



# *The Silver Lining*

*For unto you is born this day  
in the city of David a Saviour,  
which is Christ the Lord..*

*Luke 2:11*

*December  
2006*



Sermon by Bro. Paul Schmidgall, Morris, MN

## St. Luke 1:26-38 and St. Luke 2:1-21

The portion of scripture that we read (St. Luke 1:26-38), had we read the preceding verses in that chapter, we'd have read the account there of Zacharias and Elizabeth and how there was a foretelling of the birth of John the Baptist (v.11-20), the forerunner, the prophet. The one that would set in place the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ. Then as we discontinued our reading, we would have read the account of Mary going to visit Elizabeth (v. 39,40) and how that they could find a common experience where both had had a visitation of an angel. Both had had a foretelling of something that was to happen, something that was to come.

Then the end of that first chapter in St. Luke is the account of the birth of John the Baptist and Zacharias being restored to be able to speak again (v.57-64). We can see, dear ones, as we lead up here, the many great things that God was working and establishing in the hearts of a few chosen people in that day. How He was preparing the way for what we are going to read of here in the second chapter in the Gospel of St. Luke.

As we read together, dear ones, in the fore reading, we read there of an angel Gabriel, who it says, "...was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary." St. Luke 1:26,27. I often think about Mary as being the one chosen there by God. We can often consider, what was it that God saw in Mary that would give her such a calling, such a service to her God? We can see, dear ones, the character of Mary. It was made known here as the angel greeted her. He said, "...Hail, thou that art highly

avored, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women." St. Luke 1:28.

Then we can read of Mary's response at each point in this thing that was unfolding before her. It had to be fearful. Can any one of us imagine that suddenly, and maybe in a time of quietness in our home, we are all alone and there would be an angel of the Lord standing there and speaking to us? Then the angel would describe to us a purpose and a duty that would seem strange to us and would seem maybe even impossible to us. This angel described to Mary that she was chosen of God, that she was going to have a child. It wouldn't be a normal child but it would be a child that would be conceived of the Holy Ghost. (St. Luke 1:31-35)

In that time, dear ones, the understanding of that Holy Ghost would have been different than our understanding today. Those that can experience that comforter that was sent to those first Apostles after the departure of our Lord and Savior, we know He promised it, that He would send a comforter in the form of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8). Then we can read of the working of that Spirit in that early church, those Apostles in the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-5). We can read of the many times when that Spirit worked in God's people. We today, dear ones, we can still experience the moving and the working, the guiding of the Spirit of God. We can understand that there is that Spirit. That it is alive and it works in the hearts of men.

But here would be Mary and He would tell her that this child would be conceived of the Holy Ghost and she would no doubt be very tempted to doubt. No doubt very

tempted to tell the angel that maybe you have chosen the wrong person. I can't accomplish this work that you put before me. But

*Sermon continued on page 44*

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*Counselors:*

*Ron Schambach, Tom Stock*

**SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO:**

cleman@dtnspeed.net

*(e-mail is preferred)*

The Silver Lining

1389 County Road 1600 N  
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309-923-7192 (phone) 775-923-9987 (fax #1)

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

# Light From The Word



Writings based  
on God's Word

December 2006

## Wise Men Still Seek Him

From the earliest times, mankind has recognized a need for a god. Even in societies that do not believe in the one true God, there often is a need to worship some form of a higher power. Throughout the scripture, the importance of seeking God, the Creator of the universe, has been emphasized. God warned His people of the dangers of serving other gods and of the blessing of seeking the one true God. "But if from thence thou shalt seek the Lord thy God, thou shalt find him, if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul" (Deut. 4:29).

King David recognized the need to seek God: "O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where his water is" (Ps. 63:1). Isaiah also realized the importance of not losing the opportunity to seek God. "Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near" (Is. 55:6). Many more passages in the Old Testament could be cited that encourage seeking the Lord.

To seek means to go in search of, to look for by going from place to place. To seek implies that there needs to be diligence, not simply a casual effort. Searching for, and finding God, needs to be a priority in our lives.

In addition to seeking God the Father, and recognizing God's promise of a Savior, many men have understood the need to find this promised Messias. The Wise Men we read about in the Gospel of Matthew were given enough understanding about the events surrounding the birth of Christ that they wanted to find him.

"Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him ...Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men,...sent them to

Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also... and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, ...stood over where the young child was ...And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child... and fell down, and worshipped him ..." (Mt. 2:1-11).

The story of the search for the child Jesus by the wise men is very familiar to those who know the account of the birth of the Savior. Perhaps the significant part of the story of the wise men is that they were willing to go to great lengths to find Jesus. While we do not know for sure how long they were looking for Jesus, we do know they spent a considerable amount of time and effort to find Him.

Most likely, about two years passed from the time the wise men first saw the star in the east until Herod knew they had no intention of coming back to tell him they had found Jesus. The interval of time was no doubt the basis for Herod's decision to kill all from two years old and under (Mt. 2:16). It also appears that most of those two years were spent by the wise men searching for Jesus. There was very little time between Herod's request that they tell him when they found Jesus and when he realized they were not coming back. Joseph was told to "...Arise, and take the young child and his mother and flee into Egypt..." (Mt. 2:13) to save Jesus' life. Joseph knew he did not have much time to go.

What message is in this account that we can use? The wise men saw His star because they were searching for Someone. Are we looking for the light of Jesus Christ? Are we willing to search diligently for Him?

Apparently, the wise men put aside all of their earthly pursuits to focus on this important task. We also need to be willing to make the most important task in our lives that of finding Jesus Christ. If finding and serving God and our Savior is not our most important goal in life, we place ourselves in great danger.

The promise of salvation for all of eternity and the help we have with the problems in this life if we seek and find the Savior, are precious almost beyond description. The blessings of finding the Savior are worth all the efforts that we could expend in finding Him. There is no greater goal and no greater joy than to seek and find our Lord.

When men lose sight of God and the importance of serving Him, they not only refuse to seek God but they hide from him. After falling into sin, "...Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden". When found, Adam said "...I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself" (Gen. 3:8,10).

The time will come when the wrath of God will be visited upon the earth and the wicked will try to hide from God. They will say "...to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb:" (Rev. 6:16).

Trying to hide from God is futile. No man will be successful in doing so. David wrote "O God, thou knowest my foolishness; and my sins are not hid from thee" (Ps. 69:6). Jesus said "...for there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; and hid, that shall not be known" (Mt. 10:26). Moses warned the children of Israel "...be sure your sin will find you out" (Nu. 32:23).

We have many choices to make. We can choose to try to serve self and to hide from God. If we make that choice we will suffer through all eternity. However, if we seek the Lord, and do His will, our sins can be forgiven. If we allow ourselves to be cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ, we "...shall be whiter than snow" (Ps. 51:7). Wise men still seek the Lord.





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

### Prison Ministry

Matthew 25:36 says, "I was in prison and you came unto me." There are many dear ones from Apostolic Christian congregations in several different states serving in prison ministry. Prison ministry provides an opportunity for those in prisons and jails to hear the pure Word of God spoken in truth. Those souls that get out of prison then have the opportunity to use the Word of God effectively in their lives and the lives of their families. The ministry provides an opportunity for our church brethren to share Jesus Christ with those who have great needs and whose only hope is God.

Berean Prison Ministry is located in Peoria, Illinois and is supported almost entirely by the Apostolic Christian Church. The Ministry is involved in five different programs to help those in need:

- 1) Bible Distribution & Bible Study
- 2) Chaplaincy Program
- 3) Romanian Program
- 4) Russian Program
- 5) Material Aid

### Bible distribution

More than two thousand Bibles are requested monthly and shipped to jails and prisons in 45 different states. The inmate's name and prison identification is entered into a computer. A prisoner is shipped only one Bible. The Bible can be the biggest treasure in a prison inmate's "stash." In every Bible there is a letter to that inmate. The letter explains the opportunity to complete and return Bible study lesson #1 to Berean Prison Ministry. When Bible study #1 is returned by the inmate, the study is graded by our brethren

and friends. Some volunteers who do the grading are in our retirement homes, young groups, and sewing groups. The graded Bible study is then sent back to the inmate along with three additional Bible studies. Berean Prison Ministry grades approximately 70,000 Bible studies every year. Thanks for your prayers for the volunteers who give of their time to grade Bible Studies and for the financial support of our church for the Bibles and postage.

### Chaplaincy program

By God's grace the Berean Prison Ministry holds the Chaplaincy for the Peoria County Jail, Juvenile Detention Center, Youth Farm, Stark County Jail, Tazewell County Jail, State of Illinois Sheridan Prison (Sheridan, Illinois) and will be starting at the Statesville Prison the end of this year.

Berean Prison Ministry holds regular Bible studies at the State of Illinois Dwight prison and Logan women's prison in Lincoln, IL. Berean Prison Ministry also helps in the State of Indiana prisons, Porter County Jail (Valparaiso, Indiana) and the Hendry County Jail (Labelle, Florida). Your prayers are appreciated for the Lord's blessings on the servants who go into the prisons and jails, and that the Holy Spirit is in charge of every part of the ministry.

### Romanian program

The Romanian Program was blessed this year with the General Director of all the prisons in the country agreeing to let Berean Prison Ministry have access to the entire country's prisons. Brother Ken Hoerr and Brother Fedi Davidovic traveled to Romania and met with several officials. At the very end of

the trip they met the General Director who then agreed to let Berean Prison Ministry in their prisons. With increased opportunity and activity in this country, the associated costs are rising. We recently shipped 600 bed sheets for the prisoners. We supply Bibles, postage and supplies for those going into the prisons. We thank God for your support to our Mission Fund and your prayers.

### Russian program

Brothers Hod Getz and Tim Reinhart traveled to Russia and met with the Russians involved in the Bible and Bible Study Course program in Russia. The country of Russia has gotten more rigid with who is able to have access to their prisons. The Russians now require that the persons going into their prisons be of Russian citizenship. Brothers Hod and Tim met with some Russian Christians with citizenship and they have agreed to go into the prisons to deliver Bibles. The Russians have visited our churches in Sarasota, Athens, Fort Myers, and Peoria. The Russians are good friends. We give all praise to God.

### Material aid

Berean Prison Ministry provides food, clothes, medicine and bicycles to those in need. The Berean Prison Ministry ships clothes to Mexico and Africa and coats to Russia.

The Berean Prison Ministry has Sunday evening services at the Peoria Southside Mission for women eight times per year. The Peoria Rescue Mission for men has Sunday morning services the 1st, 2nd, 5th Sunday of every month, and evening service for the men's Rescue Mission six times per year. May God's blessings continue to rest upon this important work.





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

## Medical Ministry in Juarez, Mexico

Prayer, flexibility, smiles, 6000 health kits, 3000 school kits, 2500 Bible story kits, 400 layettes, 200 comforters, 1500 Bibles, 7 pallets of rice pilaf, 20 boxes of medicine, 20 barrels of misc items, 4600 Mexicans, 46 Americans.

What do all these have in common? These are the resources necessary to complete a Medical Dental Team in Juarez, Mexico. Let's take a closer look at a day on a medical/dental team.

Our morning begins with devotions and singing Spanish hymns. Then we load up our vans to head to the worksite. We quickly realize that we are no longer in the USA when we drive on the bumpy dirt roads, and pass stucco and cardboard homes, many without indoor plumbing or running water. Our vans stop in the middle of a street where we see our trailer loaded with supplies. The blocked off street will be our clinic for the day.

Our busy day begins as we put steel poles and tarps together to make tents for doctors' offices, a pharmacy, dental area, and health maintenance. The truck is unloaded by forming a chain to get the kits & food to the right area. Approximately 30 – 45 minutes later, our clinic is ready to go.

Registration begins as the waiting patients are given a medical card for documentation of vital signs, prescriptions, and most important to be able to get the health kits and food. Next stop is for vital signs (blood pressure, pulse check) and then on to see the physician. Once the patient has a diagnosis and prescription, he heads to the pharmacy to get his medicine. The last

stop is the health maintenance tent. This is a favorite stop for everyone as the goods made back home are distributed.

Many smiles and "mucho gracias" are shared as the Mexican receives a health kit, lotion, farm cap, comforters, toys, and food. Seeing all those supplies in the hands of the Mexicans made each of us on the team think about our brothers and sisters back in the US who did the sewing, filled bags, worked in the warehouse, and contributed financially.

In another area of the street, the dental clinic is very busy. There is a long line of children waiting patiently for their turn. Our young team members hand them a toothbrush with toothpaste and then show them how to brush their teeth. It doesn't take long for the Americans to learn a few Spanish phrases: "Limpien todos tus dientes muy bien" (Brush all of your teeth very well) and "Laven tu boca con agua y escupes la aqui" (Rinse your mouth with water and spit it out).

Many times after using the toothbrush, the Mexican children hand it back as they don't realize they get to keep it. All children are sent home with a health and school kit. In a typical day, 500 Mexican children will learn how to brush their teeth. In addition, thirty adults receive dental cleaning.

Music fills another corner of the street as we hear, "Si, Cristo me ama" (Yes, Jesus loves me) being sung by the children. Minerva, one of the helpers, joyfully and diligently all day long uses flannel graph to teach the children Bible stories and sing with them. The children enjoy receiving their own Bible Story book, coloring book, and crayons. More excitement is seen when the

children receive a new t-shirt with "Cristo me ama" on it.

By late afternoon approximately 1,000 Mexicans have visited the clinic and we have exhausted our daily supply of medicine, health kits, and food. It is time to take the tents down and head back to the hotel to get a meal and good night rest so we can start over the next day at another site. During the course of the week, we usually see 5,000 adults and children for medical and dental care. More importantly, each individual receives a Bible and has the opportunity to learn about salvation through Jesus Christ.

If you are interested in joining a medical-dental team, contact Sis Cheryl Herrmann at 309-385-1082 or [cherrmann@verizon.net](mailto:cherrmann@verizon.net).

Any medical or nonmedical talents can be used. We especially have a need for dental personnel, physicians, NPs, pharmacists, and interpreters.

### Testimonial from a past team member

The medical/dental team trip to Juarez, Mexico was a blessing to all of us in so many ways. The opportunity to serve our Mexican neighbors brought joy to our hearts. The body of Christ was evident. Although we could only help the Mexican people materially in a very small way, the love of Christ and Gospel were truly shared.

Each team member played an important role, whether it be dispensing medications, taking vital signs, cleaning teeth, teaching Bible school, distributing health maintenance items, delivering much needed water to the workers, teaching tooth brushing or examining and treating patients. We all reaped the blessings of serving others!



## **APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN COUNSELING AND FAMILY SERVICES**

In 2005, the Elder Body established a committee to review the counseling needs within the church. This committee brought a proposal to the Elder Body on how to design a counseling service "from the ground up" that would better utilize the available resources and merge Apostolic Christian Counseling Services and Gateway Woods Family Services into one organization. After much prayer, preparation, and consultation, the Elder Body approved that proposal at the August, 2005 Conference and the new Board of Directors began their official terms of service. On October 20, 2006 the new board officially assumed operational oversight of the new organization and began to operate under the new name: Apostolic Christian Counseling and Family Services (ACCFS).

The new ACCFS Directors are Elder Brothers Tom Hoffman (Roanoke), Bruce Hohulin (Goodfield), Charles Sauder (Tremont), and Jon Schmidgall (Oakville); and Brothers Irvin Furrer (Wolcott), Neil Gerber (Washington, serves as the President), Bob Pflederer (Morton), Jeff Schumacher (Leo), and Dennis Virkler (Congerville, serves as the Secretary-Treasurer).

The clinical staff consists of Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington), Bro. Craig Stickling (Peoria), Sis. Erica Stoller (Morton), and Bro. Ted Witzig, Jr. (Morton). Sis. Mickey Schumm (Washington) serves as the Office Manager. Bro. Ron Heiniger (Bloomington) was recently added to the staff as Program Director, focused on developing a curriculum to train lay counselors.

Apostolic Christian Counseling and Family Services currently provides the following:

- Christ-centered counseling for depression, anxiety, relationship problems, etc.
- Telephone consultations with a counselor
- Information about mental health issues and relationship problems
- Referrals to qualified counseling and family services in your area
- Referrals to specialized services
- Apostolic Christian Way of Purity
- Information and presentations on Biblical financial stewardship
- Materials and presentations on other specific topics
- Mentoring for students in mental health-related fields

The office of the Apostolic Christian Counseling and Family Services is located at 73 East Queenwood Road, Morton, IL 61550. Our website is [www.accounseling.org](http://www.accounseling.org). You can contact the office at (877) 370-9988 or by email at [info@accounseling.org](mailto:info@accounseling.org). All calls are confidential.

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### **APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED**

"But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

*1 Corinthians 15:57*

As the holidays approach, most everyone will spend time reflecting over the past year and the things for which he or she is thankful. For many of us these thoughts are often broad and abstract, yet our Lord also encourages us to keep our faith simple.

Whether we are coping through a loss or celebrating a birth, our relationship with God is the most important part of our lives.

"And Jesus said unto them, ... If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you."

*Matthew 17:20*

With this verse in mind, we think on how the residents at the Apostolic Christian Home are thankful. For these individuals, their prayers may sound simplistic; however, in actuality they are quite strong. When they give thanks for their meals, the birds that sing, and all the children around the world, there is absolutely no doubt they are demonstrating their faith in Jesus Christ. The residents do not need the reminder of the holidays to reflect upon the past year; they are able to give all of their hearts to God each and every day.

We are blessed and thankful for the holiday meals, gifts, snacks, and time that so many people share with us in celebrating the Thanksgiving and Christmas season.

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

**Andrew Gerber**

"I just wanted to say how my houseparents have helped me. One thing is that they have never given up on me. They have showed me that there is more to life than sin. They have been an inspiration to me. They have helped me to learn to trust and have God as my main focus instead of focusing on people's love. When I first came here I was struggling in the area of lying and dealing with the different ways I have been hurt by different



people. They showed me how to deal with this. They showed me love and I learned to love them. They have taught me many morals and will always be my inspiration. I just wanted to let you know they are doing their jobs right."

*Love,  
K.J.*

Stories like this demonstrate God's love at work in the lives of the children here at Gateway Woods every day. As we enter into this Christmas season may each of us meditate on the Christmas story and God's love for us by sending His only Son. "For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." - St. Luke 2:11-14

Many of the children who come to Gateway Woods have never experienced a "real" Christmas. To some, it's just another holiday. We are thankful to have the opportunity to expose children to the Gospel message of Jesus Christ. We would be unable to do this without your support. May God bless you during this Christmas season as you reflect on the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

"Praise ye the Lord. Praise ye the name of the Lord; praise him, O ye servants of the Lord." - Psalm 135:1. We give all praise and thanks to our great God for the 30 years that He has blessed Gateway Woods. As we reflect back on this year we are reminded of how God has blessed us with the financial resources we need (through your giving spirit) to con-

tinue to operate and reach out to more children in need. We know that God has a purpose for every child that comes and we are very thankful that they can be exposed to the truth of God's Word.

We are also thankful for each of you who have taken time to come visit us. Whether it's for a weekend, the Auction, or to volunteer, we are thankful that you have willingly given of your time to come show support for God's work. We sincerely appreciate your continued prayers as we press on into the future with our focus on God, "Remembering His provision ~ walking His way ~ pursuing His promises."

#### NEWS

##### Cypress House Construction:

Construction is going well so far, but we are reminded from time to time of our need for more volunteers. Please prayerfully consider coming out to Gateway Woods:

Painting starts on December 18  
Trim carpentry starts on  
January 3  
Flooring installation starts late  
January

If interested, please contact one of the Brothers listed below. Please remember that housing and food is provided. We want to extend our thanks again to all of you who have come out to volunteer so far. Your efforts are greatly appreciated and may God's richest blessings be upon you.

Bro. Bruce Schafer:  
C# (260) 437-9468

Bro. Tim Sauder  
W# (260) 627-2159  
tim.sauder@gatewaywoods.org

##### *New Staff:*

God continues to bless us with just

the right people!

We are thankful to announce the hiring of Bro. Ryan and Sis. Bethany Donaghy as the new Cypress House Alternate Houseparents. They will be joined by their three children: Kyler (age 6), Kinsey (age 3), and Alayna (age 1). The Donaghys are also excited to announce they will be receiving another blessing to their family in March.

We are pleased to announce the re-hiring of Bro. Clint and Sis. Bethany Plattner. They will become the Houseparents at the Cypress House. Their four children are: Tyler, Chelby, Emily, and Abrey. Please remember to lift up the Donaghys and Plattners in prayer as they prepare for God's work at Gateway Woods.

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

The Thanksgiving holiday was celebrated at the preschool with our annual 'feast'. The 2 and 3 year old classes were dressed as little Indians, and the 4 year old class was pilgrims. We talked about what it means to be thankful. I found out that it is a hard thing to explain and maybe a little complex for a child to understand. They have a selfish nature that comes with being human, that they are not sure how to control yet. But it is never too late to begin molding them and help them to think beyond themselves. We got a chuckle and a smile out of what some of them told us they were thankful for: bologna, my bed, books, cheese, monster trucks, Dad and Mom, when God helps me be good. Then again, maybe they understand more than I thought!

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**ALABAMA, ATHENS**  
**Louise Hall**  
Through the month of November



we are thankful to have had many visitors. Ministering Bros. Ted Witzig (Morton, IL), Ron Palito (Akron, OH), Fred Funk (Morton, IL) and Sam Schlatter (Junction, OH) each were willing to travel here and preach God's Word to us. We thank them and their wives and the others that traveled with them.

We were blessed to have our Elder Bro. Andy Stoller here with us for a weekend this month. He read us the Memorandum on Saturday night and then was with us on Sunday as well. Thank you, Bro. Andy, for your efforts of love.

We continue to pray for Sis. Ruby Ross. She is currently residing in the nursing home. Also, we continue to pray for Arnold Haggenmaker. He underwent heart surgery and is having a difficult time recovering.

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### ARIZONA, PHOENIX Ron and Ev Hoerr

"Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart."

*Psalms 37:4*

November 19 was a beautiful wedding day for Sis. Amber Greenbank and Bro. Joel Virkler. Bro. Joel's parents are Bro. Stan and Sis. Beth Virkler (Remington) and Sis. Amber's parents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Patti Greenbank. Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich performed the wedding service with the help of Bro. Dan Dubach (Prescott).

We rejoice with the angels in heaven that our friend, Eric Greenbank, has made a beginning in repentance!

Our annual Sunday School Picnic was held on Sunday, October 29, and was enjoyed by many.

Visiting ministers were Bro. Jeff Neihouser (Francesville), Bro. Nile

Bucher (Bluffton North), Bro. Dale Stoller (Fairbury), Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign) and Bro. Dan Dubach (Prescott). We thank God for His willing servants.

Hospital patients were Bro. Herb Knochel, Sr. and Bro. Charlie Baumgartner. They both are thankful for your continued prayers.

Irene Horvath passed from this life November 15. A graveside service was held November 20 with Bro. James Emch officiating. Special thanks and sympathy to Bro. James and Sis. Gina Emch, Sis. Jan Elsasser, Sis. Kathy Woodruff and the many others who brought so much comfort and love to Irene while she was in Phoenix.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Clarence Beyer in the passing of his sister, Sis. Bertha Beyer, on November 18.

Bro. John and Sis. Wilma Pulfer celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary November 11. May God continue to bless them.

