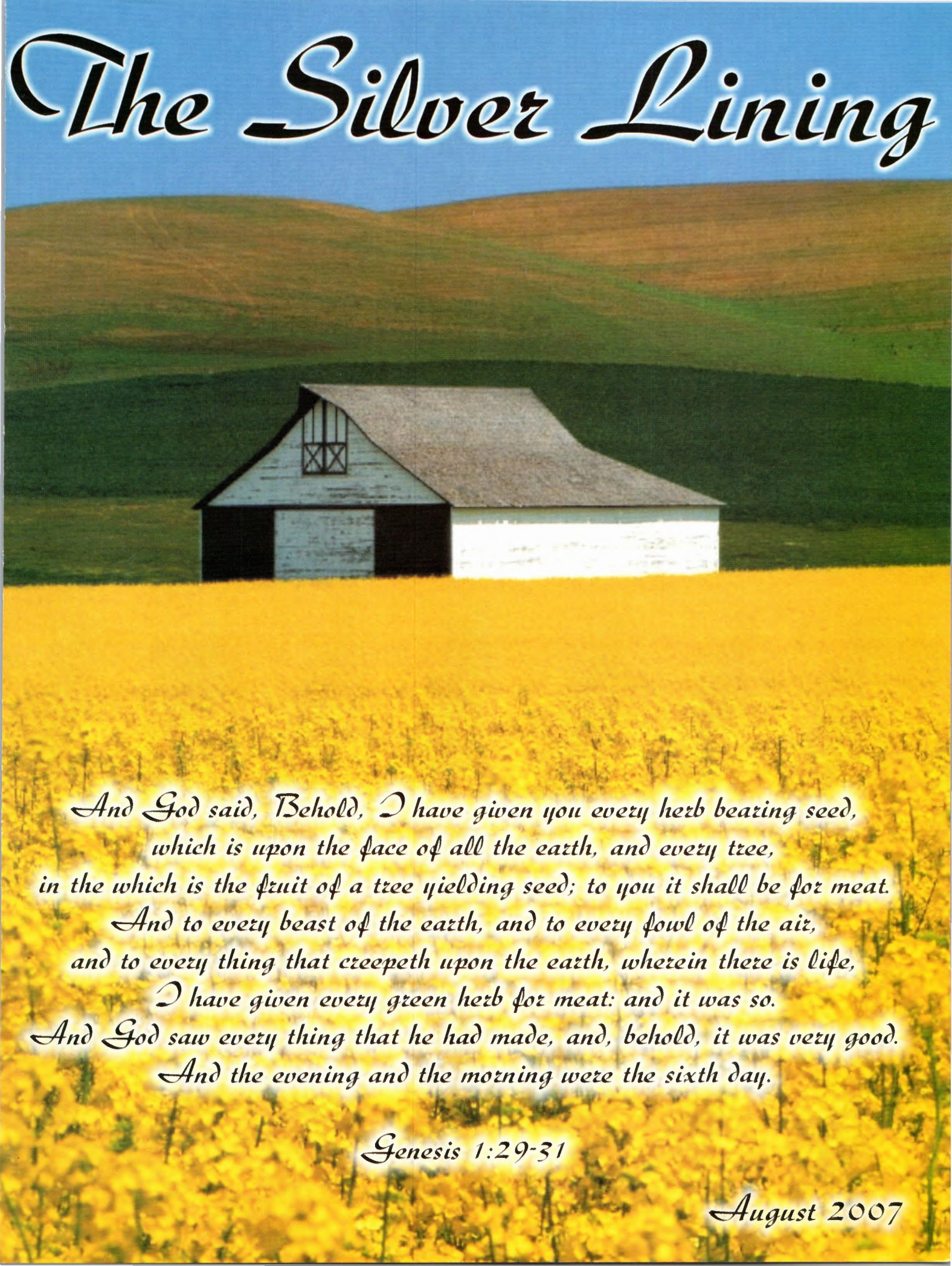


# *The Silver Lining*



*And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat. And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life, I have given every green herb for meat: and it was so. And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.*

*Genesis 1:29-31*

*August 2007*



Sermon by Bro. Jerry Meeks, Sabetha, KS

## Nehemiah 7:70-73, 8:1-6 and Acts 15

Aren't we so thankful to have the Word to turn to when there are questions on the interpretation, maybe, or the reading of the Word, as the dear apostles did not have the Word to fall back to?

As we fall back just briefly on the Old Testament, Nehemiah, a few things were very striking. At that time it talked about the different fathers, what they were able to give unto the church. Each gave according to what they could give. The beauty that there was not a set amount that they had to give. As long as their heart was right in what they did give.

The interesting thing, how the people gathered themselves together in the streets to hear the Word before the water gate. The law of Moses was read. Both men and women gathered, that could hear with understanding, upon the first day of the seventh month. (Nehemiah 8:1,2) "And he read therein before the street that was before the water gate from the morning until midday, before the men and the women..." Nehemiah 8:3. Back again, aren't we so thankful to have the Word of the Lord in each of our homes, probably many Bibles in many homes where we can gather. These people, the hunger, since they didn't have the Word in front of them, there wasn't copies distributed, when somebody was going to read the Word, they would gather and stand there for hours and listen to the Word of the Lord. Then it also talks about how they listened for the Word of the Lord. All the people were attentive unto the book of the law. (Nehemiah 8:3) They were attentive listeners of the Word. I guess we're daily prayerful that we can be attentive listeners of the Word, attentive readers of the Word in our life. Just little notes from Nehemiah.

As we open the book into Acts chapter 15, again, as we have read this recently - the circumcision. There is such a difference between the Gentiles and the Jewish law. How there was little things that were just tough to get past. I think we understand the circumcision in our lives, the spiritual

circumcision that we must go through to follow the Lord. There was a few of the apostles, it was hard to get past the difference between the physical and the spiritual.

"...Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved." Acts 15:1. Brothers and sisters, friends, we know we must be circumcised spiritually. We must cut off that old from our life, the worldly ways. We must be separated. Again we can be circumcised from that separation from the worldly ways and turn our lives over to the Lord in our walk.

"When therefore Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and disputation with them, they determined that Paul and Barnabas, and certain other of them, should go up to Jerusalem unto the apostles and elders about this question." Acts 15:2. At that time, when we didn't have the Word, you had pieces of the words put together, but you had people going around ministering the Word of Jesus. As we have in our day yet, different questions arise. Paul and Barnabas and others were meeting here to determine, how do we answer this question?

"And being brought on their way by the church, they passed through Phenice and Samaria, declaring the conversion of the Gentiles..." Acts 15:3. They continued to minister the Word as they walked. The conversion of the Gentiles. There was a dissension at that time whether the Jewish people only could be turned over to Jesus Christ, or can the Gentiles also. Aren't we thankful that the Lord our Savior who died on the cross did not do this just for one sect, one group of people? He did it for all of us. He shed His blood so that we all can have that opportunity, that promise for everlasting life if we follow Him.

"And when they were come to Jerusalem, they were received of the church, and of the apostles and elders, and they declared all things that God had done with them." Acts 15:4. Imagine listening to the apostles if they gathered here. We live such a

blessed, simple life in many ways, physically, than how they lived in their time. The walking from village to village, ministering the Word, teaching the Word and the many miracles. As they gathered, think of the great joy they had as they taught them. As they discussed the people that had turned their lives over for the Lord. They declared all things that

*Sermon continued on page 46*

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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

August 2007

## God's Divine Deliverance

"I saw a way worn trav'ler in tatter'd garments clad, And struggling up the mountain, It seem'd that he was sad; His back was laden heavy, His strength was almost gone, Yet he shouted as he journeyed, Deliverance will come." "Deliverance Will Come" (Gospel Hymns, #225, verse 1).

Satan's goal for all of mankind is to deliver souls to destruction. "...your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:" (1 Peter 5:8). From the garden of Eden through the end of time, Satan has spread his evil message: "...Ye shall not surely die ...ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil" (Gen. 3:4-5).

Mankind has struggled throughout the ages of time to deal with Satan's deceit. God has promised His help. If we will serve Him, He will help us to overcome all that Satan can bring to us. The Word of God contains many descriptions of Satan's work and many promises of God's willingness to help us be victorious.

Psalms 107 contains a very clear description of Satan's temporary successes and of God's willingness to fulfill His promises to deliver us from evil: The descriptions in this Psalm of God's people when they left serving God are heartrending. "They wandered in the wilderness in a solitary way;...their soul fainted in them" (v. 4-5). "Because they rebelled against the words of God, ...Therefore he brought down their heart with labor; they fell down, and there was none to help" (v. 11-12). "Fools, because of their transgression, and because of their iniquities,...they draw near unto the gates of death" (v. 17-18), "...they go down again to the depths: their soul is melted because of trouble. They reel to and fro, and stagger like a drunken man, and are at their wit's end" (v. 26-27).

In each of these cases, "Then they cried unto the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them out of their distresses" (v. 6, 13, 19, 28). When they were willing to totally surrender to God's will, they found deliverance. The account of their deliverance is as beautiful as the description of their trouble is heartrending. "...he led them forth by the right way, that they might go to a city of habitation" (v. 7). "He brought them out of darkness, and the shadow of death, and brake their bands in sunder" (v. 14). "He

sent his word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destruction" (v. 20). "He maketh the storm a calm, so that the waves thereof are still...he bringeth them unto their desired haven" (v. 29-30). "He blesseth them also, so that they are multiplied greatly; and suffereth not their cattle to decrease" (v. 38). "Yet setteth he the poor on high from affliction...The righteous shall see it, and rejoice: and all iniquity shall stop her mouth. Whoso is wise, and will observe these things, even they shall understand the loving-kindness of the Lord" (v. 41-43).

Many examples of a very specific nature could be cited. Noah and his family were delivered from the flood because he walked with God (Gen. 6:9). In a last moment reprieve, Abraham was not required to offer his son as a sacrifice "...for now I know that thou fearest God..." (Gen. 22:12). Joseph, because of his refusal to yield to temptation, had to suffer for a time as "brought...hastily out of the dungeon:...and (was) made ruler over all the land of Egypt" (Gen. 41:14 & 44). Moses was delivered from the death sentence of Pharaoh so he could deliver the children of Israel out of Egypt.

How does all of this apply to us today? Just as God sent His Word to save the children of Israel (Ps. 107:20), He also sent His Word to save us. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word

was God" (Jn. 1:1). We understand that the "Word" refers to Jesus Christ who was sent to earth to save us from our sins. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved" (Jn. 3:16-17). Jesus not only was willing to come, but He recognized the need of sinful man to be delivered from Satan. In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus prayed that God would "...lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil..." (Mt. 6:13).

We know that this prayer was not just for those who were on the mountain at that time, but is for us today. As Jesus was praying for His disciples before His crucifixion, He prayed that they could be sanctified and He said "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them which shall believe on me through their word" (Jn. 17:20). This prayer includes

us in the twenty-first century because the Word of God was passed from the disciples through each generation until our time.

Those of us who have lived after the death and resurrection have a special advantage over those who preceded Christ did not have. The sacrifices of animals were only a temporary atonement for sin. Grace to overcome temptation did not seem to be readily available prior to Christ having shed His blood as the complete and perfect atonement for sin. The gift of the Holy Spirit as our guide did not seem as readily available to them either. They would sin and make an atoning sacrifice — and sin again. This pattern was repeated over and over.

However, since Christ's blood was shed, since He gave His life on Calvary's cross, and since He rose from the dead, we can be delivered from yielding to Satan's evil work. We are no longer under the law, but under grace. However, living under grace rather than under the law does not allow us to sin. "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?" (Ro. 6:1-2).

Jesus Christ overcame the world (Jn. 16:33). He delivered us from the bondage of the world. "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed" (Jn. 8:36). He sent His comforter and when "...he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth..." (Jn. 16:13).

We need not wait until we are at our wit's end to seek God's deliverance. By humbling ourselves and submitting to His call to repentance and conversion, "...by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God" (Ep. 2:8).

"Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men" (Ps. 107:8)!

"I heard the song of triumph, They sang upon that shore, Saying, Jesus has redeemed us To suffer nevermore: Then casting his eyes backward On the race which he had run. He shouted loud, Hosanna, Deliverance has come!" "Deliverance will Come" (Gospel Hymns, #225, v. 6).





## 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

### Nashville, TN Church

Church services were first held in Nashville in 1985. From the very beginning, they were held in the home of Don and Faye Sauder. Several years later, Don became the first brother in Nashville, after being baptized in his former home church at Mansfield, Ohio. Then in 2000, Faye became a sister, being the first person baptized in the Nashville church.

From 1985, church services were held periodically until 1990, at which time a visiting minister was scheduled once a month. This continued until 1995, when the schedule was updated to have a visiting minister twice a month. During this time, on weekends when there was not a visiting minister, the brethren would often travel to other congregations (Athens, Alabama is the nearest church at 100 miles), or listen to taped services. Then in 2001, another change was made, and a visiting minister is now scheduled every week, except for some holidays.

### Church building

In 1994 an old abandoned one-room church building was purchased. The building was in a scenic, convenient location among the hills on the west side of Nashville, but it was in such poor condition that a visiting elder brother, when he first saw it, just sat down on the steps and wept. Thankfully, the local brethren at the time had the vision to see what a blessing it could be to have their own church building, so a total renovation was undertaken.

Today the congregation enjoys the fruits of that labor. Even while renovations were in progress, the church building was used for Sunday services. The volunteers worked

on the remodeling during the week, and cleaned up the building enough to have church on Sunday. Untold hours were spent in the effort, and there is much appreciation for numerous groups and individual brethren who traveled to Nashville to assist with the renovation. The benches and pulpit furniture were purchased from a church in Mansfield, Ohio.

In September of 1997, the remodeling work was essentially complete and the church dedication service was held. Today, the sanctuary can comfortably seat about seventy people and the dining room can seat forty. It is just a small two-room church, but thankfully, it meets the current needs very well.



Like many of our churches in years past, a simple, painted livestock tank is used for a baptismal. The congregation has been blessed to witness three baptisms (2000 and 2002) in their church, and there are continued prayers for many more. The congregation was also privileged to celebrate a wedding (2003), although for convenience and capacity reasons, it was held in the brother's church, rather than Nashville.

Over the years, many brethren and friends have moved in, and some have moved away. There has been rejoicing over births and mourning over deaths. In the past year, two young families have moved to the

area, increasing the congregation's size by almost fifty percent. Today, the church has thirteen Brothers and Sisters, and a total local attendance of thirty-one. In addition, there are many visitors, so the average Sunday attendance is almost forty people.

### Appreciation and invitation

Because of Nashville's convenient location and the schedule of visiting ministers, the church has been privileged to fellowship with many brethren from most of the other congregations. Almost sixty percent of the current ministers within the brotherhood have ministered in Nashville.

This breadth of fellowship opportunities has caused a great appreciation and love for the Brotherhood and the loving support that is provided. There is rejoicing in these blessings and thanks to God and you all for that loving support. This creates the desire to hold fast to the blessings passed on by faithful forefathers.

The Nashville congregation asks that you would continue to pray for their congregation, that the Lord will move hearts and minds and this small church can continue to grow in the Spirit and in numbers, if it can be His will. Pray that souls can find their salvation and that His name can be glorified.

If anyone feels led by the Holy Spirit to consider relocating to a small church, a leading that many of us here have felt ourselves, please know that you would be welcome in Nashville. There are many employment opportunities in the area. Also, if anyone is interested in visiting, feel free to contact one of the brethren listed each month in the Nashville Silver Lining article.





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

## WR Informational Meetings

World Relief has grown in the hearts of our brethren and provides many opportunities to share our bountiful blessings. We can help through prayers, donations and labors of love. One way to learn about these various areas and people we have the opportunity to help is to attend one of the annual World Relief Information meetings. The Western Meeting is held every second Saturday of March and is rotated between the Apostolic Christian Churches west of the line between Indiana and Illinois. The Eastern Meeting is held on the second Saturday of November and is rotated between the churches in Indiana and all churches eastward.

## History

These meetings started in the 1960's as a sewing group where sisters gathered together to share ideas of sewing projects for the basic needs of the poor. Many brethren responded to the opportunities offered by World Relief. These meetings have evolved into more and more sharing of the many ways our brothers and sisters, young and old, have and can become involved.

The Milford and South Bend churches hosted the November 2006 Eastern Meeting. Everyone there heard about meeting the needs of people throughout the world in Haiti, Mexico, Biloxi, Indonesia, Africa and the Amazon River area. A sister gave her testimony how her heart was changed by someone giving her a Bible through a program started by Purdue Apostolic Christian students. A young couple told how they had the opportunity of adopting a Chinese son.

Fairbury, Illinois had the blessing of hosting the March Western 2007 meeting. Again, attendees heard about opportunities for helping, through prayers, donations or time, in places like Haiti, Mexico, Europe and the USA. We heard about collecting eyeglasses and how they are being distributed in Haiti and other places, about sponsoring a child through the Child Sponsorship Program, and Haitian linens, European linens and Ixtlan veils that are being made and sold in the US to help poor families earn money for their families.

## Handbooks are available

Also, at the Fairbury meeting, every church west of the Illinois/Indiana line received two handbooks. One was for the sisters' sewing groups. The other was for the World Relief representative of every church. The same handbooks will be passed out at the Eastern Meeting in November. If a church is not represented, the books will be sent to the World Relief Representative of the church.

The sisters' handbook was compiled as a resource of information for sewing or local projects. Contained in the handbook are kits to make, project ideas for local groups, patterns and information of where goods can be taken for distribution.

The representatives' handbook includes a list of the responsibilities of the representative and contact information to direct any question about World Relief. It lists all the current World Relief Projects, ways for congregations and individuals to get involved, information on the various World Relief distribution centers, brochures available for distribution and much more.

## The next meeting

The Eastern Meeting for 2007 will be held at Bay City, Michigan, on Saturday, November 10th where the handbooks will be available. A few of the topics being presented are about Haiti, Jamaica, Mississippi building projects and local work needs.

The next Western Meeting will be held Saturday, March 8, in Elgin, Illinois. Europe, Mexico, and the new World Relief Web site ([www.acworldrelief.org](http://www.acworldrelief.org)) are on this program. All sewing ladies are encouraged to bring samples of items their local church groups have worked on.

If it is not possible for you to attend one of these meetings, please contact the World Relief office at (219) 261-3200 or email: [information@acwr.org](mailto:information@acwr.org). Powerpoints have been made of presentations given at the Informational Meetings. They include work being done in Haiti, Jamaica, Mexico, India, Biloxi, Indonesia and an overview of World Relief work throughout the world. These presentations can be obtained and shown at an informational meeting at your local church.

## An opportunity

Please consider hosting a World Relief Informational Meeting in the coming years. It is such a blessing to meet and greet everyone of like faith at these meetings. Thanks and gratitude are extended to all brethren who have been involved and supported the World Relief efforts in the past years. As Bro. Rick Plattner of Fairbury said, "Think of the boy with 5 barley loaves and 2 fishes. The Lord took those and provided food for 5,000." This is what is happening with your World Relief contributions.



## APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

"Fireworks...red, green, blue; I'm excited!" were the words spoken by one of our residents a few hours prior to the big 4th of July celebration. He had been anticipating fireworks since early June and the day had finally arrived. To see the joy on his face brought a smile to mine as well as a tinge of conviction. How excited am I to celebrate the fact that I live in a free nation under God? We have much to be thankful for as our founding fathers looked heavenward for direction and guidance; and we have only to look at our nation's many documents, coins, marble and granite for proof of their intent...

"In God We Trust" is our national motto. (36 United States Code, Section 186)

"In God We Trust" has been on our coins since 1863 (even before it was our national motto). (31 United States Code, Section 5112[D][1])

Both state legislatures and United States Congress employ paid chaplains to pray at the opening of all sessions.

All military branches of the United States government pay chaplains.

The inscription on the Liberty Bell cites Leviticus 25:10.

A portrait of Moses with the Ten Commandments hangs above the Speaker's chair in the United States Congress.

The Library of Congress has statues of the apostle Paul and Moses, and it also has large inscriptions of Micah 6:8 and Psalm 19:1 prominently displayed.

The Lincoln Memorial has chiseled on it, "Judgments of the Lord are righteous".

The Tomb of the Unknown Sol-

dier is dedicated to a soldier "Known but to God".

There is a prayer room in Congress.

The United States Supreme Court opens with the words, "God save United States and this Honorable Court."

The United States Constitution refers to Jesus. (At the bottom just above John Hancock's signature, you'll see that the Constitution was signed "in the year of our Lord".)

We have a mandated "National Day of Prayer". (36 United States Code, Section 169[H])

We have a mandated "Thanks-giving", in which we are asked to give thanks unto God.

We celebrate Christmas, the birth of Jesus Christ.

Our calendar is dated from the year of the birth of Jesus Christ.

The last stanza of "The Star Spangled Banner" refers to God.

Not only did our residents enjoy fireworks this July, but they were able to experience fun outings such as: walks along the Peoria Riverfront, The Prairie Air Show, Splash Down Water Park, bus trips to attend musicals, and local baseball games. May each of us continue to enjoy the blessings of summer, be thankful for our freedoms and pray for our one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all!

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### GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME Nathan Mueller

"Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good."

*Romans 12:21*

The first half of this verse commands us to overcome evil. In all battles against sin and evil, we must be victorious. To lose any battle against evil is disobedience to God and is therefore sin. God not only cares that we win but He also cares about the means by which we win. In the four preceding verses we find some tools and rules for this warfare. The first one is to not repay any man "evil for evil." Next is to "live peaceably" and then, to "avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath; for it is written: 'Vengeance is mine: I will repay', saith the Lord." Finally, we are commanded to overcome evil with good. In conclusion, we must win - we are not permitted to lose, surrender or call it a tie. The only way we are able to win is seeking and using God's grace and by doing what is good in His eyes. "For in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head." Amen.

#### NEWS:

- With the completion of the Cypress House, Gateway Woods has reached a record number of residents, not including the scores of additional children and families we serve in our various programs. With this increase in population, your attendance at our annual Auction this year is truly important. Through your support and donations, you are making it possible for even more at-risk kids to have an opportunity to experience a brand new life through our Savior Jesus Christ. Please join us at our 31st annual Auction on August 11.

- We have been very blessed to be able to hire three new teachers for the coming school year. We have hired Sisters Tammy Sauder (Washington), Christy Wiegand (Goodfield) and Kristen Zimmerman



(Gridley). Sis. Christy was a former Assistant Houseparent at the Oak House. Please remember to keep these Sisters in your prayers during this time of training and transition.

- Praise God for new life here in the Gateway Woods 'family'! Bro. Jeff and Sis. Margo Waibel became parents to Summer Elizabeth on July 7. Bro. Tim and Sis. Christa Wiegand welcomed Jackson "Jack" Timothy on July 9. Bro. Zach and Sis. Jenny Bertsch became parents to Zion Michael on July 15.

- 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, certain staff retiring, and other ministry opportunities, there are a number of service 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. Perhaps this includes you!

- Bro. Kevin Fiechter continues to offer home-based services. Bro. Kevin has started his therapy group for fathers called "Dynamic Dads" in partnership with the Northeast Center. Interestingly, one of the group's participants is a young man who was in our residential program with Bro. Kevin and Sis. Brenda years ago. This is just another example of God interweaving our lives with our residents' lives to His glory.

- 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.

