro. Brad and Sis. Karen Metz, whose daughter Larissa has begun her repentance in the Lord. We pray for the Lord's guidance and blessing as she begins this transformation into a faithful servant.

Several in our congregation are dealing with the loss of loved ones. We extend our prayers and sympathy to Kim (Theresa) Logan and family on the death of his father, Paul Logan. Our thoughts and prayers are with Dorothy Tewell in the death of her step-mother, Sis. Verna Lehmann. We also hold up Sis. Carolyn Fischer in the death of her sister-in-law, Debbie Fischer. May you feel the comfort of the Holy Spirit during this trying time.

We are prayerful that God's guidance will be sought and found at our Brotherhood Conference. It is a comfort to know that our Elders take counsel together.

Our congregation is looking forward to the imminent return of our college students. We pray this can be a home away from home for them and that we can be an encouragement to them.

Note of Thanks:

The family of Sis. Betty Feller-Zimmerman wishes to express our heartfelt thanks for the love, prayers, support and all the meals brought in during Betty's illness and since her death.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD

Steve Endress

We appreciated the labors of Bro. Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH) in the preaching of the Word. We were encouraged to make our calling and election sure.

Bro. John and Sis. Sara Ehnle were thankful for the safe arrival of their eighth child on July 3. Benjamin Roy is welcomed home by siblings, Rebecca, Jonathan, Luke, Hannah, Ruth, Samuel, and Lydia. Grandparents are Bro. Roy and Sis. Donna Ehnle and Bro. Earl and Sis. Margaret Feucht (Princeville, IL).

Amber Pyles (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Becky) was married to Jerry Mooberry (Chuck and Diane, Lacon, IL) on July 1. We wish them a lifetime of blessings.

Our prayers are with Bro. Jerry Kieser (Sis. Wilma) as he suffered from a heart attack. We are thankful that he is recovering and has been able to be back at church. We know that suffering is unpleasant and wish it upon no one. Yet, we know that God uses suffering to draw us closer to Him and remind us of our dependence upon Him.

ILLINOIS CHAMPAIGN-URBANA

Karla Aberle

Greetings from the Champaign congregation! We are happy to welcome a new family to our little congregation. Bro. David and Sis. Jackie Eisenmann are moving to the area from the Forrest, IL, area. They have three daughters:

Sydney, Cortney, and Mackenzie. We are excited to have them and pray God's blessings as they make all the necessary adjustments!

Andy and Kim Travis are the proud parents of a little baby girl

born May 6, Aubrey Jane. They have two other children, Kirsten and Dawson. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Eldon and Sis. Darlene Steidinger from Fairbury.

We thank our visiting ministers from this past month: ministering Bros. Matt Kaufman (Bloomington, IL) and Ken Schneider (Remington). We are grateful for their service from behind the pulpit.

Our prayers are with the Elders for the upcoming Brotherhood Conference in Goodfield, IL. This is a tremendous responsibility for the Brothers involved and we pray they feel God's leading.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Rachel Meyer

Greetings of love from Chicago. Today we find ourselves in the middle of a heat wave and our cats seem especially lethargic. Pray God that He will keep us from spiritual lethargy as we walk the Christian pathway.

It was a joy to re-welcome Bro. Ben Funk to our congregation. Bro. Ben spent some time in Gridley, IL, and has returned to work in the Chicago-land area. We hope to share mutual blessings with every soul that fellowships with us.

This past week our Bible Class, along with the Valparaiso Bible Class, has been at the orphanage in Magdalena, MX. A number of adults joined the group and we look forward to hearing about their experiences. These are special times for the students as well as the adults, and we pray all can draw closer to God via this experience.

During the month I keep track of experiences that I enjoy sharing

with you through the Silver Lining. It is a true joy for me to learn so much about the ways of God through daily, perhaps even mundane, tasks and duties.

But do you ever have a day where you feel depleted – spiritually, physically or emotionally – maybe all three? Perhaps a heavy heart...troublesome thoughts? That is where I find myself today. These are the days I find God and His Word is my only real comfort. Perhaps you feel depleted, too? I would like to share one verse that has been my comfort today – a promise from our Father. “Be still, and know that I am God...” (Psalm 46:10).

May God be with you.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

**Pam Walder
Andrea Walder**

Our hospital patient this month was Bro. Les Walder (Sis. Dorothy). We're thankful to have him assembling with us again.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Gib and Sis. Kathy Stock in the passing of their brother-in-law, Wally Yergler, of Florida.

We're thankful to hear of the safe arrival of Ashlyn Larae Wells, born to Ryan and Sis. Adrea Wells. Welcoming her home are siblings, Skyler, Autumn and Spencer, and grand parents, Bro. Dennis and Sis. Sharon Walder. Also, Bro. Jess and Sis. Kelsey Walder (Silverton, OR) became parents of a girl, Stephanie Ann. Grandparents, Bro. Dennis and Sis. Sharon Walder, and big brother, Stephen, welcome her. Our prayers are with them as Stephanie remains in the hospital. Welcoming their firstborn daugh-

ter named Bethany Joy are Bro. Greg and Sis. Heidi Maul. Bethany's grandparents are Mike and Sis. Kathy Maul and Bro. Craig and Sis. Trudy Rudin (Forrest, IL).

We bid farewell to Bro. Dan and Sis. Carol Heinold as they have moved from Cissna Park to our Goodfield congregation.

Our annual all-church picnic was held on a beautiful Sunday afternoon at the park. It was a blessing to gather together for a potluck meal and evening together.

We witnessed the wedding of Sis. Gretchen Steffen (Bro. Rod and Sis. Beth) and Bro. Jeff Moser (Bro. Mark and Sis. Wanda) of Bluffton, IN, on July 16. We wish them God's blessings as they begin their married life together.

We were blessed with many visiting ministers this month, including Bro. Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL), Bro. Ted Witzig, Jr. (Morton, IL), Elder Bro. John Laukhuf (Latty, OH), Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN), Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN), Bro. Neil Widmer (West Lafayette, IN), Bro. Wes Moser (Lester, IA), Bro. Larry Bahr (Fort Scott, KS), Bro. Gary Sinn (Latty, OH), Bro. Darren Plattner (Champaign, IL), Bros. Mark Gerber, Ron Kipfer and John Reinhard (Bluffton, IN) and Bros. Steve Ringger and Bob Meyer (Bluffton North, IN).

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

Rachel Schrock

Recently we were given the following pictorial analogy: if you place a crooked stick alongside a straight stick, it is obvious which one is which. So it is when we align our lives alongside the straight and

true Word of God; we can easily see the work that we still have to do.

We are thankful for those who are willing to lend of themselves to bring forth the true Word of God to us each Sunday and Wednesday evening. Those ministering brethren whom have visited us this past month include Elder Bro. Bruce Hohulin (Sis. Charlene, Goodfield, IL) and Bros. Tom Leman (Sis. Marlene, Denver, CO) and Randy Mogler (Sis. Evie, Washington, IL).

When a dear soul passes away, we often remember their many labors of love as well. Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Denny Blunier (Sis. Eddis, Goodfield, IL) and their families in the loss of his mother, Sis. Lucille Blunier. We pray for the Lord to comfort them with the hope that she now walks in heavenly places.

Often we forget to thank those who teach our children of the way of salvation so that they may someday have this hope as well. As we recently enjoyed our Sunday School picnic, our gratitude is extended to all those who teach Sunday School and Vacation Bible School. Our prayers continually go up to the Lord for the dear young souls that attend our Sunday School as well – we are certainly blessed with a growing number of children in our congregation! Even as we appreciate those who currently attend our Sunday School, we also do not want to leave out those who have attended in the past. As time moves on, and faces come and go, our prayers continue that all may experience the way of salvation.

Faces also come and go as job changes affect families' lives. We recently said goodbye to Bro. Jim and Sis. Deb Roth and their family,

Wendi, Jodi, Heidi and Andrew. They will be attending the Silver-ton, Oregon, congregation now. We miss them and pray for God to help them as they adjust to their new surroundings.

Our prayers are also with Bro. Harvey Schieber as he recently was hospitalized. May he feel God's healing hand as he recovers for a time at the nursing home.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN

Amy Gasser
Miriam Gasser

We have enjoyed our summer visitors and want to give special thanks to the ministering brothers who willingly proclaimed God's Word. They were Bros. Dale Frank (Oakville, IA), Dan Koch (Tremont, IL), Don Manz (Junction, OH), Neil Ramseyer (Bay City, MI), Alan Schambach (Remington, IN), and Mark Zimmerman (Eureka, IL).

The Bible tells us the angels in heaven rejoice over one sinner who repents. We also are thankful that Matt Braun (Bro. Gene and Sis. Sue) has found grace to make a beginning on the pathway of the Lord.

May God bless the labors of Bro. Tim Kellenberger (Sis. Marcia) and Sis. Linda Steffen (Bro. Dave), whose Sunday School terms have expired. Bro. Todd Schambach (Sis. Paula) and Sis. Sue Braun (Bro. Gene) have been chosen as replacements.

A warm welcome is extended to Sis. Cheryl Manz (Bro. Don and Sis. Connie of Junction, OH), who has moved to Deerfield, IL, for employment. We look forward to getting better acquainted as she assembles with us.

While visiting Morris, MN, the

last weekend in June, Sis. Helen Liebig became quite ill and needed to stay longer than planned. She underwent two surgeries and remains hospitalized. Matt Steffen (Natalie), the son of Bro. Nate and Sis. Marilyn, also had surgery and anticipates further treatments. We are praying for both Sis. Helen and Matt, as they go through these valleys. Bro. Jason Schambach (Sis. Karen) is recovering well from his emergency surgery.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

Cindy Stoller
Lisa Metzger

Several families are welcoming home new babies. Bro. Brian and Sis. Teri Vierling along with Brandon, David and Kristen, are happy for their healthy little boy, Joshua Brian. His grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Linda Vierling and Bro. Lewis and Sis. Arletta Martin. Reagan Mark was born to first-time parents, Bro. Mark and Sis. Kate Dotterer. Reagan's grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Jeanne Dotterer, and Bro. Scott and Sis. Elaine Frank. Also, Bro. Bob and Sis. Kathy Zimmerman are thankful for their new daughter, Joanna Jean. Jonathan is Joanna's big brother, and grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Madelyn Zimmerman (Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Floren and Sis. Twylla Streitmatter (Princeville, IL).

Our congregation is rejoicing with our two new converts, Jeremy Stoller (Bro. Jim and Sis. Janet) and Keith Wiegand (Bro. Brian and Sis. Tina). We pray for them and trust the Lord will provide for their every need in this new walk.

Bro. Mark Wiegand (Bro. Don

and Sis. Jane) and Sis. Danielle Lemman (Bro. Kent and Sis. Chris) made their engagement known recently. We are happy for them, and pray for God's nearness as they anticipate joining their lives together.

Bro. Dale McCasky (Fairbury, IL) and Sis. Natalie Getz (Bro. Allan and Sis. Nathalia) were wed on July 23. Also, Justin Bauman (Glen and Sis. Becky) and Christy Kuntz (Bro. Dave and Sis. Pat, Goodfield, IL) were joined as one on July 22. We pray the Lord will be their guide and keeper as they continue on as two new couples.

We bid a final farewell to our Sis. Verna Lehman who quietly left us for her eternal home. It is a good reminder for us of life's seriousness and brevity.

Our hospital patients this month include Sis. Janet Zimmerman (Bro. Tom) and Bro. Ed Graham (Sis. Lucille). We are thankful they are well on the road to healing.

Several visiting ministers made it to Eureka this month, including Elder Bro. Rick Plattner (Fairbury, IL), and Bros. Tim Hohulin (Roanoke, IL), Dan Stoller (Remington, IN), Kent Getz (Elgin, IA), John Hartman and Paul Kilgus (Fairbury, IL). We are grateful for the Lord's edification to us through these brothers.

Bro. Darin and Sis. Tami Kupferschmid along with Caleb, Garrett, and Nora have felt the Lord's direction to relocate to Tennessee, and assemble with the Nashville brethren. We are sad to see them go, but thankful for their trust in and obedience to almighty God. Their new address is: 1014 Garton Rd, Burns, TN 37029.

Note of Thanks:

Thanks so much to all who have graciously helped us with gifts, cards, and good deeds since our daughter, Trina, was born. We have been very blessed to receive such love and support, and trust you can find the greater blessing returning to you. We appreciate your continued prayers for us.

Sincerely,

*Bro. Nate, Sis. Cheryl Wiegand,
and family*

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY
Anna Schmidgall
Lila Fehr

Every time our congregation gathers to worship, we are certain that there will be willing brothers to preach the Word from the pulpit. We are so thankful for the Spirit filled, servant-hearts of our home ministering brothers and we do appreciate not only the time they spend on the pulpit preaching, but the extra time and effort that is spent in nurturing this family. When one of them is absent from us, it is announced which church they are visiting and a little prayer rises from our hearts for that brother, and we look forward to when they can gather with us again. I'm sure we are not unique in this, and so we would like to thank the Congerville congregation for sharing their ministering Bro. Ben Walder with us.

Another Sunday School year has come to a close here in Fairbury. We would like to extend our appreciation to our outgoing teachers for their willingness to instill the Holy Word of God in the tender hearts of our youth: Bro. Martin Steidinger, Sis. June Slagel, and Sis. Rhonda Stoller. Newly appointed teachers are Bro. Bruce Young, Sis. Anna

Bahler and Sis. Lila Fehr.

Our hospital patients this month were many, but we trust that God knows every need and will provide for them: Troy Fehr (Bro. Randall and Sis. Janis), Lauren Fehr (Bro. Darrin and Sis. Kendra), Sis. Dorothy Hoffman, Sis. Marie Huber, Joan Gaston, and Nita Moser.

Bro. Kevin and Sis. Kara Moser and their family welcomed home a new little baby girl. Stella Jo was born on July 14. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Martha Moser (Washington, IL), Robert and Cheri Kaisner, and Colleen Tholen.

ILLINOIS, FORREST
Jill Wenger
Lori Leman

We are thankful for visiting ministers, Bro. Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN), Bro. Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL) and Elder Bro. Tom Stock (Cissna Park, IL), who favored us through the sharing of God's Holy Word these past weeks.

Welcoming Kyle Benjamin are first-time parents, Bro. Ben and Sis. Lori Leman. Kyle's thankful grandparents are Bro. Marvin and Sis. Nancy Dotterer and Sis. Donna Leman (the late Bro. Robert).

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Barb Knapp (Dale) on the loss of her father, Al Dettwyler (Silverton, OR). May Barb and her family feel God's comforting hand throughout their loss.

Our dear Neva "Toots" Farney completed her journey of 93 years. Her children, Dale (Harriet) of Forrest, Donna Dockery of Battle Creek, MI, and Bro. Roger (Sis. Janet) of Bloomington, 9 grandchil-

dren and 19 great – grandchildren will miss her. May God comfort them.

"Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."

John 3:5

Our congregation rejoiced the weekend of July 8-9 as we heard the testimony and witnessed the baptism of our new Sis. Tamra Stork (Bro. Paul and Sis. Dawn). We also welcomed Sis. Mindy Bahler (Bro. Carlos and Sis. Marty, Gridley, IL) as she was able to give her testimony to the church and fully become a part of our fellowship here.

Our prayers are with Sis. Dorothy Bachtold (the late Bro. Alf), Sis. Shirley Ifft (Bro. Larry) and Bro. Al Kupferschmid (Sis. Wanda) as they have spent time in the hospital recently. We pray the Lord's blessings upon their health.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD
Rita Bauman
Amber Grimm

We are looking forward to a blessing in hosting the Conference this year. May God be with the brothers who meet and speak.

"Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

Matthew 5:3

Bro. Ron Wiegand (Sis. Barb) was hospitalized this month. We are thankful he is home again and pray for continued recovery.

"Blessed are they that mourn:

for they shall be comforted.”

Matthew 5:4

Sis. Cora Rogers passed away this month. She is the sister of Bro. Wilbur Heinold (Sis. Mildred), Bro. Melvin Heinold (Sis. Mary), and Sis. Laura Steffen. Bro. Denny Blunier's (Sis. Eddis) mother also passed away this month, Sis. Lucille Blunier. Thoughts and prayers are with these families.

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

Matthew 5:8

Special thanks to Bro. Galen Rokey (Sis. Nancy, Bern, KS), Bro. Gene Metzger (Sis. Delores, Lester, IA), and Bro. Dan Beer (Sis. Deb, Milford, IN) for bringing forth God's Word to us this past month. We are always thankful for visiting ministers and their labors.

We rejoice with Christy Kuntz (Bro. Dave and Sis. Pat) and Justin Bauman (Glen and Sis. Rebecca, Eureka, IL) who were married this month. Also married were Bro. Brent Schmidgall (Bro. Randy and Sis. Cindy) and Sis. Abby Hoerr (Bro. Carl and Sis. Debbie, Peoria, IL). God's blessings upon these marriages and new lives together!

