

The Silver Lining



*And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water,
that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither;
and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.*

Psalms 1:3

*June
2007*

Sermon by Bro. Bro. Matthew Steffen, Princeville, IL

Genesis 43:1-16 and Philippians 4

We know how the story goes, how the account goes. That Joseph, during this meal, he seated them properly. He gave to some a little more food than to others. He knew who each one was. They were set at the banquet table in a specific order. (Genesis 43:33,34) Then he revealed his heart and his identity to them. There was weeping and there was rejoicing. (Genesis 45:1-15) He was like a Savior to them. He was to bring them life because there was famine in the land.

How is it any different? If we just move off of the scene of back there in that time, back in Egypt, if we bring that forward to today, there is a land of famine, spiritual famine throughout the land. The Benjamin of our life is our heart. Joseph is our God in this parable. God, being Joseph, wants our heart, which was Benjamin. There will be no blessings unless we give the Lord our heart. That's what He wants. We can bring Him gifts, even as Israel said here, take double money in your hand in case what you found in your sacks was an oversight. Take fruits of the land in your vessels and carry down a present and a little balm and a little honey and spices and myrrh and nuts and almonds. Genesis 43:11,12.

Is there anything we don't want to give as a token of appreciation? Is there anything that we are willing to hold back? But know this, that if we only bring those things and we don't bring Benjamin, we are not going to get the reward that we are looking for. We are not going to get to bring home the corn that has been stored up during those seven years of plenty. If we don't give the Lord our heart, but we give Him everything else around us that we have, maybe we have some time to offer the Lord and we give Him the time. Maybe we have some money

and we give Him that. Maybe we have some talents and we give Him that. But if we don't give Him our hearts, we have not brought Him what He wants. Do we approach the Lord with what we want to give Him or do we approach Him with what He has asked us to bring?

Then these brothers were brought to the table and there was set before them. "...Bring these men home, and slay, and make ready; for these men shall dine with me at noon." Genesis 43:16. Isn't that what we look forward to? A time when we can go home to be with our Maker. Where we can sit around the table, the marriage supper of the Lamb. Isn't that what we look forward to? That dining with Him. If He came today at noon, or if He comes tomorrow at noon or Tuesday at noon, who will be there and who won't?

God has wonderful timing and I am not sure of the purpose or the timing to appeal for harmony and peace and joy among the brethren. A time to watch our tongues. A time to watch the things that we think about. But God knows why we have Philippians 4 before us. It isn't happenstance. It isn't random chance. It is for a purpose. So may we, each one of us, as we read through this, see what the Lord wants us to work on.

"Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord..." Philippians 4:1. There's another piece of scripture that says, stand fast in the Lord. Stand fast in the Lord and having done all this, stand fast. The Lord wants us to stand fast, not in our own opinion, but in the Lord. Because if we are just standing fast in our own opinion, all we are is stubborn. But if we are standing fast in the Lord, we are steadfast.

"And I entreat thee also, true

yokefellow..." Philippians 4:3. I had a brother that whenever he met another brother, he would call him 'yokefellow'. I thought it was a little bit odd at first. Then it became very endearing and I looked forward to it. Especially when Philippians 4 is read and you think of it in the same, "...I entreat thee also, true yokefellow, help those women which laboured with me in the gospel..."

Sermon continued on page 43

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

July

1. Belvidere, IL
2. Bern, KS
3. Columbus, OH
4. Elgin, IL
5. Francesville, IN
6. Princeville, IL

Next correspondence due:

For July Issue

(16 May News - 15 June News)

Due: 20 June 2007

The Silver Lining (Vol. 62, #6)

1389 County Road 1600 N
Roanoke, IL 61561

USPS 496780

Published Monthly By The Apostolic
Christian Church of America

Counselors:

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(e-mail is preferred)

The Silver Lining

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Roanoke, IL, 61561

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309-923-7359 (fax #2)

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

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

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

Light From The Word



Writings based on God's Word

June 2007

Prosperity I

Although we know there are people in America who are poor, and we know "...ye have the poor always with you..." (Matt. 26:11), we are living in a time of unparalleled economic prosperity. The stock market continues to reach historical high points. Most of us hardly know what it is to lack anything that we really need. Most of us have food, clothing and shelter in abundance and luxuries beyond what a majority of the people in the world can even imagine. Is prosperity good for us or is it harmful? Do only the godly prosper or do the wicked also prosper? Sometimes we may even question God when we observe the prosperity of the wicked.

We define prosperity as gaining anything good or desirable. Most of the time we hear prosperity associated with material gain. We must also consider prosperity from a spiritual perspective.

In the Old Testament, many of the patriarchs were very wealthy and it seemed to be regarded as a good thing. Abraham and Lot were so wealthy that "...the land was not able to bear them ...for their substance was so great, so they could not dwell together" (Gen. 13:6). When Jacob and Esau were reunited after years of bitter separation, it is apparent that both had large flocks and herds. Jacob offered Esau a large gift (Gen. 32:13-15) but Esau tried to refuse them because he said "...I have enough..." (Gen. 33:9).

After severe trials in which Job lost nearly everything, we find that in the end God blessed him "...more than his beginning: for he had fourteen thousand sheep, and six thousand camels, and a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand she asses" (Job. 42:12).

When Solomon became King of Israel God said "...Ask what I shall give thee" (I Kings 3:5), Solomon asked for wisdom to rule his people. God was pleased with his request, gave him an understanding heart, "And God said unto him, Because thou hast asked this thing... I have also given thee that which thou hast not asked, both riches, and honour: so that there shall not be any among the kings like unto thee all thy days" (I Kings 3:11-13). His daily provision "...was thirty measures of fine flour, and threescore measures of meal, Ten fat oxen, and twenty oxen out of the pastures, and an hundred sheep, beside harts, and

roebucks, and fallowdeer, and fatted fowl" (I Kings 4:22-23). Continued reading would reveal to us almost unbelievable wealth that Solomon accumulated.

Of course, not all of the faithful in the Old Testament were wealthy, but in a significant number of cases it seems God blessed the faithful in a material way. Uzziah, king of Judah, tried to do God's will "...and as long as he sought the Lord, God made him to prosper" (II Chron. 26:5). As long as Uzziah remained humbly submissive to God, it went well for him. When he became strong, he became proud and tried to do his will rather than God's will. God smote him with leprosy. Because of his sin he "...was a leper until the day of his death..." (II Chron. 26:21).

Material wealth was not limited to the godly. Job realized "The tabernacles of robbers prosper, and they that provoke God are secure; into whose hand God bringeth abundantly" (Job 12:6). David also recognized that the ungodly may prosper materially: "I have seen the wicked in great power, and spreading himself like a green bay tree" (Ps. 37:35) and he said "...I was envious at the foolish, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked" (Ps. 73:3).

David personally experienced the selfishness of a wicked man who had prospered. As David was trying to escape Saul's wrath, he and those who followed him were in great need. He heard of Nabal a wealthy ...man (who) was churlish and evil in his doings..." (I Sam. 25:3) and David asked Nabal for some provisions. Nabal refused to help David saying "Shall I then take my bread, and my water, and my flesh that I have killed for my shearers, and give it unto men, whom I know not whence they be" (I Sam. 25:11)? Nabal's selfish attitude cost him his life. After a drunken feast, "...the Lord smote Nabal, that he died" (I Sam. 25:38).

We sometimes wonder why the wicked prosper so much. Jeremiah also wondered about this. He did not question God's righteousness but he had questions about some judgments. "Righteous art thou, O God, when I plead with thee: yet let me talk with thee of thy judgments: Wherefore doth the way of the wicked prosper? wherefore are all they happy that deal very treacherously? Thou hast planted them, yea, they have taken root: they grow, yea, they bring forth fruit:..." (Jer. 12:1-2).

The conversation between God and Jeremiah continues for sometime, God assured Jeremiah that in the end the lying prophets, the wicked people and those who are deceitful will perish. There would be a time when conditions were so bad that Jeremiah was not even to pray for them (Jer. 14:11). God would not hear their cries nor accept their fasts. It would be so bad that the Lord told Jeremiah "...Though Moses and Samuel stood before me, yet my mind could not be toward this people: cast them out of my sight, and let them go..." (Jer. 15:1)

We could also refer to numerous examples in our lifetime where extremely wicked people prosper materially. As we struggle to understand this situation, we would do well to remember the words of Isaiah: "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord" (Is. 55:8).

In the New Testament there seems to be significantly less emphasis on material wealth. Jesus made it very clear that material wealth was not to be our primary goal. After having emphasized the blessings of the poor and the hungry, He said "But woe unto you that are rich! for ye have received your consolation" (Lk. 6:24). He said "That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven." And "...It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God" (Mt. 19:24). We are also reminded that too much emphasis on wealth can blind us to the truth. To the Laodiceans, Jesus told John to write "Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked" (Rev. 3:17).

So what should a child of God do about materialism? What should we strive for? Are material items a blessing or a curse? Although we may not have a perfect understanding of the role that material goods should have in our life, we do have enough scriptural instruction about these riches that we can know much of what God wants us to think in this area of our life. We can also know what true prosperity is.

This topic will be continued in the next issue in "The Light From the Word".



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN Mission Committee

...The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest. Matthew 9:37-38

Small Church Study Committee Update

The Small Church Study Committee is thankful to see progress being made in the past few months as steps are being implemented to nurture and assist small congregations. The first year implementation steps were distributed to each of the congregations. Several congregations have met together to consider which of these efforts to undertake. The committee is available to assist any congregation seeking to move forward with some of these efforts. The names of those with Apostolic Christian family backgrounds who reside close to one of our churches have been distributed to the individual congregations so they may inform them of fellowship and worship opportunities.

The SCSC is also working to develop a process to help encourage and guide outreach activities at a congregational level. This effort will be greatly assisted by your prayers and input regarding scriptural examples and instruction in sharing the gospel message. There is also rejoicing that several families and individuals have been led by God to move to smaller congregations to be of assistance. May God bless these efforts and may our brethren be open and tender to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Opportunities

There are many things individuals can do to be of assistance in these efforts. Below is a partial list of suggestions. *"And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so*

much the more, as ye see the day approaching" (Heb. 10:24-25).

Our Brotherhood is blessed even as many of the below listed approaches are already being done on a daily basis within our congregations. These opportunities are shared again that we might abound yet more and more. *"And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment"* (Phil. 1:9).

In small congregations

For those attending small congregations it would be useful to review the first year implementation steps of the SCSC Report and prayerfully consider how your congregation may be able to grow spiritually by utilizing this process. Be hospitable and positive when visitors come and try to extend fellowship opportunities to those traveling through the area. Share in the many opportunities for serving in a small congregation and enjoy the blessings that come from such service.

Utilize the listing of friends that reside in your area and inform them of gathering opportunities. Invite them to your homes. Consider how you might be able to host or help plan a fellowship opportunity to provide some increased fellowship within the congregation. Also consider which of the outreach activities listed in the plan could be implemented in your area.

Larger congregations

For those attending larger congregations you may be asking, "What can I or my congregation do to help?" Consider the following questions: Do we have the resources that could be utilized to adopt a congregation; or if not, could we perhaps provide some sort of monthly support? Who

do I know in a small church that we could visit and encourage? Can we invite a young group or Sunday School group from a smaller church to share in activities at our congregation? When traveling to small congregations consider making a donation to their general fund. Also, when traveling, offer your talents and ask if you can help serve lunch, lead singing, help in Sunday School, watch someone's children during services – the opportunities are endless. On a personal level, be aware of the possibility, during life transitions, that God may lead you to move to a small church.

Prayer needed

We should pray that the needs of those in small congregations would be met by our loving Heavenly Father. A few of the specifics we can pray for include the need for fellowship of all ages, meeting each one's spiritual needs, and that those in small congregations would feel connected to the body of Christ. We should pray that those in small congregations would not grow weary with their many responsibilities or become overly discouraged. Pray that God would provide those to speak the Word from the congregation or that the Brotherhood can continue to provide the ministerial support to feed the congregations.

Serving one another

As we consider the many opportunities available to each of us, may we put forth efforts to offer ourselves to serve one another, which is surely in accord with the Lord's will. Galatians 6:10 tells us *"As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith."*



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

God-Honoring Communication

In the New Testament church, much effort was made by the believers to keep in touch with each other and to share useful information. Whether it was by epistle or word of mouth, the teachings and traditions were passed on from one to another (2 Thes. 2:15). The good news of fruitfulness was not kept quiet. Paul wrote to the Romans, "For your obedience is come abroad unto all men" (Rom. 16:19).

World Relief website

Today's methods of communication are increasingly via electronic means. The National World Relief Board has developed a website, whereby God's truth and its application can be shared within our Brotherhood as well as to anyone in the entire world. The address is www.acworldrelief.org.

The purpose of the site:

- Communicate information on World Relief activities and projects. This would include history and explanation of our work throughout the world.
- Provide direction on how to become involved in service of the Lord at the local, regional, national and international level (see work team schedules, volunteer opportunities and full time positions available).
- Give direction on ways to support the work financially.
- Provide opportunity to support this work in prayer.
- Supply resources and tools for World Relief work projects and to communicate to others.

- Become a focal point to facilitate communication with anyone throughout the World Relief organization and beyond.
- Inspire one another and expand our horizons for work that we can be doing in the future.

The site contains the following information:

1. **About World Relief**
 - History & Organization
 - Statement Of Purpose
 - Mission & Objectives
 - Guiding Principles
2. **Serving**
 - Volunteer Opportunities
 - Work Team Schedules
 - Full time Positions
 - Disaster Response
 - Information Request
3. **Giving**
 - Ways to Give
 - Giving Contacts
4. **Project Areas**
 - Caribbean
 - European
 - India
 - Mexico
 - USA
 - International Grants
 - Distribution Centers
 - Child Sponsorship
5. **Meetings**
 - Informational Meetings
 - WR Board Meetings
6. **Resources**
 - Guidelines, Reports
 - Brochures, Forms
 - Silver Lining Articles
 - Presentations
 - Logos
7. **Request Information/Send Comments**
8. **Contact Information**

Other websites

The Mission Committee as well as the Magdalena orphanage (Casa Vida y Esperanza) are also developing web sites. These sites will provide additional information on current activities and programs which involve spreading the Gospel and meeting the special needs of many precious souls.

It is important to understand that reports on the humble deeds of service being offered are intended to glorify God and to encourage continued prayer and support for these worthy efforts. They are not for the purpose of bringing glory to man. Jesus did not expect us to hide our good works, nor to take credit for our efforts. Without the Lord's grace and blessing, all of our labors are in vain. Jesus said: "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Matt. 5:16).

Our Mission

Our mission is to provide humanitarian aid and volunteer labor to alleviate human misery and suffering throughout the world in a way that is a Christian witness and brings glory to God. We seek to serve our Lord by sharing our resources and abilities to benefit both the body and soul of those in need and thereby communicate the love of God through His son, Jesus Christ.

If you see ways the website can be improved, please contact:

Stan Virkler, Administrator
Apostolic Christian World Relief
16448 S US Hwy 231
Remington, IN 47977
Phone: (219) 261-3200
Fax: (219) 261-3280
Email: information@acwr.org

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

Revelation 5:9 says: "And they sung a new song, saying, thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people and nation."

The possibility of experiencing Revelation 5:9 became a bit more real to us this past month. Some of our residents and staff from Apostolic Christian Timber Ridge and Oakwood Estate were blessed to have the opportunity to meet a group of brethren from Hungary. On April 27 we hosted five members from our churches in Hungary and their translator, Bro. Tom Bako, from Akron, Ohio. The group consisted of the Elder Brothers from the Ercekskanad and Baja churches, as well as a couple, and another brother from the Budapest church. The group had been traveling and touring several services or programs that our churches operate here in America.

This group of travelers had asked to be oriented to some management procedures and policies for our agency. They wanted to know about the population we serve, and the heart of our mission. In order to do this we asked some residents to assist in this process. The President and the Secretary of the Oakwood Resident Council took the day off work and did a great job welcoming the interested international brethren. After a staff offered a brief explanation of the entire ACHH programs, these residents gave a tour throughout the Oakwood building, and then directed the group back to the dining room. A lunch had been prepared, and the residents had even thought of placing American and Hungarian flags as centerpieces on the tables.

After the "working lunch" at Oakwood Estate, the group came to Timber Ridge. We knew they could not tour all of our homes. We decided selecting these two sites could introduce them

to a range of the types of individuals who live in our homes. The group arrived at Timber Ridge, and had the opportunity to view the presentation of our services that our churches in America are recently having the opportunity to view. Bro. Tom translated the presentation, and Bro. Matt Steffen, our Assistant Administrator, was available to answer some questions. After that presentation, a Timber Ridge officer of the Resident Council answered some questions about life around the Home. There were some touching moments when this resident described a Bible Study lesson he had assisted in teaching. This resident uses a wheelchair to ambulate, and has difficulty speaking due to his challenges. Through much labored speech, he described a Bible lesson his group had last year. He talked about the suffering of Jesus on His cross. He told the group, "If Jesus could do that, we can do this". He meant, that if Jesus can be God and yet die for our sins, then we do anything that is difficult in life. We can do our "this". "This" might mean riding in a wheelchair and being dependent on others. It might mean never being able to walk or talk until being in the presence of Jesus in heaven.

The brethren were touched by our residents' candid conversations, and their interest in international guests. We decided our residents will never get to go to Hungary, but it was a great idea to "bring Hungary to us"!

The Timber Ridge resident reminded the Hungarian Brethren that Revelation 5 would be a wonderful day. This will be a day when believers from all over the world will together worship Jesus forever.

GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME Todd Stoller

"Commit thy works unto the Lord, and thy thoughts shall be established."

Proverbs 16:3

The longer I teach, the more I appreciate the truth and wisdom found in God's Word. Over and over the Lord has reminded me (often painfully) that all my best-laid plans are for naught unless I'm relying on Him. Uncooperative students, uncooperative technology, unexpected disruptions, or stupid mistakes (mine) can quickly ruin any preparations I've made for the lesson. How do I respond? Have I trusted God to bless the day and committed my plans to Him (Prov. 3:5,6)? Have I asked Him for wisdom in dealing with a difficult student (James 1:5)? Have I prepared my heart for the frustrations of the day with His Word (Josh. 1:8)? Have I remembered to pray and thank God, rejoicing, even in the challenging moments (I Thess. 5:16-18)? Have I learned to trust God with the outcome of my seed-planting efforts (I Cor. 3:7)? Have I used my words to edify or tear down my students (Eph. 4:29)?

Whether you're a teacher or not, these scriptural principles will apply to your daily activities, plans, and problems as well. The issue becomes not so much what we do, but how and why we do it. Each of us has a ministry as we go through the day: some of us to troubled children at Gateway Woods, others to troubled co-workers in the business world, others to their own trouble-making children at home! How we live and what we say, wherever we are, is God's primary way of communicating with a world that has rejected Him and His Word. What message are we proclaiming?

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

Colossians 3:17

News:

- On May 5, the Gateway Woods Staff Recognition Banquet was held to show support and appreciation for the ser-

vices of each employee and board member of Gateway Woods. Bro. Jeff (Sis. Carla) Fritz retired from the board after 8 years of service, and was replaced by Bro. Troy (Sis. Bonnie) Reimschisel. We thank Bro. Jeff and Sis. Carla for the sacrifices they made, and Bro. Troy and Sis. Bonnie for the work they will be doing in the coming years.

- Bro. Kirk and Sis. Keri Plattner announced their intentions to move from one ministry to another: Bro. Kirk, the Director of Education at Gateway Woods, and Sis. Keri will be serving the deaf in Knockpatrick, Jamaica, with World Relief and CCCD. Please pray for them as they begin this exciting and challenging ministry with their two young sons, Drew and Truitt.

- Bro. Zach Bertsch (Sis. Jenny, GW Adoption/Foster Care Caseworker) was recently hired as Business Manager and will begin work in June with Bro. Andrew Gerber. Bro. Andrew will be shifting his primary focus from finances and management to marketing as Bro. Zach steps in.

- We are excited to announce the hiring of Sis. Chalise Steffen from Champaign as the Assistant Houseparent for the Cypress House. She will be working with Bro. Clint and Sis. Bethany Plattner. Please remember to pray for her as she adjusts to her new position.

- We are very grateful to God for His continued provision at Gateway Woods. We are very thankful that He continues to provide us with the right staff. Because of our Adoption services expanding into Illinois, staff retiring, and other ministry opportunities, there are a number of positions waiting to be filled. Please see the ads in this month's edition of The Silver Lining. We trust that God will continue to provide us with qualified, mature Brothers and Sisters who will be able to serve Him in a ministry that is Turning Lives Around.

- We rejoice with Amanda D. as she welcomed little Jaedin into the world in April. Courtney W. recently moved into Cypress House and is the fourth resident in the new group home. Also, Andi K. was able to move on from the Gate-

way campus and begin a new stage in life with a Leo foster family.

- Gateway Woods School is close to finishing out another year, with the last day of school on May 25. To contribute some additional excitement, Sis. Heather Merritt, our English teacher, will be directing an adaptation of "Little Women" on May 24, starring the Gateway residents! After a short break, the summer school program will begin on June 11 and run through the summer.

- Finally, with spring in the air, Gateway Woods is gearing up for summer - which means volunteers! The Brothers and Sisters who serve during the summer are crucial to our program, children and campus. Accordingly, we have hired Bro. David Thames (Washington, IL) as the Summer Volunteer Coordinator. If you are interested in volunteering, please call us at 888-443-4283 or visit our website www.gatewaywoods.org where you can apply on-line to be a volunteer.

- Please continue to pray for this Apostolic Christian ministry to troubled children and families. Now more than ever, a hurting world needs the Christ-centered services of Gateway Woods. Thank you for making this possible through your support. Also, remember that the Gateway Woods Auction is just a short 3 months away on August 11!

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL Athens, Alabama Melissa Slagel

"Welcome to our grashuashion, the time is binally here." That was the welcome one of our graduating students gave us at preschool graduation this past month. We were pretty excited the time was "binally" here, too. Practice makes perfect, but during our daily practices we were certain it was impossible. Kids will be kids and when you place 30 of them in 3 rows close to each other on risers to sing and speak at the right times, it can get pretty interesting. Instead of singing they preferred to pick

their noses, pull the cute curly piggy tail of the little girl in front of them, poke their friend beside them, jump on and off of the risers, talk when they weren't supposed to and not talk when they were supposed to, and the list goes on. We prayed for patience and the Lord heard our prayers. He taught us more patience in those few weeks than I think we thought we needed to learn. But the big night came and the children did an absolutely wonderful job! They were so cute up there in their caps and gowns saying their memorized parts and singing their songs. They all gave it their very best. There were not many dry eyes in the crowd, and many, many smiles. I learned that, yes, practice does make perfect but it just all depends on what is perfect to you.

ALABAMA, ATHENS

Louise Hall

Our annual Memorial Day weekend was once again a wonderful event full of singing and worshipping our Lord. Thank you to each one of you who traveled here to spend the weekend with us. A special thank you to those who spoke during the weekend: Bro. Ted Witzig Jr. (Morton, IL), Bro. Herb Knochel (Phoenix, AZ), Bro. Jim Meiss (Phoenix, AZ) and our Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH). It was encouraging for our small congregation to have a large group worshipping with us. We want to thank each one who donated and/or participated in the auction as well. God bless you all for your generosity.

Our other visitors this month were ministering Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL) and his wife, Sis. Nancy. Thank you, Bro. Marvin, for preaching God's Word to us. Thank you to those who traveled with. We enjoyed having you here.

Congratulations to Bro. Kerwin and Sis. Sara Edelman on their big blessing that came in a small bundle to their family. A healthy little baby girl, Lauren Elizabeth, was born on May 30. Her sisters, Jessica, Amber and Emily, are ex-

cited to welcome her to the family.

Bro. Ed Haggemaker has a new addition in his family as well. Congratulations to Tina and Jake Livingston who are brand new parents to Joshua Calvin Lee. He was born on April 24.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX **Ron and Ev Hoerr**

“The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delighteth in his way.”

Psalm 37:23

A lovely reception was held for our graduates on May 6 in the congregational room at church. Graduating from college were: Sis. Whitney Ebert, Bro. Joe Hinrichsen, Bro. Morgan Langhofer, and Bro. Andy Knochel. Graduating from High School were: Kelsey Cooke, Sis. Amy Emch, Sis. Abbey Freed, Jacob Hand, Tyler Knochel, and Tim Kokanovich. From Eighth grade: Whitney Baum, Steven Emch, T'kya Hoerr, and Trevor Meiss.

We were grateful to receive Holy Communion on May 19. Oh, the love we share on this special occasion!

We were blessed with two visiting ministers from Bluffton North on Mother's Day: Bro. Nile Bucher and Bro. Steve Ringger were used in the Lord's service that day.

Two of our young Sunday School students have casts on their arms, Dakota Thorpe and C. J. Reik. Hospital patients were Sis. Kathie Labudde, Bro. Chuck Kieser, Sis. Nancy Baumgartner, Sis. Linda Yackley, and Bro. Dick Beery.

We rejoice with Bro. Nathan and Sis. Kathy Knochel as their son, Derek, has made a beginning in repentance.