#### *Note of Thanks:*

Our thanks to our friends and family who remembered us on our 50th wedding anniversary with beautiful cards, gifts, flowers, and a surprise reception here at Mountain View Villas. God bless each of you for your thoughtfulness.

*Bro. John and Sis. Wilma Pulfer*

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### ARIZONA, PRESCOTT Jane Hodges

We welcome to our congregation Bro. Corbin Fehr (son of Sis. Judy and Bro. Dennis, West Bend, IA), who has moved to Prescott for employment. We are thankful to the Lord for directing him to Prescott and pray that the Lord will bless him.

The engagement of Bro. Tyler Scott to Sis. Alexis Koehl (Bro. Randy

and Sis. Shirley) of Morris, MN, was announced the end of October. A January 14 wedding is planned in Morris. We pray that the Lord will be with them and direct them as they plan their lives together.

We appreciate the support of visiting ministers. This last month they included Bros. Trent Schrock (Sis. Heidi, Leo, IN), Jeff Bahr (Kiowa, KS), and Elder Bro. Mike Leman (Sis. Deb, Denver, CO.) We pray that the Lord will richly bless them and their families for giving their love and support.

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### ARIZONA, TUCSON Lisa Knapp

We are enjoying the results of our remodeling efforts and feeling very thankful indeed as we approach the Thanksgiving holiday this Thursday. We have only finishing touches remaining on the remodeling and are enjoying beautiful recently installed benches, carpeting and a new pulpit area. We had not one but two church cleaning Saturdays which included some remodeling work. We have all worked together on this project and we are so thankful for those who have spent countless hours at church meeting subcontractors, waiting for deliveries, painting, building, measuring, checking; if one of us knew how to do it, we did it. May God, who sees all and knows the hours donated far better than I do, richly bless each one for their labors of love, literally. Our little church will be especially thankful this Thursday.

We are also enjoying beautiful sunny days with temperatures in the 80's. We were actually complaining Sunday that it's too warm to feel like Thanksgiving! It is supposed to cool off a bit and be in the high 70's by the time we eat our turkey.

We thoroughly enjoyed our Sunday School Picnic in October.



The weather was actually cool by Tucson standards but we endured and as usual loved watching the children play organized games and break the piZata. Kids of all ages enjoyed our annual bake sale/auction. Thanks to all who planned and participated to make this event the wonderful day it always is.

It is appropriate that this week of Thanksgiving I have so many blessings to write about. We have had an abundance of visiting ministers recently, one of whom was actually the first to use our new pulpit. Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix, AZ), Bro. Ted Hirstein (Morton, IL), Bro. Dale Stoller (Fairbury, IL), Bro. Jim Meiss (Phoenix, AZ) and Bro. Ron Bollier (Indianapolis, IN) have all visited us in the past month and shared the Word with us. We thank each one for their love and service on the pulpit. Your love and willingness to serve are just two of the many blessings we have to be truly thankful for.

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### **CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA** **Tina Jackson**

“Be still, and know that I am God.”

*Psalm 46:10*

This can be great challenge living in a fast paced area such as Los Angeles, California. It is hard to get away from the hustle and bustle of daily living with so many people and the endless activity around you. Yet what great strength and direction can be found in sitting quietly, as Mary did, at the feet of Jesus.

We can also experience a quieting of our hearts as we worship in God's House with fellow believers. We have continued to enjoy meeting on Wednesday evenings to study the book of James, having been chal-

lenged to find our wisdom not from the world and its value systems, but rather find it “from above”. “But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.” James 3:17

The passing of Dorothy Vermillion reminded us of the brevity of life here on earth. We extend our deepest sympathy to her sons, Steve (Gail), Jim and Mike. Her presence in our small fellowship will be greatly missed.

Bro. Bob Crockett was hospitalized this month and is recovering well from his heart procedure. We praise the Lord for His gifts of healing!

Once again we are enjoying the warm fellowship of Bro. Daryle and Sis. Edie Wieland, and Bro. Reuben and Sis. Chrystal Luthi who ‘winter’ with us here in Altadena. Welcome home!

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### **CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO** **Yasmin Koehl**

Our congregation has been abundantly blessed with many visitors.

We were privileged to host the European Board meeting in October. Elder Bros. Jon Schmidgall (Sis. Julie, Oakville, IA) and Phillip Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North, IN), and Bros. Gene Lehman (Sis. Verna, Wolcott, IN) and Bro. Rod Stoller joined our Elder Bro. Peter Petrovic and Bro. Denes Fulop for the meeting. We pray that the Lord will richly bless each brother who serves on the European board as they give of their time and talents for our brothers and sisters in Europe.

Bro. Gene Lehman presented a topical presentation on the spiral affect compromising with sin can bring to our lives and as a brotherhood. We were thankful for his encouragement

to strive to walk closer with the Lord and to abstain from any aspect of evil, regardless of the size.

We appreciate the labors of Elder Bro. David Graf (Sis. Barbara, Akron, OH) and ministering Bro. Max Reimschisel (Sis. Judy, Wichita, KS) for their service on our behalf. May God shower His blessings upon them and their families for their willingness to share God's Word to us.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with our Bro. Joe Kaplar (Sis. Rose) as he was recently diagnosed with cancer and underwent surgery. We hope and pray that he would especially feel God's presence at his side and the love of all in our congregation.

We are overjoyed to have Bro. Leonard and Sis. Christine arrive safely back from their long visit to Latty, OH. We feel complete once more to have them amongst our small flock again.

Our church always anticipates the arrival of winter as we look forward to our annual visitors who come seeking warmer weather. What a blessing and an encouragement it is for our church when traveling brethren come and worship with us!

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### **KITCHENER, ONTARIO** **CANADA**

#### **Johanna Fortenbacher**

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. John Reinhard (Sis. Pam, Bluffton, IN), Bro. Todd Stoller (Sis. Pam, Latty, OH) and Bro. Don Manz (Sis. Connie, Junction, OH). Your presence was greatly appreciated. God bless you.

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### **COLORADO, DENVER** **Ann Gonglach**

Greetings at this special time of year when we celebrate the coming of our Saviour!

We have been busy with charity



projects this fall. During Thanksgiving week, a group from here went to Magdalena, Mexico, to work on the orphanage building with others from our Morton, IL, and Altadena, CA, churches. Our Sunday school classes packed shoe boxes with Christmas gifts for children in other countries. At our monthly sewing meetings, we made blankets for children in the state foster care system. And we collected food to share in making up Thanksgiving food baskets with a local charity.

Once again we met to hear the recordings from the annual Brotherhood Conference.

Bro. Doug and Sis. Kary Mangers were blessed with their first child on November 11. She is little Alexa Lynn.

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**CONNECTICUT  
ROCKVILLE  
Laura Virkler  
Amber Rocke**

“O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: because his mercy endureth for ever.”

*Psalm 118:1*

As we approach Thanksgiving after a blessed harvest season, may true thankfulness and peace be among us as we come together with family and friends to celebrate this Thanksgiving.

There is much we have to be thankful for this past month. Children have been brought safely into this world, bringing joy into the family of Bro. Kent and Sis. Karen Zahner with the arrival of Cassidy Jo. She joins her siblings, Katrina, Jeremy and Natalie. Grandparents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Mary Lou Goric and Bro. Curt and Sis. Sally Zahner. Bro. Jon and Sis. Angie Moser also welcome a little boy, Abram Kenneth, who joins

his siblings, Ethan, Ella and Anna. Grandparents are Bro. Ben and Sis. Glenna Moser and Bro. Rolyce and Sis. Lori Scheitlin.

We wish many blessings to Rob Hany (Bro. Pete and Sis. Virgene) and Beth Henzel of Enfield, CT, on their recent marriage. We welcome Beth into our congregation and pray that God will bless their life together.

Our prayers and sympathy go out to the family of Sis. Carol Gottier, who passed away two weeks ago after a brave struggle with cancer. We are thankful her fight ended peacefully. She leaves her beloved husband, Warren, who shared 53 blessed years with her. Also her children, Sis. Terry (Bro. Ed) Mangold, Dale (Shirley) Gottier, Sis. Jan (Ken) Boynton, Rick Gottier, Guy (Sis. Beth) Gottier, Eric (Daryl) Gottier, and Todd (Sandra) Gottier. She had nineteen grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. She also leaves her dear sister, Sis. Beverly (Bro. Edward) Gerber. Even as the family grieves together, there is cause to rejoice for Warren, who has found peace and awaits baptism. We will continue to keep them all in our prayers. Our prayers are also with Bro. Wally Spielman for the recent passing of his sister.

Our prayers are with those who have recently had surgery or been hospitalized. This includes Sis. Eunice Schneider, who underwent surgery recently and is home recovering. We are thankful for Bro. Derek and Sis. Darla Reutter that all went well for little Addison's surgery three weeks ago. The doctors were pleased with how it went and she will be coming home just after Thanksgiving, Lord willing.

Oh, may this bounteous God thro' all our life be near us,  
With ever joyful hearts  
and blessed peace to cheer us;  
And keep us in His grace,

His full redemption send,  
And free us from all ills,  
sustain us to the end.

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**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
WASHINGTON  
Henrietta Meyer**

This Thanksgiving season the Washington, DC congregation has many reasons to give thanks. After over twenty years of meeting at the Tysons Corner Westpark Hotel, we are purchasing a home (Ken and Roberta Belsley's) to be used for our worship services starting in January 2007. It is located at 2320 Parallel Lane in Silver Spring, MD. Also beginning in January 2007, we will begin having services every Sunday. We are also revising the times for Sunday services. Morning song service now will begin at 10:00 a.m., Pulpit services and Sunday School will start at 10:15 a.m., and our afternoon song service will begin at 12:00 noon.

For your information, Silver Spring is located on the top side of the Beltway (Rte 495), versus the current hotel location in Tysons Corner on the West side of the Beltway. We will be sending directions to each Church via the Elder or lead minister, but would encourage you to contact Bro. Adam and Sis. Liz Hermann (703) 212-7339 or Sis. Henrietta Meyer (703) 904-8301 if you have any additional questions. If you are flying out to visit the area, the closest airport is Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport (approx. 25 miles to the church).

We were also thankful to have visiting ministers this month: Bro. Ron Bollier (Sis. Edie, Indianapolis, IN), Bro. Shawn Metzger (Sis. Sandy, Philadelphia, PA), Bro. Mark Ramsier (Sis. Alice, Sardis, OH) and Bro. Jesse Bedolla (Sis. Bonnie, Detroit, MI). Other visitors this month were from Champaign, Congerville,



and Fairbury, IL, Rittman, OH and Philadelphia, PA.

If you are planning to visit Washington, D.C. area 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.

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**FLORIDA  
FORT LAUDERDALE  
Renee Mangold**

We were thankful to have with us visiting ministers, Bro. Dennis Kaufmann (Sis. Bonnie, Bloomington, IL), Bro. Byron Stoller (Sis. Carol, Gridley, IL) and Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Sis. Michelle, Philadelphia, PA). May God bless them for their willingness to come and share His Word with us.

A note from Sis. Kathrine Fulop: "I wish to thank all my brothers, sisters, my family and friends for the many prayers, cards, gifts and visits while I was in the hospital, the home and housebound after breaking my ankle. God bless you all. Love, Kathrine Fulop"

We are happy to have Sis. Kathrine back worshipping with us again. We have resumed our Wednesday night singings and continue to enjoy our monthly potlucks to which all are welcome.

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**FLORIDA  
NORTH FORT MYERS  
Naomi Vogel**

As predicted, many snowbirds have migrated and now some are headed back north to spend the holi-

days with their family. They will return to us soon to escape the cold of the winter months.

After services on October 29, we all gathered at the home of Bro. Vic and Sis. Dottie Beer for their annual potluck picnic. The weather was perfect for a very blessed evening of delicious food, warm fellowship and beautiful singing around the pool. Occasionally we could hear the birds and a dog singing along with us!

Our Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz and his wife, Sis. Jeni, were with us on November 5.

After services, Bro. Ed, Bro. Vic, and Bro. Marvin Steffen read the Memorandum of the recent Brotherhood Conference. Then we celebrated the completion of our renovation project with a church dinner complete with a cake saying "Happy Birthday, Ed". We sincerely enjoy your visits, Bro. Ed, and are very thankful that you serve us so willingly! Our prayer is that God will bless you abundantly!

Praise God that Sisters Carolyn Siegle and Jeanette Yergler are well and able to come to church again. Bro. Art Gramm from Leo, IN, had a triple bypass heart surgery this past week in Naples. The report is that he is doing well and is expected to be out of intensive care real soon. We'll pray that you will heal quickly and be back in our midst before long.

We were all saddened by the death of Sis. Carol Gottier of Rockville, CT, after a short battle with cancer, and extend our sincere sympathy to her husband, Warren, and all the family. Warren's baptism was postponed because of Sis. Carol's death, but we know she found comfort in the knowledge that you have taken that very important step in accepting the saving grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. May God grant you comfort and courage! We hope you will spend some winter months with us in the sunny south.

As we approach the time of Thanksgiving and celebrating the birth of our Lord, may we be bold to speak of the real reason for the season in a world that attempts to cloud it with denial and commercialism.

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**FLORIDA, SARASOTA  
Robin Wiegand**

Elder Bros. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI) and Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) assisted our own Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann with the reading of the Memorandum. We are thankful for the many biblically based, practical teachings which were shared.

We had a World Relief project one evening where many comforters were knotted.

Snowbirds are starting to trickle in again and so is the cooler weather. We welcome all of our visitors.

February 24, 2007, has been set aside for the Annual Sarasota Sunday School Auction, so please mark your calendars.

"Rejoice in the Lord."

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**GEORGIA, ATLANTA  
Kevin Kipfer  
Benjamin Stoller**

Greetings to our dear brothers and sisters in the Lord. We have had a very nice fall in Atlanta. We are excited to welcome new people in our congregation, and are thankful for new faces with whom to fellowship. We want to welcome Bro. Mark and Sis. Laura Lindberg, ministering Bro. Ken and Sis. Sharon Lawson, (Phoenix, AZ) and Bro. Lynn and Sis. Sylvia Knapp (Cissna Park, IL).

On the weekend of October 8, we were blessed to have our ministering Bro. Tom Waldbeser ordained as a Deacon. It was truly a blessing to see God's hand at work in our church. We would like to thank all those who gave of themselves that weekend and ap-



preciated Bro. Ted Hirstein, and Elder Bros. Wendell Gudeman, Dale Eisenmann, and Dan Kilgus.

We also want to thank other brothers which served us this past month. They were Bro. Dale Stoller, Bro. Dave Marquart, Bro. Ed Fritz., and Bro. Greg Stieglitz.

We extend our sympathy to our Bro. Bud and Sis. Billie Klopfenstein in the passing of his sister, Marciel Zeltwanger (Don), of Bremen, Indiana.

Lastly, our church wants to thank Bro. John and Sis. Mary Brewer for opening their home for an all church bonfire. The fellowship was truly a blessing, specifically our time with sanguine Will Olar.

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### ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE

**Doreen Moser  
Sheila McCoy**

How can I say thanks for the  
things Thou hast done for me?  
Things so undeserved, yet Thou  
gave to prove Thy love for me  
The voices of a million angels  
could not express my gratitude.  
All that I am and ever hope to be I  
owe it all to Thee!

How can we say thanks?

For our ministers, that labor each and every Sunday and also for our visiting ministers that come with their families to spend the day with us. We can say thanks but we also can pay attention, stay awake and sit up close to the front to show our appreciation for the love they show us. Bro. Virgil Metzger (Sis. Mary, Chicago, IL) and Bro. Dan Moser (Sis. Anne, Elgin, IL) spent recent Sundays in our midst. If we didn't get a chance to personally say thanks, hopefully being in our midst they felt our love for them and their labors.

To God be the glory, to God be the  
glory

To God be the glory, for the things  
He has done.

With His blood He has saved me  
With His power He has raised me  
To God be the glory, for the things  
He has done.

How can we say thanks?

For bringing loved ones to repentance. Jordan Steffen (Bro. Dean and Sis. Carol) and Joe Darlington (Jerry and Sis. Sandy) have begun to seek out the Lord and to understand His saving power and the blood that He shed for their sins. Truly the glory goes to God as only He can change and move a heart. May we as a congregation pray for them and share what His blood and power has done for us.

Just let me live my life and let it  
be pleasing, Lord, to Thee  
And should I gain any praise let it  
go to Calvary  
With His blood He has saved me  
With His power He has raised me  
To God be the glory, for the things  
He has done.

How can we say thanks?

By living our lives so that it pleases the Lord at all times. Spending time with our brothers and sisters in the Lord, raising our voices in song, worshipping together during our recent invite a friend weekend surely shows our thankful hearts.

The annual harvest gathering was held at the Mosers this month and we found many ways to say thanks for the abundant harvest the Lord has blessed us with.

As we celebrate Thanksgiving and look forward to celebrating the birth of Jesus, may we remember to say THANKS and to give God the glory for the things He has done!

### ILLINOIS BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL Ann Nussbaum Jen Heiniger

Our sympathies are extended to Sis. Ruth Lowery and Sis. Dorothy Harsh in the death of their sister, Sis. Marie Meyer, of Eureka. May the Lord comfort your family during this time.

We rejoice with Bro. Ben and Sis. Kristy Luginbuhl at the safe arrival of their son Cole on November 2. He joins big brother Cade. His grandparents are Bro. Ray and Sis. Carol Luginbuhl (Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Bill and Sis. Kathy Stoller (Princeville, IL).

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### ILLINOIS, BRADFORD Steve Endress

We are thankful to God for ministering Bros. Alan Schambach (Remington, IN) and Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL) who visited us during the past month.

Keith Endress was married to Ana Lara on October 25. We wish them a life of blessings.

Bro. Ray Klumpp underwent surgery and is now recovering. We pray that he can receive a full recovery from God's hand, if it be His will.

We are thankful to announce the engagement of Sis. Trisha Kellenberger (Bro. Keith and Sis. Ida) to Bro. Doug Rocke from Tremont, IL (Sis. Kathy and the late Bro. Nelson). We wish them the blessings of God as they prepare for marriage.

We enjoyed hosting the Morton congregation for a Sunday evening singing. We appreciated the effort so many made in joining us to praise our Lord in song.

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**ILLINOIS, CHICAGO****Rachel Meyer**

We are thankful to have had several visiting ministers this past month. Elder Bros. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL), Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA), and Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL) assembled with us. Bro. Wayne Grimm assisted with our Communion Service and Bro. Jim presented a Topical Bible Study entitled, "Avoiding Deception in Today's World." Also ministering to us this past month were Bros. Ken Schneider (Remington, IN), Erik Givens (Princeville, IL) and Walt Rager (Toledo, OH). To all of these brothers we extend appreciation for being willing to preach God's Word.

It was a blessing to see and hear our Sunday School students and teachers praising God in song. Every year, on the Sunday following Communion, the Sunday School sings for us after morning service. It is fitting.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Blake and Sis. Christine Stahl and Bro. Eric and Sis. Gina Hodel as Christine and Eric's grandmother, Maurine Zobrist, passed away. Bro. Lenny and Sis. Charlotte Meyer, along with Bro. Rick and I, thank everyone for the sympathy and love extended upon the passing of our dear mother and grandmother, Sis. Marie Meyer (Eureka, IL). We were reminded that when a Christian dies, it is precious in the sight of the Lord.

We are happy to welcome Sis. Shara Dotterer of the Forrest/Fairbury area. Shara has started chef school and it is a pleasure to have her with us. Peter Fischer of Leo is now working in our area. We welcome both of these individuals to Chicago and encourage them to gather with us for worship and fellowship.

Watching the casket of a loved one ready to be buried is heart-wrenching. It was a cold day, the day Grandmother was buried. And as I

shivered, watching the casket, I remembered hearing one time of a grief-stricken survivor crying because she was worried about her loved one not being warm enough in the casket. Grief can cause many thoughts, rational and irrational, to come to mind, which is understandable. But I did not fear for Grandmother's comfort. Her form and visage may have still been apparent, but the most important part of her — her eternal soul — was no longer there.

**ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK****Pam Walder  
Andrea Walder**

Our congregation bid farewell to Bro. Lynn and Sis. Sylvia Knapp with a farewell singing. They will be assembling with the Atlanta brethren. We wish them God's blessings and hope they will come back and visit us often.

Bro. John and Sis. Jayne Conrad have been blessed with another grandchild. Luke Aaron was born to Blake and Rachel Graham of Peoria. Also, Sis. Dorothy (late Bro. Dale) Walder is thankful for the safe arrival of Gavin Braden, born to Joe and Tricia Walder of Hoopeston.

The engagement of Sally Kaufmann (Bro. Larry and Sis. Jeanne) to Matthew Walton of Richmond, VA, was made known. Also engaged are Matthew Young (Bro. Melvin and Sis. Marilyn) to Jen Steffen (Bro. Mark and Sis. Kanda) of Gridley, IL. May these couples feel God's nearness as they plan for their future lives together.

Our hospital patients this month were Bill (Judy) Drayer and Bro. Ed (Sis. Marge) Alt. We're thankful to have them back assembling with us again.

On the pulpit this month we've been blessed with many visitors.

They are Bros. Dennis Rassi (Fairbury), Jeff Neihouser (Francesville), Tim Hohulin (Roanoke), Marvin Lemman (Bradford), Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield), Vernon Wettstein (Congerville), Lucas Frank, Jessie Bedolla and Randall Gasser (Detroit). May God reward these brothers for their labors.

**ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE****Rachel Schrock**

"Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us."

*Matthew 1:23*

As we remember the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ this Christmas season, may our prayer be that God will be with us today, tomorrow, and forever. Amen.

There are a couple families in our congregation who have an extra blessing this Christmas with the birth of their first child. Bro. Ben and Sis. Kristan Craig welcomed Liberty Joy on November 8. Her thankful grandparents include Bro. Kim and Sis. Carol Craig and Clair and Sis. Bev Keever (Mansfield, OH).

Troy Michael made his appearance on November 13. His rejoicing parents are Bro. Brian and Sis. Holly Zobrist. Grandparents include Bro. Clarence and Sis. Luann Zobrist and Bro. Scott and Sis. Jan Stickling.

We are grateful for those who stand and bring forth the Word of God to us each Sunday and Wednesday evening, helping us to remain on the Heavenly pathway so that God will continue to be with us. We appreciate our home ministering brethren as well as Bro. Ken Eisenmann (Sis. Sharon, Cissna Park, IL) and Bro. Kevin Banwart (West Bend, IA) who



visited us recently.

Our prayer for our friends always is that God will continue to call them until they open their hearts to Him. We enjoyed having the area Bible Classes in our midst for ACYF programs recently. A big thank you to their teachers who give a lot of their love and time for these souls.

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## ILLINOIS, ELGIN

**Amy Gasser  
Miriam Gasser**

The blessed story of the Christ,  
The babe of Bethlehem,  
Is worthy of our song and praise,  
And stirs the hearts of men.  
The fullness of God's love divine,  
surrounds the Christ so mild.  
Alas, how many only know  
the Saviour as a child.

*Hymns of Zion #36*

We were uplifted by the services of our two visiting ministers, Bros. Earl Beery (Rittman, OH) and Greg Stieglitz (Indianapolis, IN) and thank these brothers for lending themselves on our behalf.

It was encouraging to hear that Garrison Gudeman (Tom and Elaine) has answered God's call to repentance. He is attending Purdue University in Indiana. On the weekend of November 4 and 5, Kirk Schambach (Bro. Les and Sis. Alison) gave his testimony and was baptized. We welcome Bro. Kirk into the fold and pray that both of these young men will grow and prosper in the ways of the Lord.