- Our 31st Annual Sale will be history when you read this. We are so very thankful for all the great donations and wonderful support we receive from all who attend and contribute to this great event for our on-going work with at-risk children. It is exciting to know that many will join us for the Sale for the first time this year following the Annual Conference. Look for more news in the next issue of The Gate Post.

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

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart..."

*Proverbs 3:5*

This past week our Bible stories were centered on courage. Courage seemed at first like a hard thing to explain to children. One teacher told them "it's like having guts." The kids stared at her and said "What are guts?" Put that way it really didn't seem to make much sense. We decided that maybe we needed to try a different approach. Throughout the week we read stories like David and Goliath, Daniel in the lion's den, three men in the fiery furnace and several others. It became clear that it's not hard at all. It's simply drawing your strength from the Lord. I delight in how the Lord can take the little Bible studies that we do with the children to remind and encourage us adults in our spiritual lives.

We have just a few short weeks until our school year starts back up again. The Lord has been blessing us abundantly with new students. Our fall enrollment should be very close to full capacity. It has been five or more years since we have been able

to say this. For that we give all praise, glory, and honor to our amazing God!

A cute tidbit that brought a smile to my heart: I got to work one morning and one of our 3 year old gals said, "Well, where did you come from?" I said, "Well I came from my house. Where did you come from?" She looks at me and with a big grin says "Jesus." Just another reminder of why our job is pretty special.

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**ALABAMA, ATHENS  
Louise Hall**

We appreciate the ministers and visitors that came to Athens over the past month. Thank you to Bro. Ted Witzig, Sr. (Sis. Cindy, Morton, IL), Bro. Matt Steffen (Sis. Deanna, Princeville, IL), and Bro. Gary Maibach (Sis. Maryann, Smithville, OH). We enjoyed having you with us and know that the Lord will abundantly bless you.

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**ARIZONA, PHOENIX  
Ron and Ev Hoerr**

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

*Psalms 37:4*

Congratulations to Bro. Adam and Sis. Whitney Ebert as their son, Odin Nicholas, was born on July 7.

Dakota Thorpe (Bro. Chris and Sis. Heather) has had her 33rd surgery on her wrist. Anneliese Hoerr and Sis. Lois Beres both suffered a fractured wrist. Sis. Edith Freed and Sis. Cathy Labudde were hospitalized.

Our visiting minister this month was Bro. Doug Wagenbach (San Diego). The Lord is truly gracious as He provides through His willing servants.



We welcome Sis. Danielle Mojic who has recently made Phoenix her home. We also welcome Bro. Joel and Sis. Amber Virkler to Phoenix as Bro. Joel continues his education here.

We rejoice with the angels in heaven, as our friend, Lauren Meiss, has expressed her need for her Savior and made a beginning in repentance. Her parents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Candy.

We seniors are enjoying Sunday School vacation. What a joy it is to have a little more time with our young people.

Keep looking up and praying.

“Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.”

*Psalms 37:3*

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

Matthew Schmidgall (Doug and Susan) graduated from high school and plans to attend Northern Arizona University in the Fall. We wish him the Lord's blessings and guidance as he begins a new chapter in his life.

A singing and reception was held on Saturday, June 23, to welcome newly married couple, Bro. Corbin and Sis. Stacy (Koehl) Fehr. Praying the Lord will bless their lives together as one.

We wish to thank the visiting ministers this month for serving us and also the Lord. They included Bros. Glen Braker (Sis. Audrey, Princeville, IL), Jim Koehl (Sis. Hilde, San Diego, CA), Paul Schmidgall (Sis. Shawn, Morris, MN) and James Emch (Phoenix).

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### **ARIZONA, TUCSON**

#### **Lisa Knapp**

Our little church family rejoiced Saturday evening, July 21, as Mindy Bauer (Bro. Brad and Sis. Sandy) became the bride of Brett Darling. As Mindy and Brett are now joined as one, we wish them God's richest blessings and pray that they will remain close to the Lord as they travel through life together. They will establish their new home here in Tucson for which we are grateful and excited!

As a result of the wedding on July 21, we were blessed to have two visiting ministers with us on Sunday, July 22. Bro. Fred Funk (Morton, IL) and Bro. James Emch (Phoenix, AZ) ministered to us making it a very special day. We are so thankful for their efforts and for the opportunity to fellowship with them and their wives, Sis. Diane and Sis. Gina. What a truly wonderful weekend we all enjoyed.

C.J. Kaufman is recovering after breaking his foot in several places. He is home for the summer from college. Our prayers are with you, C.J., for a quick recovery.

We are thoroughly enjoying our summer monsoon season. The thunderstorms are fun to watch and a relief from triple digit heat at the same time.

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### **CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA**

#### **Tina Jackson**

We are blessed to have members of our church from the Spanish speaking community. Those of us who sit and listen each Sunday to God's Word being preached from our pulpits may take for granted the message being spoken in our native tongue. Understanding the need for the hearing and appropriation of God's Word, ministering Bros. Joe Klotzle and Justin Moser are meet-

ing each week, with those who attend our church and speak Spanish, to teach them God's Word with the help of an interpreter. We thank Armando Cervantes who has been willing to use his bilingual abilities to serve others and translate the message into Spanish.

We are enjoying having Sis. Stephanie Moser with us as she takes time from her work for the Lord in China, to rest and visit family.

Those hospitalized this month include Sis. Adela and Sis. Lydia Chaves, Allen Crocket (Bro. Bob) and Clarence Graf. We pray God's healing touch continues on their lives.

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

New chapters are continually unfolding in our lives and how blessed it can be when God is our Author! Sis. Linda Fulop (Bro. Denes and Sis. Joy) opened a new chapter as she graduated from high school. Our prayers are that the Lord will continue to pen the chapters to come in her life and that she will continue to rely on Him to be the Writer.

What joy we can find in our brotherhood! We enjoyed the many families, single brothers and sisters, and couples that visited our church as summer has come. Amongst our visitors were ministering Bros. Fred Funk and his wife, Sis. Diane (Morton, IL), Tim Roecker and his wife, Sis. Diane (Peoria, IL), and Herb Knochel and his wife, Sis. Laurie (Phoenix, AZ). We deeply appreciated these brothers' efforts on our behalf and ask God's blessings upon their lives in their service to Him.

May we all find time to experience the pure happiness and satisfaction that can come when we follow



Christ's example as He taught us how much more blessed it is TO GIVE then it is to receive.

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**KITCHENER, ONTARIO  
CANADA**

**Kim Leman**

We enjoyed our visitors who came to be with us for our Invite a Guest weekend on June 23-24.

“Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.”

*Proverbs 27:17*

May God bless the faithful brothers who came to minister to us this month. They were Bros. Tim Ramsier (Sis. Joni, Rittman, OH), Todd Graf (Sis. Lydia, Akron, OH), and Howard Plattner (Sis. Kristen, Alto, MI).

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

“Rest is not some holy feeling that comes upon us in church. It is a state of calm rising from a heart deeply and firmly established in God.”

*Henry Drummond*

In this busy world in which we live, it's sometimes hard to find rest. How wonderful that our souls can rest in God!

Recent visiting ministers have been Bro. Jim Butikofer (Sis. Diana, Iowa City, IA), Elder Bro. Rick Plattner (Sis. Mary Ann, Fairbury, IL), Bro. Gary Endress (Sis. Evelyn, Bradford, IL), Bro. Edwin Strahm (Sis. Ramona, Bern, KS), and Bro. Jerry Meeks (Sis. Christine, Sabetha, KS). We're thankful to them for their time and service.

Welcome to Bro. Shane and Sis. Emily Fehr, who have moved here

from Peoria, IL.

Richard and Debi Reynolds, and big brothers, Aaron and Cameron, welcomed Jordan Eugene on July 10.

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**CONNECTICUT  
ROCKVILLE**  
**Amber Rocke  
Laura Virkler**

We were blessed to have visiting ministers among us this month, as well as the many others who have come to worship with us in their travels on the East Coast. With us was Bro. Ted Luginbuhl and his wife, Sis. Stephanie, from our congregation in Smithville, OH, and Bro. Todd Stoller and his wife, Sis. Pam, from our congregation in Latty, OH. We enjoyed having these brothers with us and pray a blessing upon them for their labors on our behalf.

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

*I Cor. 13:13*

Believing it is the will of God, the engagement of Bro. Warren Gottier and Sis. Margaret Capello was made known to us. Three weeks following, we were witnesses to their vows to be faithful to one another. May they feel God's presence as they blend their two families together, that though in the sunset years of their lives, they may be filled with joy and blessing for them, their beloved children, and many grandchildren.

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

*Matt. 19:14*

We enjoyed a beautiful day of sunshine and fellowship at our Sunday School picnic this year. We also welcome the new preschool class as they

begin their first year, and the new teachers who begin a term. May God bless those who give their time, and the children who attend, that their hearts will become fertile ground as the future of our precious faith.

Our many prayers and thoughts are with Bro. Lenny and Sis. Deb Schneider and their son, Levi, as he goes overseas in defense of his country. May God keep His mighty hand upon him as he comes into harms way, and return him safely home if it would be His will.

We have had many joys lately, but we are also instructed to bear each others' burdens when hardship comes. Our prayers are with Sis. Ellen Kupferschmid as her brother, Richard Zahner, recently passed away. May the entire family be encouraged to know that they are held up in prayer by many. Our sympathy is also with David Campbell and his wife, Sis. Tanya, and their family at the unexpected passing of his mother. May God help them through this difficult time.

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**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
WASHINGTON**  
**Henrietta Meyer**

“My God shall supply all your need.”

*Philippians 4:19*

“For your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask Him.”

*Matthew 6:8*

We can all point to events in our lives where God has supplied our needs. Sis. Doreen Steffen tells of the way the Lord has supplied our need for caretakers. Calendars and plans work together so we are covered until October. We even have some commitments for a few months next



year.

This month our caretakers are Bro. Thadd and Sis. Molly Walter and their children, Avery and Vivian, from Gridley, IL. We are blessed not only with the fellowship and labor of our caretakers, but also their families and friends who come to visit them and our congregation.

Visiting ministers serving us this month were Bro. Brian Waibel (Sis. Wendy, Champaign, IL), Bro. Ken Schneider (Remington, IN), Bro. Jeff Fischer (Ft. Scott, KS), Bro. Tom Lemman (Sis. Marlene, Denver, CO), Bro. David Obergefel (Sis. Kathy, Peoria, IL), Bro. Earl Berry (Sis. Susanne, Rittman, OH), Bro. Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi, Alto, MI) and Bro. Galen Rokey (Sis. Nancy, Bern, KS).

Other visitors were from Congerville, Fairbury, and Elgin, IL; Akron and Rittman, OH; Holly Spring, NC; Sarasota, FL; Phoenix, AZ; Philadelphia, PA; and Milford and Indianapolis, IN.

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.

If you are planning to visit Washington, D.C. area for vacation or business, please contact Bro. Joe and Sis. Holly Bohart at [jbohart@gmail.com](mailto:jbohart@gmail.com) or Sis. Henrietta Meyer at (703) 904-8301 for assistance and to let us know how many to expect for Sunday services. If you would like to get together on Saturday evening, please let us know that as well. We would be happy to have an evening of fellowship and/or singing.

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**FLORIDA  
FORT LAUDERDALE  
Renee Mangold**

We were thankful to have visiting ministers this past month. Visiting were Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Scott Schafer (Sis. Gigi, South Bend, IN). We pray that God would bless His faithful servants.

Sadly, we had two of our sisters in faith pass away this past month. Sis. Lucille Clark of Bluffton, IN, and Sis. Helen Mangold, formerly of Roanoke, IL, and more recently of Peoria, IL (Mike and Renee Mangold). Both were long time winter residents of the Ft. Lauderdale church. They will be missed by all of us and yet we have comfort in knowing that we will see those dear sisters in heaven one day.

Also, our thoughts and prayers for comfort go to Kaywin and Patricia Martin on the passing of Patricia's father who resided in Ohio. May God strengthen them and see them through their sorrow.

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**FLORIDA  
NORTH FORT MYERS  
Naomi Vogel**

It looks like this month's report will be as small as the congregation was last Sunday. There were a grand total of nine in attendance. Some were absent due to illness and some others were away visiting family elsewhere. Bro. Vic and Sis. Dottie Beer were in Atlanta for their granddaughter's wedding. This was the first Sunday since the snowbirds migrated north that we did not have any visitors. I suspect some think it is too hot in Florida in July and August, but it really is not any hotter than it is elsewhere and we often get a shower around four o'clock in the afternoon which cools things off, so come visit

while there is less traffic!

We pray that God will comfort our dear Sisters Sarah Hunyady and Jeanette Yergler as they struggle with health issues. We miss having you worship with us!

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**FLORIDA, SARASOTA  
DiAnne Brown  
Robin Wiegand**

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

*Psalm 33:12*

It is such a blessing to be free to celebrate the birth of our beloved nation and remember the great sacrifices made by so many to declare and preserve our independence. The spectacular fireworks and picnics with family and friends are so nice. It is also a time when we might consider the direction this great nation seems to be headed and wonder ... where are we going?

The world our children live in today is one I could not even have imagined as a youth. The challenges, experiences and even the headlines in the news are subjects sage adults would hardly have broached in former generations. The concern about it could be overwhelming, until we remember that God made His plan even before the world began. He laid down the waters, brought up the light and created everything we see and set it all in motion. We remember He has a master plan and, in reading His word, we learn the "rest of the story."

This month has been very hot here in Florida, the gulf waters are over 91° and not very refreshing. Recent rains have been much appreciated and have helped to relieve the drought and green up our lawns and



we are thankful.

Hospital patients this month included Bros. John (Sis. Biserka) Krstec, Tom Miller, and Glenn (Sis. Sandee) Price. We keep these dear brothers in our prayers for healing and recovery.

We bid a loving farewell to Sis. Colleen Rearden as she moves to Jacksonville, FL, to begin a new job. We wish her well and look forward to her visits back to Sarasota as she can make them.

This month we have had the pleasure of keeping a foreign exchange student from Austria. It has been exciting to learn about the language, culture and customs of her country while teaching her about ours. It has also been a time of learning how much we have in America and how much we take for granted, including our faith.

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### **GEORGIA, ATLANTA** **Melinda Gramm**

Thank you to our visiting ministers, Bro. Frank Sauder (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Art Ingold (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman, OH).

Bro. Kevin Kipfer and Sis. Erica Stoller were married on July 15. They will be living in Morton, IL, and we pray that God will continue to be foremost in their marriage and that their hearts will remain tender and open to His leading. Bro. Kevin is the son of Bro. Ron and Sis. Linda Kipfer (Bluffton, IN) and Sis. Erica is the daughter of Bro. Linn and Sis. Brenda Stoller (Atlanta, GA).

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### **ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE** **Sheila McCoy** **Doreen Moser**

“Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.”  
*Philippians 4:4*

We rejoice with the religious freedoms we have. On Independence Day, Bro. Warren Schlatter (Junction, OH) was able to visit us in Belvidere for a Wednesday evening service. Also, our Elder Bro. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL) was able to be with us that evening. We were thankful to have Bro. Lenny Meyer (Chicago, IL) and Bro. Richard Gramm (South Bend, IN) as our other visiting ministers this month.

As there is joy in heaven, our congregation is likewise rejoicing. Aubrey Schock (Bro. Ted and Sis. Heidi) and Britney Knobloch (Bro. Brent and Sis. Michelle) are repenting.

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### **ILLINOIS** **BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL** **Jen Heiniger** **Betsy Zimmerman**

We rejoice with Johnathon Cargill, son of Bro. Jeff and Sis. Crystal Cargill, as he has made a decision to serve the Lord.

The engagement of Sis. Jolynn Schmidgall (Bro. Randy and Sis. Marj) to Bro. Kevin Hodel (Kent and Janet) of Washington was recently announced. We rejoice with them as they plan their November wedding. Belated congratulations to Jeremy Knapp, son of Bro. Charlie and Sis. Paula, and Erica Kuntz, daughter of Keith and Bev Kuntz, Oakville, IA, who were married on February 17.

Congratulations to Bro. Todd and Sis. Betsy Zimmerman on the birth of their son, Jacob Todd, on June 17. He is welcomed home by big sister, Haylee. Grandparents are Bro. Wayne and Sis. Nancy Zimmerman (Forrest) and Bro. Ray and Sis. Gladys Slagel (Fairbury).

Bro. Charlie and Sis. Paula Knapp welcomed twin grandsons,

Joshua David and Caleb Michael, on June 4. Parents are Bro. Matt and Sis. Dana Knapp (Fairbury, IL). Sis. Ann Kachelmuss is a first-time grandmother. Abby Kay was born June 18 to Craig and Tami Kachelmuss of Heyworth.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Jan Beer, who recently lost her father, Bro. Clarence Herman, of Peoria. May you feel God's nearness during this time of grief.

Thanks to our visiting ministers this month: Bro. Jeff Thames (Washington, IL), Bro. Dewayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN) and Bro. Garry Bucher (Valparaiso, IN).

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### **ILLINOIS, BRADFORD** **Steve Endress**

We appreciate the efforts of Bros. Dale Stoller (Fairbury, IL) and Don Manz (Junction, OH) and Elder Bro. Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL) in the ministry of the Word of God.

Our sympathy and prayers are with Sis. Marilyn Tanner (Bro. Richard) at the passing of her mother, Sis. Mary Ellen Wiegand. We are wise if we can answer like Job when he said, “the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.”

Thomas Joos (Bro. Robert and Sis. Becky) took the hand of Crystal Ogden (Stan and Jean, Morton, IL) in marriage on June 23. May they endeavor to build a marriage that will endure until death parts them.

Bro. Lucas and Sis. Bethany Young welcome a baby girl into their family. Ruth Arlene was born on June 26 and is welcomed home by her brother, Noah. Her grandparents are Bro. Morris and Sis. Pat Young (Elgin, IL) and Bro. Greg and Sis. Carla Rassi (Chicago, IL).

On July 8, Sis. Julie Ringger (Bro. Bill and Sis. Karen) was married to



Bro. Jared Hanson (Steve and Miriam, Princeville, IL). We wish them God's richest blessings as they build a Godly home.

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### ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

#### Rachel Meyer

We are sorry to bid farewell to a dear family who have worshipped with us and blessed us with their presence for a time. Bro. Matt and Sis. Jennifer Mangold and their family have moved to Roanoke. We also extend our sympathy in the recent loss of Bro. Matt's grandmother, Sis. Helen Mangold (Roanoke, IL). May the Lord provide all the needed grace as these many adjustments are made in life's journey.

We are pleased to welcome convert Clayton Monfre from Goodfield, who has accepted employment in our area and Bro. Aaron and Sis. Bekah Plattner from Detroit. Bro. Aaron is here for residency training. We look forward to getting better acquainted with these loved ones and pray for God's blessings and sufficient grace as they adjust to their new surroundings.

We have had the privilege of hosting several small group Elder meetings here in Chicago and this has also brought visiting Elders for some of our services. Elders either visiting family here or attending the special meetings have been Bros. Ron Messner (Washington, IL), Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT), Don Braker (Kansas City, MO), Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI), Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI), Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL) and Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN). We were richly blessed of the Lord through these brothers.

We rejoice with Bro. Greg and Sis. Carla Rassi in the birth of a new granddaughter, Ruth Arlene Young. Parents are Bro. Lucas and Sis.

Bethany Young (Bradford, IL).

Our annual Sunday School picnic was a special blessing. We thank our Sunday School teachers for their efforts throughout the year. Special thanks to Bro. Rick Meyer who has served faithfully and has completed his term.

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### ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN

#### Jackie Eisenmann

"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 3:4-5*

Sunday, June 24, was our annual Sunday school picnic held at a nearby park. The rain showers did not hinder the children's enjoyment during the games. After the picnic, we also held a farewell for Bro. Neil and Sis. June Knobloch and their children, Grant, Nelson, and Kedron. They are relocating to the Remington/Wolcott area due to Neil's job change. Our congregation will miss all of them very much. They were very supportive of our church, with Neil teaching Sunday school for several years. The Bible class presented Neil with a plaque with the above verses on it, as it had become their theme verse for the year. We wish them God's richest blessings as they are allowing the Lord to direct their paths.

That same Sunday we rejoiced to hear that two more souls were trusting in the Lord and allowing God's direction in their lives. Our Sis. Sarah Laubscher (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Gloria, Cissna Park, IL) was engaged to Bro. Tom Fehr of Kansas City, MO (Bro. Bob and Sis. Barb Fehr, Iowa City, IA). We wish them God's near-

ness during this time of engagement, as they look forward to an October wedding.

Wednesday, June 27, we were blessed to have Bro. Marshall and Sis. Jan Heinold (Ixtilan, MX) with us. Bro. Marshall presented a Bible study on Grace. What would we do without that undeserving Grace? We want to thank Marshall for his efforts in bringing us God's Word.

Friday, June 29, Sis. Karen Martin (Eureka, IL) gave a talk entitled "Our Mortality" to our congregation. Karen related many interesting experiences she has had as a hospice nurse. She also spoke on what processes those nearing their end go through, and how we can all learn from them. I believe all of those who were present for this presentation went away with much food for thought and an appreciation for the present life God has given us.

Sunday, July 8, our congregation enjoyed a guest fellowship day. We had the pleasure of fellowshiping with many from different Illinois congregations. Don't we have a precious faith?

We are rejoicing that Sydney Eisenmann (Bro. David and Sis. Jackie) has answered God's call and has come in repentance. We are so thankful that God continues to call many to the "wedding feast" as in Matthew 22. We can't appreciate enough that we all receive a personal invitation with our name on it. Have we accepted and come to receive our wedding garment? If we have a wedding garment, are we keeping it spotless?

We are thankful that Brad Kafer (Bro. Ben and Sis. Carol, Fairbury, IL) has also made a beginning in repentance. Our congregation is praying for both of these souls.

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**ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK**

**Pam Walder  
Janie Waldbeser**

We want to welcome a new brother to our congregation here in Cissna Park. Bro. Charles Knapp has moved here from Bloomington. His wife, Jeanne, is in the Hoopston Nursing Home.

Our Bro. Bob and Sis. Eileen Greiner have moved to Gridley, IL. We will miss seeing their smiling faces in our church, as they were always so dedicated to come to both Wednesday evening and Sunday services. May God bless them in their new home.

Our hospital patients this month have been Bro. Max Yergler (Sis. Donna), Bro. Bill Rinkenberger (Sis. Marge), Bro. Eldon Steffen (Sis. Melba) and Sis. Jean Knapp. May God grant healing according to His will.

May God bless the efforts of our local congregation as they helped with a local World Relief project in Cissna Park.

We wish God's blessings on the recent engagement of Sis. Sarah Laubscher (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Gloria, Cissna Park) of Champaign to Bro. Tom Fehr (Bro. Bob and Sis. Barb, Iowa City, IA) of Kansas City, MO. May God be the center of their lives as they plan for their marriage together.

Thanks to our visiting ministers this month, Bro. Randy Mogler (Washington, IL) and Bro. Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN). We're thankful for the moving of the Holy Spirit through our ministers. May they continue to speak as God would direct, and not just present a popular message that pleases people. May God continue to give our ministers grace and courage to speak the truth.

We were blessed to observe a slide presentation at the fellowship hall

related to the books "Stories of Faith and Courage". Several of our brethren traveled to Europe and visited brethren who had experienced persecution under an oppressive government. It made us realize how blessed we are in our land of freedom.

We are praying for our Sis. Arlene Stock (Bro. Les) as she is currently very weak and remaining in her home at this time. We commit her to God's tender care and keeping.