Congratulations to Bro. Scott and Sis. Katie Klopfenstein on the arrival of their daughter, Lindsay Kate, on April 25.

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT

Jane Hodges

Two of our brothers need prayers for healing. At the time of this report, Bro. Ed (Sis. Jenny) Schambach Sr. is still hospitalized and awaiting surgery. Bro. Rodney (Sis. Denise) Steidinger was treated in ER for burns and is recovering at home.

We are thankful for our visiting ministers. They included Bros. Dave Hartter (Sis. Beth, Sabetha, KS), Curt Kaufman (Sis. Caroline, Tucson, AZ),

Jim Koehl (Sis. Hilde, San Diego, CA) and our Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich (Sis. Nancy, Phoenix).

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp

The signs of summer are all around as we have said good-bye to the last of our “winter” visitors and some of our college students and we have recorded our first 100 degree day. I'm not sure which was harder!

We have cooled back down into the 90's and our evenings and mornings are still quite pleasant.

Bro. Loren and Sis. Joan Knapp and Bro. Norm and Sis. Jan Rechkemmer have left for their homes in Illinois, Sis. Kaitlyn and Richelle Meiss are back in Phoenix with their families for the summer break and we welcomed back C.J. Kaufman for his summer break. Summer brings a lot of changes that are quite noticeable in a small church.

Our schedule changes as well. June, July and August there will be no Sunday School, Fellowship suppers or Wednesday evening services.

We look forward, Lord willing, to three weddings in our little church, one in June, one in July and another in August. Three babies born into our little church family will establish households of their own this summer.

On that same amazing note, two beautiful little girls born into our family will graduate from high school on May 24. Candace Marie Bauer (Bro. Brad and Sis. Sandy) and Stephanie Lorraine Bauer (Steve and Maria) will

graduate from Sabino High School this week. Grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Gloria Bauer. We wish Candace and Stephanie the Lord's richest blessings as they navigate the sometimes confusing waters of adulthood. Both young ladies plan to attend the University of Arizona in the fall.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

Tina Jackson

“But we can be sure that the judgment of God is according to truth...For there is no respect of persons with God.” (Romans 2:2 and 2:11) On Sunday, April 22, Bro. Earl Beery (Sis. Suzanne, Rittman, OH) taught from Romans chapter 2 on God's perfect truth and righteous judgment. We are thankful to him for sharing the message with us.

We were also grateful to Bro. Bill and Sis. Joan Schick for visiting us from Magdalena, Mexico, and sharing a slide presentation of the work being done there in the name of Jesus Christ. Pictures of the many smiling and joyful faces of orphans, whose lives have already experienced more heartache and sadness than yours or mine may ever hold, remind us that true joy is found only in the Lord. Oh, to have the faith and joy of a small child even when we are grown!

We were sad to say good-bye to Bro. Braden Mogler, who attends college here in Southern California. He will be in Magdalena, Mexico, for the summer working at the orphanage but we look forward to his return in the fall to continue his studies.

KITCHENER, ONTARIO **CANADA**

Kim Leman

We thank ministering Bros. Steve Frauhiger (Sis. Irene, Bluffton North, IN), Matthew Rassi (Sis. Bridget, Chicago, IL), and Neil Ramseyer (Sis. Sharon, Bay City, MI) for preaching God's Word to us this month.

We enjoyed working together as a congregation for our annual church Spring Clean-Up day. May we always be watchful to keep our spiritual lives from accumulating debris and clutter, that we will be ready to meet eternity at a moment's notice.

"Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me."

Psalms 51:10

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Nathan and Sis. Miriam Reutter and their family as they are still waiting on Sis. Miriam's paperwork to live in the States. She and the children have returned temporarily to Canada to await her documents to be issued, while Bro. Nathan remains in Vermont. We trust the Lord will provide, and that they will be able to be reunited as a whole family soon.

COLORADO, DENVER

Ann Gonglach

This summer, in addition to our regular worship schedule in Aurora, if the Lord is willing, we plan to hold services at the following locations:

July 15 - Mead Town Hall (located in northern Colorado near I-25 and CO 66 about halfway between Aurora and Estes Park).

July 22 - Ponderosa Conference Center (located near Colorado Springs at Larkspur).

July 29 - YMCA of the Rockies (located in the Grand Valley between Granby and Winter Park).

If you will be traveling in Colorado, we welcome you to join us. More information on our additional services is included in the notices section of this issue of the Silver Lining. To help us plan more effectively, please notify Bro. Tom Leman if you will be attending services on any of these dates. Home telephone: (303) 696-1540 or E-mail: lemantom@comcast.net On May 20, we held a picnic for our graduates.

Graduating from high school this year are Bro. Austin Huber (Bro. Eric and Sis. Marcel), Sis. Autumn Hohulin (Bro. Doug and Sis. Sharolyn), Bro. Daniel Leman (Elder Bro. Mike and Sis. Deb), Sis. Ema Gonglach (Bro. Bob and Sis. Ann), and Kristy Schmidt (Bro. Rod and Sis. Cindy). Graduating from jr. high are Chloe Gonglach (Bro. Bob and Sis. Ann), Dominique Lasnier (Sarah) and Rick Schmidt (Bro. Rod and Sis. Cindy). May the Lord bless these young people as they venture forth into whatever direction He leads them.

"The Lord is . . . not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (II Peter 3:9) and has called Chloe Gonglach. May He give her grace and strength as she seeks His will.

CONNECTICUT ROCKVILLE

Laura Virkler Amber Rocke

"Who can find a virtuous woman?
For her price is far above rubies."

Proverbs 31:10

This month, we especially remember our mothers, and appreciate them for all of their labors. May God bless the women in our lives, whether they are our natural mothers or our mothers in the faith, for their example and service to all.

"And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it;"

Matthew 26:26-27

We had the opportunity this month to partake of Holy Communion. With us for this moving and solemn occasion was Elder Bro. Ron Schambach (Sis. Nancy, Elgin, IL). We were doubly blessed on this weekend to also take three souls into the flock in holy bap-

tism. They are Laura Hills (Bro. Scott and Sis. Luann), Leah Goric and Andrew Goric (Bro. Bob and Sis. Lynette) and we wish them God's richest blessings. We all were blessed and encouraged by these events, and thank Bro. Ron for being a servant to us throughout the weekend.

Our thoughts and prayers are with those who have lost a loved one recently. Bro. Ken Willis' father recently passed away and he and his wife, Sis. Nancy, and their family will remain in our prayers.

May God grant speedy healing and continuing comfort to those who have been hospitalized in the past month. Our Sis. Martha Luginbuhl (Bro. Robert) and Bro. Emanuel Schneider (Sis. Verona) underwent surgery in the past weeks and we hope their recovery and rehabilitation goes well. May they feel our prayers and be uplifted during this difficult time.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA WASHINGTON

Henrietta Meyer

Approaching church yesterday morning, it was such a blessing to see so many cars, so many joining us to worship. In order to accommodate so many, we need to remember to park three across in the drive way.

This month our resident caretakers are retired Elder Bro. Art and Sis. Suzanne Bahler from Fairbury, IL. Sis. Doreen reports we have caretakers lined up through the summer, but will need more for the fall and winter months.

Our visiting ministers this month were Bro. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI), Bro. Steve Sauder (Sis. Mary, Tremont, IL), Bro. Jerry Isch (Sis. Linda, Philadelphia, PA) Bro. Bob Meyer (Sis. Ann, Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Stephen Baner (Sis. Donnalou, Gridley, IL) and Bro. Don Gudeman (Sis. Mary, La Crosse, IN). Other visitors were from Bluffton, IN; Cissna Park, IL; Rittman and Latty, OH; and Rockville, CT.

Directions to our new location de-

pend on which way you are coming. The best suggestion is to contact the folks listed below or the contact in the minister's book for detailed directions; we have the directions near our phones. Due to the limited parking in the residential area, we need to know ahead of time how many visitors we will have. We may need to arrange for off-site parking.

With the new location there is a change in the times of our services. Morning service will begin at 10 and afternoon at 12 noon.

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.

FLORIDA FORT LAUDERDALE Renee Mangold

We were thankful to have with us visiting ministers, Bro. Ron Heiniger (Sis. Kayleen, Bloomington, IL), Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Sis. Jeannine, Mansfield, OH), and Bro. Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha, KS). We pray that God would bless them for their service to Him.

Congratulations to Joseph Mangold (Mike and Renee Mangold) who is graduating from Cardinal Gibbons High School in Fort Lauderdale this month. We pray that Joseph will always keep our Lord in the very center of his life and that Joseph will be blessed in his future. Joseph plans on attending college after graduation.

Our thoughts and prayers of sympathy are with Sue Milligan, sister to Mike and Renee Mangold, whose husband, Bernie, unexpectedly passed away this past week.

As we celebrated Mother's Day this month, we would ask God to bless all the

mothers, grandmothers, aunts, sisters, those that have loved and cared for the children (young or old) and been a Godly influence in their lives.

FLORIDA NORTH FORT MYERS Naomi Vogel

Our weather here in Florida has been very pleasant and the rainy season is beginning which will help eliminate our brush fires, but then that means hurricane season is upon us. We were very fortunate to have escaped any severe storm damage last summer. We pray God will be merciful to us this summer, also.

Although our congregation is very small right now, we are pleasantly surprised with visitors each Sunday. We hope this trend continues throughout the summer!

On Mother's Day, the men served a snack for our lunch break and then a catered dinner after the second service. Each person told a little story about their mother. It was a very special time of sharing and fellowship.

Lindsey Steffen (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Rhea) graduated from Evangelical Christian High School on May 18. She was the Salutatorian, so she gave one of the inspirational speeches at the ceremony; it reflected her fine Christian upbringing. She will be attending college at Florida State University in Gainesville in the fall. We are all very proud of you, Lindsey!

We continue to pray for our dear Bro. Charlie Mann who has waged a courageous battle with cancer for a number of years. He is back up north at his home in Cissna Park, IL. We all love you, Charlie! May God comfort you!

FLORIDA, SARASOTA DiAnne Brown Robin Wiegand

What a Friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry

Everything to God in pray'r.

Hymns of Zion #161

Greetings from the sunny west coast of Florida. Summer is surely not far away, as our congregation is once again numbered in the dozens instead of hundreds. We remain confident the prayers and praises of our small number still reach the merciful ears of our God.

This month our family had the opportunity to visit a large city. There was so much to do and see it was almost overwhelming. The most pressing point we came away with was even as millions of people filled the sidewalks and shops, so many seemed lost and lonely. We spoke of how even in a crowd, without Jesus in our hearts it is so easy to feel isolated. We were comforted with the knowledge that with Jesus we are never alone.

Angels are smiling over Sarasota as Bro. Mark and Sis. Tricia (Gutwein) Koehl celebrated the arrival of new daughter, Kylie Jade, on May 15. She is welcomed home by big sisters, Kyra and Lily, and grandparents, Bro. Ron and Sis. Carol Koehl and Bro. Jerry and Sis. Janice Gutwein (Francesville, IN).

Believing it to be the will of God, Bro. Jeremy Calame and Sis. Elizabeth Rieker (Peoria) announced their engagement to be married in December of this year. His parents are Bro. John and Sis. Jody Calame (Rittman, OH) and her parents are Bro. Tom and Sis. JoAnn Rieker (Peoria). Prayers for God's abundant blessing and direction go to both these dear ones as they make preparation for their new life together.

A time of fellowship was enjoyed this month as several gathered to sing at the home of Sis. Marjorie Pitman. These small gatherings do so much to secure those ties that bind and all are encouraged to take advantage of these opportunities when they present themselves.

We pray for God's merciful healing and recovery for those of our congregation who have been injured or hospitalized. These include Sis. Marjorie Pitman, Sis. Edna Roscher, Sis. Marilyn (Bro. Gordon) Bryant and Sis. Vera

Martin.

GEORGIA, ATLANTA
Melinda Gramm

"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you an expected end."

Jer. 29:11

We celebrated the graduation of our high school seniors with a breakfast at church this month. Our graduates are: Caleb Lindberg (Bro. Rich and Sis. Julie), Bro. Benjamin Stoller (Bro. Linn and Sis. Brenda) and Kelly Camp (Chris and Sis. Peggy). We thank Thee, Dear Lord, for the gift of knowledge and the ability to learn, reason and to remember. We pray that Thou wouldst watch over our dear graduates and guide them in all ways.

Bro. Andy Schick (Princeville, IL) has accepted employment in our area. We heartily welcome him and wish him God's grace and blessings.

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE
Sheila McCoy
Doreen Moser

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

We praise God for abundant blessings this month. Elder Bro. David Graf (Akron, OH) assisted our Elder Bro. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL) for Holy Communion service. Blessings continued to flow with visiting ministers, Bro. Mark Steiner (Smithville, OH), Bro. Chuck Kellenberger, (Elgin, IL) and Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL). We were thankful Bro. Dale Frank (Oakville, IA) could remain for Sunday services after a committee meeting for S.E.E.D. - a Haitian agricultural school and extension services.

We praise Him that Sis. Rachal Wenger could worship in Belvidere several years while attending medical college. We hope God will bless her at the clinic where she is employed in Terra Haute, IN, and at our church in Indianapolis. We praise our Father for the additions to our congregation. Herman Braun and the Karl Braun family are able to worship with us.

David and Sis. Sheila McCoy were blessed with a baby granddaughter, Zada Marie Maly, on April 20. Her parents are Bob and Alisha and her siblings are Rylan and Emma.

Mary Spenser was blessed with a speedy recovery after the placement of a new pacemaker.

We praise our Saviour for our Sunday school teachers. We appreciate Sis. Sandy Darlington's years of dedicated service. Sis. Michelle Knobloch will be teaching the pre-kindergarten and kindergarten class. We are thankful for Bro. Bill Schifferer's diligence and willingness to continue with being a church trustee.

Jenny Morrow and Tristan Mueller (Bro. Art and Sis. Marlene) were united in marriage on May 12 in Tallahassee, FL. We wish them the Lord's blessings. "A threefold cord is not quickly broken." (Ecclesiastes 4:12)

Our high school graduates are Emily Jepson (Bro. Jim and Sis. Carlene), Kayla Mueller (Bro. Art and Sis. Marlene), Hannah Schock (Bro. Ted and Sis. Heidi), and Troy Steffen (Bro. Dean and Sis. Carol). May our Heavenly Father direct their paths and bless their futures.

Our church had the opportunity to be a blessing to the Rockford Reuse Mission when we served breakfast on a recent Saturday morning.

Lastly, we praise God for our earthly fathers this month. What a blessing they can be!

ILLINOIS
BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL
Jen Heiniger
Betsy Zimmerman

We were blessed to take Communion on April 21. Thanks to our retired Elder Bro. Everett Hari, who helped with the service.

We rejoice with John Traub (Sis. Bonnie), who has answered the call to repentance. We pray for him, along with our other converts; may they feel God's grace through their repentance.

Ben and Rachel Gudeman have been blessed with a baby boy, Owen Daniel. He is welcomed home by big sister, Abigail. Grandparents are Dan Gudeman of Chicago; Sis. Rebecca Gudeman of Indianapolis; and Bro. Darl and Sis. Cindy Schieler of Indianapolis.

Our sympathy goes to Bro. Dave (Sis. Judy) Knobloch in the death of his father, Bro. Nick Knobloch, of Princeville.

Congratulations to our graduates! They include Bro. Tater (Sis. Haley) Kieser, graduating from Illinois State University with his Masters Degree as a Family Nurse Practitioner; and high school graduates, Evan Greiner, Stephen Kupferschmid, Mitch Kaufmann, Sis. Julissa Rabe, Ashley Masters and Staci Maurer.

Bro. Jeff Thames (Washington, IL) spoke at our April Family Night. Bro. Tim Hohulin also joined us for a special church-wide Bible study on Crown's Biblical Financial Study program. Also visiting was Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN). We thank all of them for their willingness to serve.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD
Steve Endress

Our congregation rejoiced to welcome two dear souls into the body of Christ. Tyler Endress (Bro. Bill and Sis. Renee) and Melissa Ehnle (Bro. Donn and Sis. Tracy) had opportunity to give their testimony of faith, were baptized with Christ into His death, and have been called to walk in newness of life.

Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi (Lamar,

MO) assisted Bro. Wayne throughout the weekend and we appreciate his efforts.

Also during the baptism weekend, we were blessed to have two Hungarian Elders with us. Elder Bros. Ferenc (Frank) Szabo and Ferenc Szabados spoke to us of the life of Gideon. It was impressed upon the congregation that we need to have faith in God's Word rather than faith in signs. Although God had told Gideon clearly that He would lead His people to victory, Gideon did not believe God's words, but depended on other signs to gather courage.

We rejoice with our Sis. Julie Ringger (Bro. Bill and Sis. Karen) as her engagement to Bro. Jared Hanson (Steve and Miriam Hanson, Princeville, IL) was announced. We wish them God's richest blessings as they enter this preparation time for marriage.

Bro. Brad and Sis. Cheryl Kupferschmid are thankful for the safe arrival of their sixth child. Kyrstin Elise was born on May 19 and is welcomed home by siblings, Kayla, Clint, Heather, Lance, and Quinn. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Richard and Sis. Maribeth Kupferschmid (Eureka, IL) and Bro. Bill and Sis. Karen Ringger.

We have two young people who are graduating from high school this year. They are Bro. Chad Joos (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Jenny) and Miranda Gudeman (Bro. Brad and Sis. Teresa). We wish them Godly wisdom as they make life-changing decisions.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Rachel Meyer

Greetings from Chicago. In the past month we have been blessed with several visiting ministers. Elder Bros. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL) and Ron Messner (Washington, IL) spent a Wednesday evening with us on their way to Ixtlan, MX. Bro. Leland Plattner (Zapata, TX) shared the Word with us as well, and Bro. Ron shared a special blessing by being with us, along with his family, on Mother's Day.

Our dear Gary Halfer is still undergoing radiation treatments. He needs our prayers. As one has said, "These are the times that try the soul." God is near.

Several in our congregation have lost loved ones. Sis. Gloria Stahl (Bro. Norm), Bro. Blake Stahl (Sis. Christine) and Sis. Sherri Nenadov (Bro. Sam) lost father and grandfather, respectively, in the passing of Bro. Silas Metzger from West Bend, IA. Sis. Tereasa Fry lost her grandmother, Nellie Cunningham, of Fowler, IN. We extend our sincere sympathy to all of these dear ones.

A hearty thank-you is extended to Bro. Ed Sauder (Roanoke, IL) for presenting a Topical Bible Study entitled, "Lessons from the Mountain". What an enlightening and blessed evening. We thank all of our ministering brothers who take extra time to share on our behalf.

A group from Chicago took a bus trip to Bay City, MI. Wonderful fellowship and safe travels were had by all. Those who were on the trip thank the brethren from Bay City for their love and hospitality.

Our Chicago church has the opportunity to host several Elder meetings this summer, for which we are thankful. May the Lord bless these meetings and bring much good fruit.

April 27 found us commemorating Holy Communion together. The closeness in our Chicago church is precious. Thank you, Bros. Dale and Lenny, as you led us in this service and passed the wine and the bread—tokens of the Lord's Body, wounded for each one.

May 5 found many volunteers at church for the annual church cleaning. The church even smelled clean the next day. Thanks to all who helped.

My mother and father visited my husband and me on Mother's Day Sunday. That morning, it became clear I would be quite a bit late in arriving. As I prepared to leave, this thought came to me... "I know my mom is a great mom, because, instead of sitting in church wondering where I was, I knew she was just hoping I would be able to make it." I

was right. She was just happy to see me. A mother's love covers a multitude of sins. Thanks, Mom.

ILLINOIS CHAMPAIGN

Jackie Eisenmann

Greetings from Champaign-Urbana! We have been blessed by many visiting ministers this past month. Bro. Jedd Rocke (Goodfield, IL) spoke God's Word to us on Sunday, April 22. On Sunday, May 6, Bro. Dewayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN) and Bro. Alan Schambach (Remington, IN) spent the day with us. Visiting ministers for our Wednesday evening Bible studies were Bros. Steve Baner (Gridley, IL) and Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL). We thank each of these Brothers for their willingness to be used by God. May He bless them.

On Wednesday evening our church served a "Student Appreciation Supper" at church especially for our college students. Each one of them is very special to our small church and as the school year is winding down we would like to thank them for what they do for our church throughout the year. Besides their support in worship, they do some special things for the Champaign church families. They took our children camping last fall, had babysitting days in December and near Valentines, and served us an appreciation supper, just to name a few.

Results from our business meeting on April 26 are: Trustee – Bro. Greg Schumacher, Usher – Bro. David Bauer, Sunday School teachers – Sis. Tamra Kaeb, Bro. Chad Kupferschmid, and Bro. David Eisenmann.

Our church partook of Holy Communion on Wednesday, May 9. It is so good to be reminded of what Christ has done for each one of us on the cross. May we think of Christ's sacrifice often. How humbling it is to think that Christ died for each one of us, individually! We thank Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL) who came to assist our Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart in serving us Commu-

nion.

The weekend of May 12-13 was graduation. We have several seniors graduating this year and we want to congratulate each one of them for their accomplishments. We ask that God would bless them in their future, wherever God would choose to lead them. We hope they will come back to C-U and visit us often. The following list is the student, home church, degree, and job, respectively. Graduating from the University of Illinois are: Bro. Ben Martin-Princeville- Crop Science- Akron Services near Princeville; Sis. Meg Dill-Minneapolis- Dietetics- internship in Minneapolis; Bro. Nic Rassi- Tremont-Biology education; Sis. Gabrielle Roeschley- Morton- Nursing- Pediatric ICU at St. Francis Medical Center in Peoria; Brian Sauder- Tremont- Natural Resources and Environmental Science; Sis. Jenny Wyss- Washington-Chemistry; Bro. Blake Zehr- Fairbury-Farm Management- Zehr Acres; Chris Nazarczuk- Belvidere- Accounting- job in Decatur, IL; Bro. Blake Knapp-Goodfield- Architecture- attending U of I Grad school in the fall; Bro. Brent Sauder- Tremont- Accounting- job at an accounting firm in Champaign.

Parkland College graduates are Bro. Michael Kaeb- Cissna Park- headed to Kansas State for Bachelor's degree; and Sis. Kristen Schmidgall- Fairbury- Radiology Technician- Provena Hospital in Champaign.

We are thrilled that Sis. Kristen Schmidgall and Bro. Brent Sauder have taken jobs in Champaign and will be making Champaign their home church. Welcome!

We also have one High School graduate this year. We want to congratulate Ross Tucker on his graduation from Centennial High School, Champaign. Ross's parents are John and Mary Tucker. Ross will be attending Parkland College in the fall.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK Pam Walder Janie Waldbeser

Visiting us on the pulpit this month were Bros. Dan Moser (Elgin, IL) and Neil Widmer (West Lafayette, IN). May God bless them for their untiring labors, and may we bring forth good fruit in our lives.

Our Bro. Charlie Mann (Sis. Mary Ann) was hospitalized this month. We trust him to God's tender care as he remains in his home.

We extend our sympathy to those who have recently lost loved ones. Sis. Kathy Maul (Mike) bid farewell to her father, Bro. Clifford Kuenzi, of Silverton, OR. Also, Sis. Marguerite Bauer's brother, Phillip Schmidt, of California, passed from this life. Sis. Laurine Kaufmann of our congregation passed into eternity. She leaves behind many nieces and nephews, including Bro. Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL) who brought forth God's Word at her funeral. We trust God to comfort the grieving.

As Father's Day approaches, may we remember not only our earthly fathers who have done so much for us, but especially our Heavenly Father who gives us hope of life eternal through His Son Jesus Christ.

Congratulations to our high school graduates, including Sis. Belinda Frank (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Bonita), Bro. Reid Walder (Bro. Steve and Sis. Kathy), Sis. Teresa Kaeb (Bro. Eric and Sis. LouAnn) and Heidi Maul (Bro. Bill and Sis. Wanda). May they each one seek God's will for guidance and direction on this life's journey.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE Rachel Schrock

"And when he had given thanks, he brake it (the bread) and said, Take, eat; this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me."

I Cor. 11:24

What a sobering yet uplifting evening we had as we partook of Commu-

nion together. It was sobering in that we were given a graphic reminder of the suffering that our Lord's body went through as He became broken for us, and yet uplifting as we realized the peaceful and joyful effects that He has brought to us through this sacrifice.

Thankfulness fills our hearts for those who break the Word of Life with us. Our visiting ministering brethren this past month included Elder Bros. Ken Indermuhle (Sis. Linda, Sardis, OH) and Don Braker (Sis. Eileen, Kansas City, MO) and Bros. Wayne Leman (Sis. Julie, Roanoke, IL), Darren Plattner (Sis. Sue, Champaign, IL), Gene Lehman (Sis. Verna, Wolcott, IN) and Greg Lehman (Sis. Mary Beth, Wolcott, IN).

Two souls whose hearts are uplifted with the Lord's wondrous guidance are Bro. Vic Rinkenberger (Bro. Mike and Sis. Pat) and Sis. Betsy Rufener (Bro. Ron and Sis. Kay, Mansfield, OH). Their engagement was recently announced to our congregation and a June 17 wedding day is being planned.

