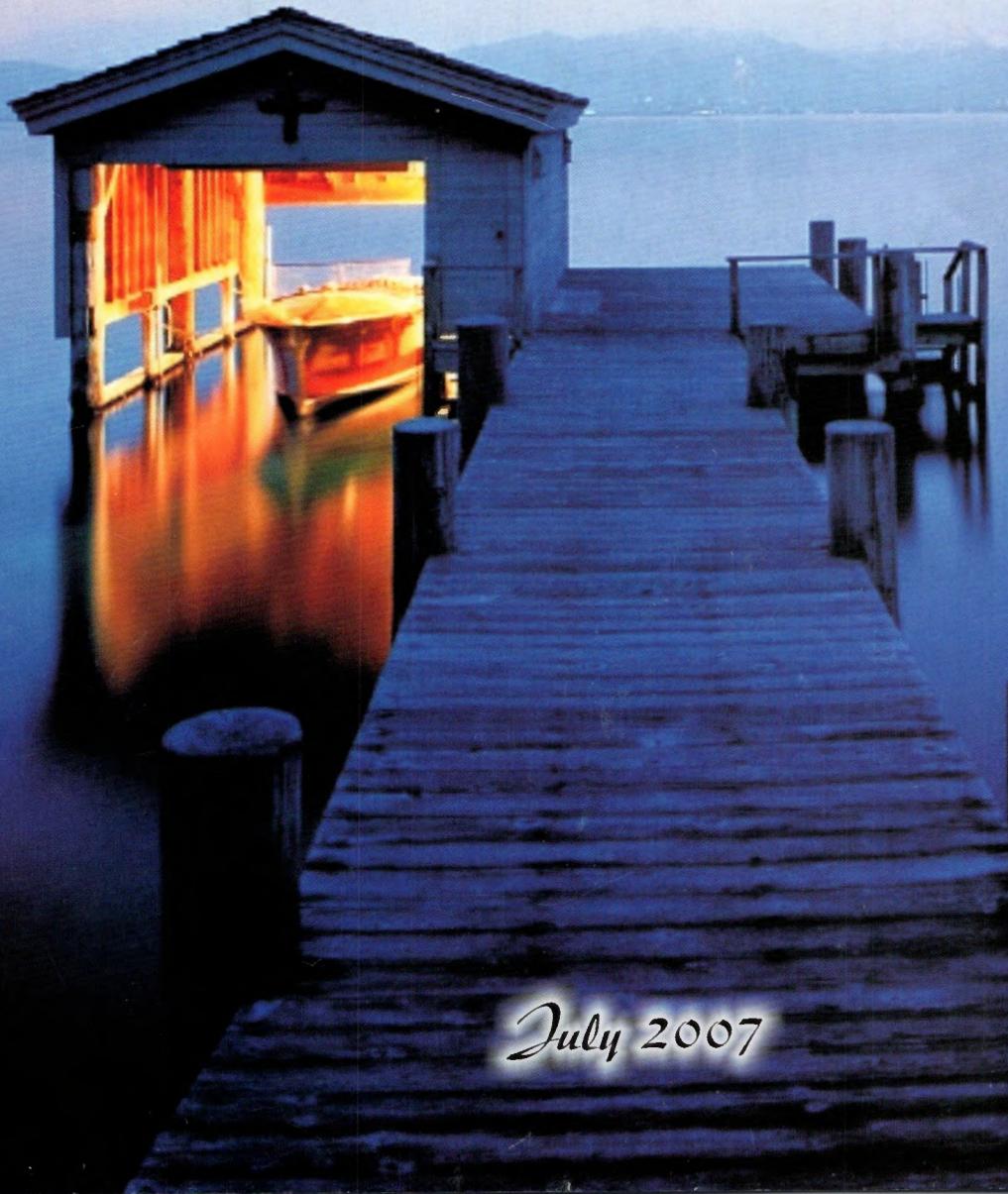


# *The Silver Lining*

*He maketh the storm a calm, so that the waves thereof are still. Then are they glad because they be quiet; so he bringeth them unto their desired haven. Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!*

*Psalms 107:29-31*



*July 2007*

*Sermon by Bro. Bro. Ben Walder, Congerville, IL*

## Proverbs 31, Galatians 6

Before we read here, one more thought from hymn #203 (Zion's Harp) that we sang here this morning. In verse 6, about part-way through it says, "Help to store in careful keeping What this day we may receive..." Meaning, it seems that the prayer upon our heart would be that somehow we would be able to store up something that we hear today. It seems in our human ways that our mind goes a lot of different directions sometimes. And as we're here looking to the Word of God for encouragement to take us upon our way, take us on the way to heaven as Bro. Rick spoke there, that sometimes it's difficult to store up some of the things that we hear and to remember and to recall. So perhaps each one of us can make an extra effort today to think, "that's a good thing to remember..." that it might come back to us later in the week to help us along the path to heaven that we're all striving for.

Let's just go back to the beginning of this chapter here. There are several different teachings in here as the Apostle Paul finished up this letter which he wrote to the church in Galatia, which perhaps was somewhat troubled, struggling with various issues that Satan brought upon the church.

In the beginning there of Galatians in verse 6, of chapter 1, he says, "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel." Galatians 1:6. So it seems the brethren there at the church of Galatians started out very well. Perhaps they had a good faith and much willingness within their hearts. But the Apostle Paul marveled at how quickly they could be turned away from that which he had taught them.

So it is today. Satan, he's after us today no different than he was after them back then. Thus, when we read these letters, we have to remember that we in no way are differ-

ent than the people back then, but we need reminded of some of these things also. As you get into the various letters the Apostle Paul wrote, he focused both on doctrine; making sure that they understood the basics of the faith which was so very different than the law that they had been brought up to follow. It was just a different way of life here, and it was touched on in this particular chapter there towards the end. But then also some of the practical ways of life, the attitudes that they should have within their heart. It really was the heart of the law and the way that they should interact together. That's where this chapter starts out here, in the way that there should be some interactions between the brethren there at the church, as he says, "Brethren, if any man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted." Galatians 6:1.

So here he is specifically talking to the brethren, and he says, "...If any man..." and perhaps we could substitute man or woman or brother or sister, "be overtaken in a fault" which tells us there that, it's probably going to happen. It's just realistic in real life that as we walk in this flesh and we have a battle between the flesh and the Spirit, that unfortunately sometimes the flesh is going to win. It's unfortunate when it happens, and it's difficult. But every one of us needs to be mindful that it can happen to ourselves. It just seems that sometimes the flesh just has a way of overtaking the Spirit. Perhaps a little further on in this chapter it explains a bit why there when he says, "For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting." Galatians 6:8.

So where we have our focus is what's going to help control our thoughts and help control our bod-

ies and therefore our focus is important. But let's go back to the first verse here. So it's going to happen that from time to time there may be someone that is overtaken in a fault. In this case as he uses the term 'fault' and there are various verses

*Sermon continued on page 43*

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

# Light From The Word



Writings based  
on God's Word

July 2007

## Prosperity II

In the previous article of "The Light From the Word", a brief review of material wealth was discussed from numerous Old and New Testament scriptures. In this article additional references are cited that encourage a child of God to be careful we are not deceived by material goods. This article will also briefly address true riches - the spiritual riches from God.

First of all, we must keep the desire for material goods in proper perspective. Many references in the Old and New Testament help us to understand the deceitfulness of riches. Solomon warned of the danger that over-emphasis on materialism (greed) could have on the stability of family life. "He that is greedy of gain troubleth his own house; but he that hateth gifts shall live" (Proverbs 15:27). Often we see parents who are so desirous to provide material blessings to their family that they neglect to provide stability and family structure children so desperately need.

He also wrote of the disappointment of too much emphasis on wealth. "He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this is also vanity" (Ecc. 5:10). If we come to love the things of this world, we will find there is never quite enough material goods to really satisfy us. The foolishness of this was clearly pointed out when Jesus said, "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul?" (Mt. 16:26)

Jesus told of the rich man whose ground was so productive that he couldn't store it all. He pulled down his barns and built barns large enough to hold all of his fruits. He believed he was secure for years. However, God said "...Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee:..." (Lk. 12:20). His trust in material goods caused him much grief.

Paul warned of the spiritual danger of improper emphasis on wealth. "For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows" (I Tim. 6:10). James reinforced this thought: "Your gold and silver is can-

kered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days" (Ja. 5:3). Finally, Jesus put it all in perspective for us when He said, "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Mt. 6:19-21).

We are instructed to work. "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread,..." (Gen. 3:19). Paul made it clear that we are to be willing to work, "...if any would not work, neither should he eat" (II Th. 3:11). He was even more emphatic about the need to work to provide for our material needs as he instructed Timothy that "...if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel" (I Tim. 5:8).

From these examples we can see, while some material goods are necessary, if we trust in them we will miss the mark. We, therefore, need to understand what prosperity really means. Jesus explained clearly that materialism was less important than spiritual riches. "if therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?" (Lk. 16:11)

As unconverted people, there were many things about wealth we simply didn't understand. Solomon's statement "There is that maketh himself rich, yet hath nothing" (Pr. 13:7) just didn't make sense. How could anyone who was very poor think of himself as rich, or how could anyone who is wealthy have nothing?

Additional evidence that we did not understand the meaning of true riches was our thoughts about repentance. Perhaps we realize the need to repent and perhaps we had a desire to repent; however, many of us in our unconverted state did not regard repentance as evidence of spiritual riches nor of God's goodness. Paul made it abundantly clear how valuable repentance really is: "Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffer-

ing; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?" (Ro. 2:4)

Not only did we misunderstand the blessings of spiritual riches in our unconverted life, we did not understand the deceitfulness of worldly riches. "But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition" (I Tim. 6:9).

Serving God faithfully and humbly will bring us these true riches. "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus (Ph. 4:19). By trusting God to supply all our needs, we can grow in grace and favor with God. "And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus" (I Tim. 1:14).

Spiritual riches are more durable than the riches of this life. Solomon, with all his wealth, understood this as he wrote "Riches and honor are with me, yea, durable riches and righteousness" (Prov. 8:18). Sometimes it is hard for mankind to really grasp the value of spiritual riches relative to material good. We can see, feel and use material goods but we can't always understand the value of intangible spiritual riches. Moses understood it well for he esteemed "...the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt:..." (Heb. 11:26).

No doubt for many of us, the older we get, the more clearly we see the value of spiritual riches. David wrote "I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread" (Ps. 37:25). There is no promise that we will always have abundance, but we do know "...God shall supply all your need..." (Phil. 4:19).

As we think of prosperity and the emphasis of accumulating the wealth of this world, let us remember the encouragement we received when Paul put it in perspective for us: "Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ" (Ph. 3:8).

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



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN

## Mission Committee

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

### India Missions Report

In 1938, the Rural Gospel and Medical Missions of India was founded by Mr. B.B. Bhagwat and his wife. For over 30 years they shared the gospel with the people of the tribal areas of rural India. They approached the Apostolic Christian Church of America in 1970 about taking the oversight after their demise.

Several trips were made by brothers with an interest in mission work. A seven member board was appointed by the Elder body in 1980 to manage the assets of the Bhagwats after their death and provide spiritual counseling and guidance in the various operations of the mission in India.

The mission consists of several churches, many village prayer halls, two boarding homes, a small hospital and numerous medical clinics. RGMMI also sponsors over 50 girls at an orphanage in the city of Monmad, located about 50 miles from the mission headquarters at Nashik, India.

### New school

In 2006 a large English Medium school was constructed. Several members of the board were present for the dedication of this building in November, 2006. A local politician had been a hindrance to the opening of the school since the building's completion. However, classes will begin in June for seven grades of students.

A temporary English school has been conducted in presently outdated facilities for younger children. All classes are taught in English. Each year an additional standard will be added. Eventually over 200 students can be accommodated at the school.

Dr. Parkhe, the mission director, is grateful for the many prayers during this delay. The parents of the local community greatly support this project, as the facility will provide their children with an enhanced educational background and help them become more qualified for further education and jobs upon their graduation.

### Special assignment visit

The U.S. Board of Directors sent three young brothers from the Bluffton, Indiana churches to India in November for special assignments. They spent time teaching the vocational students at the mission's two campuses and assessed the possible role of members of our church serving in India in the future.

Possible assistance might be provided in transportation at the new school, outsourcing jobs and installing water purifiers in various locations of outreach projects of RGMMI.

One of the brothers installed a temporary water purification system which produced positive results. Plans are for another trip to India, possibly this fall, to assist in installing additional water purifiers. The brother would also spend time training young people to construct and install purifiers in the future as the need arises. He would also do some instructing for computer students at the vocational training site.

To further inform the brotherhood of the work in India, a DVD is being produced by the young brothers that will include general information of the history of India, the current economic and political situations, and the work of the RGMMI ministry. The goal is to have the DVD completed this fall and made available to the churches.

An additional assignment for two of the brothers was to interact with two young believers of the mission who are in medical school and plan to assist in the work of RGMMI. The medical arm of RGMMI has provided an effective means for making initial entrances into the tribal villages.

The USA Board feels that replacements need to be in place as the present medical team is aging and will soon be retiring. The USA Board is very appreciative of the efforts of these brothers and their willingness to continue to assist in the mission's work.

### Small group home for orphans

The concept of developing a small group home for orphans is also being considered by the USA board. An outline of the project has been developed by Loving Shepherd Ministries of Bluffton and will soon be reviewed by the RGMMI administrator. House parents would be employed to supervise the care of six to eight orphans. The location would be near one of the RGMMI campuses and be under the administration of the RGMMI. The project would be an extension of services currently provided by RGMMI.

### Future visit

Lord willing, four USA board of directors plan to visit India this fall and assess the ongoing needs of RGMMI. They will also conduct convocations for the RGMMI staff and cover many spiritual topics.

The USA Board appreciates the many prayers and support for the work of RGMMI. Please continue to pray that more opportunities will open for our brethren to assist in this mission.



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN  
**World Relief**

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

## Eastern Europe

The European Committee functions under both the World Relief Board and the Mission Committee. Our purpose is to serve our brethren in Eastern Europe, whose roots of faith are the same as ours.

Material assistance is done through the World Relief Board, and spiritual assistance through the Mission Committee. In some cases, such as vans for transportation of elders and brethren, costs are shared equally.

At the present time our greatest problem is the ongoing weakness of the dollar, which is causing us to lose purchasing power. We have lost over 40% of this in the last six years or so, and it is beginning to hurt. It means we need more dollars to accomplish the same goals, and there is nothing we can do about this world-wide problem. But we work in faith, and so far, God always provides for us.

## Conditions in general

With the exception of Hungary, living standards continue to decline in the lands where our brethren live. Governments are still allowing religious freedom, but the economic situation is very hard for the poor to cope with. Our brethren for the most part are very poor, and without our assistance, life would be extremely difficult. Very few have enough income to survive on their own.

## Our response to needs

At this time we have many programs in place that are helping the brethren become more self-sufficient. Many of these run through our Antioch Corporation in Romania.

As this is being written, we have purchased 20 chain saws for brethren in Romania, whereby they can

furnish their own fuel for heating as well as earn some income. The cost of these machines will be paid for in firewood by the recipients, thus reducing our costs for heating in Romania. Sufficient wood is available for this.

However, in the former Yugoslavian countries, this is not the case, because the cutting and selling of firewood is largely controlled by the government and the Mafia, whose presence is felt everywhere in Eastern Europe. The brethren cope as best they can, but life continues to be a hard struggle for these dear souls.

## Regular visits provide information

Representatives of the European Committee have been making frequent visits into these countries to assess needs. Going from village to village, one is appalled by the poverty in which they live. In Romania and Ukraine, less than 20% have indoor plumbing, and many keep livestock for subsistence.

This year we have nearly 300 projects furnishing baby pigs and chickens. These projects are financed through Antioch, who pays all costs, and in return receives one-third of the animals at slaughter time. These projects are working very well due to the strong support of our loyal donors in this country. It has made a big difference in their lives.

## Transportation needs

Over the years, we have furnished dozens of vans and a few cars for the purpose stated in the first

paragraph. For the individual poor families, however, transportation is a big problem, especially in remote areas.

Working closely with the local leadership, we have reached the conclusion that bicycles for the poor would be a welcome improvement to help them get to church, buy groceries, and generally furnish them a means of transportation far better than walking. One sees a great many bicycles in Europe, from England to Ukraine. Fuel costs are over \$6.00 per gallon, and cars are expensive.

## Project Bicycle

As we discussed this situation, the European Committee has approved a program to purchase bicycles for the needy throughout Eastern Europe.



Using Antioch as a means of coordinating this effort, we intend to offer new bicycles to as many poor families or individuals as funds will allow. Estimated cost is \$150 per unit, which is very high due to the weak dollar.

The project will be purchasing and distributing a women's model bike which anyone can ride, equipped with a basket on the handlebars plus saddle baskets over the rear wheel to carry goods.

We need your help to pay for them. Anyone who would like to help buy a bicycle may send their contribution to Apostolic Christian World Relief, Project Bicycle, c/o Gene Lehman, 16112 West St, Remington, IN 47977. May God bless this effort!

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

The long awaited summer months have finally arrived and with them many enjoyable outings for the residents of our agency. They, too, enjoy being less encumbered with jackets and coats, etc. during this season. The summer breezes and smells also bring back memories of summers past and the expectation of a good time today. It is important for our readers to understand the normalcy of people with developmental disabilities (DD). They have basic needs and wants, just like anyone else. Their senses act in response to the same stimuli as anyone else. The warmth of the sun, a mild breeze, a gentle touch, a kind word or conversation, and a smile of hello all are very important to them. They may not be able to respond as you or I but they still have these same needs and will respond in some way. The response may be a vocal response, a smile, a movement or the twinkle in their eyes.

The residents from our Timber Ridge (TR) facility have been enjoying many indoor and outdoor summer activities. We are grateful for the very nice Easter Seals swimming pool to which we have access. Small groups go swimming once a week at the beautiful facility. Our people may be at the very same places in the community that you would choose to attend. Be sure to interact with them! Recently groups attended the Washington, IL Cherry Fest and the Tremont, IL Turkey Festival. We make visits to area parks where bands perform and we have picnics. A new activity for us this year is an overnight camping experience at Camp Why Not Now. Even those with limited mobility are able to enjoy fishing on a dock built specifically for wheelchairs and walkers. A fish on the end of a pole brings smiles and pleasant memories. Other residents enjoy horseback riding at Central Illinois Riding Therapy. Horseback riding is not only pleasant but helps loosen tight muscles for a physical benefit. Timber Ridge residents are also looking forward to the Morton fireworks, which they will be able to watch from our facility.

The residents at Oakwood Estate (OE) and Linden Estate (LE), our 16-bed

facilities have also been having summer fun. Their activities range from bike riding, walking, Bible study, game night, Mens' and Womens' Club that are in or on the facilities' grounds to Morton community outings such as shopping, eating out, trips to the library and the Dairy Queen. The OE and LE vans also take groups to Pekin, IL for paddle boating and to Peoria, IL for summer band concerts and other outings at the Peoria Civic Center and in the Peoria area.

The Community Integrated Living Arrangement (CILA) residents are having a busy summer! These residents live in homes within the community of Morton with three to five residents. There are staff members with them 24-hours a day. Their day trips are all through Peoria Charter Bus Company with destinations to the quad cities for riverboat cruises, Indianapolis for a dinner theater, and to Chicago's Brookfield Zoo and Shedd's Aquarium. Several residents are taking trips with "Mainstreamers" to the Smokey Mountains (Gatlinburg), Branson, MO, Graceland (Memphis, TN), and Nashville, TN. A CILA softball team will be playing on Saturday evenings. Residents meet to walk with their "walking teams" twice a week throughout the summer. Along with all of these activities are the usual summer fun events; picnics, miniature golf, and ice cream socials.

As you enjoy the summer weather and events and thank God for this time of year, remember the DD population and keep the home and our residents in your prayers. Pray God's blessing will be upon this home and that He will send people with a heart for service to our facility to seek employment.

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

A few weeks ago we had a sermon on positive thoughts. Being positive means we think the best and noblest thoughts of one another in any given situation. God wants us to learn that when we turn our thoughts and ideas to Him, we can then think in a positive manner. This makes

the devil lose a stronghold so he can no longer control our lives.

There are a lot of positive words in scripture to reflect on. We need to pray that God will have thoughts about us. In Ps. 139, God tells us how wonderfully we are made. Our thoughts need to be on God day and night. We can do this by being in the Word and praying. We also want our words to be wholesome and wise. Kind thoughts never die.

We need to be happy in the Lord so people can see our joyfulness and inquire of our happiness. It takes practice to have positive thoughts, but all things are possible through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let us all love one another with a pure and fervent heart.

### **NEWS:**

- We are excited to announce the hiring of Sis. Marti Hinrichsen from Detroit, MI, as the new Foster Care/Adoption Caseworker. Sis. Marti has a Bachelor of Science degree in Youth and Family Services from Purdue University. She has been working as a Case Manager in Detroit for the past 2 years. She had previously served on our staff as an Assistant Houseparent.

- We are also thankful to announce that Bro. Tim Wiegand is our new Director of Education. Bro. Tim Wiegand replaces Bro. Kirk Plattner, who has been called to serve the deaf in Knockpatrick, Jamaica, with World Relief and CCCD.

- 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.

- Our Top Quality program in the summer has been very productive. Bro. Lonnie Bertsch is overseeing it and he is keeping the kids busy with a wide variety of community projects. This program provides kids with an opportunity to

work hard, develop teamwork skills, become more responsible, and be self-motivated.

- If you are interested in volunteering, please call us at 888-443-4283 or visit our website [www.gatewaywoods.org](http://www.gatewaywoods.org) where you can apply on-line to be a volunteer. It is a true blessing to see Brothers and Sisters in Christ come from all over to serve together at Gateway Woods.

- Please remember that the Gateway Woods Auction is August 11, the day following the General Conference in Bluffton. We especially invite all Conference attendees to the Auction. What a wonderful weekend of meeting and greeting the Brethren!

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

To make our summer days a little less hot, the children have been enjoying swimming and splashing in the water. More water seems to end up in puddles on the ground than in the pools, but they sure have a great time.

Our theme for the summer is "Building Character". Our morning Bible stories and memory verses are teaching us about friendship, honesty, kindness, happiness, showing love and respect, etc. It is interesting because as we ask the children questions during our morning Bible time, such as how do we be a friend, or how do we show love? ... they know the answers and are so quick to answer. Unfortunately, when it comes to applying the whole sharing and friendship thing in real life, it's not quite as easy. It's amazing sometimes how much our Christian lives parallel the life of a child.

Our students continue to bring us so much joy by saying the cutest kid things. Here is a glimpse of what we've heard lately.

- "Bumble bees are made out of honey and have sharp knives in their backs."

- "Can I write on the chopstick?" (chalkboard)

- "I'm going on vacation to Chatanoodles." (Chattanooga)

- A 3 year old came bursting into our 4 year old classroom and sees the book,

"The Very Hungry Caterpillar". He gets this big grin and exclaims with such enthusiasm, "Oh I LOVE that book, The Very Thirsty Worm!"

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### **ALABAMA, ATHENS Louise Hall**

Our congregation was thankful to have a few visiting ministers over the month of June. Thank you to Bro. Wayne Leman (Roanoke, IL) and his wife, Sis. Julie, as well as to Bro. Matthew Steffen (Princeville, IL) and his wife, Sis. Deanna. God bless you for giving of yourselves in the Lord's work.

We offer our prayers up for Bro. Milton and Sis. Joyce Ray and their family, on the passing of his brother, Leonard Ray. We know the Lord can heal in times of sorrow.

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### **ARIZONA, PHOENIX Ron and Ev Hoerr**

"Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

*Ephesians 4:31-32*

Our choir visited Nashville, TN, and Athens, AL, on May 26-27. There was great joy in fellowship and singing, as well as thinking about the topic of holiness.

A trip to Casa Vida Y Esperanza (House of Life and Hope) in Magdalena, Mexico, June 3-8, kept many of our youth busy doing numerous jobs. What blessings they received from our Heavenly Father. Their enthusiasm was quite a joy for the home folks.

Vacation Bible School was June 14-20 in the evening. Bro. Tim Hohulin (Roanoke) and Bro. Curt Kaufman (Tucson) were the visiting ministers and spoke on various topics related to Truth. Our brothers and sisters were grateful for their large classes.

Bro. Art Ingold (Rittman, OH) was our visiting minister.

Bro. Richard Beery, Sis. Gina Emch and Bro. Erik Langhofer each had sur-

gery and Sis. Kathie Labudde continued her chemotherapy treatments.

We rejoiced to learn that Derek Knochel has heard the call to repent. His parents are Bro. Nathan and Sis. Kathy.

Births include: Isaiah Todd to Bro. Todd and Sis. Nicole Steffen on June 13. Gwyneth Cait to Bill and Jennifer Hamilton on May 22. Lindsey Kate to Bro. Scott and Sis. Katie Klopfenstein on April 25. Bryce Adam to Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Janelle Ebert on February 2.

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### **ARIZONA, PRESCOTT Jane Hodges**

A vote was taken to fill a couple positions in the church. Bro. Tom Wackerle was elected chairman of the trustees, Bro. Tyler Scott will take over the older Sunday School class and his wife, Sis. Alexis, will teach the younger class. We pray the Lord will bless them for their willingness to serve.

We are grateful to the Lord for once again providing ministering brothers to help Bro. Dan on the pulpit. Visiting ministers this last month included Bro. Ken Schneider (Remington, IN), Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich (Sis. Nancy), Bro. James Emch (Sis. Gina), and Bro. Herb Knochel Jr. (Sis. Laurie), all from Phoenix.

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### **ARIZONA, TUCSON Lisa Knapp**

Matthew Knapp (Bro. Jay and Sis. Lisa) had surgery on his shoulder on May 31. He is up and around and recovering nicely. God is ever faithful. Sis. Carole Haas (Bro. Bob) also had surgery recently and is slowly recovering. We are happy to see her able to assemble with us.

Not much else to report from Tucson this month. We are having our normal temperatures for June, highs in the 90's and sometimes pushing into the 100 degree range during the day and comfortable evenings and mornings. Our monsoons have yet to threaten.

We are enjoying wedding showers and hearing of all the preparations for our three upcoming weddings, Lord willing.

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## CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA Robin Moser

"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven."