Bro. Fred and Sis. Joan Waldbeser are thankful grandparents of Joseph Ezra, born to Bro. Phil and Sis. Charlotte Waldbeser of Elgin, IA. We wish God's blessings on their family.

**ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE**

**Rachel Schrock**

Thou great High Priest and teacher,  
Give me and every creature  
Much incense unto pray'r,  
True hearts, sincere and pious,  
The light of grace be nigh us,  
Of all strange spirits to beware.

*Zion's Harp #215 vs. 1*

We recently felt a special closeness to our home brethren as we fervently prayed for God's guidance in the leadership of our congregation. We remain prayerful as this process continues. Our sincere thanks are extended to the Elder brethren and their families who gave many hours to interview each of us and compile these results, namely Elder Bros. Ron Schambach (Sis. Nancy, Elgin), Dennis Warner (Sis. Esther, Lester), Charles Sauder (Sis. Miriam, Tremont), and Ervin Knecht (Sis. Sandy, Eureka). We also thank Bro. Nathan Wieland (Sis. Suzanne, Goodfield) for ministering unto us recently.

Sincere prayers have been answered as the engagement of Bro.

Landon Knecht (Bro. Mike and Sis. Lisa, Eureka) and our Sis. Martha Hoerr (Bro. Max and Sis. Suzanne) was announced. A September 16 wedding is being planned.

Bro. Max and Sis. Suzanne Hoerr's family has been growing as another of their daughters, Rebekah, married Geoffrey Guth on June 16. Bro. Vic Rinkenberger (Bro. Mike and Sis. Pat) married Sis. Betsy Rufener (Bro. Ron and Sis. Kay) in Mansfield on June 17. And I apologize in that I forgot to report that Bro. Kent Wiegand (Bro. Rick and Sis. Sue) married Sis. Lanae Zimmerman (Bro. Mark and Sis. Cheryl) in Eureka on April 22.

More prayers have been answered as two precious girls entered this world safely on Friday, June 29. Laurel Brooke was added to the family of Bro. Doug and Sis. Lynnette Knepp. Braelyn Nicole joined the household of Bro. Brad and Sis. Carla Walder.

Last, but definitely not least, thankfulness for answered prayers abounds as two souls begin their repentance. Brad Knapp (Bruce and Sis. Mary) and Jordan Luthi (Bro. Troy and Sis. Vanessa) have turned their hearts to the Lord. May they find the light of grace nigh them as they begin on the heavenly way.

*Note of Thanks:*

We wish to extend a sincere thank you to those who prayed for and helped us during our recent surgeries and illnesses. May God bless you all.

*Bro. Bill and Sis. Sherri Dietrich*

**ILLINOIS, ELGIN**

**Amy Gasser  
Miriam Gasser**

Our new brother in the Lord, Tim Braun (Bro. Gene and Sis. Sue), gave



his testimony and was baptized the weekend of July 7-8. It was a blessing to have Elder Bro. Mike Leman (Denver, CO) here to assist in the labors. We thank him, as well as the other visiting ministers who lent support to the Word through their inspired messages this month. They were Bros. Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL), Alan Schambach (Remington, IN), and Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL).

Another cause for rejoicing is that Carol Kellenberger (Bro. Lloyd) of Gainesville, FL (formerly of Elgin), has begun her repentance. We wish her much grace as she turns from her former life and seeks to walk in the ways of the Lord.

Two little girls have recently brightened the lives of their parents and families. Alexis Marie was born May 22 to Arron and Jamie Schifferer. Grandpa and Grandma Long, Wayne Schifferer, and Sis. Joyce Schifferer are excited to have a granddaughter. Joining the family of Bro. Eric and Sis. Erika Schambach is Klair Grace. She was born July 16, and is welcomed home by Joseph, Kathleen, Jack, Kaelin, Jesse, Kalli, and James. Klair's grandparents are Ken and Anita Anderson and Bro. Bob and Sis. Jeanne Schambach.

As a new Sunday School year approaches, we want to thank our outgoing teachers, Bro. Mark Wewetzer (Sis. Nancy) and Sis. Vicki Kellenberger (Bro. Ken) for their faithful service. May God reward them for their many efforts over the years. Replacing them are Bro. Dan Cargill (Sis. Stephanie) and Sis. Jessica Kellenberger (Bro. Bryan).

The breaking of the silver cord has touched many lives in our congregation. Bro. Delbert Schmidt lost his brother, Lester, of Fort Dodge,

IA. Bro. Gary Anliker and Sis. Jeanne Hintz experienced the passing of their aunt, Sis. Clara Anliker (Bro. Sam), of West Bend, IA. Sis. Mary Gasser's aunt, Sis. Mary Wiegand, was laid to rest in Goodfield, IL. Sis. Jeanne Hintz and Sis. Cindy Schmidgall, both nieces of Bro. Bill Wulf, were affected by his passing in Sabetha, KS.

Sis. Joyce Schifferer had surgery during the month, but is healing well. Our prayers remain with Sis. Marie Hugh, who is facing some difficult healthcare decisions.

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### ILLINOIS, EUREKA

**Heather Beutel  
Cindy Stoller**

"Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the Lord."

*Proverbs 18:22*

On Sunday, July 1, Sis. Janel Cottrell (Bill Cottrell and Sis. Judy Cottrell) became the bride of Bro. Jason Sanders (Bro. Bill and Sis. Sue). We rejoice with this new couple and pray the Lord will bless this union.

Also looking forward to Holy matrimony are our two newly engaged couples. Bro. Landon Knecht (Bro. Mike and Sis. Lisa) was announced to Sis. Martha Hoerr (Bro. Max and Sis. Suzanne, Congerville, IL). Bro. Chad Zimmerman (Bro. Tom and Sis. Janet) is to marry Sis. Angie Wuthrich (Bro. Roger and Sis. DeAnn, Bloomfield, IA).

God has blessed two families with new babies this month. Jackson Arnold is the firstborn of Bro. Jason and Sis. Ellie Rassi. His grandparents are Bro. Curt and Sis. Kathy Rassi (Tremont, IL), and Bro. Kevin and Sis. Annette Fischer (Roanoke, IL). Josie Leigh has entered the

hearts and home of Bro. Bill and Sis. Heidi Wettstein along with siblings, Abbie, Molly, Mitch, Darci, and Burke. Josie's grandparents are Sis. Donna Wettstein and Bro. Sam and Sis. Pat Plattner (Goodfield, IL).

On the weekend of July 14-15, we welcomed three new souls into the Body of Christ. They are Bro. Michael Hartter (Bro. Ron and Sis. Janet), Bro. Tracy Leman (Bro. Scott and Sis. Phyllis), and Sis. Carly Knecht (Bro. Mike and Sis. Lisa). We rejoice with them and pray they can remain firmly grounded on the Solid Rock. Here to help in this holy work was Elder Bros. Gerry Hertzell (Sabetha, KS), and Rick Plattner (Fairbury, IL).

Other visiting ministers include Bros. Duane Rocke (Minneapolis, MN), Kent Getz (Elgin, IA), Wayne Wiegand and Jeff Grimm (Goodfield, IL). May God bless these Brothers for allowing themselves to be used by the Spirit on our behalf.

"When a Christian dies, precious is the prize..." On July 23, our dear Sis. Edna Fehr went to be with her Lord and Maker. Our thoughts and prayers go to her brother, Bro. Leroy Fehr, and her sister-in-law, Sis. Mary Fehr. We will miss her sweet smile and presence among us.

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### ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

**Anna Schmidgall  
Lila Fehr**

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

*St. Luke 15:10*

We cannot comprehend how beautiful that must be, but surely we get a little taste of this heavenly rejoicing when a soul turns to God in true repentance. In that spirit, we re-



joyce with Ben Herr (Sis. Cindy Herr), Brad Kafer (Bro. Ben and Sis. Carol), and Leanne Steidinger (Bro. Martin and Sis. Trish) who have chosen to let God be their Guide in life.

We are thankful for Bro. Duane Rocke and his family who have come from Minneapolis to spend time with us here in Fairbury, and as always, was willing to serve us the Bread of Life.

Another Sunday School year has ended for us here, and that brings with it some changes in teaching positions. We are thankful for these faithful Brothers and Sisters who have willingly spent so much time and effort to teach our youth about Jesus. Our outgoing teachers are Bros. Bill Schmidgall and Neil Bahler and Sisters Jane Steidinger and Dawn Steidinger. Filling their vacancies will be Bros. Nathan Teubel and Rick Steidinger and Sisters Sara Steidinger and Anna Schmidgall. We will continue to pray that God will provide the love, energy, and Holy Spirit to these four souls as they take on their new duties.

It is our tradition to hold our annual Sunday School picnic at the fellowship hall in June. Young and old gathered together to enjoy grilled burgers and praising the Lord through song, and I'm sure the old enjoyed watching the young play games in the fellowship hall's back yard. I guess you could say we enjoyed spending some quality time together with our church family!

*Note of Thanks:*

A sincere thank you to my dear family and friends for their cards, gifts and many kind deeds at the time of my knee surgery. Also a special thank you to everyone for the beautiful cards and gifts I received for my 70th birthday. God's blessings to all.

*Joan Gaston*

**ILLINOIS, FORREST**

**Jill Wenger  
Lori Leman**

We rejoice with the angels in heaven as we hear of souls coming to the foot of the cross in repentance. Tessa Nussbaum (Bro. Terry and Sis. Deb), Brad and Troy Brown (sons of Bro. Gary and Sis. Jane), Dan and Abby Eisenmann and Jodi Slagel (Kevin) have all felt the need of God's saving grace and have begun their repentance recently. May these converts be able to leave the world behind and give their all to Him.

Our thoughts and prayers are with those who have spent time in the hospital. May Bro. Larry (Sis. Donna) Bachman, Sis. Pauline Wiegand, Helen (William) Fehr and Sis. Edna (Bro. Paul) Wiegand feel the comfort of the Holy Spirit as they go through trials in the flesh.

We extend our sympathy to Maurice (Joy) Zimmerman on the death of his sister, Shirley Luttrell, of Fairbury. May his family be comforted.

**ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD**

**Amber Grimm  
Rita Bauman**

It was a blessing to have several ministering brothers visit us this past month. A special thank you goes out to Elder Bro. Charles Sauder (Sis. Miriam, Tremont, IL), Bros. Dave Zehr (Sis. Vicki, Gridley, IL), Gary Maibach (Sis. Mary Ann, Smithville, OH), John Hartman (Sis. Rosemary, Fairbury, IL) and John Bradle (Sis. Jill, Roanoke, IL) for bringing forth the Word to us. May God richly continue to be with you each one as you preach the Word.

Dirk Musselman and Tiffany

Hamill were united in marriage on June 29. Their parents are Bro. Gary and Sis. Judy Musselman, and Pat and Joe Ragar, and Julie and Jim Estes, and Bill and Lorna Hamill. May God bless this couple and be ever present in their married life.

"Now it is accomplished! I'm no longer mine..." (Zion's Harp #209)

July 14 and 15 was a blessed weekend when we were able to listen to the testimonies and witness the baptisms of a new sister and two brothers. We warmly welcome Sis. Emily Hinrichsen (Bro. Mike and Sis. Gerri), Bro. Jared Zobrist (Bro. Dave and Sis. Ann) and Bro. Craig Wiegand (Bro. Ron and the late Sis. Barb) into the fold. May God continue to be near them and guide them on the pilgrim pathway.

Bro. Alfred Kieser (Sis. Marie) needed hospital care last month. We know that "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble" as stated in Psalm 46:1. We pray that the Lord may provide healing according to His will.

Sis. Christy Wiegand (Bro. Ron and the late Sis. Barb) is leaving to teach at the Leo Children's Home. May God grant her wisdom as she prepares these children for the future.

Again students are preparing and some are looking forward to returning to school. May we remember each one in our prayers.

**ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY  
Perry A. Klopfenstein**

Be silent, be silent  
A whisper is heard;  
Be silent, and listen,  
O treasure each word!

Tread softly, tread softly,  
The Master is here;  
Tread softly, treat softly,  
He bids us draw near.



As one grows older, and by God's grace more experienced, the words of song-writer Fanny J. Crosby become more and more vivid. To tread softly in our Christian walk is necessary, since one proposes to have the Lord at his side, day in and day out. Gentleness, meekness and humility will depict the Saviour much more than selfishness, aggressiveness and serving one's own will. May God grant each of us the grace to "tread softly" with all people, and especially toward those in the household of faith.

We are happy to welcome Bro. Bob and Sis. Eileen Greiner to Gridley from Cissna Park. They are residing in Sunrise Manor, the congregational living facility just south of our church.

At a recent business meeting church offices were filled as follows: Trustee, Bro. Curt Witzig; song leaders, Bro. Rod Wolf and Bro. Lyle Wettstein; Sunday School teachers: Bros. Eric Zehr, Harvey Kaeb and Jeremy Freed; and Sisters MaryAnn Wettstein and Jeanette Lavallier. The couple serving as funeral coordinator are Bro. Mike and Sis. Barb Prevo, who replaced Bro. Don and Sis. Rosie Gramm.

We are thankful to have five new converts, along with 10 others who are in varying stages of growth. May God be with them, and draw them into a life of submission, surrender and service — for the Lord's glory.

Bros. Tom Miller and Barry Ehresman were surgical patients. Jack Sievers is recovering from surgery, and doing well.

Ezra Abel Cornell was born on May 31 to Bro. Sean and Sis. Carla Cornell. He is their second child. Ezra has a brother, Elijah, 2. Grandparents are Bro. Orlan and Sis. Carol Miller; and Ray and Cheryl Nardoni, Danville; and Mel and Tina Cornell,

Honolulu, Hawaii. The baby's great-grandmother is Sis. Anna Marie Reutter of Gridley. May God bless this family.

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### ILLINOIS, MACOMB

#### **Norm and Janis Rechkemmer**

Summer has quickly flown by and we now are anxiously awaiting the return of Western Illinois students to Macomb. As the students return, so will our Wednesday evening services. The first service for the semester will be Wednesday, August 22, @ 6:30. We are planning a cookout and singing. Please contact us @ 309-231-0098 if you are plan to attend. Taylor, MO, will be providing a minister for that evening.

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### ILLINOIS, MORTON

#### **Annette Tanner**

#### **Julie Bahr**

Tears are a language that God understands! Several have been called to their Heavenly home this past month. Bro. Clarence Herman, previously from Morton, passed away June 29. He was the father to a family of several children. Two of his daughters from Morton are Sis. Barb (Bro. Ed) Kaiser and Sis. Esther (Bro. Mark) Stephens. On July 4, Geraldine Wuthrich passed away. She was a sister-in-law to Sis. Eunice Wuthrich.

Sis. Louise Steiner's sister, Ruth Kerr, passed away on July 9. Then on July 11, Bro. Clarence, Bro. Irvin, and Bro. Harry Schmidgall were saddened to hear of the death of their sister, Lydia Mooberry. Bro. Lloyd Kaiser gave in to God's call to come Home on July 14. Surviving are Bro. Lloyd's wife, Sis. Loraine, and sons, Bro. Mike (Sis. Joyce) and Daniel (Jane). Two brothers and two sisters are also surviving. They are Bro. Harlan and Bro. Melvin Kaiser and

Sis. Elda and Sis. Kathryn Kaiser.

On July 15, Bro. Kevin Kipfer and Sis. Erica Stoller were united in marriage. Bro. Kevin is the son of Bro. Ron and Sis. Linda Kipfer (Bluffton, IN). Sis. Erica is the daughter of Bro. Linn and Sis. Brenda Stoller (Atlanta, GA). The united couple will make their home here in Morton.

Morton has been showered with new bundles from Heaven. How very blessed we are to receive four new little ones to raise for the Kingdom of God. On June 5, baby boy Gavin Ryan blessed the home of Andy and Becky Zeller. Grateful grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Christie Zeller and Dan and Boni Altman.

Another baby boy, Myles Jeffery, entered the lives of John and Holly Zimmerman, Isaac and Taya on July 7. Bro. John and Sis. Janis Zimmerman and Bro. Harold and Sis. Karen Steiner (Princeville) are the thankful grandparents.

Bro. Bob and Sis. Diana Kaiser became grandparents to little Mollie Kathryn on July 4. The parents and siblings are Ben and Sarah Kaiser, Abby and Tommy.

Bro. Jeff and Sis. Candice Klopfenstein welcomed into their family a baby girl, Elle Lou, on July 20. Along with grandparents and siblings, little Elle is well loved! They are: siblings, Erin, Emily, Anna, Seth, and Ryan; and grandparents, Bro. Ken and Sis. Devon Rinckenberger (St. Louis) and Bro. Dave and Sis. Louann Klopfenstein (Phoenix).

Bro. John (Sis. Christie) Zeller gave the message for family worship night. The topic was "The owner of the cattle on a thousand hills." We were not privileged to get to sit under this message, but the title alone stirs the heart with desire to know more of God's great wonder, majesty, and magnitude. Visiting ministers this month were Bro. John Rowell (Sis.



Nelda, Burlington), Bro. Greg Rassi (Sis. Carla, Chicago) and Bro. Matthew Rassi (Sis. Bridget, Chicago).

*Note of Thanks:*

I can't express in words how deeply I appreciated you sharing your love and kindness with cards, flowers and gifts. But most of all your prayers have helped me through this difficult time in my life. I am recovering from my surgery and will be taking chemotherapy for nine weeks. May God richly bless you.

Love,

Sis. Elaine Schmidgall

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**ILLINOIS, PEORIA**  
**Carissa Klopfenstein**  
**Kristin Menold**

On Sunday, July 8, Bro. Tommy Hoerr (Tom and Sis. Becky Hoerr) was announced for engagement to Sis. Natalie Stoller (Bro. Lynn and Sis. Elaine Stoller) from Gridley. Their wedding date is TBA. We wish you great happiness as you prepare for your life together. Congratulations!

Bro. Ken Hoerr spoke at our family night on June 20. His topic was "The Millennium" and the things that may happen at the end times. While the idea of pending danger and persecution we may face during the Tribulation is not pleasant, it does encourage us to be ready for Christ's return.

We were privileged to have visiting ministering Bro. Ron Joos (Bloomfield, IA). Thank you for being with us and for your message. Please extend our love and greetings to your congregation.

The annual Sunday School Picnic was held June 24 at the Apostolic Christian Fellowship Hall. Thanks again to all the Sunday School teachers and families for devoting your

time and attention to our children. This is a big commitment and sacrifice and we pray the Lord will bless you.

We rejoice with Paul and Lynn Knobloch and their son, Zach, who have begun repenting. May the God of peace strengthen and establish you with His grace as you grow in your love for the Lord.

Choir CD's from the Benefit Dinner are now available. If you would like one, please contact a choir member, such as Bro. Spark Meister or Bro. Wayne Klopfenstein.

Our prayers are with the family of Sis. Helen Mangold who passed away on Wednesday, June 11. Sis. Helen was a resident at the Apostolic Christian Skylines. She was the sister of Bro. Ernie, Bro. Bob, and Bro. Dick Haefli from Peoria.

Please remember in prayer Sis. Ruth Huthman and Bro. Wayne Wieland who continue to struggle with health issues, Bro. Tim and Sis. Joan Reinhard and family in Haiti, and Bro. David Sceggel who is currently in language school and will be going to Magdalena, Mexico, for two years.

In an effort to encourage and strengthen believers and to reach out to those who may not know about Christ, the Young Group is having a Retreat Weekend, Friday and Saturday, July 20-21. They ask for your prayers that God would bless the event and that many would be brought to a greater understanding and appreciation of the truth.

"It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness."

*Lamentations 3:22-23*

**ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE**

**Vera Baer**  
**Connie Christ**

"Thus united and in concord, let us walk the path of life." Bro. Jared Hanson (Steve and Miriam, Princeville) and Sis. Julie Ringger (Bro. Bill and Sis. Karen, Bradford) were united in holy matrimony on July 8 in Bradford. We rejoice with them and pray God's blessings as they begin walking the path of life as one in the Lord.

Bro. Marshall Heinold (Ixtilan, Mexico) was a willing servant in bringing us God's Word on July 1. We thank Bro. Marshall and Sis. Jan for their love in sharing with us.

June 29 brought the arrival of two precious babies to our congregation. Bro. Ryan and Sis. Joy Hoerr welcomed little Montana Rose into their hearts and home. Bro. Howard and Sis. Mary Ann Herrmann (Princeville) and Bro. Carl and Sis. Debby Hoerr (Peoria) are thankful grandparents. Tecca, Kip, and Denver are loving and helpful older siblings.

Bro. Fred and Sis. Nancy Menold welcomed their first grandchild as Aaron and Elizabeth Menold became first-time parents of beloved little Elijah.

Our prayers are with Wolfgang Christ as he undergoes surgery on July 20. May God be with him and his family and grant him a speedy recovery and renewed health.

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

"...How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!"

*Romans 10:15*



We have been blessed to have visiting ministers with us this past month. Bro. Dan Beer (Milford) was our guest minister on June 24, and Elder Bro. Mike Leman (Denver) was our guest on July 5. We thank these ministers and their wives for so willingly serving us.

We are happy to report three new babies this month! Audrey Ann Blunier has blessed the home of Mark and Cathy Blunier of Washburn. She was born June 18 and is their first child. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Wayne and Sis. Marjorie Blunier. Then on July 2, Henry John Koehler was born to Bro. John and Sis. Lisa Koehler. His big sisters are Adelyn and Kinzie and his grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Jan Sauder (Roanoke) and Alan and Marsha Koehler of Peoria. On July 3, Bro. Kevin and Sis. Annette Fischer (Roanoke) and Bro. Curt and Sis. Kathy Rassi (Tremont) became grandparents of Jackson Arnold, son of Bro. Jason and Sis. Ellie Rassi (Eureka). He is their first child. We rejoice with these families and wish them God's blessings as they raise their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

On June 24, the annual Sunday School picnic was held, marking the end of another year of Sunday School. We thank all the Sunday School teachers who faithfully give of their time to teach our children the truths of God's Word.

On July 11, Sis. Helen Mangold (the late Bro. Melvin) went to be with the Lord. She resided at the Apostolic Christian Skylines in Peoria. She is survived by four children: Bro. Mike (Sis. Renee) Mangold of Ft. Lauderdale, FL; Susan Milligan of Maui, Hawaii; Sis. Sally Plattner (Bro. Russell) of Peoria; and David (Sandra McMillan) Mangold of Hoboken, N.J.; eleven grandchil-

dren and three great-grandchildren. She is also survived by three brothers: Bro. Ernest, Bro. Robert (Sis. Ilene), and Bro. Richard (Sis. Gladys) Haefli, all of Peoria; and one sister, Sis. Frances (Bro. Dave) Koch, of Tremont. Sis. Esther and Bro. John Sauder of Roanoke are her sister-in-law and brother-in-law. We extend our love and deepest sympathy to this dear family and pray God's peace and comfort upon them.

*Notes of Thanks:*

I would like to thank everyone who remembered me with cards, flowers, gifts, and visits on my 100th birthday. Your acts of love and kindness are very much appreciated. May God bless you.

*Sis. Millie Leman*

We express our humble thanks for the love, prayers, cards, food, and gifts due to my open heart surgery. May God bless you all richly.

*Sis. Edna Roth*

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**ILLINOIS, TREMONT**

**Teresa Rowell  
Sheri Allen**

This past month we celebrated Father's Day. It is nice to have a day set aside to honor our earthly fathers. While we may think that the fathers in our lives know how much they mean to us, we need to make a point to tell them that we love them and appreciate all that they do.