Sometimes sobering things happen in the course of life. Nathan Zobrist (Bro. Mike and Sis. Susie) was burnt badly on his face. Olivia Wiegand (Bro. Curt and Sis. Amber) is currently recovering from a broken leg. Thankfully, our bodies are fearfully and wonderfully made and both of these children are healing well.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN Amy Gasser Miriam Gasser

We congratulate our high school seniors on completing twelve years of study and wish them well in future endeavors! May they find true success, as described in Joshua 1:8. The graduates are Rachel Buckheister (Bro. Bob and Sis. Lynette), Tonya Dietz (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Sara), Miles Kellenberger (Bro. Greg and Sis. Debbie), Courtney Lodge (Dave and Lori), Kaleigh Schock (Dwayne and Jayne), Maria Steffen (Bro. Dave and Sis. Linda), and Alison Weiss (Bro. Roger and Sis. Karen).

Special thanks go to three visitors who edified us through their ministry in recent weeks: Bros. Earl Beery (Rittman, OH), Alan Schambach (Remington, IN), and Allen Stoller (Bluffton, IN). We were refreshed by the living water of the Word.

On May 19, there was a farewell singing for Bro. Ben and Sis. Stephanie Standish and their family, who will be moving to Indiana at the beginning of June. Through God's leading, Bro. Ben found a new job opportunity south of Indianapolis, where the Standishes plan to assemble. We will truly miss this young couple and their daughters, Aubrey, Ashton, Manna, and Makayla. May the Lord continue to provide for them and bless them in their new community.

Prayers have been answered for Tim Braun (Bro. Gene and Sis. Sue), who has found peace and is awaiting the time of his testimony and baptism.

Belated congratulations to Jay and Jen (Forbes) Cox, who were married on January 19. Jen's parents are William and Karen Gelfarb, and Jay's are Bro. Bob and Sis. DeAnne Cox. Andrew Schmidgall (Rick and Sis. Cindy) announced his engagement to Bethany Krup of Elgin. They are planning a September wedding. We wish these couples happiness, as they blend their lives together.

Our wishes for healing and renewed strength are with Sis. Lyla Schock (Bro. Richard) who underwent surgery, and with Sis. Debbie Kellenberger (Bro. Chuck) who fractured her wrist during a fall.

Elgin will be collecting for the Silver Lining during the month of July. The suggested donation per subscription is \$14, which may be deposited in the Maintenance box. Our treasurer will be making one payment, based on the number of current subscribers. Your voluntary contributions will be appreciated!

Note of Thanks:

Dear Beloved Ones in the Lord Jesus!

It is not possible for me to express my many, many thanks for the outpouring of great love, help, and kindness during Georg's hospitalization and his journey home to eternity. This includes funeral and meal preparation from wonderful, loving Brothers and Sisters and the dear Church family and many visits, prayers, cards, flowers, and gifts for dear Georg and also for myself—being the same time in the hospital for operations. I could feel the love and strength through the mercy and grace of our dear Heavenly Father and the sincere love from everybody in church. It is sure a very humbling experience. May God bless you all very richly.

With all my thankfulness,
Sis. Hilde Schumacher

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

Cindy Stoller Heather Beutel

We are thankful for the guidance our Lord provides in the lives of His children. Bro. Jarod Leman (Bro. Chris and Sis. Marlene) and Sis. Heidi Schmidgall (Bro. Paul and Sis. Kris) are engaged to be married and are planning an August wedding. We wish them God's blessings as they move forward with their plans to blend their two lives into one.

We were blessed with several visiting ministers recently, including Elder Bro. Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA), and Bros. Bill Brake (Sardis, OH), Nathan Wieland (Goodfield, IL), Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA), Tony Manz (Junction, OH) and Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO). We appreciate their service in the Lord's vineyard.

There are a couple of first-time parents who have received healthy little daughters. Abigail Lisa was born to Bro. Eric and Sis. ReKeeta Leman. Grandparents are Bro. Bruce and Sis. Marge Leman and Bro. Michael and Sis. Diane Schmidgall (Morris, MN). Also, Macy Kay was born to Bro. Wade and Sis. Hallie Wettstein. Grandparents are Bro. Jake and Sis. Mary Wettstein and Bro. Mike and Sis. Mary Schieber (Congerville, IL).

Our medical patient this month is Sis. Dorothy Gandell. We pray for her and commit her well-being into the hands of our loving God. We also continue prayers for Bro. Harry Rocke, and many others who perpetually struggle with various bodily afflictions.

We have several graduates leaving behind the high school chapter of their lives. We pray for them, and commit their lives to the Lord who created them. We wish them all success in their occupations, and most of all, success in their spiritual walk of life. The graduates include: Chad Blunier, Rob Design, Brett Martin, Colin Knapp, Bro. Greg Bradle, Nathan Schmidgall, Ashley Schmidgall, Sis. Kayla Blunier, Sis. Miranda Blunier, Samantha Knecht, Sis. Amanda Wiegand. The Lord bless each of you.

Note of Thanks:

I want to thank everyone for the cards and gifts that I received for my 80th birthday. Especially thanks to our children and grandchildren for the delicious meals they served. God bless you one and all.

Sis. Ruth Martin

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

Anna Schmidgall Lila Fehr

We have been blessed with a number of visiting ministers this month. We were thankful to have with us Bros. Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN), Nate Wieland (Goodfield, IL), Jerry Wagenbach (Oakville, IA), and Mike Ursu (Kitchener, Ontario).

Blessings are wished upon Aaron Meiss (Bro. Carlos and Sis. Jane) and Bethany Tipton (Jim and Sally Tipton). They were united in marriage on May 5.

This year we have eight high school graduates: Amber Steidinger (Bro. Keith and Sis. Kristine), Sis. Maggie Huber (Bro. Rich and Sis. Dawn), Ben Herr (Sis. Cindy), Brent Mowery (Bro. Dale and Sis. Elaine), Jacob Walter (Bro. Alan and Sis. Linda), Sis. Sharla Steidinger (Bro. Ted and Sis. Sara),

Bro. Jason Edelman (Bro. Walt and Sis. Rosetta), and Leann Steidinger (Bro. Martin and Sis. Trish). We would encourage them to look to the Lord for direction and guidance as they move on to the next phase of their lives.

We were honored to host the Kitchener, Ontario, congregation for a weekend in May. Our spiritual cups were filled to overflowing as we worshipped together in church and again as we gathered together for an evening of food, song, and fellowship. We are thankful for the ties that bind our hearts together in Christian love.

It was with sadness we said a final farewell to our dear convert, Duane Kafer. He leaves behind a loving wife, Patricia, a son, Bro. Ben (Sis. Carol), and two daughters, Pamela Steidinger and Patti Davis.

Our hospital patients were Sis. Linda Fehr, Sis. Ruth Meyer, and Bro. Ben Lorch.

Note of Thanks:

We appreciate the prayers, cards and kind words that we received on the passing of our dear Mom, Grandma and Great-grandma Gladys Schneider. God bless you as only He can.

In Him,

Don, Sandy and Todd Schneider

Ed, Melanie, Andrea and Kelsi Teubel

ILLINOIS, FORREST

Jill Wenger

Lori Leman

We thank our visiting ministers, Elder Bro. Tom Stock (Cissna Park, IL), Bro. Dennis Rassi and Bro. Dale Stoller (Fairbury, IL) for being willing mouthpieces of the Lord this month.

We rejoiced to hear the testimony and then witness the baptisms April 21-22 of our new Sis. Abby Edelman (Warren and Sis. Cindy) and new Bro. Ben Rudin (Bro. Craig and Sis. Trudy). May God grant them grace to walk close to Him throughout their life.

Our love and prayers are extended to Sis. Molly (Bro. Josh) Zimmerman in

the passing of her grandfather, Bro. Silas Metzger (West Bend, IA), and Sis. Shirley Ifft (Bro. Larry) and family in the death of her father, Bro. Noah Gerber (West Bend, IA). We also extend sincere sympathy to Keith and Sis. Tamra Bachman as Keith's mother, Doris Bachman, passed away. Our Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Sis. Nancy), Dale Dotterer (Sis. Elaine), Sis. Kathy Dotterer (the late Bro. Wendell) and all their families have our sympathy in the sudden passing from time to eternity of their father and grandfather, Bro. John (Sis. Betty) Dotterer, of Smithville OH. May the Lord comfort the hearts of those that mourn the loss of these beloved family members.

Bro. Dave (Sis. Alma Jean) Schmidgall spent time in the hospital and we are glad to report he is recovering. Sis. Lou Ida Steffen also has had surgery and is recovering. May God heal and bless them both according to His will.

Amy Gutwein (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Wendy) recently started the process of repenting and conversion. May she build upon the firm foundation of the Word and grow in grace with God and man.

The blessing of a baby boy, named Reuben Jude, was added to the home of Bro. Ron Jr. and Sis. Vicki Mueller. His siblings are Reagan, Royce, Rollie, Chloe and Remington. Also rejoicing are the grandparents, Bro. Eldon and Sis. Darlene Steidinger (Fairbury, IL) and Bro. Ron Sr. and Sis. Loida Mueller.

Our high school graduates this year are Kevin Aberle (Bro. Mark and Sis. Laverne), Bro. Kurt Bachtold (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Mary), Danielle Bolliger (Bro. Mark and Sis. Ruby), Troy Brown (Bro. Gary and Sis. Jane), Josh Coffey (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Denise), Bro. Wesley Dotterer (the late Bro. Wendell and Sis. Kathy Dotterer), Ruston Edelman (Bro. Ken and Sis. Carol), Bro. Josh Gutwein (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Wendy), Lori Ifft (Bro. Larry and Sis. Shirley), Sharon Kaeb (Maurice and Brenda), Caleb Kelson (Bro. Paul and Sis. Sherri), Sis. Kyrstin

Kilgus (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Denise), David Kuntz (Bro. Rollyn and Sis. Brenda), Tessa Nussbaum (Bro. Terry and Sis. Deb), Bro. Scott Schmidgall (Bro. John and Sis. Janet), Jacob Steidinger (James and Sis. Marlene), Lucas Stork (Bro. Paul and Sis. Dawn), Jodi Wenger (Bro. Rich and Sis. Jill), Katie Wenger (Bro. Ed and Sis. Renee) and Bro. David Zimmerman (Bro. Paul and Sis. Loretta). We wish them God's blessings!

Our Sis. Rachel Wenger has completed her medical schooling and is now a MD. May God bless her as she endeavors to render help to the sick and hurting.

Proverbs 3:3-4 is good advice for all of our graduates.

"Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart: So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man."

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

Amber Grimm

Rita Bauman

A sweet baby girl, Alayna Christine, has arrived in the home of Bro. Tadd and Sis. Jill Gerst. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Bonnie Gerst and Bro. Terry and Sis. Shirley Leman (Eureka, IL).

Also welcoming home their first child is Bro. Darrell and Sis. Jennifer Stoller. Mason Lee was born on May 4. Welcoming him home are grandparents, Bro. Larry and Sis. Lori Wiegand and Bro. Tom and Sis. Edie Stoller (Eureka, IL). May God bless both of these families as they train up their children.

A special thanks to the following visiting brothers who have shared God's Word with us last month. Those visiting Brothers were Ken Hoerr (Sis. Darlene, Peoria, IL), and Darren Plattner (Sis. Sue, Champaign, IL). May God bless you and your families.

"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth."

III John 4

We rejoice with the family of Jared Zobrist (Bro. Dave and Sis. Ann) as he has found peace with God and man, and desires to be baptized. May God continue to be with Jared.

Our thoughts and prayers are with those from our congregation who have been in the hospital during this last month: Elaine Hartter (Melvin), Sis. Betty Bauman (Bro. Larry), Bro. Tony Monfre (Sis. Deonne), and Alayna Gerst (Bro. Tadd and Sis. Jill). May God restore all to good health, according to His will.

“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

We wish to congratulate our graduating High School students. Those who graduated in May were Luke Bauman, Justin Fehr, Fritz Hinrichsen, Grant Hohulin, Susi Horsch, Kathy Wagner, Marla Wiegand, and Laura Wirtz. May they seek God's help and guidance as they plan for their future careers.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY **Perry A. Klopfenstein**

“Do all things without murmurings...”

Philippians 2:14

On Wednesday evening, May 23, our text for worship included the above teaching. To murmur means to grumble, to complain and to be discontent in a sullen way. In everyday living, there is a tendency to gravitate into murmuring, and the believer is exhorted to resist this trait. One's vision should expand to realize the multitude of blessings we enjoy, both spiritually and materially.

One of our ministers also told about the necessity of being hungry and thirsty for the Word of God. He told of a nest of little birds near his porch. The

mother would fly away to find food for the baby birds, and when she returned, they would have their mouths wide open and their necks straining for the food. He indicated we are to be hungry for God's Word in the same way, and with the same motivation.

Bro. Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL) was a visiting minister this month.

Bro. Tom Miller had surgery during the week of May 20. He was awaiting test results as this is written, and asked the church for their prayers. Sis. Esther Kaupp has also had some health issues. Sharon Rinckenberger has recovered from surgery. Bro. Larry Kiefer was hospitalized and is improving. Bro. Elmer Witzig is still recovering from serious surgery. Jack Sievers was also hospitalized for surgery.

We offer our sympathies to Scott and Sis. Lisa Kiefer on the passing of her grandmother. Likewise, our condolences are extended to Sis. Lucille Stoller on the death of her sister, Sis. Lorene Kaufmann, Cissna Park.

We welcome Rachel Young to our congregation. Her address is 9017 Deer Ridge Dr., Bloomington, IL 61704. Also, we welcome Bro. Alan and Sis. Theresa Miller to our congregation, along with their children, Amelia and Adam Miller. They reside at 10788 N. 250 E. Gridley, IL 61744.

Derek Ortega, who has attended our Gridley congregation, enlisted in the U. S. Army, and has completed basic training.

Bro. Scott Wettstein is working in Italy for awhile. His address is IT Soft, Corso Europa 800, 16148 Genova, Italy. He is the son of Bro. Lyle and Sis. Linda Wettstein of our Gridley congregation.

ILLINOIS, MORTON **Annette Tanner** **Julie Bahr**

Family Worship Night was given by Bro. Fred Funk (Sis. Diane). Bro. Fred's message was to the graduating seniors, Stephanie Braker (Bro. Brent and Sis. Becky), Sarah Michel (Scott and Carrie), Sis. Tori Warner (Bro. Scott

and Sis. Debbie) and Grant Zimmerman (Bro. Joe and Sis. Barb). Sound advice for graduates preparing for their futures can only be derived from the Word of God. Thank you, Bro. Fred, for your loving Godly advice.

Our sincere thanks is expressed to the ministers who visited us at Morton. Bro. Daron Price (Sis. Monica, Milford, IN) and Bro. Dean Steffen (Sis. Carol, Belvidere, IL) shared the scriptures with us. Thank you!

We have had those who have had surgeries, CA treatments, illnesses, accidents and those who have become shut-ins. The hours become long and a phone call or a note may brighten their day. Remember them in your prayers and offer a helping hand.

Henry Schick (Shirley) passed away. He is a brother to Bro. Randy Schick (Sis. Jane) and also to Sis. Marlene Seidel (Bro. Richard).

Sis. Edna Kahler (late Bro. Ervin) was taken to her Heavenly Home on May 8. Let God's comfort be felt by her son, Roger Kahler (Connie), and her two daughters, Sis. Marcia Kelley (Bro. John) and Lisa Miller (Gary).

Bro. Nick Knobloch (Sis. Gladys) of Princeville also went home to meet his Lord. He is the brother to Bro. Bob Knobloch (Sis. Marvel) from Morton.

Bro. Gordon and Sis. Kathy Gerber are making Morton their home church. We are grateful for their presence. Welcome!

I failed to mention last month that Bro. Dave Ploussard is retiring as Sunday school superintendent. Two brothers are assuming these positions: Bro. Allen Kaiser as Superintendent and Bro. Clint Heinold as assistant. Our prayers are coveted for God's Divine direction.

As Mother's Day has passed and Father's Day approaches, remember to create a treasured heritage! Don't miss a chance to leave a spiritual legacy for your kids and grandkids. If that's the only achievement you make in life, you have succeeded!

Note of Thanks:

We would like to express our thanks to all those who were there for our family during our time of need. It was overwhelming to witness the love and kindness exhibited by our brethren in Faith as well as friends. The prayers, cards, food, money, flowers and visits to Helen during her illness, visitation and funeral service meant so much to all of us. God bless each and every one.

Bro. Karl, Sis. Elsa, Jonathan Schuon and family

ILLINOIS, PEORIA
Kristin Menold
Carissa Klopfenstein

Congratulations to Kyle and Tammy Eaton on the birth of their daughter, Sophia Mae, born April 16. Sophia Mae is welcomed by her brothers, Gavin, Elijah, and Boston, and her grandparents, Bro. Bob and Sis. Myrna Hoerr, and Jon and Debi Eaton.

Congratulations to Bro. Brandon and Sis. Cassie Schock on the birth of their little girl, Paisley Jade, born April 18. Her siblings are Creighton, Saige, and Scout and her grandparents are Bro. Rich and Jan Knapp, and Bro. Carl and Sis. Deb Hoerr.

On May 6, Sis. Elizabeth Rieker, daughter of Bro. Tom and Sis. Jo Ann Rieker was announced for engagement to Bro. Jeremy Calame from Sarasota, FL, son of Bro. John and Sis. Jody Calame from Rittman, OH. Their wedding is scheduled for December 16, 2007. Congratulations and we wish you God's blessings.

We rejoice with Dustin Fritzenmeier, son of Mark and Sis. Pam Fritzenmeier, as he has made a decision to serve the Lord. Our prayers are with you as you begin this exciting journey.

Many Brothers and Sisters gathered at our church on May 3, the National Day of Prayer, to lift up our nation to the Lord and ask for His blessing and guidance for our country and those who lead it. We are so blessed to have a nation where we are able to worship God without fear of persecution. It is our

prayer that the people of America will continue to seek the Lord. "If my people will humbly bow, freely then will I forgive and I will heal their land."

Saturday, May 5, was a special day for the Sisters in our congregation as the Bible Study group called "Women Connecting in Christ" put on a special brunch to raise money and collect items for the Crisis Nursery. The event was held at our Apostolic Christian Fellowship Hall and was truly delightful. It was good to be together—mothers and daughters, Sisters in faith—to enjoy the food and be inspired to work together to help other mothers. Lots of baby items such as diapers, toys, food, clothes, and other things, were collected and donated to the Crisis Nursery. Following the brunch, a representative from the Crisis Nursery spoke about their mission and purpose and a group of young girls sang some songs for us. Thanks to all the ladies who worked so hard to put this together. You brought joy to many people.

Bro. Steve Baner (Gridley, IL) spoke at our Family Night on May 3. His topic was interesting and insightful and we thank him for his efforts to travel and be with us for this evening.

On May 6, the Goodfield choir visited our congregation for the monthly Hymn Sing. We wish to thank them and our 6th - 8th grade Sunday School classes for their songs. It has become a tradition for the Goodfield Choir to sing at our Hymn Sing. For many years they have traveled to Peoria to be part of our Hymn Sings and we thank them for once again sharing their music with us.

The farewell singing for Bro. Tim and Sis. Joan Reinhard and family was held at our Apostolic Christian Fellowship Hall on May 5. It was a beautiful singing, as some of Peoria's finest singers gathered to say goodbye to this beloved family. Bro. Tim shared some of the history of Haiti, as well as demographics, and economic stability, or lack of it. Those wishing to make financial contributions to help support this family should make checks payable to the Apostolic Christian World Relief,

earmarked "Bro. Tim and Sis. Joan Reinhard family". Bro. Tim and Sis. Joan will be leaving on May 21. Our prayers are with them as they follow God's call to serve the people in Haiti.

Our prayers are with our Sis. Ruth Huthman, Bro. Wayne Wieland, Nancy Triplett, and Bro. Junior Roecker for continued health and recovery.

Note of Thanks:

The family of Bro. Herman Schaefer wish to express their thanks to everyone who remembered their family with expressions of love, prayers, cards, food, flowers, and memorials since the passing of their husband, father, and grandpa. May God bless each of you.

We are looking forward to Vacation Bible School in just a few short weeks. Please pray for those that will be teaching and the children that will attend. May is a busy month. As you attend the graduations, parties, and school programs, remember what makes these events worth celebrating—the people God has brought into your life. There are many words that are said, advice that is given to those who are graduating. Some of the greatest advice:

"Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:"

Isaiah 55:6

"And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart."

Jeremiah 29:13

"For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"

Matthew 16:26

Only one life,
 'Twill soon be past.
 Only what's done
 For Christ will last.

—*Author Unknown*

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

**Vera Baer
Connie Christ**

"This union of our hearts shall stand through grace in Jesus." We rejoice with our Bro. Jared Hanson (Steve and Miriam) and Sis. Julie Ringger (Bro. Bill and Sis. Karen) of Bradford, IL, as their engagement was announced on April 22. We pray that God's grace and blessings will continue with them.

We thank ministering Bros. Ron Heiniger (Bloomington, IL) and Brad Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) for being our willing servants in bringing us God's Word and visiting us this month.

We have several in our congregation struggling with the afflictions of the body at this time. Our prayers are with Sis. Julie Dapper and Sis. Janet Martin-Joos as they are enduring these trials. Sis. Janet had surgery and is recuperating at Peoria Skylines for a time. May God be their strength and comfort always.

Our dear Bro. Wm. (Nick) Knobloch passed away on May 13. Our sincere prayers and sympathy are with his dear wife, Sis. Gladys, and their children, Bro. Dave (Sis. Judy), Marsha (Alan) Koehler, Sis. Cindy (Bro. Denny) Aupperle, and Bro. Keith (Sis. Lisa), a foster child, Bro. Richard (Sis. Jeanette) Graham, as well as his brothers and sisters. Those from our congregation include Bro. Jim (Sis. Helen) Knobloch, Sis. Esther Kieser and Sis. Lillian Elsasser. May the Spirit of God fill the void and provide and comfort every grieving heart.

There are several others who are grieving in our congregation at this time. Sis. Janet Martin-Joos has recently lost a dear sister, and Andrew and Bernice Streitmatter and their family are grieving the loss of a beloved sister, Frieda Streitmatter. We extend our sincere prayers and sympathy to each one.

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

**Dee Fehr
Judy Sauder**

"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints." (Psalm 116:15). Our Bro. Bob Luginbuhl went to be with the Lord on April 23. Left to mourn his passing are his wife, Sis. Jean; sons, Bro. Rob (Sis. Gina), Bro. Andy (Sis. Kim); daughters, Sis. Peg (Ron) Schroeder, all of Roanoke; Sis. Becky (Bro. Denny) Unsicker (Peoria); two brothers, Bro. Les. (Sis. Judy) and Bro. Ray (Sis. Carol) Luginbuhl of Roanoke; and a sister, Sis. Luella (Bro. Ellsworth) Pelsy of Francesville. Bro. Bob also had nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by a son, John.

Bernie Milligan (Susan) passed away May 13 in Hawaii. He was the son-in-law of our Sis. Helen Mangold. We extend our love and deepest sympathy to these two dear families and pray for God's peace and comfort upon them.

Bro. Nate Wieland (Goodfield) was our guest minister at Family Worship on April 25. His topic was "Christian Liberty" and his text was Romans 6. "For he that is dead is freed from sin...But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life." (Romans 6:7, 22). We were encouraged and challenged by Bro. Nate's timely message.

"Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord..." (Psalm 127:3). Bro. Scott and Sis. Erin Leman became the parents of Jack Ryan on May 2. Welcoming him home are Bailey, Brady, and Marley. Thankful grandparents are Roger and Gloria Weber of Benson and Bro. Steve and Sis. Shirley Leman.

On May 4, the HOPE girls offered their babysitting services to those in the congregation who wanted child care for the evening. We thank the girls for their ministry of love to us.

On May 5 and 6 we were privileged to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of Allison Sauder (Bro. Tom and Sis. Mary) and Wayne Blunier (Sis. Marjorie). Retired Elder Bro. Chuck

Hemmer (Peoria) assisted Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman in this work. We are so thankful for the Lord's redeeming work in the hearts of men. We welcome them into our part of the body of Christ.

Sis. Esther Sauder (Bro. John), Sis. Edna Roth (Bro. Harold), and Sis. Jenny Martin (Bro. Jesse) have been hospitalized this month. We pray for God's healing hand upon them.

"...likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth..." (Luke 15:7). Sara Maher (Bro. Dan and Sis. Kim) has given her heart to the Lord in repentance. We rejoice with her and pray for God's blessings upon her as she begins her walk of faith.

"Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised." (Proverbs 31:30). On May 12, the Mother's Day luncheon was held. The theme was "Vessels Filled with His Love". We thank all those involved who made it a memorable and blessed day.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

**Teresa Rowell
Sheri Allen**

Tell mother I'll be there in answer to
her pray'r;
This message, blessed Saviour, to her
bear!

Tell mother I'll be there, Heav'n's joy
with her to share
Yes, tell my darling mother I'll be
there!

Gospel Hymns #801

Oh, what a statement! If only each one of us could say that to our mothers. The joy and wish of each mother is to have her children come to know the Lord. As we celebrate the day set aside for our mothers, may each one of us examine our hearts and see if we can truly make this statement.