*Ecclesiastes 3:1*

We extend our deepest condolences to the Witzig family after the passing of Bro. Bill and Sis. Mary Witzig's eldest son, Bill Jr. As they again mourn, we trust that nothing happens on accident, and that God will provide. His wife, Theresa, and three children around Portland, Oregon, will covet our prayers in the days ahead.

We were blessed to have Bro. Fred Witzig (Sis. Nancy, Indianapolis, IN) share the Word with us this month. Bro. Fred's visit coincided with his brother's passing, and yet he was willing to serve.

"And they called Rebekah and said unto her, Wilt thou go with this man? And she said, I will go."

*Genesis 24:58*

Marriage in Christ is a cause for thanksgiving. We are thankful that God has led Bro. John Klotzle (Elder Bro. Tom and Sis. Jody) and Sis. Amy Jackson (Bro. Don and Sis. Tina) in an engagement, and pray the Lord will work through them as a couple. They plan to relocate to Phoenix, AZ, from West Lafayette and Altadena, respectively, after their wedding.

We want to pray for God's blessing and direction on the life of Sis. Suzanne Klotzle (Elder Bro. Tom and Sis. Jody) as she graduated from high school this month. Sis. Suzanne plans to pursue her schooling at Cal Poly Pomona, nearby.

Our congregation enjoyed a Sunday School picnic this month; it was a beautiful summer afternoon in creation. Thanks to Bro. Dave and Sis. Janelle Klotzle, Bro. Don and Sis. Tina Jackson, Bro. Dan Luthi, Sis. Elaine Graf, and Sis. Ingrid Steiner for their service to our Sunday School and church this past year.

*Note of Thanks:*

Our family wishes to send heartfelt thanks for the many prayers and expres-

sions of sympathy at the loss of our dear son and brother, Bill Witzig. We pray that God will bless you all.

Sincerely,

Bro. Bill and Sis. Mary Witzig and family

## CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO Yasmin Koehl

As we can feel the warmth summer brings, our hearts also turn to the warmth of our Heavenly Father's love. Wherever we turn we can see the magnificence of God's love and tender mercies. As He covers the earth with dew before the heat of the day, we can feel His Spirit covering us as we find immense joy in living a life through obedience to His Word.

We were especially reminded of God's indefinite love through Elder Bro. Paul Messner (Sis. Jan, Winthrop, MN) as he brought forth the Word and assisted our Elder Bro. Peter in serving our congregation Holy Communion. May the Lord bless you, Bro. Paul, for your labors of love and for the efforts you and Sis. Jan made to be here with us.

Ministering Bros. Mike Rieker (Sis. Carol, Peoria, IL), Loren Schrenk (Sis. Betsy, St. Louis, MO) and Dan Dubach (Sis. Bethany, Prescott, AZ) visited our congregation and encouraged us from the pulpit as the Holy Spirit directed. We feel blessed by their willingness to be used on our behalf and pray God's blessings upon their ministries.

We rejoiced with Bro. James and Sis. Hildy Koehl as their daughter, Sis. Stacy (Morris MN), and Bro. Corbin Fehr (Prescott, AZ) were brought together in holy matrimony. Sis. Stacy and Bro. Corbin, you have our prayers that the Lord will bless you and use you for His glory as you make your home in Prescott.

*Note of Thanks:*

Dear Brothers, Sisters and dear friends,

We would like to thank the Lord and you for your many prayers and the love we have felt since Bro. Joe has been diagnosed with cancer. May God bless each one of you for your cards and thoughtfulness. We deeply appreciate our brotherhood and the ties that bind us close

together in Him through sorrows and through joys.

In Christian love,

Bro. Joe and Sis. Rose Kaplar

## KITCHENER, ONTARIO CANADA

Kim Leman

We would like to give our sincere thanks to the Fairbury, IL, congregation for hosting our small church the weekend of May 20. What a special blessing it was for us to travel together on the bus, to strengthen our bonds of brotherhood within our own congregation, and to make new and renew old ties with the Fairbury brethren. It was definitely a wonderful blessing for all of us!

We appreciated Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Sis. Judy, Forrest, IL) and Bro. Dan Beer (Sis. Deb, Milford, IN) serving us God's Word this month.

With thankful hearts, Sis. Miriam Reutter and children were able to return to Vermont after nearly 4 weeks of waiting in Canada for official paperwork to be issued. We wish them God's continued nearness as they support the Norwich, VT, congregation.

We enjoyed our Sunday School Picnic at the Ursu family home. We are thankful for the many healthy, active children who fill our church. They give us hope, and we are sobered to realize the importance of keeping the faith so that it can be preserved for future generations.

"And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up."

*Deuteronomy 6:7*

## COLORADO, DENVER Ann Gonglach

We held our first-ever Vacation Bible School in Denver the week of June 18-22. Approximately thirty children attended (who really seem to enjoy it) and there were lots of willing helpers. The children learned about obedience, worship, courage, faith and service. The lessons taught

that Jesus is in control of our lives and He wants us always to look to Him — valuable lessons for us all.

A farewell picnic/potluck was held for Bro. Alan and Sis. Renee Blough and their family as Bro. Alan's work here is ending and they are heading back to Sardis, OH. We were glad to get acquainted with them in the four months they spent in Colorado.

Visiting Bro. Richard Gramm (Sis. Samantha, South Bend, IN) ministered to us.

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**CONNECTICUT  
ROCKVILLE  
Laura Virkler  
Amber Roche**

This month has been filled with many joys and some sorrow. However, the Lord has remained faithful to our congregation and provided for our each and every need.

We are reminded by the hymn-writer to, "Let your whole life be an offering to God and to Christ the Lord..." (ZH #159). We pray for our dear Bro. Tom Bahler as he humbly commits his life to the ministry. May his wife, Sis. LaNae, and children, Michael, Robert, Timothy, and Bethany, feel the love and support of our congregation.

Our prayers extend to our Sis. Tina Schneider (Bro. Ralph) as she mourns the loss of her mother, Sis. Janet Graf (Bro. Leon), from the Akron, OH, congregation. Her siblings include Sis. Lori Rufener (Bro. Leon), Bro. Eric (Sis. Erika), Bro. Mark (Sis. Marcy), and Sis. Marsha Maibach (Bro. Jay). Sis. Janet was well loved here by both family and friends, and our congregation will continue to pray for those that meant so much to her.

As another school year draws to a close, we have yet another handful of graduates. The graduates include Kayla Schneider (Bro. Lenny and Sis. Deb), Sis. Amber Hoffman (Bro. Steve and Sis. Joan), Ryan Luginbuhl (Bro. Scott and Sis. JoAnn), Seth Bahler (Bro. Ronnie and Sis. Bonnie), Kevin Gottier (Sis. Beth and Guy), David Beutel (Bro. Gene and Sis. Lynne), Matthew Reutter (Bro. Duane and Sis. Kay), Troy Foote (Bro.

Art Jr. and Silvia), Sean Crohan (Dan and Sis. Carole), Christian Luginbuhl (Lee and Joanne), Phillip Luginbuhl (Phillip and Karen), Jacqueline Luginbuhl (Joe and Wendy), Sam Schneider (Bro. Tim and Sis. Dana) and Sara Trinqué (Gary and Pam). As huge decisions lie ahead for each of these individuals, we pray that they would humble themselves before their God to seek out guidance and direction. We love you each one.

"In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths" (Proverbs 3:6). We rejoice with Bro. Adam and Sis. Jami Luginbuhl, and their family, as they have felt the direction of the Lord to move to the Philadelphia area so that Adam can complete his education. Our congregation has greatly appreciated them worshipping with us, and wish them God's many blessings in this next phase of life.

After much prayerful consideration, our friend Michelle Ouellete felt directed to adopt a child from Ethiopia. After a long wait, her prayers were answered, and she has now been blessed with a beautiful boy, Benjamin Andre Merawi. May God continue to provide for them.

James encouraged the Believers to "...pray for one another, that ye may be healed" (James 5:16). Bro. Sonny and Sis. Verona Schneider covet your prayers as he recovers from surgery, and she faces the uncertainty of cancer.

As we commemorated our mothers last month, we want to remember our fathers this month. May God grant each one of you the grace and courage to guide your families on the straight and narrow way. We appreciate all that you do for us.

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**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
WASHINGTON  
Henrietta Meyer**

"Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it."

*Psalm 127:1*

We ask the Lord to bless the work teams that were here in May to renovate our church and property. One Sunday we picked out the colors for walls and cupboards and counter tops. The next Sunday we had a new kitchen. Anyone

who has done home renovations realizes there was a lot of work involved that week. We say thank you and may God richly bless you for all your labors on our behalf.

Our resident caretakers this month are Bro. Jeff, Sis. Gloria, Joseph, Mary, Noah and Benjamin Fischer from Ft. Scott, KS. The children have doubled the size of our Sunday School.

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Nelson Beer (Sis. Shelby, Milford, IN), Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Sis. Michelle, Philadelphia, PA), Bro. Jeff Fischer (Ft. Scott, KS) and Bro. Lucas Frank (Detroit, MI).

Other visitors were from Rittman, OH; Morton, IL; Oakville and Iowa City, IA; and Rockville, CT. With local brethren also vacationing, we are glad to have visitors.

Directions to our new location depend 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.

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**FLORIDA  
FORT LAUDERDALE  
Renee Mangold**

We were grateful to have visiting ministers, Bro. Max Reimschisel (Sis. Judy, Wichita, KS), Bro. Fred Funk (Sis. Diane, Morton, IL) and Bro. Ron Jones (Sis. Liz, Portland, OR) this past month. We pray

that God would bless His servants for their works.

Our thoughts and prayers for comfort and sympathy are with Sis. Katherine and Bro. George Fulop. Sis. Katherine's brother passed away in California. Also in our prayers is Karen Dotterer whose grandfather passed away in Ohio.

Sis. Ethel Rambeau passed away in Detroit. Sis. Ethel was a member of the Ft. Lauderdale church for many years. We have missed her here in Florida, yet we can now look forward to seeing her someday again in heaven. We pray that her family would find comfort in His strength.

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**FLORIDA  
NORTH FORT MYERS  
Naomi Vogel**

The Lord has promised that when two or three are gathered together in His name, He will be there with them. We here at N. Ft. Myers truly rely on that promise during the summer months. Actually, we have been blessed with visitors this month and have had as many as thirty gathered together, so we feel abundantly blessed!

We are excited to report that we have had some response to our previous article encouraging families, including families with young children, to make the Ft. Myers area their new home. We are developing a website with information about job opportunities in the area. In the interim, you can direct any inquiries to Bro. Bill Masters at mwrmasters@aol.com or 309-824-3981. This area has a lot to offer in addition to the wonderful climate!

Last Sunday (Father's Day) our dear Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz, his sweet wife, Sis. Jeni, and two of their precious grandchildren, worshipped with us. After services, Bro. Ed told us about the recent projects of Loving Shepherd Ministries of which he is the founder. It was truly heartwarming to learn about all their accomplishments. May God richly bless their efforts! Then, to honor the fathers, we went out to a dinner of delicious food and warm fellowship.

It makes us extremely sad that our dear Bro. Charlie Mann (Cissna Park) has lost his long battle against cancer. He

was so courageous and a Godly example for all of us. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Sis. Mary Ann. May God comfort you!

Our Get Well prayers are for Sis. Elaine Schmidgall (Morton) after her recent surgery and upcoming cancer treatments, and prayers of comfort for her husband, Jack, and all the family during this trying time.

We are very concerned about our Sis. Sara Hunyady (Bro. Andy) while she spends time in the hospital with several health issues. May God grant you peace and comfort, Sis. Sara and Bro. Andy. We're praying!

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**FLORIDA, SARASOTA  
DiAnne Brown  
Robin Wiegand**

Greetings all! Summer is in full blast here regardless of the calendar proclaiming tomorrow the first 'official' day of summer, and the drought continues to challenge the gardeners in us all. As I struggle to keep my trees and flowers alive, I wonder at the profuse flora in the median just across the street. No one cares for these – yet they thrive. It reminds us that 'not one sparrow falls' and also that not by our good works, but by God's grace do even we thrive.

We are so thankful when ministering brothers are able to include our church in their travel plans. This month we have been blessed with visits from Bros. John Wiegand (Silverton, OR), Victor Bauman (Smithville, OH) and James Knapp (Congerville, IL).

This month the blessings have been overflowing in Sarasota. We have welcomed 3 new babies in just 20 days! Last month we shared of Kylie Koehl's arrival. Travis Eugene Hebert made his debut on May 25. He is the delight of parents, Todd and Sis. Kelly (Price) Hebert and brother Todd, Jr. and sister Stefanie. Proud grandparents are Bro. Glenn and Sis. Sandee Price and Donald and Susie Hebert. Kelly has faced some health challenges related to the delivery and we keep her close in our prayers for healing.

Bro. Doug and Sis. Robin Wiegand are pleased to announce the arrival of their first child, daughter Michelle Rose, born on June 5. Grandparents are Bro. Dave

and Sis. Mary Wiegand (Bloomfield, IA) and Bro. Lee and Sis. Patsy Esslinger (Burlington, IA).

Our church celebrated the graduation of Jenna Siladie from high school with a reception hosted by her parents, Bro. Mike and Sis. Jeanette Siladie, and grandparents, Bro. George and Sis. Betty Siladie. Jenna shared her gift of song with a moving chorus of How Great Thou Art.

Some from Sarasota were blessed to participate in the recent Gridley World Invite. They have shared how much they enjoyed the great blessing of shared fellowship and mission work on behalf of those less fortunate. These times together in the faith do so much to strengthen the faith of our brethren. We thank Gridley for their invitation and would like to encourage other churches to include Sarasota in future gatherings.

Many from our church enjoyed the June potluck hosted at the home of Bro. Jeff and Sis. Lynne Streitmatter. A bountiful feast of delicious food for the body and singing and fellowship to feed the soul were enjoyed by all. These gatherings do so much to knit our small summer family together.

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**GEORGIA, ATLANTA  
Melinda Gramm**

Thank you to our visiting minister, Elder Bro. Charles Sauder (Sis. Miriam) from Tremont, IL.

Bro. Matthew and Sis. Renae Lindberg were married in Wolcott, IN, on May 28. They will be living in Thomasville, GA, and we look forward to worshipping with them in Atlanta. Bro. Matthew is the son of Bro. Rich and Sis. Julie Lindberg and Sis. Renae is the daughter of Chris and Sis. Teresa Bahler of Wolcott, IN.

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**ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE  
Doreen Moser  
Sheila McCoy**

"Love beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things."

*I Corinthians 13:7*

Love beareth all things...

Love for our Sunday school children and for the brethren, Bros. Matt Steffen, Matthew Rassi, and Ken Dietz, spent an evening during our vacation Bible study teaching all who attended the great love that the Lord has for us. Some of the topics tend to be hard to talk about but the brothers, with the Lord's help, got the message out. The wisdom gained from those who have gone before us is a great blessing, if we can humble ourselves and heed their advice as they share their experience and how the Lord has blessed them.

Love for the Belvidere congregation brought Bro. Sam Bachtold to a Wednesday evening Bible Study on Elijah. May the Lord bless you, Bro. Sam.

Love believeth all things...

Believing that the Lord has brought them together, Diedra Mueller (Bro. Art and Sis. Marlene) and Jamie Nass were united in marriage on June 2. As they begin their married lives together, may they spend many hours in the Bible, as there they will find the true love that only comes from God.

Love hopeth all things...

Bro. Nick Steffen, along with his family, spent a Sunday with the Belvidere brethren and left us with the hope that he will be moving to the Madison area from Bluffton for a job in August. In a small congregation, we continually hope and pray that the Lord will bless us with an increase in our congregation.

Diedra Mueller (Bro. Art and Sis. Marlene), Eric Edwards and Mike Katz (son-in laws of Gary and Sis. Doreen Moser and Dave and Sis. Sheila McCoy) graduated from college. As they have spent many years in college and have attained an earthly goal, may they spend their working years hoping to show the love of the Lord in all they do.

Love endureth all things...

Enduring the flight, the long drive, minus the comforts of home, our Sunday school children along with the Sunday school teachers left for Magdalena, Mexico, for a mission trip. The things they en-

sure will certainly be a blessing to them and the loved ones in Mexico.

As we celebrate the freedom we have in the USA, may we pause to remember all those that have and are enduring much more than we probably ever will to keep us free.

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### ILLINOIS BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

**Jen Heiniger  
Betsy Zimmerman**

We were blessed with several visiting ministers this month. Bro. Matthew Steffen (Princeville) joined us for our monthly Family Night with a discussion directed to young men. We also had our annual Vacation Bible School. Ministering to us were Bros. Jeff Neihouser (Francesville), Fred Funk (Morton), Dave Zehr (Gridley), Erik Givens (Princeville), and John Lehman (Wolcott). Thank you to all our visitors.

Bro. Jarod and Sis. Heidi Rinkenberger welcomed their first child, William Matthew, on June 14. Grandparents are Hisato Inoue and Bro. Ken and Sis. Devon Rinkenberger (St. Louis).

Bro. Jim and Sis. Ann Kellenberger welcomed a daughter-in-law into their family as their son, Justin, married Laura Ross this month. May God bless this couple as they establish their home.

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### ILLINOIS, BRADFORD Steve Endress

"The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple."

*Psalm 119:130*

Our prayers are with Bros. Fred Hausman, Greg Johnson, and Robert Kieser, and Sis. Deanne Baer as they have been chosen by the church to teach God's ways to our youth. May they always hold the Word of God in like esteem as David did, as recorded in Psalm 119. We appreciate the labors of Bro. John Ehnle and Sis. Shannon Pyles as they leave the Sunday school.

"For ever, O Lord, thy word is settled

in heaven."

*Psalm 119:80*

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### ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

**Rachel Meyer**

Greetings from Chicago. We are pleased to have two brothers assembling with us for the summer as they complete summer internships. We welcome Bro. Ryan Graf (Leo, IN) and Bro. Blake Knapp (Goodfield, IL).

We wish to remember several in our congregation who have lost a loved one. Our sympathy goes out to Bro. Jay Leman (Teri) upon the loss of his mother-in-law, Sis. Jeannette Kilgus (Elgin, IL). Sis. Betty Schlatter and Sis. Shara Dotterer lost an uncle and grandfather, respectively: Bro. John Dotterer of Smithville, OH. Bro. Bill Wulf (Lester, IA) was the grandfather of Monica Wulf, and Sis. Marie Stoller (Gridley, IL) was the grandmother of Sis. Carrie Stoller and the aunt of Sis. Mary Metzger. We trust that these families will feel our love and prayers.

Our friend, Gary Halfer, is recovering very slowly and needs our continuing prayers. We do not always realize the extreme pain and struggles that our loved ones endure. Let us pray.

Bro. Dave and Sis. Julie Westfall's 15 year old granddaughter, Caitleigh Rinkenberger, is recovering from surgery and issues surrounding a collapsed lung. We wish to remember this dear family and their loved one in our prayers as well.

We extend hearty congratulations to graduates, Bro. Greg Eisenmann, Leila Yahli and Sis. Kathy Schlatter. Bro. Greg and Leila graduated from high school and Sis. Kathy has obtained her law degree. Well done, to both!

Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT) worshipped with us this past month. We thank him for sharing the Gospel.

As of this writing, Vacation Bible School has just ended. Our entire congregation enjoyed the blessings sent throughout the week of June 11-15. Our theme was "God's Animal Kingdom - serpents & doves, deer, ant, sheep and lion." The children's enthusiasm as they sang their songs and showed their accomplishments on Friday night was quite moving.

We extend a warm thank you to the following ministering brothers who took much time to study and subsequently share God's Word on our behalf. It will not be forgotten. Again, thanks to Bros. Justin Koch (Washington, IL), Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL), Chuck Kellenberger (Elgin, IL), Rich Gramm (South Bend, IN), and Darren Plattner (Champaign, IL).

Vacation Bible School does not happen without the volunteers who make up the committee, teach the classes, help in the kitchen and carry out the myriad of other jobs that quietly get done. To all of you, as well as the parents and children – thank you for your time and efforts. Above all, we thank God.

As many know, cicadas have invaded Chicago and the surrounding suburbs. I can testify that they have disrupted the summerschool/camp at which I work. We have had to stay indoors at times because of their constantly landing on children, teachers and food!

And speaking of food, it has been in the news that cicadas are being eaten by certain brave persons, who are gladly interviewed and even shown eating their "delicacy". Recently, at a local park district, I saw a flyer containing information about the cicada phenomenon, including recipes. This is not for the faint-hearted.

These cicadas have lain below ground for seventeen years, and now surfaced, only to disappear in a few weeks and to have their offspring reappear seventeen years from now. A friend mentioned how amazing it is that they know exactly when to surface. I agree. Isn't it biblical? God told us that He knows when the little sparrow falls and when the animals in desolate mountains give birth...and God planted into these cicadas the instinct to know when to come out from their underground rest. Truly He is everywhere.

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### ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN Jackie Eisenmann

Our Sunday School enjoyed Vacation Bible School the week of June 11-15. This year's theme was "Growing with God". God has given us many wonderful examples in nature to learn with and this year we focused on the plant world. We

learned about our hearts being "good soil", the seed being "the Word of God", what it takes to keep "our plants" healthy; spiritual food, pruning, and transplanting, and the "fruits" God blesses us with and how we are to use them. At the end of the week the children had the opportunity to show their "fruits" in participating in various World Relief projects.

Following God's will and allowing Him to transplant her, Sis. Chalise Steffen has moved to Leo, IN, to take employment as an assistant houseparent at Gateway Woods. May you continue to grow and bloom where God has planted you. We will miss Sis. Chalise, but ask God to bless her in her new responsibility.

Also following God's will for her life by allowing Him to transplant where He sees fit for her, our Sis. Tamra Kaeb is engaged to Bro. Dan Coughlin of the Detroit, MI, congregation. We wish them God's blessing on their engagement and hope the seed of love for each other will grow within their hearts.

The seasons of life sometimes brings sorrow. Our prayers have been with Jerry and Lois Vogel as they have experienced the death of Lois's sister, Edna Steiner, of Champaign. May they feel the comfort only God can provide.

Sowing the good "seed", our local ministers are not thanked enough for the effort they put forth for our congregation. We want to thank our ministers for their willingness to faithfully use the God given gifts they each have. May God continue to bless you!

As the summer season continues and we are all watching the crops growing in the fields and in our gardens, or even the flowers in our flower pots, let us each try to check how we are "Growing with God". Are we healthy plants?

Seeds of goodness we are sowing  
In the hearts of men today  
Bless it, Lord, that it may prosper,  
And bear fruit for harvest day.  
Hasten gladly to the labor  
Consecrate to God your heart  
Say this day unto your Savior,  
"Lord, I'll gladly do my part."

*Hymns of Zion #46*

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### ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK Pam Walder Janie Waldbeser

"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*

Bro. Charles Mann laid down his earthly cross on May 23. We will continue to pray for his wife, Sis. Mary Ann, as she looks to God for comfort and strength. We thank Bro. Bob Pflederer for his words of comfort at the funeral. Also feeling the loss of a loved one is Sis. Sal Markwalder and Sis. Laverne Kaufmann as they said farewell to their brother-in-law, Bro. Harry Rocke (Eureka, IL).

Our hospital patient this month was Bro. Ben Kaeb as he suffered an injury to his knee.

"Will Jesus Find Us Watching?" was the theme song of our Vacation Bible School held June 4-16. We pray the students can hold the teachings in their hearts and lives forever. Our Bible Class students and young adults met at the Fellowship Hall on Monday and Thursday evenings during VBS and we thank Bro. Tom Bolliger (Tremont, IL) for his topic on The Importance of the Church; Bro. Charles Sinn (Eureka, IL) spoke on Serving our Country as a non-combatant soldier; Bro. Gary Tonner (Bluffton, IN) spoke on Faith and Trust in God; and Bro. Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL) spoke on The Power of Satan. We sincerely thank these brothers for giving of their time on behalf of our young people. We pray these seeds that were planted will grow in their hearts in the years ahead.

We want to wish God's blessings on several couples who have been joined together as husband and wife. Matthew Young and Jennifer Steffen were married on June 2. Bro. Melvin and Sis. Marilyn Young and Bro. Mark and Sis. Kanda Steffen (Gridley, IL) are the parents of the couple. Also, Brian Rudin and Bree Pirie were married on June 9. Parents of this couple are Bro. Arlyn and Sis. LaNae Rudin and Bonnie Pirie and the late Brian Pirie (Catlin, IL).

We have several couples thanking God for little blessings in their lives. Bro. Roland and Sis. Mary Anne Young are thankful for a new little granddaughter, Megan Elizabeth, who was born on May 19 to Tim and Jennifer Young (Peoria, IL); and Merle and Elsie Eisenmann are doubly thankful for twin granddaughters born to Bro. Lee and Sis. Shalome Hoffman (Indianapolis, IN). Sariah Lee and Sydni Ann were born on May 28. Great-grandparents of the twins are Bro. Elmer and Sis. Mary Lou Kaeb. Also making an early arrival into this world was little Abdiel Antonio Cardenas. He is the son of Cristela (Martinez) and Antonio Cardenas (Mokena, IL). Abdiel has an older brother, Christopher Aranda.

It as a blessing to have our church filled to the brim on June 17 as we witnessed the vows of Bro. Will Manz and Sis. Joanna Kaeb. Their parents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Gwen Manz (Junction, OH) and Bro. Max and Sis. Beth Kaeb. We pray that the love that Bro. Will and Sis. Joanna have for God and for each other will continue to grow and grow! We appreciated so much the efforts of those Brothers who shared the pulpit for this special occasion: Elder Bros. Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL) and Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) and ministering Bros. Paul Eisenmann (Burlington, IA), Tony Manz and Don Manz (both of Junction, OH), John Steiner (Oakville, IA), Wayne Leman (Roanoke, IL) and Justin Koch (Washington, IL). May God richly bless them for their many labors of love!

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### ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE Rachel Schrock

Faith of our fathers! We will love  
both friend and foe in all our strife  
And preach thee, too, as love knows  
how,  
by kindly words and virtuous life:  
Faith of our fathers! Holy faith!  
We will be true to thee till death!

*Hymns of Zion #85, vs. 3*

As we have specifically honored our mothers, fathers, and veterans in the past few months, may we strive to live virtuously for they have worked hard to pre-

serve and instill such values.