Dwayne Schock (Jayne) remains hospitalized in Chicago after triple-bypass surgery. Another recent surgical patient was Bro. Jeff Kellenberger (Sis. Julie). May strength and healing be granted to each one.

Sisters Nina Willaert and Julia

Graf suffered the loss of their brother, Walter Graf (Elgin, IL), on November 4, and Sis. Dorothy Schifferer lost her brother, Richard Wascher (Sharon, WI), on November 12. What a comfort to think Jesus knows our sorrow—knows our every care!

After living with her daughter and son-in-law, Dorothy Jones moved from Bro. Bill and Sis. Sandy Kinsinger's home to Countryside Manor. We hope that seeing familiar visitors and being able to continue to attend church has eased the transition for Dorothy.

Please remember Elder Bro. Ron and Sis. Nancy Schambach's family in prayer, as their daughter, Charlene McWilliams, plans to leave December 1 for a one-year tour of duty in Iraq. She is currently living in Honolulu, HI, with her husband, Grant, and will be serving in the military to fulfill an obligation for her medical education.

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## ILLINOIS, EUREKA

**Cindy Stoller  
Lisa Metzger**

We rejoice with several parents in the birth of four new babies this month. The first was Warren Paul, born to Bro. Lowell and Sis. Molly Stoller, brother of Isaac. Grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Jane Stoller and Bro. Paul and Sis. Kris Schmidgall. Secondly, was Ernest John, first-born of Bro. Jake and Sis. Janell Fehr. Grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Sandy Fehr and Bro. Tim and Sis. Donna Carr. Next was baby girl, Kimberly Sue, second child of Bro. Christopher and Sis. Liz Schmidgall. Her older sister is Ellie, and grandparents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Kary Schmidgall and Elder Bro. Bruce and Sis. Charlene Hohulin (Goodfield, IL). Finally, Lena Rose is welcomed home by Bro. Brent and

Sis. Kelli Vierling and their son, Nathan. Grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Linda Vierling and Bro. Jerry and Sis. Kathy Leman.

We are so thankful for Lanie Frank, for she has begun to seek the Lord in repentance. Her parents are Bro. Scott and Sis. Elaine Frank. "In days of youth, seek ye the Lord, His love and truth with one accord." We wish her much grace and joy in the new way.

Our medical and hospital patients this month include Sis. Cindy Kupferschmid (Bro. Rod), Sis. Millie Prather (Bro. Jack), Bro. Lewis Martin (Sis. Arletta), and Sis. Ida Pfaffmann. We commit them to the Lord in prayer.

Visiting ministers recently include Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Bros. Ben Walder and Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL), Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO), Tony Manz (Junction, OH), Randy Mogler (Washington, IL), Duane Rocke (Minneapolis, MN), John Hartman (Fairbury, IL), Bruce Frank (Cissna Park, IL) Gary Endress (Bradford, IL) and Glen Braker (Princeville, IL). It is a wonderful blessing that our fellowship allows and promotes travel and sharing of the same Word and faith amongst different congregations.

As our weddings continue, we are thankful for Bro. Jeremy Knecht (Bro. Ervin and Sis. Sandy) and Sis. Kalsey Leman (Bro. Kent and Sis. Chris) who were wed on November 12. Also, Bro. Jared Fehr (Bro. Ken and Sis. Sandy) and Sis. Sarah Stoller (Bro. Tom and Sis. Edie) were united on November 26. We wish these couples much joy and peace in their new positions of life. "May they with holy lives adorn Thy doctrine, Lord, and be, amid life's sunshine and it's storm, true witnesses for Thee."

We have said final farewells to our Sis. Marie Meyer and Bro. Melvin



Stoller as their final earthly breaths have been taken. We pray for their sorrowing families and friends, committing them to the Lord in this time and all times of grief.

*Note of Thanks:*

We wish to thank all of our loved ones who prayed for us, encouraged us, and gave us help and support through the time of Nate's chainsaw accident and recovery. Most of all we thank God for His provision, mercy, and healing power and for compassionately listening to your prayers for us.

*Sincerely, Bro. Nathan and Sis. Cheryl Wiegand*

## ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

### Anna Schmidgall

#### Lila Fehr

Our Bible class was privileged to host the Bern/Sabetha, KS, and Remington/Wolcott, IN, Sunday school classes this month. We were all encouraged to witness the vitality of our youth and were reminded to teach them the Truth since they are our future church.

We were blessed with many visiting ministers this month: Bros. Steve Sauder, Tom Bolliger, Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL), Bros. Duane Roche and Dewayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN), Bros. Brian Waibel (Champaign), Paul Schmidgall (Morris, MN), Trent Meiss (Eureka), Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN), and Greg Rassi (Chicago).

We're praying that God will grant continued grace to our two new converts, Nathan Mashburn (Billy and Sis. Barb) and Denver Rassi (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Diane).

Many gathered together on November 19 to share in the joy of Bro. Darl Rassi (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Diane) and Sis. Janelle Schmidgall

(Bro. Bill and Sis. Anna) on their wedding day. May they continue to put their trust in God as they continue to serve Him together.

We have three little additions to our congregation! Bro. Nick and Sis. Lori Roth now have a daughter, Mya Rose, and her brother Ty has a new playmate. Mya's grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Debra Roth (Forrest) and Bro. Walt and Sis. Rose Edelman. Tim and Dawn Huber welcomed little Addison Dawn to their family. Addison's grandparents are Bro. Rich and Sis. Dawn Huber and Ralph and Martha Fehr. Rocky Alexander joins the family of Bro. Phillip and Sis. Lana Steidinger. Welcoming him home are Naomi, Chloe, and Rudy, and his grandparents, Bro. Dennis and Sis. Jane Steidinger and Bro. Norman and Sis. Lollie Young.

## ILLINOIS, FORREST

### Jill Wenger

#### Lori Leman

Our spirits were encouraged to hear the testimony and witness the baptism of our new brother in Christ, Scott Schmidgall (Bro. John and Sis. Janet) on October 21-22. We also are rejoicing with the angels in heaven as two souls have recently knelt at the cross and began their repentance. These new converts are Lori Ifft (Bro. Larry and Sis. Shirley) and Kevin Slagel (Jodi).

We extend our love and sympathy to the family of Sis. Dorothy (Bro. Alf) Bachtold as she has passed into eternity. She leaves a son, Bro. Marvin (Sis. Mary) Bachtold; two daughters, Bernice (Tim) Zeigler, Springfield, MO, Doris (David) Roberts, St. Anne, IL; and 10 grandchildren to mourn her passing, along with her sister, Sis. Elna Nussbaum, and brother, Bro. Dick (Sis. Betty) Wiegand, of Fairbury, IL.

Bro. Vernon Edelman was called

Home to meet his Lord on October 23. Bro. Vernon and his dear wife, Sis. Ruth, both gave a testimony of repentance and conversion and were baptized on September 20. Praise be to God that he could leave this life with a hope and a peace! Surviving are his wife, Sis. Ruth; two sons, Warren (Sis. Cindy) and Bro. Dennis; one daughter, Sis. Barb; and two granddaughters. His grieving siblings are: Bro. Levi Edelman (Sis. Donna) of Forrest, IL, Robert Edelman (Mary) and Bro. Walter Edelman (Sis. Rosetta) of Fairbury, IL, Bro. Albert Edelman (Sis. Mara Jean) of Lamont-Gridley, KS, Mary Ann Bolliger of Silverton, OR, Sis. Kathryn Fehr (Bro. Glenn) of Fairbury, IL, Alice Stork (Harvey) of Chenoa, IL, Sis. Ella Marie and Sis. Rosalie Edelman, both of Scottsdale, AZ.

Bro. Don and Barb Hall and family feel the loss of Bro. Don's father, Leo Hall, of Mahomet, IL. May God be with each of the above mentioned families in this time of sorrow and loss.

It's always a joy when new babies arrive safely and healthy into families. Clarissa, Travis and Preston Mueller welcomed home their new little brother, Justin Nathan. Thankful for his safe arrival are his parents, Bro. Jeff and Sis. Sarah Mueller, and grandparents, Bro. Ed and Sis. Renee Wenger and Bro. Ron, Sr. and Sis. Loida Mueller.

Bro. Buck and Sis. Taunia, Samaria and Josiah Henry are excited to have another little boy born into their family circle. Isaiah Zion is loved by his grandparents, Bro. Roger and Sis. Elaine Witzig (Eureka, IL) and Reginald and Edith Henry (Hudson, IL).

A fourth son named Keegan Aron Lee was born to Bro. Don and Barb Hall. His siblings, Blake, Shelby, Dakota and Skyler, along with grandparents, Bro. Dean and Sis. Robin



Kupferschmid, shower him with love and attention.

Sis. Laura Stoller (Bro. Greg and Sis. Jill) became the bride of Bro. David Braker (Bro. Roy and Sis. Judy) of Lamar, MO, on November 12. We wish this new couple God's blessings as they start their married life together.

Our hospital patients for this month were Bro. LeRoy Koehl (Sis. Juanita), Sis. Nettie Kyburz, Blake Hall (Bro. Don and Barb) and Sis. Dorothy (Carl) Bachtold. We continue to pray for their recovery.

Our prayers ascend up to the Heavenly Father at the beginning of each service that He would be present and bless the message. Time after time our prayers are fulfilled through ministers willing to be used as empty vessels for the Holy Spirit to fill. We appreciate our many visiting ministers willing to come and share God's Word with our congregation. They were: Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA), Elder Bro. Rick Plattner (Fairbury, IL), Bro. Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL), Bro. Paul Kilgus (Fairbury, IL), Bro. Tim Gerber (Mansfield, OH), Bro. Dan Koch (Tremont, IL), Bro. Robert Beebe (South Bend, IN), Bro. Kevin Banwart (West Bend, IA), Bro. Lennie Meyer (Chicago, IL), Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi (Lamar, MO), Bro. Beirne Messner (Morris, MN), Bro. Don Manz (Junction, OH), and Bro. Greg Braker (Lamar, MO). May each one receive a blessing of the Lord in return.

#### *Notes of Thanks:*

I would like to thank all who remembered me with prayers, phone calls, notes and personal visits during the time of my surgery and recovery at the nursing home. It was so good to be able to come to church again and feel the warmth, love and friendship which I have always appreciated.

May God bless each one of you.

*Sincerely,*

*Sis. Dorothy (Carl) Bachtold*

Our thanks to all who remembered our family with prayers, cards, food and acts of kindness at the time of Vernon's death. May God bless each one of you.

*The Vernon Edelman family*

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### **ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD** **Amber Grimm** **Rita Bauman**

As Fall draws to an end, and we look forward to the Christmas season, let's be reminded to be truly thankful people for the many blessings we share, especially to God for Jesus Christ and the gift of salvation through Him.

We were blessed to have visiting Bro. Stephen Baner (Sis. Donna Lou, Gridley, IL) minister to us from God's Word this past month.

Our prayers are with Sis. Mildred Bauman as her sister, Maureen Zobrist, passed away. May God be her Comforter.

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

*Psalm 127:3*

On November 1, a precious baby boy, Kody Thomas, was welcomed into the family of Bro. Greg and Sis. Missy Post along with their children, Cassidy and Aiden. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Les and Sis. Helen Bauman and Bro. Gary and Sis. Kathy Post, Tremont, IL.

Five days later, Jayden Grimm became a big brother to Andrew Jeffrey. His thankful parents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Amber Grimm and grandparents, Bro. Jeff and Sis. Ruth Grimm and Sis. Sharon and the late

Bro. Terry Adams, Forrest, IL. Our prayer is that God will bless these families.

We offer prayers of healing for Bro. Jason Schick, Sis. Laura Steffen, BJ Hinrichsen, and Sis. Vi Hohulin as each of these have recently spent some time in the hospital.

Believing it is the Lord's will for their lives, Sis. Meika Monfre (Bro. Tony and Sis. Deonne) and Bro. Jake Gerst (Bro. Wally and Donna, Alto, MI) have announced their engagement. May they feel God's continued guidance in their lives as they prepare for marriage.

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### **ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY** **Perry Klopfenstein**

We are happy for Michelle Krug and her new husband, Gene Compton, Jr., of Lexington. They were married on September 23. She is the daughter of Sis. Linda Krug, Gridley, and Duane Krug of El Paso. His parents are Kathy Compton of Bloomington, and the late Gene Compton, Sr. We wish them many blessings in this second most important step in life.

On Sunday, November 19, a Taylor, MO, choral group gave a presentation at our Monthly Singing. Visiting ministers that day were Bro. Arnie Gerst (Taylor, MO) and Bro. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS). We enjoyed the fellowship with the Taylor group and others from afar.

On Thanksgiving morning our visiting minister was Bro. Bruce Endress (Bradford, IL).

Preston Klopfenstein was proved and baptized during the weekend of November 4 and 5. Present for the occasion was Elder Bro. Rick Plattner (Fairbury, IL). Bro. Preston is the son of Bro. Perry and Sis. Carol Klopfenstein. We wish him God's grace as he strives to walk on the narrow way.



Bro. Randy Funk has been ill. Bro. Herb Gramm was ill, but has recovered. May God be with those who suffer from health issues. God can heal according to His will.

In last month's issue we neglected to mention that newly-born Joah Christian Knapp, infant son of Bro. Mark and Sis. Kathy Knapp, has a brother, Jeremy, age 1.

The Christmas season is fast approaching, with much focus on the secular aspects of this annual celebration. May God guide the believer into a profound sense of realizing the true meaning of the season — the birth of the Saviour! Bro. Arnie Gerst, in his meditation on November 19, spoke about the host of spirits that can engulf the believer. He indicated we are to prove the spirits, and insure that the true Spirit is guiding us. During the Christmas season, it is a perfect time to discern the Spirit, and lay aside the empty spirits that want to embrace the multitudes.

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## ILLINOIS, MORTON

**Annette Tanner  
Julie Bahr**

The end of another year gives us a chance to reflect and recall the many lessons God has taught us. This Christmas season take some time to recall the highlights of your journey spent knowing God and His goodness.

Family worship night by Bro. Jedd Rocke (Sis. Marsha, Goodfield, IL) was entitled "Mr. Selfishness, Mr. Curiosity and Mr. Kindness". The scriptures clearly direct us in ways to conduct ourselves as believers. Our thanks to ministering Bro. Frank Sauder (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL). Bro. Frank lent himself to share a powerful message with the Bible class.

We want to heartily welcome another new family to Morton: Bro.

Curt and Sis. Cassie Meiss along with children, Gabe, Tanner, Parker and Macy. They have moved here from Gridley. We are thankful to God for drawing them to Morton.

The Morton church facilitated a marriage retreat in October. Bro. Ted Witzig, Jr. and Elder Bro. Ron Messner from the Apostolic Christian Counseling and Family Services offered scriptures and practical insights to aid in strengthening our marriages. The weekend was spiritually uplifting - inspiring us to keep our marriage maintenance up with that regular "oil change". A valuable piece of advice!

A special thank you to the Bradford congregation for hosting a wonderful evening of fellowship and singing on November 12. An invitation gratefully appreciated by the Morton congregation.

A new baby daughter, Bennett Marie, was born to Spencer and Libby Swearingen on October 10. Her grandparents are Bill and Sis. Cindy Wiedman.

On November 5, Alexa Lynn Mangers blessed the home of Bro. Doug and Sis. Kary Mangers. Grandparents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Margie Ackerman and Bro. Dennis and Sis. Cheryl Mangers (Champaign, IL).

Another precious little one was born on November 11. A son, Beau Richard Kaufmann, entered the hearts and home of Bro. Brad and Sis. Tonya. Siblings are Domniq and Sophia. Grandparents are Bro. Fred and Sis. Chelly Kaiser and Bro. Dale and Sis. Jane Kaufmann (Tremont, IL).

Bro. Mike and Sis. Sue Zimmerman have been doubly blessed with two new grandchildren. Lexi Rose was born October 20 to Bro. Jonathan and Sis. Megan Hodel (Roanoke, IL). Dexter and Hattie are little Levi's siblings. Paternal grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Linda Hodel (Roanoke,

IL). Bro. Drew and Sis. Amanda Leman, along with little Will, welcomed Miles Weston on November 14. Bro. Bill and Sis. Jeanne Leman (Roanoke, IL) are the paternal grandparents.

Sis. Lourine Schieber went to her heavenly home on October 23. Sis. Lourine is the mother to Leon (Ellen) Schieber. Ellen is the Director of Nursing at our Restmor Nursing Home facility.

Our great God called home our dear Sis. Dorthy Krantz on October 25. Surviving is her husband, Bro. Jack; a son, Greg (Stacy) Krantz; and a daughter, Angela (Terry) Clark.

On November 14, Bro. Jacob Plattner went to meet his Savior. He is survived by his wife, Sis. Bernice; a daughter, Karen (Mike) Heeb; and two sons, Bro. Jake (Sis. Jeanne) Plattner and Bro. Paul (Sis. Susan) Plattner. Our deepest sympathy is extended to each one of these families as they have laid their dear precious loved ones to rest. Let God bless each one.

### *Note of Thanks:*

The family of Jacob C. Plattner thanks all those who so generously provided the memorial donations, flowers, food, cards, and their support following the passing of their father on November 4.

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## ILLINOIS, PEORIA

**Kristin Menold  
Carissa Klopfenstein**

Bro. Josh and Sis. Bethany Hoerr are proud parents for the first time. Layla Morgan was born on Wednesday, November 15, at Methodist Hospital. Layla's maternal grandparents are Bro. Chris and Sis. Patty Kummer and paternal grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Myrna Hoerr, all of Peoria. We thank God for her safe arrival and rejoice with their



family.

We rejoice with Bro. Craig and Sis. Jacki Stickling as their daughter, Whittney, has begun her walk with the Lord. We pray that the Lord will bless her and give her grace for her journey through life with Christ.

Our prayers are with Sis. Gladys Binkele, Bro. Bob Binkele and Jean Meister for improved health; Bro. Craig and Sis. Jackie Stickling in the passing of Sis. Jacki's brother, Doug Zobrist, from Goodfield; and Bro. Mel and Sis. Margaret Getz in the passing of Margaret's brother, Kenneth Wiegand, from Morton.

The Senior Citizen's Dinner was a huge success. Thanks to those members of the Peoria Young Group for their efforts to put this together and to the wonderful moms and dads that pitched in and cooked the delicious dinner. We hope the evening was an enjoyable one and that our elderly brothers and sisters received a blessing.

Lighthouse Academy's Spaghetti Dinner and Auction held at the Peoria Fellowship Hall was well attended and the Spaghetti (compliments of Avantis) was delicious! There were many interesting and useful items (also some strange and not so useful items) that were sold for various prices and the event netted a good deal of money which will go toward operations for the school. The students and families wish to thank all that attended and made this event a success, especially Bro. Clark Stoller from Gridley, for his service as the auctioneer.

The Peoria Choir traveled to Wolcott, IN, on Sunday, November 12. This was the first time for many of the members of our choir to visit Wolcott. It was good to form new friendships with the brethren and enjoy worshiping together through song. Thank you to the Wolcott congregation for your hospitality and we

pray that you were encouraged and your faith strengthened through the message of hope and truth.

As Thanksgiving approaches, we are reminded of the many blessings that the Lord has given to us. Let's be sure to thank Him.

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### ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

#### Vera Baer Connie Christ

We were blessed to have many visiting ministering brothers this month. We are thankful for their willingness to serve us. They included Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Lacrosse, IN) who assisted our Elder Bro. Jim in reading us the Memorandum. Also serving us were Elder Bros. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL), Mark Streitmatter (Bloomington, IL), Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) and ministering Bros. Steve Sauder (Tremont, IL), Wayne Leman (Roanoke, IL) and Ted Steffen (Alto, MI). We are also grateful to Bro. Ron Heiniger (Bloomington, IL) for coming to share with us for a Bible Study.

We have had several from our congregation suffering the illnesses of the flesh. Sis. Phyllis Knobloch, Sis. Tiffany (Bro. Larry) Martin, and Tanner Graham (Bro. Brent and Sis. Deb) all had surgery and we are thankful they are all home and recovering. Also, Deryk Rumbold (Bro. Gregg and Sis. Heather) spent a brief time in the hospital. Our prayers are with all of these as well as Bro. Nick (Sis. Gladys) Knobloch who has been having treatments. May God be near and provide strength and courage.

We rejoice with the angels in heaven as well as with Bro. Marvin and Sis. Lavonne Herrmann as their son, Brett, and his wife, Laura (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Janice Sauder, Tremont, IL), are repenting and seeking God's direction in their lives.

We welcome Sis. Doreen Meyer

into our church family as she has moved to the Peoria Skylines Home. She is Sis. Mary Lou Streitmatter's sister. Also, Sis. Helen Schick has recently moved to the Peoria Skylines and is currently residing there. May God be with them as they adjust to their moves.

On November 19 we were thankful to welcome three new young sisters in faith into our congregation. They are Rebekah Herrmann (Bro. Roger and Sis. Darlene), Kalla Knobloch (Bro. Alan and Sis. Mary Ann), and Myca Steffen (Bro. Matt and Sis. Deanna). We thank Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) for assisting in this most joyous weekend.

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### ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

#### Dee Fehr Judy Sauder

"...but by love serve one another." (Gal. 5:13). Our congregation has had numerous opportunities to serve one another this past month. On October 31, the young group entertained the youth of our congregation by hosting a "Harvest Party" with various supervised activities. Then on November 4 the young group offered assistance to those in our congregation who wanted to have their leaves raked. They raked a total of eleven yards that day. Also on November 4, our annual Nursing Home Benefit Day was held. Proceeds will go to kitchen renovation at the nursing home. We are grateful for all those who willingly give of their time and resources to help others.

"And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up;" (James 5:15). Bro. Harland (Sis. Martha) Braker, Bro. Gene (Sis. Margaret) Fehr, and Sis. Dorothy Martin, have all been hospitalized this past month. We pray for God's gift of healing upon them.

"Lo, children are an heritage of



the Lord." (Ps. 127:3). Our congregation has been blessed with several new babies this month. Bro. Neal and Sis. Jessica Beer welcomed Jackson Reid into their family on October 19. Big sister Riley is thrilled for his arrival as are grandparents, Bro. John and Sis. Linda Hodel and Bro. Dan and Sis. Deb Beer (Milford). The following day, October 20, Bro. John and Sis. Linda Hodel again became grandparents when Lexi Rose was born to Bro. Jonathan and Sis. Megan Hodel. Dexter, Hattie, and grandparents, Bro. Mike and Sis. Sue Zimmerman (Morton), are excited about this new addition to their family. Then on October 30, Bro. Jeff and Sis. Jenny Hodel became parents of Abigail Jean. Her older brothers and sister are Jake, Max, Reuben, and Jessie. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Max and Sis. Judy Reimschisel (Wichita) and Bro. Ken and Sis. Kathy Hodel. Bro. Mike and Sis. Sue Zimmerman (Morton) again became grandparents when Miles Weston was born to Bro. Drew and Sis. Amanda Leman on November 14. Big brother, Will, and grandparents, Bro. Bill and Sis. Jeanne Leman, welcome him home.

On November 4, Tom Sauder and Amy Gangloff were united in marriage. Parents of the couple are Charles and Brenda Gangloff of Metamora and Bro. Tom and Sis. Mary Sauder. We wish Tom and Amy God's rich blessings as they begin married life.