We were privileged to have several visiting ministers this month. Among them were Elder Bros. Jim Plattner (Sis. Marlene, Princeville, IL), Ervin Knecht (Sis. Sandra, Eureka, IL) and

Ted Witzig, Sr. (Sis. Cindy, Morton, IL). They were here on a Wednesday evening for the confirmation vote for our future deacon.

Also with us to celebrate the wedding of Bro. Drake Moser and Sis. Cherie Schweigert (Willard and Della) were Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North, IN) and Bro. Greg Rassi (Sis. Carla, Chicago, IL). In this new step of faith, we wish them God's richest blessings. Also united in marriage were Greg Huette (Bro. Bill and Sis. Marilyn) and Sally Nicholson. We wish them the blessings of God, also.

But, as life is, we celebrate with those who have joy and mourn with those who weep. Sis. Marcella Steiner (Bro. Joe) lost her father, Bro. Noah Gerber (West Bend, IA). He also leaves behind two grandchildren, their wives, and fifteen great-grandchildren from our congregation.

Spending some time in the hospital were Sis. Melba (Bro. Jerry) Hangartner, Sis. Doris (Bro. Bob) Baer, Sis. Nancy (Bro. Cleo) Koch and Bro. Si (Sis. Lavonne) Wagenbach, Jr. We pray for God's healing hand upon them and are thankful that they are able to assemble with us again.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

Nancy Knepp Elizabeth Heinold

"Oh, give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good! For his mercy endureth forever. Let the redeemed of the Lord say so..."

Psalms 107:1-2

These verses were read in our congregation this month and we were challenged to praise God through the ups and downs of life. Let us who are redeemed say so and live so!

We had reason to give thanks as we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of Sis. Joy Hangartner (Bro. Dan and Sis. Donna) and Bro. Josh Pfaffmann (Bro. Robert and Sis. Lily). We were thankful to have Elder

Bro. Charles Sauder (Sis. Miriam, Tremont, IL) with us for the testimonies and Bro. Frank Sauder (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL) served us on Sunday.

We want to welcome back Bro. Jon Eisenmann and Bro. Drew Fehr as they were both away for work assignments for a time.

Our Sis. Ann Meiss spent several days in the hospital and we're glad to have her assemble with us again.

Graduation time brought many visitors here. Those who ministered to us were Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Alan Schambach (Sis. Sarah, Remington, IN), and Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen, Kansas City, MO).

Our college graduates are: Sis. Katelin Fehr, Sis. Elise Pfaffmann, Sis. Trisha Plattner, Sis. Jennifer Wyss, Sis. Tammy Sauder, Bro. Troy Plattner, and Bro. David Thames.

Our high school graduates are: Bro. Brent Ricketts, Bro. Joshua Pfaffmann, Mark Messner, Bo Ledford, Jacob Wyss, Joshua Thames, Emily Gerber and Rachel Folkerts.

We wish them all God's blessings in their future.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

Amber Steffen Jan Schwartz

"He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and My fortress: my God; in him will I trust."

Psalms 91:1-2

In the past month, there have been many opportunities for us as a Bluffton congregation to put our trust in the Almighty Father. Sis. Devona Longenberger has had many needs for prayers as different health complications have delayed her heart surgery. She did have a stint placed in her heart and is truly thankful for the prayers of the church during that time.

Also, the Bro. Melvin and Sis. Lucile Frauhiger family recently suffered the loss of their son, Kent. In their time of sorrow and loss the prayers from the church were an incredible comfort and support for them. Their thanks are warmly offered to those who have expressed Christ's love and consoled them.

As Jimmy Vandentop continues to undergo chemo and bone marrow transplants, he expresses his extreme thankfulness for the church's prayers and encouragement. Though the battle continues, Jimmy and his family find much to be thankful for as they see God working in both their lives and the lives of those around them.

Bro. Craig Baumgartner was recently hospitalized with pancreatitis and though recovering, is still in need of prayers. He and his wife, Sis. Beth, and their children have expressed their thankfulness and love to the church through this challenging time.

Jonathan and Lisa Ringger also wanted to express their thanks for the many prayers that have been offered up on their behalf during Lisa's five months of bed rest before their twins were born in Bangkok. Samuel Ray and Silas Jensen are joyfully welcomed by their grandparents, Bro. Tim and Sis. Marlene Ringger. Their family is truly thankful for healthy boys and the prayers of the church during the last few months.

Bro. Brian and Sis. Shannon Drayer recently traveled with Bro. Brett Shorb to Guatemala to finalize the adoption of their son with the hopes of bringing him home soon. Prayers were requested for their safety and for God's will to be accomplished through this process.

April 28 marked the first Sister Heart weekend here in Bluffton. On this day, 170 sisters from 25 congregations congregated at the Fellowship Hall to participate in a day of singing, fellowship, and CD making! We in Bluffton would like to offer thanks and praise to our Savior for allowing such a blessed weekend to happen so smoothly.

Bro. Jon and Sis. Juli Kaehr are thankful for the repentance of their 12 year old son, Samuel. We rejoice with their family as Samuel begins his walk with Christ.

**INDIANA
BLUFFTON NORTH
Kelli Bucher
Sherry Pfister
Darren Drayer**

“That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father .”

Phil. 2:10-11

We were blessed this month to share Holy Communion and remember our Lord's great and eternal victory for us. Elder Bros. Tom Hoffman (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL) and Ben Wiegand (Sis. Michelle, Philadelphia, PA), along with Ed Schwartz (Sis. Jeni, Bluffton) came to help with the Communion service.

Our annual church cleaning was held May 14. The church building is twenty-five years old this year.

A benefit evening/auction was held to assist our high school Sunday School with their upcoming trip to the Knock Patrick, Jamaican deaf village this summer. Many people shared their talents to inspire us and the young people auctioned off their hard work in babysitting time, yard work, cooking, computer classes, etc. It was an evening of teamwork for all involved and a time of preparation for their service to others in Jamaica.

We rejoice with Bro. Drake Moser (Bro. Wm. Gene and Sis. Edna) who married Sis. Cherie Schweigert (Willard and Della) from the Tremont congregation. We wish them God's guidance and blessings in their married life.

Our thanks to God for the recovery of Bro. Steve Longenberger (Sis. Kathy) from his heart surgery.

Prayers are with Bro. Mark Nicholas (Sis. Marsha) whose father, Max Nicholas, passed away.

Sympathies are extended to Sis. Margo Haiflich (Ron) in the passing of her mother-in-law, Ruth Haiflich, of Uniondale.

Bro. Brian and Sis. Shannon Drayer traveled to Guatemala recently to bring home their little son, Garek Alexander. We welcome their new addition and pray God's blessings on their family. Grandparents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Lois Drayer and Bro. Roger and Sis. Carol Compton.

**INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE
Barbara Huber
Jessica Murray**

Greetings in Jesus' name to one and all! How blessed it is that in the midst of worldly turmoil, national storms and wildfires that we can have the peace that passes all understanding given to us who love and trust our Savior.

“Thou will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.”

Isaiah 26:3

Our beloved converts, Quentin Gudeman (ministering Bro. Randy and Sis. Becky) and Eric Huber (Bro. Gene and Sis. Sherri), have brought a testimony of the precious peace of God in their hearts and are expectantly waiting baptism.

We were privileged to enjoy Holy Communion recently and want to thank Elder Bro. Jim Plattner and his wife, Sis. Marlene (Princeville, IL), for coming and serving us for this precious service. Also assisting with Communion was our own beloved retired Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Sis. Marcella). It was such a blessed evening as we felt the nearness of our Savior and our love and esteem for our brethren.

Our fellowship enjoyed a memorable weekend on April 27-28 as we were privileged to host seminars presented by our Apostolic Christian Counseling and

Family Services. Bro. Ted Witzig (Sis. Donna) presented “A Christ-Centered Approach to Helping Others” on Friday evening to all of us and on Saturday, conducted a Women's Seminar for all ladies age 13 and over. We can heartily say that we were all taught and blessed by the gatherings. May we all keep in mind the wonderful assets we have through our ACCFS to help us all identify, endure and victoriously overcome all obstacles we may experience throughout our earthly sojourn. Over and above all their counsel offered is the mainstay of the inerrant Word of God.

Blessing us with ministry this month was our Bro. Gary Anliker (Sis. Edith) of the Elgin, IL, congregation. May our loving God bless them for their endeavors.

On April 30, baby Joel Alan arrived to bless the home and family of Bro. Jan and Sis. Val (Metz) Gutwein. Welcoming him to their family circle were siblings, Sis. Tess, Alisha, Mark, Derek and Brett. We wish them our love and prayers and Godspeed as they soon all return to serve as missionaries in Haiti.

Thankful grandparents, Bro. Dave and Sis. Arlene (Leman) Metzger, welcomed baby Logan Joseph into their family circle. Logan was born May 3 to Austin and Stacy (Johns) Metzger and joins big brother, Cayden. Congratulations and best wishes to Austin and Stacy as they continue on the wonderful path of parenthood.

May 6 was the joyous day of the wedding of our Sis. Britni Gudeman (ministering Bro. Randy and Sis. Becky) to Bro. Darin Eisenmann of the Latty congregation. Bro. Darin is the son of Bro. Bill and Sis. Carol. It is our prayer that they experience much joy as man and wife and radiate to the watching world the loveliness of marriage of Christ. Visiting ministers joining us for this special day were Bro. Todd Stoller (Sis. Pamela) and Bro. Gary Sinn (Sis. Paulette), both of the Latty, OH, congregation; Bro. Doug Harmon (Sis. Lanna, Toledo, OH) and Bro. Steve Ringger (Sis. Myra, Bluffton North, IN).

Realizing their need for salvation through Jesus Christ were Keelin Isch (Bro. Burt and Sis. Karlene), and Anna and Paul Huber (children of Bro. Chad and Sis. Pam). How thankful we are that the Holy Spirit is actively convicting our young ones to seek the Lord. "And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee: for thou, Lord, has not forsaken them that seek thee." Psalms 9:10

Ministering Bro. Chris Wuethrich (Sis. Carla, LaCrosse, IN) served us on Mother's Day. How appreciative we are that our ministers are given God's Spirit and their willingness to share the precious Word wherever they travel. We send our thankfulness heavenward for all of the efforts of our visiting ministers.

As you can realize by reading the column this month, we have had a very eventful month here with many evidences of God's provision and blessing. What we can see is the ever-faithful Hand of God being concerned with the affairs of men and how thankful we should be that He is infinitely interested in our past, present and future.

GOD OF THE AGES

God of the ages, History's Maker,
Planning our pathway, holding us
fast,
Shaping in mercy – all that concerns
us:
Father, we praise Thee, Lord of the
past.

God of the morning, Gladly Thy children
Worship before Thee, Trustingly bow:
Teach us to know Thee, Always
among us,
Quietly sov'reign – Lord of our now.

God of tomorrow, Strong Overcomer,
Princes of darkness own Thy command;
What then can harm us? We are Thy
people.
Now and forever kept by Thy hand.

Lord of past ages, Lord of this morning,
ing,

Lord of the future, help us, we pray.
Teach us to trust Thee, love and obey
Thee,
Crown Thee each moment, Lord of today.
—Margaret Clarkson, 1982

"The eternal God is thy refuge, and
underneath are the everlasting arms."
Deuteronomy 33:27

INDIANA INDIANAPOLIS Penny Schroeder Gail Bradford

"Likewise, I say unto you, there is
joy in the presence of the angels of God
over one sinner that repenteth."

Luke 15:10

It has brought our church much joy
have two new souls begin their repentance.
Seth Bollier and Ashley Bollier,
children of Bro. Ron and Sis. Edie
Bollier, have each expressed their
desire to commit their lives to Christ.

On May 5, Elder Bro. Curt Frank
(Sis. Lyla, Lacrosse, IN) assisted our
Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis.
Charlene, Champaign, IL) in serving
Holy Communion. It is such a privilege
to partake in Communion and remember
all that Christ has done for us.

Our congregation had the opportunity
to host Indy Outreach at the end of
April. A nice group of young people
joined together to participate in various
community service projects. What an
encouragement to see their desire to
serve and share with others.

Our prayers are with Bro. Fred and
Sis. Nancy Witzig and their family as
Fred's brother, Bill Witzig, passed away
this month. May they feel the comfort
and nearness of God during this difficult
time.

We are thankful for the services
shared with us by visiting ministers:
Bro. Ed Sauder (Sis. Bonnie, Roanoke,
IL) and Bro. Tom Bolliger (Sis. Jane,
Tremont, IL). We wish them God's
blessings for their continual labor of

love.

INDIANA, LACROSSE Bethany Johnson Julie Rocke

Bro. Rudy Troxel (Bro. Tom and Sis.
Luann) and Sis. Rosario Gonzalez (Sis.
Bertha and the late Bro. Javier Gonzalez,
Ixtilan, Mexico) were married May
13 in Ixtilan. We wish them the Lord's
blessings as they begin their life together
serving the Lord.

Our visiting ministers this month
were Bro. Gene Lehman (Sis. Verna,
Wolcott, IN) and Bro. Chris Huber (Sis.
Sharon, Francesville, IN). Our heartfelt
thanks to these brothers and their
wives who came to share the day with
us.

We also enjoyed visitors when the
young group hosted their Invite-A-Friend
weekend. We always welcome visitors
and are thankful for the fellowship and
extra voices for singing.

Our deepest sympathy goes to Bro.
Curt and Sis. Lyla Frank in the passing
of Sis. Lyla's father. Bro. Silas Metzger
(Sis. Della, West Bend, IA) finished his
course and passed from this life on
April 28.

INDIANA, LEO Elizabeth Schrenk Abigail Schrenk

"So then neither is he that planteth
anything, neither he that watereth; but
God that giveth the increase."

I Cor. 3:7

Planting time has come to our area
and new life is starting to emerge in the
fields. As I watch the corn and beans
grow, I am reminded of this verse. We
can do all we can to get the ground ready
and get the seeds in, but God is the one
who makes it grow and He is the one
that gives the increase. He is faithful
and that is something we should never
forget!

We are glad to have Bro. David
Thames assemble with us. He is the

Volunteer Coordinator at Gateway Woods and will be staying here for the summer. We are thankful for his willingness to serve and hope he feels at home.

Sis. Lavada Stieglitz had surgery on her foot this month. She is doing better but we still pray for her recovery.

Our prayers are also with Sis. Dean Stoller as she went into the hospital to have some tests done. We ask that God would go one step ahead of her and guide her during this time.

As the school year comes to a close, we are glad to announce our High School graduates. They are: Evan Fritz (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Carla), Alyssa Klopfenstein (Loren and Sis. Rita), Sis. Carrie Blunier (Bro. Bill and Sis. Cheri), Sis. Bethany Fischer (Bro. Paul and Sis. Leanne), Sis. Kirsten Sauder (Bro. Tim and Sis. Jenny), Sis. Elizabeth Schrenk (Bro. Steve and Sis. Linda), and Sis. Cecily Stieglitz (Bro. Steve and Sis. Jane). We pray for God's guidance and direction for each of them.

INDIANA, MILFORD

**Carol Hurd
Carol Haab**

A father is someone
Who is there when you call,
Who will love and protect you
And pick you up when you fall.
A father is someone
Who makes everything right,
Who comforts and consoles you
During the dark, lonely night.
Yes, God gave us fathers
What a wonderful plan
Someone to guide and direct us
'Til on our own we can stand.

—anon.

We are so thankful for our earthly fathers who love us and care for us during all stages of our lives. They have taught us of God's love and have led by example so we can place our trust in the Lord for all things.

"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 5:31

The engagement of Sis. Katy Schlipf (Bro. Rich and Sis. Kathy) and Bro. Chris Stoller (Sis. Irma and the late Bro. Millard, Latty, OH) was announced. We are so happy for them and pray they will feel God's loving guidance as they make preparation for their life together.

Bro. Maurice Beer has been experiencing some health problems. May God strengthen him during this time.

It is so wonderful to see the trees beautifully arrayed in leaves and the flowers blooming so vividly again. The renewal of the earth each spring is so inspiring; knowing that God made everything in such a unique fashion. Thank Thee, God, for the wondrous beauty Thou hast given us.

INDIANA, REMINGTON

**Beth Virkler
Tammy Waibel**

Greetings in the Lord's name. We have many graduates this year. From high school there are: Bro. Jesse Stoller (Bro. Dan and Sis. Deb), Sis. Valerie Bahler (Bro. Mark and Sis. Benita) and Bro. Dave Bahler (Bro. Tim and Sis. Lynnette). The college graduates are: Sis. Alisia Kilgus (Elder Bro. Dan and Sis. Jenna), Bro. Evan Stoller (Bro. Dan and Sis. Deb) and Sis. Melanie Bahler (Bro. Mark and Sis. Benita). We wish all of you many blessings as you begin further schooling or your careers. Just remember to ALWAYS seek the Lord in all of your decisions.

A friend of ours, Betty Vaughan (Joe), had minor surgery recently. Another friend, Essie Nussbaum, experienced a home fire, but we are thankful she was unharmed. Please remember to keep them in your prayers.

In thinking of Father's Day, I want to send a special thank you to all of the fathers out there for teaching your sons and daughters about the Lord Jesus Christ. If my husband had not been from a God-fearing family, I don't know

if I would be here. Thank you.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

**Becky Langhofer
Natalie Virkler**

Father's Day is approaching quickly, and I can't help but think how thankful we should be for the Father we have in heaven. Some verses come to mind of the loving nature of our Father that I'd like to share. Matthew 7:7-11 says this about our Heavenly Father: "Ask, and it shall be given unto you, seek, and ye shall find, knock, and the door shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. What man is there of you who, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? If ye being evil know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your father in heaven give good things to them that ask him?" James 1:17 also describes our Father as loving and the giver of all good things. "Every good and every perfect gift is from above and cometh down from the father of lights with whom there is no variable-ness neither shadow of turning." Hebrews 12:5-10 shows us a different side of the love of God. "Ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: for whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons. Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live? For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit that we might be partakers of his holiness."

We are thankful for our visiting ministers this month: Bro. Walter Rager and his wife, Sis. Sharon (Toledo, OH), and Bro. Joe Gerst and his wife, Sis. Connie (Iowa City, IA). What a blessing to have visitors with similar thoughts and faith to share the gospel!

Mark Sauder from Tremont is spending the summer working in the area and will be worshipping with us. We are very thankful to have additions to our congregation.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO

Marguerite Hoerr

We were blessed with the visit of Bro. Greg Stieglitz since our last report. He and his wife, Sis. Lisa, generously drove from Indianapolis to be with us on April 22. The day was indeed a memorable one with him assisting Bro. Garry with two services. We are so grateful for the love that prompted this visit.

The last Sunday of April, Bro. Ken Schneider served on the pulpit for us so that Bro. Garry and Sis. Lois could visit with her brother and family, Bro. Arnold and Sis. Marge Gerst, in Taylor, MO. We are extremely grateful to Bro. Ken, who had just returned from Biloxi, Mississippi, where he lent his expertise in the electrical work needed there, following Hurricane Katrina.

Elder Bros. Dan Kilgus and Lynn Stieglitz shared the Conference letter with the membership the first week in May. We're thankful for the services these two brothers shared with us. Bro. Dan is so generous with the time and love he gives our membership.

On May 5 we were served Communion by Elder Bros. Dan Kilgus and Earl Ringger. We felt renewed in our spiritual life after partaking of this rite. As we took the cup and broke the bread, we were vividly reminded of Christ's broken body and the blood He shed for us. We hope when brothers come to share with us, they can feel the gratitude we have in our hearts for the service they bring so wholeheartedly. Bro. Dan spoke words of encouragement to our

small congregation, following the Communion service.

On May 6, Bro. Gene Lehman and his wife, Sis. Verna (Wolcott, IN), showed their love to us with a visit. We remembered meeting him when he ministered to us in Milford and it was so good to see them again, as he assisted Bro. Garry on this Sunday.

Mothers and daughters gathered together on May 12 for a brunch in our church fellowship hall. Sisters Claudia Thomas, Gwen Bucher, Marsha Weiss, and Julie Bucher prepared the delicious buffet and presented a short program of inspirational readings challenging us to do what we can to "Bloom Where We are Planted." The theme was based on Paul's letter to the Philippians 4:11 & 13, reminding us that he learned how to get along happily whether he had little or much; and that he knew how to live on almost nothing or with everything because he had the help of Christ who gave him the strength he needed.

On the morning of Mother's Day, Bro. Garry Bucher referred to the many scriptures that told of Christ's mother, and her love for her Son, our Lord. By doing this, he upheld the ultimate in motherhood and enlightened us and gave us the highest standard to live up to.

We're overjoyed to report that our son-in-law, Dick Pelath, has been able to report to his work part-time. All of us thank you sincerely for the prayers in his behalf. As he so aptly put it one morning when we were having coffee together, "It's really awesome that so many people I don't even know have prayed for me." Dick has signed up for a ten year program for Multiple Myeloma patients. He will be undergoing testing to enable him to enter this program where he will receive either a placebo or an experimental drug for Multiple Myeloma.

We've enjoyed, as a congregation, discussing and planning how we can do our small bit to help in the Kansas tornado area. It's so rewarding when cooperation can be felt among the membership; we hope it will be much

more rewarding to those who receive the gifts that were sent with our love.

INDIANA WEST LAFAYETTE

Hollie Meister Darlene Walder

Our congregation would like to congratulate our high school and college graduates this month. High school graduates are Natalie Hoerr (Bro. Doug and Sis. Peggy), and Ygui Cysne (exchange student living with Bro. Ed and Sis. Annette Bahler). College graduates are Alicia Kilgus, Amy Schieler, Brittany Gerber, Britni Gudeman, Heather Furrer, Sheila Schwab, Renae Bahler, Ashlee Meyer, Blake Widmer, Lance Aschilman, Jason Gerber, and Levi Wuethrich. May the Lord bless each one with wisdom and understanding of His will in their lives. Congratulations to you all!

We have several leaving for mission trips this month. Bros. Blake Widmer, Matt Widmer, Luke Furrer, and Cameron Walder will be going to Jamaica. Sis. Heather Furrer will be going to Magdalena, Mexico. Please pray for their safe travels and the Lord to bless them as they do His work.

We wish to thank our visiting ministers this month: Bros. Jeff Bahler (Wolcott, IN), and Matt Kaufmann (Bloomington, IN).

Our sympathy is with Sis. Lyla Frank (Lacrosse, IN) in the death of her father. We also extend our sympathy to Sis. Angie Ginzel (Peoria, IL) in the loss of her father.

May the Lord be your comfort during this time.

Note of Thanks:

I, Sis. Hollie Meister, would like to thank everyone who so thoughtfully prayed for my brother, Michael, who recently had surgery. To update he is doing very well as he recuperates at home.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT**Lowell Bahler
Erica Blume**

“And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.”

I Corinthians 13:13

Our hearts and prayers go out to our Sis. Becky Lehman (Bro. Rob) and her family in the unexpected loss of her brother, Bill Witzig. While we may try to reach out and comfort, we know that only the Lord can truly soothe the ache in their hearts.

On Sunday, April 22, the Remington- Wolcott Young Group, along with several young friends, hosted an all- church potluck and singing for us. They also served lunch at church on Mother’s Day. We thank them for their love and the hospitality they have shown to us.

Graduating from high school this year are Katie Furrer (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Pam), Randy Lehman (Bro. John and Sis. Ruth Ann), Sis. Daveana Schieler (Bro. Dave and Sis. Merri) and Justin Schwab (Bro. Tim and Sis. Rachel). Sis. Brittany Gerber (Bro. Bob and Sis. Luann) and Sis. Renae Bahler (Chris and Sis. Teresa) are graduating from schools of higher learning. May they ever seek after and strive for Godly wisdom and guidance as they pursue their occupations and careers.

IOWA, BLOOMFIELD**Barbara Schock**

Though troubles assail,
And dangers affright,
Though friends should all fail
And foes all unite,
Yet one thing secures us
Whatever betide,
This promise assures us:
“The Lord will provide.”

Zion’s Harp #86, vs. 1

Believing that the Lord will provide,
Bro. Doug Stoller (the late Bro. Harold

and Sis. Luella, Smithville) and Sis. Rachel Maibach (Bro. Tim and Sis. Mary) took a step in faith as they became one in the Lord on May 13. We pray the Lord will richly bless this marriage. We will very much miss Sis. Rachel as she will be moving to Ohio, but we look forward to their visits, as family ties remain here as well as Christian Friendships (#91).

We were also blessed the same weekend with three visiting ministers. Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Sis. Roberta, Smithville), Bro. Ron Steiner (Sis. Ruth, Rittman) and Bro. Brad Funk (Sis. Laura, Garden Grove) were here. We thank these dear brothers for letting themselves bring forth the Word to us. May the Lord bless them for their efforts.

Also believing that the Lord will provide His healing touch, our thoughts and prayers are with Georgia Wells (Joe Dean) as she spent some time in the hospital this past month. We would also like to welcome Bro. Seth Hartter (Bern, KS) to our congregation as he plans to spend the summer working with the local veterinarian. May the Lord bless our time together.

As Father’s Day approaches, let us not only remember our earthly fathers for all that they do, but let us also remember our Heavenly Father who cares for us each and every minute of our lives.