Our congratulations are extended to our graduates this year. Our high school seniors were Shane Balducci (Kevin and Peg), Amanda McClure (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Marilyn), Shari Roth (Bro. Mark and Sis. Tammy), Sis. Audrey Ruegsegger (Bro. Lee and Sis. Alice), Harold Schieber (Bro. Mike and Sis. Mary), Kyle Steffen (Kent and Sis. Beth), Bro. Brandon Stickling (Bro. Scott and Sis. Jan), Daniel Stoller (Bro. Brent and Sis. Kay), Sis. Erin Zimmerman (Bro. Ben and Sis. Kathy), Sis. Elizabeth Virkler (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gayle), and Sis. Martha Hoerr (Bro. Max and Sis. Suzanne). Those who have recently finished college include Bro. Ryan Schrock (Bro. Ken and Sis. Janet), Bro. Ben Craig (Sis. Kristan), Bro. Craig Steffen (Kent and Sis. Beth), and Bro. Vic Rinkenberger (Bro. Mike and Sis. Pat). We pray that each one of you will hold the faith of your parents dear as you continue on in life.

Our prayers are also with Bro. Dale and Sis. Missy Banwart as they brought a new life into this world on May 19. Abbie Joy was welcomed home by Heidi, Angie, Mark, Luke, and Jason. Surely love doth surround this precious little bundle!

We surround the family of our Bro. Glen Knapp (Sis. Jeanette) with love and prayers as he has been hospitalized. He is now recovering at the Eureka Home.

We also extend our love to our Bro. Ben and Sis. Kristan Craig as they have recently moved to Lester, IA. May they feel God's nearness as they find their places in their new congregation.

Last, but certainly not least, we are thankful for those who preach God's Word to us. Our visiting ministers recently have been Elder Bros. Jim Plattner (Sis. Marlene, Princeville), Ervin Knecht (Sis. Sandy, Eureka), Charles Sauder (Sis. Miriam, Tremont), Ken Indermuhle (Sis. Linda, Sardis) and Bro. Brent Kellenberger (Sis. Beth, Kansas City).

#### *Note of Thanks:*

I wish to thank everyone who helped with my 80th birthday celebration with a fish fry back at my son's place. Thanks for the cards, gifts of money, food brought in, and all the help. It was a day I will al-

ways remember. May the Lord bless you all.

*Bro. Jake Miller (Sis. Marion)*

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### ILLINOIS, ELGIN Amy Gasser Miriam Gasser

At Home, 'tis well! With God in close  
relation,  
The soul forgets the sorrow it has  
borne,  
With pains o'ercome on that bright,  
golden morn,  
Rejoices in our God's sublime salva-  
tion.

*Zion's Harp #170*

Our Heavenly Father recently called two of His loved ones home. What a comfort that each was prepared to go! On June 4, Sis. Jeannette Kilgus (Bro. Dick) passed away, after a lengthy but patient struggle with ALS. Her loving and inspiring presence will be missed by many friends and relatives, especially her devoted husband and caregiver, Bro. Dick, and their children: Teri Leman (Bro. Jay) of Crystal Lake, IL; Bro. Kevin (Sis. Denise) of Strawn, IL; and Tim (Patty) of Genoa, IL. Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington, IL) conducted the funeral service on June 8 and read Proverbs 31, Psalm 27, and a few verses from Rev. 21.

Bro. Frank Schock (Sis. Lois) was taken suddenly on June 12, after having attended church the previous Sunday. Our hearts grieve with his wife, Sis. Lois, and their family, including Frank's brother, Bro. Richard (Sis. Lyla) of Elgin. The Schock's children are Elder Bro. Doug (Clara) and Bro. Dale (Sis. Teresa) of Bloomfield, IA; David (Lori) of Hampshire, IL; Dwayne (Jayne) and Rebecca of Elgin; and Christine Berntsen (Jim) of Sycamore, IL. Bro. Frank's example of faith, hard work, and good humor made a lasting impression on the community, many of whom were employed by or did business with Schock's Greenhouse. At the funeral service on June 16, Bro. Tom Schambach read Psalms 90 and 139 and I Peter 1. "Where the Roses Never Fade" was sung as the church dismissed.

We appreciated Bro. Frank's nephew,

Bro. Ted Schock (Belvidere, IL), being in Elgin the next day to hold the Sunday morning service. Other visiting ministers who willingly served during the month were Bros. Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL), Ron Joos (Bloomfield, IA), and Ron Bollier (Indianapolis, IN).

A dear couple was united in holy matrimony on June 10. We rejoice with Bro. Eric Weiss and Sis. Amanda Martin, whose parents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Jean Martin and Bro. Roger and Sis. Karen Weiss.

"The Lord bless thee, and keep thee; The Lord make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The Lord lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace."

*Numbers 6: 24-26*

Our thoughts have been with Sis. Marge Wewetzer (Bro. Bill) and Sis. Marie Hugh, who spent time in the hospital this past month.

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## ILLINOIS, EUREKA

**Cindy Stoller  
Heather Beutel**

Several of our beloved brethren have had difficult times with their health recently, including Bro. Leland Zimmerman (Sis. Barb), Sis. Linda Frank, Sis. Sandy Fehr (Bro. Ken) and Bro. Lewis Martin (Sis. Arletta). We pray for them and commit them to the tender loving care of our Heavenly Shepherd. We are thankful Bro. Nelson Martin has been moved back with his loving wife, Sis. MaryEllen, in their country home. Bro. Nelson is improving with his speech and understanding and we are glad he is able to assemble with us in church again.

Sis. Gerri Leman (Bro. Milt) recently lost her brother, Manny Steffen, who had his residence in Florida. Bro. Lloyd Stoller (Sis. Sherry) said a final farewell to his mother, Sis. Marie Stoller (Gridley, IL). We were also saddened at the loss of Bro. Harry Rocke, father of Sis. Luann Blunier (Bro. Sammy); and Harold Wettstein (Loretta, Washington, IL), father of Bro. Jake (Sis. Mary). We trust the Lord to send the Spirit of comfort and to abundantly provide for all those who are

sorrowing.

As is common in Eureka, we are thankful to have had several visiting ministers to break the Bread of Life for various occasions of worship. These include Bros. Steve Sauder and Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL), Dennis Kaufmann and Matthew Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL), Erik Givens (Princeville, IL), Kenny Weerts (Cissna Park, IL), Gary Brown (Forrest, IL), Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MN), Duane Rocke (Minneapolis, MN), and Tony Manz (Junction, OH). We are thankful for the one Holy Spirit who can provide for us the spiritual nutrients we so desperately need in these dark times.

Bro. Phil and Sis. Kristin Wettstein and Jessica, are happy to welcome home their twins, Elana Marie and Kaylie Elizabeth. Grandparents are Bro. Jake and Sis. Mary Wettstein and Bro. Kenny and Sis. Lora Wuthrich (Bloomfield, IA). Also, Ailee Nicole is the new daughter of Bro. Tim and Sis. Traci Leman. Also, welcoming her home is big brother, Blake. Grandparents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Marilyn Leman, and Bro. Arlyn and Sis. LaNae Rudin (Cissna Park, IL). May God bless these growing families.

Sis. Donna Wettstein has a new address: 514 W. Cruger Ave., #31, Eureka, IL 61530.

Our thoughts and many prayers attend to the scheduled meeting of the Elder Brothers in August. May God guide and provide for each of them and us as we continue on our pilgrimage.

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## ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

**Lila Fehr  
Anna Schmidgall**

Our congregation was uplifted and encouraged as we listened to the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of four dear souls. They are Jarrin Rabe (Darrell and Jean), Tyrel Steidinger (Bro. Ted and Sis. Sara), Kaylee Fehr (Bro. Nathan and Sis. Marsha), and Kent Steidinger (Bro. Martin and Sis. Trish). We welcome our new brothers and sisters in faith and lift them up to God in prayer for His guidance and blessings. Elder Bros. Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT), and Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) assisted our Elder Bro. Rick Plattner in this work.

Other visiting ministers this month were Bros. Jerry Wagenbach (Oakville, IA), Mike Wagenbach (Wolcott, IN), Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL), Al Schambach (Remington, IN) and Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL). We thank them for their labors of love among us.

The Sunday School students enjoyed a week of Vacation Bible School. Our prayer for them is that they will always be eager to learn of God and His Son. Ministers that came and spoke to the Bible Class were Bros. Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL), Ben Walder (Congerville, IL), and Justin Koch (Washington, IL). Thanks to you for taking time to teach our youth.

Bro. Matt and Sis. Dana Knapp welcome twin sons, Joshua and Caleb, into their family circle. Excited siblings are Lexi, Seth, Megan, and Micah. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Charlie and Sis. Paula Knapp (Bloomington, IL) and Bro. Dale and Sis. Donna Banwart.

C.J. Kaisner (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Donna) and Allison Oakland (Dennis and Debbie) were married on June 16. We wish them God's richest blessings as they begin their married life.

Sis. Carol Bazzell and Sis. Leona Kaisner spent time in the hospital but are home and recuperating well. We pray for God's continued healing.

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## ILLINOIS, FORREST

**Jill Wenger  
Lori Leman**

We are thankful that God is still calling souls to Him and that they are willing to answer. May God be with Brooke Kilgus (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Denise) and Kara Kaeb (Bro. Eldon and Sis. Stephanie) as they make their beginning in Him. We pray that God will give them much grace and spiritual understanding.

Bro. Matt and Sis. Kim Zimmerman are thankful parents of their firstborn, Cambria Rae. She is also welcomed home by her grandparents, Bro. Mike and Sis. Jeanette Zimmerman and Bro. Dean and Sis. Dawn Herrmann (Princeville, IL).

We want to extend our thanks and appreciation to our Sis. Mary Bachtold (Bro. Marvin) who finished her term in Sunday School. We give our prayerful support to Sis. Jill Wenger (Bro. Rich) as she has

been given this responsibility. May God give her wisdom to teach our children of Him.

Our prayers are with those in our congregation who have suffered the affliction of the flesh. May God be ever near Carol Turner (Jerry), Joy Zimmerman (Maurice), and Jonathan Zimmerman (Bro. Paul and Sis. Loretta) and give them strength to endure whatever they face ahead.

Our prayers are also with Bro. Kevin and Sis. Denise Kilgus as his mother, Sis. Jeanette Kilgus (Bro. Richard, Elgin, IL), finished her earthly race. We pray that God will comfort the family and provide His nearness.

We are thankful for visiting ministers who have taken time to speak to our Bible Class during Vacation Bible School. This year the ministers were Bro. Mark Zimmerman (Eureka, IL), Bro. Bruce Endress (Bradford, IL), Bro. Bob Beebe (South Bend, IN), and Bro. Bruce Frank and Bro. Sid Kaufmann (both of Cissna Park, IL). We pray that the words that they spoke will fall on listening ears and that it will bring forth fruit. Other visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Tom Stock (Cissna Park, IL), Bro. Paul Kilgus (Fairbury, IL), Bro. Scott Wegman (Taylor, MO), and Bro. Dan Moser (Elgin, IL). May God bless all these brothers for being willing to be used in His service.

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## ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

**Rita Bauman  
Amber Grimm**

In a sermon recently we were reminded of the beauty of the 23rd Psalm.

“The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.”

Hospital patients this month were Bro. Larry Bauman (Sis. Betty), Bro. Daryl Blunier (Sis. Lucy), and Sis. Joyce Hohulin (Bro. Wes). We pray for healing and God’s nearness in their recovery.

“He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name’s sake.”

As a congregation we rejoice that Craig Wiegand (Bro. Ron and the late Sis. Barb Wiegand) has found peace and that God has restored his soul.

“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.”

Sympathy is extended to Bro. Mark Roche (Sis. Connie) in the death of his father, Bro. Harry Roche (Eureka, IL). We also sympathize with the family of Sis. Mary Ellen Wiegand as she passed away June 24.

“Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.”

Bro. Matt Kaufmann (Sis. Rebekah, Bloomington, IL), Bro. Mike Rieker (Sis. Carol, Peoria, IL), and Bro. Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue, Detroit, MI) were with us to teach our Bible Class for Vacation Bible School. We thank them for their time, efforts, and willingness to bring the Word to us until our cups were running over.

“Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.”

Bro. Jeff Wiegand (Bro. Ron and the late Sis. Barb) and Sis. Janel Blunier (Bro. Melvin and Sis. Marilyn) were married on April 15. May God continue to dwell with them and bless them all the days of their life.

A son, Dylan Ray, was born to Jeremy and Joni Zacha on June 27. We pray for God’s blessings on this growing family.

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## ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

**Perry A. Klopfenstein**

I recently had occasion to fly to and from Oregon in a jet airplane. In taking off, one is impressed with the nearly unbelievable power it requires to lift a 60-ton 737 jet off the runway along with 118 passengers, to a height of nearly 40,000 ft. To contemplate the power thrust is staggering. It certainly illus-

trates man’s engineering skills in commercial flying.

Jet propulsion is nearly mind-boggling in its magnificence, yet it pales in comparison to a more potent power — the power of God to draw souls to the Saviour and to transform them from darkness to light.

It’s accurate to note, however, that each type of power (both the secular and the spiritual) are of no avail if they aren’t used. If no one boarded a jet airplane, the power to propel it into flight would be useless. Likewise, if one ignores or dismisses the divine, forgiving power of Christ, it’s power is wasted (in their lives) and it is tragic.

While airline travel is possible due to the engineering skills of men, many multitudes of souls wisely accede to a more profound and eternal force — God’s power to give salvation and eternal life.

Vacation Bible School was held during June 4-8. The theme for the week was “The Holy Spirit — Power From On High.” Speakers were Bros. Bob Pfladderer (Morton), Matt Kaufmann (Bloomington), Jedd Roche (Goodfield), Frank Sauder (Roanoke) and Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS). A song we sang each evening was “Holy Spirit, Faithful Guide” (page 220, Hymns of Zion).

Willis Aupperle, 79, passed away on June 3. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Sis. Joanne. Also surviving are two sons, Dale (Maroa, IL) and David (Wilmington, DE); three daughters, Ruth Kaufman (Bloomington), Mary Lindsay (Hammonton, NJ), and Marge Anderson (Agoura Hills, CA). Willis was congenial in manner, and loved to interact with people.

Sis. Marie Stoller, 92, passed away on June 17. She had resided at the Eureka Home. She is survived by four sons, Bro. Curt and Bro. Byron, Gridley; Bro. Joe, Normal, and Bro. Lloyd, El Paso; and one brother, Bro. Sidney Leman, Eureka. Also, 14 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. She was married to Bro. Edward Stoller for 43 years. He passed away on January 3, 2007.

She is remembered for her patient, uncomplaining spirit.

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## ILLINOIS, MACOMB

### Norm and Janis Rechkemmer

Summer vacation time is here and we pray that our WIU students are enjoying their time away from studies and classes. We miss our fellowship with them and look forward to the fall semester and the return of our Wednesday evening services. The following evenings have been set for the first semester's services: August 22, September 12 and 26, October 10 and 24, November 14 and 28 and December 12. Lord willing, all services will be again held in our home here in Macomb.

A bonfire/cookout singing service is planned for our first meeting on August 22. We will begin at 6:30 for this evening. Please "spread the word" to all WIU students and families. We also would like to extend an invitation to the young groups from surrounding churches to come and share in this evening. Please contact us if you plan to attend so that we can plan for the amount of food needed. Also, we would appreciate the names and phone numbers of students attending WIU this fall. We pray that our small gathering will grow in numbers as more students become aware of the services. You can reach us by cell phone 309-231-0098, email janorm67@earthlink.net or by mail 11116N1000RD, Macomb, IL 61455.

## ILLINOIS, MORTON

### Annette Tanner Julie Bahr

To the ministers who have served us this past month, we say thank you for your service and willingness to lead. Our prayer is for God's kingdom to be added to, with those who are willing workers and also add newly converted souls. Thanks to Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger (Sis. Peg, Goodfield, IL), Bro. John Bradle (Sis. Jill, Roanoke, IL), Bro. Tim Roecker (Sis. Diane, Peoria, IL), Bro. Greg (Rassi) (Sis. Carla, Chicago, IL), Bro. Matthew Rassi (Sis. Bridget, Chicago, IL), and Bro. Wayne Leman (Sis. Julie, Roanoke, IL) who gave our family worship night topic entitled "All This Power". Also thank you to Bro. Glenn Dill (Sis. Marilyn, Tremont, IL), Bro. Clark Stoller (Sis. Cindy, Gridley, IL), Bro. Wayne Wiegand (Sis. Rosemary, Goodfield, IL), Bro. Art

Mueller (Sis. Marlene, Belvidere, IL) and Bro. Cory Metzger (Sis. Jody, Wichita, KS) who brought us the Bible School messages on "Jesus, The Model Servant". What a blessing was received by all those who took the time to attend! Praise God for His perfect goodness.

On May 28, Bro. John and Sis. Cheryl Knobloch became grandparents again to a precious set of twin girls. Sariah Lee and Sydni Ann were the double blessings sent to Bro. Lee and Sis. Shalome Hoffman (Indianapolis, IN). Bro. Lee and Sis. Shalome have plans to move their little family to Morton soon. We welcome them to be a part of our Morton church.

Bro. Daniel Knoblock and Sis. Kelly Kaiser were united in marriage on June 3. A double blessing for Morton as both families are from here. Bro. Daniel is the son of Sis. Jennifer (and the late Bro. Don) and Sis. Kelly is the daughter of Bro. Greg and Sis. Christine. On June 15, Jodi Schick and Tim Wagenbach were united in marriage. Jodi is the daughter of Bro. Randy and Sis. Jane and Tim is the son of Bro. Si and Sis. Lavonne Wagenbach (Tremont, IL).

The engagement of Sis. Heather Rassi and Bro. Trent Barth was made known recently. Sis. Heather is the daughter of Bro. Gary and Sis. Deb and Bro. Trent is the son of Bro. Jim and Sis. Julie Barth (Washington, IL). Our prayer is that God will bless these couples as they begin to work together for His added glory.

On June 5, Sis. Alvina Zimmerman (late Bro. Russell) went to be with her Lord and Saviour. Bro. Mike Zimmerman (Sis. Sue) and Sis. Kris Tauffer (Bro. Dana) are her surviving children.

Ken Jacob also passed away. He was the brother to Sis. Jean Ann (Bro. Harlan) Kaiser.

#### *Note of Thanks:*

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for all the love shown to our mother, Sis. Edna Kahler, by your many deeds of kindness during her stay at the hospital and at Restmor. Thank you to the ministers who brought her joy each time they visited, read the Bible, and prayed with her. We sincerely appreciate the love shown to us during our mother's visitation and funeral by your comforting

calls, prayers and acts of love. May God continue to richly bless each of you.

*The family of Sis. Edna Kahler  
Roger and Connie Kahler and family  
Sis. Marcia and Bro. John Kelley  
Lisa and Gary Miller and family*

## ILLINOIS, PEORIA

### Kristin Menold Carissa Klopfenstein

Congratulations to Bro. Ben and Sis. Heidi Hartter on the birth of their daughter, Macy Gabrielle. Baby Macy is welcomed by her brother, Kyler. Grandparents are Bro. George and Sis. Ruth Huthman and Bro. Bob and Sis. Chris Hartter (Roanoke, IL). We wish you God's blessings as you raise this new bundle of joy.

Vacation Bible School was a blast! We wish to thank Bro. Dean and Sis. Holly Ramseyer and Bro. Frank and Sis. Jill Gutwein and the many other Brothers and Sisters that worked so hard to make this project happen. The theme this year was "Step Into the Water" and the theme verse from II Corinthians 5:7; "For we walk by faith and not by sight."

The children raised money for the Servant Fund to support Bro. Tim and Sis. Joan Reinhard and collected a boatload of school supplies, personal items, and playground equipment for the Haitian families. Over 165 children attended this year's VBS.

We were privileged to have some excellent speakers for the Bible class and Young Group. We thank Bro. Ed Sauder and Bro. John Bradle (Roanoke, IL), Bro. Randy Mogler (Washington, IL), Bro. Dave Zehr (Gridley, IL) and Bro. Matt Steffen (Princeville, IL).

Alexandra Elsasser began her repentance this month. She is the daughter of Bro. Brian and Mary Elsasser. We rejoice with you and pray that the Lord will bless you with extra grace.

The Apostolic Christian Skylines had a Garage Sale and Bake Sale on June 14-15 to raise money to renovate the Beauty Shop, purchase new furniture for the Social Room, and other resident center improvements. Thank you to all the folks that came and participated in these events and for your continued support for

the elderly that live there.

Our sympathy and prayers are with Bro. Dennis and Sis. Cindy Aupperle in the passing of Sis. Cindy's father, Bro. Nick Knobloch. We will miss Bro. Nick. He was a vibrant person and great friend to many.

Our prayers are with Sis. Ruth Huthman, Bro. Wayne Wieland, Nancy Triplett, for various health issues, and for Bro. Tim and Sis. Joan Reinhard that they could settle into their new home in Haiti, and Bro. Dean and Sis. Holly Ramseyer as they continue to deal with damage from the fire in their home.

Life is not about the number of breaths you take; it is about the number of moments that take your breath away.

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**ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE**  
**Connie Christ**  
**Vera Baer**

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

*Luke 15:10*

We rejoice also; we have two dear souls that have started on the straight and narrow path to heaven. Beth Christ (Bro. Kurt and Sis. Connie) and Michelle Martin (Bro. Ed and Sis. Gladys) desire prayers for a humble heart and mind.

Bro. Nathan (Sis. Esther) Martin had surgery this month. At this time he is in rehab. He also appreciates prayers.

We thank Bro. Bruce Endress (Bradford, IL) and Bro. Ed Sauder (Roanoke, IL) for speaking to the Bible Class during Vacation Bible School.

We thank God that two couples have been married 50 years. Such a blessing to help each other here on earth. Bro. Walter and Sis. Betty Lou Herrmann observe their anniversary June 23. Raymond and Joan Rumbold observe their anniversary June 30.

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**ILLINOIS, ROANOKE**  
**Judy Sauder**  
**Dee Fehr**

What does it take to be successful in this life? The theme of our Vacation Bible

School in June was the five disciplines of a Godly man or woman, which are: Prayer, Scripture reading, Memorization, Meditation and Communication. Following these will help us to remain faithful and lead us to true success, which is salvation through Jesus Christ and eternal life in Heaven. We are thankful for the brothers who so willingly served us with these exhortations: Bro. Trent Meiss (Eureka), Bro. Dan Dubach (Prescott), Bro. Steve Baner (Gridley), Bro. Will Schieler (South Bend), and Bro. Dennis Rassi (Fairbury).

We also appreciate Bro. Clark Stoller's (Gridley) labor of love as he conducted Family Worship for the month of May. Bro. Clark spoke to us enthusiastically about hospitality, which is an opportunity and responsibility. We are called to nurture souls physically, socially and spiritually. "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares." (Hebrews 13:2)

"...as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." (Joshua 24:15) This was the advice given to our Senior graduating class at the Baccalaureate service held on May 27. We can never go wrong if we put the Lord first in our lives and seek His direction in all that we do throughout our life. Congratulations to the Class of 2007! May the Lord bless you as you look to the future with eagerness and anticipation.

Bro. Greg Lehman (Wolcott) visited us on June 17, and delivered the Word, with a message especially appropriate for Father's Day: "Therefore shall ye lay up these my words in your heart and in your soul...And ye shall teach them your children...That your days may be multiplied, and the days of your children." (Deuteronomy 11:18-21)

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Carol (Bro. Dave) Knapp in the loss of her father, Bro. Bill Wulf (Lester). Also to Leslie (Susan) Wettstein, whose brother, Harold Wettstein (Washington), passed away on June 16. Our prayers go with Jonathan Braker (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Janice) as he enters basic training in the military. May God keep each of these dear ones in the hollow of His hand.

Spring is a time of new beginnings, when hearts turn to thoughts of love. Those who are embarking on a new phase

of life as husband and wife include Jason Rassi and Amanda Welch, who were married on April 21. Jason is the son of Bill and Jan Rassi. May 20 was the wedding day of Bro. Samuel Sauder and Sis. Erin Aupperle. Their parents are Bro. Tom and Sis. Mary Sauder and Bro. Dennis and Sis. Cindy Aupperle (Peoria). Bro. Matthew Lindberg and Sis. Renae Bahler were united in marriage on May 27. Their parents are Bro. Rich and Sis. Julie Lindberg (Atlanta) and Chris and Sis. Teresa Bahler (Wolcott).

*Note of Thanks:*

A sincere thank you for all the love, gifts, and prayers shown to our grandson, Jacob, during his illness. Also, for your prayers for his upcoming kidney transplant in the future.

*Bro. Jim and Sis. Helen Martin*

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

The cemeteries are full of flowers and the flags hang in the breeze, reminding us that freedom is not free. There have been many men and women who have given their lives so that we can have the freedoms that we have. God has richly blessed our country and we, as citizens, sometimes take for granted the freedoms that we enjoy. Likewise, sometimes we forget that there was an ultimate price paid for our freedom from sin. Jesus paid that price on that cruel cross at Calvary and those of us who are redeemed would do well to keep this in the forefront of our minds. Do we complain about the sacrifices we are asked to make? Do we grump when things don't go quite like we wished they would? Let us remember that without sacrifices, there is no freedom.

We were privileged to have Bro. Darren Plattner (Sis. Sue, Champaign, IL) with us for a Wednesday evening. His topic was Worship and he presented some very thought-provoking statements about what is worship and what is not. We appreciate his willingness to labor on our behalf.

The blessings of new babies are on three families. Bro. Chad and Sis. Lauralee Plattner have added another

boy to their family. Jonas Daniel is welcomed home by siblings, Jesse, Jared, Javen, Jolene, and Jubilee. Elder Bro. Jim and Sis. Marlene Plattner (Princeville, IL) are Jonas' grandparents. Bro. Tom and Sis. Lisa Haas welcome Joseph Daniel into their family. Big sister Lauren is excited to have a baby brother. Bro. Dan, Jr. and Sis. Julie Koch are Joseph's grandparents. Todd and Jody Dawson had their firstborn son, Andrew Gene. Andrew's grandparents are Bro. Si and Sis. Lavonne Wagenbach.

Alisa Hofsess (Bro. Darryl and Sis. Mary Alyce) and Michael Wartick are planning a July wedding. Tim Wagenbach (Bro. Si and Sis. Lavonne) and Jodi Schick (Bro. Randy and Sis. Jane, Morton) were united in marriage on June 16. May the Lord be with these dear couples as they set up their homes.

