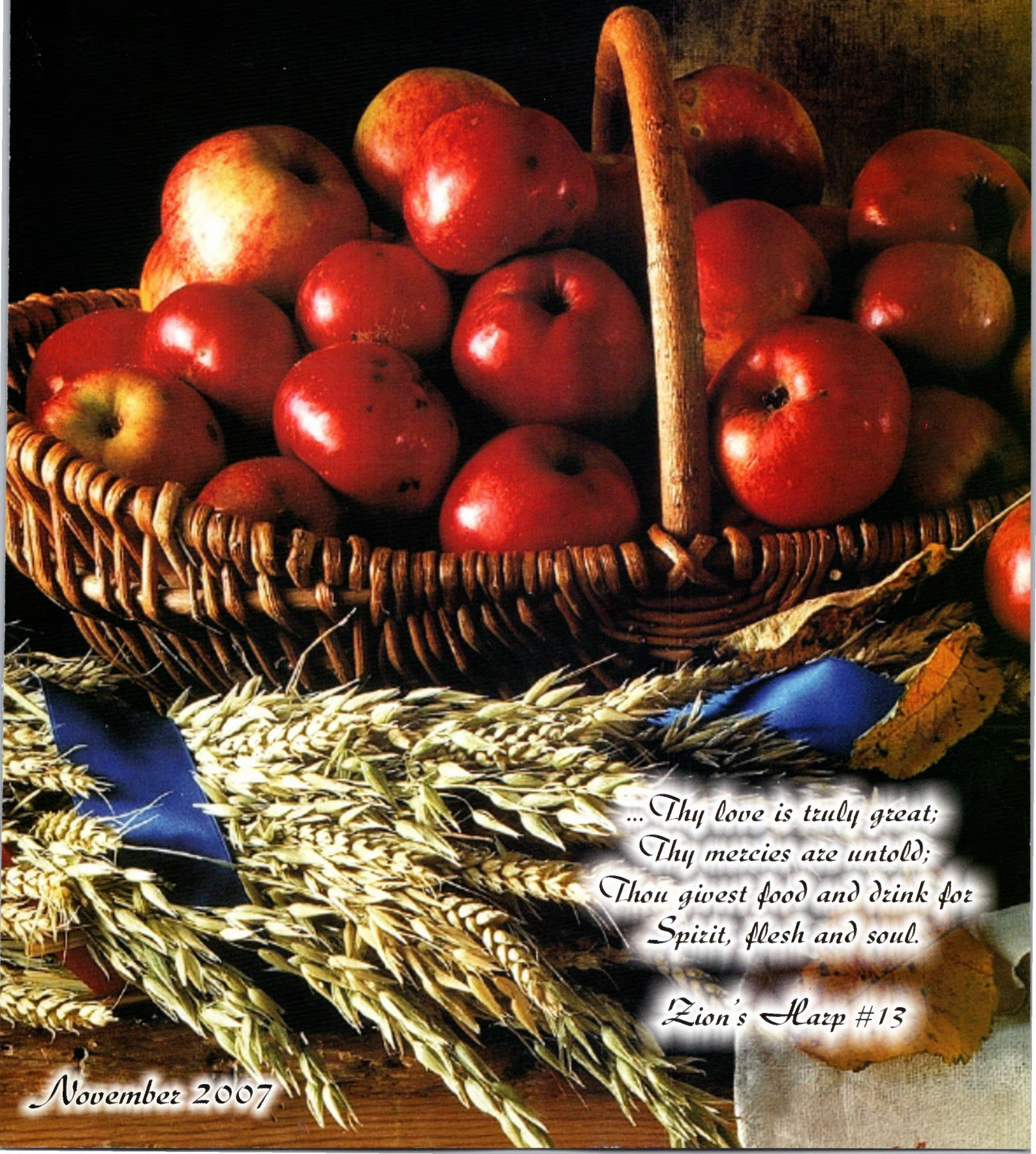


The Silver Lining



*... Thy love is truly great;
Thy mercies are untold;
Thou givest food and drink for
Spizit, flesh and soul.*

Zion's Harp #13

November 2007

Sermon by Bro. Nate Wieland, Goodfield, IL
II Samuel 3:1-30 and II Peter 2

This is a very sobering passage here (II Peter 2). There's many lessons. The word false here is used many times in the subtitles in this pulpit Bible. Exploitation by false teachers, punishment of false teachers, character of false teachers and the folly of the false teachers. It's just summarizing these sections here.

It comes to me, as we consider this, that there be two things here that would bring fear to our hearts. One would be the falseness that would be taught by these. That it just says false prophets, teachers, preachers, ministers. It is going to happen. It has happened. It is in the church, in the nominal church for sure, we can see evidence of it. We see things happen and then we hear things come out in the news with a big explosion almost. So we know that it is in the church on earth today. We pray that it is not pervasive in our faith.

But we know that the possibility is there. So we worry and we are concerned about falsehood of any kind that would creep into the church. But if we can see it, it isn't as fearful of a thing than if we would be deceived and unable to see it. Then we would be led astray unknowingly. We wouldn't oppose it. We would just be consumed by it because we were taken unawares.

That is not going to be the case. The Word warns clearly; here's the signs, here's the evidence. So we don't have to be fearful or looking over our shoulder that something will creep up on us and overtake us unawares. The Word is clear. If we are in the Word and listening to the Spirit, we will see it.

We heard in the prayer this morning, there's - the world, Satan would seek to invade the church. That's no secret. So we must be careful. But we can be thankful that our God in His mercy's given us His Word. Clearly lays out how things will happen. In another place, it says, don't worry that the end will come except there be a falling away first (II

Thessalonians 2:3). So there's signs, there's signals that God in His mercy has shown us. We need to be vigilant that we see them. If we're sleeping, it is entirely conceivable that we will be overtaken, at least in our own individual lives. Because that is what the Word says.

They that sleep, sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. Let us be sober, it says, and put on the armor that we have been given; the sword of the Spirit, breastplate of righteousness, helmet of salvation, feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace. (I Thessalonians 5:7,8, Ephesians 6:14-17) We all know those. If we are, as we heard at the conference, then we will bring forth fruit. We'll be bringing forth the fruit that's called for in the Word, that's evidence of a sanctified life and those that have been set on the way. There is going to be evidence of that. If that evidence is not shown forth in our lives, then it's also reasonable to believe that we might be subject to some of the deception and some of the falsehood that's going to come here. It just stands to reason and that's with human reasoning. That's limited. But the Word is clear.

Clearly one of the falsehoods that we see out around us in the work place, in our neighborhoods, wherever we come in contact with those that would have a semblance of Christianity as the idea that once a profession is made, then that soul is saved for all eternity. We know that is not true. It hasn't been taught to us. The evidence is clear in the Word that that is not the truth. That is one of the falsehoods that's warned about here.

"For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome..." II Peter 2:20. Overcome by the world. Not overcomers, as is called for in Revelation in the first couple chapters

there. But overcome. If they are overcome by the world, the end is worse than the beginning (II Peter 2:20) They are in a worse state than they were before they even came to the knowledge of the truth.

Possibly, I don't understand that statement very well, but possibly the reason that their state is worse is maybe their mind will be greater deceived and unable to come out of that. Maybe that second time the grace is-

Sermon continued on page 44

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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

November 2007

Parents, Children and Technology II

In part I of this topic, some background and a brief historical perspective on the development and growth of technology and its impact on our lives were presented. Some specific examples were briefly discussed. Part II will point out some concerns and try to focus, on additional specific devices that our children have access to that parents need to at least be aware of.

Perhaps most of the issues of concern about technology focus on morality, accountability and spiritual safety. There is no agency that is in charge of the internet nor is anyone in charge of the information that is dispensed on the internet. Much of the information on the internet is presented as fact without any accurate way to verify its validity. The individual who presents the information may or may not be well informed about the topic. Opinion can easily be presented as fact. With books, magazines, etc. there is at least a publisher who has a degree of accountability or at least may be able to provide some information on the source of the article. On the internet there is very little accountability.

This complete lack of regulation means that accountability becomes the responsibility of the individual and the family. We must realize that even though we may think we can use the technology or the information without accountability to anyone, clearly we are all accountable for our behavior: "For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil" (Ecc. 12:14). Even though we may think we are not accountable for what we do when not being "watched" by another person. Jesus said "For there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed: neither hid, that shall not be known" (Lk. 12:2) and "...whatsoever ye have spoken in darkness shall be heard in the light; and that which ye have spoken in the ear in closets shall be proclaimed upon the housetops" (Lk. 12:3). Ultimately, we are accountable to God.

A major concern for parents should be that so many of these devices can be used by young people without parents having any idea that they are using them. Since young people can secretly contact others

by the use of many devices, parents must be aware that their children can come under the influence of a total stranger without parental knowledge. This has the potential to cause serious problems for our children. Some examples are:

- cell phones can be used from virtually anyplace. The old phones attached to the wall helped maintain accountability. Parents could know their children were on the phone, and usually knew who they were talking to.

- movies can be watched on DVD players in most computers. It is no longer necessary to go to the theater - or even to use a TV. If children have access to a computer in a private setting, they can watch unwholesome entertainment totally unsupervised.

- the old record or tape player, which required records, tapes, etc. has been replaced by MP3 players, iPods, etc, which enable an individual to download their own music library, with no filtering device or any other control of what is listened to. Often, only the user knows what is being heard and parents know nothing about what the children are listening to.

- Old-fashioned "social networking" such as letter writing, phone calls on the family phone (located in a visible place in the home), family gatherings and even newspapers and magazines are being replaced by personal information sites such as Myspace, Xanga, Facebook, Bebo, YouTube, PBase, etc. Many young people use these to share information that may be very personal or contains gossip, threats, lies, rumors, etc. Information or images can go from coast to coast almost instantly, with no accountability to the person concerning the validity or wholesomeness of the message.

The old-fashioned ways of making friends are being replaced with ways that may be a very shallow, impersonal, digital "conversation". Some cyber space sites allow the "author" to pick and choose who can enter the site. While this certainly has important security advantages, it also allows a cyber version of excluding or secluding those who are unpopular at school, making some children even more lonely.

This article is not an attempt to be alarmist. Rather it is an attempt at awareness. An

extension of social networking is a site called Second Life - a name that certainly has spiritual implications. This allows the user to create a likeness of himself (or any variation desired) to become the main character in a "self created" world. Essentially they can live out every fantasy they can imagine in a digital world. The self created digital "characters" can interact with other digital characters in cyber space. To do this requires a great deal of time and, therefore, becomes a great time waster as well as a concern for emotional stability.

These new "social networking" versions are growing in popularity, partly because of loneliness and seclusion in a very cold and impersonal world. We can hardly imagine the anxiety of an adolescent who in the depths of despair with the feelings that there is no one else to turn to but a fake world of digital images and faceless voices in a very unstable, desperate world. Even more heartrending is, for some, this is their idea of a second life - which in reality is no life at all.

- Many games are readily available that can promote violence and other inappropriate activity or language. Many of these are done in solitude and are addictive in nature resulting in a tremendous waste of time. The addiction to immorality can destroy lives of those who become addicted and cause great distress in their families.

- It is no longer necessary to go to a store or to use a mail order catalogue to purchase many items. With the internet, a credit card and a few minutes, purchases can be made from home and shipped to your door. This is a wonderful convenience for those who are unable to get out. However, for those who have financial problems, it can cause an increase in unnecessary spending and increases the potential for financial trouble.

With all of the possibilities available, we could easily feel overwhelmed with the task ahead of us. It is not necessary to be fearful. Very few of us can fully explain how a telephone works, yet we have been using the telephone for generations and we appreciate most of what it does for us.

This article will continue in next month's "Light From the Word".

An editorial committee of elder brothers is preparing articles for this section of the Silver Lining to address some of the special needs of our times.

Suggestions for subjects are welcome and can be sent to:

Silver Lining Editorials, 1377 County Rd 1600 N, Roanoke, IL 61561 or by e-mail to cleman@davesworld.net



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

Fields White Unto Harvest

The vision for the church in Ixtlan, Mexico is to bring the Gospel message to the lost and unreached multitudes to free them from the bondage of sin and false religion. The desire is to nurture the new believers, and then to send out laborers into the harvest. The greatest blessings are the converted lives and reunited families with renewed spiritual focus.

Employment is needed

We make an appeal for our northern brethren to consider establishing a business or factory here in Ixtlan to offer employment to the men of the community. The apostle Paul understood the importance of work in the life of a believer, but the issue takes on a deeper meaning when it means the father has to leave his family to find work elsewhere. Providing work opportunities to men would open new doors for us to impact the lives of many families here in Ixtlan and the nearby communities. Christian principles and stewardship practices would be included in their daily work schedule "...and that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you; that ye may walk honestly toward them that are without and that ye may have lack of nothing." (1 Thess. 4:11-12)

Another way to help would be to provide a trust opportunity (loan) for a local brother to be able to start his own business with the hope of providing work for other men. The U.S. brother could also provide expertise that he learned in his own business or operation. By helping a brother to establish his own busi-

ness, hopefully, he would then be in a position to give employment to other men. Those who feel led to become involved in this outreach can contact Bro. Marshall Heinold by phone (011-52-328-551-6276) or email at marsh070138@prodigy.net.mx.

Train up a child

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge." (Prov 1:7)
Another way of having an influence in the lives of families is to provide a superior education for their children.



Construction of a primary school is in progress with the goal of opening for the next school year. In order for the school to be accredited with the state, we will need to use an approved curriculum, but by including biblical teachings on behavior, morals and virtues, we hope to have an impact on the children that will also affect the entire family. Our prayer is that the Lord will bring us qualified teachers and an administrator who will uphold the sound doctrine of Christ.

The Good News

Barra Vieja is a small fishing village just outside Acapulco that now knows the Truth of Jesus Christ. How did they hear? In Mexico, the Word is often communicated through family members living in different localities. "He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Mes-

sias, which is, being interpreted, the Christ. (John 1:41) When our elder Bro. Tom Hoffman was here a few months ago, he asked one of the converts from Barra Vieja, Bartolo, "How did you come to know the Lord?" His reply was, "When Pauli came back, she told us about Him. Before she came, we didn't know anything." (Sis. Pauli Schambach is his sister-in-law.)