We were fortunate to have two visiting ministers with us this month. They are Bros. Ken Dietz (Bradford, IL) and Dewayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN). We truly appreciate them taking the time to come to our congregation. We enjoyed having them and wish them God's blessings for their efforts.

"Come, ye children, hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the Lord."

*Psalms 31:11*

Bro. Simon, Jr. and Sis. LaVonne Wagenbach are rejoicing over the births of two grandchildren. Andrew Gene was born to Todd and Jodi Dawson on June 15. Also, Kaleb Robert was born to Bro. Simon III and Sis. Lori Wagenbach on July 6. Kaleb's siblings are Courtney, Caitlyn, Elise, Bethany, Simon and Lauren. We have another set of excited grandparents in our congregation. Bro. Rich and Sis. Evelyn Sauder are thankful for the safe arrival of little Levi Grant. Levi was born to Brad and Kimberly Grant (Athens, WI) on June 18. Levi's siblings are Leah, Micah, Jonathan and Titus. We wish each of these families the best as they raise their little ones to know the Lord.

"Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you."

*I Peter 5:7*

Our prayers have been with Sis. Marilyn Huette (Bro. Bill) as she spent some time in the hospital. We have had other loved ones dealing with some health issues, also. We pray that God's healing hand can touch each one.

Our annual Sunday School picnic was held at the local park. It is always a fun time of food and fellowship for the adults and children. We enjoy the opportunity to gather together.

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**ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON**

**Elizabeth Heinold  
Nancy Knepp**

"While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and



heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.”

*Genesis 8:22*

At the height of summer, we in central Illinois seem surrounded by tall green cornstalks. As the seasons pass, so do the seasons of our lives. Once again, we have witnessed births, baptisms, engagements, and funerals in one month's time.

Bro. Thad and Sis. Elizabeth Heinold, Alex and Ashlyn, welcome newborn Isaac Wayne. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Carol Heinold and Bro. Wayne and Sis. Gloria Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL).

Bro. Steve and Sis. Tammy Hofstetter welcomed their first child, Luke Steven. His grandparents are Bro. Bob and the late Sis. Madelyn Zimmerman (Roanoke, IL). As they grow, seeds of truth will be planted in their hearts and minds.

It was uplifting to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of our new sisters, Emily Gerber (Bro. Neil and Sis. Leesa) and Jenna Cox (Bro. John and Sis. Ellen). Surely, this is the springtime of life. The seeds produce new growth, which bursts forth in enthusiasm and zeal, fresh with the first love of Christ our Saviour. Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL) was here to assist on this happy occasion.

We ask God's blessing on our new couple, Bro. Kevin Hodel (Kent and Janet) and Sis. Jolynn Schmidgall (Bro. Randy and Sis. Marj, Bloomington, IL) as their engagement was announced. May the uniting of their hearts produce much fruit as they enter the summertime of their lives.

Abundant fruit was displayed by visiting ministers, Bro. Curt Kaufman (Sis. Caroline, Tucson, AZ) and Bro. Matt Kaufmann (Sis.

Rebekah, Bloomington, IL) as they shared the Word with us. Abundant food and fellowship were shared on a beautiful summer day at the annual all-church picnic.

Harvest time came as God called two beloved souls home. Sis. Sally (Bro. Russ) Plattner said goodbye to her mother, Sis. Helen Mangold (Roanoke, IL); and Sis. Donna Hangartner (Bro. Dan) said goodbye to her father, Bro. Glenn Knapp (Congerville, IL). Their abundant life in the Lord provided a bountiful harvest of fruit for His Kingdom. They leave fond memories with their children and grandchildren.

If winter time is cold, darkness, and loneliness, then surely Sis. Sue Ruppert has been through many winter seasons. She was hospitalized this month for another surgery on her fragile bones. A dual diagnosis of myasthenia gravis and avascular necrosis has resulted in numerous hospitalizations and surgeries. She is next scheduled for eye surgery. Despite her double vision, her current project is cross-stitching quilt tops, of which she has several in the making. She also spends long "winter" hours calling and encouraging others who are struggling. So passes the seasons of our lives.

“For what is your life? It is even a vapour that appeareth for a time, and then vanisheth away.”

*James 4:14*

Let us savor every moment.

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**INDIANA, BLUFFTON**  
**Amber Steffen**  
**Jan Schwartz**

“And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also we are called in one body; and be ye thank-

ful.”

*Colossians 3:15*

There are truly many things we have to be thankful for! Various members of our church have expressed many thanks to the Bluffton congregation over the last month for the prayers and loving support that are so readily available. Bro. Eric Tonner wanted to let everyone know that the prayers that were lifted up on his behalf were obvious, and God's answers were so wonderful while he was in Haiti for the past few weeks.

Sis. Sally Schwartz (Bro. Lester) recently went through surgery and recovery. She, too, was overwhelmed by the cards, gifts, and generous love of the church body. These testimonies of love are so encouraging to hear, and also strengthens our resolve to pray and support others who need it.

Al and Becky Pfister's son, Alex, left on June 27 for a semester of college in Australia. There is a great opportunity there to pray for his safety and health.

Our faithful friend, Edson Ivins, and his family have asked for the prayers of the Bluffton congregation as he faces surgery to remove a growth in his colon. For this great opportunity to show love and support, we are thankful to be known as a prayerful denomination!

Also, our friend, Carol (Blocker) Steffen, Les' wife, was admitted to Lutheran Hospital for surgery regarding her cancer. Carol is requesting the prayers of the church as well, providing a great opportunity for God to show himself strong.

God truly is faithful to us, even through hard times. Together with the Bro. Dick Clark family, we mourn with their loss of Sis. Lucille Clark, who finally went to be with



the Lord after battling Alzheimer's disease. Sis. Luce's children are Sis. Ann (Bro. Les) Isch, Bro. Mark (Sis. Lori) Steffen, and Sis. Susan (Bro. Mark) Harris. We pray for their strength in the next few months as they remember Sis. Luce.

Just as God takes His children home, He also blesses us with new faces. This spring and summer, there have been many new babies in Bluffton, and we truly thank God for these miracles of life!

May 26 marked the arrival of Chase Lee Raber, the new son of Bro. Tony and Sis. Nichole. Little Chase's thankful grandparents are Bro. Brian and Sis. Deb Fiechter and Bro. Bruce and Sis. Mary Raber.

Isabel Elaine followed her cousin on June 1. Her parents are Bro. Blaine and Sis. Tonya Isch. She is welcomed by her older brother Ethan and her grandparents, Bro. Les and Sis. Ann Isch and Bro. Bruce and Sis. Mary Raber.

Bro. Brian and Sis. Kim Meyer welcomed little Jesse Jacob on June 8 to their family. This little baby is welcomed by grandparents, Bro. Harold and Sis. Violet Meyer and Bro. Lyle and Sis. Connie Kaehr.

Bro. Brian and Sis. Shannon Drayer, in conjunction with FAM Ministries, were able to adopt their little boy, Garek Alexander. In this truly blessed time for Bro. Brian and Sis. Shannon, we rejoice with them in their new little bundle of joy. Garek's new family includes grandparents, Bro. Jerry and Sis. Lois Drayer and Bro. Roger and Sis. Carol Compton.

This testimony of love by adoption is just one way of sharing how God can work in our lives. Bro. Don and Sis. Suzie Fiechter have compiled several faith marriage stories and written a book about them. These great stories of faith and love

are a great encouragement, and a wonderful tool in explanation of our walk of faith.

Steve Kelly, a local Bluffton resident, was diagnosed with cancer, and through this process was able to be helped in replacing his roof by several of the Bluffton congregation. Through the ACTION committee, God's love was truly evident in the joy that others took in being a light in this world.

Finally, the Bluffton congregation is full of preparation for the upcoming Elder Conference this August. Prayers are certainly appreciated for the time of preparation, both in planning, and in each participant's hearts. We are excited to see how the Lord blesses that week.

Also at the end of the week on Saturday, August 11, will be the Gateway Woods auction in Leo. Please be prayerful for the many members that are involved in that as well. May God's name be richly blessed by both of these activities!

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

May our faith be as of old: "The Lord went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go day and night."

Sympathies to Sis. Roxanne (Bro. Arlin) Heyerly in the loss of her father, Bob Freeman.

In addition, Sis. Lucille (Bro. Dick) Clark has gone to be with the Lord after a long illness. Our love and prayers go to these families in their loss.

Bro. Marshall and Sis. Jan Heinold presented a program on the work in Ixtlan, Mexico, on June 23. They shared about the mission and

progress many of our brethren have been involved with there.

June 14 and 15 were the dates for the testimonies and baptisms of Kinsey Kershner (Bro. Dan and Sis. Jackie) and Bekah Yergler (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Peg). Elder Bro. John Laukhuf (Sis. Marcia, Latty, OH) assisted in this work.

June 15 was the wedding date for Bro. Jon Ringger (Bro. Steve and Sis. Myra) and Sis. Beth Dotterer (Bro. Bob and Sis. Mardell) in Rittman. We pray they will share many joyous years together following the Lord.

Our prayers go out to Sis. Mary Francesi and Carol Steffen as they face further treatment for physical illness. We pray for God's abiding love and His healing hand.

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**INDIANA  
FRANCESVILLE  
Barbara Huber  
Jessica Murray**

Greetings from all of us at Francesville! We have had a wonderful week of Vacation Bible School during which we were blessed to be taught "The Plain Truth" relative to Jesus Christ. What a privilege we have to be able to gather and enjoy teachings by our willing, visiting ministers. Ministers were Bro. Jedd Rocke (Sis. Marsha, Goodfield, IL); Bro. Ken Hoerr (Sis. Darlene, Peoria, IL); Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL) and Bro. Rich Gramm (Sis. Samantha, South Bend, IN). We pray that God richly rewards them for all of their efforts.

Our children presented a program in verse and song on Friday evening at the conclusion of Bible School and it was heartwarming to hear all that they had learned through the week. Our ministering Bro. Brian Huber then shared a summation of the week's teachings with



us. It was truly a blessed week.

We have two precious new converts seeking the solace of the Saviour at this time. Keelin Isch (Bro. Burt and Sis. Karlene) and Emily Gutwein (Elder Bro. Steve and Sis. Linda) have surrendered to God's wonderful grace. We pray that the Holy Spirit warmly nurtures them in this most important choice of their lives.

"Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God."

*I Corinthians 2:12*

Our Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein blessed us with a topical Bible Study on Intercession. Using Paul's letter to Philemon as a foundation, he built the scriptural basis of interceding for one another as Christ, the Divine Intercessor, sits at the right hand of the Father interceding for us. May we all earnestly cultivate the desire to be praying for one another.

"Wherefore, he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them."

*Hebrews 7:25*

In light of praying for one another, we have the opportunity and privilege to pray for our beloved Sis. Lois (Bro. Irvin) Yaggie and Bro. Wally (Sis. Rosella) Bucher as they both are experiencing difficult health circumstances. We pray that they feel the corporate prayers of our fellowship and that our Heavenly Physician gives them the peace and comfort of His presence.

Happy grandparents in our fellowship include Bro. Phil and Sis.

Carol Gutwein upon the adoption of Aleksander Gutwein by Bro. Samuel and Sis. Carrie Gutwein of Indianapolis. Alek comes to us from the country of Moldova and is a real blessing to this family circle. We thank our God for His hand upon this child and his new parents.

Also rejoicing with the arrival of a grandchild are ministering Bro. Chris and Sis. Sharon Huber and great-grandparents, Bro. Irvin and Sis. Lois Yaggie, at the birth of Addison Cole Huber. Addison is the son of Adam and Olivia Huber of Franklin, IN. May God bless the entire family circle at this precious addition!

As the summer season races on, it is a blessing to see God's hand on the growing fields in our area. To God be the glory for His care of us and may we all be led to live wholeheartedly for Him and in service to Him.

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**INDIANA  
INDIANAPOLIS  
Penny Schroder  
Gail Bradford**

Our hearts rejoice with our new convert, Teryn Leuthold (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Doreen), as she begins her repentance. Our prayers surround her as she begins upon this heavenly journey.

We also rejoice with Bro. Sam and Sis. Carrie Gutwein in welcoming their 18-month old son, Aleksandr Kenneth Gutwein, into their family. Sam and Carrie traveled to Moldova at the end of June to finalize the adoption process and bring him home. Thankful grandparents include: Bro. Phil and Sis. Carol Gutwein (Francesville, IN), Bob and Belva Lucas (Indianapolis, IN), and Terence and Deborah Lankford (Bloomington, IN).

The past several weeks have

brought about a lot of transition in our Indianapolis congregation. Bro. Luke and Sis. Jenny Gutwein, along with their son, Luca, have moved to Gainesville, FL, where Luke will serve a five year medical residency. Bro. Lee and Sis. Shalome Hoffman and their children, Micah, Sydni and Sariah, have moved to the Morton, IL, area. Bro. Chris Frauhiger has been working in the Bluffton area. He and his wife, Sis. Sara, and children, Ben and Abby, are in the process of relocating to Bluffton. Sis. Beverly Hartter is relocating to Oklahoma to be close to family. They will all be missed and we pray for God's provision in each of their lives.

Thankfully, the Lord has directed several others to move to the Indianapolis area. Bro. Chuck and Pat Lehman have recently moved from the Wolcott, IN, area; Bro. Ben and Sis. Stephanie Standish (children: Aubrey, Ashton, Manna and Makayla) have relocated from Elgin, IL; and Bro. Sasha Mojic has moved from the Detroit congregation. We welcome them and pray they will feel at home and loved in our congregation.

This month we were blessed with the following visiting ministers: Bro. Garry Bucher (Sis. Lois, Valparaiso, IN) and Bro. Jeff Neihouser (Sis. Sue, Francesville, IN) and Elder Bro. Tim Funk (Sis. Debra, Peoria, IL). May God richly bless them.

In addition to the visiting ministers, we enjoyed the fellowship of the Francesville Bible Class, the Bluffton Jr. High boys and the Peoria Young Group this month. These groups were traveling separately and each blessed us with their attendance on Sunday for services.

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**INDIANA, LACROSSE**  
**Bethany Johnson**  
**Julie Rocke**

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”

*Matthew 5:16*

As we observed Father’s Day in June, we remembered our earthly fathers as well as our Heavenly Father. We were exhorted to love and respect our earthly fathers and the Bible teaches us to glorify our Heavenly Father by our words and actions.

We appreciated our visiting ministers this month: Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Sis. Sandy, Eureka, IL) and Bros. Dan Stoller (Sis. Deb, Remington, IN) and Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi, Alto, MI). Many thanks to each of them for coming to share their labors of love with our congregation.

Bro. Levi Wuethrich underwent surgery this month. We are thankful the surgery went well and our prayers continue for him through his recovery. Sis. Ruth Heinold experienced some health problems and spent some time in the hospital. May God be near each of them and bless each of them with healing in His due time.

Our congregation grew by one this month as a healthy baby boy, Noah Elias, joined the family of Bro. Glen and Sis. Kerri Gudeman on July 14. Big sister, Abrey, is delighted with her new brother as are his grandparents, Bro. Don and Sis. Mary Gudeman (LaCrosse) and Jerry and Chris Goodwin of Wanatah, IN.

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

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

*Psalms 127:3*

Bro. Dave and Sis. Sharon Pfister were happy to announce the arrival of their grandson, Drew Michael. Drew’s parents are Brad and Sheri Conner.

On June 30, Bro. Stu and Sis. Daisha Reynolds welcomed Creed W. into the world. Creed’s grandparents are Bro. Brace and Sis. Brenda Wieland (Leo, IN) and Larry and Linda Reynolds.

Also on June 30, Summer Elizabeth was born to Bro. Jeff and Sis. Margo Waibel. Thankful grandparents are Elder Bro. Phil and Sis. Maureen Stettner (Bluffton North, IN) and Bro. Bill and Sis. Carol Waibel (Bay City, MI).

Bro. Tim and Sis. Christa Wiegand became first-time parents to Jackson Timothy on July 9. “Jack’s” happy grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Brenda Kaeb (Bloomington, IL) and Bro. Roy and Sis. Jan Wiegand (Goodfield, IL).

On July 15, Zion Michael arrived in the home of Bro. Zach and Sis. Jenny Bertsch. Zion’s grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Janice Rufener (Smithville, OH) and Bro. Mike and Sis. Carmon Bertsch (Bluffton, IN).

Our church family has been blessed of the Lord this month with new babies. We pray that all these families would raise their children in the fear of the Lord!

“To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:”

*Ecclesiastes 3:1*

Bro. Bruce and Sis. Laurretta Schafer have felt God leading them to a new chapter in life. They have moved to Tremont, IL, to be closer to their family. We will keenly miss Bro. Bruce and Sis. Laurretta but we also know that they will be a blessing to people wherever they may be.

This month we held a bi-monthly sing at the Fellowship Center. Afterward, Bro. Kirk and Sis. Keri Plattner shared their thoughts on how our church could support them as they work with World Relief full-time in Knockpatrick, Jamaica. It is exciting to see how God is working. We as a church are glad that we can help!

We are thankful to have Bro. Bill Waibel (Sis. Carol, Bay City, MI) visit us this past month. Thank you for sharing the Word with us.

**INDIANA, MILFORD**

**Carol Hurd**

**Carol Haab**

Our annual church picnic was held on June 27. It was a beautiful summer evening and many attended. We want to thank those responsible for another enjoyable time of fellowship.

“Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord...”

*Psalms 127:3*

We welcome a sweet baby girl to our congregation. Kylin Janae arrived June 30 to Bro. Troy and Sis. Briana Wuthrich. Joyful grandparents are Bro. Stan and Sis. Linda Wuthrich and Bro. Brian and Sis. Lorene Furrer (W. Lafayette, IN).

Our thoughts and prayers have been focused on the meeting of our Elder brothers in August. May God



bless them for their willingness to serve and may they be filled with His wisdom, compassion, and grace to make decisions necessary to lead the church. We would also pray that our hearts would be united in love and obedience to God's direction and Holy Word.

"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away."

*Revelation 21:4*

Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to our dear Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter and his family in the recent passing of his mother. May God comfort them and fill their hearts with peace.

Once again it is time to think about sending our children back to school. Summer break just seems to fly by. Let us take time each day to pray for them, their peers, and their teachers.

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### INDIANA, REMINGTON

**Beth Virkler  
Tammy Waibel**

Greetings one and all in His name!

"Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

*Proverbs 22:6*

School is getting ready to start up again. Books, teachers, computers, etc... are going to be in full swing. Let the passage in Proverbs be the goal for each of us parents. Sometimes we fail to remember the almighty power of God in the whole scheme of things, but He is with us and all we need to do is ask for His help. This applies to

parents, teachers, students and all.

Sunday school is going to have a few changes this year. Sis. Jenny Honegger is going to teach in Kindergarten; Sis. Jody Waibel will finish out Sis. Jill Hartter's place in the 3 and 4 year old's class; Bro. Jason Getz is going into 6th-8th; Bro. Greg Schneider will be finishing out Bro. Chris Hartter's term; and Bro. Stan Virkler will be teaching the Bible class. Thanks to all of you teachers going out for your hard work and dedication to helping our youth understand God's love. We also want to extend a warm thank you to Bro. Chris and Sis. Jill Hartter for all that they have done for the Sunday school. You are missed here by all. May God bless you for your time and effort.

Alexis Schini, daughter of converts Bob and Heather, had surgery this month. May your prayers go to Lexi during her time of healing.

Sis. Mary Kilgus is recovering at home from a broken arm. Please keep her in your prayers as she is healing.

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### INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

**Natalie Virkler  
Becky Langhofer**

The Lord told Jeremiah (Jeremiah 1:5) "Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee..." How reassuring it is to us that God knows and loves every one of His creation, before we even have an understanding.

We praise God for the precious life He has brought forth. Lilly Grace was born to David and Jenna Beebe. Welcoming Baby Lilly home was her big sister, Laisa. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Sue Beebe and Jim and Sue Lynch of South Bend.

The Beebe household has continued to be blessed with joyful news. Our Sis. Kara Beebe (Bro. Bob and Sis. Sue) was engaged to Bro. Corey Laukhuf (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Vicki) from Latty, OH.

Our congregation also extends thanks and appreciation to the visiting ministers who shared God's Word with us this past month: Bro. Ken Hoerr (Sis. Darlene; Peoria, IL), Bro. Walt Rager (Sis. Sharon; Toledo, OH), and Bro. Wayne Leman (Sis. Julie; Roanoke, IL). Thank you for your labors of love!

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### INDIANA, VALPARAISO

**Marguerite Hoerr**

Visitors are a boon to us during the summer months. One Sunday in July we enjoyed having them from Alto, MI; LaCrosse, Bluffton and Indianapolis, IN; and Cissna Park and Fairbury, IL. Valparaiso congregation enjoys vacationing summer visitors as our Florida churches reap benefits from winter visitors. We're always thrilled to see children accompanying their parents as they swell our Sunday school attendance.

On a Sunday when Bro. Garry and Sis. Lois were traveling, we had loving assistance from LaCrosse ministers. Bro. Chris Wuethrich was with us for morning services. He returned to LaCrosse so Bro. Tom Troxel could be with us in the afternoon. These brothers asked retired ministering Bro. Todd Feller to assist them on the pulpit and he lovingly and ably did so.

Bro. Ned Stoller (Alto, MI) visited and ministered to us the following Sunday. We hope he and his wife, Sis. Heidi, and their family felt a warm welcome from all of us. Having Bro. Ned with us reminded me of years ago in the Milford congregation when, as a high school student, he



would come with his parents, Bro. Steve and Sis. Anna Marie. It was a joy to meet him and his family.

On July 8 we were privileged to have ministering Bro. Dan Stoller and his wife, Sis. Debra, of the Remington congregation visit our Valparaiso church. Bro. Dan assisted Bro. Garry by bringing us the sermon for the second service. We had other visitors on this Sunday also. We hope they all felt the warm welcome we had in our hearts.

Bob and I were unable to attend our Vacation Bible School, which was held July 10-12. We felt we missed something important. The theme this year was very apropos: Society vs. the Bible. On Tuesday night Bro. Brad Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) taught. His theme was: "Garbage in, Garbage out" and he spoke of the danger of physical inputs, drugs and alcohol; and mental inputs, movies, music, video games, and Internet. On Wednesday evening Bro. Steve Frauhofer (Bluffton North, IN) spoke on "Doing What is Right vs. What is Popular," i.e. cheating, lying, gambling, swearing, bullying, going with the crowd. Wednesday night's theme was "Abortion, I Can do What I Want. It's my Body, Isn't it?" Bringing the message on this was Bro. Rich Gramm (South Bend, IN) and he spoke on whom does it affect, what is the result? Music during these nights was furnished by Bro. Randy and Sis. Mary Lynn Massner, LaCrosse; a Francesville group, and a group from South Bend. The Sunday school age children enjoyed a "Christmas in July" with singing, crafts, games and stories. Their dedicated teachers were Sisters Dawn Ailes, Claudia Thomas, Tricia Lester and Bro. Ed. Lester.

On July 15 approximately twenty members of the LaCrosse congrega-

tion worshipped with us, because of remodeling taking place in their church. Bros. Tom Troxel (Sis. LuAnn) and Chris Wuethrich (Sis. Carla) showed their love to us by ministering to us that day.

Bro. Brady Moser received good news when he had his last check-up in Indianapolis. We rejoice with him, as he remains cancer-free. His positive attitude is catching, when we visit with him.