On October 25, Bro. Dave Oberfel (Peoria) presented his topic "One Degree" for our monthly Family Worship. He applied Biblical teachings and exhorted us that small things can make a big difference in our lives as Christians. He discussed the difference between faith and fear, standing firm and running, and victory (spiritual growth) and defeat (staying in a rut). We were challenged

to trust and believe more. We thank Bro. Dave for his timely message.

We heartily welcome two sisters to our congregation. Sis. Tina Leman has moved back to this area after a season of working in Chicago and worshiping with the congregation there. Sis. Ruth Wuthrich has moved here from Phoenix and is residing at the Country View apartments. We are thankful to have them both.

On October 22, the Gridley church hosted our Bible Class students for a day of worship and other activities. We thank the Gridley congregation for their love and hospitality.

#### *Note of Thanks:*

We have suffered a great loss in the passing of Bro. Richard Bowald. I am very grateful to our ministers and all of you for your love, visits and encouraging words and especially for your prayers for Dick during his stay at the Apostolic Christian Home. I know there is great strength in prayer, and appreciate and thank you for your prayers, all your acts of kindness, memorials and love shown to us since the passing of our loving husband and father. Thank you and may God bless you all.

*Sis. Mardell Bowald and families*

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### **ILLINOIS, TREMONT** **Teresa Rowell** **Sheri Allen**

The Christmas season is upon us. What are we doing to keep Christ at the forefront of our minds? Are we so caught up in the lights and tinsel that we forget the real reason for the season? The song "The Babe of Bethlehem" (Hymns of Zion #36) comes to mind when I think of Christmas and the reason Jesus came to earth.

The blessed story of the Christ,  
The Babe of Bethlehem,  
Is worthy of our song and praise,

And stirs the hearts of men.  
The fullness of God's love divine,  
Surrounds the Christ so mild  
Alas, how many only know  
The Saviour as a child.

Our saving hope is all in vain,  
If here our love should cease,  
For in the man of Galilee,  
We find the gift of peace.  
'Tis not the babe but Christ, the  
man,  
Who walked in Galilee;  
'Tis not the manger, but the cross,  
That sets the spirit free.

Be not content this babe to know,  
Nor stay in Bethlehem,  
But go with Christ to Calvary's  
brow,  
Beyond Jerusalem.  
'Tis there men learn to know the  
Christ,  
For there He bore man's sin.  
Then open wide the door of heart,  
And let the Saviour in.

We had the privilege of three visiting ministers this month. Bro. Floyd Frieden (Sis. Jan, Elgin, IA), Bro. Steve Martin (Sis. Vicki, Eureka, IL) and Bro. Mike Rinkenberger (Sis. Pat, Congerville, IL) labored from the pulpit and we thank them for their willingness to preach God's Word.

We were happy to hear of the engagement and forthcoming wedding of our Bro. Doug Rocke and Sis. Trisha Kellenberger (Bro. Keith and Sis. Ida) from Bradford, IL. We wish them God's richest blessings as they begin a life together.

We pray for God's healing hand on our hospital patients, Sis. Wilma Aberle (Bro. Emil) and Tyler Lennington (Bro. Shawn's father). May they feel the prayers offered to the Throne on their behalf.

We extend our sincere sympathy to the family of Sis. Violet Koch who passed away. She leaves behind 7



brothers: Bro. Dave, Sr. (Sis. Francie), Bro. Dan, Sr. (Sis. Carol), Bro. Eugene, Bro. Elmon (Sis. Janice), Bro. Vernon (Sis. Ruth), Bro. Cleo (Sis. Nancy), Gerald (Bonnie); two sisters, Sis. Carolyn Bolliger and Sis. Miriam (Bro. Marvin) Frank; and many nieces and nephews and great nieces and nephews.

*Note of Thanks:*

We want to thank you all from far and near who sent cards and gifts of love on our Golden Anniversary.

*Bro. Bob and Sis. Dorothy Wagenbach*

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## ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

### Nancy Knepp Elizabeth Heinold

We were thankful to have Bro. Trent Meiss (Sis. Lucy, Eureka, IL) come and share at our monthly Bible Study. We appreciated Elder Bro. Mark Streitmatter (Bloomington, IL) with us for our Invite A Guest Sunday and the Word he brought to us.

We were encouraged to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of Kara Lea Thames (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Brenda) and Layne Steffen (Bro. Scott and Sis. Marvella). We appreciated having Elder Bro. Ted Witzig (Sis. Cindy, Morton, IL) and Bro. Kevin Knapp (Sis. Dixie, Bloomington, IL) with us for this special weekend. The Lord continues to work in the lives of those who seek Him!

Our prayers are with our Sis. Sue Ruppert as she deals with discomfort and waits for surgery in the near future. There are several in our congregation dealing with cancer, health issues, questions, and uncertain futures. We think of them often and remember them in prayer.

There are several families who have lost loved ones this past month. Les Meeks, father of our Sis. Tammie

Herrmann (Bro. Mark), passed away. Also Janet Hodel's (Kent) mother, Maurine Zobrist, from Metamora, and our Bro. Richard Stoller's (Sis. Kathy) father, Bro. Melvin Stoller, of Eureka have left this earth behind and gone into eternity. Our sympathy goes to these dear families.

We were happy to hear the engagement of Bro. Kenton Snyder (Bro. Greg and Sis. Kara, Kansas City, MO) to Sis. Heidi Heimer (Bro. Rod and Sis. Barb, Taylor, MO). Bro. Kenton has recently made Washington his church and we look forward to getting to fellowship with this couple in the future.

We have a three year old who thinks cough drops look like fun candy. She likes to try to persuade me to give her one when I am using them for a cold. Recently, she saw me eating one and said, "Mom, my eye hurts! I need a cough drop!" After thinking about her request and how she really didn't need a cough drop to fix her eye, I wondered if I've made the same types of requests to God. Requests that I wanted to believe were urgent and critical for my well-being, but were really selfish and meant to fill a void only He Himself could fill. "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts." (Psalm 139:23)

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## INDIANA, BLUFFTON

### Amber Steffen Amy Gerber

"For we being many are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another."

*Romans 12:5*

The members of the body in Bluffton have had numerous opportunities to be used for Christ in the recent months. It's so encouraging to see the body working together to

bring a more bountiful harvest. Currently, we have three brothers being used in India on the behalf of RGMMI: Joe Gerber, Jon Ringger, and Rich Pfister. As they are used in this situation, our sincerest prayers go with them and their mission.

Young brothers engaged or married 15 years or less participated in a group that talked about finding freedom. This provided a time for young men to connect to each other and find greater ways for outreach within their homes. We are thankful for their passion and their desire to be used for Christ.

Efforts were also made November 5 when the Young Group hosted their annual "Love One Another" dinner for the widows and widowers. This special time provided an opportunity to connect younger and older members of our congregation. It's always encouraging to see how the bond of Christ can bridge any age gap that may hinder the rest of the world!

October 27 also was the date of the Kingdom Academy fundraiser. Each year all those involved are encouraged by the outpour of donations and love given, and they expressed their sincerest thanks for everything.

This month, Bluffton was also very encouraged with the visit of the Mortonaires who shared their majestic talents with us both Saturday evening and Sunday after church. We are thankful for their willingness to travel to us. Each one who heard them was incredibly touched!

We were also blessed with several visiting ministers within the last month. Our Bro. Tom Schambach (Sis. Connie, Elgin, IL) and Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Ruth Ann, Wolcott, IN) were with us the weekend of October 30. Following them on November 12, we were blessed with the visitation of Bro. John Bradle (Sis. Jill) and their family from Roanoke, IL. We are thankful for each of these dear minis-



ters' willingness to be used in the Bluffton congregation.

October 29 was a blessed weekend for our new Sisters Katie Gerber (Bro. Jay and Sis. Deb) and Holly Walburn (Bro. Jim and Sis. Lora) as they shared their testimonies of faith and were baptized into the family of Christ!

We look forward to the same the weekend on November 19 as we plan to hear the testimonies of Adam Neuenschwander (Bro. Dee and Sis. Laura), Nick and Jessica Fiechter (Bro. Dave and June), Ashley Troxel (Bro. Kim and Sis. Lisa), Ryan Neuenschwander (Bro. Tom and Sis. Sue), and Chad Fiechter (Bro. Mike and Sis. Shari). Our deepest prayers of thanksgiving are raised for these precious souls as they begin a new chapter in their lives with Christ! During this exciting time, we also remember to lift them up in prayer as Satan's tactics often seem to intensify as we draw closer to God and farther from our former lives.

Bluffton has also been blessed with a new convert in the last month. Our prayers go with Jason Steffen (Bro. Bob and Sis. Marcia) as he begins his life with Christ.

Prayers of thanks were offered when Bro. Jameson and Sis. Sheena Ringger finally gave birth to Nora Kate on October 21. After complications, the arrival of their baby girl is truly a blessing. Prayers still would be welcome, however, as when she was born Nora weighed only 3 lbs. and is at Dupont Hospital in intensive care for the next six weeks or so. Nora is welcomed with warm arms by her grandparents, Bro. Kendall and Sis. Sandy Ringger and Rob and Sis. Tonya Troxel.

November 8 marked the wedding day of Bro. Lonnie Bertsch and Sis. Pat Moser. This union was truly an act of God, as was shared at their wedding Wednesday evening. We pray

that Christ would always be evident in their lives and that their story could truly be a testimony to everyone they meet!

And finally, Bro. Harry and Sis. Ida Gerber can attest to a life that has been lived for their Savior. They have thankfully celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary this month. It's such a blessing to have the examples of Christian unions in our church today.

With the holiday season coming up, and so many opportunities for thanksgiving, we in Bluffton feel so very blessed for the love present here. There is much to do in a church this size, but it's also amazing and encouraging to see how we each are used for the Master in our own unique ways!

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**INDIANA  
BLUFFTON NORTH  
Darren Drayer  
Tiffani Schladenhauffen**

"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*

Rebekah Yergler (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Peg) has decided to trust the Lord and follow after Him. We are so thankful that she has taken this step, and we are prayerful for her as she begins her walk with the Lord.

We rejoice with Bro. Lonnie Bertsch and Sis. Pat Moser as they were united in marriage this month. It is such a blessing to see how the Lord works in the lives of His children. We are prayerful for them and their families as they start this new phase in their lives.

We also rejoice with Sis. Connie Bertsch in the marriage of her son, Troy, to Cody Kirk of Indianapolis.

Bro. Jon Ringger (Bro. Steve and Sis. Myra) was engaged to Sis. Bethany Dotterer (Bro. Bob and Sis. Mardell) of our Rittman, OH, church. We wish this special couple God's blessings as they grow closer to each other and the Lord.

Another joyous occurrence this month was when Bro. Kurt and Sis. Angie Ifer welcomed their new little son, Peter Andrew, into their home on November 4. Peter Andrew joins a sister, Naomi, and two brothers, Josef and Hank. We are prayerful for this family and look forward to watching Peter Andrew grow up.

We received Godly instruction at the reading of the Memorandum. We were thankful that our retired ordained deacon, Bro. Bob Meyer, Sr. (Sis. Lela), assisted our Elder Bro. Phil Stettner in the presentation.

We were blessed to have Bro. Tom Schambach (Sis. Connie, Elgin, IL) share in the Lord's Word with us this month. We are always thankful to have visiting ministers stop by.

Bro. Bob Gerber was called home to be with the Lord on November 17. He leaves behind his wife, Sis. Bonnie; two daughters, Sis. Janet Campbell (Michael) and Sis. Kathy Rauch (Bro. Jerry); and two brothers, Bro. Jim (Latty, OH) and Bro. Lloyd (Roanoke, IL). We are prayerful for this family, but know they will find comfort that Bro. Bob is resting peacefully in Jesus' arms.

We had several loved ones in the hospital this month. They were Bro. Dave Bussel (Sis. Kathy), Sis. Alice Honegger, Mike Todd (Karen), and Bro. Bob Meyer, Sr. (Sis. Lela). We are prayerful that each would continue to feel the healing touch of our Lord.

"Why art thou cast down, O my soul? And why art thou disquieted within me? Hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise Him, who is the



health of my countenance, and my God.”

*Psalms 42:11*

## INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE

**Barbara Huber**

**Jessica Murray**

Greetings in the love of Jesus!

“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the LORD.”

*Luke 2:11*

May all the hope and promise of this verse be yours through this holy season. But, dear ones, let's not leave Jesus in the manger of our hearts but let Him have dominion over all our lives. Then the promise of Christmas will be truly ours.

Our faithful Bro. Harry Yaggie's earthly journey came to an end on November 9. He was loved and revered in our congregation as a gentle and good-willed Brother in Christ. He had served faithfully through the years in our Sunday Schools and could always be counted on. He is survived by Bro. Irvin and Sis. Lois (Streitmatter); Sis. Annabelle (Yaggie) and Bro. Carroll Messer, Viola (Yaggie) and Lloyd Logan; and nieces and nephews. Our prayer is that we can all see the grace with which he lived his life and endeavor to continue his example of faithfulness in our fellowship.

“O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?”

*I Corinthians 15:55*

We give thanks to the Lord and our ministering Bro. Rich Gramm (Sis. Samantha, South Bend, IN) for coming and sharing a Topical Bible Study on man's relationship to God. The evening was very blessed as he led us through the many interpretations man has developed to illustrate the

marvelous grace of God. But, as Bro. Rich brought forth, the Bible alone stands as the truth for us to be redeemed and live our lives by. May God grant him continued joy in serving Him and grant an abundance of the Holy Spirit to his ministry.

Our fellowship has had the precious privilege to fervently pray on behalf of many beloved brothers and sisters who have undergone surgery and illness this past month. It is our prayer that they all will feel the healing and comfort that comes from the Lord alone.

“Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”

*James 5:16*

We lovingly bid farewell and God-speed to our Bro. Jan, Sis. Valerie Gutwein and family as they are returning to Haiti. Our love and prayers certainly go with them as they represent Christ in this needy country.

The spirit of Thanksgiving was realized and enjoyed as we gathered together for our annual Thanksgiving Program. Beloved, let us not be forgetful to thank God for His many blessing unto us. Our stores and media are already urging us to beat the “rush”.

I read somewhere that this is called the “Christmas Creep Marketing Approach” where we are made to feel behind schedule if we have not begun our preparations for Christmas before Thanksgiving. We can't help but notice that it begins earlier and earlier each year!

May we claim the grace necessary to be the people who keep first things first.

“By Him therefore let us offer the

sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.”

*Hebrews 13:15*

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Brad Gudeman (Sis. Teresa, Bradford, IL) and Bro. Dan Stoller (Sis. Deb, Remington, IN). We were blessed by their presence among us and thank God for His abundant Holy Spirit. May God bless each of them for their efforts is our prayer.

We extend our loving sympathies to Bro. Ron (Sis. Diane) Vogt and Sis. Janet (Bro. Roger) Overmyer and their families as their dear mother, grandmother and our friend, Mabel Vogt, passed away on November 11. We pray that they and the entire family circle will feel the peace of God and be comforted by the many memories they can share.

We close with hearty wishes for a blessed and joyful Christmas to one and all. May we draw near with thankful, reverent hearts to Jesus who came as a Babe to seek and save all mankind. Verse three of the following song, “Good Christian Men Rejoice”, tells us of the mission of the Christ-child born to be our Savior.

Good Christian men, rejoice  
With heart and soul and voice!  
Now ye need not fear the grave:  
Peace! Peace!

Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all,  
To gain his everlasting hall:  
Christ was born to save!

“Good Christian Men Rejoice”  
Anon (13th Century)

*Words by J. M. Neale*



**INDIANA  
INDIANAPOLIS  
Gail Bradford  
Sandy Lichtle**

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.”

*I Corinthians 15:58*

On October 28-29, we had Outreach Weekend. Many young people joyfully gave of their time and efforts to help those in need in the community. We thank all of those who participated in this weekend, and we appreciate their servant hearts. We also thank Bro. Bob Beebe (Sis. Sue, South Bend, IN) for sharing the Word with us on October 29.

Daniel Bollier (Bro. Ron and Sis. Edie) has been announced for peace, and Lord willing, we look forward to his testimony and baptism on December 9-10 along with Ben Graham (Bro. Dick and Sis. Jeanette, Princeville, IL). Ben was announced for peace earlier this past summer. We are thankful and praise God for what He has done in their lives.

We are grateful to our Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign, IL) and Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North, IN) for sharing the Memorandum with us on November 4. We appreciate the exhortation reminding us to practice the Word of God with integrity.

On November 15, Bro. Dick Meister (Sis. Sharon, West Lafayette, IN) gave us an informative presentation on Anabaptist history. We thank you for your labors of love.

**INDIANA, LACROSSE  
Bethany Johnson  
Julie Roche**

Fall is a beautiful time of the year when the trees break out in a glorious array of color and the cooler air reminds us that summer is over and the snow is soon to come! Several of our congregation gathered together to rake leaves on an overcast Saturday this month. They brought warmth and sunshine to those that they helped.

“For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.”

*Ephesians 6:31*

It was with great joy that we heard the announcement of Sis. Michelle Stoller (Champaign, IL) (Bro. Steve and Sis. Anna Marie, LaCrosse) to Bro. Edward Ramsey (Bro. Ed and Sis. Laura) of the Mansfield, OH, congregation. We wish them God’s blessings as they begin their wedding preparations.

Our prayers were with those who were part of the World Relief meeting in Milford, IN, this month. We would like to thank each person who is a part of the World Relief projects for their many efforts.

We are thankful that Bro. Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi, Alto, MI) came and shared God’s Word with us.

**INDIANA, LEO  
Ethelyn Schlatter**

On a Wednesday evening we were surprised to see a Midwest Food Bank truck in our parking lot. Elder Bro. Jim Plattner and Sis. Marlene (Princeville, IL) drove from Bloomington to Leo via Indianapolis, IN, with a delivery and for a pick up in Fort Wayne. We were greatly blessed by his message on Colossians 2.

Elder Bro. Lynn, Sis. Leonda and Sis. Natalie Stieglitz traveled to Magdalena, Mexico, on October 20-23. They were encouraged and impressed with the work and growth.

October 29, Bro. Bill Waibel (Sis. Carol, Bay City, MI) exhorted us on Hebrews 3. In the afternoon service, Elder Bro. Lynn reviewed the rest of the book of Hebrews in preparation for the Communion service which was served November 17, with the assistance of Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN).

October 29 was also our annual fall picnic when we share our appreciation for our ministering brothers. We do appreciate their servant hearts and concern for the congregation.

Our prayers are with Bro. Art Gramm and Sis. Mary as he underwent open heart surgery on November 17.

*To You*

If I could do whate’er I want to do,  
To make complete your gladsome  
Christmas Day,  
I would not bring a single thing to  
you,  
But I would come and take some  
things away:

I’d take away all trouble from your  
heart;  
Each pain and sorrow I would  
have relieved;  
And every word that caused a single  
smart,  
And every hour through which you  
sadly grieved.

I’d have them all be gone – forever  
gone –  
Forgotten, like the things that  
cannot be;  
And then each hour would be a  
joyful one,  
For only good things would be left,  
you see.



Now that is what I'd really like to do  
If I could do the things I wish for you.

—*Florence Boyce Davis*

May God fill your hearts with joy and hope.

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### INDIANA, MILFORD

**Carlton Beer  
Carol Haab**

"I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made..."

*Psalms 139:14*

On September 19, Rustin and Appy Mikel were blessed with a beautiful baby boy, Joseph Arnold Young. Thankful grandparents are Russ and Sis. Pat Mikel. May God bless them as they guide this little one.

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH) and Bro. Jerry Bauman (Rittman, OH). May they be blessed for their labor of love.

November 5 was our annual Thanksgiving program. It is so heartwarming to hear our little children and young people recite verses and sing praises to our Lord.

We were privileged to host the annual Easter World Relief meeting the weekend of November 11-12. It was so inspiring to hear of the numerous ways God leads so many of our brothers and sisters in reaching those in need. May we always be open and willing to do the Lord's work wherever He sends us.

Those who have experienced health problems recently are Sis. Mayedene Lehman, Bro. Glenn Price, Sr., and Bro. Dick Steffen. May God continue to touch them with His healing powers.

"And the Word was made flesh,

and dwelt among us (and we beheld his glory...)"

*John 1:14*

Christmas time is here again. Let us not become caught up in the hustle and bustle of the earthly trappings of this time of year, but remember the true reason we celebrate this holiday. May this Christmas season fill our lives with joyful and thankful hearts as we once again embrace the humble birth of Jesus. God sent us a "perfect gift" who would become the sacrifice for our sin. Merry Christmas everyone. We wish you a blessed holiday season filled with peace and love.

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### INDIANA, REMINGTON

**Beth Virkler  
Tammy Waibel**

We greet you one and all in His name! Thanksgiving is upon us and we have so many things to be thankful for as being believers of Christ. I know that we all are thankful for Him dying on the cross, shedding His blood. We are thankful that we have a way to Him through baptism. We are also thankful for the Bible to guide us through this earthy walk. We have a lot to be thankful for.

Elder Bro. Charles Sauder (Tremont, IL) visited us for our reading of the Memorandum this past month. Visiting ministering Bro. Chris Wuethrich (LaCrosse, IN) came and taught from the pulpit. God bless you and your families as you visit churches to spread and teach His Word.

We have had three hospital patients this month: Tom Clauss, Sis. Vicki (Bro. Roger) Steffen and Sis. Libby (Bro. Fred) Wahl. We wish the Lord's blessing on you and your families as you recover.

Bro. Stan and Sis. Beth Virkler would like to announce that their son, Bro. Joel Virkler, and Sis. Amber

Greenbank pledged their hearts to God and each other on November 19. Their address is 409 E. Burton Street, Kirksville, MO 63501. May the Lord bless this new couple. Remember, everything you need to know about a healthy relationship with God and your spouse is in His Word.

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### INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

**Rachel Langhofer  
Craig Langhofer**

Mal. 2:15 says, "And did not He make one? Ye had He the residue of the spirit. And wherefore one? That He might seek a godly seed."

In this passage Malachi states the purpose of a family. God created the family because He was seeking a "godly seed." It is so very easy to get wrapped up in the excitement of the Christmas season and all the trappings thereof. We are encouraged to reach out and give to others this time of year, which we should of course. How much more difficult it is at times like this to invest in our families, to live up to our responsibility as parents, to raise up a godly seed.

As a newly married couple and new parents, we are reminded by this passage that the entire purpose of becoming one is to pass on the knowledge and fear of the Lord to our children. That is not the responsibility of our church, of our government, nor of our schools, but is the responsibility of us parents. In the busyness and rushing around of the month, don't forget to fulfill our responsibilities of raising up a godly seed.

We were blessed to have ministering Bro. Steve Ringer (Bluffton) visit us this past month.

On November 11 we co-hosted with Milford the Eastern United States World Relief meeting. We learned much about what World Relief is doing in other countries and were encouraged to help those close



to us as well as in other countries.

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**INDIANA  
VALPARAISO  
Marguerite Hoerr**

The annual Harvest Dinner was held this past month. Bro. John (Sis. Tammy) Baumgartner of the Bluffton North congregation, blessed us with his ministry on that day. He stressed that we sow the Gospel seed, not just on Sundays but during the week; because without sowing there can be no harvest. Their visit was a deep blessing to all of us. During our afternoon program several of our Valpo folks sang and also inspired us with poetry, followed by the Francesville Men's choir who sang so beautifully. The Mark Wuethrich family sang also, featuring Nicholas, who sang, "Farther Along, We'll Know all About it." We were pleased to have our Elder Bro. Dan (Sis. Jenna) Kilgus with us for the afternoon.