Our need of prayers

"Brethren, pray for us." (1 Thess 5:25)
We acknowledge our need for your prayers, that the Holy Spirit would give us utterance, that we would open our mouths boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel as Paul asked of the Ephesians. The fear of an Almighty God motivates us to share with our neighbor what God really wrote with His own finger and gave to Moses on mount Sinai. (Ex. 20 & 31:18)

One of our converts, Kike (Bartolo's wife), was appalled to find out that the Ten Commandments as written in the Bible are different than what they had been told to memorize as children. She felt deceived and became convinced of her need to seek the truth in the Bible and not in the writings of man. Knowing how serious it is to add or take away "from the words of the book" (Rev. 22:18-19), Kike responded to the Spirit's call and is now waiting with joyful anticipation to be baptized into the fold.

The Mission Committee as well as the Elder Body are united in support of the work being done in Ixtlan, Mexico, which follows the scriptural pattern of approved brethren being sent to live and teach the true faith. Your prayers and support are necessary for this work to continue.



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

Child Sponsorship

We would like to share the ways the Lord is blessing and growing the World Relief Child Sponsorship Program. The program began as a pilot in 1997. In July 1998 the pilot phase was completed and the program availability was announced to the churches.

World Relief wanted to provide an opportunity to help some of the poorest children receive a Christ centered education. The number of children that have benefited has steadily grown throughout the years. The Child Sponsorship Program reaches children in Guatemala, Haiti, Jamaica, and Mexico.

In Guatemala children are sponsored in two schools. The urban school is located in Guatemala City and the children come from homes where there is little parental supervision or involvement. Without sponsorship these children would not have the opportunity to go to school, much less hear the Word. The other school is in a rural area and the families are close and loving.

In Jamaica the three Caribbean Christian Center for the Deaf (CCCD) schools have students that are sponsored by our people. Inflation is rapidly increasing in Jamaica and this has necessitated increasing the number of sponsors per student. Donations from sponsors make it possible for these students to communicate as well as learn about the love of God.

We are happy to report that we have begun a sponsorship program with New Beginnings, also in Jamaica. This organization houses and cares for boys from troubled families and boys who are beginning to get into trouble themselves.

They attend school on the campus where they receive a Christ centered education. Without this haven these boys would most likely never hear the plan of salvation.

The two organizations we work with in Haiti are MEBSH and Living Word Ministries. The Child Sponsorship program in Haiti not only offers sponsorship for individual students but offers school sponsorships as well. At this time there are 86 schools being sponsored.

In Mexico we are currently working with four organizations. We have just begun to offer sponsorship from Isaiah 55, a school for the deaf located in Reynosa, Mexico, close to McAllen, TX. This organization's need is great as they begin serving these deaf children. Class sponsorship instead of individual child sponsorships is offered here.

Many are familiar with AMMAR, located in Juarez, Mexico across the boarder from El Paso, TX. After working with AMMAR since 2001 and dealing with their transient student population, we are offering class sponsorships instead of individual student sponsorships. These are students with predominantly loving, supportive families (although many are being raised by grandparents) and can greatly benefit from a Christian education.

Ixtlan, Mexico sponsorship supports a Christian outreach to students. If the Lord wills their school will open for children in the fall of 2008. We are looking forward to having more sponsorship opportunities available through Bro. Marshall and Sis. Jan Heinold at that time.

The life changing opportunities for the children are endless. Please

prayerfully consider making a difference in these children's lives by praying for them and sponsoring them (sponsorship runs from \$21 to \$35 per month).

You will find further information on the Child Sponsorship portion of the World Relief web site at <http://www.acworldrelief.org/sponsorships>. For your convenience you may also fill out an online application on the web site to sponsor a child.

To sponsor a child

You may apply for a student at this time by filling out the application form. A student will be assigned to you and you will be sent further information.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ St _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Please check preference:

Haiti Guatemala

Mexico Jamaica

Wherever needed

If possible I would prefer:

Boy - Age _____

Girl - Age _____

No Preference

Child Sponsorship Office

ACWR Child Sponsorship

PO Box 36

Morton, IL 61550

Phone: 309-266-6080

E-mail: childsponsorship@acwr.org

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

"Giving our best to help others achieve their best" is part of our vision statement. We are especially appreciative of church volunteers who also give their best to help us! Many volunteers from several area churches diligently worked on a new roof for Oakwood Estate on an October Saturday. Other church volunteers are busy this month painting rooms at Linden Estate. One beautiful September evening many from the Eureka church helped at the Blunier Barn to serve us a delicious meal and join together for enthusiastic singing! God gave us a perfect day one Saturday noon in August for the Forrest church cookout which was held in our Timber Ridge picnic area for all group home residents. Everyone enjoyed the hamburgers, sweet corn and even pie and homemade ice cream!

Many other activities are continually being planned and carried out by our committed staff members who are kept busy thinking creatively about what the residents will enjoy. Some Timber Ridge residents participated in Special Olympics bowling and many CILA and Oakwood residents participated in Walking Clubs all summer and really got busy getting exercise. At Oakwood alone the 16 residents walked a total of 176 miles!

Fall activities are now in full sway with Pumpkin Festival festivities, football games, trips to Tanner's Orchard, hayrack rides, and hymn sings. Linden Estate invited all group home staff and staff families to a fall picnic in October. It was wonderful to see everyone enjoy being together.

One resident began the evening with a prayer of thanksgiving "Dear Lord, we thank Thee for the bountiful harvest we are about to receive!"

GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

John Stoller

I was a stranger and...

Bobby is 8 years old. Bobby can't walk or talk. Bobby can't even feed himself. Bobby is a stranger. A Gateway Woods Christian Foster Family took Bobby in. "I was a stranger and you took me in."

I was hungry and...I was thirsty and...

Bobby weighed only 38 pounds. He couldn't walk. He couldn't crawl. He couldn't even feed himself. Bobby was hungry. He had to be carried everywhere. He now weighs over 55 pounds. He is crawling, starting to walk and starting to feed himself. "I was hungry and you gave me something to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink."

I was naked and...

Bobby had only a few clothes. He was excited to be fitted with new clothes that actually fit! "I needed clothes and you clothed me."

I called him Bobby but according to The Word, he is Jesus!

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

Matthew 25:40

Do you have room for a stranger?

NEWS:

- We hope to see heavy equipment arrive any week now to break ground for the new Pine House group home. Plans are to pour footings this fall and then resume work in the early spring. Collections for this expansion to our residential program will begin soon in many churches. Of course, direct donations are always welcome and greatly appreciated.

- God is making a difference in the

lives of the 23 residents and 1 newborn baby on campus. One of the residents in the Oak House recently gave birth to a healthy baby girl. Both the mother and child are doing very well. Please remember to keep them in your prayers. The Hickory House has 7 residents, the Maple House has 6 residents, and the Cypress House continues to be full with 7 residents. We are thankful for each of our Houseparents and their willingness to work with these troubled children.

- Gateway Woods is currently reaching out to 25 foster children in 14 homes. We continue to see the hand of God as He goes ahead of us, providing for our needs and the needs of the children. Please call Bro. John Stoller at 260-627-2159 if you have a desire to become a Foster Parent and make a difference in the life of a child.

- We are thankful to announce the engagement of Sis. Marti Hinrichsen (Leo) to Bro. Marti Rumbold (Roanoke). Sis. Marti is currently a Foster Care Caseworker at Gateway Woods. We wish them God's blessings as they prepare for a future together in the Lord.

- Bro. Kevin Fiechter continues to offer Home-Based services. Bro. Kevin has completed his second therapy group for fathers in partnership with the Northeast Center. The group is called Dynamic Dads. Bro. Kevin has been encouraged by the turnout and some of the results. We look forward to continuing to serve God in this area.

- 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!

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

Our annual preschool board meeting was this past month. We want to say a special thank you to each of our board members for all that they do in making decisions for the preschool. Your care and concern on behalf of the children here is very encouraging. God bless each of you!

Our theme for October was transportation. We learned that there are so many ways people and things can get from here to there. Boats float, trains like tracks, and some "hairplanes" are huge and some are small! We also did fun things like make racecars out of celery and cucumbers, see and climb onto a real boat, and had races with our paper airplanes.

Our Trike-a-Thon was successful. This is a fundraiser that we do each year. The children and their parents get pledges for how many laps they can make on their bike around the track. It is a neat and fun way to collect money for toys and things that aren't included in our yearly budget. The children did a great job and had lots of fun, too!

**ALABAMA, ATHENS
Louise Hall**

Our annual preschool board meeting was held here this past month. We were thankful for the visitors who stayed Sunday with us: Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH) and ministering Bros. Sam Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Tim Gerber (Mansfield, OH).

Sis. Hazel Vibbert has had surgery on her shoulder. She is home now and recovering well. Bro. Don Ross also has had some health concerns and has been in the hospital. Our prayers are with both of them that God will be with them in this difficult time and place His healing hand upon them.

Sis. Ola Mae Barnes is a great-grandmother two more times to twins! Ryan Blake and Megan Bailey were born to her granddaughter, Gina, and her husband, Kevin James.

**ARIZONA, PHOENIX
Ron and Ev Hoerr**

"Then said some of his disciples among themselves, What is this that he saith unto us, A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me: and, Because I go to the Father?"

John 16:17

Every day we are rejoicing and thanking God for our new Fellowship Hall being built. There have been more than a few prayers said for the crew of workers. It is no wonder we are so delighted by their progress every day.

Our visiting minister this month was Bro. Tom Leman (Denver).

Bro. Dick Beery was hospitalized this month. Thanks for your prayers for those who are ill.

Best wishes to Bro. Nathan and Sis. Natalie (Knochel) Virkler in the birth of their daughter, Portia Renee, on September 21.

**ARIZONA, PRESCOTT
Jane Hodges**

Oops...now correcting an error in last month's report. Caleb Daniel was welcomed in August by sisters, Adelade, Ayra, Ahna, and parents, Bro. Dan and Sis. Bethany (Furrer)

Dubach.

We enjoyed a blessed weekend of fellowship October 6-7, when twenty-two of the Bluffton young group and three from Tucson visited our church. Bro. Tom Leman (Sis. Marlene, Denver, CO) ministered to us Sunday morning, then Communion services were held in the afternoon, served to us by Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich (Sis. Nancy) and our deacon for the Arizona churches, Bro. Herb Knochel, Jr. The visiting young group prepared and served us dinner, followed by a singing and more fellowship. It was a very spiritually uplifting weekend. We wish to thank everyone who participated. May the Lord richly bless you for your service, your love and the prayers offered for us.

**ARIZONA, TUCSON
Lisa Knapp**

October 14 was a beautiful day for our annual Sunday School Picnic. We all enjoyed temperatures in the 80's and wonderful sunshine at a local park. Our bake sale/auction was a huge success thanks to many generous bidders and bakers! The children enjoyed a piZata and other games and the adults and the kid in all of us enjoyed the many tempting treats! Many thanks to Bro. Doug and Sis. Young Bauer for all their efforts in organizing the picnic.

Our weather is perfect right now, warm sunshine-filled days and beautifully cool, crisp mornings. We've even pulled out the jackets a time or two, but they don't stay on for long. It's kind of like "carry-on" luggage — you have it nearby but you don't really use it!

As Thanksgiving approaches, we are reminded of how God has blessed our little church so abundantly. Our newly remodeled church is such a blessing as are the wonderful broth-

ers and sisters God has directed to move here, whether temporary or not, and our winter visitors who we look forward to seeing each year. Events like our recent picnic demonstrate that even though our numbers are small, we can accomplish great things when we work as a unit for God's purposes. Happy holidays to all!

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

Tina Jackson

On Sunday, September 16, we sadly said farewell to Armando Cervantes who has worshipped with us here in Altadena for several years. After much prayer and thought, Armando made a decision to move back to Mexico to help care for his mother after the sudden death of his father last spring. Armando was a faithful participant in our worship services and church functions, and loves the Lord dearly. He will be sorely missed, but we trust God to meet him and his needs, across the miles, in his new home.

On September 23, we enjoyed a church picnic at Scholl Canyon in neighboring Glendale. Scholl Canyon is a beautiful park surrounded by rich foliage and set in a stunning canyon. The interesting aspect about this park is that it sits adjacent to a landfill. As we enjoyed the freedom to fellowship and worship God freely and openly together, the park's backdrop was a vivid reminder of how God can transform people's lives and hearts for His glory and praise. Isaiah 61:3 "To appoint to them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called the trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he might be glorified."

Saturday, October 13, was set

aside for our second annual Vision Day. We met as a church family to consider how we, as a body of Christ living in Southern California, can support the Apostolic Christian Church Mission Statement. Matthew 9:37-38 "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth laborers into his harvest." We discussed ways that we can participate in the mission of spreading the Gospel of Christ and practically meet the needs of others around us, in His name.

We held our business meeting, on Sunday, October 14, and elected Bro. Jim Klotzle to serve as trustee, along with Bro. Doug Aberle, and Don Jackson. Sis. Sue Klotzle was elected to serve with Sis. Marilyn Graf as Kitchen Coordinators. We extend a special thank you to Sis. Sandy Aberle for her faithful, energetic and loving service the past two years.

Bro. Jim Koehl (Sis. Hildegard Stefan, San Diego, CA) aided in the ministering of God's Word this month. We always welcome and are thankful for any visitors to our church in Altadena.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Yasmin Koehl

As we look back upon the last several weeks, we lift our hearts once again in praise as we experienced the Lord's goodness, nearness, and grace upon our congregation. Even during the unexpected moments that tested our faith, what an assurance we felt, knowing that the Lord was standing at our sides and that prayers from our precious brotherhood were lifted up in our behalf.

Many prayers have been said for Sis. Mary Thiem and Sis. Linde Zimmer as they both had surgery this month. We're thankful to see them both recovering and assembling with

us once again. Sis. Mary Thiem always has a firm, loving handshake and never misses an opportunity to gather with us when she's able. Sis. Linde is continually showering her love to the children in our church along with a bit of good advice. Each member has a special talent God has given uniquely to him or her and we are thankful to be able to benefit from each one. We certainly miss whoever is not able to gather with us!