We wish to congratulate our high school graduates. They are Drew Aberle (Bro. Andy and Sis. Chris), Royce Aberle (Bro. Pete and Sis. Debbie), Cody Ehnle (Bro. Russ and Sis. Terri), Sis. Larissa Fehr (Bro. James and Sis. Brenda), Sis. Sarah Frank (Bro. Doug and Sis. Cheri), Niki Garman (Steve and Sis. Sara), Cali Harper (niece of Bro. Mark and Sis. Colleen Moser), Sis. Nicole Koch (Bro. Earl and Sis. Marsha), Susan Koch (Bro. Roger and Sis. Sally), Abigail Meister (Bro. Mike and Sis. Dorothy), Courtney Wagenbach (Bro. Si III and Sis. Lori), and Mark Zuercher (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Kathy). May each one seek God's direction as they take this big step out into the world.

As always, this world brings affliction to souls. Our prayers are with Bro. Dan Koch, Sr. as he spent some time in the hospital.

#### *Note of Thanks:*

Words cannot express our deep appreciation and heartfelt thanks for all the prayers and many deeds of kindness shown to us during Kathy's hospital stay. We truly felt the power of prayer, and how thankful we are for a praying church. May God richly bless each and every one of you.

*Bro. Gary and Sis. Kathy Wagenbach*

## ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON Elizabeth Heinold Nancy Knepp

"Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." What a blessing when new converts come in lowliness of spirit with the light of heaven glowing on their countenance. Awaiting baptism are Emily Gerber (Bro. Neil and Sis. Leesa) and Jenna Cox (Bro. John and Sis. Ellen). We rejoice with them and all our converts who have begun the walk of faith.

"Blessed are they that mourn for they shall be comforted." After a gallant fight with cancer, Harold Wettstein was called home following a week of severe illness. God was good to him in that He gave him time to prepare to die. It is a comfort to his family and church family to know that he found peace and was looking forward to seeing those who had gone on before. From our congregation, he leaves his wife, Loretta (Goldsmith); two daughters, Sis. Janine (Bro. Kevin) Rocke and Sis. JoEllen (Bro. Todd) Martin; many beloved grandchildren, and his brother-in-law, Richard Goldsmith. His large family extends to many neighboring congregations as well.

"Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth." In meekness, we were exhorted by visiting ministers, Bros. Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha, KS), James Knapp (Sis. Lisa, Congerville, IL), Curt Rassi (Sis. Kathy, Tremont, IL), Dave Marquart (Sis. Lori, Taylor, MO) and Tim Roecker (Sis. Diane, Peoria, IL). Bro. Bob Pflederer (Sis. Elle, Morton, IL) conducted our monthly Wednesday night Bible Study on the blessings obtained in memorizing scriptures.

"Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled." We witnessed the wedding vows of Bro. Luke Knapp (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Linda, Congerville) and Sis. Heidi Pfaffmann (Bro. Max and Sis. Mary). The engagement of Bro. Trent Barth (Bro. Jim and Sis. Julie) and Sis. Heather Rassi (Bro. Gary and Sis. Deb, Morton) was announced to the church. May their "cups" not only be filled but "running over" with blessings as they continue to seek after righteousness in their marriages.

"Blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy." Our Bible class students returned safely and enthusiastically from their week's mission trip to Casa Vida y Esperanza in Magdalena, Mexico. Working in the hot sun by day and attending Vacation Bible School in the evening, it was a wonderful time of bonding and physical, emotional and spiritual encouragement. "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." The innocence and pureness of new babies was evident as Bro. Jeff and Sis. Brenda Thames welcomed their first grandchild, Jaycee Jordan Schroeder (Bro. Jordan and Sis. Katelyn), and their newest son, Timothy Quinn Thames. Bro. Ron and Sis. Carole Kellenberger also welcomed three new grandchildren in the past few months.

Heaven, comfort, inheritance, righteousness, mercy and seeing God! We are blessed!

## INDIANA, BLUFFTON Amber Steffen Jan Schwartz

"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing."

*Psalms 100: 1,2*

"Make a Joyful Noise" was the theme of our Bible school this year, held from June 4 - June 15. As the many lessons went forth, we pray the seeds of truth have been planted in the hearts of all the children. The Bible school program held on Friday night, June 15, was truly a blessing as our children certainly made a joyful noise and sang from their hearts for Jesus.

On June 17, Bro. Ryan Bertsch (Bro. Mike and Sis. Carmon) and Sis. Jessica Yergler (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Peg, Bluffton North) were united in marriage. We wish them an abundance of God's joy and blessings throughout their married life together.

We also rejoice with Bro. Adam Stoller (Bro. Larry and Sis. Sharon) and Sis.

Beth Harris (Bro. Mark and Sis. Susan, Bluffton North) as they announced their engagement on June 17. Our prayers are with them as they begin this new life together.

New parents, Bro. Brian and Sis. Shannon Drayer (Bluffton North), welcome their son, Garek, adopted from Guatemala. Grandparents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Carol Compton and Bro. Jerry and Sis. Lois Drayer (Bluffton North).

On April 23, Sis. Andrea Sipe was blessed with a new grandson, Ethan William Gerke. His parents are Anthony and Mindy Gerke. Likewise, on May 9, Bro. Tim and Sis. Marlene Ringger were blessed with their new grandson, Ethan Jacob, born to Brian and June Crockett.

On May 4, Bro. Eric and Sis. LaNae Tonner were blessed with their son, Ike Ericson. Also celebrating his birth is his big brother, Birch, and his grandparents, Bro. Eric and Sis. Rhonda Tonner and Sis. Ann Reinhard.

Harper Ann Craighead was born on May 11, to Bro. Eric and Sis. Annie Craighead. She joins big brothers, Dylan, Trey, and Hutchenson. Also rejoicing in her birth are her grandparents, Bro. Steve and Sis. Renee Reinhard and Bro. Mike and Sis. Kay Craighead (Bluffton North).

First-time parents, Bro. Mick and Sis. Brooke Gerber, were blessed with a daughter, Ali Ann, on May 16. Joyful grandparents are Bro. Tom and Sis. Sue Neuenschwander and Scott Gerber.

We extend a special thank-you to our Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North) for sharing in the reading and exhortation of the Memorandum this month. In addition, we appreciate Bro. Nile Bucher (Sis. Phyllis, Bluffton North) and Bro. Steve Frauhiger (Sis. Irene, Bluffton North) for sharing the Word with us this past month. Our ongoing prayers have been for Jimmy VandenTop, who faced a stem cell transplant on June 7. Likewise our prayers are for his wife, Rhonda, and his two daughters, Hannah and Andrea. Also hospitalized this month and in our prayers is Sis. Caitleigh Rinkenberger (Bro. Linc and Sis. Catrina) as she underwent surgery.

Our prayers are with Bro. Spencer

Lewis as he has begun mission service in Ixtlan, Mexico. Also our prayers are with our Bro. Eric Tonner (Sis. Rhonda) as he is spending a month in Haiti assisting in construction related projects. In addition, we are praying for Sis. Bethany Gerber (Bro. Dean and Sis. Jaci) as she is offering her services this summer as a nanny for Bro. Andrew and Sis. Jana Klaus and their eight children in Tokyo, Japan. Our prayers are also with Ryan and Brandy Aschliman (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Rosie Aschliman and Sis. Carla Girod) who are in Ethiopia adopting their little daughter, Lydia.

And finally, Wilma Stolz, the mother of Sis. Jeannie Baumgartner, passed away on June 8. Our prayers are with Sis. Jeannie; her brother, Paul Stolz; and her sister, Rachael (Jack) Meyer.

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## INDIANA BLUFFTON NORTH

**Kelli Bucher  
Sherry Pfister  
Darren Drayer**

Greetings in the marvelous name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The wedding of Jay Nicholas and Mallory King was the first wedding on June 9 in our new fellowship hall. The happy parents are Bro. Mark and Sis. Marsha Nicholas and Charles and Tammy King.

On June 17, Bro. Mike (Sis. Carmon) Bertsch (Bluffton) and Bro. Jeff (Sis. Peg) Yergler received a wonderful father's day gift: the wedding of their children, Bro. Ryan Bertsch and Sis. Jessica Yergler.

On the same weekend, Bro. Bob and Sis. Ann Meyer witnessed the wedding of their son, Brandon, to April Snider, daughter of Rick and Cindy Snider.

We were pleased to hear of the engagement of Sis. Beth Harris (Bro. Mark and Sis. Sue) to Bro. Adam Stoller (Bro. Larry and Sis. Sharon). "What God hath joined together let not man put asunder." We wish all of these couples God's richest blessings.

Bro. Eric and Sis. Annie Craighead are the parents of a daughter, Harper Ann, who was born on May 11. Harper joins brothers Dylan, Trey and Hutchenson. Bro. Mike and Sis. Kay Craighead and Bro. Steve and Sis. Renee

(Bluffton) are the grandparents. The great-grandparents are Bro. Claire and Sis. Mary Jane Yergler (Bluffton), Bro. Lee Reinhard (Bluffton), Sis. Eunice Steffen, Jeanie Craighead and the late Ralph Craighead.

Bro. Ryan and Sis. Sarah Corkwell welcomed their daughter, Eve Elizabeth, to the world on May 31. She joins a brother, Wyatt, and two sisters, Elsa and Lucia. Grandparents are Robert and Telida Corkwell and Bro. Bob and Sis. Mary Jo Troxel. Great-grandparents are Audrey Corkwell and Rose Stamper.

Bro. Jarod and Sis. Carissa Geisel are the parents of Shauncey Lee, born on May 25. Grandparents are Larry and Carol Studabaker and Bro. Stan and Cindy Geisel. Great-grandparents are Bro. Jerome and Sis. Ginny Rauch, and Sis. Ellen Geisel and the late Bro. Harold Geisel.

Bro. Graig and Sis. Corinne Stettner welcomed August John into this world. Ella, Aidan, and Mimi as well as their parents are overjoyed. Grandparents are Bro. Daryl and the late Sis. Jan Hari, and Elder Bro. Phil and Sis. Maureen Stettner. Great-grandparents are Sis. Marie Heinold, and Bro. Howard and Sis. Goldie Stettner.

We extend our sympathies to Sis. Jane Meyer, who lost her husband, Bro. Paul Meyer, on May 25. Their children include two sons, Doug and Jeff (Danette) Meyer; two daughters, Jackline (Robert) Ely and Debra Nutter; and five grandchildren. We also mourn with Bro. Mike Craighead (Sis. Kay), who lost his father, Ralph Craighead, on June 13.

Sis. Louise Gerber (Bro. Carroll) and Sis. Betty Steffen experienced the loss of their last brother, Lewis Bertsch. We extend our sympathy to that family.

Spending time in the hospital this month were Bro. Laurin Bertsch and Bro. Alvin Fiechter.

Bro. George and Sis. Lillie Zarkovacki with their children, Samuel, Jesse and Lucas, have moved from Colorado Springs and will be worshipping with us. May they feel the Lord's presence as we fellowship together.

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in

unity!"

*Psalm 133:1*

## INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE

**Barbara Huber  
Jessica Murray**

Greetings dear loved ones. As the days turn into weeks and weeks into months, we are all moving forward in our lives. For some, life seems to be passing quickly and for others the time may seem like it is standing still. No matter what stage of life we are in, one thing is unchanging and that is the love of our Father and His Son Jesus Christ.

On May 23, a special graduation program was held to honor the four seniors from our church who have met another milestone in their lives. John Abair, our dear friend, who has been attending church for the past couple of years, will be attending a tech school this fall. Heike Gutwein (Bro. Brent and Sis. Marti) will be attending Ohio State University. Sis. Christen Huber (Bro. Brian and Sis. Jacki) will be attending Purdue University. Bro. Nicholas Wuethrich (Bro. Mark and Sis. Lynne) will continue to work at the local grocery store in Francesville. The Lord has touched so many lives through each and every one of you. May you take His Word with you wherever you are and continue to shine His light upon those you will be meeting. Congratulations to each of you and God Bless.

Our youth have been busy this spring. The Junior High students have enjoyed their Wednesday evening A.C.T.I.V.E. group where they have had many life lessons taught by Bro. Brian and Sis. Tami Putt, and Bro. Jerod and Sis. Molly Steffen. The eighth grade class had their own graduation downstairs on June 13. They are so very thankful for all the support they have received from the church and from their teachers. Thank you for helping our youth and teaching them the truth.

The Junior High girls and boys each attended camps in Monticello and Bloomington, IL, where they had an opportunity to meet new friends, draw closer to the Lord, and just be teenagers. Thank you to all who helped make this possible from the counselors, planners,

drivers, cooks, teachers, and anyone else who I may not even know to mention. May you each receive your reward from above.

On June 2 we gathered together for the testimonies of Quentin and Luke Gudeman (Bro. Randy and Sis. Becky) and Eric Huber (Bro. Gene and Sis. Sherri). What precious changes their lives have seen by the faith and trust they have in their Lord and Savior.

Thanks to our visiting ministers. Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Remington, IN) was here to help with the testimonies, and Bro. Chris Wuethrich (Sis. Carla, LaCrosse, IN). May you be greatly blessed for your willingness to serve the Lord.

Baptisms were held on June 3, and what a special day it was, as our converts made their covenant with God before the church, having put away the old life and now having a new life as our Brothers in Christ. May you each continue to grow daily in your walk of faith with the Lord.

We extend our prayer support to those who have recently had surgery and those with health concerns at this time. May our Heavenly Father grant much grace and strength to you, and healing mercy according to His perfect will.

## INDIANA INDIANAPOLIS

**Gail Bradford**

**Penny Schroeder**

We rejoice with Sis. Rebecca Gudeman, who has been blessed with two new grandchildren. First, Bro. Scott and Sis. Katie Klopfenstein (Phoenix, AZ) welcomed daughter Lindsay Kate. Then Ben and Rachel Gudeman (Bloomington, IL) greeted son Owen Daniel. May these families feel God's love and protection.

Bro. Lee and Sis. Shalome Hoffman brought two sisters home at once for little Mycah: twin daughters, Sariah Lee and Sydni Ann, who were born just a little bit early, and in fine health. Delighted grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Cheryl Knobloch and Elsie and Merle Eisenmann. The young family will be leaving Indianapolis for Morton, IL, later this summer.

We congratulate high school gradu-

ates, Sis. Katie Zeller and Bro. Matt Schieler. As they make their prayerful plans for the future, they know that God's love (and ours) go with them.

Our own children and their friends participated in Vacation Bible School from June 11-15 where important lessons from the Bible were absorbed and hopefully remembered. On Friday evening the students sang and talked about what they had learned.

Sis. Edye Mayer was briefly hospitalized, but is home now and recuperating. We wish her continued improvement and will be glad when she is worshipping with us again.

After many prayers and much planning, 36 men, women and youth, mostly from the Indianapolis congregation, departed by air on June 16 for a week-long mission trip to Juarez, Mexico, where they are to help with construction projects and teach the children there.

"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

*Matthew 25:40*

## INDIANA, LACROSSE

**Julie Rocke**

**Bethany Johnson**

"For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;"

*Colossians 1:10*

Two young adults from our congregation graduated from high school this month. Josh Troxel (Bro. Tom and Sis. LuAnn) and Sis. Megan Wuethrich (Bro. Chris and Sis. Carla) will take the next step into their future and find what God has planned for them. Mark Heinold (Bro. Glen and Sis. Sandy) graduated from college and will be pursuing employment and further schooling in Wisconsin. We pray that God will bless each of them in their journey.

A reception was held for Bro. Rudy and Sis. Rosario Troxel on Sunday, June 10. They were married in Ixtlan, Mexico,

on May 13 and several members of our congregation were able to attend. Their parents are Sis. Bertha Carrillo de Gonzalez and the late Javier Gonzalez of Ixtlan, Mexico, and Bro. Tom and Sis. LuAnn Troxel. It is our prayer that God will bless this happy couple in their marriage.

Vacation Bible School is a wonderful chance for us to dig deeper into God's Word and learn more about Him. Our theme this year is "Revealing the Mystery". We would like to thank Bro. Dick Meister (Sis. Sharon, West Lafayette, IN), Bro. Nile Bucher (Sis. Phyllis, Bluffton North, IN) and Bro. Steve Stieglitz (Sis. Jan, Leo, IN) for their time and efforts. The Saturday following Vacation Bible School we gathered at a park for our annual Sunday School Picnic. Upon arrival, we were greeted with quite a downpour of rain. No one complained, as we all were thankful for the much needed moisture. The rain passed and we enjoyed a time of fellowship and gathering at the picnic as well as a short program from the Sunday School students with songs and verses that they learned throughout the week. A special thank you to each of the teachers who put forth the efforts for Vacation Bible School as well as teaching the children all year long.

We were blessed with several visiting ministers this month. Bro. Ron Palitto (Akron, OH), Bro. Kent Mogler (Sis. Mary, Minneapolis, MN), Bro. Dewayne Dill (Sis. LaRae, Minneapolis, MN), Bro. Larry Wenninger (Sis. Joyce, Latty, OH) and Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Sis. Leonda, Leo, IN) all shared the Word with us. May God richly bless them.

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**INDIANA, LEO**  
**Elizabeth Schrenk**  
**Abigail Schrenk**

As spring turns into summer, we are thankful for the many visitors who have come to volunteer at Gateway Woods or see family. Among the visitors were Bro. Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue, Detroit), Bro. Greg Stieglitz (Sis. Lisa, Indianapolis), Bro. Ron Bollier (Sis. Edie, Indianapolis), Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen, Kansas City), and Bro. Brian Huber (Sis. Jacki, Francesville). We extend thanks to

them for serving us.

Our church held Vacation Bible School this month. The topic was the "7 C's of History". They are Creation, Corruption, Catastrophe, Confusion, Christ, Cross, and Consummation. The children really enjoyed their time and we want to say thanks to the teachers for their efforts.

On June 9, Selah Dani was welcomed into the home of Bro. Matt and Sis. Danielle Wirtz. Her siblings are Dallen and Truman. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Diane Stickling (Bloomington) and Bro. Michael and Sis. Lela Wirtz (Goodfield).

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**INDIANA, MILFORD**

**Carol Hurd**  
**Carol Haab**

Search me, O God, and know my heart today;

Try me, O Saviour, know my thoughts, I pray.

See if there be some wicked way in me;

Cleanse me from every sin and set me free.

*J. Edwin Orr, 1912*

We recently enjoyed a wonderful week of Bible School. "Is It Time for a Change?" was the theme. Many inspiring and provoking thoughts were shared by the visiting ministers. Are we living each day for the Lord? Are we allowing our light to shine for others around us to see? How have we been changed and in what way do we still need to change to completely give ourselves to the Lord and His commands? The brothers that so graciously gave of their time and spoke to us were: Bros. Tony Manz (Junction, OH), Doyle Frauhofer (Bluffton, IN), Brian Huber (Francesville, IN) and Wayne Leman (Roanoke, IL). We extend our thanks to each of these brothers for all the time and effort given for our benefit.

Our dear Bro. Art Haab passed away recently. He had been in poor health for some time and we are assured that now he is with our Heavenly Father above.

As we approach the July 4th holiday, let us take time to thank God for the free-

dom He has bestowed upon our nation. He gave us the freedom to live and worship where we want. May our choices always include God and may we also always be thankful for all of the blessings He has given us.

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**INDIANA, REMINGTON**

**Tammy Waibel**  
**Beth Virkler**

"And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an helpmeet for him."

*Genesis 2:18*

Trent Kilgus took Cameron (Cammie) Hasser as his wife on June 2 at our fellowship hall. Bro. Dan and Sis. Jenna Kilgus along with Tom and Pam Hasser (Earl Park, IN) are parents of this happy couple. Their new address is: 2201 E. 151st Street, Carmel IN 46033.

"...how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?"

*Romans 10:14*

Thank you, Bro. Dewayne Dill (Sis. LaRae, Minneapolis, MN), for serving us in the ministry. Each June, we have the privilege of sharing Vacation Bible School responsibilities with Wolcott, our neighboring church, who hosted it this year. We thank each brother and sister who labored through hidden hours to complete their preparation for the week along with our heartfelt thanks to the following ministers: Bros. Jeff Neihouser (Francesville, IN); Brad Eisenmann (Chicago, IL); Wayne Leman (Roanoke, IL), Neal Widmer (West Lafayette, IN); and Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL). God sees as beautiful the lowly feet of those who preach the glorious Gospel.

"Beloved, I wish above all things that thou may prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth."

*III John: 2*

Submitting to surgery this month was Bro. Edwin Bahler.

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## INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

**Becky Langhofer  
Natalie Virkler**

We are very thankful to our Brothers and Sisters in Milford for letting us share VBS with them. Our theme this year was "Is it Time for a Change?" We are also very grateful for the ministers who took time out of their busy weeks to come share the Gospel with us. It was a breath of fresh air to be able to sit and listen to the Word being spoken.

On June 20 we had a farewell singing for Bro. Tim and Sis. Melisa Gerst and their family as they will be moving back to Iowa City, IA. They will be greatly missed and our love and prayers go with them.

"Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage."

*Galatians 5:1*

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## INDIANA, VALPARAISO

**Marguerite Hoerr**

In our daily devotions the following verse from a poem had an impact on me:

"Pride flings frail palaces at the sky  
As a man flings up sand.  
But the firm feet of humility  
Take hold of heavy land.  
Pride juggles with her toppling towers,  
They strike the sun and cease  
But the firm feet of humility,  
They grip the ground like trees."

—G.K. Chesterton

Once again we are reminded that "God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble." (James 4:6) In our daily life we sometimes are given occasions where it seems success comes from a thing we did. It's so important to remember that God alone made it possible; not us.

Bob and I were privileged to visit our little cottage on Walloon Lake for the first time in several years. We, at first, were feeling elated that we had the strength and the ability at our age to make this trip possible. Then reality set in and we

KNEW we could never have done it without His guidance and His help. Each mile of the way He was with us and protecting us. We spent each day drinking in the wonders of His beautiful sky and His clear, blue waters and His gift of rest, relaxation, and recuperation.

In our little cottage we found a daily devotional we had given to Bob's father, John C. Hoerr. It was returned to us at his death. We found that, even though it was written for a different year and a different time, each daily reading was as pertinent to our lives as it was then; another lesson that God's Word is eternal. We drew strength each day from these readings and we felt a nearness to Grandpa Hoerr.

On June 10 we were privileged to have Bro. Gary Tonner and his wife, Sis. Diann, visit us from the Bluffton church. He blessed our day with his sermons and it was good to visit with both of them. We ask that they will be richly blessed for making the drive from Bluffton to Valpo to share with us. Minister's wives do their own ministry as they visit with all of us in the congregation. I'm sorry I haven't mentioned this before, because they have all contributed to the blessings of their visits.

On June 17, in the afternoon of Father's Day, Bro. Tom Troxel and Sis. Louanne visited Valpo congregation, along with their friendly sons. Bro. Tom so ably brought us the Word and shared with us. He's been so willing to assist Bro. Garry from time to time and we never want to take that willingness for granted. It's greatly appreciated.

Bro. Brady Moser had another checkup in Indianapolis this past week. Each time we know he's going to be checked we do our best to remember him in prayer. We thank him for the beautiful prayer he had with us before he left to report for work in the afternoon.

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## INDIANA WEST LAFAYETTE

**Darlene Walder  
Hollie Meister**

Summer greetings! With the warm weather often come vacations away from work and relaxation with family and

friends during several different holidays we get during the summer months.

Memorial Day was meaningful, as we remember the many servicemen that have in the past and still are, protecting the rights and freedoms of our nation. Do we continue to be a nation built on God's character or has that meaning left our society? I think each and every one of us knows we can never stop praying for the Lord's forgiveness on how our nation has stumbled and fallen in preserving the nature of God.

Along with vacation comes Vacation Bible School. We at W. Lafayette host a 4 day VBS for our Sunday school students, and often several guests are invited to come and learn more of God's Holy Word. Our theme this year was, "Building up the temple of our Hearts." To have a firm foundation we must first prepare the soil; the soil in our hearts must be worked of all weeds and sin, so that God's Word can be planted and our temples can be made strong for God's dwelling place. Thanks to those that worked so diligently to help the week be successful.

We offer our sincere prayers for Sis. Jan Furrer, as she experienced time in the hospital. She underwent heart surgery and we are thankful she is on her way to recovery.

June 17 was the last Sunday that Bro. Doug and Sis. Peggy Hoerr and children, Sis. Ellie and Seth, will be assembling with us. They have been transferred back to the Peoria area with Bro. Doug's occupation. We will miss them immensely and wish them Godspeed in their move. We do appreciate their older two children, Bro. Chad and Sis. Natalie remaining in W. Lafayette. They will be attending Purdue and so it will be nice to have a portion of their family still with us. Along with saying farewell to them, we also say farewell to year long friend and companion, Ygui Cysne. He was an exchange student living with Bro. Ed and Sis. Annette Bahler and family and he was definitely a friend to all of us. We will miss having him come to church with us.

We offer congratulations at the engagement of Bro. John Klotzle (Purdue Student) to Sis. Amy Jackson of Altadena, CA. We wish them God's blessings in their upcoming marriage.

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## INDIANA, WOLCOTT

**Lowell Bahler**  
**Erica Blume**

Greetings to all!

Bro. Bruce Frank (Sis. Bonita; Cissna Park, IL) presented a special Bible topic to us on Wednesday evening, May 23. We were encouraged to greater righteousness for a closer walk with our Lord and Saviour. Thank you, Bro. Bruce.

On Sunday, May 27, Sis. Renae Bahler and Bro. Matthew Lindberg were united in Holy Matrimony by our Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna; Remington, IN). Parents of the couple are Chris and Sis. Teresa Bahler, and Bro. Richard and Sis. Julia Lindberg (Atlanta, GA). They will be living in Thomasville, GA, and making Atlanta their home church. We wish them God's blessings as they begin their lives together. Ministering Bros. Frank Sauder (Sis. Kathy; Roanoke, IL) and Ted Steffen (Sis. Sandy; Alto, MI) shared in the day's worship services.

Bro. Dale and Sis. Missy Banwart (Congerville, IL) are parents of a baby girl, Abbie Joy, born on May 18. Our local Bro. Irv and Sis. Shirley Furrer are her maternal grandparents.