Bob and I have had family visitors within the past month and they've been such a blessing to us. Among them was our pseudo-son, Dave Baumgartner; a former neighbor boy in Milford, IN, who lost his mother to cancer when he was very young. My sisters and I tried to help his Dad with the three children, and Dave now calls us Mom 1, Mom 2 and Mom 3. Dave, himself, is recuperating from serious surgery, the removal of a kidney; and we were so pleased to have him and his wife, Jenny, visit with us, and to see the him looking well and strong and voicing his thanks to God for his recovery.

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**INDIANA  
WEST LAFAYETTE  
Hollie Meister  
Darlene Walder**

Greetings from West Lafayette!

On June 30, Bro. Brian and Sis. Lorene Furrer became thankful grandparents. Kylin Janae was born to Bro. Troy and Sis. Brianna Wuthrich (Milford, IN).

Recent visiting ministers were Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Lacrosse, IN), and Bro. Greg Lehman (Wolcott, IN). We thank you for your willingness to share God's Word with us.

Sis. Mara Leman's brother, Mike, recently underwent major surgery. We pray for him and his family as he

recovers.

We had our all church potluck (Family Praise Night) this month. The theme was recapping VBS. The children enjoyed sharing their songs with everyone, we learned about their studies, and had a lot of fun playing games together. God blessed us with a beautiful evening of fellowship and fun.

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**INDIANA, WOLCOTT  
Lowell Bahler  
Erica Blume**

"Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it."

*Proverbs 22:6*

Our annual Sunday School Picnic was held on June 24 with a good number present. We are thankful for our youth and pray that they would be taught and shown, through example, the way of truth.

Ministering Bro. Gene Lehman, along with his wife, Sis. Verna, has safely returned from a several-week trip to Eastern Europe and the Ukraine. Upon his return, Bro. Gene announced his retirement from the ministry after serving us for almost thirty-six years. May God richly bless him for his labors in the vineyard of our Lord!

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**IOWA, BLOOMFIELD  
Barbara Schock**

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

*Hymns of Zion # 186*

Having obeyed the call of repentance and trusting that she has found peace with God and man, our



thoughts and prayers are with Sara Teubel (Bro. Paul and Sis. Charolette). Her provings have been set for the weekend of August 18-19.

Trusting that the Lord will provide, we welcome Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gertie Esslinger to our congregation. May they soon feel welcome here as they now call Bloomfield home.

Trusting that the Lord will also provide comfort and His healing touch to two families. Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Jon and Sis. Rita Wettstein and family as they lost a father and grandfather, Harold Wettstein (Loretta), of our Washington congregation this past month. Then on June 28, funeral services were held for Bro. Bernard Schaer as the Lord called him home. He had spent several years as a resident of Park View Care in Fairfield and we were able to have monthly singing there with him. He was always waiting for us and now still is; it's just from a different home. His son, Don, is always gathered with us and Don's son, Brian, is being sent back to Iraq, so our prayers and wishes for the family extend across many miles.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Danny and Sis. Lynn Townsend as their son, Cody, was burned. May God provide His healing hand. Sis. Rose Dotterer (Bro. Joe) underwent successful back surgery, which makes us thankful for what can be done by doctors and always humbles us when the Lord provides such healing mercies (Psalm 111).

Trusting the Lord has brought their lives together, the announcement of the engagement of Sis. Angie Wuthrich (Bro. Roger and Sis. DeAnn) and Bro. Chad Zimmerman (Bro. Tom and Sis. Janet) of Eureka was made known. May the Lord be with this couple as they prepare to

become one in the Lord on September 23.

We are thankful also that the Lord provided us with a visiting minister on June 17. Bro. Brad Funk (Sis. Laura, Garden Grove) was here. We thank him for his efforts on our behalf and may the Lord richly bless him.

Recent grandparents are Bro. Kenny and Sis. Lori Wuthrich as Bro. Phil and Sis. Kristin Wettstein (Eureka) added twin girls to the family circle.

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**IOWA, ELGIN**  
**Gloria Frieden**  
**Heidi Butikofer**

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

*Psalm 127:3*

Lisa, Molly, Luke, Laura and Isaac Waldbeser (Bro. Phil and Sis. Charlotte) welcomed their new brother, Joseph Ezra, on July 1. Grandparents thankful for this new addition to their family circles are Bro. Fred and Sis. Joan Waldbeser (Cissna Park, IL) and Bro. Gene and Sis. Shirley Nester (Lester, IA).

Visiting ministers that have shared God's Word with us this past month are Bro. Dan Moser (Sis. Anne, Elgin, IL), Bro. Darren Fehr (Sis. Nora, West Bend, IA) and our Elder Bro. Wayne Grimm (Sis. Rose, West Bend, IA). May God richly bless their labors in our behalf.

We don't always understand the reason why some things take place in our lives, but we know that God doesn't make mistakes, so we accept what comes from His hand and trust His perfect wisdom. Bro. Dale and Sis. Cheryl Moore recently experienced the loss of their dairy barn by fire.

They are thankful that their cattle were spared and no human injuries occurred.

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**IOWA, IOWA CITY**  
**Diana Butikofer**

We are very thankful for the blessing of Bro. Tim and Sis. Melisa, Anelyse, Joseph and Jenna Gerst returning to our congregation after four years in South Bend.

We appreciate Bro. Don and Sis. Mary Gudeman's (LaCrosse, IN) visit last Sunday and thank Bro. Don for his willingness to speak God's Word to us from the pulpit.

Our annual College Student Picnic is scheduled for Sunday, September 16, following the afternoon church service. The picnic is to welcome any new or continuing college student attending a college or university in the Iowa City area, as well as his or her family. We would appreciate if you could let us know of any students planning to attend an area college/university by contacting Sis. Connie Gerst at (319) 846-2348 to help us plan for the picnic and obtain accurate contact information.

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

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

*Luke 15:10*

Our congregation is rejoicing with the angels in heaven that Trela Knueven (Jason, Bro. Roger and Sis. Janet) has turned to the Lord in repentance. We pray that God will provide sufficient grace for her as she begins this new walk with Christ and also while Trela's husband, Jason, is overseas serving our country in Iraq.



May they feel our love and support.

Send, Lord, Thy Holy teaching,  
To us in humble preaching,  
Yet in the Spirit's power.  
*Zion's Harp #207*

We are thankful for the many Holy teachings that came forth in the past month. Visiting ministers included: Bro. Todd Zollinger (Silverton, OR), Bro. Paul Kilgus (Fairbury, IL), Bro. Rex Frieden (Lamar, MO), Bro. Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL), Bro. Brad Funk (Garden Grove, IA) and Bro. Roy Koehl (Morris, MN). May God bless these dear servants as they labor in the Lord's vineyard.

Loved one that have suffered physical afflictions and spent time in the hospital were: Sis. Mardi Leuthold (Bro. Larry), Bro. Larry and Sis. Sherryl Knobloch and Sis. Bev Mogler (Bro. Brian). May God provide healing mercies to each one.

We extend our sincere sympathy to Sis. Esty Metzger and Sis. Alice Metzger on the passing of their sister, Sis. Clara Anliker (West Bend, IA).

*Note of Thanks:*

The family of Bro. Bill Wulf wishes to thank each one for their expressions of sympathy and love shared to them since his passing. We pray that God will bless you.

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

Our prayers are with Sis. Julie (Elder Bro. Jon) Schmidgall in the passing of her father, Bro. Bill Wulf, of Sabetha, KS. Mourning the loss of Bro. Bernie Schaer of Fairfield, IA, are his children, Sis. Vera (Bro. Tom) Lindeen and Bro. Dave (Sis. Sandy) Schaer.

Once again, we have been blessed

with visiting ministers. On Father's Day, Bro. Gary Endress (Bradford, IL) brought forth the Word. Bro. Darren Fehr (West Bend, IA) ministered to us on July 1.

Joining hand and heart on July 8 were Sis. Deanna Lanz (Bro. Ken and Sis. Janet) and Bro. Kyle Wagenbach (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Bonnie, Jr.) who promised lifelong faithfulness to each other and before God. Ministers who came for this joyous occasion were Bro. Rod Bajema (Lester, IA), Bro. Michael Wagenbach (Wolcott, IN) and Bro. Phil Schulz (Burlington, IA).

Rachel Gerst (Bro. Fred and Sis. Susan) and Ryan Mellinger were united as one on June 30. May God bless them in the days and years ahead.

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

"In Thee, O Lord, do I put my trust; let me never be put to confusion. For Thou art my hope, my trust from my youth. Cast me not off in the time of old age; forsake me not when my strength faileth."

*Psalm 71:1,5,9*

These words were meditated upon during the funeral service on June 26 for 91 year-old Sis. Clara Anliker. Sis. Clara spent many years in West Bend as a single sister, then moved to Lamont-Gridley, KS, as Bro. Samuel Anliker's wife, and returned to live in West Bend with her sister after Bro. Sam's death through her later years. She is survived by two stepchildren: Bro. Don and Sis. Ione Broquard (Fairbury, IL) and Bro. Glen and Sis. Lorean Anliker (Lamont-Gridley, KS). Her surviving siblings include: Bro.

Edwin (Sis. Ada) Banwart (Oakville, IA); Paul (Emy) Banwart and Bob (Kay) Banwart (West Bend, IA); Miriam Frieden (Ankeny, IA); Sis. Leona Wulf (Sabetha, KS); Sis. Alice Metzger and Sis. Esty Metzger (Lester, IA); and Sis. Lela Banwart (West Bend, IA). Clara's three surviving sister-in-laws include: Sis. Madeline Banwart and Betty Banwart (West Bend, IA) and Sis. Esther Banwart (Washington, IL). Our sympathy to this family at the loss of Sis. Clara and also the loss of their brother-in-law, Bro. Bill (Sis. Leona) Wulf (Sabetha, KS). He passed away early in the month.

On July 1, Bruce Banwart (Sis. Marilyn) from the Kansas City, MO, congregation was announced as having found peace with God and man. We rejoice with Bruce and his family. "Now the Lord of peace himself give you peace always by all means. The Lord be with you all." (II Thess. 3:16)

Sis. Verda (Bro. Don) Bruellman, Sis. Eunice Knobloch, Sis. Julie (Darrell) Zaugg, and Amber Schmidt (Bro. Frank and Sis. Dawn) were hospital patients this past month. Our prayers are with each one as they make a recovery.

Sunday, June 24, brought two visiting ministers to our congregation. One was Bro. Brandon Emch (Sis. Maria, Kansas City, MO) and the other was Bro. Paul Eisenmann (Sis. Elaine, Burlington, IA). Then we were blessed with three more on July 8. They were Bro. Max Reimschisel (Sis. Judy, Wichita, KS), Bro. John Steiner (Sis. Carol, Oakville, IA), and Bro. Nelson Beer (Sis. Shelby, Milford, IN). And finally, Bro. Dean Messner (Sis. Wanda, Winthrop, MN) shared the Word with us on July 15. How thankful we were to have these visitors, and we appreciate their service to the Lord.



## JAPAN, SHIODA

**Carrie Ito**

We are thankful to have no damage from the recent typhoon and earthquake that has affected the areas of Japan north and south of our area. To me, it seemed very different to think (as we did) about canceling church due to a typhoon! Actually the Lord spared us of the typhoon and gave us beautiful sunshine for part of the day and not much wind at all! He truly is the one who controls the wind and the waves and all things, so most certainly we can safely place our lives under His control!

We enjoyed the visit of the Ehnle's daughters, Joy and Jewel, and their families as well as another American visitor, James Thorpe, who found our church via our church website! We are thankful for the proper use of technology to bring people to worship with us in our small congregations here in Japan!

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## JAPAN, TOKYO

**Jana Klaus**

We have finally entered our summer vacation here, starting around July 20th and lasting until September 1st. Many are traveling here and there and we pray for a safe and blessed summer for all. We were again blessed with many guests in the last month. Paul and Margaret Pentza and four of their eight children, Nick, Roman, Simon and Jessica, from our sister church in Brisbane, Australia, were with us for a weekend on their way back from a 5 week trip to Europe. It was a joy to meet and worship with them as Australia has the closest churches to us here in Japan, even being in our same time zone. Perhaps some of us can journey to visit them some day. We had a mid-week service for Sis.

Rika Allen (Bro. Bob, Philadelphia) and her two boys who were here visiting her parents and relatives. We look forward to her next visit and hope we can be together for a longer time. And, we welcomed back with open arms, our dear Bro. Frank and Sis. Kathy Sauder who are visiting from Roanoke, IL. They each lived here for a few years single, and then seven years together after they were married. This was their first trip back together in 9 years and each brother and sister holds such special memories of them. Bro. Frank was kept very busy with ministering in both churches, a weekday Bible study, and giving the topical message for our annual summer Shuyokai (fellowship meeting) in the mountains. We thank all of our guests for their love and support.

On July 16, we had to say good bye to Bro. Justin Wiegand (Gridley, IL) after he spent 6 weeks with us serving where he could, staying at Bro. Akito and Sis. Marie Inoue's. We especially thank him for his valuable part in Bible studies and fellowshiping with all the people here, young and old, believer and seeker. We were encouraged that the Lord led Him here and are grateful for his prayerful support as he returns back to the US.

Sis. Marie had a very busy month as she led the annual Otomarikai (overnight gathering) for our Sunday school students July 7th and 8th (with the excellent help of Bro. Justin Wiegand and Sis. Bethany Gerber, who is staying with the Klausens) and then had hip replacement surgery on July 17. We are so thankful to God that the surgery went well and pray for a wonderful recovery during the 3 week hospital stay for therapy. I know she holds dear all the prayers offered up to the Lord on her behalf.

There is joy in the Klaus household, this time not from a birth from the mother's womb, but that second birth that Jesus talks about, the spiritual birth, as two sisters, Sarah and Hannah, have acknowledged their sinfulness and need for a Savior and desire to follow God. We ask for prayers for them as they slowly grow in their walk of faith, that they would never turn back or be led astray, but truly find that this is the Way to a life of peace. It has been very timely having Sis. Bethany Gerber (Bluffton, IN) staying with us for her summer break as she is a young, godly example to our girls. The Lord provides in beautiful ways.

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## KANSAS, BERN

**Sheri Edelman**

**Rita Menold**

We rejoice with Maria Baumgartner as she has given to life to God in repentance! Thankful parents are Bro. John and Sis. Lori Baumgartner.

Matt and Amber Hundley were joined as husband and wife on June 30. Parents of the couple are John and Sis. Margaret Hundley and Jaime and Linda Cuevas (Topeka, KS). We extend our best wishes as they walk hand in hand through life!

We appreciate ministering Bros. Jeff Bahler (Sis. Heidi, Wolcott, IN) and Roger Aberle (Sis. Lavonne, Sabetha, KS) being with us this past month. We are thankful for their willingness to share the true Word of Life.

Sis. Diane Strahm (Bro. Mike) had foot surgery and we pray for God's hand in a full recovery for her. Jared Rokey (Bro. Todd and Sis. Sheila) has been in and out of the hospital the last month and we pray that he will soon be healed and able to return home again.



Sis. Marilyn Fetter (Bro. Eugene) said an unexpected farewell to her sister, Sis. Juliet Schlatter, of Junction, OH. While Sis. Juliet has gone on to her eternal reward, we pray that God will fill the void she leaves with many precious memories.

On July 15, our congregation enjoyed our annual Sunday School picnic at Mulberry Creek. We appreciate our Sunday School teachers who teach the children those wonderful Bible Stories!

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

“For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith...”

*II Timothy 4 6-7*

We believe a crown of righteousness is awaiting Fort Scott's retired Elder Bro. Raymond Banwart, who, like the apostle Paul, fought a good fight, finished his course, and kept the faith. Bro. Raymond passed from this life on July 9 at the age of 89. Other similarities to the apostle Paul were lovingly compared to Bro. Raymond, including their respective livelihoods of tent making and garment making – but mostly, the legacy of their unmoveable faith and their devoted shepherding. Left to mourn are Bro. Raymond's twin sons, Bro. Don (Sis. Aleta) and Bro. Lon (Sis. Debbie), nine grandchildren, eleven great-grandchildren, and one brother.

About a week after her great-grandfather, Bro. Raymond, passed away, little Corynn Kate was born to Dave and Trista Miller on July 16. Corynn's grandparents are Bro. Lon and Sis. Debbie Banwart

and Ron and Sandy Miller. Her elated siblings are Aly, Connor, and Mia.

July 17 was the birth date of Bro. Chris and Sis. Janelle Wuthrich's new baby daughter, Abigail Rose. They are happy first-time parents. Abigail's grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Carol Sinn, Sis. Val Wuthrich (Roanoke, IL), and Bill Wuthrich.

Our prayers are with Sis. Betty Lemons (Bro. Bob) that she might have patience as well as healing, as she recovers from surgery on her foot.

Our Fort Scott congregation was blessed by visiting ministers, Elder Bro. Don Braker (Sis. Eileen, Kansas City, MO), our Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS), Bro. Justin Koch (Sis. Marcia, Washington, IL), and Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL).

Bro. Justin and Elder Bro. Earl both presented uplifting Bible studies while they were here in addition to their Sunday sermons.

A visiting Elder brother recently shared the 25th verse in Daniel, chapter 3, which reads, “...Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the son of God.” Jesus totally protected these three faithful servants of the true God so that their clothes did not even bear the stench of smoke. The brother then asked if, when we get thrown into the “fire” of temptations, will Jesus be there when we hit the flames? His answer was absolutely - but the ingredient is faith.

We must **FIRST** put our faith on the line, as Daniel's friends did.

Soon school will begin and we fervently pray to God to bless and guide the teachers, as their important role models and lessons they teach will enormously impact the hearts,

minds, and lives of their pupils.

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### **KANSAS, KIOWA** **Jenny Stewart**

Our thoughts and prayers are with the Farney family for the tragic loss of Rex Miner. We pray for comfort and strength for his mother-in-law, Sis. Mildred Farney; his wife, Kathy; and his daughter, April. May God comfort them with His arms of love.

Congratulations to Bro. Larry and Sis. Millie Frieden on the birth of twin grandchildren. Linndy and Deann are the blessed parents of Miss Kennedy and Mr. Cooper Frieden. Their big sister Karson welcomes them home.

We were happy to have Sis. Shirley Nelson amongst us on Sunday. She has been in the hospital this month. We are thankful she is doing better and can assemble with us.

As we travel through the months ahead, let us all remember to count our blessings, and trust in Him!

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

*Proverbs 3:5*

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### **KANSAS** **LAMONT-GRIDLEY** **Ester Knobloch**

Heart with heart in love united,  
Seek upon God's heart repose.  
Let your love, to flames ignited,  
To the Saviour upward flow.  
He the Head and we His members;  
He the light and we the glow;  
He the Master, we His brethren,  
In true fellowship we grow.

Each should stimulate the other,  
Child-like, tractable and meek,  
In the steps of Christ to follow,  
Who in death our life did seek.  
Let us ever be awakened,



All our powers day by day,  
Willingly to give in service  
And His kindness to repay.

Let us then be so united  
As Thou with the Father art,  
That not one of Thy weak members  
Here on earth shall stand apart.  
From the flames of Thy own burning  
May our light partake its glow;  
And that we are Thy disciples  
All the world may surely know.  
*Zion's Harp #33, vs. 1,4,10*

We have enjoyed the fellowship of several visitors this past month. We appreciate all who remember our congregation and come to worship. With us on the pulpit was Bro. Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO). We thank him for his labors in the Lord's vineyard.

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**KANSAS, SABETHA**  
**Dawn Strahm**  
**Rebekah Beyer**

We had several visiting ministers this past month. Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Sis. Leonda, Leo, IN), Bro. Scott Wegman (Sis. Dawn, Taylor, MO) and Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen, Kansas City, MO) were all used to further God's precious Word.

There have also been several hospitalized in our congregation this past month. Our prayer for the Lord's healing are with Roger Young (Janice), Mark Hertzell, Bro. Trent Strahm (Sis. Rosie), and Bro. Darin Grimm (Sis. Marci) as each of these individuals deal with various health concerns.

On Saturday, July 14, an all-church potluck picnic was held at Mulberry Creek. It is always enjoyable to spend time fellowshiping with the brethren while being able to enjoy God's beautiful creation.

Our prayers have been with the many that have felt the loss of loved

ones in recent days and months. Sis. Ilene Hartter (Bro. Roger) bid farewell in this life to her dear father, Bro. Noah Gerber (Sis. Emma) of West Bend, IA. Bro. Noah also had many grandchildren and great-grandchildren which are part of our Sabetha congregation. Sis. Marla Beyer's (Bro. Korbin) grandfather, Bro. Bill Wulf (Sis. Leona), also passed away. Bro. Bill and Sis. Leona had moved to our area from Lester, IA, and will be missed by many. Sis. Marian Kellenberger (Bro. Gene) attended the funeral of her sister-in-law, Deb Couch, in Texas who passed away suddenly.

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**KANSAS, WICHITA**  
**Emma Miller**

I tend to associate summer time with vacation time. That means that visitors stop to worship with us or that our attendance is decimated because our families are away for their vacations. On July 1, Elder Bro. Paul Messner and his family from Winthrop, MN, stopped to worship with us in Wichita. This was their first experience in Wichita and we were blessed that they made the effort to assemble with us.

Another summer time blessing was the one day Bible School held Saturday, July 7, for the combined Lamont-Gridley and Wichita Sunday School students. Using the theme, "Trust and Obey", the children also learned Proverbs 3:5. They incorporated sign language when they sang for the congregation during the noon hour the next day. This was appropriate because some children from both congregations have been exposed to using sign language as a means of communication. Bro. Max Burnham brought the Lamont-Gridley children to Wichita and helped with the lessons. When

the event was over, one of the mothers saw this sentence in the chalk writing on the sidewalk: "I love Max."

We continue to have concern for Bro. Al and Sis. Judy Langhofer as they endure the afflictions of the flesh. They seem to take turns with health problems. We praise God that He is watching over them.

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

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

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

*Psalms 37:5*

June 26, four of our CVE children (Paola, Michel Edith, Carla Liliana, and Uriel) and Emily Ricketts (Bro. Brian and Sis. Marie) celebrated their graduation from the 6th grade. We pray that as they continue on in their education that they will seek the Lord and look to Him for direction and wisdom.

We are thankful for all the time, talents, and hard work of our two July work teams, a Sunday school group from Belvidere, as well as a group from Fairbury. Despite the hot, hot weather, much was accomplished! We also praise God for the way He continues to use relationships built with the CVE children, the Magdalena church, and His work here in this community to forever change the lives of those who come and serve. We appreciate the spiritual labor of ministering Bro. Ted Schock (Sis. Heidi, Belvidere, IL) and Bro. Dennis Rassi (Sis. Diane, Fairbury, IL).



“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”

*Prov. 22:6*

On July 11, Gabriel and Moisés left Casa Vida y Esperanza to live with Bro. Bob and Sis. Joy Huber and their family. Lord willing, the adoption of these two little boys will soon be finalized. Even though we will miss having these two little ones living on campus, we are thankful to know that they will grow up together in a home where they will continue to learn about Jesus Christ and His plan of salvation. We pray God will bless the Hubers with grace and wisdom as they raise these young souls in the way of Truth.