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY Perry A. Klopfenstein

“In everything give thanks for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”

Sometimes it can be difficult to discern the will of God. Yet, in one instance we can be sure of what God's will is — that of giving

thanks. We are taught to give thanks in everything. No matter what the occasion or circumstance is, we are to be thankful. For sure, it's easier to give thanks when things are going our way and we are happy, but we are to give thanks, too, when things are troublesome and the burdens are heavy.

Regarding thanksgiving, all of us — no matter what our circumstances are — have many reasons to give thanks. We are blessed here in America with multitudes of blessings. Often, we have an enemy that wants to obscure the recognition of our blessings. He will use minor, insignificant things to cloud our motive to be thankful. God's provision for salvation through Jesus Christ is our greatest blessing. Another wonderful blessing is the church, of which Christ is the Head. Our church and all its many benefits constitute a blessing we can all be thankful for.

Sis. Ashley Kiefer was married to Bro. Nathan Hodel on July 16. She is the daughter of Bro. Rich and Sis. Gail Kiefer. He is the son of Bro. Dennis and Sis. Brenda Hodel. We wish them much happiness in the years ahead.

On July 30, Sis. Katie Kellenberger was married to Bro. Arlan Miller. Her parents are Bro. Verlyn and Sis. Linda Kellenberger (Lester, IA). He is the son of Bro. Orlan and Sis. Carol Miller. May God grant them joy in the days and years ahead.

We can be very thankful that the process of seeking a wife through faith, prayer and the subsequent revelation of God's Spirit is still practiced among us. This is a wonderful blessing, and without question is a more sure means for a

blessed, enduring marriage than the alternative of dating. “...a threefold cord is not quickly broken.” (Eccl. 4:12)

Michelle Krug is engaged to marry Gene Compton of Lexington. Michelle is the daughter of Sis. Linda Krug, Gridley, and Duane Krug, El Paso.

Sis. Ruth Rinkenberger is recovering from surgery.

Our visiting ministers were Bros. Brace Wieland (Leo, IN), Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL) and Kevin Knapp (Bloomington, IL).

ILLINOIS, MORTON Annette Tanner Julie Bahr

“Lessons From the Mountain” was the topic chosen by Bro. Edward Sauder (Sis. Bonnie, Roanoke, IL) for our July Family Worship night. Bro. Ed captured our attention as he spoke so vividly of his own experiences on his mountain climbs that can be so closely related to our Spiritual lives. Other visiting ministers for July were Bro. Greg Rassi (Sis. Carla, Chicago, IL), Bro. Jon Kokanovich (Sis. Nancy, Phoenix, AZ), and Bro. Glen Funk (Sis. Sally, Wichita, KS). We were blessed to have each one.

On July 23, Morton was host for the Fort Sam Reunion. We were equally blessed again with a full assembly of visitors. What a tremendous benefit to Morton.

Adam Oberlander from Pasadena, CA, passed away this past month. He is the grandson of Sis. Joan Oberlander. On July 10, Ed Wanner suddenly passed away. Ed faithfully attended daily to his wife, Dorthy, who is a resident at Restmor. Sis. Eula Grimm “longed

to be in Heaven". She went to her Heavenly Home on July 23. Sis. Diane Grimm is her daughter.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA
Kristin Menold
Carissa Klopfenstein

On July 5, Bro. Dave Obergfel, spoke at Family Night. We appreciate his efforts and service to our church.

The Single Focus Weekend was held July 15 and 16 at our church in Peoria. The topic for the weekend was The Abundant Life. We wish to thank our speakers, Bro. Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL), Bro. Ted Witzig Jr. (Morton, IL), Elder Bro. Mark Streitmatter (Bloomington, IL) and Bro. Ken Hoerr (Peoria) for your message and being part of this weekend. Also, all who attended and contributed to the event by your presence and acts of service.

Our prayers are with Bro. Dale Hunziker and his family as he continues his battle with cancer. May God be with you and give you strength. We are grateful for the improved health of our Sis. Chris Erkert and continue to pray for her full recovery. Also, for the health of Sig Schubert.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Skip and Sis. Pat Meister and the Kieser family in the passing of Sis. Pat's father, Bro. Dave Kieser from Princeville. All who knew Bro. Dave were blessed by his spirit of service and love to his family in Christ.

On July 9, we celebrated the union of Sis. Emily Obergfel (Bro. Dave and Sis. Kathy) to Bro. Shayne Fehr (Dave and Sis. Linda, Washington, IL). The ceremony was officiated by her father, Bro.

Dave Obergfel, Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington, IL) and Elder Bro. Tim Funk.

On June 25, many members from the Peoria congregation visited our church in Champaign for the wedding of Sis. Erin Metzger (Ed Metzger from Phoenix and Sis. Jeanne Metzger from Champaign) to Bro. Dustin Funk (Elder Bro. Tim and Sis. Debi). Officiating were Bro. Darren Plattner, and his father, Elder Bro. Tim Funk.

The summer continues to be a hot one so stay cool. Until next time.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE
Vera Baer
Connie Christ

We are thankful for the ministering brothers who visited us this month. May God bless Bros. Cory Metzger (Wichita, KS), Fred Witzig (Indianapolis, IN), and Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL) for being willing servants in bringing us God's Word.

Clint Endress (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Luann) married Stephanie Schwartz (Mr. and Mrs. John Schwartz, Bloomington) on June 30. We wish them God's blessings as they begin their life together.

JaNae Knobloch (Bro. Jay and Sis. Deanne) was hospitalized overnight for appendicitis, and we are thankful for her speedy recovery.

Note of Thanks:

We want to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to everyone for all the love, prayers, and many acts of kindness shown to Dad through the years, and to us since his passing. May God bless each of you.

*The Dave Kieser Family,
 Verle & Vonnie Kieser
 Harold & Karen Steiner
 Skip and Pat Meister*

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE
Dee Fehr
Doris Fischer

We rejoiced to hear of several new homes being established. The engagement of Stephanie Leman (Bro. Steve and Sis. Shirley) and Marc Rieke (Dean and Julie Rieke, Jackson, MI) was announced. Stephanie and Marc's wedding is planned for September 9. Jayme Modlin (Doug Modlin and Cathy Modlin) became the bride of Jeff Tibbs (Jim and Julie) on July 8. We witnessed the marriage of Bro. Benji Leman (Bro. Ben and Sis. Janet) and Sis. Kyle McKimney (Tina and Keith) on July 9. May God bless and keep these young couples through the coming years.

Bro. Matt and Sis. Melissa Kaufman are thankful to have a healthy baby girl, born on June 26. Lucy Rose was welcomed home by big sister Sofia and grandparents, Bro. Ben and Sis. Janet Leman, Linda Kaufman and Warren and Sara Kaufman. Bro. Greg and Sis. Sharlene Moser are also very thankful for a new daughter, named Joanna Barbara Minh Tam. Joanna was born in Vietnam on May 13, 2004, but came to her new home in Roanoke on June 12, 2006. Her American grandparents are Bro. Lyle and Sis. Barbara Moser and Sis. Shirley and the late Bro. Dave Kieser (Princeville). May these precious little girls grow in wisdom and in knowledge and in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We are continuing in prayer for

Sis. Lisa Gerber (Bro. Byron) who has recently had a bone marrow transplant, and give thanks to God for a good report so far.

Note of Thanks:

The family of Betty Feller-Zimmerman wishes to express our heartfelt thanks for the love, prayers and support during Betty's illness and her death.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT
Teresa Rowell
Sheri Allen

The summer has been very pleasant here in central Illinois so far this summer; however, that has changed in the past week. July is here and so is the typical July weather. Thankful, we have received rain and the crops are looking good. We need to remember to thank our Lord for everything as it says in His Word, "In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." (I Thess. 5:18).

We have many reasons to be thankful, as we witnessed the testimonies and baptisms of three dear souls. We welcome Sis. Janelle Kilgus (Bro. Todd and Sis. Rita), Sis. Nicole Koch (Bro. Earl and Sis. Marsha) and Bro. Bob Koch (Bro. Roger and Sis. Sally) into the fold. We were privileged to have Elder Bro. Rick Plattner (Fairbury, IL), Bro. Paul Kilgus (Fairbury, IL) and Bro. Dwayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN) with us to share the Word and responsibilities of the weekend. May the Lord bless these dear brothers for their efforts.

There are two families who have reason to thank the Lord for the safe arrival of their new little ones.

Bro. Todd and Sis. Valerie Steiner welcome Lydia Joy into their home. Her brothers and sisters are Victoria, Trent, Corbin, Philip, Thad, Faith and Joshua. Also, Bro. Russ and Sis. Beth Koehl and Tasha welcome Ashley Jane into their home. May the Lord grant these parents the special wisdom to raise these children for Him.

Betty Hild has been spending some time in the hospital and would appreciate our continued prayers and support. We know there are others who may have had surgery or have been ill, and we want to remember them in our prayers also.

We are sorry to have neglected our high school graduates. They are Dale Beutel, Sis. Deborah Bolliger, Sis. Kim Dill, Emily Frank, Galen Huette, Derek Kaiser, Dustin Kilgus, Bro. Craig Koch, Sis. Rebecca Koch, Bro. Nick Sauder, Darci Stoecker and Wendy Wagenbach. We pray that they will seek the Lord in what He would have them do for their life's work.

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

Matthew 6:33

As we just celebrated Father's Day, we want to acknowledge our earthly fathers and encourage them to press on toward the mark as they lead their families in the way of the Lord. And let us never forget to thank our Heavenly Father for giving us God-fearing fathers who want to lead us aright.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

Nancy Knepp
Barb Banwart

I give my heart alone to Thee;
 Use it for Thy design!
 This vain world's I would never
 be,
 Dear Lord, but wholly Thine.
Zion's Harp #163

The title of the beautiful hymn in which this verse is found is "The Covenant of Grace". May that covenant into which our new brothers and sister have entered be a treasure most precious to them. Sis. Michelle Wyss and Bro. Matthew Wyss (Bro. Ed and Sis. Kathy) and Bros. Brad and Brent Ricketts (Bro. Jon and Sis. Cheryl), and Bro. John Eisenmann (Merle and Elsie Eisenmann and Frances Young), gave their testimonies and were baptized the weekend of July 1-2. In addition to Elder Bro. Jim Plattner (Sis. Marlene, Princeville, IL), many visiting ministers were with us. They were Bro. Bruce Frank (Sis. Bonita, Cissna Park, IL), Bro. Tom Bolliger (Sis. Jane, Tremont, IL), Bro. Brian Huber (Sis. Jacki, Francesville, IN), Bro. Greg Lehman (Sis. Mary Beth, Wolcott, IN), Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen, Kansas City, MO) and Bro. James Kaeb (Sis. Diane, Bern, KS). We thank each of them.

We also appreciated so much the visits of Bro. John Hartman (Sis. Rosemary) and Bro. Paul Kilgus (Sis. Carmen), both from Fairbury, as they opened the Word of Life to us during mid-week services. May the Lord reward them.

Our Sis. Kathryn Funk (Bro. Gene) lost her sister, Sis. Lucille Blunier (the late Tim). She will be

missed by several nieces in our congregation also. In the midst of the earthly farewell is thanksgiving for her Home-going.

We appreciated the visit home of Bro. Bill and Sis. Joan Schick and their family, and the presentation of the efforts being accomplished at the orphanage at Magdalena.

The efforts of the Young Group were appreciated as many helped with various maintenance duties at Timber Ridge in Morton recently.

A pretty park and a very warm day were the setting for our annual Sunday School picnic. Many attended and were warmed in heart also to observe the friendships and the play of our many dear children.

Sophie Huscher, exchange student from Berlin, Germany, has spent the past year with Bro. Steve and Sis. Susie Jones and their children, Caleb, Zachary, Jessie, Isaac and Ethan. She seemed like a part of their family and was observant and appreciative of the manner of life and purpose of her host family and the church. She is missed now that she has returned to Germany. May the Lord bless her and may she seek the way of truth and life.

We were recently reminded of the contrast prayer of King Hezekiah for more years to live and the Lord's prayer of "Thy will be done." It is something for us to ponder.

On Sunday, July 9, our Bro. Shane Fehr (Dave and Sis. Linda) and Sis. Emily Obergfel (Bro. Dave and Sis. Kathy) were united in marriage in Peoria. May God bless them in their walk together with the Lord.

Our sympathy goes to Sis. Pauline Schick in the loss of her sister-in-law, Ruby Feucht, in Lester, IA.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

Amber Steffen
Amy Gerber

"The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?"

Psalm 27:1

Casting aside all fears of the future are our new converts, Kaitlyn Brooks (daughter of convert Matthew Brooks) and Jessica Bertsch (Bro. Tom and Sis. Brenda). We rejoice with them as God works in their lives and leads them toward His light and salvation!

We had other opportunities for rejoicing with our many testimonies of faith this month. Wednesday, June 21, Bro. Eugene and Sis. Elizabeth Krizan (Vista, CA) gave their testimonies and embraced the Apostolic Church. Also, giving testimonies and being baptized were Bro. Cameron Steiner and Bro. Bob Steffen (Sis. Nova - dec.). It was such a blessing to see Christ working in the hearts of older lives, as well as younger ones. July 8-9 marked an exciting weekend for Esther Kaehr (Bro. Jon and Sis. Juli) and Trent Earney (Bro. Todd and Sis. Teresa) as they told of how Christ had changed them from their old sinful flesh to new and beautiful children of God. Finally, Spencer Lewis also announced that he has found a glorious peace in his Master, and is looking forward to baptism at a later date. We are so thankful that God has worked in his heart through the friends that originally brought him to the Bluffton congregation. Our prayer

is that God would continue to use each of us to further God's kingdom.

As always with summer, many activities are planned, and this month the congregation had several opportunities to pray for the youth in our church. July 7-9 were the dates for Boys Camp (Sunday school boys in 7-8th grade). We are thankful for the opportunities to let God work! Also, the weekend of July 15-16 marked the weekend of Christian Endeavor, which is open to high school Sunday school students and provides a great opportunity for God to work in their lives. The Bluffton congregation is thankful for such wonderful opportunities!

Along with the good have been many prayer requests warmly received from the congregation. Bro. Jerry Gerber (Sis. Ann) underwent knee surgery on June 21. There are ongoing prayers for Jimmy VandenTop. This month he underwent surgery because of an infection in his arm. Sis. Connie Vidrine (Bro. Paul) is back in the hospital in Washington and has asked for the prayers of the Bluffton congregations as well. Bro. Kreigh Aschliman (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Beth) was in an accident and crushed a vertebra. He underwent successful surgery and is expected to have a full recovery; however, he had over 32 stitches and will be in a body brace for six to ten weeks. We will continually be prayerful for Bro. Kreigh in this painful and trying time, as we will for the rest of those in need.

Sis. Naomi Kaehr went home to be with the Lord this month. Left behind, and in need of prayers to sustain them are her loving hus-

band, Bro. Fred, and their children, Sis. Jane Frauhiger (Bro. Doyle), Sis. Marie Frauhiger (Bro. Chuck), Bro. Lyle (Sis. Connie), Bro. Myron, and Sis. Irene Frauhiger (Bro. Steve). Our prayers go out to them and their extended family during this time of loss. However, breaking through the gloom is the constant reminder of God's faithfulness through Sis. Naomi's entire life. Through her life's testimony we can find the means to rejoice.

This month we have been blessed with two births as well. On June 29, Bro. Ben and Sis. Jamie Maller had a little girl, Kylie Anne. Kylie's proud grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Rhonda Maller and Bro. Jack and Sis. Diane Schwartz. On July 5, Bro. Brian and Sis. Jessie Steffen gave birth to their little boy, Isaac Allen. His grandparents are Bro. Allen and Sis. Arlene Steffen and Bro. Duane and Sis. Karen Steffen. We rejoice with these happy families as they add new little bundles of joy to their life!

Although not married in Bluffton, there were two couples united this month. Bro. Brad Bertsch (Bro. Mike and Sis. Carmon) and Sis. Sonya Beer (Milford, IN) were married on June 18. Bro. Jeff Moser (Bro. Mark and Sis. Wanda) and Sis. Gretchen Steffen (Cissna Park, IL) were married on July 16. We rejoice with their families and look forward to seeing God working in their lives wherever He would take them!

Finally, we are thankful for Bro. LaVerne and Sis. Rose Ringger who have celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary this month. Their testimony of God's love and commitment is truly an inspiration to the congregation.

**INDIANA
BLUFFTON NORTH
Darren Drayer
Tiffani Schladenhauffen**

"But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin."

1 John 1:7

Old friendships were renewed as the Bluffton congregations hosted a Fort Sam reunion this month. There is nothing stronger than the bond that we share as Brothers and Sisters in Christ, and we are thankful that we have many opportunities to share in fellowship together. We were thankful that there were several visiting ministers there to share in the Word with us. They were Bro. John Steiner (Sis. Carol, Oakville, IA), Bro. Ben Wysong (Sis. Janice, Sabetha, KS), Bro. Garry Bucher (Sis. Lois, Valparaiso, IN), Bro. Max Reimschisel (Sis. Judy, Wichita, KS), Bro. Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata, TX), Bro. Nelson Beer (Sis. Shelby, Milford, IN) and Bro. Glenn Riggensbach (Sis. Lou, Smithville - retired).