We once again were made aware of how blessed we are to live in the United States as our Elder Bro. Peter Petrovic shared with us a slide presentation from his and Sis. Marian's recent trip to Eastern Europe. While different photos of the brethren and their conditions came across the screen, the words from the scriptures "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith," was impressed upon our hearts. God has given us so much more than what many others have across the globe. What a great responsibility to especially share what the Lord has given us via the Apostolic Christian World Relief and Mission Committees to assist believers and their families who have such great physical needs.

What a declaration of love we felt as numerous prayers were uttered for our flock here in San Diego during the "Fire Storm of 2007". We all appreciated the calls of concern we received. As we witnessed the flames quickly causing destruction and moving from one area to the next, we were indescribably thankful that not one family or friend of our congregation lost any property, or more importantly, were severely injured. Bro. Doug and Sis. Lillian Wagenbach along with their children fought flames surrounding their home and received

support from a chopper who would drop water just in time. Bro. Victor and Sis. Peggy Jevremov along with Bro. Doug and Sis. Janelle Brewer had to evacuate and came home to find their home miraculously still standing even when other homes on their street were burned to the ground. Bro. Denes and Sis. Joy Fulop were also under mandatory evacuation, but were thankful that the flames didn't come any closer than a half mile away. Bro. Peter and Sis. Marian Petrovic and Bro. Terry and Sis. Yasmin Koehl's whole town of Ramona was evacuated as the flames swept through their area but their subdivision was left untouched. Bro. Jim and Sis. Hildy Koehl are still under evacuation as this is being written, but the winds are gone and rain is expected soon. Bro. Rory Strahm and Sis. Mary Thiem were also evacuated but are safely back in their homes.

Our church property had lots of ash, soot and fallen branches from the wind, but otherwise is in good condition.

Most of you are probably wondering what San Diego looks like now. We can assure you that despite the many pictures you must have seen, the typical tourist landing in downtown San Diego would hardly notice the destruction. Most of the areas affected by the fires are in places where it's not that visible from the main roads. Our beautiful downtown was not touched. No matter what may befall any of us at any time, God's goodness and mercies will always prevail!

KITCHENER, ONTARIO CANADA

Kim Leman

We are thankful to Bros. Tony Manz (Sis. Denise, Junction, OH) and Bill Waibel (Sis. Carol, Bay City, MI) for traveling the miles to preach God's Word to us. Also, we appreciate

Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Sis. Roberta, Smithville, OH) assisting Elder Bro. Mark Bahr in delivering to us the Memorandum. May the Lord richly reward all these brothers for their efforts on our behalf.

"Therefore the redeemed of the LORD shall return, and come with singing unto Zion; and everlasting joy shall be upon their head: they shall obtain gladness and joy; and sorrow and mourning shall flee away."

Isaiah 51:11

Our thoughts and prayers have been with our Sis. Susan Kupa and her husband, Paul, in the loss of her father, Kenneth Coe. May God be their comfort in this time of sorrow.

COLORADO, DENVER Ann Gonglach

"Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men! And let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and declare his works with rejoicing."

Psalms 107:21-22

At the end of September, many of us had the opportunity to go to Red Rocks Amphitheater (a natural, outdoor amphitheater in the foothills) to sing with many from the Nazarene church in Colorado Springs. It was a joyful experience to sing praises to God as the sun set over the Rocky Mountains and our voices blended and carried up to the heavens.

We appreciate Bro. Paul Gasser (Sis. Joyce, Akron, OH) for visiting and ministering to us.

Thanks be to God for His healing in Bro. Rod Schmidt's life as he is recovering from surgery.

Jodi Hartter (Bern, KS) has moved to the area and we look forward to get-

ting to know her.

We are saddened that Bro. Doug, Sis. Kary and Alexa Mangers are moving to North Carolina because of his work. We wish them God's presence and direction in their lives.

Bro. Norm and Sis. Eleanor Geyer have returned to Illinois for the winter. We hope to see them again in the spring.

Bro. Benjamin Martin has been voted church treasurer. We are thankful for his willingness to serve and pray that the Holy Spirit will lead him.

We are thankful that the Lord still calls souls to himself. Our prayers are with Richard Reynolds (Debbie), Kaylynn Hohulin (Bro. Doug and Sis. Sharolyn) and Peter Gonglach (Bro. Bob and Sis. Ann) as they have begun to seek the Lord in repentance.

CONNECTICUT ROCKVILLE Laura Virkler Amber Rocke

I need Thee ev'ry hour,
Most gracious Lord;
No tender voice like Thine,
Can peace afford...

Hymns of Zion #93

Every day we are reminded of how much we need our Lord, how much we depend upon the guidance He gives us, and how we thrive upon His peace. It is such a comfort to know that God is right by our sides as we go through the difficulties, joys, and adjustments that often come our way.

It was recently made known to us that Justin Frenette (Darryl and Rebecca), the grandson of August and Sis. Linda Leite, has been diagnosed with Crohn's disease. May we pray for this young child that the Lord will intervene in his life and provide him a measure of relief from the tremendous pain he feels at this time.

May Justin and his family feel our love and prayers as he goes through this difficult experience.

May we also pray for our friend, David Luginbuhl (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Karen), as he recovers from a recent accident.

We rejoice with two couples whose engagements have been announced this past month. Bro. Mark Lanz (Bro. Barry and Karen) is engaged to Sis. Ashley Yurgel (Jack and Karen). Bro. Bruce Gottier (Guy and Sis. Beth) is engaged to Sis. Laura Hills (Bro. Scott and Sis. Luanne). We pray that the Lord's blessings will rest upon these dear couples, and guide them as they begin to establish their relationships. May they feel our love and support.

It was such a blessing to have many visitors make the effort to spend time with our congregation. Among these visitors were several ministering brothers including, Bro. Justin Koch (Sis. Marcia, Washington, IL), Bro. Roger Sauder (Sis. Judy, Fort Lauderdale, FL), and Bro. Tim Gerber (Sis. Wendy, Mansfield, OH). We cannot express in words how much we appreciated their willingness to speak God's Word to us.

It does freshen our spirits as we view the beautiful leaves around us. May we never forget that this same Almighty God that created each leaf is with us today, helping us through each moment.

"And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee: for thou, Lord, hast not forsaken them that seek thee."

Psalm 9:10

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA WASHINGTON Henrietta Meyer

This area went for over a month without measureable rainfall. Last night we had less than a half inch, but

today when the sun was shining the leaves looked a lot brighter than they have looked all fall.

This past month I was blessed to be able to travel. Several folks mentioned they looked forward to reading this article to see who is taking care of our physical church this month. Our caretakers this month are retired Elder Bro. Bob and Sis. Gloria Walder from the Congerville congregation. Please see the article elsewhere for more information on the caretaker program.

Our ministers this month were Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Sis. Michelle, Philadelphia, PA), Bro. Fred Domka (Sis. Connie, Mansfield, OH), Bro. Greg Lehman (Wolcott, IN) and Bro. Earl Berry (Sis. Suzanne, Rittman, OH).

Other visitors were from Congerville, Eureka and Forrest, IL; Rockville, CT; and Rittman, OH.

We are glad to report that Roberta Belsley was back in church last week.

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 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.

FLORIDA FORT LAUDERDALE Renee Mangold

We were grateful to have visiting ministers, Bro. Ron Jones (Portland, OR) and Elder Bro. Tim Funk (Sis. Debbie, Peoria, IL) minister God's Word to us this past month. We pray that they are blessed for their efforts.

A vote was held for the offices within the church. Accepting these offices with the support of the congregation are Treasurer and Usher: Bro. Bob Huber; Secretary: Sis. Doris Huber; Trustees: Bro. Rod Gress and Bro. Mike Hohulin; Younger children Sunday School: Sis. Sally Gress; and Sis. Faye Hohulin; Older children Sunday School: Bro. Mike Hohulin; Sound system controller: Bro. Mike Hohulin; Silver Lining representative: Sis. Renee Mangold.

We had our monthly potluck and were blessed again with good food and fellowship. All visitors to Ft. Lauderdale are always welcome.

Bernie and Lois Gebler are moving to California, after living here twenty-one years. We pray that God will bless them and keep them through this change in their lives.

FLORIDA NORTH FORT MYERS Naomi Vogel

It seems that our prayers have been answered. It is nearing the end of hurricane season and, so far, no hurricanes. However, our rainy season ended sooner than normal and we really could use some nice gentle showers. Texas and Iowa could send us some! Of course, we all know who is in control of ALL things.

Our pews are beginning to fill up which is a sure sign that winter is just around the corner. It is so amazing that our brothers and sisters in faith can come together from many places and walks of life and form a new church family full of love for each

other and for our beloved Lord and Savior. These are joys that the world cannot comprehend. We are truly blessed!

Continue to pray for our dear Sis. Sara Hunyady as she struggles with health problems. We miss having her worship with us!

Our Wednesday evening services will resume in November. It is always helpful to get that mid-week boost. Sometimes we are able to connect to services of our northern churches by phone during the months that we do not have mid-week services at our N. Ft. Myers church.

FLORIDA, SARASOTA
DiAnne Brown
Robin Wiegand

“When thou cuttest down thine harvest in thy field, and hast forgotten a sheaf in the field, thou shalt not go again to fetch it: it shall be for the stranger, for the fatherless, and for the widow: that the Lord thy God may bless thee in all the work of thine hand.”

Deuteronomy 23:15

Autumn has always been my favorite time of year. Growing up in Illinois, I remember the cool snap in the air, being able to see farther, and the earth took on a dress of gold, green, scarlet and russet as the harvest approached. After a busy summer, we seemed to find time to gather with friends and family in fall.

“Verily, verily, I say unto you that except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it dies, it bringeth forth much fruit.”

John 12:24

Fall is the season of the ‘beautiful death’. Those brilliant colors belie the ending of life that also signals the

coming of new life, for without the death, the falling of the branch and the release of the seeds, there would be no future sprig or sprout.

There is a beautiful death that takes place when we enter the waters of baptism and are made a new creation in Christ. It is wonderful to announce that Todd Hebert (Sis. Kelly) has found peace with his Creator and testimony and baptism are being planned for November 3-4.

On September 22, Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Sis. Judy) and Bro. Jeff Streitmatter (Sis. Lynne) led us in the Communion service, a good time for “resetting our spiritual clocks”.

A Crown Financial small study group has begun recently and we have already learned so much about what God has to say about money and possessions. We have also grown much closer to some of our brethren and would encourage any with a chance to partake in this program to do so.

October 12-14 was the annual “Lakewood Retreat” for our church. It was an amazing time of reflection and meditation as Bro. Ted Witzig, Jr. (Sis. Donna, Morton, IL) spoke to us about handling anxiety and stress from a biblical perspective. They were a great blessing to our gathering and we thank them. It was cool, sunny and a lovely weekend in God’s great out-of-doors and we returned refreshed and renewed in our walk with Christ. Several from the Atlanta church joined us and increased our joy greatly.

This month our visiting minister was Bro. Ted Witzig, Jr. (Morton, IL), and hospital patients included Sis. Lorene Maibach (Bro. Ben) and Bro. Miklos Bozzay (Sis. Aranka). Many prayers for healing are wished to both of these dear ones.

GEORGIA, ATLANTA
Melinda Gramm

So many times, I have tried to resolve problems my own way, even though I know God has promised to handle those problems in His way and His time. We are so impatient and if we could only learn to wait upon the Lord, think of all the stress, anxiety and sleepless nights we would avoid.

Message from God

Listen, I am God!

Today I will be handling all of your problems.

Please remember that I do not need your help.

If the devil happens to deliver a situation to you that you cannot handle, do not attempt to resolve it. Kindly put it in the SFJTD (something for Jesus to do) box.

It will be addressed in MY TIME – not yours.

Once the matter is placed into the box, do not hold on to it or remove it.

Holding on or removal will delay the resolution of your problem.

If it is a situation that you think you are capable of handling, please consult me in prayer to be sure that it is the proper course of action.

Because I do not sleep nor do I slumber, there is no need for you to lose any sleep.

Rest my child.

If you need to contact me, I am only a prayer away.

—Author Unknown

We want to thank our visiting ministers for their service this month: Bro. Dennis Kaufmann (Sis. Bonnie, Bloomington, IL), Bro. Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi, Alto, MI), and Bro. Ben Manz (Sis. Carolyn, Junction, OH).

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE

**Doreen Moser
Sheila McCoy**

Thank ye the Lord:

For all those who traveled to Belvidere to spend the weekend for invite a friend. Thanks to our Heavenly Father for brothers and sisters in the faith.

Give thanks to the Lord:

For the brothers that offered prayers, for the fellowship, for the extra voices that blended in singing praises, for serving one another, thus we were all blessed.

Thank ye the Lord:

For all who took time to spend an afternoon to attend our annual Fall Harvest gathering, and thanks to our Heavenly Father for a perfect fall day.

Give thanks to the Lord:

For an added day of fellowship, offering of prayers, singing praises, patiently leading the children in activities.

Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is a day set apart for our nation to give thanks for all the blessings the Lord has bestowed on us. As we THANK the Lord for all the gifts He has bestowed on us, may we GIVE of our time, our talents, our material wealth, our love to those around us and to those in need.

Bless ye the Lord, oh bless ye the Lord!

My soul, remember His goodness and

His gifts bestowed on thee...

Psalms of Praise -

Hymns of Zion #245

**ILLINOIS
BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL**

Jen Heiniger

Betsy Zimmerman

We have much to be thankful for as Thanksgiving approaches. New faces have been added to our congregation, the Word of God has gone forth, and even those that mourn can take comfort in the grace and peace of God.

Our congregation benefited from the work of the Holy Spirit through visiting ministers this month. They included Bros. Matt Steffen (Princeville), Darren Plattner (Champaign), and Jeff Thames (Washington). Thank you for your willingness to be used.