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### **MICHIGAN, ALTO**

**Rose Watson  
Terri Huber**

Bro. Ned and Sis. Heidi Stoller brought their first son, Lowell, home from the hospital, much to the delight of his four older sisters! They have been blessed to have the help of all the grandparents: Bro. Curt and Sis. Luanne Kaeb and Bro. Steve and Sis. Annemarie Stoller. Luke and Ruthanne Grummet now have a boy and a girl, as their precious daughter, Hope, entered their lives. Grandparents are Bro. Tom and Sis. Michelle Oesch. Rich and Michelle Stouffer welcomed home baby Jocelyn, much to the delight of Grandpa Dave and Grandma Bonnie Stouffer.

Brad Jackson and Laura Horsley were joined in holy matrimony in July. Parents of the couple are Bro. Paul Jackson, Margaret Jackson, and Jay and Robin Barnhart. The weather cooperated for a sunny outdoor ceremony at the home of the

bride.

Vacation Bible School had more children attending than ever. The theme of Stewardship was also addressed by the visiting minister speakers on Wednesday and Saturday nights, Bro. Mark Gerber (Sis. Barb, Bluffton, IN) and Bro. Fred Witzig (Sis. Nancy, Indianapolis, IN). Many thanks to all whose hard work and effort made the week run smoothly.

Other visiting ministers this month included Bros. Ben Walder (Congerville, IL), Duane Rocke (Minneapolis, MN) and Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL). Whether on business or family travel, we certainly appreciate the effort these ministers make to join us and serve us during worship services.

Our prayers for complete recovery go out to our hospital patients, Bro. Curt Kaeb and Bro. Paul Jackson.

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### **MICHIGAN, BAY CITY**

**Sarah Knochel  
Janelle Ramseyer**

More holiness give me, more strivings within.  
More patience in suffering, more sorrow for sin.  
More faith in my Savior, more sense of His care.  
More joy in His service, more purpose in prayer.

Vacation Bible School was held June 18-22. This year's topic was Holiness and we appreciated the efforts of two visiting brothers. On Wednesday evening, Bro. Chris Huber (Sis. Sharon, Francesville, IN) spoke on More Holiness for the Single and Married, and on Friday evening, Bro. Randy Mogler (Sis. Evie, Washington, IL) spoke on Personal Holiness in a Dark World.

We also want to thank Bro. Randy for staying the weekend and sharing the Word of Life again with our congregation. We were blessed to have Bro. Ron Palitto (Sis. Lynell, Akron, OH) on July 8. We entreat the Lord's blessings on each of these dear brothers as they are willing servants in the Lord's work.

We pray for each of our dear ones who were hospitalized this month, Bro. Bob Knochel (Sis. Rhonda), Bro. Eugene Meylan (Sis. Carol), Bro. Mike Ruegsegger (Sis. Nancy), and Sis. Marlene Mosher. We trust that the Lord's healing would be with each one.

We rejoice with Bro. Bill and Sis. Carol Waibel in the birth of another granddaughter, Summer Elizabeth. Summer's parents are Bro. Jeff and Sis. Margo Waibel (Leo, IN).

We have enjoyed visitors from several of our congregations in the recent weeks as they were vacationing throughout Michigan. May the Lord be near unto each one in the coming days.

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### **MICHIGAN, DETROIT**

**Kay Rauhe  
Manuela Denes**

What a beautiful summer we've been having in the Detroit area. Apart from a few storms and hot, muggy days, the weather has been picture perfect. Now is the time to enjoy the bounty that we are blessed with because before we know it winter will be just around the corner.

Our Sunday school children enjoyed a week of Vacation Bible School in June. The topic for the week was "Are You Pressure Proof". I'm sure that most of us can remember the kinds of pressure that were placed upon us as children. Nobody ever wants to be left out of things but as children brought up by believing



parents, we always understood that there were some things we had to stay away from. Is it any easier when you become an adult? Probably not, the types of pressure just change. When it comes right down to it, when we turn to the Lord and leave everything at His feet, the pressures of daily life become less significant. We just need to remember that when the stress seems insurmountable!

We've been fortunate to have had a number of visiting ministers thus far. Our thanks and appreciation for sharing God's Word go to Bros. Steve Stieglitz (Sis. Jane, Leo, IN), Greg Stieglitz (Sis. Lisa, Indianapolis, IN), Justin Koch (Sis. Marcia, Washington, IL), John Jackson (Sis. Peggy) and Bill Waibel (Sis. Carol), both of Bay City, MI, and Bro. Don Gudeman (Sis. Mary, Lacrosse, IN).

Prayers and well wishes go to those who have at some point not been able to worship with us due to illness, failing health or other impediments. They include Sis. Perseda Wieland, Sis. Lois Belsley, Bro. Guy and Sis. Rosie Wieland, Sis. Sanche Denes, Sis. Ella Schlatter, Virginia Smiley and Diane Peterson. We continue to pray for Michael Reardon, son of John and Sis. Linda Reardon, who remains hospitalized. We are thankful that those who could return are back and that their health is slowly returning and pray that, Lord willing, the others could return as well.

Congratulations and God's blessings to Dan and Christina Kujawa (Bro. Bill and Sis. Darlene Kujawa) upon the arrival of their daughter, Layla. Best wishes for a happy future filled with God's blessings also go out to Joe Kondratek and Trisha Hitz (Bro. Tom and Sis. Cindy Hitz) on the occasion of their marriage.

July 15 was the day of the 24th annual Detroit Choir Benefit for

Woodhaven. We're grateful for the blessings that were abundant that day. There were many friends and family members gathered for the traditional pork chop dinner followed by a lovely song service. Homes such as Woodhaven serve such an important purpose in our communities. As our population grows older, the need for loving environments like it becomes more obvious to us all. Thanks go out to all the volunteers and employees for a job well done.

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**MINNESOTA  
MINNEAPOLIS  
Mary Mogler**

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

*Psalm 100:1-2*

As the Biblical accounts of David's life were read, favorite song sang, and stringed instruments crafted, it was indeed with a song of gladness in our heart. Again, it was a blessing for many Sunday School students and numerous helpful brothers, sisters, and friends, to join together for a week of Vacation Bible School and an opportunity for increased time around God's Word and Christian fellowship. On Friday evening, we were thankful to have retired Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN) share with us many valuable lessons from David's life that are applicable to our own.

Sis. Katie Blunier has been unable to assemble with us for quite a time. It was a special Sunday recently when she was able to worship with us, and brought joy to again have her among us in the pews.

Our prayers and sympathy are extended to Sis. Ethel Bednarski in the

passing of her brother, Lester Schmidt.

We are always thankful when the Lord directs those to our area who are seeking employment, and we welcome Sis. Sheila Schwab from Wolcott, IN, as she follows that direction. The increased number of our single brothers and sisters is a blessing as each one comes and shares God's talents and place in our small congregation.

God brought to us visiting ministers, Bro. Kevin Banwart (West Bend, IA) and Bro. Leland Plattner (Zapata, TX), this past month. We are thankful for their inspired words and grateful they included us in their vacation plans.

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**MINNESOTA, MORRIS  
Sheila Reuter  
Heidi Nohl**

Visiting ministers this month were Bros. Ken Lawson (Atlanta, GA), Dan Moser (Elgin, IL), Brian Huber (Francesville, IN), Ken Eisenmann (Cissna Park, IL), Warren Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL). May God bless them for their willing service.

Our congratulations go to Donald Judkins and Tonia Schmidgall (Bro. Dave and Sis. June) on their recent marriage. Also married this month were Alexis Gramm (Bro. Rick and Sis. Julie) and Dallas Rylander. May God bless them as they begin their lives together.

We rejoice with Brent Schaefer as he has begun his repentance. We pray he will feel God's nearness during this time.

Hospitalized this month were Bro. Gary Domnick (Sis. Velma), Bro. Steve Backman (Sis. Cathy), Sis. Lillian Koehl and Bro. Cork Fehr. We pray God's healing hand



will be upon each and every one.

Emerson Jerry was born to Bro. Greg and Sis. Sheila Reuter. Welcoming him home are his grandparents, Bro. Larry and Sis. Bonnie Nohl and Bro. Jim and Sis. Carolyn Reuter. We wish them God's guidance as they raise their son.

Our sympathies are extended to Bro. Stan (Sis. Pam) Wulf on the loss of his father, Bro. Bill (Lester, IA). Also to Sis. Deb (Bro. Harv) Joos on the loss of her father, Bro. Harry Rocke (Eureka, IL). Sis. Cheryl Messner (Bro. Sid) also laid her mother to rest, Sis. Mary Ellen Wiegand (Goodfield, IL). We pray all will feel God's nearness during this time of sorrow.

*Note of Thanks:*

I would like to thank everyone for the cards, gifts and visits following my surgery. Your thoughts and prayers were so much appreciated. May God bless you all.

*Bro. Gary Domnick*

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**MINNESOTA, WINTHROP**

**Rachel Steiner  
Julie Schmidt**

My country, 'tis of thee,  
Sweet land of liberty,  
of thee I sing;  
Land where my fathers died  
Land of the pilgrim's pride,  
From every mountain side,  
Let freedom ring.

*Gospel Hymns #738*

As we celebrated our country's independence, we were reminded how blessed we are for the freedoms we have – especially the freedom to worship.

As a small congregation, every visitor is a blessing and we especially appreciate the willing service of visiting ministers. Bro. Don Miller (Sis.

Bernadine, Minneapolis, MN) and Bro. Kenny Dietz (Sis. Mardell, Bradford, IL) were with us this past month and shared God's Word.

Gene Schmidt has been in our thoughts and prayers recently as he faces physical afflictions.

*Note of Thanks:*

Sam Miller wishes to thank everyone for their thoughts, prayers and kind words as he has been going through cancer treatments.

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**MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY**

**Becky Weiss  
Brittany Fehr**

Many prayers were answered when Amor Kate became an American citizen on June 22 and joined the family of Bro. Brent and Sis. Beth Kellenberger. God was faithful through the many bumps in the adoption process over the past 15 months. Also welcoming Amor home is her sister, Kambria. Grandparents are Bro. Randy and Sis. Karen Kellenberger and Bro. Clarence and Sis. Lu Ann Zobrist (Congerville, IL).

We said farewell to Bro. Nate and Sis. Steph Young and their three girls, Bethany, Sierra, and Kaeley. We will miss them and we pray that God will be with them as they make their new home in Ohio.

We are always thankful when God calls souls to repentance and they answer. Rebekah Smith and Nathanael Smith (Sis. Diane Smith and Ron Smith) have made a beginning and we wish them God's blessings as they turn their hearts from the world to Him.

We rejoice with Bruce Banwart (late Bro. Vic and Sis. Marilyn, West Bend, IA) and Anna Donahue as they have found peace and look forward to baptism. May God continue to be

with them.

The engagement of Bro. Tom Fehr (Bro. Bob and Sis. Barb, Iowa City, IA) to Sis. Sarah Laubscher (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Gloria) of Cissna Park was made known. May the Lord's grace and guidance be with them as they make their plans.

We welcome Kordel and Sheryl Lentine and their family, Toby, Caleb, Benji, Ezra, Sharen Rose and Providence, as they have recently begun to worship with us.

Our visiting ministers this past month were Bro. Galen Rokey (Sis. Nancy, Bern KS) and Bro. Dwight Stoller (Sis. Lori, Latty, OH). We appreciate their efforts on our behalf and may God richly bless them.

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**MISSOURI, ST LOUIS**

**Betsy Schrenk**

"Yea, thou shalt see thy children's children..."

*Psalm 128:6*

Two families have experienced this blessing. Bro. Loren and Sis. Betsy Schrenk celebrated the birth of a new grandson, Noah Clayton, born to Nathan and Kathy Schrenk (Redwood City, CA) on June 23. He has a big brother Arthur. Bro. Ken and Sis. Devon Rinkenberger are thankful for a new granddaughter, Elle Lou, born to Bro. Jeff and Sis. Candice Klopfenstein (Peoria) on July 20. Her siblings are Erin, Emily, Anna Kate, Seth, and Ryan.

Bro. Greg Rassi (Sis. Carla, Chicago, IL) brought God's Word to the St. Louis congregation on a trip here to help their son, Bro. Nathan, move into a new house in Glen Carbon, IL. Other visiting ministers were Bros. Jedd Rocke (Sis. Marsha, Goodfield, IL), Gary Endress (Sis. Evelyn) and Bruce Endress (Sis. Elizabeth), both



of Bradford, IL, and Randy Gudeman (Sis. Becky, Francesville, IN). We thank each visitor for worshipping with us and encouraging us.

Whose is the battle? In the book of Esther things looked very grim for Mordecai and the rest of the Jews in Persia. Haman was determined to eliminate those he hated, and Mordecai was the focal point of his rage. But the king was reminded of how his life was once saved from assassins by a warning from Mordecai — the timing was just right for this reminder — and Mordecai was honored and Haman was destroyed because the battle was the Lord's. Hymns of Zion #169, "My Lord an offering do I bring, My heart I give to thee." The heart is the offering, which will obey God if it is His. Whatever battle we face, we have confidence that the Lord has control. We cannot see the whole picture, but need to wait on Him and rest in His care. As His children, we will rejoice in the final victory.

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### MISSOURI, TAYLOR Sally Haerr

Encouragement... who of us can honestly say that we do not need and appreciate encouragement? In the month of July, each year, we have a series of topical Bible studies — inviting a ministering brother to present various segments under a common topic. This year we have been "encouraged" to read and put into practice the scripture found in Philippians 4:8. "Whatsoever things are true ... honest ... just ... pure ... lovely and of good report ... think on these things." Also in this chapter we are promised peace and grace if we follow the teachings that Christ through His servant Paul has made quite clear. We were also encouraged to seek accountability from other be-

lievers. Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 "Two are better than one ... for if they fall, the one will lift up the other..." (paraphrased)

We want to thank the three ministering brothers who have taken part in presenting these first three Bible studies. They are Bro. Dennis Kaufmann (Sis. Bonnie, Bloomington, IL), Bro. Dewayne Dill (Sis. LaRae, Minneapolis, MN) and our home ministering Bro. Scott Wegman (Sis. Dawn). It is such a blessing to grow in our walk with the Lord Jesus through the tireless efforts of these brothers.

Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Sis. Leonda, Leo, IN) spent a Wednesday evening here in Taylor with us on their way to a family reunion in Kansas. Thank you, Bro. Lynn, for the encouragement of your presence and labor of love from the pulpit.

On June 24, Sis. Jenae Sutter (Dan and Sis. Tina) and Bro. Trent Leman (Bro. Larry and Sis. Marilyn) of Eureka, IL, were united in marriage. Ministering Bros. Jaye Rinkenberger (Sis. Peggy, Goodfield, IL) and Steve Baner (Sis. Donnalou, Gridley, IL) came to take part in the worship services and share in the joy of this occasion. Elder Bro. Kent Heimer solemnized their wedding vows.

We want to express our sincere sympathy to Sis. Janet Schaer, Jane, Lester, Edie and Melissa Rieman on the death of their father and grandfather, Bro. Bernard (Bernie) Schaer. When we lose a loved one, our precious memories sustain us, but the true comfort comes as we look forward to a reunion in Heaven.

On July 1, we had a farewell potluck supper for Bro. Joel and Sis. Amber Virkler. Bro. Joel's profession/ further education is taking them to Phoenix, AZ. They have been a special part of our congrega-

tion and we will truly miss their smiling faces. I hope as we sing the song "Blest be the tie that binds ... our hearts in Christian love..." (Hymns of Zion #156) that it never becomes "routine". The words are so meaningful and express the feelings we often cannot put into words of our own. May God direct each step you take (Prov. 3:6)

We are rejoicing with Bro. Joe Knochel (Bro. Eric and Sis. Penny) and Sis. Lindsey Yackley (Bro. Elwood and Sis. Trudie) as their engagement announcement was made to the church. As believers, the promises found in Matthew 6:33 "Seek God and His righteousness..." and Phil. 4:19 "He will supply our every need." (paraphrased)

Our prayers are with them as they make plans for their wedding and future.

Those sick/hospitalized were Bro. Arnie Gerst (Sis. Marge), Bennett Sutter (Bro. Kim and Sis. Vonette) and Sis. Lois Sutter (Bro. James). We thank God for the miracle of healing.

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### NEW YORK CROGHAN-NAUMBURG Hope Graves

On Monday, June 25, we enjoyed a beautiful evening of fellowship during our annual hot-dog roast. It was a blessing to see so many friends and families in attendance.

We rejoice with Meaghan McGillvray in the healthy arrival of her beautiful little girl, Bailey Bell Bowers, on June 26. Grandparents are Mark and Sis. Gwen McGillvray.

Our prayers extend out to Donald Petzoldt and Meaghan McGillvray after their recent surgeries and hospitalizations. May the Lord grant them healing and strength as they recover.

Our thoughts and prayers turn to



our Elder brothers and each one that would be traveling out to the Conference in the coming weeks. We pray the Lord would bless each word spoken and create a receptive heart for each one that would be listening.

Faithful Saviour, we draw near,  
to Thee in devotion.  
Fill our hearts and minds we pray,  
with Thy inspiration.  
Let Thy Word, the light divine,  
in our hearts now brightly shine,  
and Thy fold enlighten.  
Saviour come with us abide.  
Lord, for Thee we're longing.  
As our teacher now preside,  
still our ardent yearning!  
May Thy Word of truth so great,  
many souls regenerate,  
life to all be sharing.

*Zion's Harp #144*

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### **OHIO, AKRON** **Mara Henico** **Rachel Pamer**

We are thankful for all of the ministering brothers who have visited and served us in the Word. May God continue to bless Bro. Ken Schneider (Remington), Bro. Gary Maibach (Smithville), Bro. Randy Gasser (Detroit), Bro. Ted Luginbuhl (Smithville), Bro. John Grimm (Columbus), and Bro. Paul Zimmerman (Forrest) as they continue to preach the Word, as well as our own home brothers who serve us on a regular basis.

Our prayers are with Sis. Erika Gal (Bro. Emery) and her family as her grandmother, Sis. Juliet Schlatter (Junction), recently passed away. May God grant the needed comfort and inspire each to live a selfless life of service to others and the Lord.

We trust that Bro. Ryan and Sis. Coleen Gasser will find God's grace to seek His guidance and direction daily as they serve Him now as a cou-

ple. We trust God will show them their niche to serve the Lord in our small congregation and give them the grace to help "keep the faith."

We pray that God will continue to grant healing to Bro. Tom Demrovsky (Sis. Christine) following knee surgery.

We are thankful for the healthy arrival of Gwen Marie Steidl (Bro. Andy and Sis. Mary). Older sisters Mya and Naomi are excited to have another sister at home. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Martha Bauman (Rittman) and paternal grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Nan Steidl.

Christopher Indermuhle (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Carol), Rebecca Pamer (Bro. Steve and Sis. Arlis) and Esther Steidl (Bro. Don and Sis. Nan) have safely returned from their labors with the Sunday School graduates at the deaf village in Jamaica. We trust that God will bless their labors. Also, we rejoice that Elder Bro. Dave and Sis. Barb Graf have returned safely from their travels to various churches in Europe. What a blessing when we can again greet those who were absent for a time!

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### **OHIO, COLUMBUS** **Nancy Banks**

We appreciate the willingness of these visiting brothers to be used as ministers of the Word: Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Sis. Jeannine, Mansfield, OH), Bro. Neil Ramseyer (Sis. Sharon, Bay City, MI), Bro. Ben Manz (Sis. Carolyn, Junction, OH) and Bro. Art Ingold (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman, OH) traveled the miles to be with us this month. May God bless their efforts.

We bid farewell to our dear Brother and friend, Jeremy (Buddy) Stoller, as he graduates from Ohio State and moves on to the University

of Toledo Medical School. Buddy is the son of Bro. Rod and Sis. LeeAnn Stoller of Latty, OH. May you feel His nearness as you enter this new phase of your life. We have been fortunate to have every one of Bro. Rod and Sis. LeeAnn's sons with us during their college years and we will miss their beautiful voices and helping hands.

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### **OHIO, JUNCTION** **Cindy Schlatter**

Safe in the arms of Jesus,  
Safe on His gentle breast,  
There by His love o'er shaded,  
Sweetly my soul shall rest...

*Hymns of Zion #218*

What comfort we can find in these words as we think of another soul whose earthly life is over. We dearly miss our Sis. Juliet Schlatter, but are thankful that her struggles here in this life are over. We pray her family can feel our prayers and support. They are Sis. Kathy Manz (Bro. David), Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily), Sis. Janet Hartzler (Bro. Dean) of Rittman, OH, Bro. Tim Schlatter (Sis. Becky) of Latty, OH, Sis. Dorothy Dietrich (Bro. Gus), Sis. Marge, Bro. Ed Schlatter (Sis. Cheryl), Sis. Sherri Schlatter (Bro. Mark, dec.) of Forrest, IL, and Bro. Dennis Schlatter (Sis. Laurie).

We appreciated the visits of several ministers this month. May God bless Bro. Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH) and Bro. Don Gudeman (La-Crosse, IN) for their labors.

It brings joy to our hearts as two more souls have expressed the feeling of receiving peace in their hearts. We rejoice with Jim McCullough (Sis. Julie) and Klint Manz (Bro. David and Sis. Kathy). We will continue to lift each of you up in prayer as you await the weekend of your testi-



mony.

Babies are beautiful little blessings from the Lord, but from these blessings also come great responsibility. We pray for much grace and wisdom to each family as they raise up these precious children. Bro. Ken and Sis. Gwen Manz welcome another grandson into their family circle as Casey Richard joined Bro. Chad and Sis. Cindy Indermuhle's (Rittman, OH) family on June 19. Bro. Michael and Sis. Jodi Schneider's Thad Michael was born on June 28. His excited siblings are Joel, Lynelle, and Lathan, while his grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Sandra Schneider and Bro. Larry and Sis. Shirley Ifft, all of Forrest, IL. Bro. David and Sis. Kathy Manz are thankful for another granddaughter as Addison Kate was born to Bro. Trent and Sis. Jodi Stoller (Latty, OH) on July 6. July 7, Bro. Greg and Sis. Julie Manz became first-time parents with the birth of Riley Paul. Riley's grandparents are Bro. Keith and Sis. JoAnne Klopfenstein (Latty, OH) and Bro. Paul and Sis. Sandra Manz.

Thus united And in concord  
Let us walk the path of life;  
Hand in hand, O may love bind us  
For each other's welfare strive.

*Zion's Harp #237*

Bro. Tim Manz (Bro. Paul and Sis. Sandra) and Sis. Joy Stoller (Bro. Craig and Sis. Ruth) of Latty, OH, announced their wedding engagement. May God grant guidance and direction as they make plans for their wedding, and to walk hand in hand through this life together.

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

"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

*II Peter 3:9*

Three souls have turned their hearts over in repentance unto God this past month. They are Chelsea Williamson (Bro. Jason and Sis. Wendy), Jessica Wenninger (Bro. Randy and Sis. Joni) and Rachael Rosswurm (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Amy). May God be with them as they begin their spiritual walks.

Our congregation grieves with Bro. Tim and Sis. Becky Schlatter in the loss of his mother, Sis. Juliet Schlatter, of Junction, OH.

Visiting ministers this past month were Bro. Ben Manz (Sis. Carolyn, Junction, OH) and Bro. Kent Getz (Elgin, IA).

Addison Kate was born on July 6 and is the daughter of Bro. Trent and Sis. Jodi Stoller. Abbie and Kyle will be happy to have someone with whom to play. Her grandparents are Bro. Craig and Sis. Ruth Stoller and Bro. Dave and Sis. Kathy Manz of Junction, OH. Bro. Keith and Joanne Klopfenstein are grandparents again with the birth of Riley Paul Manz, firstborn son of Bro. Greg and Sis. Julie Manz of Junction. He was born July 7 and his paternal grandparents are Bro. Paul and Sis. Sandra Manz, also of Junction.