New friendships were made that same weekend as our congregations hosted Christian Endeavor for our Indiana High School Sunday Schools. We are prayerful that our Sunday School students will feel the need and the love for Jesus and that they will surrender their hearts and lives to Him.

We were thankful to have Bro. Allen Stoller (Sis. Susan, Bluffton) share in the Word with us this

month.

Bro. Dave Roberts (St. Louis, MO), son of our Sis. Carolyn Roberts, was united in marriage to Sis. Jan Stratton (Taylor, MO), daughter of Bro. Mike and Sis. Cheryl (Taylor, MO). May God bless them as they start their walk together.

Bro. Ed and Sis. Rhonda Maller are the joyful grandparents of another granddaughter, Kylie Anne. Kylie Anne's parents are Bro. Ben and Sis. Jaime of the Philadelphia congregation.

We are prayerful for Sis. Jane Frauhiger (Bro. Doyle), Sis. Marie Frauhiger (Bro. Chuck) and Sis. Irene Frauhiger (Bro. Steve) at the passing of their mother, Sis. Naomi Kaehr (Bro. Ted, Bluffton). May they find comfort in knowing that she is now resting with Jesus.

Bro. Bill Gerber (Sis. Carolyn) had surgery this month, but we are thankful that it all went well.

**INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE
Barbara Huber
Jessica Murray**

Greetings of love from all of us at Francesville! We are certainly enjoying a lush season of summer with bountiful rain and sunshine in wonderful balance.

We were blessed with our recent Vacation Bible School which had the theme, "Open Heart Surgery" and Psalm 51:10 to "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me." Graciously ministering to us through the week were Bro. Howard (Sis. Kristen) Plattner of Alto, MI; Bro. Bob (Sis. Eleanor) Pfloderer of Morton, IL; Bro. John (Sis. Tammy) Baumgartner of Bluffton North, IN; and Bro. Clark (Sis. Cindy)

Stoller of Gridley, IL. We thank them sincerely for letting themselves be used of God for our benefit and pray that God blesses them richly. The Holy Spirit truly was truly evident as many precious truths were imparted both to members and friends relating to endeavoring to have a truly healthy spiritual heart.

Our congregation has been the recipient of the gift of a large warehouse complex. After months of prayerful considerations and steering committee meetings as to the best use of this gift, we have felt the Lord's leading to elect a Board of Directors for the project. Brothers elected to this Board are Wendell Anliker, Harold Fritz, Earl Johns, Les Kaeb, Larry Leman, Ben Metz and Rick Wuethrich. We pray they will feel the guidance and inspiration of the Holy Spirit as they pursue the establishment and mission of this benevolent project.

"I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye."

Psalms 32:8

Our beloved ministering Bro. Chris (Sis. Sharon) Huber recently underwent surgery and is thankfully back on the pulpit again. We pray that his recovery is quick and complete and that he definitely feels God's nearness throughout his healing process.

Braylyn Kay Gudeman was joyfully welcomed into the world on June 24 by Bro. Grant and Sis. Cara (Baumgartner) Gudeman. Happy, first-time grandparents are our Bro. Dale and Sis. Peg (Gramm) Gudeman.

Bro. Wendell and Sis. Karel

(Marti) Anliker also welcomed another bundle from heaven with grandson, Noah Michael. Noah was born on May 31 to our Bro. Michael and Sis. Mindy Anliker who reside in Downs, Illinois. We rejoice with each of these family circles and entreat God's riches of blessings and wisdom as these little ones are loved, nurtured and taught of the love of Jesus!

Elder Bro. Steve (Sis. Linda) Gutwein blessed us with a topical Bible Study from II Corinthians 7. He exhorted us to live purely and honestly before God. We should prayerfully keep in mind our Lord's desire for us to live sanctified and dedicated

Christian lives and strive for "...perfecting holiness in the fear of God" (II Cor. 7:1)

Our Bible Class was hosted by the Bluffton congregation for the Christian Endeavor weekend on July 15-16. May God bless the hospitality extended to them by this loving fellowship and we pray that our students were blessed in renewing friendships and gathering truths to aid them as they return to their Fall schedules.

BEGIN THE DAY WITH GOD

Every morning lean thine arms
awhile
Upon the windowsill of heaven
And gaze upon thy Lord,
Then, with the vision in thy heart,
Turn strong to meet the day.

—Thomas Blake

INDIANA INDIANAPOLIS Gail Bradford Sandy Lichtle

On June 24, Brian Witzig (Bro. Bill and Sis. Conni) and Faith

Schell (Terry and Marie Schell, Brownsburg, IN) exchanged their wedding vows. We rejoice with them and pray for God's blessings to be upon their union.

We warmly welcome Bro. Clint and Sis. Alesa Bahler and Bro. Luke, Sis. Andria, Noah, and Adrian Schafer to Indianapolis. We sadly bid farewell to Bro. Brian, Sis. Cherise, B.J., and Zach Blume and Sis. Trisha Sauder this month. The Blume family will be moving to Northville, MI, and Sis. Trisha has moved back to Morton, IL. Even though we experience changes in our lives, we know that the promises in God's Word always stay the same.

We appreciate the servant heart of Bro. Ted Luginbuhl (Sis. Stephanie, Smithville, OH) who shared the Word with us this month. Thank you for your labors of love in the Lord.

"This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it."

Psalms 118:24

INDIANA, LACROSSE

**Bethany Johnson
Julie Locke**

Our annual Sunday School picnic was held the Saturday after Vacation Bible School. We had a good turn out and a wonderful time of fellowship.

"Many hands make light work." We certainly found this old adage to be true as we had our annual church housecleaning as well as doing some outside work on the landscaping and mulching. Our deep appreciation goes to those who worked to organize these events and many

thanks to those who helped in any way.

With thankful hearts, we welcome Sis. Meagan Wuethrich (Bro. Chris and Sis. Carla) and Sis. Jessica Feller (Bro. Joe and Sis. Jackie) home from their travels abroad. We are thankful they had safe travels and good visits in their respective locations and we are happy to have them back.

We are also thankful that Sis. Margene Peasley has been able to move here from Lester, IA, to join Bro. David. We are glad for the opportunity to welcome her to our church family and to worship with her regularly.

“When pure and upright hearts,
by flames of love ignited,
Are by the bond of faith, more
firmly yet united.”

Zion's Harp #79

Bro. Bob Beer (Milford) and Sis. Barb Troxel were united in holy matrimony on July 9 with many family and friends present to worship with them and to witness their marriage. May God richly bless them as they begin life together.

Our prayers go out to several of our loved ones who suffered injury or hospitalization this month. Sis. Dorothy Stewart (Bro. Doyne) was hospitalized and we are glad to see that she has gained strength enough to come home and even has joined us for worship. Our prayers are extended to Sis. Dorothy's daughter and son-in-law, Paul and Doreen Kuehl, as they recover from an accident. Sis. Anna Marie Stoller (Bro. Steve) had surgery for a broken ankle and little Laura Stoller (Bro. Ben and Sis. Kendra) suffered a broken arm. We are

thankful for the healing we have seen and pray for that which is left to be done.

We had the privilege of listening to God's Word from several visiting ministers this month. May God richly bless Bros. Ken Schneider (Remington, IN), Nelson Beer (Milford, IN), Sam Schlatter (Junction, OH), Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MIN) and Ned Stoller and Ted Steffen (Alto, MI) as they blessed us with their service.

Note of Thanks:

Sis. Pearl Nuest extends her sincere thank you to those who remembered her on her 90th birthday. The cards and thoughts were greatly appreciated.

**INDIANA, LEO
Ethelyn Schlatter**

Three consecutive Wednesday evenings we learned about the Biblical principles of financing, the same theme as VBS. The topical Bible studies were presented by Bros. Steve Ringger (Bluffton North, IN) and Mark Gerber (Bluffton, IN) and our Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz.

On June 25 we enjoyed a large group of visitors due to reunions. There were seven ministering brothers, including Elder Bro Jay Luthi (Sis. Jane, Lamont-Gridley, KS), Bro. Justin Koch (Sis. Marcia, Washington, IL), Bro. Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue, Detroit, MI), Bro. Greg Stieglitz (Sis. Lisa, Indianapolis, IN), and Bro. James Kaeb (Sis. Diane, Bern, KS) who shared in the ministry. We were greatly blessed.

Bro. Jason and Sis. Heidi Pense were blessed with a daughter, Trinda Rose, on June 25. Her brother is Levi and grandparents

are John and Marty Pense and Bro. Myron and Sis. Lorine Hackenjoes (Latty, OH). We rejoice with them.

Sis. Sharlin Wieland suffered bruises and dislocated her kneecap in a fall. Her recovery is taking time, but we are glad it did not keep her home from services.

We are glad to report Bro. Sylvan and Sis. Irene Pulfer are attending afternoon services with assistance from their nieces and nephew.

Also retired Elder Bro. David and Sis. Marie Bertsch attended church services July 16. Sis. Marie has been absent since December. We rejoice in the Lord's healing hand.

It is very warm today, but I heard a katydid, and that means change. We face change every day, but we put our trust in Him who knows all the changes to come and the time of Jesus' return. "Watch ye therefore, and pray always..."

**INDIANA, MILFORD
Carlton Beer
Carol Haab**

On June 18 we witnessed the marriage of Sis. Sonya Beer and Bro. Brad Bertsch. Their parents are Bro. Bob and the late Sis. Linda Beer and Bro. Mike and Sis. Carmon Bertsch (Bluffton).

July 2 was the wedding day for Rick Bowerman and Carla Yoder. He is the son of Bro. Bob and Sis. Sue Bowerman and her parents are Don and Beth Yoder.

Sis. Barbara Troxel and Bro. Bob Beer were married in LaCrosse on July 9. We welcome Sis. Barb to our congregation and pray she soon feels at home.

We rejoice with each of these couples and pray God will bless

them with a lifetime of love and happiness.

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Brian Huber (Sis. Jacki, Francesville, IN) and Bro. Nile Bucher (Sis. Phyllis, Bluffton North, IN). May God bless them for their willingness to serve others.

The World Relief trailer has been in our area this month. Many have been helping a young couple with much needed repairs to their home. May God reward those taking time to help others in need.

Soon our children will be returning to school, whether on a local level or to a college away from home. May God guide them and go with them each and every day.

INDIANA, REMINGTON

**Beth Virkler
Tammy Waibel**

Greetings. Our visiting minister this past month was Bro. Gene Lehman (Sis. Verna, Wolcott, IN). Thank you for coming and sharing the Word with us.

The Sunday school picnic was held on the 25th of June. The kids all enjoyed themselves at the program. The brothers and sister who have been selected to replace the teachers whose terms have expired are as follows: Bro. Chris Hartter, 6th - 8th; Bro. Brian Schneider, 3rd - 5th; Sis. Patti Bahler, 1st and 2nd. Thank you to all teachers going out and coming in. The Lord teaches us to come to Him with childlike faith.

"The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his

name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever."

Psalm 23

Sis. Anna Bolliger Waibel, aunt of Bro. Ralph (Sis. Helen) Waibel, Mabel Buschman and Bro. Clyde (Sis. Mary Sue) Waibel, has gone on to her heavenly reward on July 7. She is preceded in death by her husband, Andy Waibel. She resided in Newark, DE, and was a member of our Philadelphia congregation. Survivors include: sons, Richard (Flo) Waibel, David (Sally) Waibel; brother, Wayne (Barbara) Bolliger; sisters-in-law, Rose and Marquette Bolliger; 5 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren. Preceded in death by: brothers Eli, Raymond, Ralph and Ben Bolliger; sisters Helen Bolliger and Verna Melton. Sis. Anna will be missed and her family will be in our prayers.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

**Amy Gerst
Laura Vercler**

"As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving"

Colossians 2:6-7

We have certainly felt the grace of the Lord as He continues to build up the faith of the South Bend congregation.

We were blessed with four visiting ministers recently. Visiting us this past month were Bro. Matt Steffen (Sis. Deanna, Princeville, IL) and Bro. Walter Rager (Sis. Sharon, Toledo, OH). Bro. Wayne Leman (Sis. Julie, Roanoke, IL) and his family spent a day with us this past July. Also visiting this month was Bro. Joe Gerst (Sis. Connie) and his family from Iowa City, IA. We always appreciate those who come to share the Word with us.

The South Bend congregation is planning a 25th Anniversary get-together for all those who have worshipped with us these past 25 years. We will have a singing on Saturday, October 7, at 7:00 p.m. and a church dinner following the services on Sunday, October 8. A warm invitation is extended to all those interested in sharing this special weekend with us. Please contact Bro. Scott and Sis. Gigi Schafer at 574-831-4378 if you plan to attend.

We always welcome and appreciate any visitors to our small congregation.

INDIANA WEST LAFAYETTE

**Andria Sprunger
Hollie Meister**

Several students from our young group recently spent a week in Jamaica. We are thankful for their safe return. We continue to pray for Bro. Blake Widmer who is spending the summer in Jamaica. May the Lord bless him and his efforts.

Bro. Grant and Sis. Cara Gudeman are beginning an exciting new phase in their lives as they

became first-time parents on June 24. They were excited to welcome little Braylyn to their family. Grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Jan Baumgartner (Leo, IN), and Bro. Dale and Sis. Peg Gudeman (Francesville, IN).

We wish to thank Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, Lacrosse, IN) and Bro. Steve Gutwein (Sis. Linda, Francesville, IN) for coming to visit and sharing the Gospel with us.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

**Elaine Bahler
Lowell Bahler**

Just a few months ago, we rejoiced with Bro. Jason and Sis. Jenny Furrer over the adoption of little Cheyenne who had been entrusted to their care many months before. This month, we rejoiced with them again as they were blessed with the birth of their son, Matthew James, on July 2. Andrew, Naomi, Deborah, Abraham, and Cheyenne gladly welcome their new baby brother, as do grandparents Bro. Dan and Sis. Deb Beer (Milford, IN) and Alvin and Phyllis Furrer. "Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord." (Psalm 127:3).

God has blessed the family of Bro. Derek and Sis. Theresa Blume with the birth of their daughter, Marie Tianne, on July 20. Emma and Levi are excited for a new little sister. She is also welcomed by grandparents, Bro. Tim and Sis. Rachel Schwab and Bro. Larry and Sis. Lynell Blume. We praise the Lord for this precious little one who is "fearfully and wonderfully made." (Psalm 139:14)

We appreciated the visits of Bro. Dan Beer (Sis. Deb, Milford, IN) and Bro. Alan Schambach (Sis. Sa-

rah, Remington, IN) and were blessed by their ministry of God's Word. May they be blessed for their willingness to be used of the Lord.

IOWA, BLOOMFIELD Barbara Schock

Trust and obey,
For there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus,
But to trust and obey.

Hymns of Zion #186 (chorus)

Trusting in the Lord, our visiting ministers have brought forth His Word to us this month. On June 18, Bro. Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha, KS) and Bro. Brad Funk (Sis. Laura, Garden Grove, IA) were here. On July 2, Bro. Brad returned to Bloomfield for another Sunday. On July 9, Bro. Kent Getz (Sis. Betty, Elgin, IA) was here for the weekend. We thank each of these brothers for their labors of love on our behalf.

On July 17, we were able to listen to a presentation about Gateway Woods. We are thankful that Bro. Tim Sauder took the time to come to Bloomfield to share this with us. May we offer them our support and prayers.

As August approaches, we trust that our Elder brothers will feel the Spirit of the Lord as they meet together in Goodfield. May the Lord be with them.

A sister once shared this thought with me. Why is it that we are able to put our trust in a man-made contraption with engines and metal, an airplane, yet when it comes to trusting in the Lord, who is all around us, we tend to need reassurance? Do we simply trust, or do we need a little poking and prodding before we take

a step?

Each Sunday, especially during the summer months, we wonder whom we might see when we get to church, as we are often blessed with visitors that are traveling on vacation or to a reunion. We are rarely disappointed. We are always thankful and want to extend a welcome to all that might be in our area or even passing through.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

**Laurie Schulz
Krystal Knapp**

We have been blessed with two visiting ministers this past month. Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall and Bro. John Steiner brought forth God's Word to us.

We have three graduates this year. Kara Eberhardt (Bro. Fred and Sis. Kathy), Matt Schulz (Bro. Gary and Sis. Melody), Derek Knapp (Bro. Brian and Sis. Lorna) have moved on to higher learning or a career. May they look to God to lead them in their lives.

Father's Day has come and gone. May we appreciate all of their efforts on our behalf. May we thank them for training us up in a way that is pleasing to our Heavenly Father.

Our prayers are with Sis. Elisabeth Schumacher as she underwent knee surgery. May the Great Physician comfort her.

We will truly miss our dear Sis. Brenda Schulz as she has felt the Lord's leading to move to Sabetha, Kansas. She was offered a teaching position in the area. May the Lord be with her.

IOWA, ELGIN
Gloria Frieden
Heidi Butikofer

Another summer is swiftly passing by. Students are stocking up on supplies for another school year. Garden fruits and vegetables are being canned or frozen, to help provide nourishment for another winter; and fields are being harvested to provide the grain. In many ways we do the same to prepare for the future. But what about the future of our undying soul? May we be as diligent in preparing for our soul's eternal welfare as we are for our physical body's current needs.