The men of the Valpo church prepared a bountiful Harvest dinner for us and our guests, under the leadership of our dear friend, Dave Kotzer. It brought a wonderful ending to a most beautiful day.

The following Sunday we were blessed again with the inspired ministry of Bro. Brian (Sis. Jackie) Huber of the Francesville congregation. The love that our surrounding ministers have shown for our Valpo church is so appreciated.

Early in November, ministering Bro. David (Sis. Kathy) Oberghel of the Peoria congregation, spent some time at our home and worshiped with us on Sunday, making the Word come alive in our hearts. Kathy is the daughter of Bob's only brother, Wilbur, and his wife, Eldora; we felt a real warmth having them visit with us and our family.

The second Sunday in November

we had a number of visitors from the Remington congregation and enjoyed the ministry of Bro. Al (Sis. Sarah) Schambach. We were blessed with the beautiful singing which bolstered the songs we sang; with the additional children in Sunday school, and with the heartfelt ministry of Bro. Al.

Sis. Gwen Bucher has had a busy fall, and her family grew in numbers. On September 2, her grandson, Dan Bucher, married Jessica Aderhold. On September 11, her daughter, Amy Paarlberg, had a baby girl named Ashley Marie. She was welcomed by her five older brothers. Another son, Dick, and his wife, accepted an additional foster child. On September 24, a granddaughter, Michelle Goetz, had her second little girl, named Alivia Renee. On September 28, grandson Bryan Bucher married Kelly Allison. Sis. Gwen is always a positive person, helping around our church wherever help is needed, but it seems she was blessed with special reasons to be positive during this past month.

Millie Williams suffered a stroke and has had to spend time in an assisted care facility while she recovers. We send our prayers to God in her behalf that He gives her strength to recover and that she can keep her lovely positive spirit alive as she does.

It's been a pleasure to have Sis. Lavina Schmeckpepper present to worship with us after an absence due to health problems. Her two daughters, Sis. Nancy and Marsha, are so diligent in bringing her when possible and in their loving care for her. It's always a joy when they're able to come.

Bro. Garry and Sis. Lois Bucher hosted an all church potluck this month, with singing around a campfire afterwards. We attended this event in a previous year and will never forget the oneness we felt as we sat singing hymns under the stars, ac-

companied by guitar music, followed by a prayer to the One who created the beautiful Heavens. It was a special feeling of being very close to God.

Sis. Lois Bucher held an open house for two days to show the beautiful sewing done by the Haitian school, and to give us the privilege of buying the intricate needle work, aprons, sweaters and handbags. She was full of joy that it was the best effort yet. She credits the Haitian women because they asked when these different displays of their needlework would be held; that they would pray daily for them. We're happy for Lois, who always gives it her best, and for the Haitian people, as we give thanks to God for blessing it.

Bro. Tim and Joyce Ames have welcomed a first grandchild into their family. Their son, Shawn, and his wife, Amanda, had a baby girl whom they named Adeline. Their home is in Tell City, IN. May God bless their little family.

Our church people, children and adults, gathered together this past Wednesday evening to assemble school kits; pre-natal kits; meal in a bag kits; stuffing pillows for children; and to knot a comforter. Bro. Lance Bucher had the lesson and prayer prior to our working together. He used "Legos" as his object lesson, showing how his two young sons, Josh and Seth, had put together 'one brick at a time'; the one building a house and the other building a dirt bike. They followed instructions carefully to accomplish these things. Lance reminded us how beautifully the Bible builds us spiritually one brick at a time, using Jesus' teachings. Observing them can't help but build us spiritually strong, to witness for Him.

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**INDIANA  
WEST LAFAYETTE**

**Andria Sprunger  
Hollie Meister**

We sincerely welcome Bro. Fred and Sis. Libby Wahl and their children, Luke, Sarena, and Sis. Janessa, to our congregation. We sadly bid farewell to Bro. Tim and Sis. Amber Lehman this month. They have moved to Quincy, IL, and will be attending the Taylor, MO, church. We will truly miss them, and pray that God will bless and guide them as they begin a new phase in their lives.

Once again we praise God for turning dear hearts towards Him. We are looking forward to the testimonies and baptisms of Luke Furrer (Bro. Brian and Sis. Lorene) and Katie Widmer (Bro. Neal and Sis. Kris).

We were blessed with several visiting ministers this month. We wish to thank Elder Bros. Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN), Steve Gutwein (Francesville, IN), and Curt Frank (Lacrosse, IN). We also wish to thank Bros. Scott Schafer (South Bend, IN), Bob Meyer (Bluffton North, IN), Randy Mogler (Washington, IL), Matt Kaufmann (Bloomington-Normal, IL), Frank Sauder (Roanoke, IL), Chris Wuethrich (Lacrosse, IN), Mark Gerber (Bluffton, IN), and Brian Huber (Francesville, IN). We pray that God will bless you for your willingness to serve and sharing His Word.

We extend our sympathy to Laura Holliger (Bro. Sam) on the loss of her brother. We pray God will comfort and strengthen your family during this time.

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**INDIANA, WOLCOTT**  
**Elaine Bahler  
Lowell Bahler**

“Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsel-

ors there is safety.”

*Prov. 11:14*

How much we appreciate the counsel of our Elder body through the reading of the Memorandum. May we take heed and strive to live according to God’s Word and in unity with our brethren. We were blessed to have Elder Bro. Charles Sauder (Sis. Miriam, Tremont, IL) assist our Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Remington, IN) in delivering this message of love, hope, encouragement, and admonition.

“Praise the Lord; for the Lord is good: sing praises unto His name; for it is pleasant.”

*Psalms 135:3*

It was indeed pleasant for us when the Peoria choir came on Sunday, November 12, and favored us with singing. Bro. Michael Rieker (Sis. Carol Anne, Peoria, IL) also came and ministered God’s Word unto us. Sincere thanks to Bro. Mike and the choir for their willingness to come and share God’s love. May they be blessed as we were truly blessed.

Bro. Lowell and Sis. Karla Bahler were blessed with another granddaughter, Elyzabeth Elaine, born November 12 to Don and Jill Bahler. She is also welcomed home by big brothers Bryce and Koby, as well as maternal grandparents, Mike and Rosemary Nagel, Brook, IN.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with Bro. Gene Lehman (Sis. Verna) who has been suffering back pain and is awaiting surgery. May God, the Great Physician, heal and restore strength to Bro. Gene.

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**IOWA, BLOOMFIELD**  
**Barbara Schock**

Greetings in our Lord and Savior’s name! We wish to thank Bro. Gene

Metzger (Sis. Dolores, Lester ) for taking the time to come and share the Word of Life with us on November 5. May God richly bless him for the time that he gave to us. We also wish to thank retired Elder Bro. Gene Marti (Sis. Mary, Kansas City) for spending a weekend with us. Bro. Gene spent an afternoon explaining to us the finer points and benefits of organization throughout our brotherhood as well as locally and gave us good insight and a few suggestions. Retired Elder Bro. Leo Moser (Sis. Leona, Lester, IA) was also part of our Lester company that weekend and it was so good to have him here again, as he was our counseling Elder some years ago. We appreciate their thinking of us, and also for the many years that they served as an undershepherd. May God bless them also for their time.

The time flies on and death draws  
nigh

Unite us, Lord, with Thee on high!  
Prepare us now to live with Thee  
Forever in eternity!

*Zion’s Harp #188, vs. 1*

It is hard to believe that Christmas is almost here, and that the new year of 2007 is just around the corner. No matter how hard we try to slow it down, time keeps marching on. When you think about it, time is all we really have on earth. We have time to do this and that. We have time to go here and there. But are we spending enough time where time is really needed? When we pray at our bedsides in the morning, do we cut it short because there’s not enough time? When we read the Bible, do we count the time that it took us to read it to feel justified that we read the words? Did we actually *read* it? If the Lord tells us which way to go in life, do we say “next time”, “not now”, “maybe later”, and continue on our own way?



Our time here on earth is limited. We only have so much to spend, yet how we spend it is what really matters. Do we spend it wisely or foolishly? Will we regret how we spent our time on Judgment Day?

May God richly bless all of you in this Christmas season, as we remember the Gift that He sent long ago.

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### **IOWA, BURLINGTON**

**Krystal Knapp  
Laurie Schulz**

Our sympathy goes out to our Sis. Maye Heiniger at the passing of her son, John Heiniger, of Knoxville, Iowa. We pray that God may comfort Maye and her family in this time of sorrow.

We neglected to mention that Bros. Tom Schambach and Chuck Kellenberger (Elgin, IL) shared the Word with us in Burlington. We thank both of them for their willingness to be used and wish them God's richest blessings.

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### **IOWA, ELGIN**

**Gloria Frieden  
Heidi Butikofer**

"Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel which being interpreted is, God with us."

*Matthew 1:23*

It is hard to imagine that God, Himself, came down to this sinful earth and walked among mankind, in the person of His Son, Jesus. God truly is acquainted with the struggles we face in our daily lives. But, Jesus has been resurrected and has returned to those heavenly realms. Does that mean that He is no longer with us? Not according to Matthew 28:20 "...lo, I am with you always

even unto the end of the world." He remains with us in the invisible personage of the Holy Spirit.

Each day we arise and step out into the unknown of another day, but at this season of the year our thoughts turn to a little bigger step, as we plan to step out into the unknown of another year. May we be encouraged as we remember Emmanuel, God with us. No matter what kind of pain, temptation or heartache the future may hold for us, God will be with us and has promised sufficient grace to meet our every need.

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### **IOWA, GARDEN GROVE**

**Willa Clark**

The month of December is such a joyous time, with children's programs and Christmas carolers reminding us of the birth of our Lord and Savior. As we find pleasure in serving guests and in giving and receiving gifts, it is also a time to reflect on the past year, and ask ourselves just how we have used our resources to serve the One who came to earth for us and gave us the ultimate gift. How can we let God use us to pass His gift on to others throughout the coming year?

We have been blessed in the past month with ministering visits from Bro. Darrel Stoller (Sis. Gloria, Bern, KS), Bro. Gerald Wagenbach (Sis. Bonnie, Oakville, IA) and our Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Sis. Clara, Bloomfield, IA).

We are blessed by the presence of each person who visits our small congregation, whether you stand on the pulpit, lead singing, or simply grasp our hand with an encouraging greeting.

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### **IOWA, IOWA CITY**

**Diana Butikofer**

We extend our sympathy and

prayers to Joe and Cinda Bryan and their daughter Elizabeth following the death of Joe's stepmother. May the Lord grant them comfort in this time of loss.

"For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be on His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."

*Isaiah 9:6*

What an awesome God we have Who so "loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son," to go through horrible torture and unimaginable loneliness and separation, "that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16) and spend it in communion with Him.

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### **IOWA, LESTER**

**Polly Metzger  
Gloria Moser**

As we are in the midst of the Christmas season, may we be mindful to have a greater appreciation and thankfulness to God for the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ.

Our congregation is rejoicing with several families who have welcomed little babies into their homes. Kiann LaVonne was born on October 21 to Bro. Jon and Sis. Tricia Blomgren. Kinzi, Kaysha and Kara are delighted to have a new sister. Bro. Roger and Sis. Janet Knoblock are her grandparents. A precious daughter, Gracie Lynn, was born on November 1 to first-time parents, Chris and Mary Fagerness. Grandpa Jim Moser will give her lots of love and attention. Chad and Sandi Ter Wee are the happy parents of Hannah Marie born on November 12. Chase and Emily are excited for a new playmate. Bro.



George Meyer and Jerry and Mary Ter Wee are the loving grandparents. November 11 was the birthdate of Owen David Miller. Bro. Seth and Sis. Lori Miller and Rosanna are thankful to have a little boy in their family circle. Grandparents are Bro. Gene and Sis. Shirley Nester and Bro. Larry and Sis. Edith Miller (Smithville, OH). Annie Grace was born on November 17 to Bro. Justin and Sis. Jodie Metzger. Isabelle and Preston are excited to have a little sister to love and adore. Grandparents are Bro. Art and Sis. Kris Metzger. May God grant much grace and wisdom to these families as they raise their children in His ways.

Visiting ministers this past month included Bro. Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN) and Bro. Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA). We pray that God will bless them for their service in the Lord's vineyard.

When we asunder part,  
It gives us inward pain.  
But we shall still be joined in  
heart,  
And hope to meet again.  
*Hymns of Zion #156*

We sadly bid farewell to Sis. Doreen Meyer as she has moved to Peoria, IL. Her new address is: Apostolic Christian Home, Room 102-7023 NE Skyline Dr., Peoria, IL 61614.

Sis. Elaine Kellenberger and Sis. Emma Feucht have recently moved to the Rock Rapids Health Centre, while Sis. Donna Metzger moved to Premier Estates in Rock Rapids. We trust that God will provide for these dear sisters during this time of transition.

We rejoice with Paul Messner (Bro. Henry and Sis. Charlene) as he has found peace with God and man. We look forward to hearing his testimony soon and to be again reminded

of the miracle of salvation.

We remember Sis. Rosella Metzger (Bro. Bob), David Warner (Bro. Stan and Sis. Sue), Bro. Pat Meyer (Sis. Twyla), Sis. Mary Metzger (Bro. Harvey) and Macy Kellenberger (Lonn and Jammie) who have been hospital patients. We pray that the Great Physician will provide relief and healing.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to Mike and Sis. Donna Barber, Joe, Bradley, Mitchell and Nichole as they grieve the sudden loss of their father and grandpa, Chuck Barber. What a comfort to know that Jesus knows our sorrow and will hear our every prayer.

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### IOWA, OAKVILLE Sharla Wiegand

We are thankful for our visiting ministers. Bro. Vern Wettstein (Congerville, IL) preached the Word to us on October 22. Sharing in a very special weekend were Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Bloomfield, IA), Bro. Michael Wagenbach (Wolcott, IN) and Bro. Phil Schulz (Burlington, IA) as three souls were added to the flock. We were privileged to witness the baptisms of Jaydon Wagenbach (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Monti), Ben Lanz (Bro. Keith and Sis. Tonya) and Travis Frank (Bro. Curt and Sis. Kathy).

Our dear Sis. Luella Anliker passed from this life on November 15 at the age of 92. Our sympathy is extended to her children, Jim of Phoenix, AZ, Shirley (Tom) Lankford, and Joyce (Ed) Korf of Burlington, IA, and Sharon Baird of Oakville, IA.

Announcement was made on November 19 of the engagement of Bro. Jeremy Steiner (Bro. John and Sis. Carol) and Sis. Brittny Wagenbach (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Monti). Our prayers are with this dear couple as they prepare to walk life's pathway together.

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### IOWA, WEST BEND Sue Schneider Lori Skoglund

"But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins."

*St. Matthew 1:20-21*

May the true meaning of Christmas with its peace and love rest upon the hearts and homes of each of you during this holy season and always.

"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

*St. John 14:27*

Paula Mogler (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Beth), Laura Virkler (Bro. Andy and Sis. Becky) and Jason Banwart (Bro. Kent and Sis. Beth) have found peace with God and man and look forward to baptism in the near future. We rejoice with each of these souls and their families.

Several ministers from various congregations have recently visited the West Bend church and shared the true and living Word of God with us. Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sis. Linda, Sardis, OH) joined us for a Wednesday evening service. Bro. Dean Messner (Sis. Wanda, Winthrop, MN) and Bro. Virgil Metzger (Sis. Mary, Chicago, IL) each shared a Sunday with us. We thank each brother and their families for their efforts.

Pam Bruellman (Bro. Dave and



Sis. Yvonne) and Matt Erdman plan to marry in the near future. May God add His blessing to their plans.

Bro. Barry and Sis. Molly Fehr traveled to Illinois to receive their new son, Troy Lucas, born October 31. Calvin is so pleased with his little baby brother! Grandparents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Eunice Fehr and Bro. Mark and Sis. Lori Skoglund.

On November 2, Cloe Grace was born to Bro. Darin and Sis. Twila Massner. She has two big brothers, Aaron and Benjamin, and two sets of grandparents, Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gail Massner and Bro. Ken and Sis. Marlene Banwart.

Sis. Betty Wirtz has undergone knee replacement surgery and is recuperating nicely. Little Macy Van Wyhe (Mike and Amy) was hospitalized as was Sis. Doris Banwart. Our prayer is that God's healing hand will felt by every individual facing difficult health issues.

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## JAPAN, SHIODA

We send our greetings from Shioda, Japan.

The autumn colors are beautiful right now in the area and we enjoy God's creation.

Our Elder Bro. Mark and Sis. Bev Bahr visited us from October 27 to November 5. We worshiped together and had Communion on the 29th. We were reminded of the sacrifice our Lord made for us, and were strengthened by it. Although our congregation is small, we try to strive through this world as all the followers do.

On November 3 we had our fall gathering in Yamato Village which is about a half an hour by car from the Shioda church. Bro. Mark had the message. It was about "Benchmarks of Faith" and it gave us guidance in order to strengthen our faith.

Forgiveness was one of the

benchmarks, and we talked about the grace given from God. "Grace" is a special blessing from God which we really don't deserve to receive it. Sometimes we get bitter about certain things but by God's grace we can forgive and have peace. We thank our Lord for all the blessings and especially for His grace.

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## JAPAN, TOKYO Jana Klaus

We were richly blessed by a visit from Elder Bro. Mark and Sis. Bev Bahr (Detroit), whom we kept very busy with Holy Communion in Shioda, a Wednesday evening service at the Klaus home, a Bible class at Tokyo Church, Sunday services in Tokyo Church, and they also participated in our annual Fall Shuyokai (Fellowship Meeting of both churches). We thank them for giving of themselves once again on our behalf and thank the Lord for a blessed time together.

The Fall Shuyokai was held on November 3, out in the beautiful mountains of Yamanashi at Yamatomura Leisure Center. Bro. Mark Bahr was the main speaker and spoke on "Spiritual benchmarks for our daily Christian walk," using Ephesians 4:24-32 as his text. Based on this text, his seven practical ways to measure spiritual health and encourage spiritual growth were: Honesty, Dealing with anger, Resist the devil, Avoid evil communications, Attitude toward counsel, Kindness, and Willingness to forgive. I am confident that all present were able to benefit from his clear explanations and practical examples of these seven measures. Afterwards, we had a delicious outside Japanese barbecue, a beautiful hike through the fall colors, (the ginko and Japanese maple trees being especially brilliant in color) and singing and fellowship.

In October, Elder Bro. Akito Inoue had the reading of the Memorandum. And, we had some special guests — Bro. Matt Brake (Sardis, OH), who had interned here with a Japanese company several years back, brought his new wife, Sis. Dawn Brake, to Japan for a first time visit. We were delighted to meet this dear couple and thank them for their time of worship and fellowship with us.

Bro. Yoshio Yamazaki and the Suzurikawa family both have upcoming moves. I will try to report their new addresses in the next issue.

There was a big celebration in the home of the Utsuki's as their mother, Utsuki Okaasan, will turn 100 years old this coming January. She has been bedridden at home for many years, lovingly cared for by her daughters and other caretakers, but is still able to follow along in hymn singing and Bible reading.

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## KANSAS, BERN Rita Menold Sheri Edelman

We are so thankful that another soul has recognized the need to repent! We rejoice with Hanz Strahm (Bro. Kyle and Sis. Peggy) and pray that he may feel the Lord's grace and nearness as he works out his soul salvation.

Mike and Sis. Lucy Goodman are so thankful for the safe arrival of Laura Jean. Welcoming Laura home are siblings, Jody, Kara, Chad and Brett. Laura's grandparents are Eugene and Judy Edelman and Elvin and Bev Goodman, all of Sabetha.

Caleb Bryant Rokey was born to Bro. Brian and Sis. Denise! Happy sisters are Rachel and Michelle, and happy grandparents are Bro. Allen and Sis. Glenda Rokey and Bro. Jerry and Sis. Arlene Banwart (Congerville, IL).

Bro. David and Sis. Sheri Edelman



welcomed little Kylah Irene, on November 13! Kylah's sisters are Kari and Kristi, and her grandparents are Bro. Nathan and Sis. Marlene Edelman, and Elder Bro. Don and Sis. Eileen Braker (Kansas City, MO).

Bro. Wilfred and Sis. Verona Strahm welcomed a precious little granddaughter into their family circle. Carli Jo Rottinghaus was born to Ted and Marci, of Seneca, KS.

Elder Bro. John and Sis. Connie Lehman also welcomed a new granddaughter! Bro. Jason and Sis. Natalie Stratton (Taylor, MO) are the happy parents of little Sage Elise!

We appreciate Elder Bro. Don Braker (Sis. Eileen, Kansas City, MO) coming to share God's Holy Word with us this past month.

Bro. Eugene Fetter has spent time in the hospital, and pray that God's healing hand be with him!

Our prayers are with Bro. Lesly Strahm as he continues with his chemotherapy. We pray for God's perfect will to be done.

Our 4-year old son recently started Sunday School, and absolutely loves it! As we were talking one evening, he was telling me all about his first Sunday, then went on to ask "Can we go to Sunday school when we go to night church?" As he was so excited for the next Sunday, it was a reminder to me that no matter how old or young our children are, we need to demonstrate that eagerness to worship our wonderful God and Creator!

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### **KANSAS, FORT SCOTT** **Karen Kellenberger**

"And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favor with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord

God shall give unto Him the throne of his father David: And He shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of His kingdom there shall be no end."

*Luke 1:31-33*

It is with great joy and gratitude in our hearts that we celebrate Jesus' birth this Christmas season. May we honor Him by spreading good cheer, love, compassion, and kindness, in His humble likeness, to those around us.

We thank Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Lamont-Gridley, KS) and our Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS) for sharing the Memorandum of the Elder Brother Conference. The messages both exhorted and encouraged us.

Our heartfelt prayers go out to Sis. Mabel Springer, who is hospitalized at this time. "And whether one member suffers, all the members suffer with it..." (I Corinthians 12:26)

We rejoice to report a new family attending our Fort Scott congregation. With open arms we welcome Bro. Gene, Sis. Linda, and daughter Melanie Banwart.

Recently I read this remark: "The fellow who worries about what people think of him wouldn't worry so much if he only knew how seldom they do." It reminded me of myself and my thought went to this scripture: "For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith." (Romans 12:3)

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### **KANSAS, KIOWA** **Jenny Stewart** **Janice Bahr**

Our Sr. Bible class traveled to Denver for our annual fellowship. We

traveled by bus with the Bern and Sabetha students and teachers. Everyone had a memorable time. We want to thank the Denver Bible class, their teachers, and the congregation for the hospitality and the great time.

Our congregation has started listening to the Elder Conference tapes on Wednesday evenings. They are truly a blessing to help us keep ourselves on the narrow path to Jesus.

We held services at the Kiowa Manor this month. A short sermon and many hymns were shared with the residents.

"And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, laying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

May you find the peace and joy of our Saviour's birth this Christmas season. Merry Christmas!

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

Your reporter went to Kiowa to see her granddaughter, Stephanie, before she left for a year to teach English at the Magdalena orphanage when Bro. Dan Koch (Tremont, IL) came to our congregation on October 29. We all appreciate the visiting ministers.