Bro. Mark and Sis. Shari Schwab are also celebrating the birth of a grandchild. Bro. Shane and Sis. Stephanie Beer are the new parents of a baby boy, Gavin Royce, born on June 5.

Only a couple of days later, on June 7, Alex and Lisa Schieler became parents to little Ethan Bradley. Bro. Dave and Sis. Merri Schieler of our Wolcott congregation, and Kevin and Nancy Lachmund of Brookston, are his grandparents.

We thank visiting ministers, Bro. Ted Steffen (Sis. Sandy; Alto, MI) and Bro. Tom Schambach (Sis. Connie; Elgin, IL), for being here and sharing the Word with us on graduation Sunday.

Vacation Bible School was held the week of June 11-15 with "Overcoming Temptations" being the theme topic. Visiting speakers were ministering Bros. Jeff Neihouser (Sis. Sue; Francesville, IN), Brad Eisenmann (Sis. Cindy; Chicago, IL), Wayne Leman (Sis. Julie; Roanoke, IL), Neil Widmer (Sis. Kris; West Lafayette, IN) and Brian Waibel

(Sis. Wendy; Champaign, IL). We surely thank them for their efforts and labors of love in exposing the many aspects of temptation.

Marcus Schwab (Bro. Mark and Sis. Shari) underwent surgery on his leg and knee for ligament repair. We wish him a full and speedy recovery.

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## IOWA, BLOOMFIELD

**Barbara Schock**

My heav'nly mansion, beyond the sky,  
Where they who enter shall never die;  
There would I journey this very day,  
And with my Jesus forever stay.

*Hymns of Zion #77*

Two families in our congregation have said farewell to a loved one who has journeyed on to their heavenly mansion. Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Dale and Sis. Teresa Schock and Elder Bro. Doug and Sis. Clara Schock and families at the loss of their father, Bro. Frank Schock, of Elgin, IL.

While one soul has gone on and has reached the heavenly mansion, one more has started on the way. We are thankful that LaVern Hostetler has started on the straight and narrow way that leads to our mansion above.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Russell Wuthrich as he recovers from surgery. May he feel the Lord's healing touch.

*Note of Thanks:*

Many thanks for all the prayers offered, cards, visits, phone calls, gifts, and food brought during and following my heart surgery. Your kind expressions of love carried us through a difficult time. May God bless each one of you.

*Sis. Evelyn Metzger and family*

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## IOWA, BURLINGTON

**Laurie Schulz**  
**Krystal Knapp**

Bro. Philip and Sis. Kelli Schulz were blessed with a little bundle from Heaven. Connor Robert joins big brother Quinton at home. Connor's grandparents are Bro. Gary and Sis. Melody Schulz and Bro.

Dale and Sis. Tina Frank (Oakville).

We are thankful that Ken Massner has begun his repentance. May we all remember him in our prayers as he strives to work out his salvation.

There were several from our congregation who spent some time in the hospital. Ken and Rose Massner and Bro. Marvin Woodward have all needed the healing hand of the Great Physician.

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## IOWA, ELGIN

**Gloria Frieden**  
**Heidi Butikofer**

As this is the vacation season of the year, we would like to extend a hearty welcome to all who may be traveling in this area, to come and worship with us and share our common faith, here in the little Switzerland of Iowa.

We have been blessed with two visiting ministers this past month: Bro. Gene Metzger (Sis. Delores, Lester, IA) and Bro. Jim Butikofer (Sis. Diana, Iowa City, IA). May God richly bless them for their labors on our behalf.

Bro. John and Sis. Janet Schubach welcomed a new grandson, Brody Kent, on June 8. Brody's parents are Kent and Kati and his maternal grandparents are Brad and Peggy Rekow. He also has two sisters, Ava and Ella.

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## IOWA, GARDEN GROVE

**Willa Clark**

"The will of God will never take you where the Grace of God will not protect you." I recently read this quote scrawled on a scrap of paper and thought, "How true. And I need never worry, because God will protect me wherever I go." Then I paused in mid-thought.

What is the key phrase here? It's "will of God". When we start a career, move to a new community or start a business, we need to ask God if this is what He has in mind for us. Ask Him if this is the community or career He has selected. "Lord, what would Thou have me to do?" Then follow His direction.

When we are totally in the will of God, then and only then can we take comfort in the above quote. If we are truly in His will, we can go forward in faith, knowing His

grace will protect us. And when we sometimes feel weak, we can rest peacefully, knowing that is when our God will be strongest. The grace of God will surely protect us when we truly follow His will.

We were once again blessed to have several visiting brothers and their families visit us. Elder Bro. Mike and Sis. Deb Leman (Denver), Bro. Bernie and Sis. Joyce Messner (Morris) and Bro. Pat and Sis. Julie Zaugg (West Bend) lent themselves to the ministry of God's Word. Elder Bro. Jim and Sis. Marlene Plattner (Princeville) and Elder Bro. Doug and Sis. Clara Schock (Bloomfield) also served and shared Communion in remembrance of Christ's great sacrifice for us. We thank each one who shared with us.

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### IOWA, IOWA CITY Diana Butikofer

We are very thankful that Rebekah Snodgrass (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Becky) has found peace. She and her sister, Rachel, look forward to baptism in September, Lord willing.

Our new Sunday School teachers for the next school year are Sis. Amy Gerst, Sis. Joyce Eland (Bro. Brad) and Bro. Ben Weyrick (Sis. Wendy). We are thankful for the efforts of the outgoing teachers and prayerfully trust the Spirit will guide the newly elected teachers as they teach our children.

Please be prayerful for the Elders, the Bluffton congregation and the many others who will contribute to and receive the blessings of the Brotherhood Conference.

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### IOWA, LESTER Polly Metzger Gloria Moser

"Now learn the parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh."

*Matthew 24:32*

On May 25, a precious little girl was born to Kevin and Janet Oleson. Malinda Sue is welcomed home by Maranda, Thomas, Tanner, Morgan and Madyson.

Bro. Art and Sis. Kris Metzger are her grandparents. May God bless them as they raise their children.

We rejoice with two precious souls who have started in their repentance. Tanya Wulf (Bro. Arnie and Sis. Myra) and Amanda Gerber (Bro. Dave and Sis. Diane, West Bend, IA). May they prayerfully seek God's grace as He directs their path.

We failed to remember Brad Barber (Mike and Sis. Donna) on his college graduation. May God go with him as he seeks his employment.

June 9-10 Lester hosted Youth Fellowship. Many young people, grades 8-12, and their Sunday School teachers from Minneapolis, Morris and Winthrop, MN, and Bloomfield-Pulaski, Elgin, and West Bend, IA, were in attendance. Bro. Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL) was here to speak to the students on Saturday evening. Elder Bros. Doug Schock (Bloomfield, IA), Art Nohl (Morris, MN), Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA) and Paul Messner (Winthrop, MN) were also here for the weekend. We enjoyed all our visitors, and hope the students enjoyed making new friends and renewing old friendships. Other visiting ministers this month were Bro. Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN) and Bro. Larry Bahr (Fort Scott, KS). We truly appreciate the efforts and teachings all these brothers shared with us. May God be their rich rewarder.

Hospital and surgical patients were Bro. Bill Gerber (Sis. Erma), Bro. Paul Knoblock and Bro. Dale Metzger (Sis. Chris). May these dear souls feel the healing power of God in their recoveries.

We bid farewell to Bro. Kevin and Sis. Annie Wulf. They have moved to Morris, MN. This is Bro. Kevin's home congregation. Though we will miss them here, we know they will feel "at home" in Morris.

We want to welcome Bro. Ben and Sis. Kristen Craig and family to Lester. They have moved here from Congerville, IL. We hope they feel "at home" here as they settle in a new community. May these two dear couples feel God's nearness as they reestablish themselves.

Many families have been touched by grief, and we extend our sincere sympathy to each one: Sis. Zelma Knoblock and

family and Sis. Iola Knobloch and family in the loss of their brother, Bro. Silas (Sis. Della) of West Bend; Bro. Paul and Sis. Delores Metzger in the loss of her dad, Bro. Noah Gerber (Sis. Emma) of West Bend; Bro. Rick and Sis. Lori Moser and family in the loss of her sister-in-law, Sis. Sandra Luthi (Elder Bro. Lawrence) of Lamar, MO; Bro. Art and Sis. Kris Metzger in the loss of her sister, Kathy Casey (GA); and to the family of Bro. Bill Wulf (Sis. Leona, Sabetha, KS), namely Sis. Carol Knapp (Bro. Dave, Roanoke, IL), Bro. Dale Wulf (Sis. Becky, Lester), Sis. Darlene Stoller (Bro. Arden, Sabetha, KS), Bro. Arnie Wulf (Sis. Myra, Lester), Sis. Julie Schmidgall (Elder Bro. Jon, Oakville, IA), Bro. Stan Wulf (Sis. Pam, Morris, MN) and Bro. Leroy Wulf (Sis. Carolyn, Burlington, IA); 26 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren; his sisters, Sis. Amelia Roemen and Leah Doorneweerd (Dick) of Lester, and Mildred Sauder (Virgil, Morris, MN); sisters-in-law, Sis. Violet Wulf (Morris, MN) and Sis. Alice Wulf (Lester); and his brother-in-law, Bro. Ray Luthi (Sis. Violet, Lamar, MO).

I am going to a city,  
Where the streets with gold are laid,  
Where the tree of life is blooming,  
And the roses never fade.  
Here they bloom but for a season,  
Soon their beauty is decayed;  
I am going to a city  
Where the roses never fade.

*Gospel Hymns #764*

We truly appreciate the example and the pillars to our faith that these dear brothers and sister were to us. May God be with these dear families and comfort them with His abiding love.

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### IOWA, OAKVILLE Sharla Wiegand

May we all remember our high school graduates in thought and prayer as they move on to the next phase of life. We are thankful for visiting ministers who came for the occasion on May 20: Bro. Michael Wagenbach (Wolcott, IN) and Bro. Phil Schulz (Burlington, IA).

Bro. Matt Steffen (Princeville, IL)

brought forth the Word on May 27. Also, the engagement of Bro. Kyle Wagenbach (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Bonnie, Jr.) and Sis. Deanna Lanz (Bro. Ken and Sis. Janet) was made known. May God bless and guide them in the days ahead.

The single group hosted company on June 9 and 10. We enjoyed a full sound of singing in church with visitors from Elgin, Congerville and Cissna Park, IL; Lamar, MO; Lamont/Gridley, KS; and West Bend, IA.

Fulfilling their role as Sunday School teachers this year are Bro. Sean Gray, Bro. Ron Lanz, Bro. Aaron Schmidgall and Sis. Timna Lanz. Thank you for having a godly influence on our children. Elected as new teachers are Bro. Chuck Massner, Bro. Tom Lanz, Bro. Ryan Frank, Sis. Mary Lanz and Sis. Lanae Frank.

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### **IOWA, WEST BEND** **Sue Schneider** **Janet Fehr**

In May, Sis. Edna Banwart (Bro. Earl, dec.) was a surgical patient, and Bro. Cameron Knobloch (Sis. Tammy) spent some time in the hospital. We are thankful both are doing well, and we continue to pray for God's continued presence in their lives.

Many family members and friends of Bro. Corbin Fehr (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Judy) and Sis. Stacy Koehl (Bro. Jim and Sis. Hildy; San Diego, CA) traveled to Morris, MN, to attend their June 3 wedding. May God bless their marriage and their Prescott Valley, AZ, home.

Two ministering brothers blessed our congregation with their ministry and visit during June. They were Bro. Dale Moore (Sis. Cheryl, Elgin, IA) and Bro. Joe Gerst (Sis. Connie, Iowa City, IA).

On June 9-10 some of our high school children traveled to Lester, IA, for the annual youth fellowship weekend in Lester, IA. We appreciated the hosts' efforts, as an enjoyable time was had by all.

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### **JAPAN, SHIODA** **Carrie Ito**

Visiting us recently was Bro. Ron and Sis. Marcell Gress (Indianapolis). We are

thankful for Bro. Ron's part in the Bible Study at Shioda and also for sharing his testimony for our ladies' meeting in Tokyo. The ladies (members and friends) were moved to tears by his experience and we pray that the Spirit can continue to work in their softened hearts. We are also enjoying a visit from Bro. Justin Wiegand (Gridley, IL) as he is spending six weeks in Japan to learn about Japanese culture and to consider future missionary work here. I'm sure he would appreciate prayers as he seeks God's will.

Two new people came to our church recently and we pray they will continue to come and grow in knowledge and Christian faith. One man had had his leg amputated and the other was a young woman who had some serious health problems. In Japan, conforming to the norm is a big part of the culture, so coming to a Christian church is definitely out of the norm. Since these two individuals have something that makes them different from most of the society anyway, it is easier for them to come to church. We hope and pray that they can understand that "the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him." Romans 10:12.

We are thankful for Bro. Willis' safe return from Mexico and ongoing good health. His energy and zeal are encouraging to us all!

On Mother's Day and Father's Day we visited the local hospital to take cards and small hand towels to the patients there. They seem glad for any small gift and are good examples to us. I Thess. 5: 18, "In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

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### **JAPAN, TOKYO** **Jana Klaus**

Greetings of love from Tokyo! This month has abounded with blessings for us. Sis. Shizuko Urushino was able to get to church twice to worship with us, with the kind help of her husband. The whole Utsuki family joined us for a day of worship a few weeks after the passing of their mother. Two workers from America have come with a servant heart to support our churches here — Bro. Justin Wiegand (Bro. Roger and Sis. Kathy, Gridley, IL) who is staying for 5 weeks with the

Inoue's and Ito's, and Sis. Bethany Gerber (Bro. Dean and Sis. Jaci, Bluffton, IN) who is staying for 8 weeks with the Klauses. Bro. Makoto Inoue is back for a short visit. We humbly thank and praise God for these abundant blessings.

As I reported last month, we needed to have a second business meeting and did that June 17 with most members present. We had many good discussions and were able to come to satisfactory conclusions, especially concerning Sunday school and weekly church cleaning. As for Sunday school, it was necessary to add another class for the Jr. High students, but teachers are few. So, Bro. Kan Umemura, a graduate of our Sunday school about 7 years back, agreed to take a turn once or twice a month and our two ministers will each take one turn a month, with Sis. Haruyo Onoda taking the remaining week.

Sis. Haruyo, Sis. Hiroko Utsuki and Sis. Marie Inoue will continue teaching the 4th and 5th grade class in their former rotation, and Sis. Marie and Sis. Grace Klaus likewise will continue their rotation of teaching the kindergarten through 3rd grade class. May God bless each one of these willing servants with much grace and wisdom to teach the precious young souls.

As for church cleaning, it was decided that Bro. Teruyo Sanada (who lives near church and wants to do what he can for the Lord) would continue the jobs he felt he could do and for the remaining work, a local cleaning lady would be hired to come in for a couple hours while Sis. Marie is there teaching English. There are many other tasks, of course, necessary for running our dear church, and we are thankful for each one's efforts and labors of love.

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### **KANSAS, BERN** **Sheri Edelman** **Rita Menold**

We rejoice with Monica Strahm (Bro. Edwin and Sis. Ramona) as she has given her life to God in repentance! Our prayer is that she will build upon the firm foundation and look to our God for daily nurturing and guidance!

We welcome Bro. Hanz Strahm (Bro.

Kyle and Sis. Peggy), Bro. Byron and Sis. Emily Stoller and Sis. Stefany Edelman (Bro. Earl and Sis. Donna) as Brothers and Sisters as they brought forth their testimonies the weekend of June 2-3. Sharing the weekend with us were Elder Bros. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA) and Gerry Hertzell (Sabetha, KS), as well as ministering Bros. Cory Metzger (Wichita, KS) and Warren Schlatter (Junction, OH). We were reminded that we can spend a huge amount of money to buy the best insurance policy there is, but having the best insurance policy still will not buy us eternal life in Heaven! Let's continue to pray for our unconverted souls that they would see the need to repent while the door of grace is yet open!

We rejoice with Sis. Tami Kaeb (Cissna Park, IL) and Bro. Dan Coughlin (Detroit, MI) as they make plans to begin a life together. Parents of the couple are Bro. Paul and Sis. Joan Kaeb and Mike and Sally Coughlin (Detroit, MI).

Brett Edelman (Bro. Rod and Sis. Joleen) has announced his upcoming marriage to Lisa Lierz (Mark and Becky, Baileyville, KS). May God be with them as they plan for their July 26, 2008, wedding!

Little Jared Rokey (Bro. Todd and Sis. Sheila) spent some time in the hospital and we are glad that he is up and running around again.

Our prayers are with Sis. Marilyn Fetter (Bro. Eugene) at the passing of her brother, Bro. John Dotterer, of Smithville, OH. Bro. Bill Wulf (Sis. Leona) passed from this life into eternity on June 16. Our prayers are with Sis. Leona as well as their children, Bro. Arden and Sis. Dar Stoller.

We bid farewell to Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gerty Esslinger as they have relocated to Bloomfield, IA. We will miss them and hope they will return often to visit!

Vacation Bible School was enjoyed the week of June 11-15. May God bless each one who so diligently gave of their time during the week.

## KANSAS, FORT SCOTT

### Karen Kellenberger

When burdened with care,  
When thou wouldst despair,  
Then call on thy loving Redeemer.  
He'll lighten the load,  
And level the road,  
And bear thee on wings of compassion.

*Zion's Harp #46*  
("The Best Refuge")

Bro. Harold Kraft laid his cross down when he was called home June 5 to be with his Lord. Bro. Harold faithfully ministered to our congregation many years, and following his retirement, lovingly continued serving and giving. Our love and deepest sympathy go to his wife, Sis. Wanda; his four children, Roger (Christina), Nancy Sinn (Thomas), Janet Byler (Tom), Diana Davis (Roger); ten grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, and three brothers.

Visiting ministers who fed us the Word recently were Bro. Ben Wysong (Sis. Janice, Sabetha, KS), Bro. Dan Koch (Sis. Julie, Tremont, IL), and Bro. Jim Vierling (Sis. Linda, Eureka, IL). We are grateful to each of them.

On June 9, we had an all-church picnic in the park, highlighting the end of Vacation Bible School. An uplifting program by all ages of students was presented and our hearts were blessed.

A minister was telling the story of the patriot, Patrick Henry, who passionately pleaded to the Virginia legislature to "Give me liberty - or give me death!" The brother pointed out that Patrick Henry's fiery words may have helped birth a nation, but we can, through OUR words, help save a soul, help mend a wounded heart, and help turn a person back to truth and grace. Our words, whether written or spoken, carry great weight today.

"Behold also the ships, which though they be so great, and are driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm, whithersoever the governor listeth. Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things..."

*James 3:4-5*

## KANSAS, KIOWA

### Janice Bahr

### Jenny Stewart

"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 3:6-7*

This scripture is one that always seems so fitting for Jr. High, High School and college graduates, because Jr. High young people are taking that big step into High School, and High School young adults are taking that big step into college or the work force, and college adults are taking that extra big step into the world. Who better to rely on than God, to lean on, to talk to, to ask for direction for their lives. He has been here and knows the best place for each of us. Clare Wagenbach (Bro. Ken and Sis. Laura) heads to college in the fall, and Staci Stewart (Bro. Kelly and Sis. Jenny) to High School. May God bless them and guide them through all the choices they face!

At this writing, our area is in the midst of harvest and the wheat reminds me so much of the people of this world. The heads that stand straight and tall are empty, just like those people who do not know God, and trust in themselves. The wheat that is lying flat reminds me of those without hope, because they do not have the love of God to cling to. But then there are the fruitful full heads bowed to their God in reverence, like the people of this world who reflect the joy and love and peace of God in their lives. In John 4:35 Jesus speaks of the fields being white to harvest. And may it be our prayer that we may be a tool whereby God can use us to reach the empty and the hopeless to bring them to the knowledge of the love of our Lord.

As we celebrated Mother's Day, and soon will celebrate Father's Day, may we not forget to thank our parents for giving us the gift of life in this world, but mostly for rearing us in the fear and the admonition of the Lord. As we look around at the World today, we can see just how blessed we are. And let's not forget to thank our

Heavenly Father for loving us so much that He sent His only Son to die for us and grant us life eternal through Jesus.

Thanks to those who faithfully help with rest home services, and for those who pray for each other. There's no greater gift we can give to our brothers, sisters, family and friends than to hold them up in prayer.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Sis. Jenny Stewart and family, Matt and John Schupbach and families and Sis. Darcy Kisling and Bro. Kent at the passing of their grandma, great-grandma and mother-in-law, Trulla Schupbach, who was called from this life this past month. May the Lord be a comfort at this difficult time.

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### **KANSAS LAMONT-GRIDLEY**

#### **Ester Knobloch**

Our visiting ministers who brought forth the Word of Life to us this past month were Bros. Nate Lehman (Denver, CO) and Brandon Emch (Kansas City, MO). May they ever feel the presence of the Holy Spirit as they stand to speak God's truth.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Nadine Kraft upon the death of his brother, Bro. Harold Kraft (Fort Scott, KS). Also, to Bro. Albert and Sis. Mara Jean Edelman upon the death of his uncle, John Edelman. We pray that God will comfort the hearts of all who have lost a loved one.

Sis. Andrea Luthi had surgery and was hospitalized this past month. May she continue to feel God's hand of healing.

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### **KANSAS, SABETHA**

#### **Rebekah Beyer**

#### **Dawn Strahm**

Bro. Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata, TX) visited our congregation this month. May God bless him for traveling to our area and sharing inspiring words with us.

Chris Kellenberger was married to Nicole Steinkamp on April 17. Parents are Bro. Gene and Sis. Marian Kellenberger and Dean and Mary

Steinkamp of Lee Summit, MO. We wish them God's blessings in this new stage in their lives!

Our prayer is that God go with our recent graduates and they allow Him to be the guide in their lives as many decisions come their way. High School graduates this year included: Galen Grimm (Bro. Doug and Sis. Jeryl), Maria Hartter (Bro. Tim and Sis. Charleen), Maria Eisenbise (Bro. David and Sis. Shari), Austin Keim (Curtis and Valerie), and Jody Grimm (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Nita). College graduates were Sis. Maggie Eisenbise (Bro. David and Sis. Shari), Sis. Heidi Hartter (Bro. Tim and Sis. Charleen), and Sis. Kenna Kellenberger (Bro. Brad and Sis. Teresa).

A son, Alphia Roger, was born to Bro. Steven and Sis. Kelly Edelman on May 21. Siblings Maddie, Ethan and Annie are thankful for a new baby brother. Grandparents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Ilene Hartter and Eugene and Judy Edelman.

Sis. Marie Hartter (Bro. Virgil) and Sis. Ruth Hertzler (Bro. Frank) have spent some time in the hospital recently. Many thoughts and prayers are with them as they are strengthened a little more each day. Eldon Kaster (Lana Kaster) has also spent time in the hospital and is awaiting test results. He is the son-in-law of Bro. Harvey and Sis. Arleta Wenger.

Our annual church Sunday school picnic was held on June 9 at an outdoor picnic area. What a joy it is to watch our youth grow and be taught in the ways of the Lord!

We lift up in prayer Sis. Irene Lehman and Sis. Lois Grimm as they have lost their sister/sister-in-law. Sis. Alvina Zimmerman (the late Bro. Russ Zimmerman) attended the Morton, IL, congregation.

Curtis and Valerie Keim have announced the engagement of their daughter, Crystal, to Scott Wedel, son of Allen and Pam Wedel of Newton, KS. Crystal is the granddaughter of Bro. Harvey and Sis. Arleta Wenger. A September 15 wedding is planned.

### **KANSAS, WICHITA**

#### **Emma Miller**

The annual business meeting was held after afternoon services on May 20. Because of our small number and our aging congregation, the responsibility of church matters falls on the few who continue in their duties. We are ever grateful to the brothers and sisters who do not abandon their post and who continue to provide for the needs of the congregation.

I was visiting with Bro. Phil Bowers about his summer plans. His work at Wichita University is a year round responsibility. His area of expertise is to provide guidance for students of disabilities. He is planning to be in Charlotte, NC, in mid July to take part in a week long program dedicated to how these needs should be met. Members of his family will go with him to meet his physical needs. We praise God for the blessings that come from a willing mind, a captive body, and a dedicated family.

Plans are underway to hold a Bible School session in the near future. Mothers and grandmothers are diligently making plans for the event. May their efforts be blessed from above.

Kansas has a reputation for tornadoes and we seem to have broken a record with the one that hit Greensburg, KS, in the southwestern quadrant of the state on the night of May 5. While the physical damage is unbelievable, the loss of life decreased, thanks to the few minutes warning most people had in which they sought shelter.

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### **KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON**

#### **Barb Huber**

"The Lord is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and He knoweth them that trust in Him."

*Nahum 1:7*

How comforting God's Word is! Truly it strengthens and refreshes our souls. It's more important than our daily food. We're thankful how God has provided to bring us this spiritual refreshment through the ministry of His Word. We appreciated having Bro. Ted Luginbuhl (Sis. Stephanie, Smithville, OH) and Bro.

Glen Braker (Sis. Audrey, Princeville, IL) and their families which were a special blessing to our assembly. May God bless you all for your efforts and labors of love to travel and worship with us.

We were also privileged to enjoy the spiritual refreshment of fellowship with brethren from churches in Bradford, Chicago, Eureka, Washington, IL; LaCrosse, Remington, IN; and Latty, OH.

As we think again of the birth of our great nation, and the freedoms we enjoy, may we pray for our beloved country that it would have a freedom built upon God and His commandments. May we continue, "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God." (Hebrews 12:2) That we may experience the true freedom of "...laying aside every weight and the sin which doth so easily beset us..." (Hebrews 12:1)

A hearty welcome is extended to anyone who may be in our area or traveling through to worship with us. You may contact Bro. Doug Germann (859) 223-0294 or Bro. Lester Huber (859) 745-2541.

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### MEXICO, IXTLAN Claudia Gonzalez

"I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins."

*Isaiah 43:25*

April 28 and 29 was a blessed weekend as we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of two precious souls. We welcome Sis. Cecy Robledo and Sis. Issa Sibaja (Sis. Lourdes and Felix Sibaja) as new sisters in faith. We want to thank Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL) and Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington, IL) for coming down and sharing Holy Communion with us.

Bro. Bryan Stoller (Fairbury, IL) came for a four-day eye clinic the first week of May. He was assisted in the work by Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter and his wife, Sis. Emily, and their convert daughter, Beverly. Bro. Bill also served the congrega-

tion with several timely messages.