"Prepare to meet thy God."

Amos 4:12

"Therefore, be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh."

Matthew 24:44

Our little flock has been blessed with six babies this year, and all of them have been boys. We are thankful for each one. The fifth and sixth just arrived this past month.

On June 25, Terick Allen Pryor (Eric and Becky) arrived to join his sisters, McKenna and Alexiana. Terick's grandparents are Richard and Bobbye Pryor (and the late Julene Pryor) and Sis. Gloria Frieden.

On July 11, Anden Michael Starkweather was welcomed into the home and hearts of his parents, Mike and Beth. Grandparents for Anden are Dan and Kelly Starkweather (Willseyville, NY) and Bro. Floyd and Sis. Jan Frieden.

Our thanks to Bro. Pat and Sis. Julie Zaugg (West Bend, IA) and

their family for spending a Sunday with us. A special thanks to Bro. Pat for lending himself at the pulpit and sharing God's Word with us.

IOWA, IOWA CITY
Diana Butikofer

We appreciate Bro. Bruce Frank (Sis. Bonita, Cissna Park, IL) and his family visiting us on a recent weekend and Bro. Duane Metzger (Sis. Ruth, West Bend, IA) and several Brothers stopping by for a Wednesday evening service. We thank both Brothers for their service on the pulpit.

I apologize for failing to mention that Sis. Erica Bruellman (Bro. Larry and Sis. Teresa, West Bend, IA) graduated from the University of Iowa with a Doctor of Pharmacy degree this spring. We wish her the Lord's blessings as she begins her career in Illinois.

Our annual College Student Picnic will be held Sunday, September 17, following our afternoon service. All area students and their families are invited to join us. We would appreciate if you could contact us (Bro. Joe and Sis. Connie Gerst at 319-846-2348) if you are planning to attend or if you know of a student(s) attending a college in our area.

IOWA, LESTER
Polly Metzger
Gloria Moser

We rejoice with the families that have welcomed precious babies to their hearts and homes. Bro. Brian and Sis. Angie Metzger are the thankful parents of a daughter, Claire Nicole, born on June 19. Cade is now a big brother and grandparents are Bro. Tom and Sis.

Deb Metzger. Barak Charles Rinkenberger was born on June 29 to Bro. Isaac and Sis. Melissa. Rebekah and Noah are excited to have a new baby brother join their family circle. Grandparents include Bro. Pete and Sis. Susan Van Whye and Bro. Jake and Sis. Glenna Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL). A sweet daughter, Jenneka Lynne, was born on June 30 to Bro. Micah and Sis. Marcy Gherian. Big brother, Zachary, along with grandparents, Bro. Pete and Sis. Susan Van Whye and Bro. Paul and Sis. Sharon Gherian (Junction, OH), are happy to have a new baby to love.

We bid farewell to Bro. Dave and Sis. Margene Peasley as they have moved to Lacrosse, Indiana. We pray that God will continue to guide and bless them during this transition. At the same time, our congregation warmly welcomes Caleb Heinold from Lacrosse, IN, who has found employment in our area.

Visiting ministers this past month were: Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Bloomfield, IA), Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA), Bro. Jim Butikofer (Iowa City, IA), Bro. Randy Mogler (Washington, IL), Bro. Larry Bahr (Ft. Scott, KS), Bro. Beirne Messner (Morris,

MN) and Bro. Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN). How thankful we can be for faithful brothers who are willing to share the Word of Life.

Sis. Vicki Leuthold (Bro. Chuck) has spent time in the hospital, but is now recovering at home. May the healing hand of God be upon her.

We extend our sympathy to the family of Ruby Feucht. Ruby passed away on July 10. Our prayers are with Ronald and Sis. Sandra Feucht and Bro. Dustin and

Sis. Michelle Knobloch as they grieve the loss of a dear mother and grandma.

Note of Thanks:

The family of Dean Banwart wishes to thank everyone who remembered us with cards, memorials, visits and especially in prayer. We have been humbled by the outpouring of love shown to us.

Irene Banwart and family

Bro. Roger and Sis.

Janet Knobloch and family

IOWA, OAKVILLE
Rosalie Wiegand
Sharla Wiegand

On Father's Day, we were thankful for visiting ministers, Bro. Bruce Endress (Bradford, IL) and Bro. Gary Endress (Bradford, IL). We appreciated having Bro. Rod Bajema (Lester, IA) preach the Word on July 2 and Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) broke the Bread of Life on July 9.

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Bro. Lyle Pflum of Taylor, MO, on June 16 and yet we rejoice that his years of suffering with Parkinson's Disease has come to an end. Our sympathy is extended to his wife, Sis. Marian, and to their children. We also mourn with his brother-in-law, Bro. Curt Frank (Sis. Kathy), of our congregation. Bro. Lyle and Sis. Marian were lifelong residents in the Oakville area before moving to Taylor.

On June 26, Keana Sue was welcomed into the hearts and home of Bro. Aaron and Sis. Sharla Frank. Grandparents of Keana are Bro. Curt and Sis. Kathy Frank and Bro. Charles and Sis. Sue Schneider of Elgin, IA. What rejoicing sur-

rounds the birth of a new baby!

Sacred marriage vows of Sis. Jaelyn Schaer (Bro. Dave and Sis. Sandy) and Bro. Terry Goodpaster (Sylvia Chamberlin, Warren, IN) were witnessed on July 16. Bro. Lynn Fiechter (Bluffton, IN) had the wedding service. We appreciated several other visiting ministers who helped on this blessed day: Bro. Dave Marquart and Bro. Scott Wegman (Taylor, MO), Bro. Bob Pflederer (Morton, IL), Bro. John Rowell and Bro. Fred Eberhardt (Burlington, IA).

Sunday School election was held July 9. We thank our outgoing teachers, Bro. Mark Schmidgall and Bro. Ed Stoller, also Sis. Kelly Lanz and Sis. Rosemary Larson. Teachers elected were Bro. Monte Lanz and Bro. Troy Massner, also Sis. Melody Steiner and Sis. Lori White. May God grant them grace as they teach our children the Truth.

We thank Sis. Rosalie Wiegand for service in writing the Silver Lining. She has moved to Bradford, IL, for new employment, and we wish her God's richest blessings.

IOWA, WEST BEND
Lori Skoglund
Sue Schneider

"I will lift up mine eyes to the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth."

Psalms 121:1,2

The family of Dean A. Banwart has felt the help that comes from the Lord as they experience the sorrow and loneliness that befalls a family with the loss of a loved one.

Dean was taken suddenly from this life in a tractor/train accident on June 17. His survivors include his wife, Irene; his children, Terry (Deb) Banwart, Connie (Andy) Girres of Sergeant Bluff, IA, Pam (Daily) May of The Colony, TX, and Bro. Alan of Overland Park, KS; seven grandchildren, one sister, Sis. Janet (Bro. Roger) Knobloch of Lester, IA, and numerous nieces and nephews. Elder Bro. Mark Streitmatter (Sis. Sara, Bloomington-Normal, IL) and Bro. Randy Mogler (Sis. Evie, Washington, IL) held Dean's funeral services with Bro. Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha, KS) offering the graveside prayer. The sympathy and prayers of our congregation go out to Irene and her family.

The clock of life is wound but once
And no man has the power.
To tell just when the hands will
stop

At late or early hour.
Now is the only time you own
Live, love, toil with a will.
Place no faith in tomorrow for
The clock may then be still.

—Anonymous

We have been blessed by the ministry of several other visiting ministers. They include: Bro. Gary Anliker (Sis. Edie) and Bro. Dan Moser (Sis. Anne), both of Elgin, IL, Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign, IL), Bro. Dale Wulf (Sis. Becky, Lester, IA), and Bro. Dean Messner (Sis. Wanda, Winthrop, MN). We appreciate the efforts of all who come and worship with us in West Bend.

Sis. Rosene Grimm (Bro. Clifford) and Marilyn (Arlo) Grimm have lost a dear sister, Lorene Miller, of Peoria, IL. May God com-

fort all who have suffered the loss of a loved one.

The blessing of peace with God and man has been bestowed upon Corbin Fehr (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Judy), Kyle Banwart (Bro. Kent and Sis. Beth) and Kris Messner (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Audrey). We look forward to their testimonies and baptism in August.

"Love of all gifts is the greatest..." Todd Kellenberger and Emily Trytten were united in marriage on June 24 at Decorah, IA. Their parents are Joel and Teresa Kellenberger and Dick and Diane Trytten. We wish them a lifetime of love and a home filled with peace and contentment.

Bro. Quinn Dahlhauser and Sis. Ruth Zaugg have announced their engagement and intentions to marry in August. Their parents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Ellen Dahlhauser and Bro. Martin and Sis. Doris Zaugg. May they rely upon God's direction as they make plans for their life together.

First-time parents, Bro. Dallas and Sis. Christy, are enjoying their son, Caleb John, who was born on July 14. His grandparents are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gail Massner and Bro. Curt and Sis. Kathy Frank of Oakville, IA. May they feel God's nearness as they adjust to the many changes in their lives at this time.

Change and adjustments are also a part of the lives of Bro. Andy and Sis. Becky Virkler and their children, Philip, Laura and Elisabeth, who have moved to West Bend recently from the Croghan - Naumburg, NY, area. Their oldest son, Joseph, remains in upstate New York. We hope they have felt a warm welcome.

Those who have been hospital-

ized always have a special appreciation of being able to be up and about again. Recent patients have been Joan Traub, Sis. Twila (Bro. Darin) Massner, Amy (Mike) Van Wyhe, and Bob (Sis. Ruth) Sigsbee.

"Casting all your cares upon him, for he careth for you."

I Peter 5:7

JAPAN, SHIODA Ayako Inoue

Greetings in our Lord's name, from Shioda, Japan.

We had lots of rain this month since the country is in the rainy season. Finally we are having some sunshine and the peach farmers are very busy around this area.

On July 23, we had a memorial service for the fiftieth year after dedication in 1956. We thank our Lord for blessing us through the years and pray for His grace and guidance in the coming years. Bro. Andrew and Sis. Jana Klaus and their family came from Tokyo to be with us and many friends who helped in the beginning years of the church attended the service. Family members of our brothers and sisters who have gone to meet our Lord were there and we enjoyed meeting them after a long time.

I Kings 8:13-30 and Ephesians 2:19-22 was read. "Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone." It reminded us that Christ is our foundation, and that God does not dwell in the building itself, but dwells in our hearts, and

in the congregation.

KANSAS, BERN Sheri Edelman Rita Menold

Bro. Richard and Sis. Edie Strahm are thankful for the safe arrival of their first grandson, Isaac Jonathon, born to Bro. Brent and Sis. Brianna Strahm (Portland, OR).

Bro. Wayne and Sis. Claudia Strahm are also thankful for the arrival of another granddaughter. Little Leah Grace joined the family circle of Bro. Wayne and Sis. Camille Hartzler (Rittman, OH).

Bro. Dwight and Sis. Anita Rokey welcomed little Jenna Lee. Excited siblings are Leigha, Amanda, Benton, Dillon and Brandon. Jenna's grandparents are Eugene and Judy Edelman, and Bro. Allen and Sis. Glenda Rokey.

The same day little Emily Joann was born to Bro. Todd and Sis. Cynthia Fehr. Emily's brothers and sisters are Logan, Leanna, Rachel and Kenton. Happy grandparents are the late Bro. Fred and Sis. Joann Edelman, and Bro. Warren and Sis. Shirley Fehr (Fairbury, IL).

Bro. Scott and Sis. Emily Strahm were united as one in the Lord on June 25 in Morris, MN. We welcome Sis. Emily to our Bern congregation and pray that she may feel at home. Parents of the couple are Bro. Richard and Sis. Edie Strahm, and Bro. Arnie and Sis. Sharon Koehl (Morris, MN).

The same weekend Matt and Kate Meyer shared wedding vows. We wish them God's guidance and blessings as they establish their home near Washington D.C..

Happy parents are Bro. Robert and Sis. Janet Meyer, and Fred and Lily Hornefer, of Prospect, KY.

Thoughts and prayers are extended to Benola Bieri, Hal Prichard, Bro. Dan Edelman and Bro. Alpha Strahm, who have spent time in the hospital.

Our sympathy goes to Sis. Kathy Rokey (Bro. Joe D.), Sis. Joan Kaeb (Bro. Paul), and Sis. Donna Edelman (Bro. Earl) in the passing of their father, Al Dettwyler, from Silverton OR.

Our congregation enjoyed our annual Sunday School picnic, filled with an evening of fun and fellowship! We thank each of our teachers who teach the truth to our youth.

Note of Thanks:

Thank you for your loving support, prayers, cards and gifts in the passing of our father and grandfather, Al Dettwyler, of Silverton, Oregon.

Bro. Joe and Sis. Kathy Rokey

Bro. Paul and Sis. Joan Kaeb

Bro. Earl and Sis.

Donna Edelman and families

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT

Karen Kellenberger

Visiting ministers recently included Bro. Brandon Emch (Sis. Maria, Kansas City, MO), Bro. Ed Sauder (Sis. Bonnie, Roanoke, IL), Bro. Bruce Endress (Sis. Elizabeth, Bradford, IL), and Bro. Bill Dotterer (Sis. Sharon, Lamar, MO). We are so appreciative to each of them for bringing us the Gospel message.

We were also challenged by a topical Bible Study one Thursday evening presented by our Elder

Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern, KS). He posed the question, "If we were placed on trial for being a born again Christian, would we be guilty as accused? Would there be more than enough evidence to convict us?"

Last issue, I omitted our college graduates. They included Bro. Kent Kellenberger (Bro. Rick and Sis. Karen) and his sister, Sis. Amber Lewis (Bro. Ryan), who received her degree one week before her wedding. May the Lord direct their pathways.

Undergoing surgery on her foot was Sis. Karen Kellenberger (Bro. Rick). I am grateful for everyone's prayers and support.

We remember our Elder Brothers, assembling in Conference on our behalf as directed in the Word. May we seriously consider their Spirit-inspired counsel.

How many times do we hear or repeat the common greeting, "Have a good day"? It barely means anything to us, but in Queen Esther's time, the phrase was likely coined because of the deep significance it held for the Jewish people. The fearful knowledge of being doomed to destruction on a pre-designated date was cause for deep sadness and helplessness. But miraculously the Lord intervened and turned the circumstances around to their favor. "As the days wherein the Jews rested from their enemies, and the month which was turned unto them from sorrow to joy, and from mourning into A GOOD DAY..." (Esther 9:22).

KANSAS, KIOWA

Jenny Stewart

Janice Bahr

This month we were reminded to count our blessings. Gabe Stewart (Bro. Kelly and Sis. Jenny) had a minor mishap. He broke his right leg and is wheelchair bound for six weeks. He is doing really well and healing slowly. May God continue to watch over him and touch him with His healing power.

Our hearts go out to Courtney Schupbach (Matt) with the passing of her grandfather. May God comfort her and her family at this sorrowful time.

Our congregation has been small these past few weeks with everyone vacationing. Even where a few are gathered we have felt God's presence among us and learned from His precious Word.

Our hearts are sorrowful with the passing of our dear Bro. Richard Guthrie. May God comfort his family as only He can do. We shall all truly miss him, but know he is in a wonderful place.

KANSAS LAMONT-GRIDLEY

Eileen Bahr

We appreciate our visiting rotating ministers, Bro. Ralph Garber (Morton, IL) and Bro. Randy Gudeman (Francesville, IN) and their wives. It was especially nice to have them bring Bro. Vernon and Sis. Arlene Schwab along. Fifty-four years ago, Bro. Vernon (Lamont then) and Sis. Arlene (Gridley then) were married in the Gridley church before I came to Kansas. May God bless them all.

It has been extremely hot and dry. They tell me the prairie grass is making about a "half crop of nor-

mal". I spent eight days with Paula in Minneapolis to return home to half dried up beans, very droopy rhubarb and tomatoes crying for a drink. Usually the lawns don't turn brown and crunchy this early. We had 1.7 inches of rain last week that helped the cracks but with the temperatures hitting 100 degrees plus predicted to reach 110 degrees, we are thankful for air conditioning. Are we spoiled or what - the Red Cross was asking for fans.

KANSAS, SABETHA

**Dawn Strahm
Rebekah Beyer**

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Dan Koch (Tremont, IL), Bro. Scott Wegman (Taylor, MO), Bros. Darrel Stoller and Galen Rokey (Bern, KS) and Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL).

Elder Bros. Ervin Knecht and John Lehman (Bern, KS) assisted Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzell in carrying out the provings of Micah Hartter (Bro. Tim and Sis. Charleen) and Kenna Kellenberger (Bro. Brad and Sis. Teresa) on Saturday, July 16. We welcome these two dear souls as our Brother and Sister in Christ.

Bro. Doug and Sis. Jeryl Grimm were thankful for the safe arrival of their new granddaughter, Sydney Grace (Bro. Adam and Sis. Christy, Morris, MN), on June 25. Maternal grandmother is Sis. Lois Grimm. Sydney is welcomed home by big brothers, Taylor and Harrison.