Our heartfelt prayers for the Dotterer family have been lifted to our Heavenly Father that He would console the hearts that have had a void placed there with the passing of Bro. John Dotterer, father of Bro. Joe and Sis. Rose. As always, there comes a comfort from the words of our Savior “let not your heart be troubled” as we declare plainly that we seek a country, not to be inhabited with our earthly body, but with a new and glorious body given by God .

**IOWA, ELGIN
Gloria Frieden
Heidi Butikofer**

We drink one cup; we break one bread;
One Saviour suffered in our stead.
Zion’s Harp #25

Our thanks to Elder Bros. Doug Schock (Sis. Clara, Bloomfield, IA) and Wayne Grimm (Sis. Rose, West Bend, IA) for serving us the Holy Sacraments of Communion. How needful it is for us to spend this special time remembering the great price paid for our redemption and to realize anew that it is our only hope of salvation.

We are going down the valley one by one,
When the labors of the weary day are done;
One by one the cares of earth forever past,
We shall stand upon the river bank at last.

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Beulah Butikofer (Bro. Bert) in the loss of her sister, Wilma Pierce, of Yucca Valley, CA. Also to Sis. Cheryl Moore (Bro. Dale) in the loss of her father, Bro. Noah Gerber, of West Bend, IA. May God comfort them in their loss.

We appreciated having Bro. Dan Koch (Sis. Julie, Tremont, IL) with us the weekend we hosted some of the Tremont Single Group in April.

We have two graduates this year. Monica Butikofer (Bro. Lon and Sis. Sandy) graduated from Mount Mercy in Cedar Rapids with a degree of Bachelors in Science in Nursing. Bro. Caleb Knobloch (Bro. Jim and Sis. Marcy) graduated from high school. We wish them both God’s nearness as they seek His direction for their lives.

As we draw near to the anniversary date of this great nation, may we thank God for the freedoms that we enjoy, and remember those in the service of our country defending our rights that we may keep these precious freedoms.

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE

Willa Clark

We are so thankful to those who have traveled many miles to serve us in the past month. Bro. Galen and Sis. Nancy Rokey (Bern, KS), Bro. Randy and Sis. Karen Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO), Bro. Jerry and Sis. Christie Meeks (Sabetha, KS) and Elder Bro. Doug and Sis. Clara Schock (Bloomfield, IA) have fellowshiped with us and shared the precious Word of God. We also appreciate each visitor who comes to worship and fellowship with us.

As you travel across the country on vacations, remember if you are passing through southern Iowa, we would enjoy your visit in Garden Grove.

IOWA, IOWA CITY

Diana Butikofer

We rejoice with John and Rachel Toyne and grandparents, Bro. Roger and Sis. Rhonda Reker and Jim and Kayla Toyne, following the arrival of Claire Elizabeth born on April 2. We pray the Lord will bless their family.

Laura Landherr (Ron and Audrey) is graduating from high school and plans to pursue a nursing degree at the University of Texas. Monica Butikofer (Bro. Lon and Sis. Sandy, Elgin, IA) is graduating from college as an RN with a BSN degree and plans to move to the Akron, Ohio, area to work in pediatrics. We wish them well as they prepare for and begin their careers and look forward to them visiting us again.

Our Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA) was here to help serve Holy Communion last Sunday. We are thankful that he and Sis. Julie were willing to come spend the day and share Communion with us.

IOWA, LESTER

Polly Metzger

Gloria Moser

We rejoice with Bro. Travis and Sis. Kathy Knoblock as they have welcomed

a precious little daughter, Luca Marie, into their hearts and home on May 19. She is welcomed home by her four excited sisters: Tyra, Kianna, Dayra and Bryna and grandparents, Bro. Roger and Sis. Janet Knoblock and Bro. Gene and Sis. Evie Heinold (LaCrosse, IN).

"Teach us to escape destruction through the power of Thy grace." (Zion's Harp #203). We appreciated the teachings brought forth by visiting ministers who shared the Gospel message. They were Bro. Ben Wysong (Sabetha, KS), Bro. Kevin Banwart (West Bend, IA) and Bro. Randy Mogler (Washington, IL). May God bless them for their labors of love.

Hospital patients included Austin Knobloch (Bro. Denis and Sis. Jackie) and Sis. Freida Mogler (Bro. Andy). May God provide healing and restore them to good health.

It is the time of the year when we want to remember our graduates. Our prayer is that our students will look to God for guidance and direction as they go on to further education or start their careers. Our high school graduates include: Mitchell Barber (Mike and Sis. Donna Barber), Brenton Feuchtenberger (Bro. Tim and Sis. Beth), Laura Knobloch (Bro. Myron and Sis. Beth), Max Knobloch (Bro. Denis and Sis. Jackie), Ashley Metzger (Bro. Bill and Sis. Charlotte), Cassie Metzger (Bro. Tom and Sis. Deb), Jeena Metzger (Bro. Art and Sis. Kris), Maggie Metzger (Bro. Mark and Sis. Audrey), Miranda Metzger (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Dawn), Bro. Paul Messner (Bro. Henry and Sis. Charlene), Alvie Meyer (Bro. Dean and Sis. Linda), Chet Mogler (Bro. Brian and Sis. Beverly), Crystal Moser (Bro. Rick and Sis. Lori) and Kara Moser (Bro. Wes and Sis. Esther). College graduates are Jay Knoblock (Bro. Terry and Sis. Elaine), Bro. Daniel Messner (Bro. Henry and Sis. Charlene), Mark Mogler (Bro. Rodney and Sis. Lois), Julie Popkes (Bro. Greg and Sis. Lori) and Tanya Wulf (Bro. Arnie and Sis. Myra).

Along this road of learning, you have traveled far, my friends. But this road has so many miles; it has many curves and bends. You've made a good beginning now, the first few miles are past. That long, long hill that you once saw; you've reach the top at last.

So many hands along the way have helped so very much. You've needed understanding and a strong, yet gentle touch. You've had the help of family and teachers, quite a few. And now you stand with miles behind; horizons are brand new.

The Lord in His great wisdom made you in three parts, my friends. You're in body, soul and spirit and on this your life depends. You've spent these years developing your mind and body strong. But don't forget your priceless soul to God in Heaven belongs.

Remember God while you are young; give Him your youthful years. He'll stand beside you all your life removing doubts and fears. The day will come when you will see you made the perfect choice. Allowing God to guide your life and listening to His voice.
—William F. Sherbert

IOWA, OAKVILLE

Sharla Wiegand

Visiting us on the pulpit this month were Bros. Phil Schulz (Burlington, IA) on April 15 and Scott Wegman (Taylor, MO) on Mother's Day, May 13. We thank you for ministering to us.

A precious baby boy, Gideon Wayne, was born to first-time parents, Bro. Terry and Sis. Jaclyn Goodpaster, on May 6. His excited grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Sandy Schaer and Sylvia Chamberlin of Warren, IN. Great-grandparents are Bro. Vernon Stoller and Bro. Bernie Schaer of Fairfield, IA.

IOWA, WEST BEND

Janet Fehr Sue Schneider

Three families in our congregation were blessed with a new little member during the past month. Bro. Karl and Sis. Denise Fehr welcomed a little boy, Clint David, into their home on April 18. Clint has an older brother, Damon, and two sets of grandparents, Bro. Jim and Sis. Sharon Fehr and Bro. Dave and Sis. Yvonne Bruellman.

On April 23, Bro. Kent and Sis. Joleen Fehr were blessed with their second son, Micah James. Micah has a brother, Carter, and a sister, Monika, to help with his care. His grandparents include Bro. Jim and Sis. Sharon Fehr and Elder Bro. Wayne and Sis. Rose Grimm.

A little girl, Dusty Lynn, was born to Mike and Breann Schneider on May 1. Dusty has a loving brother, Teagen. Her grandparents are Bro. Bruce and Sis. Audrey Messner and Bro. Gary and Sis. Sue Schneider. May each of these young couples seek and feel God's help and blessing as they labor to raise their families.

Our congregation was saddened as we lay two faithful brothers to rest this month. Bro. Silas Metzger passed away on April 28. He is survived by his loving wife of 60 years, Sis. Della; and eight children: Sis. Gloria (Bro. Norman) Stahl of Gurnee, IL; Bro. Leland (Sis. Kathy) Metzger, Jerry (Joy) Metzger, Roy (Angela) Metzger, and Sis. Lonnie (Bro. Kevin) Fehr, all of Whittemore, IA; Sis. Sharon (Bro. Jim) Fehr and Sis. Marlene (Bro. Ken) Banwart of West Bend, IA; and Sis. Lyla (Elder Bro. Curt) Frank of LaCrosse, IN. Bro. Si leaves behind 40 grandchildren and 50 great-grandchildren who will greatly miss him. His sisters are Sis. Darlene Metzger, Sis. Marie Metzger and Bro. Arnold Metzger, all of West Bend, IA; Sis. Zelma Knoblock and Sis. Iola Knoblock, both of Lester, IA. Revelation 14:13 was read at his funeral service. We were all reminded of that promised "rest" awaiting all believers. "Blessed are the dead which die in the

Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them."

Bro. Noah Gerber also went to be with the Lord on May 6. We are thankful to have witnessed his steadfastness throughout his ministry. Survivors include his wife of 66 years, Sis. Emma; and their eight children: Sis. Carolyn (Bro. Alfred) Banwart of Lamar, MO; Sis. Marcella (Bro. Joe) Steiner of Tremont, IL; Sis. Delores (Bro. Paul) Metzger of Alvord, IA; Sis. Illene (Bro. Roger) Hartter of Sabetha, KS; Sis. Shirley (Bro. Larry) Ifft of Fairbury, IL; Sis. Cheryl (Bro. Dale) Moore of Elgin, IA; Bro. Manuel (Sis. Mary) Gerber and Bro. David (Sis. Diane) Gerber, both of West Bend; plus 31 grandchildren and 83 great-grandchildren. Also surviving are two sisters, Sis. Madeline Banwart and Sis. Marie (Bro. Fahey) Gress, both of West Bend, IA. Verses 1,3,4, and 6 from the hymn, "The Ministers of the Gospel" (Zion's Harp #113) were sung at his funeral. Bro. Noah not only lovingly preached the Truths of God's Word, but also lovingly lived those Truths.

In addition to praying for God's comfort in this time of sorrow in these families, we also think of and extend our sympathy to Sis. Ella Schneider and her family. Sis. Ella recently lost her brother.

Many ministers and their families were in West Bend to attend the funerals of Bro. Si and Bro. Noah. Even though these ministers did not share God's Word with us, we were blessed by the ministry of several other brothers who came at various times during the month. They included Bro. Dale Moore (Sis. Cheryl, Elgin, IA), Bro. Mike Rinkenberger (Sis. Pat, Congerville, IL) and Bro. Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy, Portland, OR). Thank you all. Our congregation was blessed by your service and visit.

Sis. Ella Schneider and Bro. Eugene (Sis. Evie) Bruellman were both surgical hospital patients. Sis. Rosene (Bro. Clifford) Grimm, Sis. Matilda (Bro. Elmer) Fehr, Ashley Schmidt (Bro.

Frank and Sis. Dawn) and little Clint Fehr (Bro. Karl and Sis. Denise) were all hospitalized for medical reasons. Thankfully, each of these individuals are again enjoying improved health.

We extend our congratulations to each of our graduates as they complete their course of study in schools of higher learning. We especially want to remember our high school graduates: Cierra Mogler (Eric and Diana), Brandon Schulz (Don and Deb), Jeff Bormann (Ralph and Melanie) and Derek Wirtz (Bro. Jim and Sis. Joan). May God's precepts always be their guide.

"My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh."

Prov. 4:20-22

With the month of June and the coming of Father's Day, we are reminded of one of the ten commandments to "Honor thy father and thy mother..." (Exodus 20:12)

Father's Love

You can't define a father's love:
It's faith and hope and power
It's wisdom and unselfishness,
Protection hour by hour.

You can't define a father's love:
It's prayer, true and sincere,
It's tenderness and sympathy,
A smile, a dream, a special moment
shared.

Father's love is changeless,
And never does he tire,
For each day he's fulfilling
All that our needs require.

You can't define a father's love:
It's faith that never grows dim.
And through a father's love is found
The path that leads to Him.

—Anon

JAPAN, TOKYO

Jana Klaus

I wrote last fall of the Utsuki family having a celebration for their mother, Sis. Shizuko Utsuki, as she reached the 100 year mark. Now I report that after many years of tender loving care by her daughters in her home, she has passed on to her eternal home, which we believe is with the living Lord Jesus whom she kept her faith in until the end. She was blessed with 7 children, 7 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren. Her husband, Bro. Saburo, preceded her in death, about 22 years ago. Her children are Hajime Utsuki, Kazuko Sugibayashi, Akira Utsuki, Sis. Yoshiko Sakuta and Tomoko, Sis. Hiroko and Nobuko Utsuki, who all three lived with and cared for her. We pray for comfort for her family, but also that more may be drawn to the living Lord through her life of faith and through the beautiful Christian funeral which was held for her in a funeral home in Setagaya. Elder Bro. Akito Inoue told how she had been baptized 20 years ago, at the age of 80, and after that had read the Bible through cover to cover, taking 3 years, but accomplishing her goal.

We had our annual business meeting in mid-May, but only a few members were able to attend, so we plan to have a second one in the near future where more discussion and decisions will be made.

It was a great blessing to meet and worship with Sis. Marie Inoue's sister, Sis. Marcelle, and her husband, Bro. Ron Gress (Indianapolis, IN), as they were visiting Japan for the first time. We were thrilled to hear they thoroughly enjoyed their visit! And, we thank Bro. Ron for his afternoon Bible study on "faith."

Recently when I was reading from Luke 7 about the story of the centurion asking Jesus to heal his servant, which I have read many times before, I was struck with something I had not thought deeply of before. The elders of the Jews that were sent by the centurion to ask Jesus to heal the servant told

Jesus that the centurion was "worthy of Jesus' favor because he loves our nation and even built us a synagogue." (in my own wording.) However, when Jesus had come near to the centurion's house, the centurion sent out friends to him saying "Don't trouble yourself because I am not worthy that you should come into my home" and not only that, but he continued on that "I am not even worthy to come out to you." (So, he asked him to please just "say the word" as he does with those under him, and he believed his servant would be healed, which is the part that in the past had stood out to me as Jesus says "I have not found so great a faith...") But, this time, the "worthiness" part is what struck me. People so easily judge a person's worthiness by their outward show or works, but is it not true, that when we in true sincerity and faith seek Jesus, we cannot help but see our own unworthiness, no matter what position or up-bringing we have had in life. I have this feeling that Jesus probably appreciated the centurion's kindness to the Jews, but that had absolutely no bearing on whether or not He would grant his request. Was it not the humble heart and the faith?

KANSAS, BERN

Sheri Edelman Rita Menold

Bro. Wayne Wiegand (Sis. Rosemary, Goodfield, IL) came and proclaimed God's Word to us. We thank you for being willing to minister to us!

Congratulations go to our five high school graduates this year. They are Maria Baumgartner (Bro. John and Sis. Lori), Jeffrey Edelman (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Linda), Brady Strahm (Bro. Ed and Sis. Ramona), Bro. Fritz Strahm (Bro. Kyle and Sis. Peggy) and Sis. Michelle Strahm (Bro. Curt and Sis. Ellen). May God be their guide as they continue on life's pathway.

Our hospital patient for the month was Sis. Sally Strahm (Bro. Lynn). We are thankful Bro. Waymer Esslinger is feeling better after his surgery, too! We

hope God continues to heal them!

We added two new baby girls to our congregation this month! On May 5, Bro. Matt and Sis. Helen Edelman welcomed Maria Jean into their home. Her excited siblings are Marvin, Dianna, Marissa, Sheri, Natalie and Herb. The thrilled grandparents are Sis. JoAnn Edelman (the late Bro. Fred) as well as William and Helen Fehr (Fairbury, IL). Two days later, May 7, Bro. Larry and Sis. Jill Meyer welcomed Kayla Rose into their home. Kyle, Trenton and Brianna are happy to have her! Her grandparents are Bro. James Meyer (the late Sis. Jeanne) and Bro. John and Sis. Jeanne Dotterer (Eureka, IL).

Bro. James and Sis. Lou Menold rejoice with their new granddaughter, Kelsey Laine Bahr. Her parents are Bro. Scott and Sis. Jamie Bahr of Detroit, MI. Paternal grandparents are Bro. Phil and Sis. Dawn Bahr. May God bless this family.

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT

Karen Kellenberger

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; He hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord."

Luke 4:18-19

Our congregation was grateful for several visiting ministers. They included Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Sis. Julie, Oakville, IA), Elder Bro. Jim Plattner (Sis. Marlene, Princeville, IL), Bro. Tom Troxel (Sis. LuAnn, La-Crosse, IN), Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen, Kansas City, MO), Bro. Rex Frieden (Lamar, MO), Bro. Dean Steffen (Sis. Carol, Belvidere, IL), and our Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern, KS).

A special time of fellowship was enjoyed the last weekend in April when

many visitors arrived for Invite a Friend activities.

Bro. Bob Lemons (Sis. Betty) underwent extensive heart surgery (by-passes) and spent several days hospitalized. Our prayers are with him as he gains his health back. Sis. Karen Kellenberger (Bro. Rick) is recuperating from her second foot surgery.

On May 12, Bro. Harold and Sis. Wanda's granddaughter, Rachel Kraft, was wed to Nathan Wells. May God bless them in all their future paths.

The joyful announcement of the engagement of Sis. Nicole Scott (Steven and Beverly) and Bro. Timothy Banwart (Bro. Lon and Sis. Debbie) was made known on May 13.

We extend congratulations and God's blessings to all our graduates. Graduating from high school are Bro. Thayer Banwart, Kaylee Lemons, and Drew Jackson. Jered Bahr is graduating from the eighth grade and Sis. Tina Banwart has earned her associate's degree in nursing.

A father's greatest wealth is not derived from riches but from the happiness of his children and the peace in their hearts. We lovingly honor our earthly fathers on Father's Day and every day.

KANSAS, KIOWA

Jenny Stewart

Summer break has started. The children are all home. It is truly a blessing to have them home for a few short months.

We held our annual Bible school this year. The children all had Bible lessons, craft time, pizza, and snack time. We pray that the time and teachings given to the children will leave an impression on them.

Harvest time is around the corner. Let us have a prayer on our hearts for all of the ones bringing in the harvest for safety and God's hand of protection over everyone.

Our congregation had the blessing of partaking of Holy Communion. We

would like to thank Elder Bro. John Lehman for coming and sharing with us.

We also heard the Memorandum while he was here and are very thankful for the time he could spend with us.

KANSAS LAMONT-GRIDLEY Ester Knobloch

"...freely ye have received, freely give." (Matthew 10:8). On April 21, we hosted the World Relief Spring Meeting. It was a blessing to have brethren with us from all across the land and to learn of the need in various places around the world. Several stayed and assembled with us on Sunday. Those on the pulpit were Elder Bros. Dan Kilgus (Remington, IN) and Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO) and Bros. Steve Ringger (Bluffton North, IN), Chuck Kellenberger (Elgin, IL) and Joe Klotzle (Altadena, CA). We want to thank those that lend themselves in the Lord's vineyard.

Also this past month we hosted the area 6th - 8th grade Youth Fellowship Weekend. Retired Elder Bro. Gene Marti was with us to talk to the Sunday school students.

"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

Our graduates from high school this year are: Natalie Adams (Tim and Cheri (Frieden) Adams), Corbin Knobloch (Bro. Tom and Sis. Jeri), Bro. Kurt Kraft (Bro. Doug and Sis. Judy), and Kristina Zimmerman (Bro. Tim and Sis. Barbara). Graduating from college is Sis. Marie Luthi (Elder Bro. Jay and Sis. Jane).

KANSAS, SABETHA

Dawn Strahm

Rebekah Beyer

This month we had visiting minis-

ters, Bro. Curtis Kaufman (Sis. Caroline, Tucson, AZ) and Elder Bro. Rick Plattner (Sis. Mary Ann, Fairbury, IL). We thank these brethren for serving the Sabetha congregation.

Trevor Young (Roger and Janice Young) was a recent hospital patient as he underwent surgery on his foot. We pray he will experience a quick recovery.

We partook of Holy Communion on May 5. Elder Bro. Rick Plattner assisted our Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzell. It was a blessed evening as we had time to reflect on the Lord's death and the importance of Holy Communion with our brethren.

On May 13, a wedding reception was held for Lyle and Amanda Grimm. Lyle is the son of Bro. Rod and Sis. Arlene Grimm and Amanda is the daughter of Bro. Gary and Sis. Sandy Fehr of Morris, MN.

Also on May 13, we remembered our dear mothers who set a faithful example for us over the years. We are certainly thankful that God has provided the love and guidance we need through God-fearing mothers.

Our sympathy goes out to our Sis. Lucille Kellenberger as she recently lost her brother, Ted Weiss, of Valparaiso, IN. Ted passed away on April 28 and his funeral was held at Valparaiso on May 1. May God provide comfort for her and her family.

We said goodbye to Betty Kaufman this past month as she moved to Missouri where she will be close to her family. Betty is the mother of our Bro. Keith (Sis. Carol) Kaufman.

KANSAS, WICHITA

Emma Miller

Bro. Jeff Bahr ministered to the Wichita congregation the afternoon of April 22. He and Sis. Janice joined other family members and friends to help his aunt, Sis. Ann Greiner, celebrate her 90th birthday. Sis. Ann was remembered by many with whom she had interacted over the years. She received a card from a lady who had been in her

Sunday School class seventy years ago. The fact that they had no contact through the years did not dull the memory of a good relationship.

The annual mother-daughter banquet was held the evening of May 5. The theme for this event was on developing the habit of writing letters of encouragement to one another. It was interesting to hear the many letters from former times that were shared that evening.

Many were from parents or grandparents who encouraged the recipients in their daily walk.

Elder Bro. Jay Luthi and Sis. Jane spent Sunday, May 6, with us. Bro. Jay served Holy Communion after services that afternoon. We have to be so thankful for Bro. Jay's willingness to serve our small congregation.

Our sympathy goes out to Sis. Lillian Bowers and to the Max and Roger Reimschisel families in the loss of their son-in-law and brother, Larry Farney. Larry, the son of the late Harvey and Ann Farney of Wichita, endured a lingering illness. He is survived by his wife, children and grandchildren.

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON **Barb Huber**

"Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer."
Romans 12:12

It was a special Wednesday evening as we gathered together on May 16 to take part in the blessed event of Holy Communion.

We were thankful we had the opportunity to partake of Christ's body and drink of His blood to remember the sufferings of our dear Lord and Savior Jesus. Retired Elder Bro. Henry Dotterer (Rittman, OH) assisted our Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Sis. Roberta, Smithville, OH) with serving us the Lord's supper. May the Lord bless our dear Elder Brothers for their faithfulness and many efforts of love.

We wish to thank Bro. Paul Gasser

(Sis. Joyce, Akron, OH) who also came to minister God's Holy Word this past month. Other visitors represented were from the following churches: Rockville, CT; Eureka, Forrest, Roanoke, IL; Bluffton, IN; Junction and Latty, OH. We always appreciate the Christian fellowship.

Again, we extend a warm welcome to come and visit us in Lexington. You may contact Bro. Doug Germann (859) 223-0294 or Bro. Lester Huber (859) 745-2541.

MEXICO, IXTLAN **Marshall and Jan Heinold**

"Job said, naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither; the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord. In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly."

Job 1:21, 22

2007 has started out with God reminding that He is in control of the length of lives on this earth. In January, our grandson, Nathan Mitchell, died. In March, we had funerals for three men who attended church here in Ixtlan.

Rich and Becky (daughter) Metcalfe with their children, Jessica, Jenna, Samuel, Seth, and Drew, came to visit for the months of January and February. They are missionaries in England and were able to spend part of their furlough time in Ixtlan. What a blessing it was getting to know grandchildren whom we rarely get to see or spend time with.

Matt, Rudy, and Marshall each took a turn in serving the believers in Barra Vieja with Bible studies and fellowship. Growth in these believers is quite evident and thanks be to the Lord for His work in their lives.

February 18 was the engagement of Bro. Rudy Troxel to Sis. Rosario Gonzalez Carrillo. Bro. Rudy has felt the Lord's call to stay in Mexico and be a part of the work here in Ixtlan, Morelia, and Barra Vieja. We are thankful to the

Lord for additional laborers in the ripe fields of Mexico. Their wedding was May 13 and was well attended by many relatives and friends of both families.

In March, Dr. Loren Schrenk returned to do eye surgeries. He had not been able to come in 2006 because of recuperating from cancer. His wife, Sis. Betsy, and Sisters Julie Hoerr and Sandy Leman came to help. The first week of May, Dr. Bryan Stoller also held a clinic for those needing eye glasses. Elder Bro. Bill and Sis. Emily Schlatter and daughter Bev also assisted in this work.

April 28-29 the congregation in Ixtlan experienced the testimonies and baptisms of two souls who repented of their sins and are walking with their Savior Jesus Christ. Issa Sibaja Leon (16) and Cecilia (Ceci) Roblado Chavez (16) were welcomed into the fellowship with much rejoicing for the Lord's work in their lives.