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

*I Corinthians 13:13*

May 13 was a special day in the lives of Bro. Rudy Troxel (Sis. LuAnn and Bro. Tom Troxel) and Sis. Rosario Gonzalez (Sis. Bertha de Gonzalez) as they were joined in holy marriage. We rejoice with them and their families. We were thankful for the visiting sisters, brothers, and friends that came to assemble with us that weekend.

"Blessed is the man whose strength is in thee, in whose heart are the ways of them."

*Psalms 84:5*

Our little congregation heartily welcomes Bro. Spencer Lewis (Bluffton, IN) who will be with us for awhile helping in the work here in Ixtlan. We are thankful for Bro. Spencer's help.

We also rejoice with Sis. Claudia Gonzalez as she just graduated from nursing school. We are confident she will use her newly acquired skills in the Lord's service.

We continue to pray for the new missionary work in Barra Vieja and ask you to also remember the new believers there in your prayers. The Lord bless you and keep you!

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### MEXICO, MAGDALENA Gloria Gonzalez Carissa Schlipf

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

"Whom have I in heaven but thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee. My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion forever."

*Psalms 73: 25, 26*

This summer we welcome several young and energetic volunteers! Bro. Braden Mogler (Bro. Kent and Sis. Mary,

Minneapolis, MN) has joined us for the entire summer and Sisters Stephanie Gerst (Bro. Wally and Donna, Alto, MI) and Brittany Streitmatter (Bro. David and Sis. Crystal, Princeville, IL) have come to help through the month of June. We praise God for their desire to serve others and are refreshed by their enthusiasm and willing hearts. We pray that their time here at CVE will be a blessing to them!

In June, we hosted teams from Phoenix, AZ, Washington, IL, and Kansas City, MO. It has been amazing to see the house and church take shape as the weeks pass! We are thankful for their labor of love and pray that each will leave knowing a little more about Casa Vida y Esperanza and with a burden to pray for the work God is doing here. We also pray God's blessing on the ministering brothers, Herbert Knochel (Sis. Laurie, Phoenix, AZ), James Emch (Phoenix, AZ), Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen, Kansas City, MO), Max Reimschisel (Sis. Judy, Wichita, KS), and Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington, IL) for their support and encouragement in God's Word.

"Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee."

*Jer. 31:3*

As we reflect on Father's Day, we wish to honor and thank the Lord for their lives and examples. For those who do not have the blessing of the presence of their earthly father, we know that God has promised to be the Father to the fatherless.

My Father hears my every cry,  
His listening ears catch every sigh;  
Nor can I call to Him in vain  
Whose power and love my life sustain:  
He hears, He hears, my Father hears,  
No prayer of faith escapes His ears.

My Father cares, He cares for me,  
However low my lot may be;  
However great, however small  
My burdens be, He cares for all:  
He cares, He cares, my Father cares,  
His children's burdens all He bears.

My Father loves with love so strong,  
It fills my heart with grateful song;  
Nor life nor death nor depth nor  
height  
Can hide me from His loving sight:  
He loves, He loves, my Father loves,  
And safe His child where'er he moves.  
*(excerpt from My Father Knows by  
Wilber Fisk Tillett)*

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

We appreciate the efforts of visiting Bros. Jesse Bedolla (Sis. Bonnie, Detroit, MI) and Dave Steffen (Sis. Linda, Elgin, IL). Each of these Brothers were in Bay City spending time with family.

Three loved ones spent time in the hospital. We pray for Sis. Barb Knochel, Sis. Helen Ramseyer and Sis. Emma Waibel that they all could make a full recovery.

God be with you till we meet again;  
By His counsels guide, uphold you,  
With His sheep securely fold you;  
God be with you till we meet again.

We trust that the Lord's blessings will be with Bro. Nathan Knochel (Bro. Bob and Sis. Rhonda) as he moves to Texas for employment. He will be greatly missed here in Bay City!

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**MICHIGAN, DETROIT**  
**Manuela Denes**  
**Kay Rauhe**

"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. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever."

*Psalms 23:4,6*

We were deeply saddened to hear about the death of our dear Sis. Ethel Rambeau. Our deepest sympathy, continued prayers, and love to her son, Bro. Russ, and the many family and friends who will miss her. May they find comfort

in the promise of Jesus to restore hope and peace to their souls.

We had three high school graduates this year, and our love, congratulations and God's richest blessings go out to all three of them. Sis. Kristen Hitz (Bro. Tom and Sis. Cindy) graduated from Plymouth High School and will be attending Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti. She will be studying to receive her degree in Special Education C.I. Luke Knochel (Bro. Dana and Sis. Beth) graduated from Stevenson High School and will be attending the University of Michigan Dearborn in the fall. Engineering will be the focus of Luke's studies. Bro. Jeff Matejin (Sis. Mira) graduated from North Farmington High School and will be attending the College for Creative Studies in Detroit, majoring in Transportation Design. Since they will be attending colleges close by, we hope they will be able to fellowship with us often.

What a wonderful and blessed weekend when we were privileged to hear the testimonies and then witnessed the baptisms of Sis. Miomira Miladinov and Bro. Brian Barton (K.C.). "One Lord, one faith, one baptism." Ephesians 4:5. Our heartfelt thanks goes to Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily; Junction, OH) for assisting our Elder Bro. Mark Bahr with the testimonies. A special thank you to retired Elder Bro. Ben Maibach as he and Elder Bro. Mark conducted the baptisms on Sunday.

Our love to Sis. Perseda Wieland and to Bro. Guy Wieland (Sis. Rose) as they have been unable to worship with us for a long time due to health issues, and we really miss them. We need to keep them both in our thoughts and prayers.

We tearfully say goodbye to Sis. Danielle Mojic and Bro. Sasha Mojic (Laza and Sis. Ranka) as they are leaving our congregation to pursue their other interests. Sis. Danielle will be studying Medical Insurance, Billing and Coding at Everest Institute in Phoenix, AZ, and attending our Phoenix church. Bro. Sasha will be moving to Kokomo, IN, to work at Delphi where he will use his electrical engineering skills that he learned when he earned a Masters Degree from Wayne State. Our Indianapolis, IN, church is where he plans on worshipping. We will

also greatly miss Bro. Aaron and Sis. Bekah Plattner as they are moving to Chicago, IL, to continue his medical training and will be worshipping at our Chicago church. We are looking forward to all of them visiting us as often as possible. As you go from here to there ... may God keep you in His care.

We were so excited to hear about the engagement of Bro. Dan Coughlin to Sis. Tami Kaeb from Champaign, IL. May God bless your love, your coming marriage, and your future with a lifetime of special joys.

What a blessing for Bro. Willard and Sis. Eloise Bahr when the Kitchener, Canada church stopped by to see them and then to sing for them and the residents at Woodhaven and Woodpointe on their way home from a bus trip to Fairbury, IL. A warm thank you to everyone who sang as it was beautiful and a glory to God. Before leaving on their journey home, a light meal was served.

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

*Proverbs 3:5-6*

We are grateful for the blessings of God's grace in Carrie Ramseyer's (Bro. Mark and Sis. Kelly) life to begin her repentance. We pray daily that God will bless her with strength, peace, and great joy as she lives her life for Christ.

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

*I John 4:12*

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**MINNESOTA**  
**MINNEAPOLIS**  
**Mary Mogler**

We welcome Bro. Luke Gudeman from Francesville, IN. He is interning near Rochester, MN, for the summer. The zeal and enthusiasm single brothers and sisters bring to our congregation is a blessing, motivating each of us to greater service.

It was indeed a pleasure to recently greet ministering Bro. Ken Lawson, and

his wife, Sis. Sharon. We are thankful for the inspired Word and the re-kindled memories.

Bro. Jim and Sis. Deb Tilbury rejoice in the birth of their first granddaughter, Mariah Kay, born to daughter Charity and husband, Randy Parkin, on June 7.

Congratulations and God's blessings to Tyler Bergstrom on his recent graduation from the U of MN.

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## MINNESOTA, MORRIS

**Heidi Nohl  
Sheila Reuter**

We were thankful for the visiting ministers that shared God's Word with us this month. They were Bro. Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN), Elder Bro. Dennis Warner (Lester, IA), Bro. Darin Fehr (West Bend, IA), Elder Bro. Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA), Bro. Jim Koehl (San Diego, CA) and Bro. Ken Lawson (Atlanta, GA). God richly bless them for their labors.

Our hearts are filled with joy when we hear of souls that have turned their hearts to the Lord. Levi Koehl (Bro. Roy and Sis. Jenell) and Brent Schaefer (Bro. Stan and Sis. Bev) have begun their repentance. We trust God will grant them grace to build that firm foundation.

Abigail Lisa was welcomed into the home of Bro. Eric and Sis. ReKeeta Leman (Eureka, IL). Thankful grandparents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Diane Schmidgall and Bro. Bruce and Sis. Marge Leman (Eureka, IL). We wish them God's blessings.

June 3 was the wedding of Sis. Stacey Koehl and Bro. Corbin Fehr (Prescott, AZ). Their parents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Hilde Koehl (San Diego, CA) and Bro. Dennis and Sis. Judy Fehr (West Bend, IA). We pray God will bless them as they begin their life together as one in the Lord.

We want to welcome Bro. Kevin and Sis. Annie Wulf as they have moved to our congregation from Lester, IA. We are thankful to have them here and trust they will feel at home.

Our hearts and prayers go out to Bro. Harv and Sis. Debra Joos in the passing of her father, Bro. Harry Rocke (Eureka, IL). We pray that God will comfort them

in their time of sorrow.

Hospitalized this month were Crystal Koehl, Bro. Ryan Messner and Bro. Gary Domnick. We pray God's healing hand will be upon them.

Graduating from high school this year: Denise Feuchtenberger (Bro. Bob and Sis. Gwen), Kyle Feuchtenberger (Bro. Ken and Sis. Sally), Alissa Koehl (Bro. Randy and Sis. Shirley), Robert Lesmeister (Paul and Sis. Barb), Sis. Annie Messner (Bro. Beirne and Sis. Joyce), Brandon Moser (Bro. Doug and Sis. Dawn), Michael Nohl (Bro. Dewayne and Sis. Janice), Brent Schaefer (Bro. Stan and Sis. Bev), Darren Schaefer (Bro. Rod and Sis. Denise), Elizabeth Schaefer (Bro. Steve and Sis. Pam), Mary Wulf (Bro. Doug and Sis. Joyce) and Sis. Katie Jones (Bro. Shane and Sis. Ruth). Graduating from higher schools of learning are: Harlan Koehl (Bro. Arnie and Sis. Sharon), Mike Koehl (Bro. Guy and Sis. Lynette), Rachel Wulf (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Linda) and Scott Wulf (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Judy). We pray God will be with them and bless them.

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## MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

**Rachel Steiner  
Julie Schmidt**

Many from our congregation enjoyed a day of worship and fellowship with our Minneapolis brethren for our annual Winthrop/Minneapolis potluck. We appreciate them hosting this year's event.

We offer our support and prayers to the newly elected Sunday School teachers, Bro. John Elder (Sis. Joleen) and Sis. Bethany Messner (Bro. David). Sis. Joleen Elder (Bro. John) will be our substitute teacher. We extend a thank you to our outgoing teachers, Sis. Becky Braulick (Marlyn) and Sis. Rachel Steiner (Bro. Glen), for their labors. We also give our support to Bro. Brendon Messner (Bro. Dean and Sis. Wanda) as he was elected as our new usher/recorder.

Our thoughts and prayers are with our hospital patients this month, Bro. Roland Messner (Sis. Melva) and Gene Schmidt. May they feel God's nearness.

## MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY

**Becky Weiss**

April 21 was our annual Spring Work Day at church. It's always a blessing for those that come to work together on the House of God! That same weekend our Single Group hosted an invite weekend. Bro. Dennis Kaufmann (Sis. Bonnie, Bloomington, IL) was able to travel here to be the speaker for Saturday evening for the Single Group and our congregation. We were blessed to have him again on Sunday as he imparted God's Word. Bro. Virgil Kaeb (Sis. Suellen, Sarasota, FL) was also with us on Sunday. We extend thanks to both Brothers for their efforts in bringing us God's Word.

We enjoyed a Mother/Daughter Luncheon on Saturday, May 5, at the home of our Sis. Diane Smith. We're thankful for the times of fellowship that we have with those of like mind and faith.

Our prayers are with Sis. Joan Fehr (Bro. Joe) over the loss of her grandfather, Bro. Noah Gerber. It always saddens our heart to hear of the passing of our older, faithful brethren but we rejoice that their earthly struggle is over. May we always strive for the day when we, too, can break free from the bonds of earth and meet the Lord face to face!

We extend a warm welcome to Bro. Jason Kaeb (Bro. Paul and Sis. Joan) of Bern, KS, as he assembles with us this summer. He is here on an internship.

Our high school graduates this year are Rebekah Smith (Sis. Diane and Ron) and Sis. Allison Meyer (Bro. DeVere and Sis. Michelle.) May they seek the Lord's direction for their lives.

The week of June 4th was Vacation Bible School. The theme this year was "Keys to the Kingdom". The week ended with Bro. Edwin Strahm (Sis. Ramona, Bern, KS) giving a topical Bible presentation on Friday evening.

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## MISSOURI, LAMAR

**Becky Marti  
Mindy Braker**

"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:"

*Eccles. 3:1*

We are thankful that it is our Heavenly Father who determines the times and seasons of our lives. On June 2, He called our Sis. Sandra Luthi (Elder Bro. Lawrence) from this life. Our prayers and sympathy are with all of Sis. Sandra's family, but especially with Bro. Lawrence and their sons, Eric and Brent; her parents, Bro. Charles and Sis. Alice Marti; and her sister, Sis. Becky Marti. May the Lord provide strength and comfort now and in the days to come.

Bro. David and Sis. Carol Dotterer were blessed with the birth of their daughter, Julia Ann. Julia's big sister is Brianna; her grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Sharon Dotterer and Bro. Roy and Sis. Judy Braker. We wish Bro. David and Sis. Carol grace to raise their family in the fear of God.

The effort many made to come and visit us in Lamar is much appreciated. We especially wish to thank visiting Elder Bros. Don Braker (Kansas City, MO), Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL) and Art Nohl (Morris, MN) and ministering Bro. Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA) for being willing to bring forth the Word. May the Lord bless and provide for each.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with Sis. Evelyn Marti (Bro. Joe) as she has spent some time in the hospital. We are thankful she has been able to assemble with us again.

*Note of Thanks:*

The family of Sis. Sandra Luthi wishes to thank the brethren and friends across the land for the prayers, food, phone calls, gifts of love, and the many kind deeds, even those unknown to us, during the illness and passing of our dear loved one. May God richly reward each one.

In Christian Love,  
Bro. Lawrence, Eric and Brent Luthi  
Charles Marti family  
Ray Luthi family

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**MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS**  
**Betsy Schrenk**

"Faith to believe, hearts to receive, desire to comprehend." We were exhorted to come to church with these three goals.

Ministering Bros. Glenn Dill (Sis. Marilyn, Tremont), John Steiner (Sis. Carol, Oakville), and Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign) served us on the pulpit so willingly this month.

Bro. Ken and Sis. Devon Rinckenberger are the thankful grandparents of William Matthew, born June 14 to Bro. Jared and Sis. Heidi (Inoue) Rinckenberger.

The Bible exhorts us to "make a joyful noise unto the Lord" (Psalm 66:1), and to sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs (Colossians 3:16). Singing in four-part harmony is such an important aspect of our worship, and we are blessed by raising our voices in song. Hoarseness and a cough recently assailed my body, and I was unable to speak, much less sing. How frustrating to be unable to participate in worshipping God in this way! The only benefit was that I was much more aware of the words of the songs as I read along. I had to think of those in mourning who cannot sing because of the grief in their hearts. I also remembered back to the time of Loren's cancer surgery and radiation, and how deeply the words of so many of the hymns affected me, catching in my throat and piercing my heart. Singing can be a form of praying. By not being able to sing, I was reminded of how precious this gift from God is!

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**MISSOURI, TAYLOR**  
**Sally Haerr**

"Faith of Our Fathers" ... (Hymns of Zion #85). We sang this wonderful old hymn on Father's Day. It is a hymn of challenge as well as one of reflection. A challenge to fathers to pass on an unwavering faith in Jesus Christ and a time to remember and be thankful for the rock-solid faith of our earthly fathers. No one ever need feel fatherless when we have an ever faithful Heavenly Father that beckons, "Come Unto Me" ... (Matthew 11:28).

On May 23, a special Wednesday evening service and reception was held for our 2007 graduates. They are: Jacob Gehring (Bro. Brad and Sis. Ellen), Cole Sutter (Bro. Rich and Sis. Kay), and convert Nathan Sutter (Dan and Sis. Tina).

Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern, KS) was willing to come and speak words of wisdom based on God's Word/the Bible, the best instruction manual, and the good news is that we all have access to it. We wish them a Christ-centered future. Matthew 6:33 says, "seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things (necessities) shall be added unto you."

On June 6, Bro. Darren Plattner (Sis. Sue, Champaign, IL) came to give a topical Bible study on "Prejudice". Defined, this word means "an adverse, opposing or unfavorable judgment, before all facts are known." Can any of us honestly say that we have never been guilty of this? I hope that most of you can say, yes. There are many scriptures that speak of this sin, and yes, it is a sin. James 2:9 in the Holy Bible specifically labels prejudice as sin.

Vacation Bible School is always an exciting time for all of us. This is the second year, as one of the "crafts" the children created their own design on t-shirts. The main message on these t-shirts was "Cristo Me Ama" (Jesus Loves Me). These t-shirts will be taken to Mexico by the Apostolic Christian Medical Team.

Children are never too young to be taught the joy of giving and this is just what the children expressed as they proudly displayed their creations. We want to thank the teachers, craft leaders and each one who took part in this wonderful, memory making time. Most of these are busy moms and dads making life-changing choices to serve, not only the children, but also Christ and His church.

Those sick or hospitalized this month were Sis. Dianne Sutter (Bro. Roger) and Sis. Ruthie Hoerr (Bro. Louis). We are thankful to report that both of these sisters are recovering and we are once again enjoying the blessing of their fellowship.

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**NEW YORK**  
**CROGHAN-NAUMBURG**  
**Hope Graves**

We were blessed to have Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA) with us on June 16-17. We enjoyed a potluck dinner and singing together Saturday evening and partook of Holy Communion on

Sunday afternoon. How humbling it is to look deeply into God's Word and to reflect on His sacrifice for us. The Lord certainly provided a wonderful day of instruction for us and we are thankful to Elder Bros. Duane Farney and Ben Wiegand for their many labors of love on our behalf. "Anew, Lord, we are bound to Thee, through Thy blest sacrament which we partook, that joined in heart and hand to Zion's realm and holy land, we journey on." (Zion's Harp #200, vs. 5)

As we journey on in this lifetime, our prayers extend to our high school graduates. This year's graduates are Rebecca Farney, Erica Farney, Meaghan McGillvray, Daniel Himmelstein, and Ross Virkler. May these new graduates seek the Lord's guidance and direction each step of the way.

Our prayers are with Sis. Loretta Graves who was recently hospitalized but has since returned home. We would ask for continued prayers for Paul and Emily Virkler as they have much ahead of them as they seek the next step in treatment for her brain tumor. Certainly in times like these when we feel so helpless, we are reminded that we can always pray and the Lord will hear each and every prayer lifted up to Him.

How sweet the privilege of prayer,  
when we our cares and sorrows share,  
with Him who understands.  
Our Father's house has large supplies,  
He owns and rules the earth and  
skies,  
and bounteous are His hands.  
As friend to friend will oft confide,  
in prayer we seek the Saviour's side,  
and tell Him all our grief.  
If we but ask, He'll lend His aid,  
when on His altar prayers are laid,  
He'll send the soul relief.

*Hymns of Zion #205, vs. 1,3*

As the summer has now arrived, and with it the nice weather, we would like to extend an invitation to anyone who would like to travel through our area. Our small congregation always receives such a blessing when we have visitors and the Lord made many beautiful places to visit or camp in our nearby Adirondack Park.

## OHIO, AKRON

**Mara Henico  
Rachel Pamer**

"What joy I feel, what peace is mine, as I my all to Thee resign..." We are thankful that God has blessed our congregation with four new members. Bro. Samuel Greenbank (Bro. Glen and Sis. Joan), Bro. Jacob Rufener (Bro. John and Sis. Janice, Smithville), Bro. Adam Henico (Bro. Greg and Sis. Sarah), and Sis. Octavia Demrovsky (Bro. Andy and Sis. Vera) have given their testimony and made their vows in the waters of baptism. We trust that they feel our love and prayers as they continue to grow in their walk of faith.

It was a blessing to have Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Mansfield) and ministering Bros. Mark Ramsier (Sardis) and Tim Ramsier (Rittman) serve us in the Word. We are thankful for their willingness to be used of God for our edification, and trust the Lord will bless the seeds that were planted.

Our prayers are with the family of Sis. Janet Graf (Bro. Leon) as she recently finished her pilgrim walk here. How blessed we were to have her in our midst for so many years! We also remember the family of our friend, Charlotte Kauffman, who also recently took her last breath. We know that true comfort can only come from above and trust that God will bring solace and calm to the hearts of those who miss these dear ones daily.

We are thankful that God has blessed Bro. Greg and Sis. Darla Henico with a beautiful daughter. Ariana Del's paternal grandparents are Bro. Greg and Sis. Sarah Henico of Akron and maternal grandparents are Bro. Denny and Sis. Kay Neiman (Smithville).

We trust that God will strengthen our Bro. Richard Baumgartener (Sis. Evelyn) as he was recently hospitalized. We're thankful he was able to return home.

We also remember our four graduates: Sis. Octavia Demrovsky (Bro. Andy and Sis. Vera), Bro. Samuel Greenbank (Bro. Glen and Sis. Joan), Dan Steidl (Les and Judy), and Christopher Indermuhle (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Carol). We trust that they will "Remember [their] Creator" and allow Him to direct their paths

in a way that is a glory to Him.

## OHIO, COLUMBUS

**Nancy Banks**

We rejoice with our friend, Todd Saurer, and his family as he has found peace with God and awaits baptism. It is wonderful to see how God's love can reach a soul and cause him to surrender his life to Him. May He bless Todd and continue to work in his life.

We have been blessed with many visitors, including the following ministers: Bro. Fred Domka (Sis. Connie, Mansfield, OH), Bro. Mike Bauman (Sis. Lilly, Mansfield, OH) and Bro. Warren Zahner (Sis. Bonnie, Rockville, CT). We thank these brothers for sharing with us.

This reporter is very thankful for the prayers and words of encouragement received from my church family while confined to the hospital receiving treatment for an infection.

## OHIO, JUNCTION

**Cindy Schlatter**

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

*Psalms 127:3*

Bro. John and Trish Rose welcomed little Hope Anne into their family circle on April 24. Hope's parents are Johnathon and Connie Rose and her siblings are Chelsea, Johnathon Jr., and Faith. Clayton Lester blessed the home of Bro. Chad and Sis. Loral Manz on June 2. Carter is excited to have a little playmate. Clayton's grandparents are Bro. Ray and Sis. Corrine Schlatter and Bro. Lester and Sis. Karen Manz. We wish these couples much grace and wisdom as they raise these precious children.

"When a Christian dies Precious is the prize!..." (Hymns of Zion #248). We offer our sympathy and prayers to the family of our dear departed Sis. Betty Manz. It brings tears to our eyes as we think of no longer meeting her on this earth, but we can rejoice as we daily strive to live for the Lord and yearn to some day spend eternity in Heaven together. We will con-

tinue to remember her husband, Bro. Alvin Manz, in prayer as well as her family, Bro. John Rose (Trish), Joe Rose (Gina), Bro. Bud, Bro. Bob (Sis. Donna), and their families.

Richard Gerber (Eleanor) spent some time in the hospital. May God be with him and heal him according to His good will.

"Love, of all gifts, is the greatest Which the Spirit does bestow..." (Zion's Harp #37). May this love be ever present in the lives of our newly married couple. June 17 was the wedding day for Bro. Will Manz (Bro. Ken and Sis. Gwen) and Sis. Joanna Kaeb (Bro. Max and Sis. Beth) of Cissna Park. May God be ever with you as you begin your walk through life together. We want to welcome Sis. Joanna to our congregation — we are very happy to have you among us!

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**OHIO, LATTY  
Amanda Steffen  
Carmen Eisenmann**

Our congregation was appreciative of the visiting ministers this month. They were Bro. John Jackson (Sis. Peggy, Bay City, MI) and Bro. Bill Waibel (Sis. Carol, Bay City, MI). We thank them for their efforts.

We pray God's blessings on Sarah Wenninger and Adam Hostetler as they were joined in holy matrimony this month. Sarah is the daughter of Bro. Dave and Sis. Deb Wenninger and Adam is the son of Paul and Kay Hostetler. Also married this month were David Rager and Trisha Spoor. David is the son of Bro. Curt and Sis. Denise Rager and Trisha is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Spoor. May God bless and keep these couples as they begin their lives together.

We were happy to hear the engagement announcement of Bro. Chris Stoller (Bluffton, IN) to Sis. Katie Schlipf (Bro. Rich and Sis. Kathy, Milford, IN). Bro. Chris is the son of our Sis. Irma Stoller. May God be near this couple as they prepare for their marriage.

We rejoice with Carli Hopkins (Cris and Sis. Amy) as she has given her heart to the Lord in repentance. May God's blessings be upon her as she strives to make a beginning walk with the Lord.

The week of June 11th we had Bible

School, followed by a program by the children and young adults on Friday evening. What a blessing it was to hear the songs of praise sung by the youth of our church! We are thankful to all who gave of their time and for the labor of love that went into making this week successful.

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**OHIO, MANSFIELD  
Esther Baumann**

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path."

*Psalm 119:105*

Congratulations to our recent high school graduates: Holly Stricker (Doug and Karla), Mitch Sauder (Terry and Helen), Daniel Sauder (Greg and Sis. Missy), Andrew Sauder (Bro. Dave and Sis. Joy), Bro. John Ramsey Jr. (Bro. John Sr. and Sis. Dawn), and Scott Gerber (Bro. Tim and Sis. Wendy). We pray each graduate will use God's Word as the guiding light for their lives.