Maggie Joe was born to Darin and Stefany Lesmeister of Topeka, KS, on July 5. Grandparents are Bro. Jay and Sis. Marilyn Kellenberger. Great - grandparents are Bro. Gene and Sis. Marian

Kellenberger. Maggie Joe has a sister, Sopia Jae.

Bro. Brett and Sis. Roseanna Kellenberger are grateful for their first child, Quinn William. Grandparents are Bro. Brad and Sis. Teresa Kellenberger and Bro. Don and Sis. Linda Sinn (Silverton, OR).

Sis. Emily Koehl (Bro. Arnie and Sis. Sharon Koehl, Morris, MN) and Bro. Scott Strahm (Bro. Richard and Sis. Edie, Bern, KS) were united in marriage on June 25 in Morris, MN. A wedding reception was held in Sabetha on July 9.

On July 13 the church enjoyed a potluck picnic and singing. Although the weather cut the evening short, we appreciated the fellowship that we had.

Our prayers are with Cliff Edelman (Sis. Barb) as he recovers from knee surgery.

Notes of Thanks:

Words cannot express my deep appreciation and love for the many cards sent to me for my 90th birthday. Also, a sincere thank you for the delicious dinners, beautiful flowers, food, gifts of love, phone calls and the surprise shower at the Grimm Reunion.

I am overwhelmed at the love showered on me by my Brothers and Sisters in Faith and Friends. I will always remember my special day.

May God bless one and all,
Sis. Leota Grimm

KANSAS, WICHITA

Emma Miller

We were saddened by the news that Bro. Paul and Sis. Marie Sauder and family will be moving to

Morris, Minnesota. While we rejoice with them that they will be closer to the church fellowship in their new location, we are saddened to think it will also mean we have lost two Sunday School teachers, three Sunday School students, and our most recent convert. They endeared themselves to us during their two plus years in Kansas. We entrust them to the leading of the Holy Spirit since it was that leading that brought them here in the first place.

Elder Bro. Jay Luthi and Sis. Jane were with us Sunday, July 16. Bro. Jay shared the mid-winter Conference report. They made two plus hours drive in spite of the hundred degree temperatures. Again, we are thankful for Bro. Jay's concern for the Wichita church as he meets the responsibilities delegated to him.

The Wednesday night Bible Study group has adopted a plan to meet on the first week of the month in the homes of those of us who do not venture out for evening services. This month they came to El Dorado to meet in my home. Again, I know how easy it would be to just stay home, but they came and I was blessed. One of the brothers had worked outside in the direct sun most of the afternoon, but he and his family were with the group. After we had sung for a while, the children repeated the Bible verses they had learned. Not only did they say the words but they also quoted the references. Wow! They were good. So far, I have been able to drive myself to daytime services. I have a dear sister-in-faith who prays for my safety on the highway every Sunday morning. The Lord does provide.

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON
Barb Huber

“As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God.”

Psalm 42:1

Truly we thirst for God and His living Word. He has answered our prayers and blessed us with willing servants who have lent themselves and traveled many miles to share the wonderful Word of God. This past month our visiting ministers were: Bro. Dave Steffen (Sis. Linda, Elgin, IL), Bro. Scott Schafer (Sis. Gigi, South Bend, IN), Bro. Ben Walder (Sis. Juanita, Congerville, IL), Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Sis. Roberta, Smithville, OH), and Bro. Ken Eisenmann (Sis. Sharon, Cissna Park, IL). We are thankful to these dear brethren and ask the Lord's blessing for their many efforts and faithfulness in His service. We appreciated other visitors who fellowshiped with us from Burlington, Oakville, IA; Bern, Sabetha, KS; Alto, MI; Junction, Latty, and Rittman, OH.

May the Lord comfort the hearts of Bro. Doug and Sis. Rebecca Germann in the loss of her aunt, Sis. Lucille Blunier (Congerville, IL). “Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.” (Psalm 116:15)

As students are returning to school again, we want to encourage them to remember the precious teachings found in Proverbs 3:5,6.

“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways ac-

knowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths.”

We extend a warm and hearty welcome to all who may be in our area or traveling 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.

MICHIGAN, ALTO
Rose Watson
Terri Huber

Bro. Robert and Sis. Mary Herrmann welcomed home their first baby, Robert Michael, on July 13. May God bless their family with continual increase in love and faith as they raise him. It seems the baby room will not be empty for a very long time, with all of our summer arrivals.

Jarod and Nellie Schutte were blessed with little Kirsten Nell. Brendan is enjoying his sister, or at least he is enjoying all of the attention a new little one brings! Finally, we are happy for James and Kim Steffen in the Detroit area that they have a beautiful baby daughter. Brianna's local grandparents are Elder Bro. Aaron and Sis. Loretta Steffen. Brianna has been hospitalized and undergone several surgeries, but thanks be to God she is alert and thriving. Her parents and family want to thank all who have been praying for them. We know they will be glad when she is able to go home for the first time.

Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Sis. Loretta) was hospitalized in Ann Arbor for almost a week to undergo a surgical procedure on his heart. He is home and gaining strength

each day.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Dale and Sis. LaBeth Dunham as they felt the loss of Dale's father, Bro. Charles Dunham. He reached a very advanced age and we are glad he could lay down the burdens of this life and is experiencing eternal rest in heaven. The funeral took place in Latty, OH.

Another Vacation Bible School has come and gone. It is a lot of work, but it is well worth it to see the trusting eyes of the children and hear them sing new songs of praise. Our theme for the week was Prayer. A special thanks to the ministers who spoke on the topic, Bro. Chris Wuethrich (LaCrosse, IN) and Bro. Jeff Neihouser (Francesville, IN).

The Jr. High Sunday School children traveled to Rittman, OH, for Ohio Youth Day. It is nice to be included in these activities and gatherings, and we pray that all who attended, students and adults alike, received spiritual encouragement.

Many people come to beautiful West Michigan in the summer. The Carl Wyss family had a reunion and we ended up with 30 visitors on one blessed Sunday! It was extra special because it included the Randy Kellenberger family who used to live in Alto. Bro. Randy (Sis. Karen, Kansas City, MO) ministered to us and we appreciated his words of faith. We then had a church supper and enjoyed further fellowship with them.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY
Sarah Knochel
Janelle Ramseyer

June 19-23 was Bay City's Vaca-

tion Bible School. We appreciate Bro. Jesse Bedolla (Sis. Bonnie, Detroit, MI) and Bro. Matthew Steffen (Sis. Deanna, Princeville, IL) for joining us and sharing the Word. Bro. Jesse spoke on "What is God's Will for Me" and Bro. Matthew spoke on "What is the Result of Choosing God's Will". On July 14, Bro. Trent Meiss (Sis. Lucy, Eureka, IL) spoke to us about the Fear of the Lord. We pray that God would bless each one of these dear brothers as they labor for Him.

July 2 was the wedding day of Sis. Julie Waibel (Bro. Bill and Sis. Carol Waibel) and Bro. Brian Knudstrup (Leo, IN). May God richly bless and provide for this couple as they make their home in the Fort Wayne, IN, area.

We were thankful to have Elder Bros. Aaron Steffen (Sis. Loretta, Alto, MI) and Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North, IN) and Bro. Steve Stieglitz (Sis. Jane, Leo, IN) with us for the wedding. We were also blessed to have Bros. Ron Palitto (Sis. Lynell, Akron, OH), Dave Steffen (Sis. Linda, Elgin, IL) and Nate Wieland (Sis. Suzanne, Goodfield, IL) with us during the past month.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Andrew Virkler (Sis. Maxine) on the passing of his brother, Gordon Virkler, in New York. May the Lord provide comfort in this time of sorrow.

Many in our congregation have spent time in the hospital this month. Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Hermine Kaeb, Bro. Norman Knochel (Sis. Leanore), Sis. Marlene Mosher, and Clinton Ruegsegger (Sherry). We also want to remember Sis. Marilyn Ruegsegger (Bro. Fred) as she un-

derwent a surgical procedure this past month. May God continue to grant swift recovery to them all.

We rejoice with Bro. Brian and Sis. Char Wieland to hear that the kidney transplant for their young granddaughter, Matisin (Matt), was a success. We wish Matisin a speedy recovery as our prayers continue to be with her and her family. We especially want to remember Jessica Bragiel, her kidney donor, and her family as well. The Lord bless her for her willingness to be used to help heal little Matisin.

As our children prepare to start a new school year, we pray that the Lord will continue to watch over them and guide them in the daily choices they face. We know the Lord is faithful and will guide and direct them along the right path.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT **Tiffany Wieland** **Kay Rauhe**

"Be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear."

1 Peter 3:15

Our Vacation Bible School was held from June 20 through June 23, and the theme was "Speak the Truth - Defend your Faith". The lessons concentrated on was equipping our youth with foundational Biblical Truths when confronted with conflicting world views. What a blessing the week was and a wonderful teaching for our youth. A great, big thank you to everyone involved, and may God richly bless all of you for your efforts. Bro. Gary Maibach (Sis. Mary Ann;

Smithville, OH) plans to be with us on Saturday evening on September 16 for a topical presentation based on our VBS theme, and we are looking forward to listening and learning all that he has to teach us.

We had two high school graduates this year, and our love, congratulations and God's richest blessings to both of them. Rachel Germaine (Bro. Milan and Sis. Joyce) graduated from Walled Lake Western High School and will be attending the University of Central Florida (UCF) in Orlando, Florida. She will be studying medicine as she wants to go into Oncology and will also get a degree in business. We will miss Rachel and hope she visits often. Bro. Brice Gasser (Bro. Randy and Sis. Sue) graduated from Stevenson High School and will be attending the University of Michigan Dearborn in the fall. Engineering will be the focus of Brice's studies. We are so happy that he'll be in the area so he can fellowship with all of us.

Our dear Sis. Linda Shaw recently had neck surgery, and we look forward to her being back to worship with us soon. We are so thankful for answered prayers and will continue to pray for a speedy recovery. Sis. Anna Sabados and Michael Reardon were recently hospitalized, and our prayers and thoughts are with them as they recuperate.

Sis. Perseda Wieland's brother, Frank Waibel from St. Augustine, Florida, passed from this life into eternity to be with the Lord. May she feel the Lord's peace and know the gentle comfort of His healing touch.

We heartily welcome Bro. Nathan Knochel to our congregation

for summer employment and are so thankful he will be sharing several months with us.

Elder Bro. Mark Bahr asked the church to be prayerful for the Mission Committee meetings in Chicago in mid July as they seek to assist the church in effectively sharing the Gospel.

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

I John 4:12

**MINNESOTA
MINNEAPOLIS
LaRae Dill**

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

Galatians 5:22, 23

Many Sunday School students enjoyed a week of learning about the Fruit of the Spirit - the theme of our Vacation Bible School this year. In class, the students learned of Bible characters whose lives exemplified the fruit of a Spirit-filled life. Crafts, songs, and other activities also reinforced the above verse. Many thanks to all who helped make this a blessed week! The Sunday School picnic marked the end of Sunday School classes until September. The picnic is always a blessed time of fellowship for students and the entire congregation.

We appreciate the summer visits of a number of college students and families passing through Minneapolis. Thanks for your visits!

Prayers were with Bro. Doug

Messner (Sis. Sue), as he was hospitalized briefly for a coronary procedure.

**MINNESOTA, MORRIS
Heidi Nohl
Sheila Reuter**

We were thankful for the visiting ministers that shared God's Word with us this month. They were Bro. Dan Moser (Elgin, IL), Bro. Clint Schmidt (Winthrop, MN), Bro. Darrel Stoller (Bern, KS), Bro. Galen Rokey (Bern, KS), Bro. Wayne Fehr (Portland, OR), Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi (Lamar, MO), Bro. Todd Stoller (Latty, OH) and Bro. Jeff Grimm (Goodfield, IL). God bless them for their labors.

Our congregation was blessed with three new babies this month. Sydney Grace was born to Bro. Adam and Sis. Christy Zeltwanger. Looking forward to her arrival was big brothers, Taylor and Harrison, and grandparents, Bro. Doug and Sis. Jeral Grimm (Sabetha, KS) and Bro. Dale and Sis. Rachel Zeltwanger. Mallory Jo was born to Bro. Kevin and Sis. Kelli Joos. Thankful grandparents are Sis. Sharon Adams (Forrest, IL) and Bro. Harv and Sis. Debra Joos. Bro. Damon and Sis. Stephanie Knobloch were also blessed with a new little girl, Lilly Jo. She was welcomed home by big brother Sawyer. Grandparents are Sis. Carol Ann Messner (Winthrop, MN) and Bro. Larry and Sis. Sheryl Knobloch. We wish them all God's richest blessings as they raise their children.

On June 25, Sis. Emily Koehl and Bro. Scott Strahm (Bern, KS) were united in marriage. Their parents are Bro. Arnie and Sis. Sharon

Koehl and Bro. Richard and Sis. Edie Strahm (Bern, KS). We wish them God's blessings in their new life together.

Hospitalized this month was Bro. Carl Moser. We trust God will heal where it is His will.

**MINNESOTA, WINTHROP
Rachel Steiner
Julie Schmidt**

Greetings in the Lord!

We welcomed Cody Messner (grandson of Bro. Marlyn and Sis. Lois) home on a short break from Iraq. Cody returned to duty on June 29. May the Lord keep him safe from harm as he protects our freedom.

My lifetime doth pass away;
hourly to the grave I hasten,
And I know each fleeting day
my allotted span will lessen.
Think, man, death comes soon or
late.

Tarry not, it will not wait.

Zion's Harp #253

Our friend, Lowell Demm (Shirley), has finished his earthly race and passed on to eternity on July 13. Lowell had battled with cancer and we're thankful he can be relieved from his bodily afflictions. Our heartfelt sympathy goes to Shirley and her children, Randy Stresemann (Jean), Monica McNeal (Adonis) and Craig Stresemann (Lori).

Notes of Thanks:

Bro. Mike Messner (Sis. Joyce) would like to thank everyone for their thoughts and prayers after his recent surgery.

Bro. Elmer and Sis. Hazel

Schmidt would like to thank everyone for their prayers, support, meals, cards and words of encouragement during Sis. Hazel's surgery and recovery.

MISSOURI, LAMAR
Mindy Braker
Becky Marti

Among our visitors this past month were Elder Bro. Don Braker (Sis. Eileen, Kansas City, MO) and Bro. Neal Widmer (Sis. Kris, West Lafayette, IN). We appreciate their willingness to be used in the Lord's service.

We will miss Keith Kellenberger (Bro. Curt and Sis. Martha) in our congregation. He has moved to the Belvidere, IL, area for employment.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS
Krista Banwart

Once again this summer we've been able to worship with the many visitors whose travels have taken them through St. Louis. Visiting ministers to St. Louis include Bro. Wayne Leman (Sis. Julie, Roanoke, IL), Bro. Tim Roecker (Sis. Diane, Peoria, IL), Bro. Jeff Neihouser (Sis. Sue, Francesville, IN), and Bro. Bruce Endress (Sis. Elizabeth, Bradford, IL). We are thankful for their messages reminding us that our lives are to be lived to God's glory. "Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory.." (Isaiah 43:7). What an incredible purpose!

MISSOURI, TAYLOR
Sally Haerr

How is your Bible reading? How is your Bible "studying"? We need to realize, I need to realize, they are

not the same. They are both action words, they both take time and effort but the end result is far different. When was the last time you stopped your reading to look up a word, in the dictionary, that you were not quite sure of it's meaning? I have been surprised, more than once, to find out what I assumed the word to mean was not accurate. "Study to shew thyself approved unto God..." (II Timothy 2:15) is just one of many verses that encourages us to study the Bible, God's Holy Word.

Here in Taylor we set aside five Wednesday evenings in the month of July and the first of August to focus on and study a specific chapter, book or books in the Bible. This year we are studying I John, all five chapters. We invite a visiting minister and learn a key verse for each chapter. We are so blessed and encouraged by the love of these brothers who come so far from their homes to speak to us through God's Spirit. The brothers who have been with us these first three Wednesday evenings were Bro. Justin Koch (Sis. Marcia, Washington, IL), Bro. Clark Stoller (Sis. Cindy, Gridley, IL), and Bro. Matthew Rassi (Sis. Bridget, Chicago, IL). We hope you all could "feel" our thanks and appreciation.

Baptisms do not occur here in our little congregation very often, so when they do it is a real special time of rejoicing. This past month we were blessed to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of four precious souls. They are as follows: Sis. Rebecca Goellner (Bill and Nancy), Bro. Jacob Heimer (Bro. Rod and Sis. Barb), Bro. Jonathon Feuchtenberger (Bro. Tim and Sis. Beth, Lester, IA) and

Sis. Colby Sutter (Bro. Rich and Sis. Kay). We pray that God will build a hedge of love and protection around them as they press on with joy in His service. As I write this, I realize how important that prayer is for each of us, no matter how many years we've walked with Him as our Saviour. We want to convey a special thanks to Elder Bro. Mark Streitmatter (Sis. Sara, Bloomington, IL) who came to assist Elder Bro. Kent Heimer in this sacred service. Bro. Jeff Neihouser (Sis. Sue, Francesville, IL) was also here and served us from the pulpit. This whole weekend was like Thanksgiving Dinner in June; we find the spiritual is so like the physical ... how soon we need another "meal" to have strength for another day in His service.