MEXICO, MAGDALENA **Gloria Gonzalez** **Carissa Schlipf**

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

"Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain."
Psalms 127:1

We are filled with joy as we see how the Lord is increasing His church body here in Magdalena. As many are already aware, on Sundays we have been congregating in our lunchroom, with more than 100 people in attendance. As it has become a bit crowded, we are thankful to see the new church building advancing! The first two weeks of May, a group from Arizona came and built pillars for the new church. We are appreciative of all those whom God has provided to continue the work and all that has been accomplished.

Here in Mexico, we celebrate

Mother's Day on May 10. For many of the children here at CVE, it was a day with some sadness as they thought of their mothers and wished to be with them. For others it was a day of rejoicing, as the adoption of Andrés and Timi was finalized and they left CVE to live with their new parents, Julio and Griselda. While it is difficult for us to let go of these children who have become very much a part of our CVE family, we trust God's perfect plan for their lives and know that His love for them is even greater than ours. Please pray for this new family and for wisdom as they raise these precious little boys.

"Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice."

Phil. 4:4

We welcome Bro. Joel Leman (Elder Bro. Mike and Sis. Deb Leman, Denver, CO) to our CVE staff. We are thankful for his willingness to join in the labor and trust that God has a plan to use his talents to grow and edify His Body here in Magdalena.

..He aquí os digo: Alzad vuestros ojos y mirad los campos, porque ya están blancos para la siega.

John 4:35

MICHIGAN, ALTO

**Terri Huber
Rose Watson**

Our congregation had a Communion service led by Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen and Deacon Bro. Ted Steffen. It was a blessed evening.

We would like to take a moment to congratulate our college graduates this year: Heather Blough (Bro. Martin and Sis. Michelle) and Bro. Matthew Oesch (Bro. Tom and Sis. Michelle). We had a wonderful morning at our annual High School graduate's breakfast this month, which are as follows: Sis. Listyn Capman (Tracy), Bro. Allen Huber (Bro. Ryan and Sis. Terri), Xieanne Koehl (Bro. Rob and Sis. Kim), Bro. Andy Oesch (Bro. Tom and Sis.

Michelle), Leanne Sixberry (Jason and Angela), Sis. Carrie Steffen (Bro. Terry and Sis. Laurie), and Ken Zaagman (Ed and Sis. Joyleen). May God be with each one of you as you close one chapter and open another.

Baby boy Lowell Stoller (Bro. Ned and Sis. Heidi) was welcomed home this month by four big sisters. May you all enjoy the newest little member of your family and many blessings.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Loretta Steffen (Bro. Aaron) and Sis. Sandy Schutte (Steven) as they are both now home recovering from surgery. May God's healing continue.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

**Janelle Ramseyer
Sarah Knochel**

Visitors are always a welcome sight in our congregation. We had the special opportunity to host the Chicago congregation on April 21-22. We are thankful for the fellowship that was enjoyed and the friendships that were made. We appreciate the efforts of visiting ministers, Bro. Leonard (Sis. Charlotte) Meyer and Bro. Greg (Sis. Carla) Rassi.

We also appreciate the efforts of Elder Bros. Aaron Steffen (Sis. Loretta, Alto, MI) and Mark Bahr (Sis. Bev, Detroit, MI) as they were here in Bay City on a recent Wednesday evening. May the Lord richly bless each of these dear brothers for their efforts on our behalf.

We want to remember Sis. Esther Meister and Sis. Maureen (Robert) Weiss who both spent time in the hospital recently.

The end of the school year is quickly approaching and with that we have graduates from both high school and college. May God lead and direct each of these young people as they go into the workforce or further their education. Congratulations to high school graduates, Jacob Long (Rick and Sis. Joan) and Nickolas Schlatter (Bro. Jay and Sis. Carola). Bro. Nathan Knochel (Bro. Bob and Sis. Rhonda) has graduated from Michigan State University. We pray for each of these young men and

trust that the Lord would direct their pathways in ways that would acknowledge Him.

Omission:

We failed to mention that Sis. Ann Jacobs (Girard and Sis. Diana) has moved to Leo, IN, for employment at Gateway Woods. We trust that Sis. Ann is being used in the Lord's service and wish her God's blessings in the weeks and months ahead.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

**Kay Rauhe
Manuela Denes**

"For we being many are one bread, and one body: for we are all partakers of that one bread."

I Cor. 10:17

On a warm spring evening we gathered together to share Communion. Assisting our Elder Bro. Mark Bahr in this holy service was Elder Bro. Tim Funk (Sis. Debbie, Peoria, IL). The solemnity of this service never ceases to move me and I believe that we all leave feeling refreshed and so very blessed that our Lord and Saviour made the supreme sacrifice for us.

Brian Barton (K. C.) was announced for peace and we look forward to hearing his testimony and sharing the occasion of his baptism in early June, Lord willing. It is so wonderful to see how God's love can reach a soul to surrender their lives to Him. May He bless Brian and his family and continue to work in his life.

Our prayers continue to go out to those who have not been able to worship with us due to hospitalization, illness, or other circumstances: Bro. John Rauhe, Sis. Ethel Rambeau, Sis. Perseda Weiland and Michael Reardon. We can rest assured that God knows the needs of these souls and will continue to watch over them. It is also with sadness that we report the loss of Sis. Martha Szilagyi's baby granddaughter, Mia. May the family be comforted in this time of sadness.

A note of thanks also goes out to those who came to visit and share in the Lord's Word with us. Visiting this past month were Bro. Mike Ursu (Sis. Barb, Kitchener, ON), Bros. Howard Plattner (Sis. Kristen) and Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi), both of Alto, MI, and Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Sis. Michelle, Philadelphia, PA).

A final announcement is a happy one for Bro. Scott and Sis. Jamie Bahr as they welcomed little Kelsey Laine into their family. Her older sister Macy, and brother Caden must be as excited as their parents to have a new baby sister to enjoy. We are very fortunate to be experiencing so much growth here in Detroit and pray that God will continue to guide each and every one of us.

MINNESOTA MINNEAPOLIS Mary Mogler

Our congregation enjoyed the fellowship of a number of single brothers and sisters from various churches as they gathered together for a weekend of worship, song and service. We appreciated Bro. Darrin Fehr's (West Bend, IA) message on Saturday evening and again on Sunday as he ministered to us.

There are a number of young people in our congregation who are at the brink of change in their lives. Announcing their engagement are Tyler Messner (Bro. Rick and Sis. Brenda) and Trisha Kroells.

Recent college graduates include Josh Messner (Jason and Nancy), Carissa Deragisch (Dan and Lola), and Sis. Meg Dill (Bro. Dewayne and Sis. LaRae). We also welcome back Sis. Meg to our congregation, while saying good-bye to Carissa, as her plans include teaching in Hungary for a time. Congratulations and God's blessings to each of you.

We have been enjoying the presence of Minkung Shin this past year. Min is an exchange student from South Korea and will be leaving us for the summer but intends to return in the fall for her senior year. Min has been living with

Bro. Sam and Sis. Ruth Moser and we look forward to welcoming her back this fall.

The Word has been brought to us "as a light unto our feet" by several visiting brothers this month: Bros. Dean Messner and Clint Schmidt (Winthrop, MN) and Bro. Rod Bajema (Lester, IA). We always appreciate the willingness of our ministers in proclaiming the message and way unto salvation and eternal life.

Sis. Ethel Bednarski fell, and while she is expected to recover fully, she has not been able to assemble for a number of Sundays.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS Sheila Reuter Heidi Nohl

Bryce Camden was born to Bro. Bob and Sis. Cindy Domnick. Welcoming him home are Stephanie and Colin and grandparents are Bro. DeWayne and Sis. Janice Nohl and Bro. Gary and Sis. Velma Domnick. We wish them God's blessings as they raise their children.

We rejoice with Curtis and Crystal Koehl as they have begun their repentance. We pray they will feel God's nearness as they make this new beginning.

Elder Bro. Tom Stock (Cissna Park, IL) was here to assist our Elder Bro. Art with Communion. We felt richly blessed by his presence and pray God will be his rewarder.

Our congratulations go to Lyle Grimm (Bro. Roger and Sis. Arlene, Sabetha, KS) and Amanda Fehr (Bro. Gary and Sis. Sandy) on their marriage. We hope they feel God's guidance as they start their married life together.

Tonya Schmidgall (Bro. Dave and Sis. June) has announced her engagement to Donald Judkins Jr. (Donald Judkins Sr.). We wish them God's richest blessings.

We were blessed to hear the testimony and witness the baptism of two dear souls, Bro. Nick Messner and Sis. Annie Messner (Bro. Bernie and Sis. Joyce). Also here for the weekend were Elder Bros. Lawrence Luthi (Lamar,

MO) and Dave Graf (Akron, OH), and ministering Bros. Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL) and Wes Moser (Lester, IA). May God bless them for their ready and willing service.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP Rachel Steiner Julie Schmidt

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

I Corinthians 12:26

We are thankful for the labor of love from Elder Bro. Dennis Warner (Sis. Esther, Lester, IA) in helping serve Holy Communion to our congregation with our local Elder Bro. Paul Messner.

Congratulations to Bro. Marlyn and Sis. Lois Messner on their 50th wedding anniversary. We are thankful for the many years God has blessed them together.

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

Proverbs 3:6

Congratulations and God's blessings to our high school graduate Roxanna Miller (Sam and Sandy) and our college graduate Bro. Brendon Messner (Bro. Dean and Sis. Wanda). May they seek the Lord for future direction in their lives.

"Honour thy father and thy mother..."

Exodus 20:12

The Lord has so commanded it and our country has set aside a day to recognize and appreciate our mothers and fathers. We're thankful for their labors of love and most importantly their heritage of faith.

MISSOURI, LAMAR**Becky Marti
Mindy Braker**

This month we had ministering Bros. Arnold Gerst (Taylor, MO) and Greg Stoller (Forrest, IL). We thank them for their service.

We extend our sympathy and prayers to Bro. Alfred and Sis. Carolyn Banwart in the death of their father, Bro. Noah Gerber (Sis. Emma, West Bend, IA). May they feel the Heavenly Father's comforting nearness during this time.

Congratulations to Sis. Katie Frieden (Bro. Rex and Sis. Vera), Kent Kellenberger (Bro. Curt and Sis. Martha), Eric Luthi (Elder Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Sandra) and Isaac Schmidgall (Bro. Larry and Sis. Marcy) as they graduate from high school, as well as Sis. Kayla Kellenberger (Bro. Curt and Sis. Martha) and Sis. Nicole Marti (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Kathy) as they finish college. May they each look to the Lord to guide the future.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS**Betsy Schrenk**

Our visitors included the following ministers: Bro. Stephen Baner (Sis. Donnalou, Gridley), Elder Bros. Mark Streitmatter (Sis. Sarah, Bloomington), Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan, Taylor), and Tom Klotzle (Sis. Jody, Altadena). We thank them and all the rest of those who worshipped with us this past month in St. Louis. Every year we dedicate a weekend for our annual business meeting, Communion, and the Memorandum. Bro. Tom came to help Bro. Kent this year, and we were blessed with sweet fellowship.

We sang "Stand up, stand up for Jesus, ye soldiers of the cross". We were reminded that it is so easy to affirm our belief in Jesus to other Believers. But in the presence of a scorner, an articulate enemy of the cross? If we try to stand in our own strength, we will melt, we will flee. If we have donned God's armour (Ephesians 6) and we speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15), He will enable us

to be ambassadors for Christ in a dark and troubled world.

The Drury Inn and Suites at Olive and I-270 (phone-314-989-1100) gives our visitors a corporate rate, plus a savings on part of the tax. Just mention that you are with the Apostolic Christian Church when you call for a reservation. This facility is about 15 minutes from the church.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR**Sally Haerr**

Ecclesiastes 3:1-2, an often-quoted scripture from the Holy Bible, tells us of God's perfect timing. You can read this for your own encouragement, but the phrase, "a time to plant..." is on most of our minds at this time of year. We would never plant anything without believing that rain will come or without intentions of watering it ourselves. How often the Bible, God's Word, compares the physical seed to the spiritual seed. Are we, am I, planting seeds of love and then making sure to water them with words of encouragement? If we are, God WILL give the increase!

Service ... On April 29, we were blessed by a final spiritual message by Bro. Arnie Gerst (Sis. Marge). He has chosen to retire from the ministry after serving faithfully for many years. I'm sure that Bro. Arnie, as well as all of our ministering brothers, would say that this is only their "reasonable service" (Romans 12:1) to God and His believers. So ... what is our (the listener's) reasonable service? We are to pray for the Holy Spirit to speak through them and encourage them by our obedience to God's Word - James 1:22 (Holy Bible) "... be ye doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves." Many of Bro. Arnie's family and friends came to reminisce with him, among those was ministering Bro. Garry Bucher (Sis. Lois, Valparaiso, IN), Bro. Arnie's brother-in-law. Thank you, Bro. Garry, for speaking the truth in love, from the pulpit.

On May 5, Elder Bro. Kent Heimer solemnized the marriage vows of Jesse

Heimer and Amy Lipper. Jesse's parents are Bro. Rodney and Sis. Barb and Amy is the daughter of Randy and Debbie Lipper. After a short wedding trip, they are at home in Quincy, IL. Our sincere prayer for them is a Christ-centered union and much joy as they establish their home and future as "one" (Matt. 19:5).

Mitchell Suttor (Bro. Roger and Sis. Dianne) was our only hospital patient this month. We are pleased to report that he seems to be recovering nicely and is back in church with us; once again, a reminder to pray for those who struggle, mentally and physically, day after day. Good health is a priceless gift that we/I often take for granted.

**NEW YORK CITY
Secaucus, New Jersey**

"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, ... but exhorting one another; and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."

Hebrews 10:25

We were thankful to be able to worship together and have blessed fellowship this last month in Secaucus. We were blessed with visitors from Bluffton North, IN, and Philadelphia, PA, and were glad to see some we had not seen for a season. Our blessed fellowship that transcends the miles was enjoyed by all. Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Sis. Michelle) was here to minister the Word, as we were reminded of God's goodness and His desire that all men would be saved.

Our church continues to be blessed with many gifts from God. This past month, we have had an additional reason to be thankful as a baby girl, Rachel Mackenzie Schafer, was born to Craig and Tammy Schafer. She joins big sister Sarah and brother Michael at home. We trust that God's grace and peace will go with Rachel and this beloved family each day of their lives.

We have additional services planned this year on June 24, August 5 and Sep-

tember 30. They will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn in Secaucus, New Jersey. We begin singing at 10:15 am in the morning with pulpit service beginning at 10:30 am. We have a lunch break, and then begin afternoon services at 12:30 pm.

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

NEW YORK CROGHAN-NAUMBURG Hope Graves

We were so thankful to gather as brethren around the Word of God Wednesday evening, May 9, and be fed through the lips of our dear Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Sis. Roberta, Smithville, OH). May we continue to be attentive and have open hearts and minds for His Spirit to speak to us individually. We then will receive the greater blessing.

As we celebrate Memorial Day, may we acknowledge our Saviour and what He has done for us. We also think of all the faithful servants who have gone on to their reward. Our thoughts also turn to the many who have served and are serving our country in the service of our land, allowing us to keep our precious freedom of worship. May we stay close to Him as we strive daily to continue faithfully in His service.

My Lord, an offering do I bring;
my heart I give to Thee,
I gladly give this heart of mine,
which Thou dost ask of me.
Thou sayest, "Child, give me your
heart!"

Oh what a sweet request!
It shows the way that we must take
to life and peace and rest.
O now, my Saviour, do Thou take
my heart and make it Thine;
I'll follow Thee, a servant true,

within Thy fold divine.
Zion's Harp #163

OHIO, AKRON Mara Henico Rachel Pamer

We were thankful to be served the Lord's Supper by our Elder Bro. Dave Graf and Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH). We trust that God will bless these brothers for their service and bind us more closely together through this remembrance of our Saviour's sacrifice.

We were also blessed to have Bro. Ferenc Szabo (Baja, Hungary) and Bro. Ferenc Szabados (Ersekcsanak, Hungary) serve us in the Word as they recently traveled from their county for a visit. We trust that Bro. Jerry Bauman (Rittman, OH) will also feel God's blessing for his willingness to labor in the ministry while visiting our congregation.

We rejoice with Jacob Rufener and Samuel Greenbank as they have found peace with God and await baptism.

Bro. George and Sis. Tina Gal welcomed another daughter, Yasmin, to their home.

Our prayers and our sympathy are with Sis. Vera Demrovsky (Bro. Andy) in the loss of her mother, Emelia Delic.

We are thankful that Bro. Richard Baumgartener (Sis. Evelyn) and Bro. Mark Steidl (Sis. Megan) have been released from their recent hospital stays. Our prayers continue with Bro. Richard and Sis. Evelyn and we pray that God will grant health according to His will. We also remember David Ordogh (Bro. Peter and Sis. Elvira) as he continues to use crutches while his sprain heals.

We are thankful that God does allow us to serve in small ways here below. Our Sis. Sarah Henico (Bro. Greg Sr.) has become willing to finish our Sis. Bonnie Bako's Nursing Home Auxiliary term. We trust she will feel God's blessing as she serves in this capacity.

OHIO, COLUMBUS Nancy Banks

On the evening of April 21, Elder Bro. Lynn Steiglitz assisted Elder Bro. Mark Masters in serving Holy Communion to our congregation. May our church be strengthened by sharing the Lord's Supper.

We have had several visiting ministers this month. Sharing God's precious Word were Elder Bros. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH) and Lynn Steiglitz (Leo, IN) and Bros. Paul Kilgus (Fairbury, IL), Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH), Art Ingold (Rittman, OH), Steve Pamer (Akron, OH) and Mike Bauman, Sr. (Mansfield, OH). We are so thankful to these brothers who so willingly lend themselves in His service.

OHIO, JUNCTION Cindy Schlatter

We enjoyed the visit of several from our Hungarian churches this past month. It is amazing how God provides the way that so many miles can be traveled and yet the same inspired Word can be heard and reach our hearts. Elder Bros. Ferenc Szabo and Ferenc Sabados ministered to us. We trust God will richly bless those Brothers that brought forth the Word to us. We would also like to thank ministering Bro. Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH) for his visit and labors. Please come visit us again as God would open the way.

Our prayers were with Henry and Christa Manz as their little Kellen spent time in the hospital. We are thankful that he is doing better and back in church again. Bro. Michael and Sis. Jodi Schneider's son, Lathan, had surgery this month. It was encouraging to see Lathan in church afterwards and that he still had his cheerful smile. We pray that God will be with these little boys as well as others in our congregation that continue to deal with afflictions of the body. "I need the prayers of those I love, While trav'ling o'er life's rugged way, That I may true and faithful be, And live for Jesus every day..." (Hymns of Zion #201)

Isaiah Kendall Manz blessed the home of Bro. Larry and Sis. Cheree on May 6. His happy little sisters are Jelah and Elsie. Grandparents, Bro. Ken and Sis. Gwen Manz and Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica Fritz (Nashville, TN), are happy to welcome another little one into their family circles. Brooklyn Marie was born to Bro. Doug and Sis. Heidi Schlatter on May 19. Her brothers, Mason and Tyler, are excited to have a new little sister. Her grandparents are Bro. Ralph and Sis. Sheila Schlatter and Bro. Fred and Sis. Connie Domka (Mansfield, OH) who are also thankful for another addition into their families. May God richly bless these families as they seek to raise up their precious children.

**OHIO, LATTY
Amanda Steffen
Carmen Eisenmann**

“Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them.”

Eccles. 12:1

Our congregation was recently reminded of the importance of it's youth not to forsake God, but to embrace Him in repentance. In times past two young men made that decision, and on April 28-29 they gave their testimonies and were baptized. Our two new brothers are Bro. Thad Sinn (Bro. Todd and Sis. Janet) and Bro. Chet Wenninger (Bro. Larry and Sis. Joyce). We rejoice with them and their families and pray that God will bless them.

Among our visiting ministers this past month were two Hungarian Elders. Bro. Ferenc Szabo (Baja, Hungary) and Bro. Ferenc Szabados (Ersekcsanak, Hungary) were visiting the United States and communed with the Latty congregation on April 22. We thank God for bringing them here safely and for Bro. Tom Bako (Akron,

OH) for serving as their interpreter. Later that evening, the visiting Hungarian brethren related accounts of their lives in Europe to the congregation at a presentation at the Fellowship Hall.

Other visiting ministers included Bro. Warren Schlatter (Sis. Cindy) and Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily), both from Junction, OH; Bro. Don Gudeman (Sis. Mary, LaCrosse, IN), and Bro. Greg Stieglitz (Sis. Lisa, Indianapolis, IN).

Rejoicing over the marriage of their son are Bro. Bill and Sis. Carol Eisenmann. Bro. Darren Eisenmann took Sis. Britni Gudeman as his bride in Francesville, IN, on May 6. Her parents are Bro. Randy and Sis. Becky Gudeman. God bless this new couple as they establish a home together.

Sis. Karen Sinn was a surgery patient this past month. God grant her healing as only He can.

Two new babies were born this past month. Welcoming home Amos Carl on April 29 are Bro. Tim and Sis. Marlene Sinn and their family. Excited siblings are Zach, Daniel, Sadie, Miriam, Claudia and Ezra. Grandparents are Bro. Walt and Sis. Renee Sinn and Bro. Dan and Sis. Delores Reinhard (Remington, IN).

Bro. Keith and Sis. JoAnne Klopfenstein became grandparents on May 4 when Jay and Andrea Klopfenstein had Jalyn Leigh. Kara and Tyler are look forward to playing with her in the future at home.

Our 2007 high school graduates are Tyler Dunham (Bro. Byron and Sis. Jody), Sis. Kristi Graf (Bro. Bob and Sis. Joan), Sis. Melissa Greutman (Bro. Greg and Sis. Kristy), Ann Klopfenstein (Bro. Leon and Sis. Deb), Kelly Krzesinski (Bro. Keith and Sis. Connie), Andrea Nuest (Bro. Lee and Sis. Paula), Lauren Offerle (Terry and Patty), Ashley Plummer (Bro. Rick and Sis. Denise), Janae Sinn (Bro. Stan and JaNahn), Lance Sinn (Bro. Tom and Sis. Kim), Alysha Spangler (Mark and Laurie), Michelle Steffen (Bro. Donn and Sis. Karen), Sis. Danielle Stoller

(Bro. Kirk and Sis. Eileen), Seth Wenninger (Bro. Larry and Sis. Joyce), Casey Wenninger (Seth), and Spencer Wenninger (Bro. Ed and Sis. Alice). Congratulations to all of our graduates this year!

**OHIO, MANSFIELD
Esther Baumann**

On April 22, we delighted in hearing the engagement of Sis. Betsy Rufener (Bro. Ron and Sis. Kay) to Bro. Vic Rinkenberger (Bro. Mike and Sis. Pat) of Congerville, IL. We wish them God's continued blessings as they plan for their life together.

On May 6, we were thankful to learn the good news that Andrea Baumann (Bro. Mike and Sis. Lilly) has received God's peace and is awaiting baptism.

Elder Bro. Merle Hartzler (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman, OH) ministered to us recently. We thank him for his willingness to serve.

Our sympathy and prayers to the family of Sis. Sophie Sabo who passed away on April 29. She is survived by numerous relatives including her brother, Bro. Joe Pamer (Sis. Betty).

Several of our members were recently hospitalized: Sis. Lydia Chant (Bro. Jake), Sis. Lore Stuenzi (Bro. Art), and Sis. Brenda Beer. Continue to uphold them in prayer.

**OHIO, RITTMAN
Sarah Bauman
Linda Zollinger**

“...our parents He gives who provide in each day. And teachers to show us the heavenly way.” (Zion's Harp #165, vs. 2).

On April 16, Bro. Marvin and Sis. Tonya Miller welcomed home their first child, Koltan Richard. Grandparents are Bro. Michael and Sis. Norene Miller and Bro. Fred and Sis. Connie Domka (Mansfield, OH).

Marissa Nichole joined the family of Bro. Ben, Sis. Susie and Karson Rufener on April 17. Her grandparents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Karen Rufener

and Bro. John and Sis. Emily Rufener (Smithville, OH).

Another girl named Ella Rose joined the family of Bro. Shawn, Sis. Judy, Noah, Aaron and Anna Acker on April 26. Her grandparents are Boyd and Barbara Acker and Elder Bro. Merle and Sis. Bonnie Hartzler.

Taylor Olszewski is now a big sister to Kyle Daniel, who was born on May 14. Kyle's parents are Josh and Kristin Olszewski and grandparents are Bud and Ann Olszewski and Bro. Dan and Sis. Diane Gasser.

This month Bro. Ken Ramsier, Sis. Roma Rufener and Sis. Elizabeth Beery were hospitalized. May they feel the Lord's nearness.

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me, thy rod and thy staff they comfort me."

Psalms 23:4

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Ivan Ramsier, who passed away on April 16 at the age of 85. Surviving are his wife, Barb; children, Larry (Judy), Emma Jean, Lynn Pursley, Kathy (Rollin) Jones, and Doug (Becky) Lavery; and siblings, Edward (Linda) Ramsier, Bro. Nelson (Sis. Aldine) Ramsier, Sis. Eldora Steiner, Sis. Marie Gasser and Sis. Rowene Howell.