Our loving Sis. Bertha Beyer, 96 years young (she spaded her small garden and washed windows this fall), had emergency surgery for a



rupture. She is now at the Burlington Life Care Center in Burlington.

The Lord blessed us the weekend of November 5 when Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN) came for the testimony and baptism of our dear Sis. Dora (Edelman) Hines.

We were again blessed when Bro. Robert Pflederer (Morton, IL) gave a very informative and worthwhile presentation Saturday evening on "End of Life Issues". Having faced these issues with Rudy just recently, I was thankful we had made our "living wills" years ago. It would be wise if everyone of legal age would make their wishes known to family and have their driver's license designate as a donor if they so wish. The old die, but the young can die. When our son, Jon (23), was killed, it was such a shock, we didn't think about donating his organs and eyes. I thought that Rudy's eyes were still good, but when the hospital called the donor bank, they couldn't accept them because he had prostate cancer years ago even though he was pronounced cured.

We have very much to be grateful to the Lord for.

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## KANSAS, SABETHA

**Dawn Strahm  
Rebekah Beyer**

We appreciated several visiting ministers sharing God's Word with us this past month. Bro. Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MN), Bro. Cory Metzger (Wichita, KS) and Bro. Steve Martin (Eureka, IL) were all with us for our church Invite-a-Guest Weekend on October 21-22.

On Sunday, November 5, we enjoyed a time of blessed fellowship and good food at our church Thanksgiving potluck. Thank you to all that were involved and that provided for us.

During the last several weeks we have had the opportunity to listen to

the tapes from our annual Brotherhood Conference in Goodfield, IL. It is always a time of self-examination and spiritual encouragement as we listen to the God-inspired advice from our Elder body. How thankful we can be that they still seek God's direction and sound the warning to our congregations.

Bro. Erik and Sis. Shelli Hertzell were thankful for the safe arrival of their first son, Aaron Franklin. He is welcomed home by big sister, Elsie. Grandparents are Elder Bro. Gerry and Sis. Ellen Hertzell and Bro. Phil and Sis. Gloria Grant (Latty, OH). Great-grandparents in Sabetha are Bro. Frank and Sis. Ruth Hertzell.

Sympathy is extended to Bro. Jay and Sis. Marilyn Kellenberger as they bid farewell to Marilyn's father, Bro. Joe Rokey Jr. (Bern, KS). We know Bro. Joe will be missed, but are thankful he has gone on to his rest.

Our prayers have been with Sis. Marilyn Kellenberger and Sis. Ruth Hertzell as they have both faced surgery recently. May God grant His healing mercies to these two dear souls as they recover.

### *Note of Thanks:*

Many thanks to our special church family for the many acts of kindness shown during the loss of our dear father, Bro. Joe Rokey Jr., of the Bern congregation ~ and also during my recent surgery and recovery.

May God bless you for your love and concern.

*Bro. Jay and Sis. Marilyn  
Kellenberger*

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## KANSAS, WICHITA

**Emma Miller**

My article last month reflected my thoughts that the autumn leaves would be drab. I was mistaken. We have been treated to a colorful season and are just now getting weather pre-

dictions for frost.

The Jay Baumgartner family from Bern worshipped with us the last Sunday in October. Bro. Max Reimchisel pointed out the beauty of how a visiting family benefits a small church. We had more children in Sunday School and the family stayed to take part in the fall picnic activities. We were encouraged to have them in our midst, though only for a day. We hope others will follow their example.

Mike Bowers who worships with us was married to Fanja Razafindra Koto in Madagascar on October 26. Mike has returned to Wichita while his wife is working on the technicalities that will allow her to come to the United States in the near future. Mike's mother, Sis. Lillian Bowers, has had several telephone conversations with her new daughter-in-law. We wish God's blessings on this union.

Bro. Max and Sis. Judy Reimchisel became grandparents again when Abigail Jean was born to Bro. Jeff and Sis. Jenny Hodel (Roanoke, IL) on October 31.

A Sister handed me the following poem by Helen Steiner Rice. It seems to be a model for us to consider.

Bless me, Heavenly Father,  
forgive my erring ways,  
Grant me strength to serve Thee,  
put purpose in my days.  
Give me understanding  
enough to make me kind  
So I may judge all people  
with my heart and not my mind.  
Teach me to be patient  
in everything I do,  
Content to trust Thy wisdom  
and to follow after You.  
And help me when I falter  
and hear me when I pray  
And receive me in Thy kingdom  
to dwell with Thee someday.

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## KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON

**Barb Huber**

“The Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ.”

*II Thessalonians 3:5*

Many precious teachings have been shared during the past month and we are grateful how God provides through His servants each Lord's day. As II Thessalonians 3 was expounded upon recently, the above scripture brought comfort to our hearts and may it do the same for you as another year comes to a close.

The weekend of October 29 was a blessed time when our Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Sis. Roberta, Smithville, OH), traveled to share the Memorandum with us. May the Lord bless Bro. Andy and Sis. Roberta for their love and untiring efforts to shepherd our small flock.

We were also thankful for the following ministers who labored to share God's Holy Word: Bro. Ralph Garber (Sis. Lynn, Morton, IL), Bro. Paul Kilgus (Sis. Carmen, Fairbury, IL), Bro. Nate Wieland (Sis. Suzanne, Goodfield, IL), and Bro. Warren Schlatter (Sis. Cindy, Junction, OH). We appreciate all their efforts and pray the Lord to bless them and their families richly.

Christian fellowship is always an inspiration. Other churches who blessed our fellowship were represented from Congerville and Washington, IL; Indianapolis, IN; and Rittman, OH.

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 or Bro. Lester Huber (859) 745-2541.

## MEXICO, IXTLAN

**Claudia Gonzalez**

Greetings dear ones! We were greatly blessed this past month to have the opportunity to teach many little ones about the Lord.

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

*Matthew 19:14*

On July 10, we had VBS in Acapulco in two different places, “Barra Vieja” and “Las Lomas”. About 80 children came to hear stories about Moses. Even though there was not a classroom, the children listened to the stories under a tree. But we could still see happy faces and hear happy voices singing “Oh be careful little eyes”! On July 24, VBS took place in Morelia. Just like in the other places, invitations were delivered house to house among the neighbors. 50 children between 5 and 13 years of age attended to learn about Moses. On July 31, we had VBS here in Ixtlan. It was amazing to hear two hundred children singing all together. They loved to sing “Quien es el Rey de la Selva”. (Who is the King of the Jungle?) At first we didn't think we had enough teachers to take care of so many children, but the Lord was with us as He always is. The visitors from the U.S. were a great help for us, too.

We appreciate and thank everyone who was willing to help us out in different ways such as sending prizes for the kids, teaching, driving, cleaning, etc., and making VBS possible. Thank you!

*Meet Bro. Samuel Gutierrez:*

My name is Samuel Gutierrez and I am 75 years old. I had been searching for years to find solutions to the problems in my life. I knew I needed to change my way of living, my way of

thinking and speaking. I went to different churches over the years and finally, in a conversation with a man from Ixtlan, I found out about this church. My wife and I attended and I could see a respect and openness there. After a time, I became more sensitive to the things of the Lord and was able to repent and confess my sins.

I thank the Lord because He has never left me alone. Now when I travel on the bus, I am always talking to others about the Lord and inviting them to church. I take my Bible in my bag and never hesitate to say I am a Christian. The Lord has brought much comfort in my life. My wife and I were baptized on October 23, 2005.

## MEXICO, MAGDALENA

Saludos de amor en el nombre de Cristo, nuestro Salvador!

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

*Romans 6:4*

It was with great joy that we welcomed Bro. John and Sis. Katie Schick (Bro. Bill and Sis. Joan) into our church family on October 14 and 15. As they were our first baptisms here in Magdalena, it was an exciting opportunity to share with the children and community the significance and importance of baptism. We had many visitors from the local community and the States and held services outside to accommodate the almost 200 people in attendance. Praise God for His goodness in bringing so many to share the weekend with us and to hear the Gospel message! We were also especially grateful to God for Elder Bro. Mike Leman (Sis. Deb, Den-



ver, CO) who shared the Word with us on Sunday in Spanish. We also appreciate the support of Elder Bros. Tom Hoffman (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL), and Jon Kokanovich (Sis. Nancy, Phoenix, AZ), and ministering Bros. Doug Wagenbach (Sis. Lillian, San Diego, CA), and James Emch (Sis. Gina, Phoenix, AZ).

The same night of the baptisms, six of our girls here at CVE expressed a desire to follow Christ and that they want to be at peace with God and with men. Please pray for the Spirit's continued work in their lives as they grow in spiritual understanding and maturity.

In the last month, two of our girls spent time in the hospital. Jaqueline was hospitalized for several days for a series of tests and Magda was hospitalized briefly for an appendectomy. We are thankful that we could entrust the care of these girls to our Heavenly Father, the great doctor of our physical infirmities, but more importantly, the healer of our souls.

On October 22, Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Sis. Leonda, Leo, IN) shared God's Word with our church here in Magdalena. Thank you, Bro. Lynn, for your willingness to share the Gospel message with our new believers here.

"And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."

*Matthew 4:19*

The first of November, we welcomed Sis. Stephanie Bahr from Kiowa, KS. We are grateful for Sis. Stephanie's willingness to come and join in the labor here in Mexico.

November 8-10, the CVE Board and Mexico World Relief Board held meetings here in Magdalena. We welcomed Elder Bros. Jon Kokanovich (Sis. Nancy, Phoenix, AZ), Tom Hoffman (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL),

and Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign, IL), ministering Bros. Marshall Heinold (Sis. Jan, Ixtlan, Mexcio) and Ron Bollier (Sis. Edie, Indianapolis, IN), and Bros. Jerry Tooley, Mike Fiechter, and Rick Yergler. We are very appreciative of their willingness to invest their time and energy in the work here. We are amazed and thankful for the many doors that God is opening here at CVE and pray for His continued direction and wisdom as these projects develop.

We are so thankful for the work that the Lord has done in the life of our convert, Ruth Duarte, who has repented and found peace with God and man. Lord willing, we are looking forward to hearing her testimony and witnessing her baptism on November 25 and 26.

We have received approval to begin the construction of our new church building and will be taking up a collection for this project in individual churches in the near future. If there are those who are skilled in special trades or general construction, who are interested in giving a few days or a week to the building of the church, please email us here at CVE at [cvemx@yahoo.com](mailto:cvemx@yahoo.com) and we will contact you later as we have specific needs.

We have also begun the construction of our first house here on campus. When this home is completed we will have a need for couples or single brothers or sisters to fill the role of houseparents. We are looking forward to the opportunity to provide more of a family-centered home life for our CVE children and trust God to provide the staffing that we will need. We would encourage anyone who has an interest in working with children and feels God's calling, to contact us at the above email address with questions. We would also encourage those interested to begin studying Spanish

as language skills are important to our mission and outreach. Currently, we have an immediate need for single brothers to begin training to serve as mentors.

"Then saith he unto his disciples, 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*

Plans are beginning for the development of a Christian school for children at CVE and in the community. Please pray for wisdom and the guiding of God's hand as this project develops. We are also exploring the addition of an independent-living component to our outreach at CVE. God has brought several young women to our church and CVE family who are orphans in need of support, a sense of family, and mentoring. Please pray for these young women and for God's direction as we seek to provide for their needs to the glory of our Heavenly Father.

"God setteth the solitary in families: he bringeth out those which are bound with chains..."

*Psalms 68:8*

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## MICHIGAN, ALTO

**Rose Watson**

**Terri Huber**

We welcomed Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Sis. Michelle, Philadelphia, PA) as he assisted our Elder and Deacon in conducting the October 22 baptisms of Sis. Tasha Steffen and Sis. Heather Steffen (Bro. Ted and Sis. Sandy) and Sis. Listyn Capman (her mother is Tracy Capman). Their testimonies were sweet and sincere, and we joyfully greet them as sisters in the faith. The fellowship during



the weekend was spiritually refreshing. We also appreciated two other visiting ministers, Bros. Matt Steffen (Sis. Deanna, Princeville, IL) and John Lehman (Sis. Ruth Ann, Wolcott, IN).

A marriage with God in the center is a blessing, and we extend congratulations on the engagement of Bro. Jake Gerst (Bro. Wally and Sis. Donna) to Sis. Meika Monfre (Bro. Tony and Sis. Deonne) of Goodfield, IL. Jake has been working and living in Morton for several years, but we hope he still calls Alto "home" and we plan to see a lot of the happy couple.

Another native son has reached a milestone. Bro. Ben Kaeb was awarded a Master's degree from Iowa State University in the field of Entomology. Now that he has completed his schooling, Ben has moved home to Michigan and is welcomed back by his family and friends.

We again ask you to lift up Sis. Michele Blough in prayer as she continues to suffer from severe and, as yet, unexplained headaches that keep her home from work and church. Bro. Lloyd Blough (Sis. Ella) and Julie Stouffer (David; daughter-in-law of Dave and Bonnie Stouffer) had surgery. Elaine Wingeier (Stan) was hospitalized as well. Please remember them all.

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**MICHIGAN, BAY CITY**  
**Sarah Knochel**  
**Janelle Ramseyer**

We want to remember Bro. Bob and Sis. Kayleen Grew in the sudden passing of Bro. Bob's father, Darrell Grew. We also extend sympathy to Darrell's father, Del Grew, and his sister, Nancy Herzberg, from our congregation. May you feel the comfort of our Heavenly Father during this time of sorrow.

Our prayers are also with those who have spent time in the hospital

this past month. Bro. Floyd (Sis. Marion) Knochel, Sis. Marlene Mosher, and Sis. Carol (Bro. Bill) Waibel all spent time under physician care and we are thankful that each one is back on the road to recovery.

As a congregation, we appreciate the efforts of ministering Bro. Dave Steffen (Sis. Linda, Elgin, IL) when their family visits our congregation. May they be richly blessed for their labor of love.

Know ye the Son, the sacred Son  
of God?  
The Hero great is born in Bethle-  
hem!  
He came to us from His exalted  
throne,  
As prince of peace, as God's eter-  
nal Son!  
Know ye this Son? Yea, He is  
known,  
The dauntless Hero, God's own  
Son!

*Hymns of Zion #249*

As the Christmas season is rapidly approaching, may we stop and take a moment to ponder if we really know the Son. What a wonderful blessing we have as believers to have God's own Son as our Brother. May each one have a safe and blessed Christmas.

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

"Let brotherly love continue." *Hebrews 13:1*

We are back worshipping in our church as renovations are now complete. The residents at Woodpointe have our collective gratitude for sharing their home with us over the past weeks. Thanks to everyone who played a role in the renovations. May

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

We are grateful for the blessings of God's grace in Miki Miladinov's (Sis. Sanche Denes's sister) life to begin her repentance. We pray daily that God will bless her with strength, peace, and great joy as she lives her life for Christ. "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).

"Pray without ceasing." (I Thessalonians 5:17). Precious 5-month old Maya Jones, Sis. Martha Szilagyi's great-granddaughter, has been hospitalized most of her young life and needs our prayers. Bro. Warren Rauhe's father, Bro. John Rauhe (Sis. Esther) of Rhode Island, has had surgery recently and will be in rehabilitation for several months and would appreciate our continued prayers for a successful recovery. Ministering Bro. Lucas Frank recently had shoulder surgery, and we pray that he will feel God's healing presence. Bro. Jim Barton (Sis. Vi) is home recovering, and we look forward to worshipping with him soon. Sis. Mary Kaisner (retired ministering Bro. Hartzell) has returned to church again after her surgery, and we all welcomed her back with open arms. Sis. Linda Shaw is hospitalized, and our prayers and thoughts are with her.

Twins, Nathan and Rebekah, were born on November 4 to excited parents, Ryan and Sheri Maibach, and they were welcomed home by big brother, Jacob. Happy grandparents are Ben and Barb Maibach and Bro. John and Sis. Linda Klopfenstein. Children are such a joy and a blessing from God!

The weekend of November 11-12, our choir traveled to Cissna Park, Illinois, to worship, to fellowship and to praise the Lord with song. They had a



wonderful time and look forward to being with our loved ones there in the near future.

As Thanksgiving approaches, we are reminded to "...give thanks to God always..." (I Thessalonians 1:2).

After two years of careful study and analysis, the Woodhaven Retirement Community Board of Directors has identified the need to reposition Woodhaven for the future. The scope of the project includes the creation of many more private rooms in all three centers: skilled nursing, assisted living and memory care. In addition, plans include adding a much-needed chapel and remodeling to include replacing the nearly 20-year old carpeting, wall covering, etc. Leading this effort are Board President, Bro. Dana Knochel, and Building Committee Chair, Bro. Doug Maibach. Please pray that the Board and Building Committee will have the wisdom and blessing of God as they move forward.

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

*I John 4:12*

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**MINNESOTA  
MINNEAPOLIS  
LaRae Dill**

"The Lord liveth; and blessed be my rock; and let the God of my salvation be exalted."

*Psalms 18:46*

The Thanksgiving season certainly offers opportunity to give our God exaltation and thanks. As a congregation we also have reason for thanksgiving....

Christian friendships are a blessing, and as a congregation we have had the blessing and opportunity to meet and fellowship with new

friends. Bro. Chuck and Sis. Naomi Wiegand (Denver, CO) and family have been part of our assembly for the past seven weeks as their daughter Gabriella, received surgery and therapy at Gillette Children's Hospital. The family stayed with Chuck's sister and family, Bro. Sam and Sis. Ruth Moser; however, we all enjoyed getting to know them! May God bless you on your way!

Three ministers visited our congregation this month - Bro. Jim Butikofer (Elgin, IA), and Elder Bros. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) and Art Nohl (Morris, MN) who were here for the Memorandum.

The love and support of family and friends is certainly reason for thanksgiving, especially at a time of sadness and heartache. Sis. Ethel Bednarski and family experienced the prayers of many as Ethel's daughter, Karla Fisher, passed away at the age of 58. We extend our sympathy to Sis. Ethel, Karla's husband John, children, grandchildren, and other relatives.

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**MINNESOTA, MORRIS  
Heidi Nohl  
Sheila Reuter**

We are thankful that Michael Koehl (Bro. Guy and Sis. Lynette) has begun his repentance. We trust the Lord will grant him grace to build a firm foundation.

We appreciate the efforts of Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH) and Bro. Jim Koehl (San Diego, CA) as they brought forth the Word of God to us. We trust God will richly bless them.

Sis. Alexis Koehl (Bro. Randy and Sis. Shirley) and Bro. Tyler Scott (Ted Scott and LuAnn Rehm) from Prescott, AZ, have recently announced their engagement. God bless them as they look forward to their lives together.

Our hearts were saddened at the passing of our dear Sis. Lena Lou Reuter. Our sympathy goes out to her son, Bro. Jim Reuter (Sis. Carolyn). We trust God will comfort as only He can do.

*Note of Thanks:*

With grateful hearts we want to thank all who have given so freely of themselves - food, cards, phone calls, gifts, and prayers in the past months. We continue on with the Lord's grace day by day and need not be afraid but trust in His love. When our son had cancer, we so appreciated the love and support; and so again with Dawn's journey with cancer, we appreciate the support and love shown us. Continue to pray, it's the most you can do!

*Bro. Doug and Sis. Dawn Moser*

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**MINNESOTA, WINTHROP  
Rachel Steiner  
Julie Schmidt**

Bro. Duane Metzger (Sis. Ruth, West Bend, IA) was here the first part of October to assist our Bro. Dean Messner on the pulpit. Bro. Don Miller (Sis. Bernadine, Minneapolis, MN) and Bro. Darren Fehr (Sis. Nora, West Bend, IA) were our visiting ministers this month. We appreciate them coming and spending the day with us and sharing God's Word.

"Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit..."

*I Corinthians 12:4*

Our annual Brotherhood meeting was held in November. Bro. Dick Schmidt (Sis. Mary Lou) was voted in for a second term of being Trustee. Bro. Glen Steiner (Sis. Rachel) was voted in as Treasurer, replacing Bro. Marlyn Messner (Sis. Lois). Bro. Adrian Ebling (Sis. Beckie) will be usher/recorder replacing Bro. Ed



Stoll (Sis. Ginny). And replacing Sis. Becky Braulick (Marlyn) will be Sis. Nancy Van Deest (Bro. Dick) as the Kitchen Coordinator with Sis. Julie Schmidt (Bro. Nick). We thank those with responsibilities for their years of service.

Our Sunday School students hosted their annual supper for those 55 and older. An enjoyable evening was had by all. Thank you, students, for your labors of love.

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## MISSOURI, LAMAR

### Becky Marti Mindy Braker

We appreciated Elder Bro. Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA) coming to assist with the reading of the Memorandum. We were also thankful to have Bro. Greg Stoller (Forrest, IL) with us this month.

Bro. David Braker (Bro. Roy and Sis. Judy) was united in marriage to Sis. Laura Stoller (Bro. Greg and Sis. Jill) of Forrest, IL, on November 12. We welcome Sis. Laura to our congregation and wish them both God's blessings and grace as they walk the path of life together.

Emily Huber (Bro. Michael and Sis. Kristi) spent time in the hospital this month. We are thankful she is well and home again.

On November 14, Sis. Luise Engle finished her life on this earth. Our sympathy is extended to her family. Our sympathy is also with Bro. Jay and Sis. Sharon Braker in the loss of their brother-in-law, Jack Rose (Marilyn), of Greeley, CO.

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## MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

### Betsy Schrenk

Blessing us with their willing service to bring God's Word to our little congregation this past month were ministering Bros. Greg Rassi (Sis. Carla, Chicago), Scott Wegman (Sis.

Dawn, Taylor), Marvin Dotterer (Sis. Nancy, Forrest), Galen Rokey (Sis. Nancy, Bern), and Allen Stoller (Sis. Susan, Bluffton). We thank them and each visitor to St. Louis.

On November 5, an older gentleman got very weak during lunch, and after some evaluation, we called 9-1-1, and soon the paramedics were on the scene. They checked him out, put him on a stretcher, and wheeled him out of the church to the waiting ambulance. Kelly, a little 5 year old visitor, took it all in with big eyes and looked out at the flashing lights in the parking lot. She said, "We never had a broke person at our church." Her grandmother and I laughed, in spite of our concern at the serious situation. On the way home, as I related the story to Loren, he chuckled and said that he had been "broke" for a while this past year, with his cancer surgery and radiation. Then, switching from the physical to the spiritual, he said he hoped that every person in the church had been "broke" or would be. The unredeemed life is bankrupt — "broke". A broken spirit and a contrite heart leads to repentance and a new birth. Christ's shed blood will heal and restore, and the angels in heaven rejoice.

We are thankful that after a few days in the hospital, our beloved friend, Harold Stuber (formerly of Tremont), is back at home with wife Berniece and daughter Heidi, and once more attending church.

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## MISSOURI, TAYLOR

### Sally Haerr

As I begin this November writing, the hymn "To My Redeemer" (Zion's Harp #182) is running through my mind. Verse 1 starts out, "As I think of Thee a gentle rapture overwhelms the soul that Thou dost love..." Take time to open and let the words bless your heart, as it is mine right now.

What a calming effect these old Zion's Harp hymns have on our way too busy lives.