The Jamaica trips that many of our young people (and young at heart) have experienced over the years are often life changing. They meet many people that do not have the privileges we take so for granted. The Jamaica group here in Taylor felt moved to have a fundraiser for a couple from the deaf village there. This Christian couple, Sheldon and Racheal Burkett, hope to raise enough funds for schooling here in the United States. We hope each giving heart that participated in this event, will find a blessing in their unselfishness and generosity. Also a highlight of the evening was Bro. Ben Knochel (and Sis. Molly) who brought the brothers that he sings with in a special group. Thanks for coming back home, Ben, and bringing us a blessing.

We want to extend our heartfelt sympathy to Bro. Kenny and Sis. Phyllis Knapp on the death of his

sister, Sis. Lucille Blunier (late Tim, Congerville, IL). She had been in the Eureka Apostolic Christian Home for some time before the Lord called her home. Oh, that we may all be ready when our last breath is taken. "How shall it be ..." (Zion's Harp #146) rings in my ears as I write this.

Cole Sutter (Bro. Rich and Sis. Kay) had surgery this month. We want to pray for him and all those who are sick and hurting.

NEW YORK CROGHAN-NAUMBURG Hope Graves

We were able to enjoy a wonderful evening of fellowship June 26 at our annual Sunday school hot dog roast at the Croghan park. This was also a time of saying farewell to Bro. Andy, Sis. Becky Virkler and family as they left a couple days later to relocate in West Bend, IA. We pray for God's direction and nearness in their days ahead. We will miss Bro. Andy, Sis. Becky, Philip, Laura and Elisabeth. Joseph is staying in our area and will be attending college in the fall. Their new address is: PO Box 36, West Bend, IA 50597.

Bro. Warren Schlatter (Junction, OH) was here Wednesday evening, July 5. We appreciated him and his family and many other visitors making the extra effort to support us here and the Lord's nearness was felt and we received a blessing!

July 19 we enjoyed a potluck meal together and a time of fellowship with visitors before our Wednesday evening service.

We are thankful Sis. Bessie Farney is improving and pray she can assemble with us soon.

NEW YORK CITY Secaucus, New Jersey

"Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares."

Hebrews 13:2

We were thankful to have visitors from the community amongst us, as we met for services this month. They had become aware of our Church through the Apostolic Christian Church home page and wanted to learn more about our faith. It is always encouraging to meet new people and sense a desire to hear God's Word. Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Sis. Michelle) was here to minister the Word, as we were reminded of God's many promises to those who seek Him in Spirit and truth.

Our Church was blessed this year with many gifts from God. This past month, we have had an additional reason to be thankful as a baby boy, Andrew Charles Hart, was born to Bro. Doug and Sis. Jennifer Hart. His three big brothers and sister already at home are excited to have another playmate! We trust that God's grace and peace will go with Andrew and this beloved family each day of their lives.

We have additional services planned this year on 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

I need the prayers of those I love
While trav'ling o'er life's rugged
way
That I may true and faithful be
And live for Jesus ev'ry day.

What a blessing that we can hold each other up in prayer to our Father! Whether for new converts, those who were recently hospitalized, or for others with various needs; truly it is a wonderful relief to know that we serve a God that cares and hears each prayer!

Our thoughts and prayers are with Zarko Reljin (Bro. Dan's father) as he was recently hospitalized. Also Mary Leidal (Sis. Kathy Bako's aunt) spent time in the hospital, and we are thankful that she has been able to reassemble with us. Philip Burr, who recently had surgery, was also able to return to home and come to church. Due to an injury, Sis. Rachel Pamer (Bro. Dan) also spent time in surgery and in the hospital, but is thankful that she also is able to again attend church services. It's comforting to remember that healing is in the hands of an Almighty God who truly can provide in sickness or in health! May God be with each dear one in ailments that are known, and those that are not as evident.

God has a special plan for each life. As we hear of new babies born, it is interesting to contemplate how God may use them in the future as their parents "train them in the way that they should go." Kyle Andrew was born to Bro. Tom and Sis. Chris Demrovsky on June 23. Older brothers are Thomas and Ethan, and paternal grandparents are Bro. Andy and Sis. Vera Demrovsky. Our thoughts and prayers are with this family as they adjust to their newest son and brother.

We are also thankful that God does still call souls to repentance, and then provides grace for them to answer His call. Beth and Rebecca Pamer (Bro. Steve and Sis. Arliss) have found the need to seek God's will and direction in their lives.

As converts strive to come to the point where they have completed restitution and confession and have recognized God's forgiveness, and stand in peace with God and man; we are thankful each time a soul can testify that they have found "the peace which passeth all understanding." Matthew Pamer (Bro. Steve and Sis. Arliss) has recently found this precious pearl, and looks forward to the time when he will have the opportunity to bring a testimony before the church of the work that God has done in his life. As we remember all of our converts, we are thankful when we see the sincere desire to humbly seek God's forgiveness and peace, and trust that He will continue to grant them grace to continue to walk in humility and grow in grace and faith.

We also want to thank Bro. Mike and Sis. Barb Ursu (Kitchener, Ontario), as well as Bro. Paul and Sis. Shawn Schmidgall (Morris, MN) for visiting our church. These visit-

ing ministers were appreciated and we trust that God will continue to bless their efforts on His behalf.

Note of Thanks:

I would like to thank each one for the many ways in which you have shown God's love to me during my recent surgery and recovery. From notes of encouragement, to visits, meals, and in many other ways; it has been a blessing to see how each has been willing to share. God bless you!

Sis. Rachel Pamer

OHIO, COLUMBUS

Nancy Banks

The summer months bring welcome visitors to the Columbus church. Our visiting ministers this month were Bros. Jesse Bedolla (Detroit, MI), Sam Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Matt Steffen (Princeville, IL). We enjoyed having these visitors and extend a hearty welcome to all who can come our way!

Many prayers are offered on behalf of the Elders who will soon be gathering for the Conference. May they feel His presence and guidance.

OHIO, JUNCTION

Cindy Schlatter

Bro. Paul and Sis. Sharon Gherian are pleased with the birth of their granddaughter, Jenika Lynne Gherian (Bro. Micah and Sis. Marcy, Lester, IA). May God be with and bless this dear family as they raise their precious children.

We appreciated the visit and labors of Bro. Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH) this past month. May

God bless him richly for bringing forth the true Word of life.

"Come souls that are longing for pleasure, Our Saviour has pleasures to give;..." (Hymns of Zion #145). We are thankful that souls are still longing for that pleasure given only by our Heavenly Father. Andy Manz (Bro. Don and Sis. Connie), Jim Manz (Bro. Ken and Sis. Gwen) and Bev Schlatter (Elder Bro. Bill and Sis. Emily) have surrendered their hearts unto the Lord. We pray they can dig deep and build a strong foundation so that when Satan comes to them from every possible angle they can stand firm.

OHIO, LATTY

Amanda Steffen Carmen Eisenmann

In the cool of the morning I walk
with my Lord,
Talking with Him as pleasures afford.

—Anon.

Cool mornings and evenings are a respite from the searing summer sun. The heat is also a reminder that earthly summers cannot compare to hell's heat and torment.

Aside from the heat, Latty has had other news this past month. It is with great joy that two more souls have started their repentance. Thad Sinn (Bro. Todd and Sis. Janet) and Brock Williamson (Bro. Jason and Sis. Wendy) have given their lives to God. New converts can always strengthen one's faith.

Five visiting ministers came to Latty. They were Bro. John Grimm (Sis. Julie, Columbus, OH), Bro. Mike Rinkenberger (Sis. Pat,

Congerville, IL), Bro. Nelson Beer (Sis. Shelby, Milford, IN), Bro. Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi, Alto, MI) and Bro. Paul Gasser (Sis. Joyce, Akron, OH). May God bless them for their efforts.

Sis. Carolyn Baird and Sis. Elizabeth Wieland were hospital patients. God grant them healing and His presence in the time to come.

There was a wedding reception held on July 8 for Bro. Aaron and Sis. Michelle Stoller. They were married in June in Detroit. We heartily welcome Sis. Michelle to our congregation.

Bro. Blane and Sis. Mindy Stoller are rejoicing over the birth of their first daughter. Natalie Marie was born on July 6. Her elated grandparents are Bro. Craig and Sis. Ruth Stoller and Bro. Bob and Sis. Joan Graf. May the Lord be with her in both body and spirit.

Note of Thanks:

I want to thank each and every one who helped my family and me during my recent accident, especially the gifts, cards, food, many visits and most of all the many prayers that went out for me during this difficult time. We could feel all the love that was given to us. All was truly appreciated and has been a great comfort to my family and me.

In Christian love,
Charlotte Laukhuf

OHIO, MANSFIELD
Esther Baumann

On June 12-16, we were privileged to hold our annual Vacation Bible School for both children and adults. Ministering brethren who taught the adult classes were: Bro.

John Rowell (Sis. Nelda, Burlington, IA), Bro. Jerry Bauman (Sis. Martha, Rittman, OH), Bro. Warren Schlatter (Sis. Cindy, Junction, OH), Bro. Vic Bauman (Sis. Brenda, Smithville, OH), and Bro. Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue, Detroit, MI). Special thanks to all who made this week possible.

Congratulations to our recent college graduates: Craig Rau (Mark and Lynette), Jesse Dotterer (Bro. Gaylord and Sis. Betty), Molly Sauder (Ben), Isaac Foss (Rick and Sis. Susan), and Sis. Brenda Beer.

Please pray for Louise Heckel and Sis. Christine Dotterer who were recently hospitalized.

Students of our Junior and Senior Sunday School classes, along with others from our congregation, had the opportunity to do the Lord's work on a recent trip to Jamaica. Special thanks to Bro. Pete and Sis. Linda Webel for organizing the work team.

We thank Bro. Doug and Sis. Connie Boliantz for opening their home and hearts to host our Annual Sunday School Picnic on July 9.

Bro. Paul Schmidgall (Sis. Shawn, Morris, MN) served us from the pulpit this past month. May God bless his labor of love.

OHIO, RITTMAN
Hannah Beery
Sarah Bauman

"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."

Romans 8:1

Four precious souls are now walking after the Spirit of God. July

1-2 was the weekend of testimonies and the baptism of Sis. Ellen Daw (Thomas), Sis. Debbie Rupp (Doug), Sis. Ruth Tieche (Greg and Sis. Peggy) and Bro. Isaac Steiner (Bro. David J. and Sis. Lynn).

Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH) and Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) were here for the weekend to assist Bro. Merle. Bro. Lenard Meyer (Chicago, IL), Bro. Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH), Bro. Steve Pamer (Akron, OH) and Bro. Steve Ringger (Bluffton North, IN) were among us this past month as well. May God bless them for allowing themselves to be used in His vineyard.

"But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven."

Matthew 19:13

Our congregation has been blessed with many new babies this past month.

Bro. Joe and Sis. Kendra Ramsier welcomed another son into their family. Jehu Marvin joins big sisters and brother, Elizabeth, Kenneth, Brenda and Esther, at home. Bro. Marvin and Sis. Terry Ramsier and Bro. Ken and Sis. Janice Steffen (Forrest, IL) are Jehu's grandparents.

Isaiah Matthew was born to Bro. Rick and Sis. Dawn Steiner and joins his siblings, Claire, Elijah, Jordan, Noelle, and Tierra. Grandparents, Bro. Ron and Sis. Ruth Steiner and Bro. Ray and Sis. Carol Stoller (Latty, OH), also welcome Isaiah.

Bro. Tony and Sis. Cherie Stoller received another precious girl,

Grace Ellen Marie. She joins her big sisters, Bailey and Alayna, and big brother, Jack, at home. Grace's grandparents are Jeff and Elsie Maibach and Bro. Dale and Sis. Jeannette Stoller.

Olivia Susan was born to Kevin and Melissa Stoudmire. Welcoming home their new sister are Tyson and Owen. Gary and Sis. Susan Murray welcome their new little granddaughter.

Joining Bro. Eric, Sis. Lisa and Caleb Gasser at home is little Clara Marie. Grandparents, Bro. Jerry and Sis. Ellen Gasser and Bro. Richard and Sis. Pat Steiner, welcome her into their hearts as well.

July 3 is when Leah Grace was born to Bro. Wayne and Sis. Camille Hartzler and joins her older siblings, Anna, Caleb, Emily and Abigail. Bro. Wayne and Sis. Claudia Strahm (Bern, KS) and Bro. Dale and Sis. Carolyn Hartzler welcome another granddaughter.

Bro. Joe and Sis. Mim Stoller are first-time grandparents to little Kaylee Joy. Bro. Jon and Sis. Karen Bauman (Smithville, OH) are Kaylee's parents. Also, grandparents, Bro. Steve and Sis. Connie Bauman (Smithville, OH) are thankful for another precious granddaughter.

Kya Joy is welcomed home by parents, Bro. Matt and Sis. Darlene Csapo, and big sisters, Aubrey and Carly. Welcoming another granddaughter are Bro. Virgil and Sis. Lois Gasser.

Bro. Harold Widmer (Sis. Carole), Sis. Brenda Zollinger (Bro. Rudy) and Kaden Katanic (Bro. Mike and Sis. Heather) were all in the hospital this month. Our prayers continue to be with these loved ones as they recover.

Bro. Lloyd Emch passed away on June 16 at the age of 80. Our sympathy goes to the family, as Bro. Lloyd will be missed. Surviving are children, Eileen Emch, Debbie (Jay) DeJong, Dan (Kelly) Emch, David Emch, and Ben (Sue) Emch, and brothers, Harold (Kathryn) Emch, Don (Mary) Emch, and Ralph (Dottie) Emch.

Ann Weahry passed away after a battle with cancer. Our sympathy goes to her family as they will surely miss her. Her daughter, Tina (Jon) Allen, survives, as well as a sister, Susan (David) McDougal, and two brothers, Daryl Winkler and James (Dollie) Winkler.

Sis. Marguerite Gasser was relieved of her earthly burdens at age 94. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with the family. Surviving are her sons, Roscoe (Raetta) Gasser, Ralph (Joan) Gasser, Bernard Gasser and Stanley Gasser; daughters, Wanda Lang and Janet (Paul) Studer, and her sister, Leora Rufener.

Bro. Sam Gardner and Sis. Joy Ingold announced their engagement and are planning for an August 27 wedding. Their parents are Gary and Bonnie Gardner and Bro. Art and Sis. Bonnie Ingold.

Bro. Ken Gasser and Sis. Brenda Stoller also made their engagement known. Bro. Jerry and Sis. Ellen Gasser and Bro. Joe and Sis. Mim Stoller are their parents.

OHIO, SARDIS Eric and Jami Hartzler

O Lord my God! When I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds Thy hands
have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling

thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed,
Then sings my soul, my Saviour
God to Thee;
How great Thou art, how great
Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Saviour
God to Thee;
How great Thou art, how great
Thou art!

Hymns of Zion #302

Our dear Sis. Martha Indermuhle (late Bro. Delbert) no longer has to consider all the worlds hat God has made and the might and power of His creation, but has gone to see Him face to face. She leaves five children: Bro. Bob and Sis. Karen Indermuhle, Bro. Ken and Sis. Linda Indermuhle, Sis. Doris and Bro. Denny Miller, Joyce and Bart Wiggins, and Bro. Allen and Sis. Janet Indermuhle. We appreciate the efforts of the many who came to support the family, especially the visiting ministers: retired Elder Bro. Gene Pamer (Sis. Eleanor, Akron, OH), Elder Bros. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH), Dave Graf (Sis. Barb, Akron, OH), Bob Walder (Sis. Gloria, Congerville, IL), and ministering Bros. Gary Maibach (Sis. Mary Ann, Smithville, OH), Ron Palitto (Sis. Lynell, Akron, OH) and Steve Pamer (Sis. Arliss, Akron, OH).

Sis. Martha's funeral was on the same weekend as our annual New Martinsville, WV, services, so a few of the visitors also stayed for the rest of the weekend and we also were blessed with several other visiting ministers, including Bros. Shawn Metzger (Sis. Sandra, Philadelphia, PA) and Mike Ursu (Sis. Barb, Kitchener, ON) and Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Sis. Sandra, Eu-

reka, IL).

Faith of our fathers! Living still,
In spite of dungeon, fire, and
sword,
O how our hearts beat high with
joy,
Whene'er we hear that glorious
word!
Faith of our fathers! Holy faith!
We will be true to Thee till death!
Hymns of Zion #85

This song was the theme of our Father's day potluck, as most of the church was able to meet at the fellowship center. After the meal, many of the older brothers shared some of their memories from times past, for the benefit of those who are younger, for the purpose of sharing the heritage of faith and the bond of love that we as a church can pass on from generation to generation.

Our prayers go to the Father for those in our congregation who have needed medical care this past month. They are Josh Ramsier (Bro. Mark and Sis. Alice), Sis. Dee Beard (Bro. Ed), Sis. Almeda Brake (John), Sis. Cheryl Indermuhle (Bro. Milan), and Malachi Blough (Bro. Alan and Sis. Renee).