The week of June 11-15, we were blessed to have our annual Vacation Bible School for both adults and children. Ministering brethren who taught the adult classes were: Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Sis. Frances, Wolcott, IN), Bro. Todd Stoller (Sis. Pam, Latty, OH), Bro. Ron Steiner (Sis. Ruth, Rittman, OH), Bro. Don Steidl, (Sis. Nan, Akron, OH) and retired Elder Bro. Charles Sinn (Sis. Karen, Eureka, IL). We thank all of them and all those who worked to make the week possible.

We rejoice with Sis. Betsy Rufener (Bro. Ron and Sis. Kay) and Bro. Vic Rinkenberger (Bro. Mike and Sis. Pat) of Congerville, IL, as they were united in marriage on June 17. Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Sis. Jeannine) and Bro. Mike Rinkenberger (Sis. Pat, Congerville, IL) had the wedding service. We also thank ministering Bro. Dale Zeltwanger (Sis. Rachel, Morris, MN), Bro. Steve Pamer (Sis. Arliss, Akron, OH), Bro. Larry Wenninger (Sis. Joyce, Latty, OH) and Bro. Ron Steiner (Sis. Ruth, Rittman, OH) for their service of love.

Our sympathy and prayers to the families who have recently lost loved ones. Bro. Ben Beer, who passed away, is sur-

vived by a daughter, Diane Malone (Robert), and a sister-in-law, Sis. Kathryn Beer.

Louise Heckel also passed away. She is survived by two sisters, Sis. Miriam Bird (Bro. Bob) and Sis. Wilma McCutchan; and one brother, Bro. Charles Sauder (Sis. Marcella).

Special thanks to Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Sis. Judy, Chicago, IL) who came to instruct and encourage us.

Continue to keep Bro. Lawrence Popp (Sis. Vi) in your prayers as he was recently hospitalized.

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**OHIO, RITTMAN  
Sarah Bauman  
Linda Zollinger**

"... I have declared thy faithfulness and thy salvation..."

*Psalm 40:10*

Visiting ministers this past month were Bros. Gary Brown (Forrest, IL) and Ken Schneider (Remington, IN). We appreciate their labors and pray God will bless their efforts.

Clay Nathan was born to Bro. Nathan and Sis. Anita Steiner on June 1. Sisters, Hannah, Leah and Cecelia, lovingly welcome their new brother. Grandparents are Bro. David and Sis. Connie Maletich (Smithville, OH) and Bro. Matthew and Sis. Gail Steiner. May God continue to bless them as they raise these precious children.

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding."

*Proverbs 3:5*

The engagement of Sis. Hannah Beery (Bro. Walter and Sis. Linda) to Bro. Garth Maibach of Sardis, OH (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Lois, Smithville, OH) was announced. May God richly bless this dear couple as they make plans to be joined together as one.

Prayers have been extended to those who have needed hospitalization this month which include Sis. Mary Ellen (Bro. William) Saylor, Bro. Kenneth Ramsier, Sis. Delores (Marion) Bauman,

Sis. Jane (Bro. Irwin) Klotzle, Glenn Miller and Sis. Pat (Bro. James) Rufener. May God comfort and heal according to His will.

How shall it be when we at last re-  
turning  
From weary wand'rings and from toil  
and strife,  
Shall reach the home for which our  
heart is yearning  
And enter into everlasting life?  
When from our feet the dust of earth  
has vanished,  
The last sweat from our brow is wiped  
away,  
Our eyes behold what oft earth's care  
has banished  
And gave to us new courage on our  
way.  
*Zion's Harp #146, vs. 1*

Our sympathy and prayers are offered to the families of three faithful pillars. Bro. John (Sis. Betty) Dotterer (Smithville, OH) passed away May 17 and to his brother, Bro. Henry Dotterer. Sis. Janet (Bro. Leon) Graf of Akron, OH, ended her sufferings on May 28 and to her daughter, Sis. Lori (Bro. Leon) Rufener, and children, and sisters, Evelyn (Roger) Hessidence and Sis. Marjorie Weber. Bro. Roy Maibach passed away June 5 and to his dear wife, Sis. Mabel, and surviving children, Nancy (Jim) Bates, Sis. Karen (Joe) Riggenbach, Jane (Dave) Curie, Sis. Betty (Zane) Bachman, Marge, Bill (Nadita), Bro. Ken (Sis. Sue Ellen) and Bro. Steve (Sis. Dawn, Smithville, OH), Sis. Sandy (Bro. Gary) and Deb (Don) Ramseyer; and sister, Sis. Martha Walder; and brothers, Bro. Andy (Sis. Lillian) and Bro. Jack (Sis. Delores). May God comfort these dear families during this difficult time.

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

Flourishing youth, Thou our hope and  
our fond expectation,  
Hark to the voice that is calling in  
sweet invitation!  
That hand obey,  
Which oft has pointed the way  
To the dear Saviour's salvation!

*Zion's Harp #168*

Our annual Sunday School picnic was held on Saturday, June 9. It was a blessed day of fellowship, games and projects for the children, and a picnic in the evening. Ministering Bro. Todd Graf (Sis. Lydia, Akron, OH) was this year's speaker. Bro. Todd and his family stayed for Sunday also and we are thankful for his efforts. May God bless the Word that was spoken through Bro. Todd.

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

*I Cor. 13:13*

We are so thankful for God's leading to marriage for Bro. Garth Maibach and Sis. Hannah Beery (Bro. Walt and Sis. Lynda, Rittman, OH). Bro. Garth's parents are Bro. Bruce and Sis. Lois (Smithville, OH). May the Lord bless them as they make plans for their marriage.

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

We are thankful for the visiting brothers who have shared God's Word with us the past month: Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) and Bros. Sam Schlatter and Warren Schlatter (Junction, OH). We pray their labors are blessed.

Prayers have been answered for Boyd Nieman (Teri). We're happy to see him back in church after a hospital stay with a heart problem.

We extend our sympathy to several of our congregation who have felt the pain of parting. Sis. Marsha Maibach (Bro. Jay) has bid farewell to her mother, Sis. Janet Graf (Bro. Leon) of the Akron, OH, congregation. Bro. Steve Maibach (Sis. Dawn) and Bro. Kenneth Maibach (Sis. Sue Ellen) have laid to rest their father, Bro. Roy (Sis. Mabel) of Rittman, OH. The father of Robin Steiner (Kurt) was called from this earthly life. We want to remember these families in prayer as they go through this difficult time.

A brother and sister have felt led by

prayer to share their lives in marriage. The engagement of Bro. Garth Maibach (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Lois) and Sis. Hannah Beery (Bro. Walter and Sis. Linda, Rittman, OH) was announced to the congregation. Bro. Garth is presently attending the Sardis, OH, church.

Bro. Denny and Sis. Kay Nieman are rejoicing over a new granddaughter, Ariana Del, born to Bro. Greg and Sis. Darla Henico (Akron, OH) on May 18. Also, Bro. David and Sis. Connie Maletich are thankful for the addition of grandson, Clay Nathan, to parents, Bro. Nathan and Sis. Anita Steiner (Rittman, OH). May God give wisdom to teach and guide the youth, as we hope they will be our future church.

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

Our visiting minister this month was Bro. Ed Knecht (Sis. Judie) of Silverton. We thank him for his willingness to serve us.

Our congregation joined the Silverton brethren for an all-church potluck and singing in honor of our high school graduates on May 20. We wish Sis. Adriana Jones (Bro. Ron and Sis. Liz) and Dana Gallup (Bro. Mark and Sis. Louisa) the Lord's richest blessings and our sincerest congratulations. May they each feel God's nearness in the days ahead.

On June 3, Bro. Perry Klopfenstein (Sis. Carol, Gridley, IL) gave a talk on the history of our church and our spiritual heritage. We were encouraged to strive to preserve our precious Faith, by God's grace. We appreciate his efforts put forth on our behalf.

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

Kate Louise was born to Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Kristy Kuenzi. Brothers Micah and Drew welcome their little sister home. Kate's grandparents are Bro. Terry and Sis. Ann Kuenzi and Bro. Jim and Sis. Joan Dietrich.

Bro. Jason, Sis. Collette, Shalyse, Kiara, Kyra, Elisha, Jade and Mason welcome their sister, Jayla Elizabeth, into

their family. Grandparents are Vance and Sis. Liz Snook and Bro. Wayne and Sis. Kathy Fehr (Portland).

A special thanks to our outgoing Sunday School teachers. We appreciate the extra time given each week to teach our children. The new teachers that will begin this fall are as follows: Bro. Bill Luthi (9th-10th), Bro. Ryan Hari (7th-8th), Bro. Kurt Metzger (5th), Sis. Linda Hari (3rd), Sis. Lanette Feuchtenberger (2nd), Sis. Rachel Kuenzi (K) and Sis. Karla Dettwyler (Pre).

We welcome two new souls into the faith: Bro. Harold Hari (Sis. Linda) and Sis. Nicole Kuenzi (Bro. Harvey and Sis. Jennifer). We were also thankful to have Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Sis. Bev, Detroit, MI) who was here assisting Elder Bro. Art in this work.

Congratulations to the following high school graduates: Kevin Dietrich, Trenton Sinn, Jaclyn Kuenzi, Abigail Sinn, and Sis. Audrey Kuenzi. We wish them the Lord's guidance as they make plans for their future.

We were thankful to have Bro. Perry Klopfenstein (Sis. Carol, Gridley, IL) at our Fellowship Center for a Sunday evening presentation on our church heritage.

Bros. Ron Jones (Sis. Liz) and Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy) from Portland served us on the pulpit this month. We appreciate their regular visits to our Silverton church.

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## PENNSYLVANIA PHILADELPHIA

Last month, we reported that our dear friend, Tanya Wulf, would be leaving our fellowship to continue her academic journey in West Lafayette, IN. This month, we add that, more importantly, she has begun her spiritual journey to serve the Lord. We rejoice with her in this and we greatly miss her smile here in Philadelphia.

We have another student spending her summer in an internship in Philadelphia. Jessica Diggelmann from Atlanta, GA, will be here for a few months. Jessica is the daughter of Rich and Helga Diggelmann, the granddaughter of Bro.

John Diggelmann who preached the word in our Union City congregation for many years. We welcome her into our church family.

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## TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE Mike and Monica Fritz

The Lord provided rich blessing to us this month through our visiting ministering brothers. These included Bros. Mark Gerber (Sis. Barb; Bluffton, IN); Dale Stoller (Sis. Sandra; Fairbury, IL); Steve Martin (Sis. Vicki; Eureka, IL); and Virgil Kaeb (Sis. Sue Ellen; Sarasota, FL); and Elder Bro. Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan; Taylor, MO). We also appreciated the fellowship of brethren and friends visiting from Altadena, CA; Sarasota, FL; Congerville, Eureka, Fairbury, and Forrest IL; Bluffton, LaCrosse, and South Bend, IN; Taylor, MO; 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: Remington, IN (7/22); Alto, MI (7/29); Francesville, IN (8/5); Belvidere, IL (8/12); Rittman, OH (8/19); and Morton, IL (8/26). 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.

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## TEXAS, AUSTIN Amy Ringger Serenity Ringger

Ice cold lemonade, evening breezes, and slices of watermelon...all are refreshing during the heat of summer. When we are overwhelmed by the worldliness around us, we are glad for the fellowship of brethren to refresh us. Romans 15:32 "That I may come unto you with joy by the will of God, and may with you be refreshed."

Hopefully, our brethren from afar are busy planning trips to visit here in the

next months, maybe after the summer heat has passed?

We appreciate those who don't mind coming even when the weather is extra warm. Thank you to our visiting ministers: Bros. Mark Steiner (Sis. Sue, Smithville), Joe Klotzle (Sis. Sue, Altadena), Steve Baner (Sis. Donna Lou, Gridley), and Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Sis. Loretta, Alto). We are also thankful for our visitors from Denver and Eureka.

The minister schedule for August is Washington (5), Peoria (12), Roanoke (19), and Minneapolis (26).

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.

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## TEXAS, ZAPATA Mary Plattner

We thank those who have made the trip to South Texas this summer. We realize that our summer weather is not always the most comfortable so having brethren make the special effort is certainly appreciated.

All of the permanent residents have been traveling this summer so it is important to call ahead if you are planning to be in our area. We are looking forward to the winter season again which will begin in October when our first winter residents return. Anyone wishing to come to Zapata this winter is most welcome to join our congregation during the winter months.

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**VERMONT, NORWICH**  
**Nathan and Miriam Reutter**

“Thou shall guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory.”  
*Psalm 73:24*

We are thankful once again for those

who lovingly come to serve us here in Vermont. Bros. Dan Stoller (Sis. Diane), Dan Goric (Sis. Mary Lou), and Duane Reutter (Sis. Kay) of Rockville, CT, have all brought forth the Living Word this past month. Our small congregation has had the opportunity to participate in our first annual Sunday school picnic. This event was enjoyed by all who came, and was an encouragement of the potential growth of our small flock, as our young children, in due time, would bring forth that seed of repentance and a converted life.

If you are interested in fellowshipping with us here in Vermont, and would like information about service locations and dates, please contact Bro. Kirby Reutter (802-776-5293) or Bro. Nathan Reutter (802-447-2426). We love to fellowship

with believers whether it is during the week or on the weekend. Please let us know if you are planning on being in our area so we can accommodate you. Service times are as follows:

Morning Service 10:15 AM

Afternoon Service 12:30 PM

Sunday school is held during the morning service.

If anyone is interested in purchasing beautiful head-coverings hand-made from our dear Sisters in Ixtlan, Michoacan, Mexico, please contact Sis. Areli Reutter at (802-776-5293). Inventory is available upon request. This is a wonderful opportunity to support those of the household of faith (Galatians 6:10).



## 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*

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but he that keepeth the law, happy is he."  
Proverbs 29:18*

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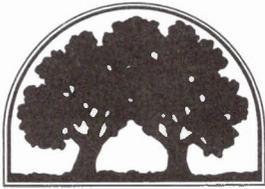
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## Counselor Needed

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 -

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(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.

## NEEDED: Administrator or Assistant Director of Nursing

Country Inn, the assisted living facility affiliated with the Latty, OH church, is seeking either an administrator or assistant director of nursing. The current director of nursing has been filling both roles, and we are in the process of dividing these responsibilities. Please e-mail, call, or fax Lee Klopfenstein at the contacts listed below if you are interested:

lklopfenstein@pol.net (e-mail)  
419-238-2397 (phone)  
419-238-4557 (fax)

## Apostolic Christian Counseling and Family Services

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

877-370-9988 (toll free) [www.accounseling.org](http://www.accounseling.org)

Almost everyone agrees that prevention is a great idea, but for most people it is an idea that often doesn't turn into reality. Whether trying to prevent vehicle break-downs by having your car serviced regularly or trying to exercise and eat right to prevent a heart attack, prevention is certainly an important concept. However, for those who are engaged or married, marriage maintenance is one of the most important, and sometimes overlooked, area of prevention. At ACCFS, we desire to help engaged and married couples grow together and live out the fullness of God's design for their marriages.

Unquestionably, Satan desires to destroy marriages and families. The good news is that, "we are not ignorant of his devices (2 Corinthians 2:11)." Looking ahead and taking action to avoid harm is a type of prevention that is mentioned in Proverbs 22:3, "A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished." One application of this is for couples to be intentional about finding specific ways to encourage each other and to enrich their marriages. In fact, we encourage couples to make marriage enrichment an item in their family budget. Indeed, some couples plan more for maintaining their home, equipment, car, and retirement than they do on sustaining their relationship. Make no mistake about it: Satan is very aware of this trend and seeks to exploit it!

One of our guiding principles at ACCFS is stated the following way: "In order to promote Godly, healthy living and to minimize needless suffering, our services will emphasize prevention, early intervention, education, and enrichment." A number of our services are designed to help people deal with issues when they are minor or to try to prevent problems from occurring altogether. One such service is available through the ACCFS website at [www.accounseling.org](http://www.accounseling.org). We have worked

closely with our Administrator, Spiritual Director, elders on the ACCFS Board of Directors and, in a number of cases, with the Elder Body on developing these materials to help couples develop strong relationships that honor God. We will review several of the items below. All of the following information and more can be found on the ACCFS website under the topics of "Premarital" and/or "Marital Relationships."

*Downloadable Information:* On our website you can find free, downloadable information designed to help you keep your marriage strong. Many of these handouts have the following format: First, scriptural direction and biblical principles are reviewed. This helps couples learn what God has said about a particular topic, and they can examine His plan for marriage. Since God created and instituted marriage, we are wise to start by consulting His word. Second, couples learn about practical ways to apply the scriptural principles. For example, this may include teaching on various relationship skills or the sharing of practical knowledge. Finally, there is a section of questions and exercises for couples. This section helps couples to personalize and apply the material. By going through the questions and learning about each other, the couple can grow together as they apply the biblical truths in the lessons. The following is a listing of some of the studies that are currently available.

- Developing the Spiritual Union in Marriage
- Communication in Marriage
- Conflict Resolution in Marriage
- Money Matters in Marriage
- Affection, Love Languages, and Gender Differences in Marriage
- Personality and Spiritual Gifts in Marriage

Other topical handouts on items

such as forgiveness, etc. are available as well. More topical studies like this are in the process of being created and will be made available online as they are ready.

*Presentations:* The PowerPoint presentations from the ACCFS Marriage Seminar are available online and can be downloaded for your use. They are written in a way that a couple can gain from reading the handout even if they are not present at the seminar. If you are a minister or a teacher, feel free to adapt this material for your own use in your home churches. Finally, churches that are interested in hosting a seminar should contact ACCFS.

*Printed Material:* ACCFS has reviewed numerous books and pamphlets to find ones that are sound and helpful. Many couples have found books on topics such as communication, personality, gender differences, finances, and intimacy to be helpful to them in learning how to apply the biblical principles taught in Scripture. For example, in 1 Peter 3:7 husbands are instructed in the following manner, "Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered." Reading a practical book written for husbands on how to understand and love their wives can be instrumental in helping the husbands to "dwell with them according to knowledge" and to be "doers of the word."

Any of the materials referred to in this article can be obtained by ordering them online from the ACCFS website or by calling our office at 877-370-9988. We want to thank you for your prayers and faithful financial support. We couldn't do our work without your support.

## 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.



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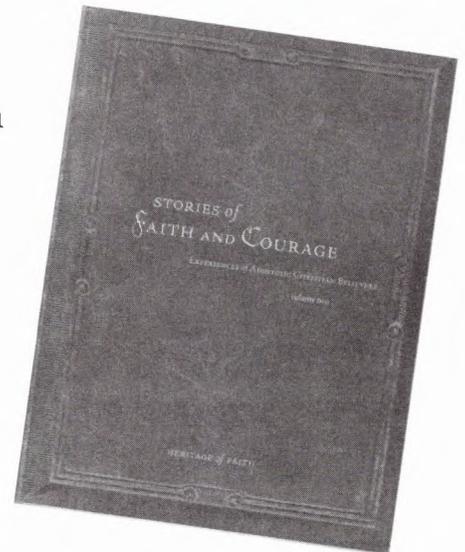
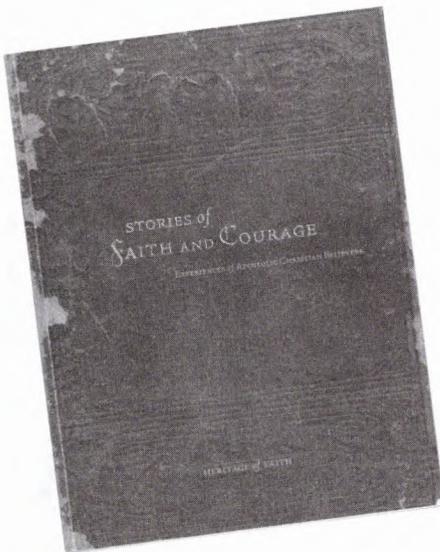
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### **"Zion's Melodies" Instrumental CD**

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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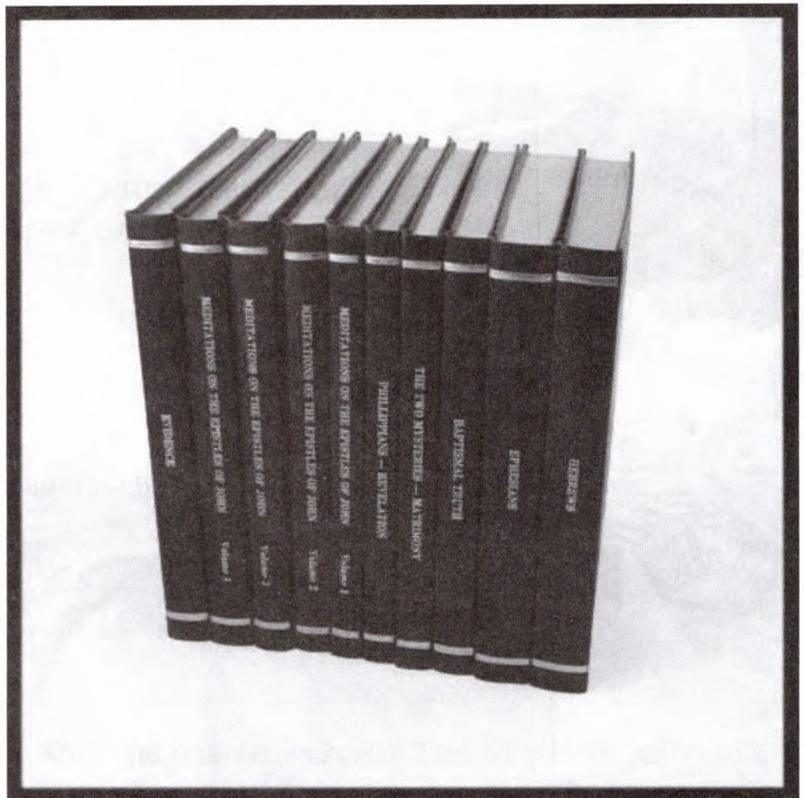
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*Sermon continued from page 2*

in the New Testament here where perhaps it describes different levels of difficulties that can come across to the brethren. In this case it's 'fault'. In other places it uses the word, I think it uses 'the infirmities of the flesh' (Romans 6:19). Then there are other places where it speaks and strictly calls it sin. Then, of course, there is the sin that cannot be forgiven, and that is the blasphemy against the Holy Spirit (Matthew 12:31). So as we read the Word, we understand that there seems to be for those who are converted, different levels of sin in which we may be overtaken with as a believer.

Now let's make a clarification here. We are born unto the sin of Adam, and that sin there that is within us that all men carry can only be forgiven in one way, and that is through the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. That sin which we are born with is forgiven through that faith. The works of the true faith are going to be repentance, and confession and restitution and the baptism which represents a cleansing. To represent that that sin that we are born with is gone and we are forgiven. Now we are viewed as robed with righteousness the same as our Lord Jesus Christ was. But then there's an expectation beyond that dear ones, that the Word is clear in. It says, "...Be ye holy; for I am holy." I Peter 1:16. So there's a continual striving to be an overcomer. It's this continual striving of being overcoming that this is speaking of here that occasionally may be overtaken.

But there's a difference here, that the natural sin which we were born with has been forgiven through the true repentance. So there is a distinction here between the believer and the non-believer, the one who is converted and been regenerated and reborn, and the one who is not. So there seems to be a difference between the sinner and a saint, dear ones. Various of the Apostles who wrote unto the churches, to the

saints at such and such a church, and so [it's referring to] those who are saints are those who have been cleansed through the faith of the blood of Jesus Christ. That doesn't mean that we're perfect. It also refers to the saints as those who have already gone on and have hopefully gone to their reward. Or we have a hope they have gone to their reward. But it's used both ways. So there seems sometimes to be some misunderstanding between the saint and the sinner. Are we sinners or are we not sinners? Let's understand that there is that sin that is cleansed only through faith which is followed by a true repentance and conversion.

So dear one, if we have not come through that repentance and that true cleansing through the blood of Jesus Christ, that's all necessary first. Then, this chapter here, that's why he addresses it to the brethren, can apply unto us. So from time to time, as we said, there will be some overtaken in a fault. Do we lose our soul's salvation in that? Well, the Apostolic Christian church has church discipline and the Word bears out here that if these faults are dealt with in this life, then we still have the hope of our salvation. Here it simply speaks of the faults, and so let's focus on that. Other chapters would address the more serious things. But in this case it says, "...ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness;..." Galatians 6:1.

So 'ye that are spiritual', that would be hopefully the brethren. So we have a responsibility one to another that when we see someone overtaken in a fault, that we make an effort to restore such an one, that we make an effort to work with them, make an effort to help them understand their fault. How is that done? Through the spirit of meekness. If we go to one another in the spirit of meekness, well think about it - if someone comes to you in the Spirit of meekness, is that easy to accept? Yes it is. Much easier than when somebody comes with a de-

manding heart, or a demanding way, or a proud or a way of looking down upon you. Much easier to accept when they come with humility of heart and in meekness.

So loved ones, when we that are spiritual, and again, let's clarify, that we all take turns, perhaps, from time to time being the one who is spiritual versus the one that is overtaken in a fault. Sometimes we're deceived with that. Sometimes we think we're being spiritual when perhaps we're being overtaken in a fault. But, in this responsibility, we must go in the Spirit of meekness.

Brethren, there's a proverb, I think, that says something like, "Iron sharpeneth iron;..." Proverbs 27:17. And another one that I can't quite quote, that says sometimes a friend is the one who gives us the most grievous wound (Proverbs 27:6). But at the time when we're wounded, that's sometimes the most difficult time to accept the one who is giving it to us, is telling us the truth. Sometimes the truth can hurt so much.

So loved ones, it goes back. We brethren who have sat on the front bench and said 'Yes' we would certainly accept someone coming to us and explaining to us that perhaps we've gone from the way, it seems so easy when we're sitting there. But twenty, thirty, forty or two years later, whatever it happens to be, sometimes it's not so easy. So if we are in the state of perhaps being overtaken with a fault and someone comes to us, how do we react? It's not really covered much here in this chapter, but let's remember we should listen. We should give it serious thought and we should try to understand.

We might say, well, they're just being picky. Or perhaps we don't understand our fault. We don't see it and we're a bit offended and our reaction is to defend. To defend ourselves. To lash back because we're feeling like we're being lashed at.