On Wednesday evening, November 1, we had one of those "mountain top" experiences as we sat and listened to Bro. Ed Sauder (Sis. Bonnie, Roanoke, IL) tell us of his trek up Mt. McKinley and the spiritual parallels of a believer's walk with Christ and His church. Of the many comparisons, "boundaries" stands out in my memory. Boundaries are for our safety. God loves us enough to set boundaries. With His Word, the Holy Bible, as our "map" to follow, let's all press on with joy and anticipation, toward Heaven the highest goal of all. Thank you, Bro. Ed and Sis. Bonnie, for loving us enough to share your many experiences.

The engagement of Sis. Heidi Heimer (Bro. Rod and Sis. Barb) and Bro. Kenton Snyder (Morton, IL) was announced on October 29. Bro. Kenton's parents are Bro. Greg and Sis. Kara from Kansas City, MO. As they make their future plans, we wish them the "Fruit of the Spirit": love, joy, peace, longsuffering... (Galatians 5:22-23)

On November 14, a baby girl, Sage Elise, was born to Bro. Jason and Sis. Natalie Stratton. Welcoming her home is big brother, Jackson (age 2), and grandparents, Bro. Mike and Sis. Cheryl Stratton (Taylor) and Elder Bro. John and Sis. Connie Lehman (Bern, KS). Also sharing in their joy are great-grandmothers, Sis. Loida Hodel (Taylor) and Sis. Pearl Miller (Sabetha, KS). What a blessing as well as a responsibility and privilege to love and nurture a child as we prayerfully guide them toward a close walk with Jesus. As a parent we cling to the promise found in Proverbs 22:6, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and he will not depart from it."

Our little congregation is growing



and we rejoice as we welcome Bro. Tim and Sis. Amber Lehman. Sis. Amber is coming back "home" and we hope that Bro. Tim will feel the joy and love of home here as well. Elder Bro. Kent and Sis. Jan Heimer and Elder Bro. John and Sis. Connie Lehman (Bern, KS) are their loving and supportive parents. We hope that the vacancy they leave in West Lafayette, IN, will soon be filled.

The sick/hospitalized this month were Sis. Penny Knochel (Bro. Eric), Bro. Jacob Heimer (Bro. Rod and Sis. Barb), and Nikki Miller (Bro. Norman and Sis. Sally Haerr). As we pray and trust God for His healing for those with physical health issues, we also realize the great need for spiritual healing and restoration. God wants to use the power He gives us through prayer. James 5:16 tells us "...the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

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### NEW YORK CROGHAN-NAUMBURG Hope Graves

We enjoyed having many visitors assemble with us on the weekend of October 28-29. Among our visitors were ministering Bro. Jerry Isch and his family (Philadelphia, PA). We gathered for a potluck meal and singing on Saturday evening and are grateful to Bro. Jerry for bringing forth God's Word to us on Sunday.

Our prayers continue with Sis. Anna Mellnitz, Sis. Louise Purvines and Bro. Lowell Virkler who have met with recent falls and we pray that Bro. Lowell will be back assembling with us soon.

As we draw near to this Thanksgiving season, we are reminded of the many blessings the Lord showers upon us each day of the year. May we remember to serve Him joyfully, shining our lights for all the world to see.

Thy living Word is sent,  
Our souls to feed and nourish.  
Thou wilt that in our hearts,  
Thy love and praise we cherish.  
Thou sheddest light and power  
Upon our pilgrim way,  
And leadest us by Thy hand,  
To heaven day by day.  
We sing our heartfelt thanks.  
Thy truth and love adorning.  
For guidance and for light,  
Thy Spirit we're imploring.  
Our hearts we offer Thee,  
For life and every day.  
That with Thy grace we tread,  
The straight and narrow way.

*Zion's Harp #13*

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### OHIO, AKRON Mara Henico Rachel Pamer

We never are forsaken  
With Christ our Lord so near.  
His faithfulness revealing,  
We feel His presence here.

What a blessing it was to have Elder Bro. Dennis Warner (Lester, IA) with us as we heard the Memorandum letter! We trust that God will richly reward him for his labors among us.

We continue to keep Sis. Esther Grosenbacher in our prayers as we recently laid her husband to rest. Bro. Joe always had such a cheerful demeanor in spite of his recent health concerns. We trust that God will be near to each of his family and friends.

We rejoice with Bro. Ted and Sis. Anna Gherian as they welcomed home their first child. Alaina Judith was also eagerly anticipated by paternal grandparents, Bro. Paul and Sis. Sharon Gherian (Junction, OH), and maternal grandparents, Bro. Rowan and Sis. Judy Schar (Rittman, OH).

We are thankful that Sis. Janet

Graf (Bro. Leon) was able to return home after a short hospital stay. May God continue to give her strength for each day!

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### OHIO, COLUMBUS Nancy Banks

We are so thankful to share the news of our new convert, Todd Saurer (Bro. Roger and Sis. Sue, Smithville, OH) as he is seeking his soul's salvation. We will continue to pray for Todd and for many others that we pray will answer the call before it is forever too late.

This past month, we were encouraged to have the Word brought to us by Bro. Tim Gerber and Bro. Mike Baumann, Jr. (Mansfield, OH) and Bro. Mark Gerber (Bluffton, IN). Bro. Mark brought many members of his family with him and we enjoyed having them share the day with us.

Barley soup was packaged by many helping hands at our World Relief night. It is an enjoyable night with wonderful fellowship shared by all. Our annual fall clean-up was also held this month, with adults and children alike pitching in!

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### OHIO, JUNCTION Cindy Schlatter

We were privileged to have Elder Bro. Don Braker (Kansas City, MO) with us as we listened to the reading of the Memorandum. It was a blessed evening as we could sit and be exhorted on various topics. May we all strive more diligently to live our lives according to God's good and perfect will.

Bro. Paul and Sis. Sharon Gherian are pleased with their new granddaughter, Alaina Judith. Alaina's parents are Bro. Ted and Sis. Anna Gherian of our Akron, OH, congregation.

We appreciated the visit of minis-



tering Bro. Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH). May God richly bless him for his labors.

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

“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end...”

*Isaiah 9:6-7*

That blessed time of year is yet upon us once again: Christmas. It is a time not only when families gather together, but most of all, when the wonderful story of love is commemorated. May one and all find joy and hope in believing this Christmas.

There is news to report from Latty. We were blessed with visiting ministers this past month. They were Bro. Vic Bauman (Sis. Brenda, Smithville, OH), Bro. Earl Beery (Sis. Susie, Rittman, OH) and Bro. Dale Wulf (Sis. Becky, Lester, IA).

On the weekend of November 4-5, our congregation listened to the reading of the Memorandum. Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL) was here to assist Bro. John with this task. We thank God for his efforts on our behalf.

The Latty married couples were invited to the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, November 11, to partake in a marriage seminar. It was put on by Bro. Ted Witzig, Jr. (Sis. Donna, Morton, IL) and Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Sis. Pam, Washington, IL) of Apostolic Christian Counseling and Family Services. These brothers spoke to the Single Group Saturday evening

with the topic of Christ-centered Self Worth. They remained with us on Sunday and we thank God for their labors.

Ava Lynn was born to Bro. Ross and Sis. Joy Stoller on November 7. She is welcomed home by a brother, Blake. Excited grandparents are Bro. Craig and Sis. Ruth Stoller and Bro. Mark and Sis. Benita Bahler (Remington, IN).

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**OHIO, MANSFIELD**  
**Esther Baumann**

We rejoiced to learn that two young souls, Lydia Dotterer (Bro. Gaylord and Sis. Betty) and Bethany Miller (Bro. Roger and Sis. Dorina), have recently started their repentance. Continue to pray for them as God changes their lives.

The engagement of Bro. Edward Ramsey Jr. (Bro. Edward Sr. and Sis. Laura) to Sis. Michelle Stoller of Champaign, IL (Bro. Steve and Sis. Anne Marie, LaCrosse, IN) was announced on November 5. We are thankful to witness God's leading in their lives.

Two precious little babies were born this past month. Harrison Bryant was born on October 17 to Bro. Bruce and Sis. Denise Sauder. Also welcoming him home are siblings, Jordan, Lauren, Colin, Madelyn and Elayn, and grandmother, Sis. Caroline Sauder.

Destiny Mae was born on October 31 to Douglas Windsor and Angela Foss. Also thankful for her safe arrival are grandparents, Rick and Sis. Susan Foss.

We thank Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Sis. Jane, Lamont-Gridley, KS) for being willing to come and assist in the reading of the Memorandum and for ministering to us. We are also grateful to Bro. Art Ingold (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman, OH) and Bro. Jesse Bedolla (Sis. Bonnie, Detroit, MI) for serving

us in the ministry.

Sis. Christine Dotterer was hospitalized this past month. Sis. Lucille Groh moved to our Rittman Nursing Home. Continue to pray for them as they rely on God's strength.

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**OHIO, RITTMAN**  
**Hannah Beery**  
**Sarah Bauman**

Jude David was warmly welcomed home by first-time parents, Bro. David and Sis. Anne Gasser. Grandparents are Bro. Darrell and Sis. Alice Widmer and Bro. Virgil and Sis. Lois Gasser.

Welcoming another grandchild are Bro. Rowen and Sis. Judy Schar. First-time parents are Bro. Ted and Sis. Anna Gherian (Akron, OH) of little Alaina Judith. Bro. Paul and Sis. Sharon Gherian (Junction, OH) also welcome Alaina as their granddaughter.

“Two ways, O man, are there for thee, There are two destinations.” (Zion's Harp #106). It is always so encouraging to hear when souls have chosen to follow the Lord. Esther Rupp (Bro. James and Sis. Sharon) has begun her walk with the Lord.

The engagement of Bro. Dan Kellenberger (Bro. Keith and Sis. Ida, Bradford, IL) to Sis. Beth Stoller (Bro. Ed and Sis. Verla) of Smithville, OH, was made known on November 5. May the Lord be with and guide them as they plan for their upcoming wedding and marriage.

Our sympathy is extended to the Don and Deb Steiner family in the recent passing of Deb's mother, Ruth Clarke.

Bro. Sam (Sis. Joy) Gardner's father, Gary Gardner, passed away. Our thoughts and prayers are with these families during their loss.

Hospital patients this month were Sis. Mary Jane Winkler, Sis. Mabel Maibach, Sis. Martha Walder and



Sis. Bev Moore. We're thankful that some of these sisters have been able to assemble with us again and our prayers are with those still recovering.

Word of Life, the fountain flowing  
Purely from the throne above.  
Life and strength to him imparting,  
Who accepts the Word in Love.  
*Zion's Harp #176*

We're always thankful for the Word of Life that does come forth. Ministering Bros. Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA) and Steve Pamer (Akron, OH) were with us this past month.

On November 15, an ordination service was held for Bro. Tim Ramsier (Sis. Joni) who has been called into the ministry. Elder Bros. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH), Dave Graf (Akron, OH), Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH), and Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH) assisted our Elder Bro. Merle in this work. Our thoughts and prayers have been and will continue to be with Bro. Tim, Sis. Joni, and their children: Sis. Kelly, Sis. Katie, Heidi and Chad.

May the Lord be with each one during the Christmas season and in the coming New Year.

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**OHIO, SARDIS**  
**Eric and Jami Hartzler**

Lord God, we honor Thee,  
And praise Thy mild compassion,  
That Thou so graciously  
Dost hear our supplication!  
Thy love is truly great;  
Thy mercies are untold;  
Thou givest food and drink  
For Spirit, flesh and soul.  
*Zion's Harp #13*

Our heavenly Father gave us spiritual food through the efforts of our

ministers and visiting ministers, Elder Bro. Merle Hartzler (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman, OH) and Bro. Bill Dotterer (Sis. Sharon, Lamar, MO). We thank these brothers for allowing themselves to be used on our behalf and ask the Lord to bless them and their families.

We are praising God for His mild compassion as He healed those who were in need of His healing hand. Christa Boltz (Rex) needed surgery and Sis. Jami Hartzler (Bro. Eric) required hospitalization, but both have recovered and are feeling better.

"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted;"  
Eccles. 3:1-2

We will miss the occasional visits of a dear friend of our church family, as Ruth Gikler (George, dec.) recently passed away.

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**OHIO, SMITHVILLE**  
**Ruth Gasser**  
**Edith Miller**

Up and strive, up and strive,  
Brethren, for the true faith strive.  
Fortify yourselves in Jesus;  
Battle for the crown of life.  
Strive to win the Master's praises;  
Gird yourselves with might and  
pow'r each day,  
On your way, on your way.  
*Zion's Harp #21, vs. 1*

We appreciated the efforts of our Elder brothers at they brought to us the Conference Memorandum on November 4. Elder Bro. Merle Hartzler (Rittman, OH) assisted our Elder Bro. Andy Stoller in this work. Elder Bro. Tom Stock (Cissna Park, IL) came to assist, but became ill shortly before the evening began. We are

thankful health was again restored, and he could be with us the following day. We thank him for his service and trust God will be his rich Rewarder.

The engagement of Bro. Dan Kellenberger (Rittman, OH) and Sis. Beth Stoller was recently announced. Parents of this couple are Bro. Keith and Sis. Ida Kellenberger (Bradford, IL) and Bro. Ed and Sis. Verla Stoller. We wish them God's blessings as they prepare for their January wedding and also for their lifelong marriage.

We have two new babies to report this month. Bro. Kirby and Sis. Carrie Stoller welcomed Marla Renae into their hearts and lives on November 7. Wynn and Avery are happy for a little sister. Grandparents are Elder Bro. Andy and Sis. Roberta Stoller and Bro. Larry and Sis. Edith Miller. Bro. Larry and Sis. Edith Miller also welcomed a new grandson as Bro. Seth and Sis. Lori Miller (Lester, IA) gave birth to Owen David on November 11. Owen's big sister is Rosanna, and maternal grandparents are Bro. Gene and Sis. Shirley Nester (Lester, IA). May God's blessing rest upon each of these homes, and may parents be given godly wisdom to bring their children up in the fear of the Lord.

Bro. Larry and Sis. Susan Rufener are rejoicing with the rebirth of their daughter, Sis. Sarah, whose testimony and baptism took place in Columbus, OH, on the weekend of October 21-22. We wish Sis. Sarah much grace and God's blessings as she has now begun upon the narrow pathway of life. We are also pleased to report two more converts. Todd Saurer of Columbus, OH (Bro. Roger and Sis. Sue) and Jason Indermuhle (Whitney) have confessed their need of repentance. We likewise wish them an abundance of grace as they seek to repent for their old lives and allow the Lord to convert them to a new life.

Several of our congregation have experienced physical problems, and



we are thankful to ask for assistance of the Great Physician. Sis. Lou Riggensbach (Bro. Glenn) has had surgery and will appreciate our prayers as she undergoes further treatment. George (Ken) Spence had heart surgery following which Norma, his wife, was also hospitalized. Bro. Brian Miller (Sis. Alyssa) and Sis. Gloria Hartzler (Bro. Stan) needed surgery and Sis. Doris Stoller required medical care.

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**OHIO, TOLEDO**  
**Teresa Rywalski**  
**Rebecca Beard**

“Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.”

*1 Thessalonians 5:11*

We are thankful to Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH) and Bro. Ron Kipfer (Sis. Linda, Bluffton, IN) in lending a hand on the pulpit. May God be their rich Rewarder for their willingness to be of service to others.

Let us remember the true reason we celebrate Christmas as we gather with our families and friends this season.

“For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.”

*John 3:17*

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**OREGON, PORTLAND**  
**Brianna Strahm**

Greetings in our Lord from the Northwest. We appreciate having the following visiting ministers in our midst recently: Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Sis. Cheryl, Rockville, CT), Elder Bro. Peter Petrovic (Sis. Marian, San Diego, CA), Bro. Ed Knecht (Sis. Judie, Silverton, OR), and Bro. Todd

Zollinger (Sis. Michele, Silverton, OR). May the Lord richly bless these Brothers for their willing service in the household of faith.

Anew, Lord, we are bound to Thee  
 Through Thy blest sacrifice,  
 which we  
 Partook, that joined in heart and  
 hand;  
 To Zion's realm and holy land  
 We journey on.

*Zion's Harp #200, vs. 5*

On November 12, the Portland congregation shared Holy Communion. Elder Bro. Mike Leman (Sis. Deb, Denver, CO) and our Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Betty, Silverton, OR) were with us for this occasion. We then enjoyed an all church potluck following our Communion service.

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

We are thankful for God's healing hand over Sis. Tamara Kuenzi as she is recovering well from back surgery.

It was a blessing to come together and have Communion service on October 21, with Elder Bro. Peter Petrovic (Sis. Marian, San Diego, CA) helping in the work.

With prayerful consideration, our congregation was led by the Holy Spirit to add Bro. John Wiegand (Sis. Jane), and Bro. Christopher Kuenzi (Sis. Mary) into the ministry. Our prayers and support are with them. Elder Bros. Peter Petrovic (Sis. Marian, San Diego, CA) and Kevin Ryan (Sis. Cheryl, Rockville, CT) helped our Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Betty) with this special weekend.

We had other visiting ministers as well. Thanks to Bro. Philip Schulz (Sis. Kelli, Burlington, IA), Bro. Lynn Fiechter (Sis. Ronda, Bluffton, IN) and Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Sis. Sandra, Morris, MN). As always, we appreci-

ate our Portland ministers sharing with us, Bro. Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy), Bro. Garth Steffen (Sis. Connie) and Bro. Ron Jones (Sis. Liz).

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**PENNSYLVANIA**  
**PHILADELPHIA**

“And be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.”

*1 Peter 5:5*

We were blessed and thankful to have Elder Bro. Rick Plattner (Sis. Mary) from Fairbury, IL, with us for our invite a friend weekend this Fall. On Saturday evening, we were able to spend time singing hymns together, and then Bro. Rick spoke of the blessings of humility in the believer's life. Each of us were exhorted, as well as admonished, to examine our lives, realizing God's gift of grace that is given to the humble of heart. It was a blessed weekend of fellowship, and we were thankful to renew old acquaintances, as well as to make some new ones.

We have been blessed with a number of visitors over the summer months. We are especially thankful for ministering Bro. Matthew Rassi (Chicago, IL), Bro. Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO), Bro. Jeff Streitmatter (Sarasota, FL), Bro. Gary Brown (Forrest, IL), and Bro. Tom Troxel (LaCrosse, IN) who have faithfully ministered the Word to us. It is always encouraging to see the working of the Holy Spirit through faithful brethren, teaching the truth from God's Word. In many cases their wives and family were able to come with them and we were thankful for the fellowship and love that was shared with our church. Thanks to each one of our visitors for including us in your plans and we look forward to worshipping with you again.

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## TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE

### Mike and Monica Fritz

We are thankful for the encouragement we have received recently from the Word and wonderful Christian fellowship. Our visiting ministering brothers this month have been Bros. Chris Wuethrich (Sis. Carla; LaCrosse, IN), Kim Sutter (Sis. Vonette, Taylor, MO), Dale Frank (Sis. Tina; Oakville, IA), Wayne Wiegand (Sis. Rosemary; Goodfield, IL), and Rex Frieden (Sis. Vera; Lamar, MO); and Elder Bro. Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan; Taylor, MO). We have experienced the joys of fellowship with brethren and friends visiting from Bradford, Congerville, Eureka, Fairbury, Forrest, and Goodfield, IL; Indianapolis, LaCrosse, and South Bend, IN; Elgin and Oakville, IA; Lamont-Gridley, KS; Alto, MI; Morris, MN; Kansas City, Lamar, and Taylor, MO; and Latty, OH.

If you are traveling in or through the Nashville area, please plan to worship with us. The following churches are scheduled for services in the near future: Latty, OH (12/17); Bloomington-Normal, IL (1/7); Indianapolis, IN (1/14); Washington, IL (1/21); and Milford, IN (1/28). We do not have a visiting minister scheduled for 12/24 or 12/31. However, if any local brethren are here, we will meet at church for a tape service. If you are planning to worship with us, please call ahead to confirm our schedule. Often we meet together on Saturday evenings for fellowship. We also regularly meet on Wednesday evenings for a song service at 7:15 p.m. and would welcome any mid-week visitors. Contacts are Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica Fritz, (615) 952-9933; and Sis. Gwen Leuthold, (615) 356-5755.

## TEXAS, AUSTIN

### Amy Ringger Serenity Ringger

We were blessed to have Elder Bros. Ron Schambach (Sis. Nancy, Elgin, IL) and Bob Walder (Sis. Gloria, Congerville, IL) with us for Holy Communion on October 22. Thank you for making the effort to be here. Our other ministers were Bros. Mark Zimmerman (Sis. Cheryl, Eureka), John Lehman (Sis. Ruth, Wolcott), and Clint Schmidt (Sis. Magdalena, Winthrop). We also appreciated visitors from Eureka, Bluffton, and Iowa City.

We look forward to these churches serving: Morton (January 7), Philadelphia (January 14), Bluffton (January 21), and Goodfield (January 28).

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

### Sandy Kipfer

A hardy Christian greeting to all. This is a very exciting period here in McAllen, I just have to tell you this first. Yes, we have Erika Nohl (Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Joyce) who has recently given her heart to the Lord. We wish the best of the Lord's blessings for her and many happy years serving the Lord.

As we recently enjoyed our 50th wedding anniversary, our trip to Texas was delayed for a few weeks. As we left Bluffton North, the fall leaves had already fallen. But as we entered the state of Alabama, God's handiwork was all over the land. The scenery was just beautiful. Anyone that says there is no God has never driven through the northern part of Alabama in the fall.

Our ministers this last period have been Bros. Randy Mogler (Sis. Evie, Washington, IL), Lenard Meyer (Sis. Charlotte, Chicago, IL), Tim Funk (Sis. Debra, Peoria, IL) and Jaye Rinkenberger (Sis. Peg, Goodfield, IL). We thank these brothers and their wives for taking the time and effort to serve us. May God bless each one who so willingly give of themselves for others.

Our upcoming services will be held December 10, 2006; January 14 and January 28, 2007. 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

### Mary Plattner

Services were held on



Thanksgiving Day at the church with those who have now arrived in Texas for the winter. The services were followed by a Thanksgiving meal and thankful hearts as we reflected on our many blessings.

We are seeing more of our winter family each Sunday arrive as new ones arrive for the winter months. Services will be held in McAllen, TX, twice a month this winter also for those that winter and live in the McAllen area.

Anyone wishing to come to Zapata over the winter season is most welcome to worship and fellowship with us in Zapata.

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### **VERMONT, NORWICH** **Areli and Kirby Reutter**

“And they shall come from the east, and from the west, and from the north, and from the south, and shall sit down in the kingdom of God.”

*Luke 13:29*

For those of us who live and worship in the state of Vermont, we could not be more geographically dispersed. Needless to say, we come from the eastern, the western, the northern, and the southern parts of the state.

Last Sunday we were informed that there is enough need and interest to justify additional church services this winter in another part of Vermont, Lord willing. In the past we have only held one winter service per month due to the unpredictability of inclement weather.

Therefore, in addition to the single service in Norwich, which is located on the Eastern extreme of Vermont, a second service will also be held in Clarendon (just outside of Rutland), which is situated towards the western side of the state.

This past month we were especially grateful to have the following visitors feed us in the Word: Bros. Dan Stoller (Sis. Diane) and Duane Reutter (Sis. Kay) from Rockville, CT, in addition to Bro. Dale Zeltwanger (Sis. Rachel, Morris,

MN).

If you are interested in visiting us this winter, please consult the minister directory for directions to the Norwich location. Also, please call Bro. Kirby Reutter at (802) 776-5293 to help us plan for your attendance. Directions for the Clarendon location will be published at a future date. 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!

In addition, 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.

“Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it.”

*Psalms 127:1*







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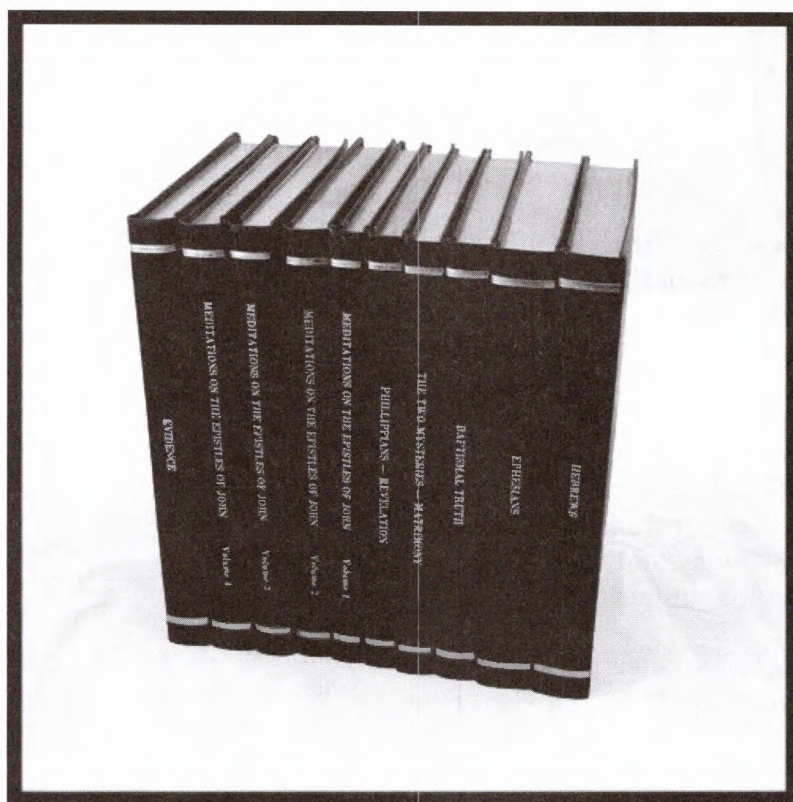
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*Sermon continued from page 2*

yet we can read, in the thirty-fourth verse, Mary had a moment of doubt there. She said to the angel, "...How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?" Then the angel described it. "...The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God." St. Luke 1:35.

It went on and spoke there of Elizabeth and then the angel concluded. He said, "For with God nothing shall be impossible." St. Luke 1:37. Here is where Mary reveals the character and the depth of her faith and the willingness that she has to be of service to God. She says, "...Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word..." St. Luke 1:38. She committed herself to whatever it would be that God had in store for her.

As we read further on, we can read that when these great things, these miracles happened, the meeting there with Elizabeth (St. Luke 1:41,42), the visitation of shepherds (St. Luke 2:15,16) and of men from a far country (St. Matthew 2:1), it says that when Mary beheld these things, that she kept these things and that she pondered them in her heart (St. Luke 2:19).

So let's consider, dear ones, how this could apply to us today. How is it when we have the Word of God presented to us? For many of us, it probably won't be an angel appearing, giving us instruction. For we have so many ways, dear ones, that God can speak to us. We have this Bible. Mary was not given the benefit of a book bound, easily to place in her hands. We are also able to come to church. We could say that we are certainly afforded a privilege that at any time the

doors of the church are open, there would be nothing other than our own priorities and our own desires other than church to be gathered there and to be taught and to learn of God's will.

And we have that Holy Spirit. That still small voice that, if we are humble, if we're yielded, if we are praying for God's will, it will speak to us. If we haven't experienced it, it is hard to describe, it's hard to explain. Sometimes that Spirit will speak to us and just the thought of our mind, if we're maybe considering something that we are going to get involved in, maybe we just consider, dear ones, the involvement and the Spirit that it will be done in and we can feel that this isn't what God would want us to do. We can know that He has spoken to us. We've heard the Spirit described as a conscience that speaks before we fall or fail. It really is that. It can lead us.

So we have many ways, dear ones. Mary had the angel Gabriel. We have many ways today that God speaks to us. Are we giving God the opportunity? Are we taking the Word of God and in quietness reading and considering, pondering what it might be that the scripture would teach? Are we praying that God would reveal Himself to us and that we would know if we are doing the will of God? Just those two things, dear ones, give God the opportunity.

But we know that in society, in the world and in the lives of so many today that those things would not be a priority. In fact, the world about us would be so filled with noise and confusion, with things that are against God and against the Spirit, that would be so able to fill the mind of one that allowed those things to just continue to be in their mind throughout the day every day. Isn't it true that no

matter where we go in and out, whether it be places of business, places of work, probably in and out of homes, isn't it true that the music of the world today, which would take a very short time of studying the message and the words in the music, to recognize that it is very contrary to this Word of God, to the will of God. But yet we can recognize that it surrounds people and it fills their mind. So might it be, dear ones, as we consider the season, as we consider the Lord and Savior that came here to earth, we also need to consider our heart, our life and ask ourselves, are we allowing the Lord to speak to us, to instruct us? If we are and we can acknowledge that maybe our actions, our thoughts, our attitudes are contrary to what it is that God has spoken, to what God has told us, we can consider the example of Mary. Who so willing was able to say, "...be it unto me according to thy word..." St. Luke 1:38. And to cast herself with faith into whatever it was that God had for her.

Would the plan of salvation been able to fulfill itself if Mary would have looked at that and said, no it is not for me? I might be looked upon as a little strange if I go through with this. And we know that was the case because we can read in St. Matthew that her espoused husband, she was engaged to Joseph, when he found and discovered that she was with child, he wanted to put her aside. It said he "...was minded to put her away privily." St. Matthew 1:19. He wanted to quietly break off the engagement. So we know that she, in accepting the will of God, was going to be looked upon as different and strange in the eyes of the people in that day.

And probably throughout the life of Christ - and the Word doesn't elaborate on this but we know -



that those, even the Lord Himself said that a prophet, Him being the prophet, was not accepted in His own country and among His own brethren (St. Luke 4:24). So we know that He was afflicted throughout His entire life by those that said He had some strange thing. It probably, dear ones, continued from the very time that it was viewed by those around as an illegitimate birth. But yet Mary had faith to believe that it was of God. She was told that it would be of the Holy Ghost. She could say, be it unto me according to Thy Word.

Then we read, and we know the story so well, of the going there to the city of Bethlehem. How it was a time of travel, a time of a government dictating that many should go back to the place of their fathers. (St. Luke 2:1-5) The significance, dear ones, of our Lord and our Savior, the one that was called and chosen of God - and we know that the Lord was there. The Word tells us that He always was. He was from the beginning. So He was there with God the Father. He was in heaven. He was in glory. He was called of God. He was asked to be the Savior of mankind. But in order to do that, there was a humbling and a humiliation and a lowliness that was required.

Sound familiar today dear ones, to the life of a true believer? One that has their eyes fixed upon an eternal glory? There's a humbling, isn't there? There's a time of taking our place in a lowly estate and a waiting for the Lord to lift us up. But the Savior was born in a most humble place. He was born in a stable in a manger. But yet, we dear ones, we can recognize that the faith of Mary and Joseph and for all that wanted to believe, really, in that day, was lifted up by the announcing and the confirmation. We had shepherds that heard

of the great birth and that message that came to them from the angels. (St. Luke 2:7-14).

We can see another example of a simple faith there even in those shepherds. When they beheld a thing that would be very strange to them and they went off. It says - they didn't doubt and they didn't hesitate for a second - but they left their flocks and they went (St. Luke 2:15,16). Just like we, dear ones, when we are called of God, just like we need to go without a moment's hesitation. If we are convicted in our heart that we are separated from God by the sin of life, we should not hesitate any longer than these shepherds in going to our God. Falling upon our knees and asking that God forgive us. That we be restored. That we can in humility and in repentance seek that peace of God. That peace that was wished by those angels to mankind. When they announced to the shepherds, they said, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." St. Luke 2:14.

That's not the peace, dear ones - we can read that and we can say well, the angels were announcing that once Christ came that everybody was going to get along. Yet Christ, in His ministry, He spoke a little more on that and elaborated and made it more clear when He said, I come not to bring peace but rather division (St. Luke 12:51). He was speaking of the division of right from wrong, of good from evil. He even foretold that there would be separations within families.

So what is the peace here that these angels are proclaiming? They are giving glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will toward men. Isn't that the peace that comes from being restored? Born again and given a new heart? One that is free of guilt

and sin and condemnation. That is the peace that the angels foretold of. And this small child that was born, that those proclaimed to be the Savior of the world, was coming to establish a kingdom on earth. That really confused those that studied the old law. They were looking for one that would come with earthly power and cast off the rule of the day, the Romans and those put in power by the Roman rulers. They were looking for one to ease the burden, physically, of an oppressive government.

For many of them, dear ones, for many of them that seemed to be the most in tune, the most well read of the old law - and the word that Moses penned down, and that was inspired by God to Moses - the Lord told us, He said that He came not to condemn the law but to fulfill it. That law, dear ones, those Pharisees, the scribes, the Sadducees, they were so much believing that that law gave them authority and power and self elevation in society that they completely missed the coming of the one who was really the King. The one who was really the Savior. They were looking for that kingdom to establish them in power.

But today dear ones, we know the nature of that kingdom. We know that that kingdom is established and reigns in the heart. That it would be, dear ones, that that kingdom, being established in the heart, that it would be established over all other kingdoms. That it would take priority over any citizenship that we would have to an earthly king, to an earthly ruler or government. That it would be our alliance that our - even a word that comes to mind is our servitude our serving of that kingdom. Because it is not a kingdom maybe that we would understand in the land of America where



*Sermon continued from page 45*

we proclaim a lot of freedom and democracy. While we have a liberty in Christ, we are free from sin, we dear ones, have a king. We proclaim obedience and submission. In that, Christ can reign. In that, Christ can lead. We are prepared, beloved, for the fulfillment of that kingdom.

Christ spoke, if we read in His parables and His teachings, He spoke over and over and time after time of the kingdom of heaven. He taught us of the nature of that kingdom. He taught us that the kingdom of heaven is like unto a treasure hid in a field (St. Matthew 13:44). Do we think of it as that today, dear ones? Is the Word of God and that we have salvation, is that as a treasure to us? That's what Christ told us. He taught us that when we would discover that

treasure, that we would go and sell all and buy the field that contains that treasure. That's the priority. That's the elevation of that kingdom in our lives and in our hearts. That's the kingdom that was established by the babe in the manger in that lowly birth.

We can think, dear ones, we can contrast this kingdom of the Lord Jesus to any other kingdom that has ever existed on the face of this earth. We can say that those kingdoms have risen and those kingdoms have fallen. Any ruler that has been in those kingdoms has established their power and have been taken out of power. But our Lord Jesus, dear ones, and the kingdom that He came and that He established in the heart of man has reigned throughout all times, since the beginning of His kingdom. It will remain so. It will re-

main so from our generation until the Lord returns and He gathers together those that have established His kingdom in their heart. He will gather them in that new heaven, that place that we are promised and foretold. There will be a place of eternal happiness and joy. Where all of the cares and the heartaches and the pains that we know in this life will not afflict those servants of the kingdom.

So we can ask ourselves, dear ones, we can consider the day. We can consider the season. We can ask ourselves, the kingdom that was established that we remember on this day, is it influencing my life? Is it working on my heart? Am I a servant, am I a follower, am I a citizen of that kingdom? Am I looking forward to being a partaker of it throughout all eternity?



### **"Zion's Melodies" Instrumental CD**

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## Zion's Melody Music CD

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

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## 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](mailto:lemangm@mtco.com). For Jamaica, direct your inquiry to Bro. Mike Rassi, Ph. 1-309-359-3020 or E-mail [michael\\_rassi@hotmail.com](mailto:michael_rassi@hotmail.com).*

HAITI					
ORG.	DATE	AREA	COORDINATOR	PROJECT	CAPACITY
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 Stuber	Water Aid	5
AWA-B	June 1-8, 2007	Les Cayes	Bill Rager	Vocational School	2
JAMAICA					
CCCD	Dec. 30 - Jan. 6, 2007	Montego Bay	Ken Hoerr	Deaf School	40/50
CCCD	March 23-31, 2007	Kingston	Terry Miller	Deaf School	40
CCCD	May 19-26, 2007	Deaf Village	Ted Hirstein	Work Place	40/50
CCCD	June 23-30, 2007	Knockpatrick	Bluffton S.S.	Deaf School	40/50

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
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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
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Rusty Adrian	573-769-3650		radrian@centurytel.net
Ted (Joyce) Hirstein	309-266-8769		hirstein@mtco.com
Ken Hoerr	309-243-7750		khoerr@mtco.com
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

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**TBA** = To Be Announced

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**A.W.A. - B.** = Apostolic Water Aid/Bluffton

**A.W.A. - FRW** = Apostolic Water Aid/Francesville, Remington, Wolcott

**A.W.A. - T** = Apostolic Water Aid/Tremont

**(\*)** = Changes or additions since last issue

**(\*\*)** = Spring Break Timeframe



## Mexico Work Teams 2007

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

Location	Date	Project	Coordinator	Phone	E-mail
Agua Prieta	March 3-10, 2007	Construction	Mike Fiechter	260-597-7330	<a href="mailto:mfiechter@onlyinternet.net">mfiechter@onlyinternet.net</a>
Agua Prieta	March 10-17, 2007	Construction	Bob Meyer	260-824-3236	<a href="mailto:rmeyer@nremc.net">rmeyer@nremc.net</a>
Agua Prieta	March 17-24, 2007	Construction	Denis Fry	260-824-3055	<a href="mailto:fry.d@mchsi.com">fry.d@mchsi.com</a>
Agua Prieta	March 24-31, 2007	Construction	Sam Kaehr	260-565-3200	<a href="mailto:sckaehr@adamswells.com">sckaehr@adamswells.com</a>
Juarez	Dec. 26, 2006 - Jan. 2, 2007	Construction	Doug Schock	641-929-3377	<a href="mailto:dcschock@juno.com">dcschock@juno.com</a>
Copper Canyon	March 28 - April 5, 2007	Medical/Dental	Cheryl Herrmann	309-385-1082	<a href="mailto:cherrmann@verizon.net">cherrmann@verizon.net</a>
Juarez	June 16-23, 2007	Construction	Jerry Leuthold	317-578-1170	<a href="mailto:leuthold.jerald@sbcglobal.net">leuthold.jerald@sbcglobal.net</a>
Juarez	September 19-26, 2007	Medical/Dental	Cheryl Herrmann	309-385-1082	<a href="mailto:cherrmann@verizon.net">cherrmann@verizon.net</a>
Magdalena	November 18-25, 2006	Construction	Rod Schmidt	303-774-7913	<a href="mailto:rschmidt@Acosta.com">rschmidt@Acosta.com</a>
Magdalena	Dec. 30, 2006 - Jan. 6, 2007	Construction	Carlos Soto	765-490-6115	<a href="mailto:los315@hotmail.com">los315@hotmail.com</a>
Magdalena	January 13-20, 2007	Construction	Kenny Edelman	217-745-2321	<a href="mailto:kenedelman@cawi.org">kenedelman@cawi.org</a>
Magdalena	February 18-25, 2007	Construction	Bob Knepp	309-923-7335	<a href="mailto:rnepp@verizon.net">rnepp@verizon.net</a>
Magdalena	March 10-17, 2007	Construction	Seth Braker	309-678-4703	<a href="mailto:sdbrake@ilstu.edu">sdbrake@ilstu.edu</a>
Magdalena	March 17-24, 2007	Construction	Jeremy Hodel	309-264-4307	<a href="mailto:jeremy.hodel@gmail.com">jeremy.hodel@gmail.com</a>
Magdalena	March 24-31, 2007	Construction	Roger Reinhard	260-565-3282	<a href="mailto:rmreinhard@adamswells.com">rmreinhard@adamswells.com</a>
Magdalena	March 31 - April 7, 2007	Construction	Pete Aberle	309-925-5969	<a href="mailto:dpabfrms@hotmail.com">dpabfrms@hotmail.com</a>
Magdalena	June 2-9, 2007	Construction	Scott Klopfenstein	602-721-7409	<a href="mailto:scottklop@yahoo.com">scottklop@yahoo.com</a>
Magdalena	June 9-16, 2007	Construction	John Ricketts	309-444-9061	<a href="mailto:jonr@grimmauto.com">jonr@grimmauto.com</a>
Magdalena	June 30 - July 7, 2007	Construction	Brent Knobloch	815-923-4736	<a href="mailto:BEKMRH@aol.com">BEKMRH@aol.com</a>
Magdalena	July 21-28, 2007	Construction	Tyler Banwart	620-223-1362	<a href="mailto:tybanwart@hotmail.com">tybanwart@hotmail.com</a>
Reynosa	March 10-17, 2007	Construction	Trent Barth	309-696-4157	<a href="mailto:iccvcommittee@hotmail.com">iccvcommittee@hotmail.com</a>
Reynosa	March 24-31, 2007	Construction	Jeff Leman	260-565-3815	<a href="mailto:jvleman@adamswell.com">jvleman@adamswell.com</a>

### 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](mailto:paulkaeb@ksiconveyors.com)

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

**Illinois:**

**Indiana:** Tom Neuenschwander  
 Phone/Fax: 260-824-4773  
 E-mail: [tsneuen@adamswells.com](mailto:tsneuen@adamswells.com)

**Ohio:** Ken Zollinger  
 Phone: 330-669-2415  
 Fax: 330-669-8520

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 or phone (815) 692-3616

### NOTICE:

Wednesday night services are now being held in Macomb, IL. The next service will be January 17th at 7:30 p.m. For further information, call Bro. Norm or Sis. Jan Rechkemmer at (309) 231-0098.





# REMEMBERING

## *Our Spiritual Heritage*

*This series on a booklet, "To The King's Administration of Justice" continues. It is a 1878 statement by our brethren to state officials in Germany. This was later published by Bro. William Stettner, Elgin, Illinois.*

We believe and confess to have order, discipline and chastisement in the church, according to the teachings of the Gospel (Matthew 18:15-18). Which purpose is not to destroy or harm, but for edification, so that the impure may be separated from the pure.

Should someone who was once enlightened and had accepted the knowledge of the truth and had been incorporated into the fellowship of the saints, and afterwards either willfully or presumptuously sins toward God, or commits any other sin which leads him unto unfruitful works of darkness which would again separate him from God, after such evil deeds have been revealed and proven and made known to the congregation, such a person cannot be tolerated in the church (Psalm 1:5; I Corinthians 5:13).

Such a one must be excommunicated (Hebrews 6:6) from the church in the presence of all the members, as an example to all — and such an act should create fear for all evil. And, if possible, the one who sinned might be brought to the knowledge of his guilt for his own benefit.

If such a person can humble himself before God and find grace to sorrow and repent for his wrong doing and finds forgiveness, he can again be reinstated into the church, providing his sin was not a sin unto death which would again require the blood of Christ who shed His blood and died only once

for the sins of man and cannot die and shed His blood a second time. However, should such a person show no improvements and not find grace to mend his ways, he cannot be taken back into the church.

Concerning the service of the church: We believe the church cannot exist without order and service which Christ ordained among his disciples. Jesus told them that no one should exalt himself over the other (Mark 10:42-42). He who wishes to be the greatest should be servant to all. The Apostles followed this teaching and served faithfully until their death (I Peter 5:2). As we find recorded in I Peter 5:2, "Feed the flock which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly, not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind. Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. And when the chief shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive the crown of glory that fadeth not away."

Jesus taught His disciples, "Freely ye have received, freely give." (Matthew 10:8). The gift of the Holy Spirit cannot be bought with money, through which the church is taught, instructed and led. Following the words of Jesus and the Apostles, such is being done in our church to this very day. Our ministers do not receive pay for their services.

Our ministers and elders are chosen by the church and should be ensamples to the members in their walk of life, according to the words of the Apostles (I Timothy 3:1-13). They should rule their own house well and have an honest vocation so as not to be an offense to anyone. The elders have the oversight

of the church to lead the flock and keep watch with faithful and true hearts with prayer and supplication to God that peace and order may prevail among the members of the church.

They should serve the Lord's Supper, the Holy Communion, as ordained by our Lord and Saviour. And they should perform the holy act of baptism according to Christ's teachings. They must take notice of true and faithful servants who labor with the Word of God when they are to be found; true brothers who are capable to teach others, to be ordained as elders with prayer and the laying on of hands in the Name of the Lord.

We also have the order of deacons who are ordained according to the Word of the Apostles (Acts 6:3), to look after the poor and needy members so that no want shall exist among the members — there should be no beggar in our church. Christ said, "For ye have the poor with you always, and whensoever ye will ye may do them good."

Regarding marriage: We confess and believe that in the church of God there should be an honorable marriage between two free persons. As God in the beginning instituted this in Paradise with Adam and Eve. Christ disapproved of all the misuse of the married state, which in the course of time took place as separation, divorce and turning to another one before the one had died. Christ corrected these evils and taught to bring back as it was at the first beginning.

*By Perry A. Klopfenstein*

Next Issue:  
More of the above document



# The Light Of Hope

## From Across The Ocean

### 希望の光

#### “God Consciousness”

*Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan*

I have come to believe that I do not have enough God consciousness. If I were always aware of the presence of God, that He is by my side and living in my heart, at all times, I would be more careful what I do or say. The problem is, I sometimes think I'm on my own and do not feel so much accountability to God. This is a trick of the devil. “And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.” II Corinthians 11:14.

One of the purposes of prayer is to give us God consciousness. The more we pray the more we realize that we are accountable to God. I Thessalonians 5:17 tells us, “Pray without ceasing.” This is not so much that we should be asking God to give us something, or to help us with something, but to praise Him, and to be aware of His presence. In a sense, if we are aware of His presence we are communicating with Him and this is prayer. No wonder we are exhorted to pray without ceasing.

In the Old Testament, much is written about what God said to certain people, especially to those who were in a leadership position. For instance, “Now the Lord said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country.” Genesis 12:1. Also, concerning Moses, “God called unto him out of the bush.” Exodus 3:4. If we would hear God's voice speaking to us like they did in the Old Testament, we would be very conscious of God's presence. But the New Testament does not have so many instances where the voice of God was heard by His people. The Apostle Paul heard Christ's voice on the way to Damascus and the Apostle John heard Christ's voice telling him to write the book of Revelation, but I have the impression that God is quoted much more in the Old Testament than in the New Testament. That may be because Christ has come to reveal God to us, as well as to die for our sins. Now we are told to walk by faith in Christ, who has


fulfilled the Old Testament. Christ helps us to have God consciousness.

The birth of Christ in Bethlehem did not atone for our sins. It was His death on the cross and His resurrection that did that. However, His birth and His ministry gives us God consciousness. Jesus Christ said, “He that hath seen me hath seen the Father.” John 14:9. Certainly the Lord Jesus Christ helps us to be aware of God the Father, and He shows us that God's true nature is not for violence, but for love, and joy and peace. All of the violence in the Old Testament must have been to punish ungodly people because Christ has shown us a better way.

In any case, we need to have God consciousness. He is the Creator, He is our Saviour, and He is our Lord. As we celebrate the birth of Christ, may we be aware of God's presence and of our accountability to Him.

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*For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government  
shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called  
Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father,  
The Prince of Peace.*

*Isaiah 9:6*

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