We welcomed two adopted babies into our congregation. Bro. Clint and Sis. Jami Kaeb welcomed their son, Hudson Edwin. He was born on October 11, 2006. He joins big sisters, Paige and Reagan. His grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Brenda Kaeb and Bro. Gary and Sis. Marla Ringger (Gridley). Bro. Steve and Sis. Danae Lehman welcomed their daughter, Eva Danae. Eva was born on March 28, 2007. Her big brothers are Isaac and Eli, and her grandparents are Bro. Nate and Sis. Yvonne Lehman (Denver) and Doug and Cathy Dallas. Bro. Dale and Sis. Carol Strassheim welcomed a new granddaughter, Selah Brooke, born to Bro. Eric and Sis. Jody Strassheim of Detroit. Selah's brothers are Tatton and Landon.

Our prayers are with Sis. Amy Masters (Bro. Jeremy) and family in the death of her mother, Judith Custer, on September 23. May you feel God's peace during this time of grief.

This Thanksgiving season, may all be blessed with the knowledge of the goodness and grace of God.

**ILLINOIS, BRADFORD
Philip and Donna Bradford**

Seeds of goodness we are sowing
In the hearts of man today.
Bless it, Lord, that it may prosper,
And bear fruit for harvest day.

Hymns of Zion #46, vs. 1

It has been a very fruitful harvest in this area this year, for which we are thankful. Most people cannot recall having such a bountiful year, as we have not had this great return in many years. Seeing the wonderful yield asks the question: Are we allowing the seed of the Sower (God) to grow and bring just as good yield in our life? Are we producing for the Lord each day? Or is the field of our heart full of weeds, thorns and decay? May we strive to cultivate our hearts for the Lord's service so that He may have a good yield when He comes to harvest.

Sis. Elizabeth Conzo has relocated to Kansas City with her employment. We will miss her presence and smile. We wish her God's blessings in her new home.

On October 21, Bro. Brandon Baer and Sis. Melissa Ehnle have announced their engagement. Parents are Ron and Sis. Deann Baer and Bro. Donn and Sis. Tracy Ehnle (all from Bradford). May they plan their lives together in the Lord's will and look to Him to guide them through this time of decisions and planning.

We are sorry that some special news was omitted unintentionally. Bro. Bill and Sis. Kristal Stahl became parents of twins on July 10. Wyatt Lee and Ashley Lynn were welcomed home by big brothers, Ryan, Kyle and Tyler. Grandparents are Bro. Lyle and Sis. Betty Stahl and Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Elaine Wagenbach (all of the Princeville congregation). Even though we missed reporting this news earlier, we have-

n't missed the blessings that they have brought to our congregation since their arrival.

God be with you 'til we meet again.

Reminder to the Bradford congregation: November is the month for the Silver Lining Dues.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO Rachel Meyer

Greetings from Chicago. The past month brought us several visiting ministers and their families. We would like to thank Elder Bros. Jay Luthi (Lamont- Gridley, KS), Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL), Ron Messner (Washington, IL) and Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL) as well as Bros. Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL), and Matt Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL). These brothers and their families were a tremendous blessing to us. Thank you.

We are pleased to welcome Chris Garman, from Tremont, IL, as he attends college in the area. We pray he will feel at home with us. As one loved one arrives another goes. We said farewell to Sis. Tereasa Fry as she has moved back to Remington, IN. Sis. Tereasa has been a joy and we wish her all God's blessings as she begins her teaching role there.

With thankful hearts we heard of two little ones joining their families. We congratulate Bro. Matthew and Sis. Bridget Rassi upon the arrival of Jerusalem Joy Rassi. Little Austin James Rinckenberger joins Bro. Brandon and Sis. Mindy Rinckenberger. What a blessing it is to have Christian parents raising their children today.

The weekend of September 22-23 found Chicago hosting the Champaign Sunday School. Saturday evening we held a Family World Relief Night, yielding not only comforters, sewing kits and soup kits, but joy and fellowship with loved ones as well.

Bro. Brad and Sis. Cindy Eisenmann hosted a picnic for all Sunday School families and teachers the following day.

Our thoughts are with Sis. Marge Young who fell and spent two days in the hospital. Sis. Marge is back at the nursing home and needs our prayers as she recuperates. We pray she will feel our love and God's comfort.

What a joy it was to have Gary and Diana Halfer assemble with us again. We have been praying for God's comfort and healing touch for Gary and will continue. We know Gary and Diana have walked a hard road, but what comfort it must be to know they do not walk alone.

Lastly, we shared the holiness of Communion in the past month. We thank our Elder Bro. Dale as well as Elder Bro. Jay Luthi for their labors of love. It was a blessed weekend as the Sunday School sang exuberantly the following day and a delicious church dinner was shared by all.

Many thoughts have come to me in this last month that found me telling myself, "Save that for the Silver Lining article." It is a joy to share thoughts and experiences with the hope that they will be a blessing to the reader. But as I sit before the computer now I must confess my mind is racing toward other subjects.

How will work go this week? Will school be uproarious or calm? Where is that important item—the one for which I've just spent two hours searching? Should I leave work early Friday? My sister is getting married Sunday—is everything prepared, what am I forgetting? Now I remember. Philippians 3:20. "For our conversation (citizenship) is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ." My earthly concerns are valid. They need to be attended to by me. But praise God, earthly details are not the end of the story. Our citizenship, our liveli-

hood, is not here. Look for the Savior.

ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN Jackie Eisenmann

"That I may publish with the voice of thanksgiving, and tell of all thy wondrous works."

Psalm 26:7

We are thankful to our visiting ministers this month who were willing to "tell of thy wondrous works". On Wednesday evenings this month Bro. Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL), Bro. Bob Beebe (South Bend, IN), and Bro. Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL) served the Word unto us. On Sunday, October 7, Bro. David Obergfel (Peoria, IL) shared the pulpit. The verse above not only applies to ministers, it applies to all of us. Especially at this time of year, are we publishing with our voices of thanksgiving the wondrous works of God?

An annual event our entire church looks forward to was held Saturday, October 6, at Bro. Dennis and Sis. Cheryl Mangers' home. Every year they host a hay rack ride and wiener roast for our church. Many who have been part of our Champaign congregation in the past come back for this. So there is an added blessing of meeting old friends and making new ones. It is also a time of fun, fellowship, and food.

"Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God. For the administration of this service not only supplieth the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God;"

II Corinthians 9:11-12

Being "enriched and thankful", on Saturday, October 13, our church hosted a Women's Seminar that was

presented by the Apostolic Christian Counseling Services. It was a day of educational presentations regarding self worth, relationships, and a variety of other topics specific to women. It was a blessing for the many who attended, and we ask God to bless the services the ACCS continues to provide to so many. It is wonderful that our church is providing such God-centered services!

At this time of year, let us all be truly thankful for all God has done for us.

“Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.”

Psalm 100:4-5

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK
Pam Walder
Janie Waldbeser

We have several new grandbabies to report this month. Merle and Elsie Eisenmann have a new grandson. Jonas Richard was born to John and Jenny (Hoffman) Heaton. Great-grandparents are Bro. Elmer and Sis. MaryLou Kaeb. Also, Bro. Fred and Sis. Joan Waldbeser are thankful for a new grandson. Kendall Joe was born to Bro. Matt and Sis. Jerilyn Waldbeser (Morris, MN).

Some of our loved ones have spent time in the hospital: Bro. Bill Rinkenberger and Bro. Clarence Maul. We are thankful that Bro. Bill is back home and Bro. Clarence is recovering at Heartland Healthcare Nursing Home in Paxton. We pray God will add His healing hand of love to our dear ones according to His will.

We have a special appreciation for our dear senior citizens. Every year our Sunday school students and teachers help prepare and serve a spe-

cial meal for them. On September 16, we had a blessed evening together. It is always a joy to see the young students and our dear senior citizens sharing and visiting together. May we always hold close that bond that ties us together in love.

As the holiday season is fast approaching, may we always keep Christ in the forefront of our minds and be thankful for what He has done for each of us. ...’Tis not the babe, but Christ the man Who walked in Galilee; ’Tis not the manger, but the cross, That sets the spirit free. (Hymns of Zion #36). May God bless each one with His gift of love!

Note of Thanks:

We wish to thank everyone for your prayers, visits, cards and telephone calls since Eldon broke his hip and has been in the nursing home. May God bless each one of you.

Bro. Eldon and Sis. Melba Steffen

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE
Holly Zobrist

We are thankful for the visiting ministers we’ve been blessed with this past month. They include Bro. Ed Fritz (Sis. Sally, Washington), Bro. Gary Brown (Sis. Jane, Forrest), Bro. Larry Bahr (Sis. Julie, Fort Scott), Bro. Steve Martin (Sis. Vicki, Eureka), Bro. Mark Schmidgall (Sis. Lisa, Eureka), Bro. Bruce Frank (Sis. Bonita, Cissna Park), and Bro. Brent Kellenberger (Sis. Beth, Kansas City). May they be blessed for their willingness to be used by the Lord.

Also, this past month, we said good-bye to Sis. Millie Schieber, who went to be with her Lord. She is survived by her children, Jim (Linda), Bro. John (Sis. Alice), Phyllis, Tom, Jerry and Ron.

Bro. Phil and Sis. Kristin Wyss recently brought their new bundle of love, Rachel Kay, to church for the

first time. She has one older sister, Naomi. Grandparents include Bro. Bruce and Sis. Donna Wyss (Goodfield) and Bro. Mark and Sis. Tammy Roth.

Bro. Walt Miller (Sis. Betty) was our hospital patient this month. We are thankful to hear he is recovering nicely.

Note of Thanks:

We are overwhelmed by all the love, care, and concern that has been shown to us during the illness and death of our loved one, Keith. Only the good Lord can reward each of you for all the prayers, the memorials, the phone calls, cards, and food we have received. Our thanks and gratitude are inadequate, but may He bless you as only He can do.

Love,

The family of Bro. Keith Roth

ILLINOIS, ELGIN
Amy Gasser
Miriam Gasser

Between September 12 and October 4, we listened to recordings of the Brotherhood Conference held in Bluffton, IN. We sincerely appreciate the courage and efforts of our Elders in sounding the trumpet, as watchmen on the wall.

In the past month, Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington, IL) and Bro. Earl Beery (Rittman, OH) provided for our spiritual needs through their ministry.

We enjoyed a special blessing on October 10, when Elder Bro. Charles Sauder (Tremont, IL) helped John Klein bring forth his testimony of conversion and faith. He had been a member of the Nazarene church. At the end of the evening, we greeted John as a brother in the Lord and welcomed him into our fellowship.

Bro. Tom and Sis. Connie Schambach are delighted to have a

new little granddaughter. Alayna Brooke was born October 6 to Bro. Scott and Sis. Hope Schambach of Columbus, OH. Alayna's other grandparents are Bro. Paul and Sis. Marilyn Nenadov of Eureka, IL.

Among others in our congregation who have had ongoing struggles with health, Les Spohr (Janet) has been suffering with pancreatic cancer. Please remember him and his family in prayer.

On October 4, the father of Sis. Karen Weiss (Bro. Roger) passed away in Peoria. Charlie Joos is also survived by his wife, Shirley, two sons, four siblings, and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren. We express our sympathy to all the family.

Note of Thanks:

Greetings, dear brethren and friends of the truth! Please never, never underestimate the power of the prayers of those we love. I sincerely appreciate your many, many deeds of kindness—especially during these last three months of unusual health decisions. May God bless you all with His love, peace, and contentment.

Lovingly,
Sis. Marie Hugh

ILLINOIS, EUREKA
Cindy Stoller
Heather Beutel

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

Hymns of Zion #46

Three souls have experienced the burial of their old life by Holy baptism. They are Sis. Jennifer Getz (Bro. Gary and Sis. Gail), and Bro. Jason and Sis. Jill Carr (Bro. Tim and

Sis. Donna). We appreciated the presence of Elder Bros. Art Metz (Silverton, OR) and Ben Walder (Congerville, IL) and their willingness to help in this joyous occasion.

We offer our thanks to our other visiting ministers. They include Bros. Dan Moser and Chuck Kellenberger (Elgin, IL), Gene Metzger (Lester, IA), Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL), Matt Steffen and Craig Martin (Princeville, IL), Kent Getz (Elgin, IA), James Knapp (Congerville, IL), Ed Knecht (Silverton, OR), Randy Mogler (Washington, IL), and Tony Manz (Junction, OH).

We rejoice with Joe Leman (Bro. Ed and Sis. Ruth) as he has begun his repentance. We pray that many more can heed the call and take advantage of this precious plan of salvation.

Two engagements were made known to us in past weeks. Bro. Jeffry Huber (Bro. Gary Huber and Karen Huber) and Sis. Allison Ehnle (Bro. Gary and Sis. Carole) are planning for a November wedding. In addition, Bro. Michael Blunier (Bro. Myron and Sis. Elaine) and Sis. Jodi Wuethrich (Bro. Rick and Sis. Brenda), Lord willing, will be married in January. We wish God's blessings and guidance to both of these new couples.

Bro. Tyler and Sis. Tiffany Knapp became first-time parents when little Autumn Noel made her appearance. Grandparents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Lori Knapp and Dave and Diane Eastman. Also, Bro. Mark and Sis. Kate Dotterer and Reagan welcome Bailey Elizabeth to their home. "Children are an heritage of the Lord."

Our medical and hospital patients this month include Bro. Maury Crawford (Sis. Joyce), Katie Wettstein (Bro. Jim and Sis. Diane), Cy Cawley (Sis. Madeline), and Sis. Helen Wiegand (Bro. Bob). Through these trials, may each one look to the

Lord for comfort and healing. We pray for each one.

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY
Elizabeth Fehr
Anna Schmidgall

One of the most joyous occasions for a church family is the addition of precious souls to the flock. We welcome Bro. Denver Rassi (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Diane) and Bro. Wes and Sis. Erinn Steidinger (Bro. Martin and Sis. Trish and Will and Juanita Kaeb) as our new brethren in the Lord.

Several ministers were here for this special weekend including Elder Bros. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA) and Wayne Anliker, (Forrest, IL); also Bros. Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL), Trent Meiss (Eureka, IL), and Greg Stoller and Paul Zimmerman (Forrest, IL). Bro. Jerry Wagenbach (Oakville, IA) also visited us. We thank these brothers for their work of love.