OHIO, SMITHVILLE
Ruth Gasser
Edith Miller

Bow Thine ear, Gentle Jesus; bow
Thine ear
Graciously to hear my lisping,
May, O may to Thee be pleasing
What Thy child would ask and
pray;
Hear, oh, hear my pray'r today.
Zion's Harp #152

"...Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."

John 3:5

We are thankful two souls have heeded this message and feel they are prepared for baptism. It was announced that Julie Widmer (Bro. Jim and Sis. Karen) and Derek Nieman (Bro. Denny and Sis. Kay) feel they have repented, are at peace with God and man, and now await baptism. We wish them much grace during this time and throughout their lives.

Three families have experienced the blessing of a precious child being added to their home. On June 30, a little boy was born to Bro. Adam and Sis. Ann Uhler. Mathias Adam was welcomed by his sisters, Lane and Elise. Also welcoming Mathias are his grandparents, Dale and Sis. Marilyn Uhler and Bro. Bruce and Sis. Lois Maibach. On July 6, Quinn David was born to Bro. James and Sis. Susan Maibach. Quinn's siblings are Clint, Abigail, and Cole, and his grandparents are Bro. Gary and Sis. Mary Ann Maibach and Sis. Linda Dotterer. On July 8, Bro. Jon and Sis. Karen Bauman became first-time parents, as their little daughter was born. Kaylee Joy is also welcomed by grandparents, Bro. Steve and Sis. Connie Bauman and Bro. Joe and Sis. Mim Stoller (Rittman, OH). May each of these families experience God's blessings as they seek to raise their children in the fear of God.

Several have experienced the need to be hospitalized in recent weeks. Bro. Bob Ramsier (Sis. Inez)

and Jonathan Dotterer (Bro. Dave and Sis. Luanna) have required surgery, while Sis. Rhea Beery (Bro. Ted) was in for medical assistance. We trust in the Great Physician to grant healing to each one, according to His will.

June 24 was the date chosen for the wedding of Brad Beery and Tonya Hoxworth. Brad's parents are Bro. Gaylord and Sis. Cheryl Beery. Our best wishes go to this couple as they begin walking the path of life together. May God have an important place in their lives and home.

OHIO, TOLEDO
Teresa Rywalski
Rebecca Beard

Greetings in the name of our Precious Savior, Jesus Christ. We wish to extend a warm welcome to all who may be traveling in our area to join us for a Sunday or Thursday evening.

"For God maketh my heart soft,
and the Almighty troubleth me:"
Job 23:16

God has once again sent out the call of salvation and it has been answered by Bev Schlatter (Elder Bro. Bill and Sis. Emily). May she continue to feel the prayers of those who love her as she begins this new path in life.

Joining us on the pulpit this month was Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH). We thank Elder Bro. Bill for laboring on our behalf. May God be his rich Rewarder.

OREGON, PORTLAND**Brianna Strahm**

Our visiting ministers this month were Bro. Mark Zimmerman (Sis. Cheryl, Eureka, IL), Bro. Brad Eisenmann (Sis. Cindy, Chicago, IL), Bro. Duane Rocke (Sis. Bonnie, Minneapolis, MN), Bro. Warren Zahner (Sis. Bonnie, Rockville, CT), and Bro. Ed Knecht (Sis. Judie, Silverton, OR). We sincerely thank these brothers for their willingness to serve.

Bro. Brent and Sis. Brianna Strahm are thankful for the safe arrival of little Isaac Jonathan. His siblings are Kathryn and Carolyn.

The remodeling project mentioned in a previous article is currently underway and nearly completed. We're looking forward to a new baby room shortly and again wish to thank the brethren involved for their labors.

OREGON, SILVERTON**Cindy Metzger
Melissa Kuenzi**

Our annual Sunday School picnic was held June 17 at Willamette Mission park. We enjoyed a beautiful afternoon of outdoor activities with the kids. We are also thankful that Bro. Brad Eisenmann and his wife, Sis. Cindy (Chicago, IL), were able to travel here on the weekend of June 24-25 for our annual Bible Class weekend.

We have several families who have welcomed a precious new child this month.

Reuben James was born to Jason and Jill Carr on July 3. His grandparents are Bro. Tim and Sis. Donna Carr (Eureka, IL) and Carlisle and Deanna Kelly (LeRoy, IL).

David James was born to Bro.

Mark and Sis. Anne-Marie Tribbett on July 7. His older siblings are Teresa, Paul, and Lena. His grandparents are Bro. Paul and Sis. Marie Jensen and Howard and Jackie Tribbett (Newberg, OR).

Alex Edward was born July 8 to Bro. Christopher and Sis. Mary Kuenzi. His older brother is Arlen. His grandparents are Bro. Lynn and Sis. Marilyn Kuenzi, and Bro. Art and Sis. Betty Metz.

Stephanie Ann was born to Bro. Jess and Sis. Kelsey Walder on July 15. His older brother is Stephen. His grandparents are Bro. Terry and Sis. Ann Kuenzi and Bro. Dennis and Sis. Sharon Walder (Cissna Park, IL).

Konner Matthew was born to Bro. Kyle and Sis. Trisha Walter on July 15. His older siblings are Kiana and Keegan. His grandparents are Bro. Chuck and Sis. Karen Walter and Bro. Terry and Sis. Peggy Young.

Zayne Luthi (Bro. Bill and Sis. Kris) suffered a broken upper arm after falling out of a tree. Jacob Metzger (Bro. Kurt and Sis. Koreen) broke his arm after falling out of a swing.

Baby Clayton Schneider (Bro. James and Sis. Tonya) spent some time in the hospital and we are glad he is home again.

Our sympathy to the many loving family members of Al Dettwyler (Helen) at his passing on June 24. His family includes sons, Bro. Loren (Sis. Marlene), Gary (Sis. Tami), and daughter, Sis. Karen Walter (Bro. Chuck).

July 9 was the wedding date for Bro. Sam Moser and Sis. Tyrene Kuenzi. Their parents are Bro. Ben and Sis. Glenna Moser (Rockville, CT) and Bro. Bob and Sis. Linda

Kuenzi. We will miss Sis. Ty and wish them the Lord's blessings as they make their new home in Rockville.

Our high school graduates this year were Sis. Betsy Dettwyler (Bro. Loren and Sis. Marlene), Garrett Dettwyler (Gary and Sis. Tami), Ryan Bence (Bro. Sam and Sis. Lily), and Tristan Jones (Bro. Ron and Sis. Liz).

July 11 was the Farewell Singing for Bro. Tim and Sis. Dana Schneider and their family as they are moving back to Rockville, CT. Ryan Bence (Bro. Sam and Sis. Lily) and Tristan Jones (Bro. Ron and Sis. Liz) have both left the area while they are attending college in Arizona.

We are glad to welcome Bro. Jim and Sis. Deb Roth and their family into our congregation from Congerville, IL.

We thank our other visiting ministers this month including Bros. Duane Rocke (Sis. Bonnie, Minneapolis, MN), Trent Meiss (Sis. Lucy, Eureka, IL), Mark Zimmerman (Sis. Cheryl, Eureka, IL) and Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Sis. Cheryl) and Warren Zahner (Sis. Bonnie) of Rockville, CT, as well as Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy) and Ron Jones (Sis. Liz) of Portland.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE**Mike and Monica Fritz**

Recently we changed our Wednesday evening song service to begin at 7:15 p.m., rather than 7:00, so if you have a Church Directory, you may want to update that. Also, while you are in the Church Directory, we have one additional correction: The directions to our church mention "Hwy. 70W", but it should actually read "Hwy. 70S".

We are so thankful for our visiting ministers who encourage us from God's Word. Our visitors this past month were Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen; Bluffton North, IN), and Bros. Frank Sauder (Sis. Kathy; Roanoke, IL); Mark Ramsier (Sis. Alice; Sardis, OH); and Ken Weerts (Sis. Myrna; Cissna Park, IL), as well as retired Elder Bro. Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL). Likewise, we have been blessed by the fellowship with brethren and friends visiting from Eureka, Fairbury, Forrest, Roanoke, and Tremont, IL; Bluffton, Bluffton North, and LaCrosse, IN; Lester, IA; Latty, Sardis, and Smithville, OH; and Budapest, Hungary.

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: Francesville, IN (8/20); Alto, MI (8/27); Belvidere, IL (9/3); Rittman, OH (9/10); Morton, IL (9/17); Smithville, OH (9/24). If you are planning to worship with us, please call ahead to confirm our schedule. We also usually meet on Wednesday evenings for a song service and would welcome any midweek visitors. Contacts are Bro. Don and Sis. Faye Sauder, (615) 373-8928; Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica Fritz, (615) 952-9933; and Sis. Gwen Leuthold, (615) 356-5755.

TEXAS, AUSTIN

(formerly San Marcos)

Amy Ringger
Serenity Ringger

Our ministers this month were Bros. Gary Tonner (Sis. Diane, Bluffton), Jon Zeller (Sis. Christine, Morton), Jeff Thames (Washington), Randy Gasser (Detroit),

and Ed Sauder (Sis. Bonnie, Roanoke).

Upcoming churches serving us are these: Oakville (Aug. 27), Bluffton North (Sept. 3), Minneapolis (Sept. 10), Remington (Sept. 17), and Silverton / Portland (Sept. 24).

We extend a warm welcome to anyone who may be in the area to worship with us, even midweek we may meet at times though 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' book 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 on Hwy 71 about 1/2 mile and take the first exit (by the Ford dealership), proceed on the eastbound frontage road about 4/10 mile. The church is on the right. It is located about 18 miles east of the Austin airport. The address is 1025 Highway 71 West, Bastrop, TX 78602. It is a one-story building with limestone siding and the church sign in front.

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

TEXAS, McALLEN

Joyce Nohl

Precious memories, how they linger...

We enjoyed having six of our former foster children come spend a week with us. It has been 11-12 years since they left our home. There were lots of memories being discussed. As I listened to them, the thought came to me that each day we are making memories for those around us. Hopefully they will be precious memories.

The children attended church service in McAllen and enjoyed listening to Bro. Lynn Fiechter (Sis. Ronda, Bluffton, IN) as he shared God's Holy Word with us. We feel certain that Sunday services will be a memory for each one as they ponder on the words that were spoken. We thank Bro. Lynn and Sis. Ronda for their love shown to each child and know that they could feel God's love through them.

If you are going to be in the McAllen area, we extend a warm invitation to worship with us. Our address is: Holiday Inn Express, 1921 South 10th Street. Turn South 1 1/2 blocks off the Expressway (Highway) on 10th Street. Services will be held at 10:30 and 12:30. Please see ministers' directory for local contact information.

TEXAS, ZAPATA

Sandy Leman

This has been a summer of travel for most of us who remain in Zapata during the summer. We are thankful for traveling mercies from our Lord. There are many precedents in the Bible of God's people who traveled to distant lands. Abraham set out at God's direction, not knowing where he was headed, and

God took him to a rich, abundant land. He sent his servant to travel back to his homeland to find a wife from among his own people. Jacob traveled back to the same place and then back to Canaan again. The children of Israel traveled from their temporary home in Egypt back to the land God had promised to Abraham. When we think of it, all of our homes here on this earth are temporary, and we are all travelers seeking, as the writer of Hebrews put it, a "city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God" (Hebrews 11:11) Don't we look forward to the day when we can go to our true Home?

VERMONT, NORWICH **Areli and Kirby Reutter**

"For there is no restraint by the Lord to save by many or by few."

1 Samuel 14:6

This Old Testament reminder was read to us and expounded during the morning service by our dear ministering Bro. Curt Rassi (Sis. Kathy) from Tremont, Illinois. Sometimes many gather in Norwich, sometimes few. We are thankful that the Lord's work is not

restrained by numbers and we continue to plead for His work of salvation in the hearts of men.

We were also privileged this past month with the presence of our dear Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily) visiting from Junction, Ohio, who likewise fed us richly in the Word.

As always, we wish to express appreciation for the Rockville Brothers who continue to support the labour in Norwich, whether from the pulpit or behind the scenes. This past month ministering Bros. Dan Stoller (Sis. Diane) and Duane Reutter (Sis. Kay) supported our Midwestern Brothers in the labour of the ministry.

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 Ixtlan, Mexico, please contact Sis. Areli Reutter at the number listed above. Sis. Areli grew up in Ixtlan and has a collection of coverings ready for distribution. An inventory is available upon request.

The Norwich flock recently received joyful news from our Canadian Brothers to the north. Bro. Nathan and Sis. Miriam Reutter from our dear congregation in Kitchener, Ontario, have accepted employment in Vermont and plan on relocating as soon as their third child is born, Lord willing. Unfortunately, Norwich's gain is Kitchener's loss. While we welcome their arrival with open arms, we know their departure from Kitchener will come with many tears and sacrifice.

"The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers."

Matthew 9:37-38





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.

Assisted Houseparent Needed

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

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

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



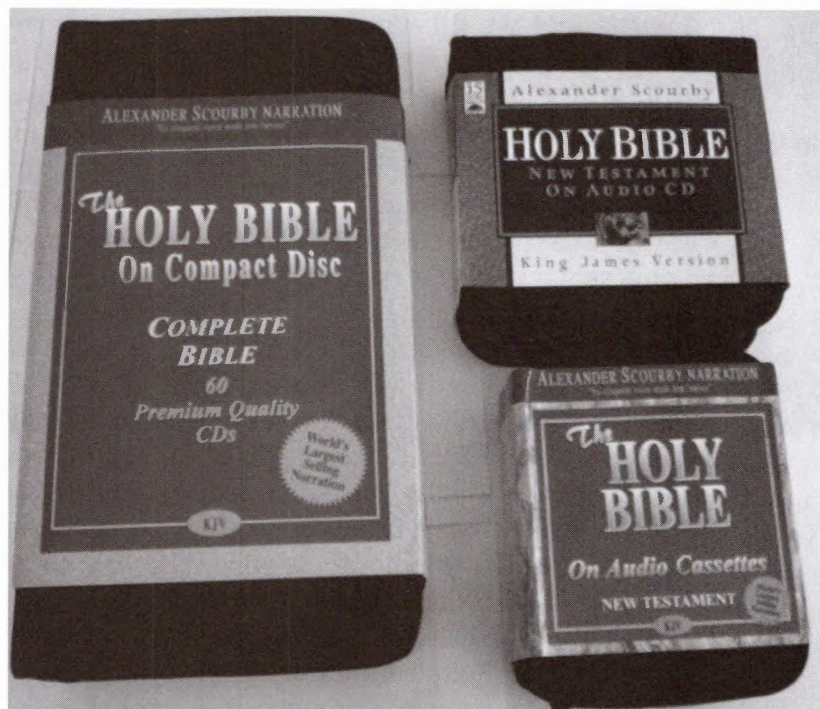
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Until the opportunity is no longer there. Let's look for those opportunities together.

Two themes come to mind from what we've read this morning. Theme number one is to forsake that which Satan offers us. Forsake that which the world offers and to take hold of the call of God and fulfill our responsibility. So forsaking that which we can have in the world, and not just forsaking that, but then taking on the responsibility that God places before us. That is what we saw in Isaiah and we see in the life of Christ.

Following His baptism, Jesus goes and it says, being full of the Holy Ghost. I think in Matthew it might say, being led of the Spirit. Well, here it says - I'm sorry - "...led by the Spirit into the wilderness, Being forty days tempted of the devil. And in those days he did eat nothing: and when they were ended, he afterward hungered." St. Luke 4:1,2.

Now I don't know if I am reading too much into this, I never really noticed this before, but I notice it this morning. In verse two there, it says He didn't eat anything for forty days. Then it says, and when they were ended, He afterward hungered. It almost sounds to me in that, that He didn't hunger during the forty days. I don't know if that is true or not.

If you think about that for a moment, He was so filled with the Spirit and so focused on the things of God, the things of the Father, and so focused on praying to God that the needs of this life were put off for forty days. I don't know but I think that is possible. Think, that if we are filled with the things of God, our need diminishes. I think that is true. As we fill the needs of the flesh, I think

our needs become greater and greater. As we diminish the needs of the flesh, I think our needs become less and less in the flesh.

So Jesus, going and being filled with the Spirit, goes and seeks God the Father. After forty days, then He hungers. I think it is such a wonderful lesson to us as we think about how do we spend our time and how do we spend our energy? Do we seek to fill the flesh that we don't have fleshly needs anymore? Because if we have that desire and we go after that, if we pursue that, I think what happens is we fill one need and then the next need arises. Then we fill that need and then the next need arises. We find ourselves filling our own needs over and over again.

But I think if we deny those needs and we fill ourselves with the Spirit of God and we focus on filling other's needs, I think our own needs diminish. I think we have less need. It seems a little bit paradoxical that we fill our needs by not filling them. But I think in this sense there is truth to that.

So the devil comes to Him in His time of weakness. Isn't that always the way it is? The devil doesn't come to you when you are filled with the Spirit - well he does in this case. But he doesn't just come when you are filled with the Spirit. He comes when you have needs. Jesus was hungry. "And the devil said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, command this stone that it be made bread." St. Luke 4:3. We are familiar with His answer. "...It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God." St. Luke 4:4.