*Sermon continued on page 44*

*Sermon continued from page 43*

That's our flesh coming out. What did Christ do? Christ was being lashed at in all kinds of ways, wasn't He? He had no fault, and He knew that. What did He do? He laid there and He said, "...Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do..." Luke 23:34. Sometimes when we feel like perhaps we're being wrongly reproved, that's when we should first say, 'Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.' But then we need to take that a little bit further. We need to try to understand, oh, was our initial action really the right reaction, or was it the wrong reaction?

Then he gives more instructions to the one who is spiritual and striving to help restore another. He says, "...considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted." Galatians 6:1. So there is a self examination. As it is followed there as Christ's own words, or in the gospels where we need to make sure that we have the beam out of our own eye (Luke 6:41-42). But also, perhaps, this gives us a clue of what the approach should be. If we feel like someone is engaging in activities that perhaps aren't quite right, or maybe will take them in a direction that they shouldn't, we don't engage ourselves with them. What's that going to lead to? We just have to look forward a bit and say, are we going to be tempted also? Or if we feel someone has misunderstood the doctrine, and they've gone off on another way, and have picked up a different set of beliefs, are we going to be convinced of ourselves that their doctrine is really the right way, and we of ourselves cannot hold fast to the doctrine which we are trying to encourage them to be a part of? We have to consider our self, continually praying, continually taking a checkpoint saying, where am I at? Am I being confused also? "...considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted." Galatians 6:1. We know not a one of us are above being tempted, here.

Then he goes on in verse two, and it says, "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ." So what's the law of Christ? Love your neighbor as yourself. One of the greatest commandments there. So helping restore such an one in the spirit of meekness, is following the law of Christ. When someone is overcome with a fault, they certainly have a burden. They certainly have a struggle that they're dealing with. Do we deal with it as Christ would have dealt with it? Because all He had in His heart was love and concern and a desire that they could come back to the right way. When we approach a problem in life in that way, with a true love and a true concern, then we can fulfil the law of Christ.

Not too long ago, I was reading there, where Christ was speaking to the (I wish I could remember where it was, we could just go read it), but Christ was speaking to the Pharisees, and it said He was angered because of their hardness of their heart, that they just didn't get it (Mark 3:5). He had told them how many times of the way, of the truth, and they just didn't understand. They couldn't put the old law behind and realize that the promises of the prophesy were being fulfilled here. They just couldn't get it, and it said He was angered.

Yes, sometimes we're the same when we're dealing with someone who we feel like has been overcome with a fault, we get frustrated. But we go on in that scripture and we look at Christ's example. Did that anger come out? There's no clue that it did, but instead He told them a parable. He tried to help them understand from their point of view, in a way that they would understand.

Fulfilling the law of Christ - doing it the way that Christ would do it. Loved ones, we must continually examine our hearts and say, is our own self getting in the way? Is our own frustration with a certain situation making us so that we are not fulfilling the law of Christ ourselves while

we're trying to restore another one? Dear ones, when we go about in a frustrated manner, the ways of Christ just don't come out. Let's be careful.

And then here's another aspect of it. "For if any man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself." Galatians 6:3. So, it seems almost, that, well, this entire first few verses here are really directed toward the one who is working to restore someone else. Be careful that you don't be tempted. Help bear the other one's burdens, but make sure you're fulfilling the law of Christ. Make sure you're doing it Christ-like. And this last one here is, make sure you're not being proud. For if you think of yourself to be something, when we are really nothing, then we're deceiving ourselves.

So you see, there's a lot of work here. That we who are spiritual, if we're going to be of a help to our brethren, help bear another one's burdens, what a close examination of our heart we must continually have that we're not being tempted, that we're doing it Christ-like, and that a bit of pride isn't coming out. That we're not thinking that, boy, we're really something because we're helping someone else.

Remember the parable of the Pharisee and the publican, and I believe it was the Pharisee, when they came to pray? Maybe it wasn't a Pharisee, but let's assume it is so we can continue on with the thought here. But how did the Pharisee pray? "...God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are,..." Luke 18: 11. I do this and I do that. Perhaps this is what this verse is getting at, that we aren't having an attitude. Oh, we may thank the Lord that He has given us the grace that we can continue to walk in the true way, but the attitude behind it must be that it all comes from the Lord, that we are nothing of ourselves. And then there was the publican who recognized that he was nothing, completely. And we deceive our self.

And dear ones, that's exactly where Satan wants to put us. Oh, we're helping someone else who is spiritual, and we become deceived ourselves. And now he's won twice, not only with the one who's been overtaken with the fault, but those of us who think we're helping, when we're no longer helping. What a responsibility dear ones! The Word is quite clear here that we must guard our hearts and walk truly in the Spirit as we deal with these situations here.

Verse 4, "But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another." Galatians 6:4. Okay, so verse two says, "Bear ye one another's burdens..." and verse 4 says, "...let every man prove his own work..." Is there a conflict between the two? No, not at all. Verse 4 here, it's a responsibility that we take care of ourselves. Every one is going to stand before God. Every one is going to stand there, and our works are going to be weighed in the balance. First, the biggest thing is going to be, have we had faith and have we repented of our sins, or have we not? And that's a clear dividing line, of yes or no.

But then it goes on and this verse here would indicate that our works beyond our repentance and our conversion are important. Remember here he is speaking to the brethren. "...let every man prove his own work," Galatians 6:4. "...faith without works is dead?" James 2:20. We're responsible for our own works.

Dear ones, sometimes a stumblingblock is put in front of us by another, unfortunately. But we are responsible for ourselves. Have we stumbled over the block? Has somebody done something that makes us go astray a bit? Well, they're going to be held accountable for that too, but we're still accountable for ourselves. We need to watch out for our self.

Sometimes that stumblingblock may be that we were offended.

Sometimes it may be that somebody said something that offended us and we're having difficulty forgiving. What does Christ say? We must forgive. This is fulfilling the law of Christ. We need to forgive! Sometimes it may be over and over and over. But if we give up on the forgiving, dear ones, we have stumbled and we have fallen, and we're not getting back up again. And that's what Satan wants. He doesn't want us to forgive. Now we are responsible for our own. That's a lack of our own work, dear ones. We must continue to strive in forgiveness.

It says "...and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another." Galatians 6:4. So we can walk with the Lord in the true Spirit. We can have the true joy within us, knowing that we have held on, we have held fast to the faith, to the salvation which we have been given. We have that true rejoicing within ourselves. Yes, we also rejoice when we look at others. And we're so thankful, because it lifts our hearts when we can look about at the brotherhood and we can see that there are others walking in the truth and it makes our heart rejoice. Yet, there is another rejoicing when we our self are walking in the truth also.

It says, "For every man shall bear his own burden." Galatians 6:5. And yes we do. Each one of us, we have burdens within ourselves, sometimes unbeknownst to any others around. And that's okay. In another verse somewhere it says, "Confess your faults one to another,..." James 5:16. Well, sometimes our burdens are faults, sometimes they're not. Sometimes they're temptations that could lead to a fault and perhaps we want to share one with another. It encourages us to do that. But yet in the end, we alone bear that temptation. We alone are responsible for overcoming that. And we alone are going to stand before our God someday.

"Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that

teacheth in all good things." Galatians 6:6. So this would lead us to think here that him that is taught in the Word, (which are many of us) it says, let him communicate. As so brethren as we fellowship together, and we have some understanding of the Word, or perhaps we're striving to have some understanding in the Word, it's good if we share that one with another. That we all can be continually taught further in the Word, that we can have a better understanding. So the communication between us is very important.

Brethren, we think of the word fellowship. What is fellowship? Sharing our burdens one with another? Yes. Sometimes talking about our earthly responsibilities? Yes, but also this communication of what we're taught in the Word. Encouraging one another. It's also, (the right word doesn't come to me here) but it's, admonishment isn't the right word, that's not the word that's there in the scripture...exhorting! Exhorting one another. Perhaps asking one another, 'are we walking in the Spirit?' 'I read this scripture today. That's a good scripture for us to remember. Have you read that lately?' So often, brethren, these things are not there in our communication. They can be. Sometimes we feel like, well, we don't have anything to add or offer. At least that's the way I feel. What I read, or what I think, it's not important. But if we all think that, will we ever really communicate one with another on the things we understand in the Word?

Sometimes in a way we have to humble ourselves to get past our humility, or what we think is humility. That we are nothing. So let him that is taught in the Word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things. So perhaps there are some who currently don't have a responsibility of teaching the Word in Sunday School or over the pulpit, and yet they're taught in the Word well. Brethren, those of us who

*Sermon continued on page 46*

*Sermon continued from page 45*

stand, those who teach in Sunday School, we know nothing more than anyone else. Come and share your thoughts. Come and share the understanding that you've gained. Especially the older brethren, please, to those of us who are younger, help open our understanding. We welcome it, and we appreciate it!

"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting." Galatians 6:7-8. Where are we sowing? Where are we sowing? First, what is sowing? Perhaps, sowing starts in our mind. It's the things we think about that we want to do, and eventually it turns into actions. The seed is sown, and then it grows. The thoughts turn into actions.

Dear friends, maybe we should start with you on this thought. Where are you sowing? If you're sowing, seeking after the things of the world, you're going to reap corruption. That's just the way it is. Oh, you know as well as the rest of us, there is a heaven, and there is a hell. And if we're seeking after the things of this life, well, we know what the end is going to be. Sometimes it's a little difficult to think - well, what could I do without those things? But there is such a fulfillment. There is such a wonderful fulfillment of walking in the Spirit that goes beyond, sometimes, our very own understanding. Come, hear the Word of God. Come and begin to sow the seeds that will lead to life everlasting.

Now brothers and sisters, for us, what are we doing? Are we sowing unto the way of the flesh? We shall reap corruption from that. It shall begin to corrupt the presence of the Spirit within our hearts. We all know the parable of the good ground, and the thorny ground, and the stony ground (Mark 4:3-9). The good ground begins to turn into

some of that less desirable ground, when we begin to sow the wrong seeds. And, of course, we know the wrong seeds sown in the good ground are going to grow really well. Somehow it seems like those weeds grow quicker than the good things do sometimes.

Every thought that we have, the places that we go, the things we see with our eyes, they're all sowing seeds. What are we looking at? If we're looking at things of the world continually, if we've brought those things into our home through magazines, through television, through whatever medium it happens to be; our computer, the internet. Is that sowing seeds of corruption within our hearts? Or is it sowing things of the Spirit? Most likely it's seeds of corruption. Let's evaluate what seeds that we're sowing.

"...but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting." Galatians 6:8. Let's go back to fulfilling the law of Christ, doing things for others. Bearing burdens of others. Loving our neighbor as our self. That's sowing the seeds of life everlasting. Somehow our flesh doesn't want to do that. Somehow, it seems to want to gravitate towards the things that fulfill self, instead of help others. But that's not the law of Christ. May His Spirit be mighty within us. And the only way it gets mighty is when we begin to sow the seeds that lead unto life everlasting.

We have to sow to the Spirit. Do things that are spiritual. That's why we're all here today. Aren't we so thankful we can come? We have God's Word before us, and it's here to give us these reminders, to give us encouragement that there is a good way, this can be done. We have these songs that we sing, melodies that lift our heart. God has given us tools, dear ones, to help us sow these seeds to the Spirit. Let's do it. Let's do it often.

Sometimes, dear ones, when we sow seeds of corruption, they have long lasting effects. Perhaps we

have a business that we run and it starts out small and its grown bigger and bigger. What does that do? It makes us busier and busier. Well, the seeds were sown at the beginning.

No different than my work. We plan what we're going to do for the next year. And we think, or I often think, okay, this planning, is this good, or is this bad? Are we planning too much? Is this going to lead to corrupting the ways of the Spirit? Is it going to cause me to have too much work? I'm well reminded of that now, as things are pretty busy now because of the things that I planned last December.

So we have to be careful and we have to look forward and we have to say, what is this going to do to me in a year? What is this going to do to me in six months? Is this going to lead to corruption, or is this going to sow seeds to the Spirit? Of course, we all want to sow seeds to the Spirit, but let's not be deceived. Let's not be deceived. We must be careful in the choices that we make, because our choices have consequences. How often we hear that in Sunday School when we speak to the kids, especially those who are young adults now, that their choices are having serious consequences in what's going to happen for the rest of their life. That applies to us too.

"And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." Galatians 6:9. Don't be weary in well doing. Sometimes it seems we get weary in going and visiting the sick. We get weary in doing some of those small things that help bear burdens for others. Or perhaps we have a situation where we're visiting with someone over and over again and it seems not to help. Be not weary in that well doing, it says. Sometimes we're helping someone to be restored. Sometimes perhaps, we seem to become weary in that, and we want to give up. Sometimes that weariness is simply replaced with nothing, not much at all. It's replaced with sit-

ting at home and doing nothing, and there's times we certainly need to focus just on our own hearts and sit and read the Word. Sometimes it's replaced with the pleasures of life. Or we'd rather go out to eat with our friends, or we'd rather do our hobbies. Is that bad? No. Is that sowing seeds to the Spirit? Well, there's a balance here, loved ones. Let's examine the balance that we have. Maybe it's not sowing much seeds at all.

There is a time, sometimes we do need to be restored. We need to be able to step back and relax our mind, because in our human ways we get worked up and we have to step back and try to look at the big picture again. God has given us a beautiful world to live in. He has given us, many of us, many conveniences, so it's very easy to step back. But the purpose is to be restored. Have restoration, re-creation of our mind. So often it quickly goes to recreation, turns into the fun of the world. Let's keep the balance, dear ones. Let's keep the proper balance, but make sure it's leading towards sowing seeds to the Spirit. Let's faint not. When we become weary and we just want to give up, dear ones let's be encouraged that we should go on. Don't give up! The Spirit is there. The Spirit is willing but the flesh is weak (Matthew 26:41). God's power is always there. It's unending.

Let's look upward to that bright light, because He can help us do all these things. He is there to help. He wants a willing heart. He wants to see humility. He wants to see meekness. We can be that, dear ones! We CAN be that way, dear ones. But Satan, he just seems to want to snatch that away. Let's try again. Let's work on it again. Maybe we need to pray a little harder today, tomorrow, asking God for a little more help. Confessing our weaknesses to Him saying, Dear Lord, I'm weak. I know I've failed. It seems like I'm getting tired of this. Lift me up again, please!

Of course, Christ is always there

by our side. He's probably carried us through the hard time when we hardly knew He was there. But He's always there. That's faith's confidence. Let's have our faith uplifted!

"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. So there's a balance again. Let us strive to do good unto all men, but especially those of the household of faith. So that's where it starts. That's the blessing we have loved ones, of being in the household of faith. We are helped so often through so many burdens.

I look around at those that I work with. Perhaps they've come from India, many have, far away from their families. They have struggles too, but they have no one there to help them, to uplift them. They are lonely. Then there are those who perhaps, move from one community to another and again they really have no one to help them. Then there are those who think they have friends. But yet the friend is there, and the friend is gone. We in the household of faith, dear ones, we have such an opportunity to share our burdens one with another, and then to uplift one another. When we're struggling to be restored by one who is strong in the Spirit, what a blessing dear ones. Do we realize what we have been given? Then we have to ask our self, are we just taking the blessing or are we doing our part to help others also?

And this letter ends up, I know time is going on, but he reminds them again, don't be taken back unto the old law. Let's stick with the faith. Stay with it. Dear ones, from time to time, especially at the time of reading of the memorandum we're re-reminded of some of the basics of our faith at the conference. It's good we are reminded. We need to ask ourselves, well, let's be thankful that we're following the pattern that's here in these letters. He reminds them in every letter to hold fast to the faith. Hold fast to what

you've learned. Let's do the same.

Verse 16, let's finish up with that: "And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God." Galatians 6:16. Dear friends again, are you seeking for peace? Do you want true peace? Have you thought about having true peace? Well, it says, "As many as walk according to this rule..." What rule? Well, the law of Christ. The ways of Christ, what Christ has given us. That peace is there, and it can be there.

One more thought that ties to the Old Testament, going back, it says "...let us not be weary in well doing..." Galatians 6:9, mothers, grandmothers, we read there in the Old Testament of the virtuous woman, and we don't have time to go back and talk about that and how it balances with the New Testament, but I know sometimes you grow weary. Sometimes it's a bit difficult to take care of all the things that need to be taken care, but the Lord is with you and you will be blessed, if you can strive to fulfill the scriptures there, the main principle being, being keeper of the home. We read there of the virtuous woman, she was definitely the keeper of the home. Sometimes we misinterpret that scripture, and we think that that gives opportunity for the wife to do this and to do that, that perhaps in this day and time is somewhat frowned upon by the church. We don't have time to go into all that, but let's just focus on being encouraged dear wives, dear mothers, that the Lord is with you. And the blessings are there if you strive to fulfill the scripture and be a blessed woman to those who are around you.



## CARIBBEAN BOARD PROJECTS - 2007/2008

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

<b>HAITI</b>			
<i>Data updated from the Apostolic Christian World Relief web site as of July 7th, 2007 -<a href="http://www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-caribbean/">www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-caribbean/</a></i>			
Project	Date	Coordinator	Capacity
Les Cayes AWA Water Aid	Nov 2-9, 2007	Troy Stuber 309-925-2603 <a href="mailto:tstuber@highstream.net">tstuber@highstream.net</a>	4
Les Cayes MEBSH School Roof	Nov 9-16, 2007	Ted Habegger 260-694-6765 <a href="mailto:tjh@adamswells.com">tjh@adamswells.com</a>	12
Les Cayes FRW Vocational School	Dec 7-14, 2007	Rick Wuethrich 219-567-9488 <a href="mailto:topnotch@home.ffni.com">topnotch@home.ffni.com</a>	4
Les Cayes MEBSH School Roof	Jan 4-11, 2008	Ron Palitto 330-336-5373 <a href="mailto:rcp@lek.net">rcp@lek.net</a>	12
Les Cayes MEBSH School Roof	Jan 18-25, 2008	Dean Pashak 989-662-7685 <a href="mailto:dwpashak@charter.net">dwpashak@charter.net</a>	12
Les Cayes SEED Agriculture Aid	Jan 25 - Feb 1, 2008	Dale Frank 319-766-3661 <a href="mailto:frankfarm@iowatelecom.net">frankfarm@iowatelecom.net</a>	9
Les Cayes AWA Water Aid	Jan 25 - Feb 1	Troy Stuber 309-925-2603 <a href="mailto:tstuber@highstream.net">tstuber@highstream.net</a>	5
Les Cayes SEED Agriculture Aid	Feb 22-29, 2008	Dale Frank 319-766-3661 <a href="mailto:frankfarm@iowatelecom.net">frankfarm@iowatelecom.net</a>	9
Les Cayes FRW Vocational School	Feb 22-29, 2008	Rick Wuethrich 219-567-9488 <a href="mailto:topnotch@home.ffni.com">topnotch@home.ffni.com</a>	4
Les Cayes MEBSH School Roof	Mar 28 Apr 4, 2008	Rich Bertschi 309-467-6110 <a href="mailto:lemangm@mtco.com">lemangm@mtco.com</a>	12
Les Cayes MEBSH Maintenance	Apr 18-25, 2008	Jon Zeller 309-266-9009 <a href="mailto:jzeller@mtco.com">jzeller@mtco.com</a>	12
Les Cayes AWA Water Aid	May 16-23, 2008	Troy Stuber 309-925-2603 <a href="mailto:tstuber@highstream.net">tstuber@highstream.net</a>	5
Haiti MEBSH Caribbean Eval.	Jun 6-13, 2008	Tom Hitz 734-454-9229 <a href="mailto:thitzhome@juno.com">thitzhome@juno.com</a>	Invitation
Les Cayes FRW Vocational School	Jun 20-27, 2008	Rick Wuethrich 219-567-9488 <a href="mailto:topnotch@home.ffni.com">topnotch@home.ffni.com</a>	4
<b>JAMAICA</b>			

**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](mailto:mfiechter@onlyinternet.net)

Data updated from the Apostolic Christian World Relief web site as of July 7th, 2007 - [www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-mexico/](http://www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-mexico/)

Project	Date	Coordinator
Juarez Medical/Dental	Sep 19-26, 2007	Cheryl Herrmann 309-385-1082 <a href="mailto:cherrmann@verizon.net">cherrmann@verizon.net</a>
Magdalena Construction	Nov 17-24, 2007	Rod Schmidt 303-774-7913 <a href="mailto:rschmidt@Acosta.com">rschmidt@Acosta.com</a>
Magdalena Construction	Dec 15-22, 2007	Kent Levy - Purdue 317-385-0752 <a href="mailto:kentlevy@gmail.com">kentlevy@gmail.com</a>

### U.S.A. BOARD WORK PROJECTS

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

**Kansas:** Paul Kaeb  
Phone: 785-284-3261  
Cell: 785-547-5269  
E-mail: [paulkaeb@ksiconveyors.com](mailto:paulkaeb@ksiconveyors.com)

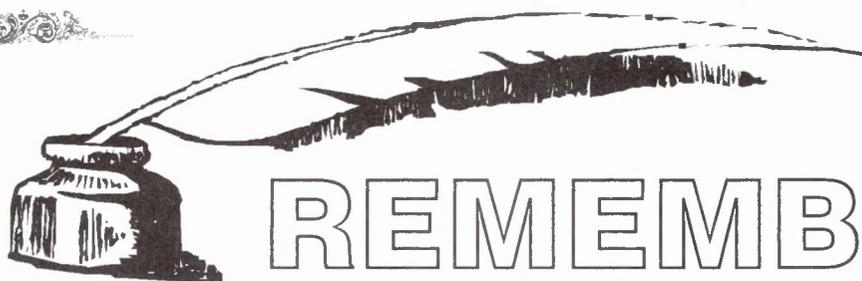
**Iowa:** Martin Zaugg  
Phone/Fax: 515-379-1693  
Cell: 515-320-2404

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

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

### 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 H. Froehlich, dated September 8, 1859, continues. It was translated into English by Bro. Peter Weber, Peoria, Illinois.*

*(In the previous section, Bro. Bella was speaking to authorities who were representatives of the Emperor)*

Then the commissioner said I should put in writing how I came to this faith. I promised to do so and kept my commitment. He gave me the document, which read:

From the Commissioner of the Emperor at Lipptauer District to the Royal Overseer: Whereas the blacksmith journeyman Joseph Bella has agreed to remain silent and that the basics of his imagined testimony of faith are mainly attributable to his mixed-up imagination, the Overseer of the Emperor is herewith at liberty to issue him a passport to Pest. Signed, St. Nickolas, the 14th of the month.

I was greatly comforted when I heard of this document. I considered it an honor such as when a soldier receives a medal decoration or star on his uniform. The person who read this document to me began to laugh and mock in a loud voice. I took my small testament out of my pocket and it came to my

mind to read to them from I Corinthians 1:19-21. He took the Bible from me and began to read (from these verses) with a loud voice so that everyone could hear him. "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this world? Hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe."

That man stopped laughing and mocking. The Word of our Lord Jesus Christ has always been a comfort to me.

A few days later, a report from the Chief of Police arrived stating that I could not remain one more hour in the city of Pest, unless I submitted a petition to the magistrate, and the reason why I want to remain in Pest. The Chief expressed that I was crazy or foolhardy. A clerk in the factory had considerable trouble with my travel book, but had testified that I was a trustworthy man according to the standards of the world and was competent in my work.

This clerk confided that he knew a man who could assure that I could stay in Pest for the rest of my life and be considered a citizen.

This man required five guilders for his efforts, and if I could not save it from my pay, I would not be obligated to pay it.

But I was not able to accept this deal and told him I needed a day to think it over, which was granted. It was revealed to me by God and I received the testimony that I would not go wrong because it was offered to me without me seeking it. Also, the brethren were of the same mind and said I should leave it up to the man to secure the permission to remain in Pest. As of now, I do not know what God will permit to come over me.

And now you are informed what happened to me, my faithful brother and all the precious brethren in Strasbourg! Oh, beloved Brother Froehlich, pray for me and for all of us, because there is much persecution in Hungary — but at the same time there is much joy in our hearts!

*By: Perry Klopfenstein*

### Next Issue:

The final segment of the above letter

*The letter from Bro. Joseph Bella to Bro. Samuel H. Froehlich, dated September 8, 1859 was obtained from the Apostolic Christian Heritage Center located in Faitbury, IL.*

# The Light Of Hope

## From Across The Ocean

### 希望の光

#### “The Heavenly River”

*Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan*

There is something therapeutic about flowing water out in nature. Somehow it makes a noise which resulted in the phrase, “A bubbling brook.” I can visualize pure, clear water flowing over rocks as it rushes endlessly down a mountain. A river that flows along gently, pure and clear, with trees on either bank where the birds sing, and the animals of the wild make their home, is something which consoles us and comforts us. How we appreciate nature in its undisturbed or pristine state!

When the Apostle John, in his revelation on the island of Patmos, saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, he wrote, “And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.” Revelation 22:1. I am glad to know that there is a pure river of water of life, in heaven. The water in this river is both pure and clear. There is

no pollution and it is transparent. Those are good qualities. That water should be good enough to drink, right out of the river.

The water in this heavenly river is spoken of as “water of life.” Water is necessary to support life on this earth, but in the spiritual world of heaven, it may be used to support our spiritual lives forever. The Lord Jesus Christ spoke of the spiritual water that He gives us. He said to the Samaritan woman at the well, “If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.” John 4:10.

Jesus further said in verse 14, “But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst.” Here the Lord uses water as a symbol for His love and mercy, which satisfies our thirst for righteousness, forever. Perhaps the pure, clear water in the Heav-

enly River is also a symbol of His love and mercy, which flows on and on, forever.

By the Heavenly River is the tree of life, on either side of the river, “And the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.” Revelation 22:2. How one tree, singular, can be on both sides of the river, I don’t quite understand, but I am thankful for that tree, whose leaves are for the healing of the nations. Conflict among individual persons and among nations is rampant on this present day earth. I don’t like conflict. Love and cooperation to help each other, sounds much better. I’m glad that there will finally be healing for this conflict, at least among nations and I presume, also for the conflict among individual persons.

Psalm 65, verse 9, speaks of “The river of God, which is full of water.” Maybe that is the river John saw in his revelation, pure and clear for our welfare and enjoyment.

### 希望の光



*Israel - Mt Tabor - Site Of The Transfiguration*

*And after six days Jesus taketh Peter,  
James, and John his brother, and bringeth  
them up into an high mountain apart,  
And was transfigured before them:  
and his face did shine as the sun, and his  
raiment was white as the light.*

*Matthew 17:1-2*

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