The Lord has worked in the lives of Bro. Dallas Steidinger (Bro. Randy and Sis. Dawn) and Sis. Beth Hill (Bro. Bryce and Sis. Sieda) from Mansfield, OH, guiding them to become one in Him. We wish them God's richest blessings.

Deb and John Slagel, along with big brother Jack, welcome a daughter into their family, Kate Emma. Thankful grandparents are Ron and Sis. June Slagel and Michael and Jean Wilderman (Mt. Vernon, IL). We pray for God's guidance as they raise their family.

Bro. Duane Kilgus, Sis. Sandra Stoller, and William Fehr have spent time in the hospital. All are now recuperating at home. We lift them up in prayer for God's healing.

Sis. Mary Kaeb has our prayers and sympathy in the loss of her brother, Glenn Rinkenberger.

ILLINOIS, FORREST

**Jill Wenger
Lori Leman**

Forrest congregation has been blessed with many visiting Elders this month due to a funeral and baptisms. We want to thank Elder Bros. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL), Rick Plattner (Fairbury, IL), Ben Walder (Congerville, IL), Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA), and Mark Streitmatter (Bloomington, IL) for their labors of love among us. Also visiting us from various churches were ministering Bros. Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL), Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL), Harvey Kuenzi (Silverton, OR), Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL), Trent Meiss (Eureka, IL) and Dale Moore (Elgin, IA). We thank these brothers for visiting and invite them to come and visit again!

We experienced a joyous weekend when we heard testimonies on Friday evening, October 12 of our fellow pilgrims, Sis. Connie Mueller (Charles) and Bro. Mark Mueller (Sis. Erika). On that following Saturday we heard testimonies of four dear souls and witnessed their baptisms on that Sunday. Our new Brothers in Faith are Kevin Aberle (Bro. Mark and Sis. Laverne) and Calvin Teubel (Bro. John and Sis. Lavonne). Our new Sisters in the Lord are Lori Ifft (Bro. Larry and Sis. Shirley) and Erika Mueller (Bro. Mark). What an uplifting and strengthening time it was for the church!

Three new babies joined family circles this month. Timothy Rene was born to Bro. Brian and Sis. Marie Ricketts and siblings, Emily, Laura, Philip, Matthew, Megan and Justin. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Janice Steffen and Bro. Nick and Sis. Jean Ricketts. Another little girl, Layne Emalee, was welcomed joyfully home by parents, Bro. Kevin and Sis. Martha Schaffer, and siblings, Bro. Matthew, Heather and

Heidi, Sis. Valerie, Jeremy and Lexie. Her thankful grandparents are Bro. Ron and Sis. Loida Mueller and Pete and Emma Schaffer of Fairbury, IL. Zachary Bernard arrived to bless the home of Bro. Nathan and Sis. Paula and Heidi Kelson. Waiting to love Zachary are grandparents, Bro. Paul and Sis. Sherri Kelson and Bro. Marvin and Sis. Mary Bachtold.

Our love and sympathy goes to the family of Sis. Mildred Traub Schieber of Eureka, IL, formerly of Forrest, IL. Her funeral service was conducted in Forrest church by Elder Bro. Ben Walder (Congerville, IL) and Elder Bro. Wayne. Our sympathies are extended to her son, James (Linda) Traub, Monticello, IL; four stepsons, Ron (Deanelle) Schieber, Carlock, IL; John (Alice) Schieber, Normal, IL; Tom (Bonnie) Schieber, Danvers, IL; Jerry (Joan) Schieber, Brooklyn, NY; and one stepdaughter, Phyllis Schieber, Dallas, TX. We also want to give our heartfelt sympathy to Sis. Velda Huette in the passing of her sister-in-law, Sis. Betty Schweigert, of Tremont, IL.

Undergoing surgery this month was Bro. Alan Gerber (Sis. Marcia). May the Lord continue to grant strength and healing to him.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

**Rita Bauman
Amber Grimm**

Recently I have heard a lot about loving the brethren as Christ loves us. The questions have been asked "Are you praying for your brothers and sisters?" and "Are you washing your brother's feet?" Christ set the perfect example for us and asks that we carry on and "Let brotherly love continue." - Hebrews 13:1.

Bro. John Bradle (Sis. Jill, Roanoke, IL) lovingly brought the Word to us this month. May God bless him for his willingness to serve.

"He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young."

Isaiah 40:11

Bro. Derek and Sis. Joy Roth welcomed another baby girl into their family, Valerie Jean. Valerie's sister is Naomi. Grandparents are Roy and Sis. Corrine Roth and Bro. Wayne and Sis. Rosemary Wiegand. Bro. Nate and Sis. Emily Sauder also welcomed home a baby girl this month, Haley Joan. Haley's grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Jan Sauder and Bro. Loren and Sis. Rhonda Zeltwanger. Bro. Tim and Sis. Diana Currier welcomed home their third boy, Trenton James. Trenton's brothers are Nathan and Justin. Grandparents are Art and Sis. Mary Currier and Bro. Brian and Sis. Teresa Schieler. We are so thankful that God is gently leading all of these families and has brought these children safely into this world.

We are thankful for the prayers of the church especially when brothers and sisters are in the hospital and recovering. Sis. Betty Bauman (Bro. Larry), Bro. Larry Bauman (Sis. Betty), Bro. Steve Wiegand (Sis. Mary Ellen) and Sis. Terry Hart (Bro. Bill) all spent time in the hospital this month. We continue to pray for them as they recover.

It is a special time in a church when a new brother or sister is welcomed in. Bro. Clayton Monfre (Bro. Tony and Sis. Deonne) was baptized on October 21. May God continue to walk with our new brother in faith.

Bro. Jared Zobrist (Bro. Dave and Sis. Ann) was engaged to Sis. Kristi Daniel (Bro. Billy and Sis. Sheri); and Sis. Marti Hinrichsen (Bro. Mike and Sis. Gerri) was engaged to Bro. Marty Rumbold (Bro. Roland and Sis.

Carol). God continues to work through His children and we rejoice with these couples.

Leisa Maloney (Randy and Sis. Dawn) and Luke Wuthrich (Bro. Mark and Sis. Cheryl) were married on October 27. May God bless their life together.

Note of Thanks:

I would like to thank everyone who sent prayers, cards, flowers, brought food, and made special efforts for me to help during the recovery of my broken leg and toe. May God richly bless each of you.

Sis. Carolyn Ott

**ILLINIOS, GRIDLEY
Perry A. Klopfenstein**

Lord Jesus, I long to be perfectly whole;
I want Thee forever to live in my soul;
Break down every idol, cast out every foe;
Now wash me and I will be whiter than snow.

Hymns of Zion, #210

Then I bid farewell to the way of the world,
To walk in it nevermore;
For my Lord says "Come" and I seek my home,
Where He waits at the open door.

Hymns of Zion, #167

The singing legacy in our church is indeed a rich one. Sunday after Sunday, and on Wednesday nights and at our frequent singings, we can immerse ourselves in the truths of God's plan, both in finding a nearness to God, and in living out His precepts — seeking to remain true and faithful to the end. If we can find the grace to concentrate on the messages of these sacred hymns, we can find strength to daily live anew in Christ Jesus, and to

live in the peaceful nature of His Holy Spirit.

We were privileged on October 28 to have Bro. Bruce Frank (Cissna Park, IL) as a visiting minister. We were thankful for his labors.

Our sympathies are extended to Sisters Mary Witzig and Twyla Schlipf over the passing of their father, Bro. Herman Menold, of Morton. We are also praying for Sis. Vicki Hodel (Washington, IL), daughter of Bro. Roy and Sis. Helen Hodel, who has stomach cancer.

Bro. Don Gramm recently had surgery and is improving nicely. Bro. Al Ringger continues to improve after heart surgery. Sis. Ranee Schlipf also had surgery. God is the great Physician, and we thank Him for healing according to His will.

Sis. Elaine and Bob Mueller are moving to the Morton/Peoria area after having lived in Gridley for a few years. We appreciated having them in our local congregation during the time they lived here.

We are thankful for our ministers who convey many good Spirit-led thoughts in their sermons. One especially good thought stemmed from the verse found in I Peter 1:15, "But, as he who hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation (life)." The listeners were exhorted to have a Christ-like temperament at all times — at work, at school, at home, and at all other places. The Word says "in all" manner of conversation. Often, the flesh wants to be one way at home, perhaps, and another way on other occasions. The Lord is honored when we can have a holy manner of conversation (life) at all times. It is by His grace and divine power that we can do so.

**ILLINOIS, MACOMB
Norm and Janis Rechkemmer**
We have again been so blessed

with willing brothers to come and minister to our gathering here in Macomb. On September 26, Bro. Jedd Rocke (Sis. Marsha) from Goodfield traveled here to share God's Word. Bro. Erik Givens from Princeville was our minister on October 10. Joining these dear brothers were several loved ones who came to share in the services, singing and fellowship. We send our heartfelt thanks to all who took the time to come to these Wednesday evening services. We pray that they will all receive rich blessings for their time and efforts in supporting our small gathering.

Following is the schedule for the next five services: October 24 – Washington; November 14 – Eureka; November 28 – Bradford; December 12 – Morton; and January 16, Taylor. Services are held in our home and we welcome anyone who would like to come and join us. Singing begins at 7:15. We appreciate the Word being spread to Western Illinois University students and any living in the area. We hope to see many more join our gathering of worship. Please feel free to call (309-836-4369 or 309-231-0098) or e-mail janorm67@earthlink.net for more information and directions.

**ILLINOIS, MORTON
Annette Tanner
Julie Bahr**

Bro. Dave Obergfel (Sis. Kathleen, Peoria, IL) was gracious enough to come to Morton and share our Family Worship evening with us. Bro. Dave's topic was "When bad things happen to 'Good' people." Trusting God in ALL circumstances, knowing that He knows our ending before our beginning is a good reminder. Our other visiting ministers were Bro. Glen Funk (Sis. Sally, Wichita, KS) and Bro. Ron Allenbach (Sis. Lois, Kiowa, KS).

Our Benefit Dinner with choir in song, is coming up again this November. The Sunday school Bible class benefits from this event to be able to share monetarily with less fortunate mission groups. Pray for a safe and blessed weekend for all who participate and attend.

I love Jesus does He know? Have I ever told Him so? Sis. Lindsay Ploussard (Bro. Dave and Sis. Krista) was given the opportunity to share her testimony of love and faith in Christ Jesus. Her baptism was October 21.

On October 7, the engagement of Sis. Kristi Daniel was made known to Bro. Jared Zobrist from Goodfield. Sis. Kristi is the daughter of Bro. Billy and Sis. Sheri Daniel. Bro. Jared is the son of Bro. Dave and Sis. Ann Zobrist.

"When my work on earth is done...." Our Sis. Louise Hirstein passed away on September 27. Sis. Louise is the mother to our ministering Bro. Ted Hirstein (Sis. Joyce), Thomas Hirstein, Shirley Sessom, Judi Brenkman and Jan Tharp.

Don Carey also passed away on September 29. His surviving wife is Eloise "Babe" Carey, and two sons, Glenn and Doug Carey.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA
Carissa Klopfenstein
Kristin Menold

Peoria congregation was happy to host five students from CCCD at the Fellowship Hall on Friday, October 5. The students signed songs to music and several people gave testimonies about the work that is being done there. It was touching to see all the Lord is doing in their lives and through the efforts of countless teams and people who have given their talents. Thank you to everyone who attended and who are involved in this ministry.

Pray for the people who are serving the Lord in foreign countries such as Haiti (Bro. Tim and Sis. Joan Reinhard and family) and Mexico (Bro. Dave Sceggel and Bro. Jonathan Aupperle). We are so grateful for people who are willing to take the Gospel to those in foreign lands.

We rejoice with the family of our new Bro. Kyle (son of Jon and Debbie Eaton of Metamora) and Sis. Tammy Eaton (daughter of Bro. Bob and Sis. Myrna Hoerr), and Sis. Brittany Brecklin (daughter of Thomas and Karen Brecklin) who were baptized on September 23. Bro. Chuck Hemmer, retired Elder, assisted in the baptismal service.

Our prayers are with Bro. Dean Thomas, Bro. Steve Suttor, Sis. Mabel Weber, Sis. Ruth Huthman, and Bro. Wayne Wieland for continued struggles with health issues.

Our sympathy is with Bro. Darren and Sis. Marie Yergler and Sis. Marilyn Baurer in the passing of Darren's father, Max Yergler, formerly of Cissna Park; and with Bro. Carl and Sis. Ev Hoerr in the passing of Ev's sister, Sis. Marian Reutter, who was a resident at the home on Skyline Drive.

Sis. Ruth Huthman wishes to express how deeply she appreciates the love and kindness of those who sent cards, flowers, and gifts. Most of all, she is thankful for the prayers that have helped her through this difficult time in her life.

We wish to thank Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL) who was with us on October 10 to go over feedback from the Church Survey. We appreciate your taking the time to come and assist in this meeting.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE
Connie Christ
Vera Baer

Sis. Bernice Stahl and Bro. Ken Schneider (Remington, IN) have the faith to believe God has seen they can better serve Him together as husband and wife. Their engagement was announced September 30.

Kaden Lewis was born to Bro. Doug and Sis. Carol Blunier, October 3. His sister, Chloe, and grandparents, Sis. Joyce Blunier and Bro. Virgil and Sis. Marilyn Graf (Altadena, CA) are thankful for him and enjoy showering him with love. Another set of loving grandparents also are Marvin and Sharon Eberle. Their daughter and her husband, Aaron and Lisa Robbins, were blessed with Nathan Aaron, September 10. May God be a part of each of these families lives.

A big welcome to Bro. Robert and Sis. Mary Herrmann and their son, Michael. They have moved back after living in Alto area a few years.

Visiting ministers this month have been Bros. Kevin Banwart (West Bend, IA), John Reinhard and Ron Kipfer (Bluffton, IN) and Ken Schneider (Remington, IN). We ask God to bless them and their families for being God's servants.