Our sympathy is also extended to Bro. Frank Steidl, as his brother, Andrew Steidl passed away on May 11. Before moving to California a few years ago, Andrew had lived most of his life in Medina. He was 93 years old.

We were privileged to have several brothers from Hungary visiting us one Wednesday evening this month. Elder Bros. Ferenc Szabo and Ferenc Szabador ministered unto us. Ministering Bro. Szilveszter Kis was also with us. It was a pleasure to have all of them with us and thankful they had safe travels! Ministering Bro. Bill Brake (Sardis, OH) was also with us this month.

On May 6, the engagement of Bro. Jeremy Calame (Sarasota, FL) was

made known to Sis. Elizabeth Rieker (Peoria, IL). Bro. Jeremy grew up in the Rittman area and is the son of Bro. John and Sis. Jody Calame. Sis. Elizabeth is the daughter of Bro. Tom and Sis. JoAnn Rieker.

This year we have several graduating from high school. They include: David Acker, Katrina Baltic, Leah Beery, Melissa Gerber, Roxanne Gerber, Lane Hartzler, Julia Haynes, Mary Jenkins, Daniel Kipfer, David Kipfer, Julie Lanz, Matthew Maibach, Jennifer Raifsnider, Sis. Cymbal Riegenbach, Luke Rufener, Jenny Rupp, Aaron Schar, Jason Stoller, Jeran Stoller, John Stoller, Sis. Julie Stoller, Klare Stoller and Abigail Tieche. May they look to the Word of God for direction as they now move to a new chapter in their lives. Proverbs 3:6 states it well: "In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

OHIO, SARDIS Eric and Jami Hartzler

Thankful for health, thankful for life,
Thankful for guidance in sorrow and
strife.

Thankful for food and ripe golden
grain,

For all that is needful our life to sus-
tain.

Thankful to hear the still small voice
making our heart in life's sorrows re-
joice.

Gospel Hymns #480, vs. 1,2,7

Bro. Dale Riegenbach (Sis. Virginia) had surgery this month and spent time in the hospital recovering. We are thankful that the healing process is going well and look forward to having him assemble with us again.

Our congregation is also thankful to have partaken of the Lord's supper on the evening of May 5. Elder Bro. Don Braker (Sis. Eileen, Kansas City, MO) helped our Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sis. Linda) carry out this work. We were truly blessed to be reminded once more of Christ's suffering and death

that brings us salvation.

With warmer weather, thoughts turn to summer vacations and students being out of school. Those students graduating are Nathan Ramsier (Bro. Mark and Sis. Alice) from high school, and Samuel Ramsier (Bro. Mark and Sis. Alice) and Alysha Figel (Bro. Andy and Sis. Cyndi) from 8th grade. May these students look to the Lord for guidance and direction as they continue their education.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE Ruth Gasser Edith Miller

Lord Jesus, I long to be perfectly
whole;

I want Thee forever to live in my soul;
Break down every idol, cast out every
foe;

Now wash me and I shall be whiter
than snow.

Hymns of Zion #210, vs. 1

We rejoice with Bro. John and Sis. Janice Rufener, as their son, Jacob, was baptized in Akron on May 13. May he continue to feel the Lord's blessing and direction as he goes forth in the service of the Lord. We are also thankful to report the good news of another soul seeking the Lord in repentance. Neal Indermuhle (Bro. Darrel and Sis. Janet) has made known his desire to become a child of God. We wish him much grace as he takes this important step in his life.

On May 13, Bro. Doug Stoller and Sis. Rachel Maibach were united in holy matrimony at Bloomfield, IA. Their parents are Sis. Luella and the late Bro. Harold Stoller and Bro. Tim and Sis. Mary Maibach (Bloomfield, IA). We welcome Sis. Rachel to Smithville and wish them much joy in serving the Lord together.

Bro. John and Sis. Emily Rufener welcomed a new granddaughter, Marissa Nicole, born to Bro. Ben and Sis. Susie Rufener (Rittman, OH) on April 18. On May 1, Bro. Brian and Sis.

Alyssa Miller were thankful for the safe arrival of Jared Matthew. Tiny Jared was born earlier than expected and will need to stay in the hospital for a time. He will be welcomed home by his brother and sister, Shem and Adeline, as well as grandparents, Bro. Larry and Sis. Edith Miller and Bro. Jeff and Sis. Wendy Gutwein (Forrest, IL). May grace and wisdom from God be given to each parent who welcomes a little child into the world, to teach and train them in the ways of the Lord.

Sis. Mary Ann (Bro. Gary) Maibach has recently submitted to surgery. We trust in the Great Physician for complete healing and restoration.

“Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.”

Matthew 24:42

Bro. John Dotterer passed away suddenly at his home on Thursday, May 17. Bro. John was at Wednesday evening church just the evening before, and I'm sure he had no idea that less than 24 hours later he would be called to his eternal reward. He is survived by his wife, Sis. Betty; and their children, Keith (Donna), Bro. Marvin (Sis. Nancy, Forrest, IL), Marlene Blackford (Roy, dec.), Dale (Sis. Elaine, Forrest, IL), Bro. David (Sis. Luanna) and Bro. Joe (Sis. Rose, Bloomfield, IA). Also surviving are daughters-in-law, Sis. Linda Dotterer, and Sis. Kathy Dotterer (Bro. Wendell, dec., Forrest, IL). He is also survived by a brother, Bro. Henry Dotterer (Rittman, OH) and two sisters, Sis. Juliet Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Sis. Marilyn Fetter (Bro. Eugene, Sabetha, KS). May the Lord provide comfort in the days ahead.

“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

We have a number of young people who will be graduating from high school this year. Those who have reached this

milestone are: Sharnise Beery (Bro. Dwaine and Sis. Shelly), Jonathan Dotterer (Bro. David and Sis. Luanna), Andrew Fetzer (Bro. Andy and Sis. Elizabeth), Leah Gasser (Bro. Ken and Sis. Sue-Ellen Maibach and the late Bro. Greg Gasser), Sis. Brittany Indermuhle (Bro. Brian and Sis. Beverly), Ryan Klotzle (Bro. Bob and Sis. Shirley), Sis. Alissa Maibach (Bro. Jay and Sis. Marsha), Sis. Becky Marty (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Marie), and Sis. Lydia Stoller (Bro. Dan and Sis. Kim). For each of these we wish God's blessings as they move on, and may God's will always be in the center of their plans.

OHIO, TOLEDO Teresa Rywalski Rebecca Beard

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior.

We spent a quiet Saturday evening enjoying the Lord's supper together. Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Sis. Roberta, Smithville, OH) helped our Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH) serve this precious meal. May we always remember the sacrifice our Lord paid for us.

Joining us for a recent Sunday on the pulpit were Bro. Paul Gasser (Sis. Joyce, Akron, OH), Bro. Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue, Detroit, MI), and Bro. Art Ingold (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman, OH). What a blessing to know that the true Word of God is still being taught today.

Our prayers are with our high school and college graduates as they close a chapter in their life and start a new one. Sharlene Harmon (Bro. Doug and Sis. Lanna) is our high school graduate. Those graduating from college are Sis. Gina Schlatter (Bro. Ray and Sis. Corrine), Curt Ingold (Bro. Art and Sis. Bonnie), Tami Manz (Bro. Lester and Sis. Karen) and Sis. Esther Stoller (Bro. Craig and Sis. Ruth).

OREGON, PORTLAND Brianna Strahm

Our visiting ministers this month

were Bro. John Wiegand (Sis. Jane) and Bro. Ed Knecht (Sis. Judie), both of our Silverton congregation. We thank each of them for their willing service on our behalf and trust the Lord will richly bless them for their labors.

Should I restrain the Spirit's course
For fear of man so feeble?
Though Satan's hosts are raging here,
Should I not be more faithful?
Awed by a mortal's frown, shall I
Conceal the Word of God Most High?

Shall I to please the blinded throng
Withhold Thy word so truthful?
Or thus to soothe the ears of men
Of their reproach be mindful,
To gain earth's gilded joys, or flee
The cross endured, my Lord, by Thee?

The mortal man may quite disown
And speak in bold derision
Against my labors and my name;
Yet blest is my condition.
The love of God dispels the fear
And makes my faith in Him more
dear.

Zion's Harp #113, vs. 1, 4, 8

OREGON, SILVERTON Cindy Metzger Melissa Kuenzi

We share in the joy of a newly engaged couple, Kara Walter (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Karen) and Todd Strahm (Bro. Carl and the late Sis. Sharon, Sabetha, KS).

Our sympathy goes out to the family of Bro. Cliff Kuenzi (Violet) as he passed away on April 25. His funeral service was held April 28.

Our prayers have been with several in our congregation who had surgery this month, including Bro. Loren Dettwyler (Sis. Marlene), Bro. Jim Kuenzi (Sis. Barb), and Sis. Jill Kuenzi (Bro. Kevin). We are thankful to have them assembling with us again.

Thanks to Bros. Garth Steffen (Sis. Connie) and Ron Jones (Sis. Liz) of Portland for visiting and ministering to us in the past month.

PENNSYLVANIA PHILADELPHIA

A small congregation like Philadelphia feels a deep impact when loved ones depart and is uplifted when others join our fellowship. Such is our experience this month.

Our beloved friend, Tanya Wulf, has assembled with us for the past 4 years while attending college in Allentown. Her parents, Bro. Arnie and Sis. Myra, from the Lester, IA, congregation visited us recently as they helped Tanya make her move to the Purdue, IN, area where she will continue her education. Tanya will be greatly missed. May God bless her on her life's journey.

We welcome Bro. Adam and Sis. Jami Luginbuhl and their children as they move back to the Philadelphia area, also to continue training. We are so grateful for each one that joins our fellowship.

We think of these moves from one state to another as rather significant, even with modern transportation and convenience. What must it have been like for so many of the families that left their homeland with a few wooden boxes containing all their earthly possessions? They crossed the ocean for the sake of freedom to worship. God blessed their endeavor - may He likewise bless each step we take.

(Francesville, IN), and Bro. Nate Gutwein (Francesville, IN). His great-great-grandmother is Sis. Ruth Heinold (LaCrosse, IN).

We were greatly blessed this past month by the Word brought to us through our ministering brothers. Our visitors were Bros. Trent Schrock (Sis. Heidi; Leo, IN), John Rowell (Sis. Nelda; Burlington, IA), Gary Anliker (Sis. Edie; Elgin, IL), Tony Manz (Sis. Denise; Junction, OH), and Dan Beer (Sis. Deb; Milford, IN). In addition, Bro. Jesse Bedolla (Detroit, MI) was in the area during the week and willingly served us on a Wednesday evening. We were also strengthened by the fellowship of brethren and friends visiting from Elgin, Eureka, Fairbury, and Tremont, IL; Leo and Milford, IN; Burlington and Lester, IA; Detroit, MI; and Junction, OH.

If you are traveling in or through the Nashville area, please plan to worship with us. The following churches are scheduled for services in the near future: Roanoke, IL (6/24); Bern, KS (7/1); Sardis, OH (7/8); Tremont, IL (7/15); Remington, IN (7/22), and Alto, MI (7/29). 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 midweek visitors. Contacts are Bro. Don and Sis. Faye Sauder (615) 373-8928; Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica Fritz (615) 952-9933; and Sis. Gwen Leuthold (615) 356-5755.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE Mike and Monica Fritz

This month marked the high school graduation of our daughter, Sis. Mahlia Fritz. We pray that she will continue to seek the Lord's direction in her life.

Also, on May 6 we were blessed with a grandson. Isaiah Kendall was born into the loving home of Bro. Larry and Sis. Cheree Manz (Junction, OH) and his sisters, Jaelah and Elsie. His grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Gwen Manz (Junction, OH) and Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica Fritz (Nashville, TN). His great-grandparents are Bro. Eli and Sis. Evelyn Manz (Junction, OH), Bro. Harold and Sis. Sherry Fritz

Rockville), Dwayne Dill (Minneapolis), Dennis Rassi (Sis. Diane, Fairbury), Brandon Emch (Sis. Maria, Kansas City), Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata), and Bob Beebe (Sis. Sue, South Bend). Bro. Marvin and Sis. Jane Leman also stopped in for a midweek visit. We were glad for our visitors from Mansfield, Bluffton, Lamar, and Bluffton North.

The minister schedule for July is Leo (1), Elgin, IA (8), Champaign (15), Francesville (22), and Morris (29).

We extend a warm welcome to anyone who may be in the area to worship with us, even midweek, though we don't have a regular schedule for midweek services. 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 the 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, AUSTIN Amy Ringger Serenity Ringger

Someone mentioned that 75% of the Bible is narrative and 25% is principle. If that is true, it seems God knew we'd need stories to help us understand the principles.

We are thankful for principles and narrative communicated by ministering Bros. Dan Goric (Sis. Mary Lou,

TEXAS, McALLEN Joyce Nohl

Our visiting ministers this past month were Bros. Randy Mogler (Sis. Evie, Washington, IL), Marvin Leman (Sis. Jane, Bradford, IL) and Randy

Gasser (Sis. Sue, Detroit, MI). May God bless the efforts of all of the brethren who take their time to serve us here in South Texas. It is always such a blessing to meet and greet each one in faith as we assemble in the house of the Lord.

The following churches are scheduled for services: Princeville, IL (6/24), Bern, KS (7/8), and Rittman, OH (7/22).

If you plan to be in the McAllen area, we would appreciate having you worship with us. Our address is: Holiday Inn Express (formerly the Country Suites Inn), 1921 South 10th Street. Turn South 1 ½ 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.

VERMONT, NORWICH Kirby Reutter

"And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body."

Matthew 26:26

This past month marked a spiritual milestone in the journey of the Vermont gatherings. For the first time in five years of worship services in this area, we were privileged to share Holy Communion together as a local flock. We appreciate the efforts of our dear shepherd Bro. Kevin Ryan in serving the Lord's Supper on our behalf. It was especially a blessing to share the weekend with two dear families from the Rockville area who are contemplating a relocation to western Vermont. We pray and trust that the Lord's will might be discerned and implemented according to His glory.

This month we were also humbled that our dear Bro. Jerry Bauman came all the way from Rittman, OH, to serve us in the ministry. We also appreciated the efforts of our dear Connecticut Bros. Duane Reutter and Warren Zahner, who likewise parted the Bread of Life in our midst.

We continue to remain prayerful for our two Sisters Areli Reutter and Miriam Reutter, both of whom have immigrated from different countries and still find themselves on the arduous path towards naturalization. We likewise pray

for their safe return, as both are currently visiting their respective countries (Mexico and Canada).

We are so thankful to have our dear friend Morey Weiss back in our presence after his brother's decease in Iowa. We have confidence that the Lord will send His Spirit of consolation in full measure. We are also thankful that our dear friend Claire Fellows seems to have recovered well from her recent operation. It will be so refreshing to see her back in church with her warm smile! Both of these friends have been an immense blessing to the Vermont gatherings. We have many friends in the Northeast, and we treasure each of them!

We look forward to many more opportunities to share the Lord's Supper in Vermont. Please join us any time for worship!

"And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins."

Matthew 26:27-28



Apostolic Christian Counseling and Family Services

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877-370-9988 (toll free) www.accounseling.org

Why have we been so richly blessed?

Many people in America today enjoy a relatively high standard of living, especially in comparison to the millions whose daily task consists of a painful search for adequate food, clothing, and shelter. Have you ever asked yourself, "Why have I been so richly blessed with material possessions, while others have so little?" God's Word gives us several answers to that question:

(1) To teach us that we must not put our trust in riches:

"Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; that they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate." (1 Timothy 6:17-18)

(2) To give us ample opportunities to show love, generosity, and kindness through mutual sharing:

"And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith." (Galatians 6:9-10)

Does the Bible say anything about money and possessions?

Many people are surprised to find out that there are more than 2,300 passages in the Bible on material wealth. Many of Jesus' parables and lessons deal with godly directions on money and possessions.

"Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me. But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions. Then said Jesus unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 19:21-23)

What is meant by "biblical financial stewardship"?

The word "steward" is defined as "a person who manages or administers another's property or financial affairs." So the term "biblical financial stewardship" means "instructions in the Bible that tell us how we are to manage the material blessings God has entrusted to us."

The first principle in biblical financial stewardship is that we really don't "own" our money and possessions - they have

Biblical Financial Stewardship

been given to us by God (the real "owner") with the expectation that we will use them wisely, invest them to gain interest, and not consider them as objects of worship or trust. This important principle, along with many others, is taught very clearly in a series of books published by Crown Financial Ministries.

Who is Crown Financial Ministries, and what is our association with them?

Crown Financial Ministries was organized in 2000 with a mission to "equip people worldwide to learn, apply, and teach God's financial principles so they may know Christ more intimately, [and] be free to serve Him." An elder of one of our churches became acquainted with this organization and their materials as he worked with several couples who were interested in a biblical approach to better management of their finances. This elder was very impressed with the materials, especially a Bible study course that was solidly based on scriptural principles and was very effective in bringing about positive change in the couples' ability to manage their finances. At the conference in Morton in 2003, support was given for the development of revised Crown materials in which all Scripture references would be in the King James Version, and several other passages would be removed or rewritten. These two revised books, *Your Money Counts* and *Small Group Student Manual*, along with a *Practical Application Workbook* that did not need revision, are the materials needed for participation in a 10-week small group Bible study.

What is a Small Group Bible Study?

In the Crown program of biblical financial stewardship, a group of 8 - 10 people learn the biblical principles of managing their finances through a 10-week course of study, following the lessons outlined in the course materials. Each lesson focuses on a different aspect of financial management, such as God's Part/Our Part, Debt, Giving, Investing, Budgeting, and Financial Goals. The course participants are required to memorize a Scripture passage each week and must be prepared to discuss the questions assigned for that week's lesson. However, personal financial information is not shared nor are personal financial problems discussed. The sessions are conducted by a group leader who has previously completed a 10-week course and has volunteered to

follow the course instructions as outlined in the Leader's Guide.

Who should participate in the Crown Program?

Anyone can benefit from a thorough and systematic study of the biblical principles for managing his or her material blessings. Married and engaged couples, as well as heads of households and single adults, will all find the teachings easy to understand and effective in showing how to use money and possessions in a way that honors God.

How can I get more information?

The program of biblical financial stewardship using the revised Crown materials is being administered by the Apostolic Christian Counseling and Family Services (ACCFs) in Morton, IL. The books are available from Apostolic Christian Publications in Eureka, IL. Information is available that explains the program and how it can be a very effective tool in teaching singles, couples, and even congregations "how to use money God's way." This information is displayed on ACCFS' web site (www.accounseling.org), or a packet can be mailed to you by calling (309) 263-5536.

The Crown program is well under way in the Roanoke, Latty, Morton, and Bloomington-Normal congregations. At least ten other congregations have expressed an interest in the program, and many of these are making preparations for getting a program started. ACCFS has also developed (1) instructions on how to assemble a Crown program "team," and (2) a set of guidelines that will enable a team to easily implement the program within a congregation.

Some comments from brothers and sisters who have recently completed a 10-week Study course:

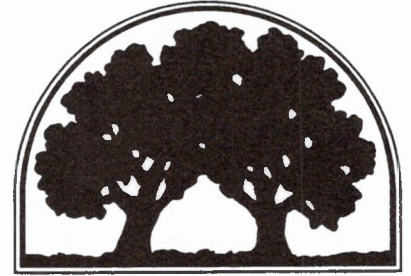
"... very effective in helping me view my personal finances from a godly perspective."

"... helped us as a couple to talk about our family's finances, and to learn and apply scriptural principles."

"... much more than a study of finances - it's a study about the heart. The Crown program uses Scripture to reach our wallets, purses, and bank accounts through our hearts."

Foster Care/Adoption Worker Needed

Gateway Woods has an immediate need for a full-time Adoption/Foster Care Case Manager. The Case Manager would work with the Adoption Program as well as case management in our Foster Care Program. In this position, there would be opportunity not only to work with foster and adopted children, but also foster parents and adoptive parents. We would prefer a Bachelors Degree in Social Work, but would accept a Bachelors Degree in a related field such as Guidance, Sociology, or Psychology.



Please prayerfully consider our need and contact Bro. Jeff Schumacher or Bro. Lynn Stieglitz for more information concerning this position. This is an opportunity to make a real difference in the lives of children.

Illinois Adoption Manager Opening

As Gateway Woods expands our Christian Adoption Services into Illinois, we are in need of an IL Child Placement Manager. Applicants for this job must:

1. Be a member in good standing of the Apostolic Christian Church with approval of his/her local elder.
2. Have at least a Master's Degree in Social Work from an accredited school and three years work experience in social work administration OR a Master's Degree in a human services field from an accredited school and five years of work experience in human services administration.
3. Have a dedicated interest, love and sensitivity for youth and families.
4. Possess good motivational, organizational, teaching and communications skills.
5. Have ability to establish positive working and interpersonal relationships and use a team approach.
6. Have treatment philosophy compatible with the mission of Gateway Woods - Apostolic Christian Children's Home.
7. Have commitment to ongoing personal and professional growth.

For further information and a job description, please contact:

Bro. Jeff Schumacher
 Administrator
 PO Box 151
 Leo, IN 46765
 1-888-443-4283 (GATE)
jeff.schumacher@gatewaywoods.org

Bro. Lynn Stieglitz
 Counseling Elder
 15417 Doty Rd.
 New Haven, IN 46774
 260-657-1033
lynnstieglitz@lightningnet.net

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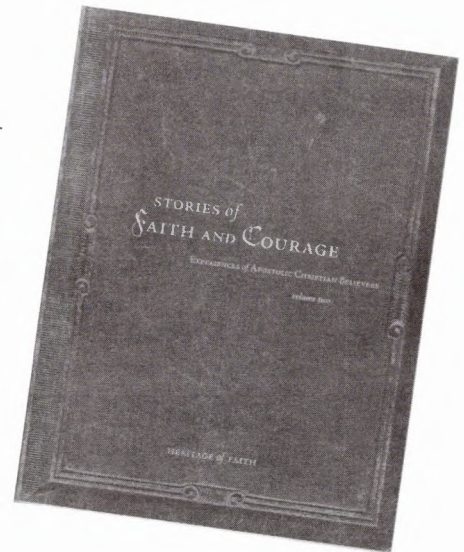
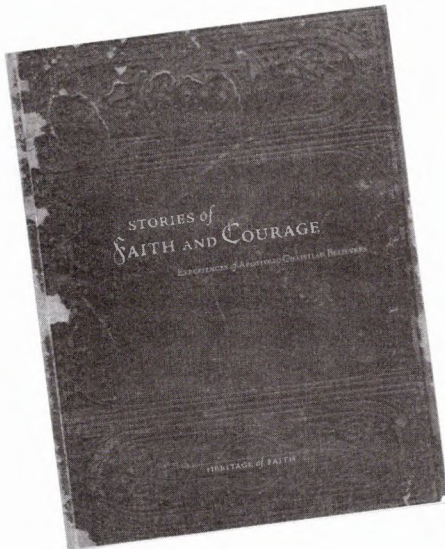
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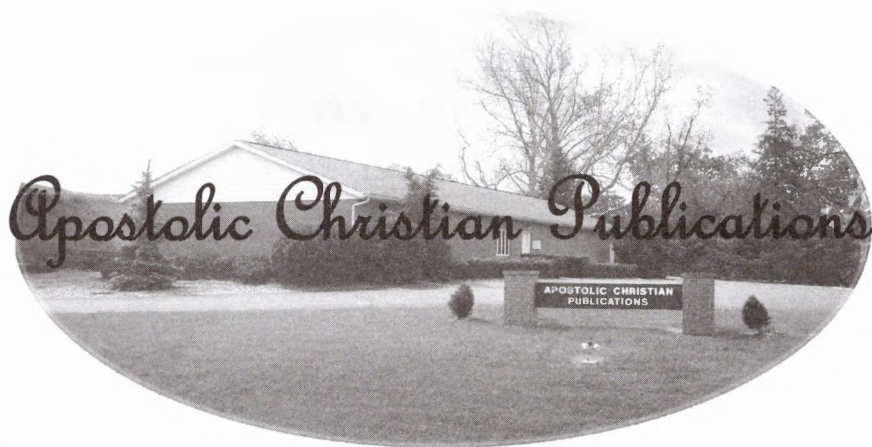
"Zion's Melodies" Instrumental CD

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

Phone: (309)448-2422 - ask for Chet
Mail: ZM on Piano, 319 First Street, Congerville, IL 61729
Email: chetrink@juno.com

Zion's Melody Music CD

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

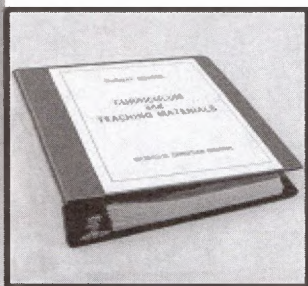


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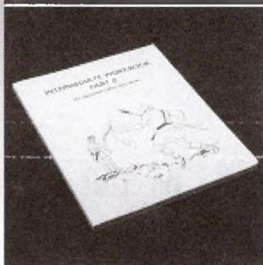
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Sermon continued from page 2

Philippians 4:3.