This month we were pleased to hear the announcements of two couples to be joined in marriage. Sis. Joy Stoller (Bro. Craig and Sis. Ruth) is engaged to Bro. Tim Manz (Bro. Paul and Sis. Sandra) of Junction. They

are planning an August 19 wedding date. Bro. Corey Laukhuf (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Vickie) is engaged to Sis. Kara Beebe (Bro. Bob and Sis. Sue) of South Bend, IN. May God shine down on these couples as they plan their futures together.

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

On the weekend of July 14-15, we were blessed to hear the testimonies and witness the baptism of Sis. Staci Beer (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Robin) and Sis. Andrea Baumann (Bro. Mike and Sis. Lilly). Special thanks to Elder Bro. Jim Plattner (Sis. Marlene, Princeville, IL), Bro. Don Gudeman (Sis. Mary, LaCrosse, IN), Bro. Mike Ursu (Sis. Barb, Kitchener, Canada), and Bro. John Grimm (Sis. Julie, Columbus, OH) for their help with this blessed occasion.

We are thankful that Aaron Masters (Elder Bro. Mark Masters and Sis. Jeannine) has begun his repentance. Continue to pray for him as he seeks his soul's salvation.

Lydia Dotterer (Bro. Gaylord and Sis. Betty) and Bethany Miller (Bro. Roger and Sis. Dorina) have received God's peace and are awaiting baptism. What a blessing it is to follow the Lord in our youth.

Sis. Sue Sauder (retired Elder Bro. Ken) was hospitalized and continues to need our prayers.

We are blessed to have Sis. Heidi Schlatter (Bro. Tim and Sis. Rebecca, Junction, OH) assemble with us mid-week as she has accepted a temporary work assignment in our area.

Our heartfelt sympathy to Sis. Connie Domka (Bro. Fred) on the passing of her grandmother, Sis. Mary Stoller (Bro. Lawrence, Rittman, OH).



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**OHIO, RITTMAN**  
**Sarah Bauman**  
**Linda Zollinger**

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

*Romans 8:1*

One of the many reasons we have to be thankful is to hear of souls turning to the Lord. We have had three new converts this month: Glenn Miller (the late Sis. Ella), Jenny Raifsnider (the late Doug and Sis. Diana) and Matthew Dotterer (Bro. Richard and Sis. Dawn). May they humbly seek the Lord's guidance for their lives.

“He hath made every thing beautiful in his time: also he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end.”

*Eccles. 3:11*

On July 1, the engagement of Sis. Ruth Tieche (Greg and Sis. Peggy) and Bro. Eric Maibach (Bro. Alpha and Sis. Denise) was made known. May God bless and guide their lives as they plan for their upcoming wedding and marriage.

Bro. Matthew Baltic (Bro. Daniel and Sis. Betty, Indianapolis, IN) and Sis. Lynn Rufener (Bro. Steven and Sis. Jenee) were united in holy matrimony on June 17.

June 24 was the wedding day for Bro. Ryan Gasser (Bro. Fred and Sis. Mary) and Sis. Coleen Demrovsky (Bro. Andrew and Sis. Vera) of the Akron congregation.

On June 30, Audrie Stoller and Jamey Workman exchanged wedding vows. Audrie is the daughter of

Bro. Robin and Sis. Joanne and Jamey is the son of Ron and Vanessa.

Bro. Jon Ringger (Bro. Steve and Sis. Myra) of Bluffton North and Sis. Bethany Dotterer (Bro. Robert and Sis. Mardel) were united in holy matrimony on July 8. As Sis. Bethany is leaving our Rittman congregation, may she be a welcome addition to the Bluffton North congregation.

Bro. Keith Stoller (Bro. Joseph and Sis. Marian) and Sis. Autumn Miller (Bro. Max and Sis. Diane) were married on July 15 in Smithville.

May each of these new couples look to the Lord for all of their needs as they start a new chapter in their lives.

Casey Richard joined the family of Bro. Chad, Sis. Cindy, Carmen and Courtney Indermuhle on June 19. Bro. Dwaine and Sis. Joan Indermuhle and Bro. Ken and Sis. Gwen Manz (Junction, OH) are Casey's grandparents.

Bro. Jerry and Sis. Martha Bauman are enjoying a new granddaughter. Gwen Marie joined the family of Bro. Andy, Sis. Mary, Mya and Naomi Steidel (Akron, OH) on June 29.

Our sympathy goes to Sis. Jan Hartzler and Bro. Henry Dotterer as we heard of the passing away of their mother and sister, Sis. Juliet Schlatter, of Junction, OH, on June 19.

Sis. Verna Rufener (Bro. Isaac), Sis. Erma Ingold, Sis. Jane Klotzle (Bro. Irwin) and Sis. Carole Steiner (Bro. David) were hospitalized this month.

We appreciate all the visiting ministers we had with us this past month. Bro. Todd Stoller (Latty, OH) was here July 1. Bro. Ted Luginbuhl (Smithville, OH) and Bro. Ron Palitto (Akron, OH) were here on June 17 for Bro. Matt and

Sis. Lynn's wedding. On July 8, there were several ministers among us for Bro. Jon and Sis. Beth's wedding. They included: Bros. Steve Ringger and Robert Meyer (both of Bluffton North, IN), John Reinhard and Mark Gerber (both of Bluffton, IN), Ken Wuethrich (Indianapolis, IN) and Paul Gasser (Akron, OH).

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

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”

*Hebrews 11:1*

The last weekend in June was our memorial service in New Martinsville, WV. Elder Bro. Merle Hartzler (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman) and ministering Bro. Matthew Rassi (Sis. Bridget, Chicago, IL) were with us to bring forth the Word. We are thankful for all who made the effort to be with us on this special weekend.

Though often the heart  
 With storms be oppressed,  
 Afflictions do smart,  
 By Satan distressed,  
 By Satan distressed,  
 “O what shall befall us?”  
 We wearily sighed;  
 Still He who protects us,  
 “The Lord will provide!”

*Zion's Harp #86, vs. 2*

Bro. John Figel (Sis. Paula) and Bro. Bob Dotterer (Sis. Laura) both spent time in the hospital this month. Our prayers are with their families and our thoughts echo the words of that hymn, “The Lord will provide!”

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Eric Hartzler (Sis. Jami) and family at the passing of his grandmother, Sis. Juliet Schlatter (Bro. Richard, dec., Junction).

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

Our thanks to several visiting ministers who have shared the Word of God with us this past month. May God richly bless the efforts of Bros. Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL), Don Manz (Junction, OH), Lucas Frank (Detroit, MI), Ron Koehl (Sarasota, FL), Shawn Metzger (Philadelphia, PA) and Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH).

Two couples have been joined in marriage. On June 29, Nick Zimmerman and Angela Hofacre were united. Bro. Steve and Sis. Jollene Hofacre are Angela's parents. On July 15, Bro. Keith Stoller (Rittman, OH) and Sis. Autumn Miller pledged their lives to each other. Parents of this couple are Bro. Joe and Sis. Marian Stoller (Rittman, OH) and Bro. Max and Sis. Diane Miller. We trust God will bless each of these unions and may God's will always be in the center of their lives.

The engagement of Bro. Kyle Indermuhle and Sis. Diane Maletich was recently made known to us. Parents of this couple are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Shari Indermuhle and Bro. Dave and Sis. Connie Maletich. May they feel God's direction as they prepare for their wedding and marriage.

We rejoice with Jonathan Dotterer (Bro. David and Sis. Luanna) as he has acknowledged his need of a Saviour. May the Lord continue to lead him through a true repentance and conversion. We are also thankful that Todd Saurer (Columbus, OH) has received peace and is awaiting baptism, which is scheduled to be in September at Columbus. Todd's parents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Sue Saurer.

We have two new babies to report this month. On June 21, Nathan

Glenn was born to Bro. Dwaine and Sis. Shelly Beery. Nathan was born a little early and needed to stay in the hospital for a short time, but is now home and welcomed by siblings, Sharnise, Dorrice, Mariah, Katrina, Heather and Andrew, and his grandparents are Arthur and Eileen Beery and Bro. Glenn and the late Sis. Lou Rigggenbach. First-time grandparents, Bro. John and Sis. Janice Rufener, welcomed Zion Michael, who was born to Bro. Zachary and Sis. Jenny Bertsch (Leo, IN) on July 15. Our best wishes and God's blessings to both homes.

We miss seeing Norma Spence in our midst, as she and her husband, George, have recently moved to Crown Point, IN, to be closer to their daughter. We are also seeing two new faces in our midst, as Dick and Amber Lanz, formerly of Croghan-Naumburg, NY, have moved to our area and are worshipping with us. Life brings many changes, and we trust the Lord will continue to be with each of us as long as we are following His direction throughout our lives.

We extend our sympathy to those who have lost loved ones. Sis. Betty (the late Bro. John) Dotterer's sister-in-law, Sis. Juliet Schlatter (Junction, OH), recently passed away. Also, Sis. Amy (Bro. Steve) Dotterer's grandmother, Sis. Mary Stoller (Rittman, OH), was called from this life. May God comfort all who mourn.

Our friend, Neal Indermuhle, has been hospitalized for a time. We pray that he will experience God's healing mercies.

**OHIO, TOLEDO  
Teresa Rywalski  
Rebecca Beard**

Greetings of love to each of you!  
Joining us on the pulpit this past

month were Bro. Neil Ramseyer (Bay City, MI), Bro. Mark Ramsier (Sis. Alice, Sardis, OH), Bro. Dwight Stoller (Sis. Lori, Latty, OH), and Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH). What a privilege to sit at the Lord's table and be fed from the everlasting Word.

Our prayers are with Missy Benware (Mark), Bev Schlatter, Kent Schlatter, and Bro. Matt Manz (Sis. Deanna) in the passing of their grandmother, Sis. Juliet Schlatter (Junction, OH). May they remember and stay true to the legacy that she has left for them.

We wish to thank all the visitors who joined us for our Sunday School picnic. What a blessing to spend the time with our youth.

God's blessings to Sis. Joy Stoller and Bro. Tim Manz, and to Sis. Kara Beebe and Bro. Cory Laukhuf as they have announced their engagements. May they look to their Heavenly Father as they start their new life together.

**OREGON, PORTLAND  
Brianna Strahm**

We appreciated having the following visiting ministers with us this past month: Elder Bro. Peter Petrovic (Sis. Marian, San Diego, CA), Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Betty), Bro. Ed Knecht (Sis. Judie), and Bro. Harvey Kuenzi (Sis. Jennifer), of our Silverton congregation.

We continue to remember in prayer Harrison Kuenzi (Bro. Nathan and Sis. Sarah) as he faces ongoing health issues. We trust the Kuenzi family can feel the support of the brotherhood during this difficult and uncertain time.

I need the prayers of those I love,  
To help me in each trying hour,  
To bear my tempted soul to Him,  
That He may keep me by His power.



I want my friends to pray for me,  
To bear my tempted soul above,  
And intercede with God for me,  
I need the prayers of those I love.

*Hymns of Zion #201, vs. 2*

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## OREGON, SILVERTON

**Cindy Metzger**

**Melissa Kuenzi**

Our annual Sunday School picnic was held June 16 at Willamette Mission park. We enjoyed a beautiful afternoon of outdoor activities with the kids. We are also thankful that Bro. Doug Wagenbach and his wife, Sis. Lillian (San Diego, CA), were able to travel here on the weekend of June 23-24 for our annual Bible Class weekend.

July 13 was the wedding date for Todd Strahm and Kara Walter. Their parents are Bro. Carl Strahm and the late Sis. Sharon (Sabetha, KS) and Bro. Chuck and Sis. Karen Walter. We will miss Kara, and wish them the Lord's blessings as they make their new home in Kansas.

We thank our other visiting ministers this month including Elder Bro. Peter Petrovic (Sis. Marian, San Diego, CA), and Bros. Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy) and Ron Jones (Sis. Liz) of Portland.

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## PENNSYLVANIA PHILADELPHIA

We've been enjoying a lovely summer. Our church is located about 35 miles northwest of Philadelphia, very near the beautiful farmland and rolling hills of the Pennsylvania Dutch area. Between this beautiful scenery and the historic bounty of the city of Philadelphia, this vicinity would be a wonderful addition to your vacation plans. We look forward to welcoming you for our Sunday or Wednesday evening worship services.

This month, we have enjoyed visitors from Eureka, IL; Mansfield, OH; West Bend, IA; Kitchener, ON; Roanoke, IL; Rockville, CT; Smithville, OH; and Akron, OH. We thank all for the love that you added to our fellowship.

By the time this reaches print, our dear Sis. Lauren Wiegand will have embarked upon the next step of her academic journey. Sis. Lauren graduated from high school this spring and will be attending college in Tucson, AZ. Her departure leaves a vacancy not only in our small congregation, but even more, in her home. Our love and prayers go with you, Sis. Lauren, as well as with your parents, Bro. Ben and Sis. Michelle, and your siblings. You will be greatly missed.

The Lord always provides. One moves away, another moves home. We are very grateful that our dear Sis. Kim Lanz has moved back to our congregation. For some time, Sis. Kim has been living and worshipping in the Sardis, OH, area. Welcome home, Sis. Kim. May God bless you with each step you take.

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## TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE

**Mike and Monica Fritz**

We are privileged to welcome Bro. Eli and Sis. Mariana Tapolcsanyi and their children, Isaiah and Gabriella, to our congregation. They have recently begun assembling with us after moving to the area from the Norton, OH, Apostolic Christian Church (Nazarean). We thank the Lord for their presence and pray that we can strive together to serve our Lord, and be a light in our community.

We have been strengthened through the Word brought to us so willingly and capably by our visiting ministering brothers: Bros. Frank Sauder (Sis. Kathy; Roanoke, IL),

Galen Rokey (Sis. Nancy; Bern, KS), Joe Gerst (Sis. Connie; Iowa City, IA), and Curt Rassi (Sis. Kathy; Tremont, IL), as well as Elder Bros. Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North, IN) and Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH), and retired Elder Bro. Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL). We were also blessed by the fellowship of brethren and friends visiting from Chicago, Cissna Park, Eureka, Forrest, Roanoke, and Tremont, IL; Bluffton North, IN; Iowa City, IA; Bern, KS; Taylor, MO; and Latty and Mansfield, 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: Rittman, OH (8/19); Morton, IL (8/26); Smithville, OH (9/2); Peoria, IL (9/9); Bloomington-Normal, IL (9/16); Congerville, IL (9/23); and Taylor, MO (9/30). If you are planning to worship with us, please call ahead to confirm our schedule. Often we gather 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) 866-5543 (new number); and Sis. Gwen Leuthold, (615) 356-5755.

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## TEXAS, AUSTIN

**Amy Ringger**

**Serenity Ringger**

We are pleased to welcome Jeff Landherr and Laura Landherr, children of Ron and Audrey Landherr (Iowa City), who have moved to Austin, and Bro. Nathan Knochel, son of Bro. Bob and Sis. Rhonda Knochel (Bay City, MI), who has moved to Orange, TX.

Thank you to our visiting minis-



ters: Bros. Kevin Banwart (Sis. Sandy, West Bend), Trent Schrock (Sis. Heidi, Leo), Dale Moore (Sis. Cheryl, Elgin, IA), and Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign, IL). We enjoyed visitors from Bern, Eureka, Rittman, Mansfield, and Bluffton.

The minister schedule for September is Rittman (2), Indianapolis (9), Chicago (16), Latty (23), and Oakville (30).

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 east-bound frontage road about 4/10 mile. The church is on the right. It is located about 18 miles east of the Austin airport. The address is 1025 Highway 71 West, Bastrop, TX 78602. It is a one-story building with limestone siding and the church sign in the front.

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

## TEXAS, McALLEN

### Joyce Nohl

Greetings from South Texas.

We rejoice with Andy and Kristi Plattner upon the arrival of Nathan Andrew born on July 6. He is welcomed by his brothers, Jacob and Samuel. Grandparents are Bro. Leland and Sis. Mary Plattner (Zapata, TX) and Gayle and Myrna Brogdon.

Our visiting ministers the past two months were Elder Bro. Paul Messner (Sis. Jan, Winthrop, MN), Bro. Steve Sauder (Sis. Mary, Tremont, IL), Bro. Erik Givens (Sis. Debbie, Princeville, IL), Bro. Darrel Stoller (Sis. Gloria, Bern, KS) and Bro. Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata, TX). May God richly bless each one for their efforts.

The following churches are scheduled for services: Lester, IA (8/12), Morton, IL (8/26), Altadena/San Diego, CA (9/9) and West Bend, IA (9/23).

If you plan to be in the McAllen area, we would appreciate having you worship with us. Our address is: Holiday Inn Express, 1921 South 10th Street. Turn South 1 1/2 blocks off the Expressway 83 on 10th Street. Services will be held at 10:30 and 12:30. Please see ministers' directory for local contact information.

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## VERMONT, NORWICH

### Nathan and Miriam Reutter

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit."

*John 15:1-2*

We've recently been working outside around our property removing

over-grown shrubs and tree branches that have been left unattended and have gotten out of hand, and no longer serve their original purpose. This reminds us of the scripture verse above, and how we need to be purged or pruned regularly in our spiritual lives; else we would no longer bear fruit for Him.

The following ministers served us from the pulpit: Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Sis. Cheryl), Bro. Warren Zahner (Sis. Bonnie), and retired ministering Bro. Everett Gerber (Sis. Nancy), all from Rockville, CT, and Bro. Ted Luginbuhl (Sis. Stephanie, Smithville, OH). We are grateful they were willing to serve us.

If you are interested in fellowship 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 the following number: 802-776-5293. Inventory is available upon request. This is a wonderful opportunity to support those of the household of faith (Galatians 6:10).



## THE CASE AGAINST A WORLD CHURCH

*Submitted by Elder Bro. Noah Shrock to the Silver Lining in July 1964*

Christian churches are preparing to unite as one great world church. This will include the Roman Catholic, Greek Orthodox, and Protestants.

Consider what conditions have resulted where there has been a one (world) church monopoly. By the 5th or 6th century, the Church at Rome had gained dominion over all others in western Europe. The dark ages settled, until the Reformation and the break away of those who protested.

In eastern Europe, it was the Greek Orthodox. The end of this rule over the lives of the people in Russia did not come until the Communist revolution. A primary target of this revolution was against the domination and corruption of this church.

Volumes could be written about one Protestant church or another, where that church was made the state church, resulting in persecution and discrimination.

In Spain...it is the Roman Catholic. The police and other government agencies bowed to the will of the big church and did their bidding, arrested pastors, closed their churches.

The Greeks believe that all should belong to one great Greek Orthodox Church. Because of its size, and because it is the state religion, the government backs them up in their persecution of other groups.

What will happen if a great, world church is formed?

They say that, with such unity and greatness, they will be able to make themselves heard

throughout the world, and thereby be a great power for good to all mankind. We can expect that the will of this world church will not only be suggested, but enforced. Great churches in the past forced even kings to their knees.

Liberty will be threatened the moment a great monopoly is organized. This mammoth may begin to throw its weight around, and thousands, yes millions, may suffer as a result.

The mind and heart of unconverted man is centered in himself. His supreme desire is to satisfy his personal appetites. He is completely separated from God. His thoughts and ambitions are earthly—not godly.

Christ's prayer for the eleven, and indeed all who follow, is oneness of heart with God, the Father, and Christ, that their very lives would prove that Christ lived within them.

"Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me."

The burden of His prayer is for the salvation of those who believe on him, that they might be with Him forever. God does not depend upon the strength of numbers to accomplish His purposes!

The world is impressed when it sees a person who is genuinely sold out to God, and is truly in oneness with Him. The world seems to sense and know God

loves that person.

A tragic mistake is that this great prayer has been misinterpreted by the great majority. The wheels of movement are turning ever faster. The world church is approaching culmination faster than we ever thought possible. Already the Roman church is preparing herself to be more acceptable, so that this can come about.

### ***Warning! Danger Ahead!***

This great world church will dictate in every sphere. The anti-christ will arrive and declare that he is God.

Your children brought up in such a church will soon be going right along with the rest. Your influence on others is vital. In speaking of a great church in Revelation, the message says, "Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues."

Now is the time to come out of all lukewarm and apostate churches. It's much later than you may think. Come out now, while you can still bring your children and others with you!

It's time to pray. Don't let your church slip. It's time to fight for that which is right. It's time to join ranks with Peter, Paul and the host of others who contended for the faith, even unto death!

The time of the end is near. Stay awake!

*Submitted by a brother with the support of Bro. Bill Schlatter*



## 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

### Apostolic Christian Way of Purity

#### A Volcano of Filth

At nearly 10,000 feet, Mt. St. Helens was a majestic volcanic peak in the Cascade Range of SW Washington state, which lay dormant for over 100 years. But on May 18, 1980, it erupted in one of the largest explosions in North American history. A blast of stone, ash, and poisonous gas carried debris for 17 miles, and a volcanic plume reached 80,000 feet into the air. The disaster took over 60 lives, wiped out large numbers of wildlife, and destroyed 230 square miles of vegetation.

A description of the eruption of Mt. St. Helens is a very accurate parallel to the spewing forth of an ever increasing supply of pornographic movies, television programs, magazines, videos, and books. And just as a volcanic eruption results in devastation to everything around it, so likewise does a pornography addiction result in devastated lives and broken relationships.

Only God Himself has sovereign control over the forces that shape and re-shape our earth and seas. The disciples said of Jesus, "What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him!" (Matthew 8:27). In the same way, we realize that only God has the power to enable a soul to overcome the forces of evil that have enslaved him in pornography and sexual addiction. Our enemy is cruel and deceptive, and he does not care whom his victims are. If Satan tried to deceive the Son of God, he will certainly also try to deceive us. But the same weapon that Jesus used to defeat him will also work for us — the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.

#### What is Purity?

The Bible is far from silent on what constitutes sexual purity. One of the major themes in Scripture is the battle between the flesh and the Spirit. "For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would" (Galatians 5:17). The first four items listed in the "works of the flesh" — adultery, fornication, uncleanness, and lasciviousness — are all related to sexual impurity or excesses of lust.

But God has given instructions in His Word that clearly define what is acceptable and not acceptable in His sight: "Marriage is honorable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge" (Hebrews 13:4). Jesus Himself gave the disciples a warning that even lustful

looks are contrary to God's will: "But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart" (Matthew 5:27).

These and other passages of Scripture give us a definition of purity — the sexual relationship is reserved for a man and a woman united in the bonds of marriage. Any lustful or sexual act by a single person, or by a married person with other than his or her spouse, is sinful and against the will and commandments of God.

#### Divine Help

However, God has not left us to fight the battle alone. His desire is that each of us live holy lives, and that everything we do can be to His glory.

One of the tools that God has provided for those who struggle with issues of sexual purity is a program called the Apostolic Christian Way of Purity. Over the years, several brothers from our denomination have used a program called Setting Captives Free. This was found to be beneficial in breaking free from the bonds of impurity and maintaining lives of purity. A committee of brothers was then created by the Elder Body to obtain the program and modify it to better fit our doctrine and practice. This course, the Apostolic Christian Way of Purity (ACWP), is now available from the Apostolic Christian Counseling and Family Services (ACCFs).

The program is distributed on a CD which the student installs on his or her computer. It is a 60-lesson, biblically-based accountability program for persons struggling with pornography or any other sexual temptation. Each student is assigned a mentor who provides prayerful support, guidance, and feedback. The student completes one lesson each day, and e-mails or faxes the lessons to his mentor.