Sis. Carol Baurer (Bro. Ed) has been unable to assemble with us for some time but thankful that she is improving. Sis. Mary Lou Streitmatter has also been on the mend at her daughter's home. We are thankful she has been able to be home and to church with us again.

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE
Judy Sauder
Dee Fehr

He who comes confessing:
 "My Lord and my God!"
 And with joy expressing,
 blessed is his lot.

Zion's Harp #149

On the weekend of September 22-23, Brock and Jody Gerber expressed the joy of lives that have been changed and the blessings they have received as a result of Christ's redemptive work on the cross. We welcome them into the fold as new lambs in the flock. Bro. Brock and Sis. Jody's parents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Trish Gerber (Goodfield) and Bro. Bob and Sis. Ann Knepp. Even as we gathered to hear their testimonies, we were saddened to learn of the passing of our dear Bro. Harland Braker. While we are thankful he is now beyond physical suffering, we are mindful of his loving family, and the great loss they are enduring. He is survived by his wife, Sis. Martha, and four daughters: Lora (Reggie) Wuethrich, Sis. Kim (Bro. Jim) Bucher, Rachel (Greg) Braman, and Sis. Rena (Bro. Jason) Hodel; as well as five brothers, three sisters and twelve grandchildren.

Likewise, Bro. Les Fischer was released from earthly pain and infirmity on September 28. Mourning his passing is his wife, Sis. Sara; three children, Pam, Chuck (Angie), and Russ (Katy); also two brothers, four sisters and three grandchildren. May God stand mightily by the side of these families as they adjust to life without their loved ones.

"Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth."

Ecclesiastes 12:1

We rejoice with Frederick Leman (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Karen) as he has made the decision to turn to his Creator in the days of his youth. Also, Joan Swartz, who has been a nurse at our nursing home for a number of years, recently began her repentance. May these dear converts heed the words of the Apostle Paul to Timothy, as written in II Timothy 2:22: "Flee

also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart."

Bro. Gary and Sis. Elna Wettstein and family are now assembling with us, and we warmly welcome them into our church family.

Visiting ministers for this past month included Elder Bro. Bruce Hohulin and Bros. Jaye Rinckenberger and Jeff Grimm (Goodfield), as well as Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington) and Elder Bro. Charles Sauder (Tremont).

The Roanoke Bible Class was privileged to host the Bible Classes from Goodfield and Bloomington on October 7. Also on that day, "Hands of Praise", a group of students from the Caribbean Christian Centre for the Deaf in Jamaica presented an evening program of song and testimony in sign language. We were blessed by their enthusiasm and the grace with which they "sang" songs of praise to God. At our monthly family worship, Bro. Tim Hohulin spoke on the topic, "Be as the Younger". We learned how Abel, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, David and the prodigal son (all the younger brothers in their families) all had qualities that point the way to Christ, who is our ultimate example.

On October 4, Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Melinda Knepp became parents with the birth of Makenzie Mae. Grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Ann Knepp and Bro. Gene and Sis. Carol Metz. Congratulations are also extended to several others who have been blessed with new grandchildren. Sis. Val Wuthrich is grandma to Abigail Rose, born to Bro. Chris and Sis. Janelle Wuthrich (Ft. Scott) on July 17. Bro. Larry and Sis. Sharon Neukomm have a granddaughter, Grace Olivia, born to Phil and Erin Neukomm on August 24. Bro. Ken and Sis. Kathy Hodel's new grandchild is Jackson Robert, whose par-

ents are Ross and Jamie Ahrens. Jackson was born on September 28, and is welcomed home by big sister, Elise.

Note of Thanks:

Dear Ones far and near,

With special thanks and appreciation for being so thoughtful during my seven weeks in the hospital. All your prayers, gifts and cards meant so much to me. May God bless you richly for your kind deeds. God is our refuge and our strength.

Sis. Margaret Fehr

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Teresa Rowell

Sheri Allen

"Likewise must the deacons be grave, not doubletongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre; Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience. And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being found blameless."

I Timothy 3:8-10

What a wonderful privilege we had one Sunday evening to witness the ordination of our ministering Bro. Steve Sauder (Sis. Mary) as deacon to help our Elder Bro. Charles Sauder. Such an awesome responsibility has been placed on his shoulders. We would do well to hold up our Elders, deacons and ministers in prayer often so that they can continue in this important work. Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Sis. Sandy, Eureka, IL), Elder Bro. Ted Witzig (Sis. Cindy, Morton, IL) and Elder Bro. Jim Plattner (Sis. Marlene, Princeville, IL) were here to help Bro. Charles that evening.

"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the

faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge shall give me on that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.”

II Timothy 4:7-8

Sis. Betty Schweigert has passed from this life into the next after a long illness. Our sympathy is extended to her son, Alan, and many family members from our congregation. Bro. Dennis Rassi (Sis. Diane, Fairbury, IL) and Bro. Greg Rassi (Sis. Carla, Chicago, IL) are Sis. Betty's nephews, and we are thankful that they were willing to lend themselves at her funeral. Also, Bill Allen passed away and we want to extend our sympathy to his grandson, Chris (Sis. Sheri) Allen.

When pure and upright hearts,
By flames of love ignited,
Are by the bonds of faith
More firmly yet united,
The light of love beams forth
In radiance far and nigh,
Invites us to partake
The blessings from on high.

Zion's Harp #79

We are excited to have two announcements to report. Bro. Robert Wagenbach and Sis. Barbara Dill were announced to be married. Bro. Dewayne Dill (Sis. LaRae, Minneapolis, MN) was here that Sunday and preached the Word to us. The next Sunday, Bro. Bob's nephew, Bro. Dean Rocke (Elgin, IA – Sis. Kathy and the late Bro. Nelson) was announced to Sis. Maria Butikofer (Elgin, IA). We wish both couples God's richest blessings as they begin their lives together.

“And now my soul is poured out upon me: the days of affliction have taken hold upon me.”

Job 30:16

There are a few in our congregation who have been sick or in the hospital. Bro. Elmer Kaeb (Sis. Darlene), Sis. Miriam Frank (Bro. Marvin), Sis. Betty Hild, Sis. Til Koch, Sis. Josephine Schaefer and Sis. Sally Koch (Bro. Roger) have been dealing with afflictions of the flesh. Our prayers are with them.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

Nancy Knepp Elizabeth Heinold

We've been blessed to have visiting ministers this month. We welcomed Bro. Jim Meiss (Sis. Candy, Phoenix, AZ), and joining us for our Invite a Guest weekend were Bro. Scott Wegman (Sis. Dawn, Taylor, MO) and Bro. Trent Schrock (Sis. Heidi, Leo, IN). We are grateful to these brothers and their wives for being willing to share God's Word with us.

We continue to pray for Sis. Vickie Hodel as she deals with a difficult diagnosis and has begun chemotherapy. We also pray for Sis. Ann Meiss (Bro. Harold) as she experiences failing health.

We enjoyed co-hosting with Morton the “Hands in Praise” team from the Jamaica deaf schools. They presented an inspiring musical program in sign language at the Morton Fellowship Hall.

We have appreciated the efforts of the brothers on the Church Needs Committee as they have prayerfully considered the needs of our congregation and a biblical approach to meeting them. The two topics they have presented so far are Biblical Fellowship and Biblical Prayer. We are thankful to have a church whose leadership truly seeks to meet the needs of the congregation.

“O Lord, thou art my God; I will ex-

alt thee, I will praise thy name; for thou hast done wonderful things; thy counsels of old are faithfulness and truth.”

Isaiah 25:1

Note of Thanks:

Thanks for all the cards, visits, love and prayers while I was in the hospital and in recovery from my heart attack.

Bro. Edward Teubel

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

Jan Schwartz Stefanie Dailey

“Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.”

Psalms 19:14

The Bluffton congregation was very blessed to hear the words of Jesse Terhune's heart as he shared his testimony, which was followed by his baptism this month. He truly painted a picture of God's love and mercy.

It's great to have our Bro. Eric Tonner home from his month-long trip to Haiti.

We are also very glad to welcome Bro. Darin and Sis. Erin Laukhuf and their two children to the Bluffton congregation. They have been worshipping in our Latty church but have moved to the Bluffton area. Sis. Erin is the daughter of Bro. Ron and Sis. Linda Kipfer.

In addition to the Laukhufs, the Bluffton church has expanded with the birth of six babies this month.

Bro. Brian and Sis. Jessie Steffen brought home Luci Dee, born September 18, to join her brother, Isaac. Brian is the son of Bro. Allen and Sis. Arlene Steffen while Jessie is the daughter of Bro. Duane and Sis. Karen Steffen.

On September 21, Travis D. joined the family of Bro. Brent and Sis. Allison Kaehr. Travis has three siblings, Brandon, Whitney and Benjamin. Bro. Lyle and Sis. Connie Kaehr and Bro. Alan and Sis. Sheryl Ringger are Travis' rejoicing grandparents.

Bro. Andy and Sis. Jenna Stoller were blessed with the birth of their first child, Crew Anderson, on September 27. Grandparents of the baby boy are Bro. Allen and Sis. Susan Stoller and Bro. Len and Sis. Mary Francesi.

Also becoming first-time parents, Bro. Micah and Sis. Rozanna Rauch welcomed Cohen Jay to their household on September 30. Cohen's paternal grandparents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Kathy Rauch while his maternal grandparents are Bro. Jay and Sis. Ronda Grube.

Holly Elizabeth joined her parents, Bro. Ron and Sis. Nichole Aschliman, and her siblings, Trevor and Melanie, on October 10. Bro. Ralph and Sis. Rosie Aschliman and Norbert and Jean Ploetz are enjoying the birth of their granddaughter.

Bro. Craig and Sis. Jean Steffen welcomed a grandson into their family on September 28 with the birth of Ryan Matthew. Ryan was born to Phillip and Jamie Steffen.

It is exciting to see the baby rooms being used and blessed with young children!

Our Bro. Adam Stoller was joined in marriage to his bride, Sis. Beth Harris, on September 30 at the Bluffton North church. Parents of the couple are Bro. Larry and Sis. Sharon Stoller and Bro. Mark and Sis. Susan Harris. We're so happy to see God work in the lives of this young brother and sister in faith.

Sadly, the Bluffton congregation is grieving with Bro. Jason and Sis. Gwen Craighead and Bro. Eric and Sis. Annie Craighead in the loss of Ja-

son and Eric's mother, Sis. Kay (Bro. Mike, Bluffton North). Our hearts are filled with prayers for the family of Sis. Kay with her unexpected death.

The Bluffton church has also had the opportunity to pray for some of its members with Sis. Minnie Aschliman and Jimmy VandenTop spending time in the hospital. We want to extend our sincerest prayers to Sis. Minnie and Jimmy and other special people in our church who have had struggles.

On Sunday, October 14, Bluffton was blessed with two visiting ministers: Bro. Ted Steffen (Alto, MI) and Bro. Steve Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN). They were both joined by their wives, Sis. Sandy and Sis. Irene, respectively. We want to extend our sincerest thanks to these families.

As a church, our hope for this coming month is that the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts can be pleasing to God our Savior!

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

On September 28, Delany Ann was born to Zack and Tiffani Hoover. We celebrate this birth with her grandparents, Bro. Mick and Sis. Connie Cupp.

Bro. Andy and Sis. Jenna Stoller welcomed their first child, Crew Anderson, into the world on September 27. Grandparents are Bro. Allen and Sis. Susan Stoller (Bluffton) and Bro. Len and Sis. Mary Francesi.

Cohen James was born on September 30 to Bro. Micah and Sis. Rosie Rauch. His grandparents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Kathy Rauch and Bro. Jay and Sis. Ronda Grube (Bluffton).

On September 27, Sis. Marjorie Troxel entered eternity. She is sur-

vived by two brothers, Bro. William (Sis. Bernice) Troxel and Bro. Dwight (Sis. Beverly) Troxel; and two sisters, Sis. Alice Troxel and Mary Jane Sprunger of Indianapolis.

Sis. Kay Craighead passed away October 4. Her husband, Bro. Mike, survives along with three children, Melanie (Tim) Davis, Bro. Jason (Sis. Gwen), and Bro. Eric (Sis. Annie); two brothers, Alan and Daniel; and 10 grandchildren.

September 30 was a blessed evening for the two churches of Bluffton. Bro. Chet Baumgartner (Bluffton) organized several local groups to sing familiar and not so familiar Christian songs. Prior to each song Bro. Jim Bloomfield (Sis. Pat) and Bro. Kole Meyer (Sis. Amy) shared with us the powerful stories behind each hymn. The evening was capped off with a prayer led by Bro. Ron Kipfer (Sis. Linda), our resident hymn scholar.

Sis. Jane Meyer and Bro. Dick Clark have recently spent time in the hospital. We wish for them God's healing mercies.

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."

Colossians 3:16

**INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE
Jessica Murray
Barb Huber**

Greetings dear loved ones in the name of Jesus Christ! As we head into the changing of seasons, let us remember that change can be viewed as good. Following the Lord and His direction, Bro. Chad and Sis. Pam Huber and their family have taken the first steps and learned of new changes as they were in Colorado this past month for training. Our hearts

and prayers are with this family as the Lord works in their hearts to prepare them for their missionary work in Jamaica.

We continue to pray for those who are healing from past ailments. This past month our friend Wilma Clauss has suffered from a light stroke and is making a slow recovery. We are praying for the strength of the Heavenly Father to guide you through each day.

We want to thank Bro. Tom Troxel (Sis. LuAnn, LaCrosse, IN) for blessing us with a topical Bible study on Luke 20:1-8 this past month.

May the Lord continue to bless you and your family.

Fall is a busy time for our Sunday School youth. The Junior High classes had an outing in the woods where they enjoyed a wiener roast and other activities. The Bible Class held their annual pancake breakfast which was a huge success, thanks to the generosity of the many who came and gave their support. The students are planning a mission trip to Jamaica this spring. A big thank you to all who had a helping hand in making this all possible. The students then had an opportunity to shop for items to make up care packages to send to those in the service of our country. As they had a good time together, may they take what they learned and share it with others also. We learn more from what we do for others than what we do for ourselves.