Sometimes we think of ministers as only being males. We know that that is not true, for we are all ministers of the gospel. I don't believe that the sisters understand what an important role they have in how the brothers serve the Lord. The impact that the sisters have on the brothers, whether it is a spouse or a daughter or a mother or an aunt, or no relation but just closely in harmony with them, sisters have a major impact on the direction of the church. So I entreat thee, true yokefellow, to continue to labor with the gospel. Keep upholding the gospel, whether it is in your own home, as encouraging the priest of the home, or whether it is in the church, recognize your place is a major support.

Sometimes we don't like being under someone else, whether it is a brother or a sister. We don't like having anyone above us. We like to be the one to make the final decision. We like to be the one in charge. Those who are on a higher plane, whether it is in business or in the church, if we've got someone up on a level, they are only held up there by the support that is underneath them. The 103rd floor of a tall skyscraper is held up by the 102 stories below it. It is not up there by itself. Every one of us has a purpose. Every one of us has a role. We have to be content in the role that God has placed us in. In that role, doing that role, performing that role, let's go through what our mindset should be.

"Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice." Philippians 4:4. Why does it start there? Why does he start with rejoicing? I believe the Lord wants us to be a happy people. But not a giddy people. Just a happy people. If our countenance is happy, we will rejoice. If we recognize what has been done for us, we will rejoice. If our

mind is on pure things and proper things, we will rejoice. And when we rejoice, those around us rejoice. When those around us rejoice, there is fellowship and harmony in a common union that can't be broken. Especially when we rejoice in the Lord.

So how do we rejoice in the Lord? I believe all the rest of this falls under rejoicing in the Lord. The rejoicing in the Lord is held up by what? It is not just held up by itself. It's got to have things underneath it supporting it. First of all, "Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand." Philippians 4:5. So the Lord is standing by and He wants us to have moderation in what? I believe He wants us to be moderate in all things. But in this piece of scripture specifically, He's talking about in our conversation.

How do we have moderate conversation? Are you reasonable in your conversation? Is it sweet reasoning or is it irritating and annoying to visit with you? Is it irritating and annoying to visit with me? I think of something my children say often to me. 'Provoke not your children to wrath'. (Ephesians 6:4) I am not having sweet reasoning. I'm not being moderate. I'm not letting my moderation be known to my own family. How can I let my moderation be known to others if my own family doesn't know? Then when I don't feel like I'm being moderate, then I have a hard time rejoicing.

So we have to have sweet reasoning. We have to be able to reason — come now saith the Lord, let us reason together (Isaiah 1:18). In sweet harmony. It doesn't mean that we all have to be on the same page and we all have to be agreeing with one another and yes, yes, yes, everything's a yes. No, there can be honest, open, sweet discussion and come to some differences. But yet it was sweet and it was reasonable.

Don't worry about things. "Be

careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." Philippians 4:6. Don't worry about things. But don't go through life acting like nothing is wrong either. If your heart isn't right with God, you'd better be worrying about that. But don't just worry, because worry won't fix it. With prayer, supplication, thanksgiving, let your request be made known unto God.

What is your request? Is it your request to the Lord that He would help you draw closer to Him? Or is it your request that it is okay with Him if you can get away with a little bit more? Is there a difference? There is a huge difference. The one is, I'm focusing on my will and the other is I'm focusing on what the Lord's will is. As long as we keep the Lord's will in the forefront of our mind, we will be able to rejoice. It is when we want to get our will in the way, that we start having problems. Then we can't get our way, so then we stop being moderate in our speech. We try to strike out or maybe we use passive aggressive thoughts and words. Trying to force someone to go our direction because we've got a will and we are not giving in. Let's do it the Lord's way with sweet reasoning, sweet reasonableness.

"And the peace of God..." Philippians 4:7. If we are doing it God's way, if we have a joyful heart, if we are being moderate in our speech, if we are taking things to the Lord in prayer and we are being a thankful people, the peace of God which passes understanding will keep our hearts and our minds through Christ Jesus. But just as a check to see whether your mind and your heart are really where they need to be, we have the next two verses.

"Finally, brethren ..."

Sermon continued on page 44

Sermon continued from page 43

ippians 4:8. We've got a couple pillars out there holding up the - maybe those are the corner posts. That we have moderate speech. That we aren't worrying about things, that we are taking things to the Lord in prayer, that we are thankful. Here are some more that kind of hold up our rejoicing in the Lord. "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true." Maybe we'll go through them and then we'll come back and look at each one individually. If they are true, honest, just, pure, lovely, of good report, if there is any virtue, if there is any praise, think on these things (Philippians 4:8). So that's the mindset.

What does it leave you left to think about? How many of the things that you thought about this morning would have to get tossed off to the side because they don't fall in line with that?

Pick a word. I do this often. I don't do it as often as I should but I do it often. Pick a word for the day. A word that you are pretty sure you'll hear at least once throughout the day, hopefully more than once. Maybe it's 'salesman'. There's a salesman on the phone for you. I don't know what your thought is. As soon as you hear that word for the day, ask yourself, at the time I heard that, what was I thinking about? Was it pure? Was it lovely? Was it true? Was it honest? Was it just? Was there any praise? Was there any virtue? Or do I need to correct my thinking?

It can happen even in church. We can be hearing a good sermon and we can be thinking about, this person back here needs to be hearing this. Or this person beside me needs to be listening up because this is for them! Okay, that might be true. It might be honest. And it might be just. It might be - well maybe not so - well it's probably pure. But maybe not lovely. Maybe

it's not of good report. Because maybe I should be applying it to myself instead. Maybe the way that my thought process is going, I'm not bringing any praise to God. Though it might be true, maybe it's not always praiseworthy. It might be praiseworthy but it might not always be one hundred percent true. Some things are lovely to talk about but they aren't honest. So how do we draw the balance? Which one is more right? Is it better to be talking about things that are lovely and of good report or is it better to talk about things that are true? The answer is yes. It has to meet them all. If it is not all of these, we shouldn't be thinking about those things.

Sometimes we like to pick and choose. Maybe there is one in this list that is a little harder for you than it is for others. There's some in here that are a little more difficult for me. I don't like to talk about things of good report. I like to find the problems and dwell on the problems. If this person would just do this, this could go a whole lot smoother. If this person would change their ways, my job would be easier. Those aren't good thoughts. They don't fit this scripture.

"Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do:..." Philippians 4:9. I don't think he is talking about himself, that Paul was so great and so wonderful that, if you've seen me doing it and you've learned it from me and you heard it from me, then you'll have peace. But I think he is talking about the Word of God. The entire Word of God. Looking at the life of Jesus Christ, if we've seen Jesus Christ doing those things, if we've heard Jesus Christ teaching these things or the Word teaching us, if we've learned them from the scripture and from past experiences that the Lord has given us, then do them. "...and the God of peace shall be with you." Philippians 4:9.

The world wants peace. They

want peace so that there's not wars. But they each one want peace in their own life. They seek about to find peace and they go about it the hard way. They look everywhere but where peace is to find peace. We can have all the knowledge in the world. We can have all the knowledge in the Word. But it won't bring peace. The last word before the semi colon is 'do'. There is a comma and then a 'do'. These things, the things of the Word, the things that the Lord has taught you through the Holy Spirit, do them. Sounds pretty simple. Two little letters that are the hardest words in the world to perform. Just do what you've heard.

Brother Glen talked about giving a child chores. You give them a chore and maybe they want to talk about how it gets done and why it needs to be done. Just do it. What's so hard to understand about just doing it? We can talk about it all day long and it doesn't get done. We can talk about repentance from now till the coming of the Lord. It has been talked about for - how many years has preaching of repentance gone on in this church? Yet there are still some who don't do it. Why? Why are we so hard on ourselves? I believe we've heard through the Word. I believe that we've seen through the examples in the scripture and in people's lives, enough to do it. It really is not difficult a blessed man to be. It really is not difficult to rejoice in the Lord. And again, I say, Rejoice!

It does not have to be difficult to rejoice. We've just got to get our priorities lined up right. We're trying to build rejoice on these things over here. If we want to get to the point where we are rejoicing, we have to start thinking about the right things; the pure and the honest and the just and lovely. The things of good report and virtue and praiseworthy. Think about those things. Then when you are talking about them, let your moderation be

known unto all men. Because the Lord is at hand! It's serious business. But it's not so serious that we can't rejoice! We should be a joyful people. There is enough to rejoice about.

Now there are tragedies. There are some serious, sad times. They don't all hit us all at once and thankful we can be for that. Because we need somebody there to support us. But there are some real tragedies in life. There are some things that are pretty devastating. They don't make us lose our hope. They don't make us lose our joy in the Lord. But maybe sometimes we don't feel like rejoicing because things are too tough. But get to the point where it's your desire to rejoice daily. Rejoice, and again, I say rejoice.

If you are not finding it very easy to rejoice in the Lord - and I'm talking to myself first, but it is to everyone of us - if you are finding it hard to rejoice, look at what you are thinking about. What are you thinking about? True, honest, just, pure, lovely thoughts? Thoughts of good report about others and about yourself? Things with virtue, things with praise? Think on those things. The things that you can't handle, the things that are too big for you, the things that are not meant for you to pick up, take those to the Lord. Cast all your care upon

Him, for He careth for you (I Peter 5:7). It's His desire to care for you. It's also His desire to give you the kingdom. Are you looking forward to the kingdom? Are you looking forward to going to be with the Lord forever and ever and ever and ever and ever and ever? And that's just the beginning.

Then he goes on, talking about, if we look at the conditions that we're set in, if we look at the circumstances that we're set in, sometimes it's hard to do that. Sometimes it's hard to rejoice. But Paul wants us all to do even as he has done. "Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content." Philippians 4:11. Contentment is so important. And godliness is so important. And godliness with contentment is great gain (I Timothy 6:6).

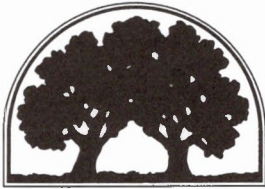
Do you know how to be abased? Maybe some of us are pretty good at abasing ourselves. We won't let the Lord bring us up out of that abasement. Maybe we know how to abound but we don't know how to be abased. Paul said, "I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound..." Philippians 4:12. Learn both. But you can have a healthy balance.

"...every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry..." Philippians 4:12.

Learn both. "...both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Philippians 4:12,13. So it's not the conditions - if I could just have this thing out of my life, then I think I could get to the point where I could serve the Lord to the point where I could rejoice - it won't happen. It won't happen if you have a better marriage. It won't happen if you have more money. It won't happen if you have a better boss or if you have a better job. It won't happen if you drive a better car or if you could just get that other forty acres, it's not going to happen, if you are not content with godliness where you are. No changes are going to change it because your heart is not looking at it right. You are not thinking about it the right way.

So an encouragement to each one of us. It's not only an encouragement. It's an admonishment. But it's a positive admonishment. To run this piece of scripture through our heads, over and over, every day of the week. To rejoice in the Lord and if you can't find that joy in the Lord, find out why. What am I thinking about? What am I doing? Am I content with things as they are? If not, let's change. Change is hard but it is necessary for each one of us.





Counselor Needed

Gateway Woods, a Christian residential childcare facility, has an immediate opening for a male or female counselor. Qualified persons for this position must hold a minimum of a Bachelors degree in Social Work, Counseling or related field. A Masters degree is preferred. Responsibilities include individual and family counseling, case management, and consultation with the treatment team.

Jeff Schumacher
Residential Program Director
PO Box 151
Leo, IN 46765
(219) 627-2159

Lynn Stieglitz
Counseling Elder
15417 Doty Road
New Haven, IN 46774
(260) 657-1033

Director Of Nursing Position Available

Parkview Haven in Francesville, IN is seeking a Registered Nurse to fill the position of Director of Nursing. This position has come available for the first time in 9 years. Parkview is sponsored by 6 nearby churches— Francesville, Valparaiso, LaCrosse, Wolcott, Remington, and West Lafayette. Please call Steven Stoller at 219-567-9149, or contact by e-mail at parkview@home.ffni.com.

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

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

- NOTICE -

Repair and Distribution of Worn Bibles & Bible Story Books

Hymns of Zion, Gospel Hymns, & Tabernacles

We again have places to send all of these books. Please get your books to us or the Goodfield World Relief Center. Books are mainly distributed to India, Philippines, and Africa.

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

Opportunity to Help the Washington DC Church

If you have a heart for small churches, the Washington, DC congregation would welcome your help. They recently purchased a residential property in Silver Spring, Maryland, and have begun holding services there every Sunday.

Due to the small number of members and friends, and because most live a distance from church, they are looking for volunteer caretakers to help. Caretakers should plan to stay 3-4 weeks and be able to perform light household and yard maintenance chores. There are openings beginning in May, 2007.

Caretakers could be retired or semi-retired couples, singles or families who would desire fellowship with the DC congregation and enjoy spending time near the Nation's Capitol and other points of interest on the East Coast.

For more information, please contact Bro. Barry and Sis. Doreen Steffen at 410/569-3635.

Opening for Pre-School Cook

The Apostolic Christian Pre-school has an opening for a cook/teacher's aide. No educational degree is required for this position. A few of the duties will include cooking/preparing meals for the children, planning menus, grocery shopping, and assisting with the children in the preschool. If you feel directed by the Lord to fulfill a mission working with small children, as well as being an asset to a small congregation, please contact Bro. Mike Moore by phone (256) 729-0620, or by email: ALM38@aol.com. We prefer a married couple but we will thankfully accept someone single as well.

COLORADO SERVICES

In addition to our regular worship schedule in Aurora, if the Lord is willing, we plan to hold services at the following locations:

- **July 15** Mead Town Hall
 ◦ *Located in northern Colorado near I-25 and CO 66 about halfway between Aurora and Estes Park.*
- **July 22** Ponderosa Conference Center
 ◦ *Located near Colorado Springs at Larkspur.*
- **July 29** YMCA of the Rockies (Snow Mt. Ranch) – Leggett Bldg.
 ◦ *Located in the Grand Valley between Granby and Winter Park*

Morning song service will begin at 10:15 A.M.; worship service will begin at 10:30am; followed by lunch and afternoon service. Ministering Brothers from the Denver congregation will be responsible for the services, however we welcome and encourage visiting ministers to support this effort if your travel plans bring you out west this summer. The intent of these services is to alleviate *some* of the crowding that we tend to experience during the busy summer travel season. (We don't want all our visitors to avoid Aurora!) We welcome all our visitors and deeply appreciate the fellowship that we share in Christ, whether in Aurora, or at the optional locations. For more information, and to help us plan more effectively, please notify Bro. Tom Leman if you will be attending services on any of these dates.

Home telephone: (303) 696-1540 E-mail: lemantom@comcast.net

BIBLE DISTRIBUTION

Sharing The Word In Love

*"Where there is no vision, the people perish:
 but he that keepeth the law, happy is he."
 Proverbs 29:18*

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

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

To order, contact,

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

CARIBBEAN BOARD PROJECTS - 2006/2007

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

HAITI			
Project	Date	Coordinator	Capacity
Les Cayes AWA Water Aid	Nov 2-9, 2007	Troy Stuber 309-925-2603 tstuber@highstream.net	4
Les Cayes MEBSH School Roof	Nov 9-16, 2007	Ted Habegger 260-694-6765 tjh@adamswells.com	12
Les Cayes FRW Vocational School	Dec 7-14, 2007	Rick Wuethrich 219-567-9488 topnotch@home.ffni.com	4
Les Cayes MEBSH School Roof	Jan 4-11, 2008	Ron Palitto 330-336-5373 rcp@lek.net	12
Les Cayes MEBSH School Roof	Jan 18-25, 2008	Dean Pashak 989-662-7685 dwpashak@charter.net	12
Les Cayes SEED Agriculture Aid	Jan 25 - Feb 1, 2008	Dale Frank 319-766-3661 frankfarm@iowatelecom.net	9
Les Cayes AWA Water Aid	Jan 25 - Feb 1	Troy Stuber 309-925-2603 tstuber@highstream.net	5
Les Cayes SEED Agriculture Aid	Feb 22-29, 2008	Dale Frank 319-766-3661 frankfarm@iowatelecom.net	9
Les Cayes FRW Vocational School	Feb 22-29, 2008	Rick Wuethrich 219-567-9488 topnotch@home.ffni.com	4
Les Cayes MEBSH School Roof	Mar 28 Apr 4, 2008	Rich Bertschi 309-467-6110 lemangm@mtco.com	12
Les Cayes MEBSH Maintenance	Apr 18-25, 2008	Jon Zeller 309-266-9009 jzeller@mtco.com	12
Les Cayes AWA Water Aid	May 16-23, 2008	Troy Stuber 309-925-2603 tstuber@highstream.net	5
Haiti MEBSH Caribbean Eval.	Jun 6-13, 2008	Tom Hitz 734-454-9229 thitzhome@juno.com	Invitation
Les Cayes FRW Vocational School	Jun 20-27, 2008	Rick Wuethrich 219-567-9488 topnotch@home.ffni.com	4
JAMAICA			
Jamaica Deaf Village CCCD Ohio Sunday School	Jun 23-30, 2007	Jay Maibach 330-939-5234 jmmaibach@earthlink.net	60+
Knockpatrick School CCCD Bluffton Sunday School	Jun 23-30, 2007	Steve Gerber sandggerber@hotmail.com	50

CCCD = Caribbean Christian Center for the Deaf
MEBSH = Missions of Evangelical Baptists of South Haiti
Palm Grove = Mission of Haiti
S.E.E.D. = An Agricultural School & Extension Service
TBA = To Be Announced
Palm Grove = Mission of Haiti

A.W.A. - B. = Apostolic Water Aid/Bluffton
A.W.A. - FRW = Apostolic Water Aid/Francesville,
 Remington, Wolcott
A.W.A. - T = Apostolic Water Aid/Tremont
 (*) = Changes or additions since last issue
 (**) = Spring Break Timeframe

Mexico Work Teams 2007

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

Project	Date	Coordinator
Juarez Medical/Dental	Sep 19-26, 2007	Cheryl Herrmann 309-385-1082 cherrmann@verizon.net
Magdalena Construction	Jun 30 - Jul 7, 2007	Brent Knobloch 815-923-4736 bmknob@mc.net
Magdalena Construction	Jul 21-28, 2007	Tyler Banwart 620-223-1362 tybanwart@hotmail.com
Magdalena Construction	Nov 17-24, 2007	Rod Schmidt 303-774-7913 rschmidt@Acosta.com
Magdalena Construction	Dec 15-22, 2007	Kent Levy - Purdue 317-385-0752 kentlevy@gmail.com
Reynosa Construction	Mar 10-17, 2008	Trent Barth 309-696-4157 iccygcommittee@hotmail.com
Reynosa Construction	Mar 24-31, 2008	Jeff Leman 260-565-3815 jvleman@adamswells.com

U.S.A. BOARD WORK PROJECTS

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

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

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

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

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

NOTICE:

Wednesday night services are now being held in Macomb, IL. For further information, call Bro. Norm or Sis. Jan Rechkemmer at (309) 231-0098.



REMEMBERING

Our Spiritual Heritage

The letter from Bro. Joseph Bella to Bro. Samuel Froehlich, dated September 8, 1850, continues. It was sent from Budapest, Hungary. It was submitted by Tibi Dirici, Nagyér, Hungary in September, 2006 and translated from German to English by Bro. Peter Weber, Peoria, Illinois in October, 2006.

The road led directly by the house of the tailor shop, where Brother Knippilt worked. I asked my overseer for permission to see my brother. As I approached the shop window, I heard Bro. Knippilt singing Hymn # 22 with a loud voice. I tapped on the window and called dear Brother Knippilt to come outside. He approached me quickly and with joy, comfort, and love fell on my neck and greeted and kissed me as a brother in Christ.

He wanted to pull me into the house as he assumed I was free, but I informed him that I could not come in, as I was a prisoner, and I pointed to my overseer. Then, the dear brother put on his coat and accompanied me to the judge. Brother Knippilt petitioned the judge to let me stay with master tailor Korb, where dear friend Pscherer worked. He is our friend and very close to being taken into the fold. The judge consented, providing that master tailor Korb would come and get me and be a guarantor for me.

Thus, I was able to stay overnight with friend Pscherer. Oh, what great joy did we have together! God directs our paths in the most remarkable ways, and a miracle from God happened the second day when the dear brother and friend went to the judge to petition him that he would release me. Our friend Korb requested the judge to permit them to accompany me to the next town, about one and one-half hours away, with a promise to obtain a certificate from that judge that they had handed me over to him. And indeed, everything was carried out correctly by the

permissive will and providence of God.

On the way we entered a forest to have services. Oh, what love and joy, comfort and blessing it is to our eternal welfare, which we can already taste on this earth; what will it be in eternity, as it is written in I Corinthians 2:9, "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man..., etc."

After the children of this world led me again to my hometown, I could tell of many more wonderful events, but have little space and time to write, as I must send many more letters here and there.

After I left the dear brother in the moor, I had to travel on foot seven days until I reached my home. I mused on the way that they would release me shortly so that I could return to my beloved brethren in Pest, but I was wrong in those expectations, because my friends were earthly companions. My sister's son is a notary public and the other, the son-in-law of my sister's daughter, is adjutant to the emperor. They should have signed my travel record book and issued my passport, but they refused for fear of losing their jobs, because I had been sent home twice because of my faith.

A published decree was given to the judges of every district that they were to throw all those who preach the false English faith, along with the missionaries, into prison. Therefore, my friends said they would not sign my travel record book nor issue a passport, but that I should petition the representative of the Emperor or the district commissioner and if they consent they would do it.

So, I went to the chief, who was very rude and said that I should be silent and not talk to anyone about it; otherwise, he would put me in jail immediately. {He said} I do nothing but engender uproar and dissent in the country, and that enough blood has been spilled on account of this faith which I am beginning to initi-

ate. {He also said} that he would document what should be done with me.

I left him, but on the way it came to me that I should return to see whether he would give me the documents so I could take them along. I asked him whether I should wait or leave. He let me know I should wait a short while. So I waited, but he sent for a doctor to examine me whether I had my right mind. Several were present and asked whether I had ever been sick. "Yes," was my reply. "Was your sickness in your head?" My head was healthy, but my body and spirit and inner-well-being were not healthy because of sin and a messy and evil life. And then, I was able to give my testimony of faith, and they were not able to contradict me.

They asked whether I understood Latin. I replied no, that I did not learn it in school and difficulty reading it. So they spoke Latin among themselves, and I don't know what they said. At the end, the commissioner asked that I tell him the originator of our sect. I replied, "The Lord Jesus Christ. We are brothers among each other and each one can speak to edify and minister to the hearers." They asked, "What do you call yourselves?" I told them we are sincere believers and followers of Christ. They further asked, "Why don't you baptize infants?" My reply was because Jesus and his Apostles did not do or practice it, and nowhere in the New Testament is it mentioned. It (baptism) does not mean anything to a child, because he is not able to have a believing faith. It is only meaningful to those who are able to believe unto salvation.

By Perry A. Klopfenstein

Next Issue:

Another segment of the above letter.

The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean

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“Expanded Opportunities”

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

The most miserable people are those who live for self, and the happiest people are those who live for others. I make that statement based on my own conviction, which I believe is influenced by the Word of God.

We can “love our neighbor as ourselves,” and do much good in our daily walk of life, wherever we might live. However, if a believer has the conviction to try to start churches in new areas, or to try to help unfortunate people physically and spiritually, in the United States or in another country, he usually needs the prayer support and encouragement of his church family. During the past 61 years of my life, since I was baptized into the body of Christ and became a member of our church, I believe the opportunities to live for others while living for Christ, have been expanded in our church. This I believe, is scriptural. Jesus did say to his disciples in Acts 2:10, “And ye shall be witnesses unto me.....unto the uttermost part of the earth.” Most of us believe

that what Christ taught his disciples He also teaches us, not only concerning blessings such as the forgiveness of sin, but also concerning responsibilities.

It is always been my conviction that any brother or sister in our church can go anywhere in the world to try to help others, and remain a member in good standing in our church, if he or she follows just three guidelines. Those three guidelines are (1) Have the same doctrine as our church (2) Work separately from other groups (3) Communicate respectfully with our Elders. We are now encouraged to start churches in new areas and to help others in need, not as individuals but as a church, with prayer and financial support. This is wonderful and indicates expanded opportunities to do good. However, we must not forget that if all our needs are guaranteed, trusting God for our needs, is diminished. In any situation, if we have everything which is tops for our convenience and comfort, our appreciation for the lit-

tle things in life is diminished.

Our church now, through World Relief, our Mission Committee, Gateway Woods, our Home for the Handicapped, etc., offers expanded opportunities to do good. I believe this effort is scriptural and helps our church to be more spiritual. It is good to be separate from the world. II Corinthians reads, “Wherefore come out from among them and be ye separate.” To say that this means we should lock ourselves in our own comfort zone and not try to help others, in my opinion, would be a misinterpretation. Our church has expanded the opportunities for all of us to try to do good, and in this we greatly rejoice. Also, we now have expanded opportunities to study God’s Word.

Acts 10:38 tells us concerning our Lord Jesus Christ, “Who went about doing good.”

I John 2:6 reads, “He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.” We praise God for expanded opportunities to do good as Jesus did.

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*Keep me as the apple of the eye,
hide me under the shadow of thy wings,...*

Psalm 17:8



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