These lessons contain much practical advice built on sound scriptural principles. There are five major steps that a course participant is led through in order to gain freedom from bondage:

(1) Recognition of the problem and desire to be free

"If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." (John 8:36)

(2) Confession and repentance, commitment to prayer, and studying the lessons and Scripture passages

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9).

(3) Radical amputation — complete removal of all sources of lust; cutting off all access to pornographic programs, movies, books, and magazines

"And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched." (Mark 9:43)

(4) Daily accountability with a spouse or mentor

"Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend." (Proverbs 27:17).

(5) Walking in the Spirit, being filled with the power of God and the victory of Christ

"This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh." (Galatians 5:16).

#### The Anchor of Hope

Those who were living in the vicinity of Mt. St. Helens in May of 1980 received strong warnings that they should leave the area immediately. Those who heeded the warnings escaped, but those who didn't were buried under tons of volcanic ash and debris. Likewise, the warnings continue to be sounded that those who partake of pornography and perversions will be enslaved with the filth of the flesh until Christ sets them free. For He is our only hope in being set free.

"... lay hold upon the hope set before us: Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast." (Hebrews 18-19)

Anyone who wants to start the Way of Purity program should begin by contacting his or her elder for more information. It is being administered by the Apostolic Christian Counseling and Family Services, and there is no charge for the program.





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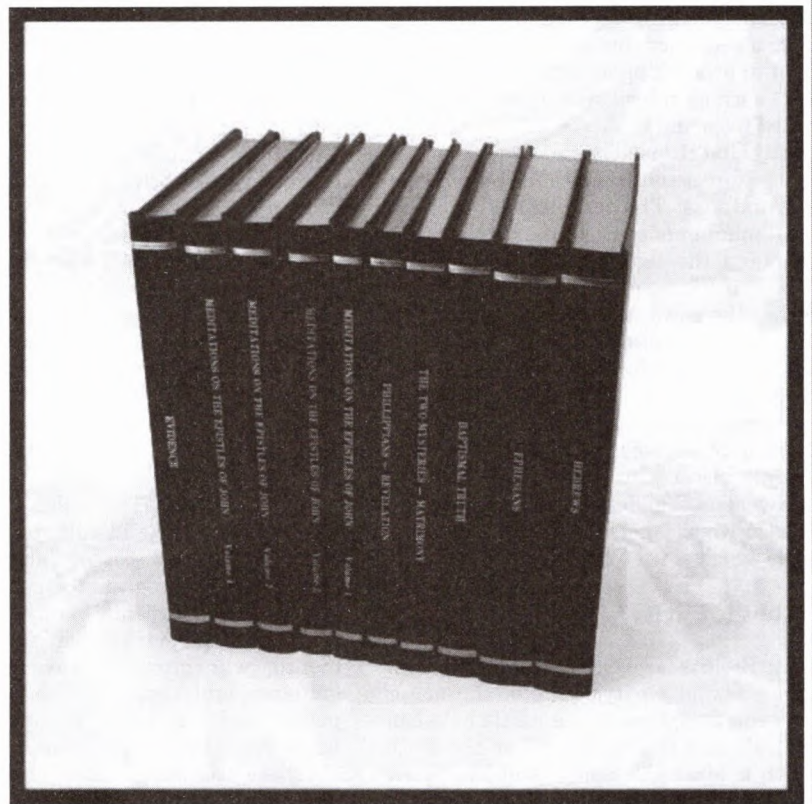
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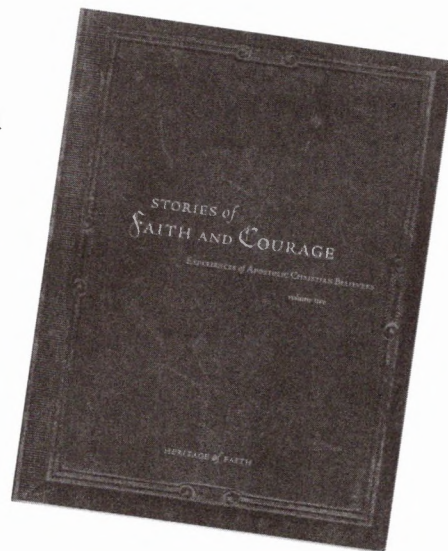
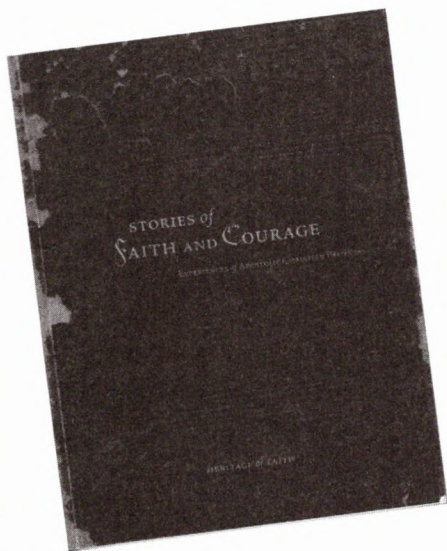
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### **"Zion's Melodies" Instrumental CD**

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 *Home-ward Journey, PO Box 20, Fairbury, IL 61739; or e-mail [fairview@Route24.net](mailto:fairview@Route24.net) or call: (815) 692-2572 (days) and ask for Sally*. The CD is available for a donation. All proceeds of the CD, beyond expenses, will be contributed to The Good Samaritan Fund of Fairview Haven Nursing Home, Fairbury.





## 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:

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## Director Of Nursing Position Available

Fairview Haven (Fairbury, IL) is currently seeking to fill the position of Director of Nursing. If you feel you have a calling to share God's Love to our elderly brethren and friends, we would be interested in talking with you. We need someone to join us in our mission of 'Loving and Caring, Peacefully Sharing, That Which Is Good.'

Please contact Bro. Rick Plattner or Bro. Dave Blunier at:

Fairview Haven, 605 N.  
Fourth St. Fairbury, IL 61739  
(815) 692-2572

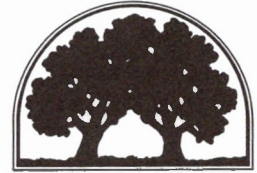
## **NEEDED:** **Administrator or** **Assistant Director** **of Nursing**

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  
419-238-2397 (phone)  
419-238-4557 (fax)



## 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  
 260-657-1033  
 lynnstieglitz@lightningnet.net

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

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

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

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

**Indiana:** Tom Neuenschwander  
 Phone/Fax: 260-824-4773  
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*Sermon continued from page 2*

God had done with them. Again, God had done with them. The beauty of this is they are not saying what they had done. They are not saying, we as apostles went around and did these things. That's how we each have to walk our life.

As we talk about, we had this in all of our jobs, farming. We grew this great crop. We did certain things. How they stated it, brothers and sisters. The things that God had done with them. They are putting the glory back to the Lord. This is how He used them. They were just empty vessels as we are. And the Lord uses us. Again, the glory goes to the Lord. Not in their walk of life. It's how the Lord used them.

"But there rose up certain of the sect of the Pharisees which believed, saying, That it was needful to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses. And the apostles and elders came together for to consider of this matter. And when there had been much disputing, Peter rose up, and said unto them, Men and brethren, ye know how that a good while ago God made choice among us, that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the gospel, and believe." Acts 15:5-7. Are we not all sometimes guilty of how Peter, in all his strengths and his love for the Lord, he was going back to how God made choice among us that the Gentiles by my mouth, by Peter's mouth, should hear the Word of the gospel and believe. Aren't we, we all have that situation where pride comes into our life and Peter wanted to minister the Word to the Gentiles. Then in his love for the Lord and in his diligence, I think the Lord also knew that there were too many people for him. We can't all do this alone. Even though the Lord is working through us, we have to use those brothers and sisters, friends. As Peter had to come to the understanding that the other apostles had to be used also to minister to the Gentiles. One person could not do it all.

"And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did

unto us; And put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith." Acts 15:8,9. Again, there isn't any difference between us or anybody else in this world. Jesus can work in each of our hearts. Again, it is up to us to accept Jesus and let Him work through us, purifying our hearts by faith.

"Now therefore why tempt ye God, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear? But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they. Then all the multitude kept silence, and gave audience to Barnabas and Paul, declaring what miracles and wonders God had wrought among the Gentiles by them." Acts 15:10-12. Back to, I think a lot of it goes back to that where Peter was told to go speak to the Gentiles. At that time, Paul and Barnabas were doing the same thing.

"And after they had held their peace, James answered, saying, Men and brethren, hearken unto me: Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name. And to this agree the words of the prophets; as it is written, After this I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up." Acts 15:13-16. It is just going back to the basic principle of why the apostles were out there ministering the Word, talking about Jesus. How Jesus, through His shed blood, the tabernacle was taken down, but it was through the ruins it was built up, through our sin. Jesus shed His blood for each one of us. But then He will arise again and the tabernacle will be built again as it was. As it was prophesied and it came true.

"That the residue of men might seek after the Lord, and all the Gentiles, upon whom my name is called, saith the Lord, who doeth all these things." Acts 15:17. And He does all these things. "Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world. Wherefore my sentence is, that we trouble not them, which from among the Gentiles are turned to

God:" Acts 15:18,19. The Gentiles that were spoken to, the ones that turned their life over to the Lord, and then they were told that they needed to be circumcised. They thought they had done what was needed to be saved. Then somebody else comes in and says, no, you need to do this one more thing. And now we are told here not to trouble the Gentiles. They have the shed blood of Jesus Christ. The circumcision is being explained again. That is the separation. Circumcision is the separation from the world.

"But that we write unto them, that they abstain from pollutions of idols, and from fornication, and from things strangled, and from blood." Acts 15:20. So they are talking about some of the law. The law today which we need to keep ourselves from. We must keep ourselves from pollutions of idols, fornication, from things strangled and from blood. I need to study more on the things strangled. There's biblical meaning in that and there's other brothers that can expound on that if need be.

"For Moses of old time hath in every city them that preach him, being read in the synagogues every Sabbath day." Acts 15:21. The Word continues to go out every Sabbath day. It is going to be repeated a couple more times in here how the pollution of idols - I think we need to all examine our lives. We don't have that gold statue potentially, prayerfully not in our house that we worship. Many other activities that we can fall lax in our walk of life and we can idolize. It is probably something that we're not, it's deceptively, Satan is very deceptive in the way he can put an idol into our life. That is where we have to be cognizant and constantly looking for something. What is drawing me away from the Lord? What is drawing me away from my family? How can I better serve the Lord? Is there some little issue which potentially could be an idol in our life? How can we stay away from that?

"Then pleased it the apostles and elders, with the whole church, to send chosen men of their own company to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas; namely..." Acts 15:22. So Judas and Silas, they were sent off. First they



wrote letters. It is hard for us to comprehend. At that time they sent letters out as they were sending out Judas and Silas. This is what they are going to talk about. Because at that time, as Judas and Silas were, as they were going out to these specific places, to Antioch and such, they had many stops along the way. So they weren't just going straight there. Because their ministering of the Word at that time, you never knew if you would come to a village and you may stay there two days and you continue to minister the Word. They knew that Antioch had that need, as we sometimes in our life, we have that need for the Word. Straighten us out. Where are we doing something wrong? So they sent ahead. They wrote the letter. It was sent ahead so the Gentiles in Antioch could have that comfort. We know what was in the letter. As they received it, they were pleased of the readings. They were comforted by it.

"So when they were dismissed, they came to Antioch: and when they had gathered the multitude together, they delivered the epistle: Which when they had read, they rejoiced for the consolation." Acts 15:30,31. When you have that, you think you are going down the right path and you get hit with something that kind of pushes you off the path you are going on, it is hard to get righted back to the path. That's why this letter was sent out. So those Gentiles could be comforted by what they were doing. They did not need to be circumcised physically. Again, they rejoiced for the consolation. They rejoiced that they did not have to follow the law also.

"And Judas and Silas, being prophets also themselves, exhorted the brethren with many words, and confirmed them." Acts 15:32. They did not just go out and minister the Word. They had such a knowledge. The Lord was working through them that it's one thing to just minister the Word. They were able to confirm the Word. Isn't that comforting as we hear the Word, as we read the Word? Where is the confirmation of the Word? We have the confirmation by reading the Word our self, falling back to the

Word. They had the confirmation through their walk of life, through again, the Holy Spirit working through them. The many miracles that they had performed. The changes that they had seen in people's lives that they could relate back to the people in Antioch.

"And after they had tarried there a space, they were let go in peace from the brethren unto the apostles." Acts 15:33. Isn't that something to be able to go in peace! As they were let go in peace. Because I think when the letter was received and then when they showed up, the letter obviously gave them, the Gentiles, peace, but then as they heard these dear apostles minister to them and confirm them in the Word of the Lord, in Jesus Christ and His saving grace, they could go in peace.

"Notwithstanding it pleased Silas to abide there still." Acts 15:34. Isn't that something, how we are today as, "Paul also and Barnabas continued in Antioch, teaching and preaching the word of the Lord, with many others also." Acts 15:35. I am confusing some of the cities here and such. But Silas stayed with them. Isn't that how we are? We come back to church Wednesday nights, Sundays. We are not going there because it is a social activity. We appreciate the social, the love we have, the fellowship. But we must be coming here to learn more about the Word. Back to, notwithstanding it pleased Silas to abide there still. Silas knew, as we know, when we are going through the week, if the apostles left completely, these people in Antioch continued to need to be confirmed in the Word. Silas was able to stay there. He knew there was still a need there, as we see in our lives. There is still a need to be confirmed, weekly, daily. So Silas, he abode there still. Paul, and also Barnabas continued, teaching and preaching the Word of the Lord, with many others also.

"And some days after Paul said unto Barnabas, Let us go again and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, and see how they do." Acts 15:36. That's back to, it's necessary to

continue to be reconfirmed in the Word of the Lord. To continue to study it. To hear it again.

"And Barnabas determined to take with them John, whose surname was Mark. But Paul thought not good to take him with them, who departed from them from Pamphylia, and went not with them to the work." Acts 15:37,38. Paul had, he was sent elsewhere by the Lord, it comes down to plain and simple. Sometimes you have, which we know among us we have personalities which sometimes it's best if we are sent different directions to do the work of the Lord. That's where we have the faith in the Lord that He sends us in those directions. It is a direction by Him.

"And Paul chose Silas, and departed, being recommended by the brethren unto the grace of God. And he went through Syria and Cilicia, confirming the churches." Acts 15:40,41. Again that word confirming, in our walk of life. Confirming the churches as we read in the letter. How they rejoiced and then as Paul and Silas exhorted the brethren with many words and confirming them. Aren't we doing that daily in our life? We need to be continually looking for the confirmation of the Word in our walk of life. We hope that through our walk of life, we are confirming the Word by our actions and our activities. I think that is back to that, where we need to prick our hearts and look for those, as in the prayer we talked about being those examples to those around us. These apostles, the tremendous examples that they were. Who were they being examples of in their walk of life? Is that not Jesus Christ? Does that not come down to the basic foundation of our walk of life? The example Jesus Christ lived for each one of us and we daily strive to confirm in our walk of life, that example for the Lord.





## 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 August 8, 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>			
Kingston CCCD	Mar 8-15, 2008	Terry Miller - 309-696-7804 Roger Stoller - 309-747-3228 <a href="mailto:rstoller@dtnspeed.net">rstoller@dtnspeed.net</a>	40

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



## Mexico Work Teams 2007-2008

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>
Magdalena Construction	Jan 5-12, 2008	Darl Rassi 815-867-2195 <a href="mailto:mr.rassi@gmail.com">mr.rassi@gmail.com</a>
Magdalena Construction	Jan 12-19, 2008	Ken Edelman 217-745-2321 <a href="mailto:kenedelman@cawi.org">kenedelman@cawi.org</a>
Magdalena Construction	Jan 19-26, 2008	Steve Kaeb 217-379-4707 <a href="mailto:kaebsb@illicom.net">kaebsb@illicom.net</a>
Magdalena Construction	Feb 16-23, 2008	Bob Knepp 309-923-7335 <a href="mailto:rnep@verizon.net">rnep@verizon.net</a>
Agua Prieta Medical/Dental	Mar 1-8, 2008	Kevin Gerber 260-565-3313 <a href="mailto:kevgerber@yahoo.com">kevgerber@yahoo.com</a>
Magdalena Construction	Mar 8-15, 2008	David Prevo 309-310-8060 <a href="mailto:daprevo@ilstu.edu">daprevo@ilstu.edu</a>
Reynosa Construction	Mar 8-15, 2008	Tristan Herrmann/ICC-Bradley 309-446-3502 <a href="mailto:ib_yg@yahoo.com">ib_yg@yahoo.com</a>
Juarez Medical/Dental	Mar 12-19, 2008	Cheryl Herrmann 309-385-1082 <a href="mailto:cherrmann@verizon.net">cherrmann@verizon.net</a>
Agua Prieta Construction	Mar 15-22, 2008	Denis Fry 260-824-3055 <a href="mailto:fry.d@mchsi.com">fry.d@mchsi.com</a>
Magdalena Construction	Mar 15-22, 2008	Matt Wyss/U of I 309-397-5919 <a href="mailto:mattwyss@yahoo.com">mattwyss@yahoo.com</a>
Agua Prieta Construction	Mar 22-29, 2008	Sam Kaehr 260-565-3200 <a href="mailto:sckaehr@adamswells.com">sckaehr@adamswells.com</a>
Agua Prieta Construction	Mar 22-29, 2008	Curt Hodel/Roanoke Bible Class 309-923-8091 <a href="mailto:cjhodel@juno.com">cjhodel@juno.com</a>
Reynosa Construction	Mar 22-29, 2008	Jeff Leman 260-565-3815 <a href="mailto:jvleman@adamswells.com">jvleman@adamswells.com</a>
Magdalena Construction	Mar 31-Jun 7, 2008	Doug Herrmann/Princeville Bible Class 309-446-9677 <a href="mailto:douglas@elmnet.net">douglas@elmnet.net</a>
Magdalena Construction	Jun 14-21, 2008	Neal Kellenberger 913-782-8063 <a href="mailto:nealkim1921@yahoo.com">nealkim1921@yahoo.com</a>

### 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.





*This is the final segment of a letter from Bro. Joseph Bella to Bro. Samuel Froehlich, dated September 8, 1850. It was sent from Budapest, Hungary to Strasbourg, France. Bro. Peter Weber, Peoria, Illinois, translated this letter. Copies are on file at the Heritage Center, located in a basement office at Fairview Haven, Fairbury, Illinois.*

I have never been as well as now, and I am elated in the hope that the heavy temptations and persecutions will have passed. You, dearly beloved Brother Froehlich, are fully aware that I often was troubled over the condition of my spiritual heart, but now I am very joyful. So rejoice with me. Yes, I declare to you, rejoice over the sufferings which will come over you.

The beloved Kowatz brethren were hauled before the authorities again according to a recent letter. They asked widowed Sister Kowatz whether she would acknowledge the Pope on earth instead of God. She replied to them, "God remains in His majesty and the Pope shall remain in his domain." This infuriated the Captain, and he ordered his soldiers to cuff her and put her in prison at Kostel. But the Lord did not permit this to take place.

Our dear Brother Kowatz wrote us and requested to send hearty greetings to you and also the others sent their love, and they greet you with the holy love of peace and

blessing. Also, dear brothers Knippilt and Pscherer and friend Korb wrote to us; yesterday, we received their letters with much joy.

They are fairly well, only they are not at liberty to come to Pest because the authorities confiscated their travel record and passports. What else could happen to them yet? God knows! Our situation here in Hungary is desperate. I want to inform you that we have no news of Brother Philippi. We have not heard from him for a long time even though we have written him many times.

Now I want to send you yet a sweet savor and blessed message of joy the Lord has provided for us. Dear brothers and sisters were added to the congregation of the Lord at Pest through holy baptism on September, namely two brothers and two sisters. The brothers' names are Johan Hill and Joseph Kassowitsch, and the sisters are Anna Waslowitch and Eva Kaplan. This tells you that we are not only persecuted, but also have exceeding joy that our congregation in Pest has been strengthened by four souls in the body of the Lord Jesus Christ. There are more converts here and in my earthly home town — my biological sister and another woman are looking forward to being taken into the fold.

Dear Brother Froehlich and all beloved brethren, pray for our converts, for those who have already

been added to the fold, and for those looking forward to it.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen!

Your loving brother,  
Joseph Bella

*Editor's Note:*

Bro. Joseph Bella eventually immigrated to the United States sometime between 1855 and 1861. He escaped devious plans by the Hungarian authorities to kill him en route, but his life was spared. In America, he became an Elder at Sardis, Ohio. He traveled extensively among the early American churches with an untiring zeal, and was known as the "traveling preacher" and a "roving Elder."

This forefather of the Apostolic Christian Church lived to be 89 years old, and never married. His grave can be visited at the South Side cemetery, south of Fairbury, Illinois.

This is to extend our special thanks to Tibi Dirici of Nagyér, Hungary for submitting the above letter in September, 2006; and to Bro. Peter Weber for his helpful translation.

*Perry A. Klopfenstein*

Next Issue:

The repentance experience of Samuel Froehlich in his own words



# The Light Of Hope

## From Across The Ocean

### 希望の光

#### “Spiritual Stability”

*Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan*

In the household of God, it is good to have members who can be relied upon. If new converts are zealous and devoted for only a short period of time and then become complacent, it is a loss for the individual and a loss for the household of God. Spiritual activities tend to prevent this cooling off, from happening. To all you brothers and sisters in our church, who by example, encourage the rest of us to maintain our zeal and to go about doing good, as Jesus did, we thank you.

II Thessalonians 2:15 teaches us to be spiritually stable; “Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.”

On the other hand, it is thought to be good to be open minded. We can at least listen and prayerfully consider what others say. If what others say is in accordance with God’s Word, we may be able to improve. However, we should not be open minded in regard to

Christ’s virgin birth, His physical resurrection, forgiveness through His atoning blood, and creation by God. These truths we consider absolutes. A university sociology professor once told his class that he told a woman that he can prove to her that evolution is true. The woman reportedly answered, “Even if you prove it to me, I still won’t believe it.” His comment was, “What can you do with someone like that.” I agree with the woman and I believe that she showed stability in what she didn’t believe. In short, she was saying, “I believe your proof is faulty.”

An elder in the Mormon church once told me, “We let others convert the people to Christianity. Then we convert them to Mormonism. We are the fastest growing church.” We believe that to believe in and live by the Bible, especially the New Testament, is the best life that can be lived both for now and for eternity. We do not need to base our faith on any other books, such as the Book of

Mormons.

I Corinthians 15:58 speaks of stability; “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”

Some people from other churches repent, follow our steps of conversion, and become members of our church. Some brothers and sisters from our church leave and go to other churches. Other churches do not like to lose any of their members and we do not like to lose any of our members, but it happens. A famous British historian used the term, “The ebb and flow of history,” and I suppose that explains the situation. However, we appreciate it if our brothers and sisters who have thoughts of leaving, can stay with us and help us improve, in accordance with scriptures. It is good to have spiritual stability in our personal lives and in our loyalty to our church.

### 希望の光



# Israel - Caesarea Philippi

*When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi,  
he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I  
the Son of man am? And they said, Some say that thou art  
John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets.  
He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?  
And Simon Peter answered and said,  
Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.*

*Matthew 16:13-16*

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