Thank you to all the Sunday School teachers and their spouses for all the time and love you put into the youth. You are making such a big difference in the lives of our future generation. May the Lord bless each and every one of you.

**INDIANA
INDIANAPOLIS
Penny Schroeder
Gail Bradford**

Our hearts are filled with rejoicing as our congregation learned that three young people have given their hearts and their lives to God: Zachary Baumgartner (Bro. Greg and Sis. Missy) and Katrina Baltic and Minnie Baltic (Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty). As these precious souls begin their journey of repentance, they will welcome our prayers and encouragement.

In this life sorrow often accompanies joy. We embrace Sis. Kim Bucher (Bro. Jim, children AJ and Gracie) in love and sympathy on the passing of her father, Bro. Harlan Braker, of Roanoke, Illinois. Although he is now in the arms of Jesus, a loving father and grandfather will be greatly missed.

Students from Indiana and nearby states shared a beautiful fall weekend known as "Indy Outreach". Beginning on Friday evening, and going through Sunday afternoon, activities included construction and repair projects, nursing home visits, yard maintenance, outreach to foreign students at a local university and excursions for children. Participants shared their experiences during an enthusiastic gathering on Saturday evening, and one conclusion became very apparent. The givers believed that they "received" more than the actual recipients! God does work in wonderful ways.

Many of us enjoyed a traditional Apostolic Christian "singing" on a Sunday evening, accompanied by delicious food and edifying fellowship.

We appreciate the labors of Bro. Dick and Sis. Jeanette Graham, parents of Bro. Ben Graham and Sis. Doreen Leuthold, who spent a few days here painting the church interior.

Thanks to visiting ministering

Bro. Kevin Knapp (Sis. Dixie) for sharing the pulpit with our home ministers.

As we approach Thanksgiving and Advent, let us demonstrate in our own lives the gratitude we feel toward our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

**INDIANA, LACROSSE
Bethany Johnson
Julie Rocke**

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

Psalm 127:3

Our congregation was blessed with two new babies this month. It is such a joy to see all the little children and new babies. Seth Aaron was born September 27 to Bro. Eric and Sis. Bobbi Ann Heinold. Big brothers, Daniel and David, welcome him home. Loving grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Luann Gerber (Wolcott, IN) and Bro. Glen and Sis. Sandy Heinold. Bro. Ben and Sis. Kendra Stoller welcomed little Amber Joy with open arms on October 6. Waiting at home were big sisters, Lucy, Maria and Laura. Also willing to love and cuddle are grandparents, Bro. Bill and Sis. Barb Stoller (Latty, OH) and Bro. Ken and Sis. Marlene Banwart (West Bend, IA).

We were excited to hear the engagement of Karla Frank (Elder Bro. Curt and Sis. Lyla) to Jason Martin (Dennis and Diane Martin) of Kouts, Indiana. We pray they will seek God's direction in their lives as they plan a spring wedding.

With joy, we welcome Sis. Sharla Heinold into the fold. We were blessed to witness her testimony and baptism the weekend of October 6-7. Our prayers are with her as she heads back to college.

Our prayers are also with several

of our young people as they head different directions. Josh Troxel has moved to Pennsylvania for schooling. Sis. Meagan Wuethrich is currently in Japan for a 2 month stay with Bro. Andrew and Sis. Jana Klaus. Bro. Ned Troxel has returned from Florida where he was for a summer internship. He is studying at Purdue, and we are always glad to see him on the weekends that he comes home.

Bro. Brendan Messner has taken employment in our area from Winthrop, MN. We know he is missed there, but we welcome him and are grateful to have his smiling presence in our congregation.

We were thankful for many visiting ministers this month. Bro. Dean Messner (Sis. Wanda, Winthrop, MN) was here to help move Bro. Brendan. Bro. Ron Palitto (Sis. Lynell, Akron, OH) and Bro. Don Steidl (Sis. Nan, Akron, OH) spent time again in serving us. Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emmy, Junction, OH), and Bros. Warren Schlatter (Sis. Cindy, Junction, OH), Don Manz (Sis. Connie, Junction, OH) and Jim Butikofer (Sis. Diana, Iowa City, IA) were all here for the weekend of Sis. Sharla's baptism. We really appreciate all those who serve as ministers in the Lord's work.

INDIANA, LEO
Elizabeth Schrenk
Abigail Schrenk

On October 3, Nathan Jay was welcomed into the home of Bro. Kurt and Sis. Kristen Slagel. Nathan's excited siblings are Michaela and Josiah. We are thankful for his safe arrival and pray that God would bless Bro. Kurt and Sis. Kristen as they raise their children.

Our annual church picnic was held on October 7. It was a fun afternoon of fellowship and games. We appreciate everyone who came and hope that

you were blessed!

This month Bro. Darren Plattner (Sis. Sue, Champaign) was with us and shared the Word of Life. We are grateful for his willingness to serve.

INDIANA, MILFORD

Carol Hurd
Carol Haab

"Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband."

Ephesians 5:33

Ephesians 5 was the chapter chosen by our Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter for the wedding of Sis. Katy Schlipf and Bro. Chris Stoller on September 23. May they feel God's love and guidance as they walk hand in hand in this life. Their parents are Bro. Rich and Sis. Kathy Schlipf and Sis. Irma Stoller (Latty, OH).

We were also blessed with several other visiting ministers who came and shared in the services of the wedding. They were Bro. Vic Bauman (Sis. Brenda, Smithville, OH), Bro. Bob Meyer (Sis. Ann, Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Clark Stoller (Sis. Cindy, Gridley, IL) and Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Sis. Jane, Bluffton North, IN).

As I write this, farmers in our area are busy with harvest. God has blessed us as only He can as yields are higher than expected. Once again He has shown us that if we place all our trust in Him, He will never forsake us. We are so thankful for all of God's blessings.

No farewells were spoken,
 No time to say good-bye,
 You were gone before we knew it
 And only God knows why.

—author unknown

We were saddened to hear of the tragic death of Bro. Mark Stoller (Sis.

Shirley, Latty, OH). Bro. Mark is the son-in-law of Bro. Walt and Sis. Dorothy Steffen of our congregation. Let us continue to keep Sis. Shirley and her children along with their extended family members in our prayers.

INDIANA, REMINGTON

Tammy Waibel
Beth Virkler

We praise God together as a congregation for leading Bro. Ken Schneider in faith to announce his engagement to Sis. Bernice Stahl (Princeville, IL). Lord willing, they plan to wed on December 9.

Rustin and Shelby have a new baby brother named Levi Alan, born to Bro. Alan and Sis. Sarah Schambach on October 13. His grandparents, Bro. Stan and Sis. Norma Schambach (Elgin, IL) and Bro. Warren and Sis. Dolores Zehr (Fairbury, IL), rejoice also.

We extend our deepest sympathies to Betty Vaughan in the death of her brother, Bro. Harlan Braker (Roanoke, IL).

Thank you to Bro. Ed Fritz (Washington, IL) for bringing the Word to us this month.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

Becky Langhofer
Natalie Virkler

It is refreshing and encouraging to see the beautiful colors of autumn appearing, and to feel the crisp mornings and cooler days of fall. Likewise we are refreshed and encouraged by the new and changing seasons in each of our lives. We are grateful for and rejoice with Bro. Nathan and Sis. Natalie Virkler as they have entered a new season in their lives. On September 21, they welcomed Baby Portia Renae into their arms. Grandparents are Bro. Stan and Sis. Beth Virkler (Remington) and Bro. Herb and Sis.

Laurie Knochel (Phoenix). Our special thanks to Bro. Herb (Sis. Laurie) for sharing the Word of God with our congregation while they were visiting their new granddaughter.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO Marguerite Hoerr

On the last Sunday in September we were favored with a visit from ministering Bro. Jeff Niehouser and his wife, Sis. Sue, from the Francesville congregation. Sis. Sue is a niece of Bro. Lyle Zeltwanger of our Valpo church. Our thanks go out to them for their visit and for making our Sunday such a day of blessing.

On the following Sunday, Bro. Garry in his afternoon service, read from II Corinthians, Chapter 4. Verses 6 and 7 touched my heart as he read "For God who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. And we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God and not of us." Verse 7 reminded me of a poem that was given to me by one of my former co-workers. It was titled "God uses Cracked Pots." I haven't been able to find it recently but the meaning was clear. The motto of the poem is: "Each of us have our own unique flaws. We are all cracked pots and if we will allow it, the Lord will use our flaws to grace His Father's table." Our earthen vessels are more apt to be damaged than whole, but can still be used for the Glory of God.

Bro. Garry and Sis. Lois Bucher invited the entire church to their home on a Sunday evening for hot dogs, carry ins, and fellowship. We weren't able to be with them but we remember another time when, after enjoying good food, we were sitting in a circle on straw bales and chairs, singing

hymns under the stars, and feeling a very close kinship with each other.

The Sunday of October 15 blessed us with the visit of Bro. Nile and Sis. Phyllis Bucher, of the Bluffton North congregation. Bro. Garry introduced him as his "double brother", a blood brother and a brother in faith. Traveling with them were Bro. Harold and Sis. Vi Meyer of the Bluffton Country church. Bro. Nile has a teaching ability, along with his ministry; and one derives many blessings from his sermons. We thank them for coming and for enriching our day.

This Sunday evening, October 21, I'm reflecting over the enjoyable day we had in church. Bro. Chris Wuethrich and Sis. Carla visited from our neighboring LaCrosse congregation. LaCrosse & Valpo hosted 50 junior high students for the day. With us for morning services were Sunday schools from seven churches besides our own. Represented were: Francesville, LaCrosse, Remington, Wolcott, Milford, W. Lafayette, and Leo. Bro. Chris talked directly to the children during his sermon and it was noted that he held their complete attention. At noon the entire group of young people stood in front of our assembly room and sang two hymns before we adjourned for lunch. The singing was beautiful. I think we can say the rafters rang with their songs. We enjoyed so much the teachers and their wives who accompanied them. Sunday school was held for them this afternoon. I'm sure many prayers accompanied them as they drove to their various homes this evening. They blessed our day in Valpo.

Our Valparaiso church is one of the smaller churches in membership and Sunday school attendance. We welcome visitors and would like to encourage any of you to come spend a Sunday with us. Our address is: 105 South State Road 49. We're 2 3/4 miles south of U.S. 30 on State Rd. 49. Even

though we're small in numbers, we can promise you a warm welcome.

INDIANA WEST LAFAYETTE Darlene Walder Hollie Meister

Three year old Cameron Allinder is thrilled to announce that he is a big brother now. Little brother, Collin Jesse, was born to Brian and Glenda Allinder and we are very happy that he arrived safely and into his loving parents' arms. We wish them all of God's blessings in raising up their two sons.

Our visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL), Bro. Gary Tonner (Bluffton) and Bro. Rich Gramm (South Bend). Thanks to each of you for your gifts of teaching.

On September 23 we were blessed to be able to have our Sunday School picnic at Happy Hollow Park and the weather was beautiful to be outside. Remembering from that night the teachers handing out the various Bible story books and Bibles to the different age groups of kids makes us appreciate our free country and the opportunity to teach our children and young people the ways of the Lord.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT Lowell Bahler Erica Blume

"We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves."

Once again we are made aware of the abundance of blessings from our Heavenly Father as we bring in a most bountiful harvest. The season is rapidly drawing to a close for many as we have appreciated good weather throughout. Man can sow and water, but it truly is our Lord which giveth the increase!

Bro. Bob and Sis. Luann Gerber were blessed with the early but safe arrival of grandson Seth Aaron Heinold on September 27. His parents are Bro. Eric and Sis. Bobbi Ann Heinold of our Lacrosse, IN, fellowship. Babies bring a special joy and blessing, so we offer our sincere congratulations!

On Sunday evening, October 7, Bro. John and Sis. Ruth Ann Lehman hosted the annual wiener roast and potluck supper at their home. It concluded with the First Sunday of the Month Singing. We always enjoy this occasion and we appreciate the chance to sing around a campfire. We thank them for their love and hospitality.

IOWA, BLOOMFIELD Barbara Schock

All the way my Savior leads me;
What have I to ask beside?
Can I doubt His tender mercy
Who thro' life has been my guide?
Heav'nly peace, divinest comfort,
Here by faith in Him to dwell!
For I know, whate'er befall me,
Jesus doeth all things well.

Hymns of Zion # 21, vs 1

Believing through faith and that it is His will, on September 23 we were able to witness the joining of two hearts, as Bro. Chad Zimmerman (Bro. Tom and Sis. Janet, Eureka) and Sis. Angie Wuthrich (Bro. Roger and Sis. DeAnn) took the sacred vows of Holy Matrimony. We wish this dear couple God's richest blessings and guidance as they walk this path of life together. We will miss Sis. Angie, but pray that she will feel at home in Eureka.

On the same weekend, we were blessed with many visiting ministering brothers. Bro. Brad Funk (Sis. Laura, Garden Grove), Bro. Tim Zimmerman (Sis. Barb, Lamont-

Gridley, KS), Bro. Mark Schmidgall (Sis. Lisa, Eureka), Bro. Kent Mogler (Sis. Mary, Minneapolis), Bro. Curt Rassi (Sis. Kathy, Tremont), Bro. Trent Meiss (Sis. Lucy, Eureka) and Bro. Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha) were all here. We thank them for their efforts on our behalf.

On September 26, Bro. Paul Gasser (Sis. Joyce, Akron) made a stop in Bloomfield on their way home from the west. We thank Bro. Paul for taking the time to minister to us.

On October 14, our Sunday School class invited the Congerville Bible Class for the day. Retired Elder Bro. Roy Grimm (Sis. Dona, Taylor) came up for the day and spoke to the Bible Class. Ministering Bro. Brad Funk (Sis. Laura, Garden Grove) was also here for the day. We thank these two brothers for all their labors on our behalf and may the Lord be your rich Rewarder.