We saw - I was trying to find that passage, if you saw me flipping back, because we recently read that in Deuteronomy, I

think, on a Wednesday night. We saw that verse used in the context of God providing manna in the wilderness (Deuteronomy 8:3). God providing everything that the Israelites needed as they fled before the Egyptians and as they crossed the Red Sea and as they wandered in the wilderness for that forty years, God provided for them. He sustained them. Moses used this, that it is not the bread that sustains us, it is not the manna, but it is the fact that God is going before us. That we see this cloud before us and we see a pillar at night. A pillar of fire. That is what is sustaining us. The manna, yes. It is providing food for our bodies but our bodies are nothing without the Spirit within. That Spirit is fed by God, not by manna.

Same way, our lives, we are fed by God. We are not fed by the food that we eat. That only sustains our body. But our body is nothing without the Spirit within. That Spirit is fed by the Word, the living Word of God. That is how we live a fulfilling life. That is how we live a life that is abundant. Through the Word of God.

So the devil, having not been able to make inroads into Jesus' heart through fleshly needs or fleshly desires, he says well, let's try taking Him up and showing Him power. Let's go the avenue of power. "And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it." St. Luke 4:5,6.

He only gives Him one condition. "If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine." "And Jesus answered and said unto

him, Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve." St. Luke 6:7,8. Jesus had set in the throne of heaven and now found Himself subject to these laws of nature and subject to hunger and subject to pain. And Satan says, I am going to lift you back up. Put you back where you belong. King over all these kingdoms. Jesus, understanding again who God is and understanding who He was and His purpose to God the Father, says I do not choose that power. I had that power and beyond that. But He says, I don't choose that. I chose very specifically to come and be a servant on this land that these people might be saved. He says, I am not going to deviate from that purpose.

Satan, at times will distract us and he will say, think about yourself for a little bit. Come and be king. Our responsibility is to say, No. I don't desire to be king here but I desire to be the servant that Christ was. If Satan came to us and said it in this way, we'd probably recognize it and we could use the same words that Jesus used. But what happens is that Satan comes to us in little chunks, little increments, and he moves us and tempts us to be moved in a way that he desires of. He says, I know you are not going to make this decision, but make just this little decision. You deserve this much. You don't have to spend all your time in service to everyone else. Serve yourself just a little bit.

And if we give Satan that little foothold, what he does is he just moves us along that continuum. He says, okay now, go just a little bit further. Serve yourself just a little bit more. You've done all this. Go just a little bit further. What happens is we move down

that continuum to a point where we'll make a decision over time that we would have flatly denied. That is the way Satan works. We need to be careful in that. That we always focus again: what is my purpose, why am I here and is that the direction that I am traveling?

Lastly, he brought Him and set Him on a pinnacle of the temple (St. Luke 4:9). Now he attacks Jesus' pride. He says, Jesus, prove it to me. Prove to me that you are the Son of God. He takes Him up on the pinnacle of the temple and says, cast yourself down. Because if you are the Son of God, you won't be harmed. The angels will come. Prove to me that you are the Son of God. (St. Luke 4:9-11)

Jesus said, "...Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God." St. Luke 4:12. He says, I know who I am. God knows who I am. I don't need to prove to you that I am the Son of God. I am confident in being a servant. That is okay with Me. Because I am a servant to the Creator. That should be okay to us. It should be okay to be a servant.

At times life will come to us and tempt us to stand up for ourselves and to prove who it is that we are. God doesn't ask us to do that. Jesus didn't do that. Go back to washing feet. He didn't come into them and say, I am your Master. Someone should come wash my feet. He didn't need to do that. He knew who He was and He knew His purpose. He came and He says, I am going to show you how I want you to live. And He washed their feet (St. John 13:4,5) Why? Because that was an exhibition of love. That's exactly what He wanted them to do. He says, I am not going to ask you to do something that I won't do myself. So that is what He has asked us to do.

To love in that way.

So now, forsaking all that Satan can offer. That is what Jesus did. He forsook all that. Now what does He do? He takes on the ministry and that calling. Isn't it beautiful how the words from Isaiah come through here? He stood up and He simply read from Esaias. "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord." St. Luke 4:18,19. Then He closed the book and He sat down. Then He said, "...This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears." St. Luke 4:21.

If this seems overwhelming, you stand back and say, okay, my calling is to preach the gospel to the poor. I am supposed to heal the broken hearted? I am to preach deliverance to the captives? Recovering of sight? How am I to do this? Isaiah had that same reaction. He says, I am a man of unclean lips (Isaiah 6:5). Lord, I appreciate what you are asking and yes it needs to be done but I am not the one to do it! I have unclean lips. I cannot go speak truth. Look at what my life has been.

He says, no you can't look at it that way. He says, I touch you with that coal and you are purified and I am sending you forth in my part and now go. And he went.

Jesus went at the prompting of the Father. We are called to be the love of Jesus. We are called to preach the gospel. The gospel is not preached from here. The gospel is preached each and every day in your life. That is the gospel

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message. A life of love and a focus on God. That is the gospel message. So that those beside you see your life and they want the peace and joy that you have.

Healing the brokenhearted. We don't have any special formulas. But when you care for someone and you show your interest in their lives and you get involved in what is hindering them and what is discouraging them, God gives us experiences that make us suited to help people. Don't let your experiences go to waste. But find those people that have that need and go and heal them. Not because you are going to place your hands on them and they're healed - go and show them love. Go and be love to them.

Preaching deliverance to the captives. There are people that are captive in their sin all over this land. We know how to deliver them. We have it before us. But we have to go and speak boldly. The problem is that sometimes we want to do it in our own power and in our own words. But we have to rely on the Spirit. We have to rely on the words of truth that are here and let them do the work.

It makes me mindful of our children sometimes. They are playing downstairs and it is time

to go. We have our computer downstairs. Graham likes to be down there playing computer games. A lot of times I will try and go personally and speak to him so he knows what our expectation is of him. But at times I am busy. I can't make that trip down there. So I might send Emmy. That is kind of a dangerous thing, to send a little sister to tell a big brother what to do. So how do you accomplish that? You have to arm Emmy with the truth. You have to give her authority in this instance. You tell Emmy, Go tell Graham that Dad said that it is time to go. You have five minutes. Please finish what you are doing.

Now Graham can choose to do whatever he wants to with that information. But he knows it is not just Emmy and he is just going to pass it aside that, I don't care what she thinks. He understands that there is a message coming from a higher power. I can choose to respond or not and if I don't, I am taking a chance. We have to go armed with the truth.

We can't be offended. Emmy can't take it personally. She has to go deliver the message and come back. Don't stand there and pester Graham. You come back and let Graham make his decision. If we go and we pester, we are just

going to annoy people into unbelief. But if we go and we present the truth to them and we say, this is the truth I believe and this is why I believe it. I want you to go and look at this yourself. Let the Spirit do its work.

But let's be consistent in our lives. Let's not give them a way to fault us and distract them from the truth. But let's go to them and present the truth in it's authority. No, we are not sinless. Isaiah wasn't sinless. He had unclean lips. But God sent him. We are not sinless but we are sent. We can't allow the sin in our past to stop us from fulfilling the call in our future. We go in the authority of God and we allow them to deal with the Spirit of God.

But we have to give them opportunity. If we don't give them opportunity, then we've failed. It is like the watchman in Ezekiel (Ezekiel 33:2-9). We sound the call. If we don't sound the call we are guilty of the blood on their heads. If we sound the call, then we can go on and we can go on in a peace of mind, knowing that we loved them and presented them with the truth. Allow them to respond to the Spirit. Allow them to experience Jesus for themselves. May God add His blessing.

"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

*Hymns of Zion
Gospel Hymns &
Tabernacles*

We again have places to send all of these books.

Please get your books to us or the Goodfield World Relief Center.

Books are mainly distributed to India, Philippines, and Africa.

Jerry and Arlene Banwart
307 First St
Congerville, IL 61729
(309) 448-2416



Apostolic Christian Counseling Services

73 East Queenwood Rd,
Morton, IL 61550
309-263-5536 (local#)
309-263-6841 (fax)

877-370-9988 (toll free)

www.accounseling.org

Counseling for depression, anxiety, relationship problems, etc...

- Information about mental health issues and relationship problems
- Referrals to qualified mental health professionals in your area
- Telephone consultations with a counselor
- Staffed by professional counselors and registered nurses
- All calls are strictly confidential

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,

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

CARIBBEAN BOARD PROJECTS - 2006/2007

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

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

COORDINATOR	PHONE	FAX	E-MAIL
Dale Frank	319-766-3661		frankfarms@iowatelecom.net
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

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

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
102 Lake View Drive
Fairbury, IL 61739
or phone (815) 692-3616

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

The following data is from the booklet, "To The King's Administration of Justice" compiled by Elder Bro. William Stettner of Elgin, Illinois. This booklet contains a statement of faith (sent to governmental authorities) along with various letters exchanged among believers. Two of these letters follow:

The first letter consists of remarks by Johann Schlipf to his brothers in faith. It was sent from Daurenberg, Germany on January 3, 1904.

To my Beloved Brothers,

I will enclose a remembrance for you to take to heart:

1. Walk the path which Christ laid out for you to the Kingdom of God.
2. In looking up to Jesus you will not go astray.
3. Walk in such a manner so that you will receive the prize.
4. Watch and pray without ceasing.
5. It requires all earnestness and diligence to receive Christ and to abide in Him.
6. Do not give up the fight against sin and all ungodliness until you win the victory.
7. Hearken to the warning and chastisement of the Holy Spirit.

Then you will be delivered from all evil.

From your Brother in Christ who loves you,

Johann Schlipf

The second letter was written by a mother to her young son when he had to leave home. It was dated January 21, 1894:

My dear child, always stay in a humble state. That is much better than all that which the world has to offer. Humble yourself at all times before the Almighty God and bow your knees before Him day and night. Then God will be gracious to you and lead you in the right way.

All through your life keep God before your eyes and in your heart, and flee from sin. Try to be around God-fearing people and learn from them. Be obedient and diligent wherever you are.

Go to church where you can hear the Word of God, so when the time of visitation comes you may hear the voice of the Saviour and understand it, and obey His call. Turn to him with all your heart and become a lamb of Jesus' flock. Then you will receive the precious promise of the Saviour, who said, "My sheep hear my voice and they follow me, and I will give them

eternal life, and no one can pluck them out of my hand."

This is the wish for you from your Mother who loves you.

A Poem By Samuel Froehlich

All who are baptized unto God
Heed His voice, "Forget me not.
Forget not what I did for thee,
Forget it not, but think of me.
When hours of temptation nigh,
The lust of flesh, the lust of eye;
In every way thy faith to try.
Then think of me who once arose
To conquer Satan, death and foes.
Serve not the flesh, do not its will,
Serve me, the Spirit, ever still.
He who forgets to heed my call
And again in sin begins to fall,
Will wrath instead of blessings see
And when it's too late — then
think of me."

Edited by Perry Klopfenstein

Next Issue:

More from the booklet,
"From the King's
Administration of Justice."

The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean

希望の光

“Influence”

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

Has anyone ever cautioned you, or made a remark to indicate, that you must be careful about the possible influence someone might have on you? I have had that experience and I'm wondering about influence and what part it plays in our lives.

Our parents have a great influence on us, but so also do our school teachers and Sunday School teachers. My Sunday School teachers in our Princeville, IL, church had a tremendous influence on my life. They convinced me that the Gospel was for real, that it is true. That made me think that I must be responsible for everything I do.

We are also influenced by our environment. Therefore, when I was a boy, it was thought by some, that all Christians should be farmers. Any other occupation would be too dangerous for the Christian. It was thought that the devil lurks around every corner in the city but he stays away from the corn fields.

The word influence, or influences, is used only once in the King James Bible. It is in Job 38:31 where God is speaking to Job as follows, “Canst thou bind the sweet influences of Pleiades?” Pleiades is a group of stars or a constellation. The stars may influence us to believe in and trust in God but their influence on us is quite indirect.

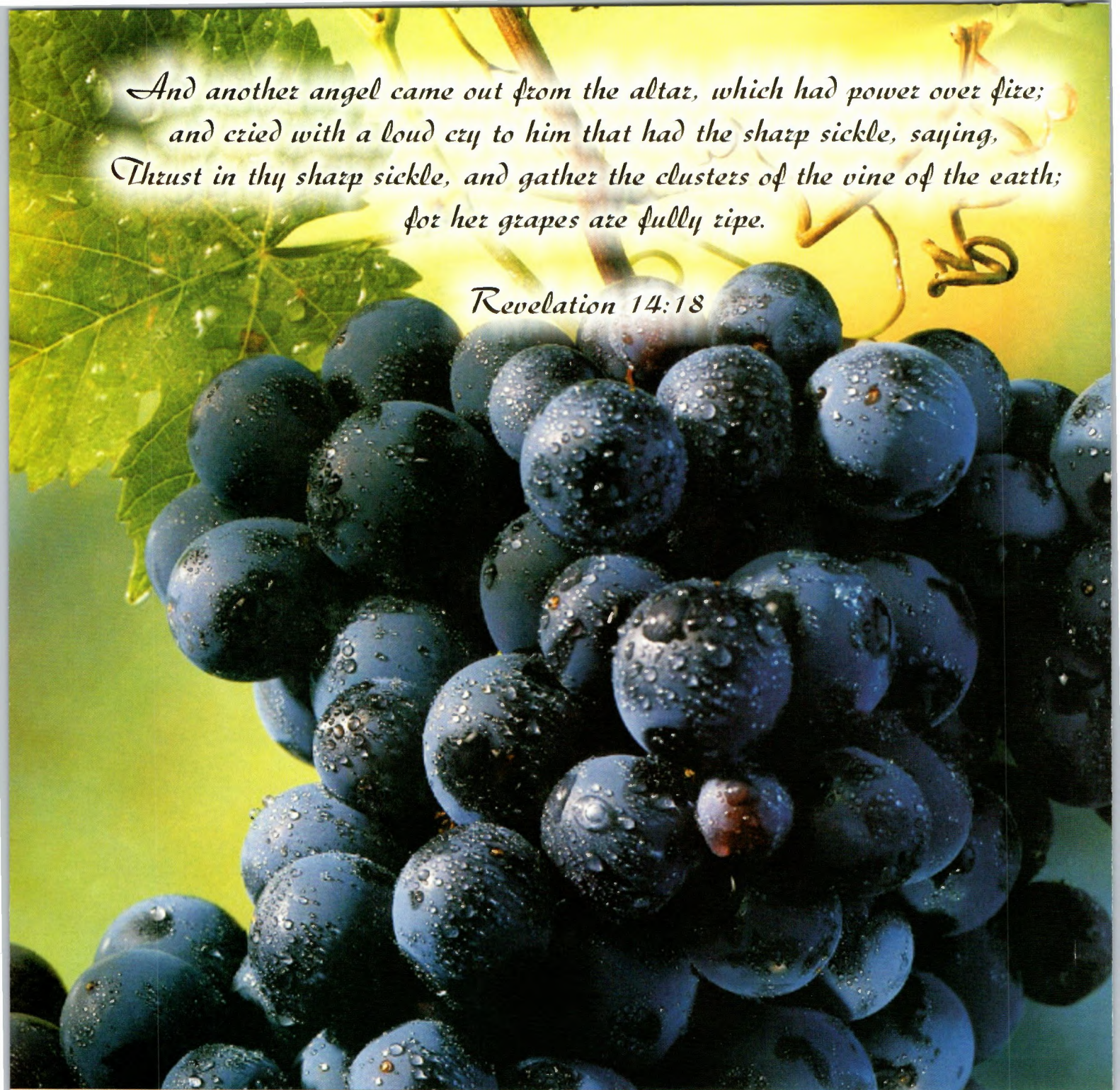
The word effect is a synonym of influence and we find it in Romans 3:3,4. “For what if some did not believe? Shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect (or influence)? God forbid.” The Bible has no influence whatsoever on some people. Many have never read it nor are they interested in reading it. Nevertheless, our faith in the Bible has a tremendous influence on those of us who believe.

Let us turn our attention to the influence that human beings have on one another. My wife and I have lived in Japan for 52 years and we have been influenced by the Japanese people,

the believers in the church and the non-believers. Generally speaking, cleanliness of the body and the clothing you wear is very important in Japan. The Japanese language is loaded with polite phrases and the bowing is a humble experience. The atmosphere of the true Japanese culture is one of drinking tea together around a short legged table. On the highways, almost all Japanese drivers bow their heads and let you go ahead, if you get in their way. How else could so many people live on four small islands?

We hope we have had positive influence on our Japanese friends and acquaintances. At the very least, we hope to show them that to be a disciple of Christ, is the best way to go. When we go to America, we hope we do not have the wrong influence on our loved ones there. We are in a different culture now, you know, and we may not do everything properly in America. Where we fail, please forgive.

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*And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire;
and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying,
Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth;
for her grapes are fully ripe.*

Revelation 14:18

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