Having let the Savior lead her, it was made known unto the church that our convert from Oregon, Emily Sinn (Bro. Mark and Sis. Elsie, Silverton) has found peace with God and with man. May she continue to grow and feel His guidance as she prepares for baptism.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Matthew Wettstein (Bro. Jon and Sis. Rita) as he has spent some time this past month in the hospital. May he feel the Lord's healing hand. Our prayers are also with Brian Schaer (Don) as he is over in Iraq. I do not think that we can pray enough for our soldiers that are over in harm's way. May the Lord continue to provide His protecting hand over all of our soldiers over there.

IOWA, ELGIN Gloria Frieden Heidi Butikofer

"In every thing give thanks; for this is

the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

Thess. 5:18

Humanly, we might wonder how we can be thankful in "everything". It's hard to be thankful during some of the struggles that we are asked to face and endure. But we have a living God who knows our every need and knows what is best. He knows how the difficult times can prove to be times of spiritual growth, and help us to become more fervent in our prayer requests, that God will continue to be in complete control in every aspect of our lives. We may be asked to endure things that we would never ask for, but we know God's grace is sufficient and He will provide.

On October 7, our small flock rejoiced with Sis. Maria Butikofer (Bro. Lon and Sis. Sandy) and Bro. Dean Rocke (Sis. Kathy and the late Bro. Nelson, Tremont, IL) as their engagement was announced. We are thankful for the work God has done in their lives, and pray that He will continue to guide them as they make plans for their wedding and marriage.

As we rejoice with those who rejoice, we also weep with those who weep. Our sympathy is extended to Sis. LaVerne Butikofer (Bro. Al) in the passing of her brother, Bro. Les Fischer (Sis. Sara, Roanoke, IL). We are thankful for the comfort God provides in times of sorrow.

We are thankful for all the visitors who have come to worship with us this past month. A special thanks to those who stood at the pulpit and expounded God's Word unto us. They were Elder Bro. Wayne Grimm (Sis. Rose) and Bro. Pat Zaugg (Sis. Julie), both of West Bend.

Now thank we all our God
With hearts and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done,
In whom the world rejoices.

IOWA, IOWA CITY
Diana Butikofer

We are grateful for the visit of Bro. Floyd and Sis. Jan Frieden (Elgin, IA) and their family recently. We thank Bro. Floyd for his service on the pulpit and pray the Lord will bless his efforts.

IOWA, LESTER
Gloria Moser
Polly Metzger

“A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted.”

Eccl. 3:2

Our congregation has once again been blessed with three new babies. Durwin and Amy Martin are first-time parents to Brody James. He was born September 27, and his grandparents are Ed and Judy Martin and Bro. Jim and Sis. Carolyn Rueter (Morris, MN). On October 3, Claire Nicole was born to Dallas and Amy Knobloch. Her brother, Tory, is excited to have a little sister. Her grandparents are Jim Moser and Bro. Larry and Sis. Sherryl Knobloch. On October 8, Jordan Lee was born to Bro. Merlin and Sis. Marilyn Meyer. Jessica, Erica, Javen, and Nicole are all happy to have a little brother to love. His grandparents are Bro. Pat and Sis. Twyla Meyer and Bro. Nick and Sis. Mary Kuenzi (Silverton, OR). May God bless these dear parents with continued grace as they raise their children.

Our surgical and hospital patients this month were Judy Martin (Ed), Sis. Becky VerBeek (Tim), Bro. Don Metzger (Mary Jane), Bro. Bob Gerber (Sis. Nancy), and Cheri Leuthold (Collin). We pray that God will heal them, and be near them in the days and months ahead.

October 13-14 was the weekend of the provings and baptisms of Kent Moser (Bro. Donn and Sis. Joyce) and Drew Metzger (Bro. Marv and Sis. Joleen). It was truly a blessed weekend and we wish these two dear brothers God's nearness and direction as they join the fold and begin their life as brothers in Christ. We were thankful that Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Morris, MN) was here to assist in this undertaking. Bro. Darren Fehr (West Bend, IA) was here for the weekend also. We appreciate the efforts of these brothers. May God continue to bless them.

That same Sunday, Trela Knueven (Jason) was announced for peace. May she continue to feel God's nearness and may He continue to watch over Jason as he serves his country in Afghanistan.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to two dear families. Bro. Jim and Sis. Betty Leuthold and Jerry and Mary Ter Wee in the loss of her dear sister, Rena Ter Wee. Rena passed away on September 27. On October 2, Bro. Mark and Sis. Lee Leuthold said farewell to her dear mother, Carmen Howard. These two souls will be dearly missed by their families. May God be near them and comfort them all as they journey through the days ahead without their loved ones.

Harvest time is here in the Midwest. We pray God will keep all safe from harm and bless the harvest as He sees best.

IOWA, OAKVILLE
Sharla Wiegand

Two hearts became one on September 22 when Katherine Lindeen and Jacob Montgomery exchanged wedding vows. Katherine's parents are Bro. Tom and Sis. Vera Lindeen.

We are always thankful for visiting ministers. On September 23, Bro. Phil Schulz (Burlington, IA)

preached the Word.

Adding to their family circle, Bro. Dave and Sis. Tami Lanz welcomed a new bundle of joy named Kate Estellyn on September 25. Big sisters include Kenna, Krissa, Ellie and Tyra. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Janet Lanz and Bro. Rod and Sis. Twyla Bajema of Lester, IA. Great-grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Joan Lanz, Bro. Hartzell and Sis. Marian Schmidgall of Oakville, IA, and Sis. Estellyn Metzger of Lester, IA.

IOWA, WEST BEND
Janet Fehr
Sue Schneider

We are thankful to report that Sis. Rosene (Bro. Clifford) Grimm has returned to her home after an extended hospital stay following surgery. May the healing power of our Heavenly Father be felt by Sis. Rosene as she recuperates.

On September 19, a daughter, Morgan Grace, was born to Bro. Jeff and Sis. LaRae Montag. Welcoming little Morgan into their family are her three sisters: Karissa, Jenna, and Kierstin, and two sets of grandparents, Bro. Ken and Sis. Marlene Banwart and Ed and Luan Montag.

Bro. Jordon and Sis. Ann Grimm were blessed with a new baby boy. Little Leydan Eli was born October 12 and joins his brothers, Nathan, Nolan, Colman, Creytan and Logan, in the Grimm household. Elder Bro. Wayne and Sis. Rose Grimm and Bro. Dennis and Sis. Judy Fehr are Leydan's grandparents. God's guidance and blessing to both families as they rear their children.

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: It is a gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.”

Ephesians 2:8-9

We enjoyed a blessed weekend as Betsy Mogler (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Beth) received this priceless gift of salvation following her testimony and baptism. Elder Bro. Dennis Warner (Sis. Esther, Lester, IA) assisted our Elder Bro. Wayne Grimm with these duties. Bro. Joe Gerst (Sis. Connie, Iowa City, IA) was also here for the weekend. Both of these brothers shared God's Word with us in truth and clarity. We thank them for it.

Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen, Kansas City, MO) and Bro. Duane Rocke (Sis. Bonnie, Minneapolis, MN) visited our congregation on different occasions. We so appreciate the time they spent with us and their inspiring messages. May God be their rich rewarder.

On October 6, Jason Wickman (Bro. Larry and Sis. Marvella) and Mindy Erpelding (Steven and Linda) were united in holy matrimony. We pray for God's blessing on their union.

The Sunday School students grades 5-8 and their teachers spent a weekend in Winthrop, MN, with the Winthrop and Minneapolis, MN, students from these same grades. A special thank you to the Winthrop congregation and the Sunday School teachers for the time and energy they spent on behalf of our young people.

The Thanksgiving season is here. May we possess a thankful heart and mind daily throughout the year.

A Thankful Heart
 May we always each remember
 On this special day
 Many blessings that are ours
 All along the way.
 May we with deep humility
 Forever have a part
 In expressing gratitude
 From a thankful heart.
 Grant us strength to do our best
 In each daily task;

To be worthy of this day
 We would humbly ask.
 Help us walk in paths of service
 Doing all we can
 By giving thanks through kindness
 To our fellow man.

—Virginia Katherine Oliver

JAPAN, SHIODA
Carrie Ito

We are so happy and thankful to report the safe arrival to Japan of Chi-san, the wife of our dear Chinese friend, Li-san, who faithfully attends our church. Even though she knows very little English or Japanese, we pray that she will feel our love for her—and more importantly, the love of Jesus.

KANSAS, BERN
Sheri Edelman
Rita Menold

What an encouraging month it has been for our Bern church! We are thankful to report four new converts in our congregation! We rejoice with Almanzo and Sheila Strahm (Bro. Kyle and Sis. Peggy), Lauri Stoller (Bro. Arden and Sis. Dar) and Mathew Kaeb (Bro. Paul and Sis. Joan) as they have heeded the call and given their lives to God in repentance!

Lord willing, we are looking forward to the provings and baptisms of Monica and Brady Strahm (Bro. Edwin and Sis. Ramona) and Maria Baumgartner (Bro. John and Sis. Lori) as they have found the wonderful peace of God in their hearts!

We have been blessed with little boys the last couple of months! We are thankful for the arrival of little Seth David, born to Bro. Bruce and Sis. Diane Stoller. Happy grandparents are Bro. Darrel and Sis. Gloria Stoller and Bro. Curt and Sis. Ellen Strahm. Bro. Jason and Sis. Kendra Rokey welcomed Kirk Isaac to their family! Big brother Jadon is excited

for a little brother! Bro. Galen and Sis. Nancy Rokey and Earl and Sis. Darlene Meyer are thankful for another grandson!

We enjoyed our annual church "wiener roast" that ended up being held indoors due to weather. It is always encouraging and enjoyable to spend time together with our church family!

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT
Karen Kellenberger

Peace! peace! wonderful peace,
 Coming down from the Father
 above;

Sweep over my spirit forever, I pray
 In fathomless billows of love.

Gospel Hymns #746

On September 30, it was shared with us that our dear convert Sherry Ford has found that wonderful peace and is longingly looking forward to her testimony of faith and baptism.

We were very blessed to hear two visiting ministers. They were Bro. Scott Wegman (Sis. Dawn, Taylor, MO) and Bro. Ted Witzig, Jr. (Sis. Donna, Morton, IL). Throughout the weekend, Bro. Ted presented additional encouraging talks on topics that affect our day to day walk in the Lord. We thank these ministering brothers and their families.

What do we have to be thankful for this Thanksgiving? The list is probably endless. Perhaps we can name one more by selecting a very painful hurt from our past and giving it wholly to Jesus – then not look back. The resulting blessing to be thankful for has a name - peace.

KANSAS, KIOWA
Janice Bahr
Jenny Stewart

"O Lord, how manifold are thy

works. In wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy riches. I will sing unto the Lord as long as I live. I will sing praise to my God while I have my being."

Psalm 104:24,33

It was my privilege to fly to Magdalena De Kino, Mexico, recently. To behold the beauty and majesty of God's handiwork from the small window of a plane brought so many songs of praise to mind, that I felt as if those songwriters could have been flying across God's beautiful creation when they penned those unforgettable words: "Creation", "How Great Thou Art" or "Climb Every Mountain". And then, when I felt the work of love that is being wrought on the CVE campus, and watched those who have given their lives to God and are sharing their youth, their love, their joy with those precious children, and bringing the love of Christ into lives that did not know Him, more songs come to mind: "This Little Light of Mine, I'm Going to let it Shine" or "Jesus Loves the Little Children" or "Jesus Loves Me" or "Brighten the Corner Where You Are". I can see why it's called the house of light and hope. May God richly bless this labor of love, and may we in this beautiful United States also let our light, our love, our joy in Christ so shine, that we may also "brighten the corner where we are"!

Our thoughts and prayers go out to several loved ones who are being burdened with health problems. Sis. Shirley Nelson, Bethany Hamilton and Glen Piper need to be lifted up to our Great Physician who knows their every need before we ask.

We truly appreciate those who went out of their way to share Sunday worship with us this past month and for those who share in our Rest Home services.

With Thanksgiving just around

the corner, Hymns of Zion #116 comes to mind. "Count your blessings, name them one by one, Count your blessings see what God hath done. Count your blessings, name them one by one. Count your many blessings, see what God hath done."

**KANSAS
LAMONT-GRIDLEY
Ester Knobloch**

We appreciate the labors of our visiting ministers in bringing forth the Word to our edification and admonishment. Bros. Wayne Wiegand (Goodfield, IL), Nathan Wieland (Goodfield, IL), Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS) and Jerry Meeks (Sabetha, KS) were with us this past month. May God be with them each time they stand before a church.

Our congregation enjoyed the precious fellowship of our faith when several came to visit for our invite-a-guest weekend and then for a Single Group weekend. What a privilege we share to be able to travel unhindered and encourage one another in our walk on the straight and narrow path of life.

Blest be the tie that binds
Our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds
Is like to that above.

Hymns of Zion #156

**KANSAS, SABETHA
Dawn Strahm
Rebekah Beyer**

Truly we have been filled with spiritual manna as several ministering brothers shared the Word with us this month. Bro. Duane Rocke (Sis. Bonnie, Minneapolis, MN) was here to speak to our youth for the Sunday School Weekend. We appreciated his labor of love from the pulpit as well. Thank you to Bro. Marvin Leman (Sis. Jane, Bradford, IL) who brought

forth the gospel message for us. Elder Bros. Lawrence Luthi (late Sis. Sandra, Lamar, MO) and Art Nohl (Sis. Sandra, Morris, MN), and Bros. Beirne Messner (Sis. Joyce, Morris, MN) and Darrel Stoller (Sis. Gloria, Bern) were all in Sabetha for the proving and baptism of our new brother in Christ, Galen Grimm.

Galen is the son of Bro. Doug and Sis. Jeryl Grimm and the grandson of Sis. Lois Grimm. We shared a wonderful weekend and are so thankful that God is still calling souls unto Him.

Our church has been blessed with many new babies lately. Bro. Lafe and Debbie Bailey were thankful for the safe arrival of Eve Augusta on August 16. Siblings, Landon, Grace, and Ivy, and grandparents, Bro. Larry and Sis. Linda Bailey and Harold and Carol Bauer of Fairview welcomed Eve.

Aiden Kent was born to Bro. Kent and Sis. Molly Grimm on September 24. Aiden's siblings are Micah, Kyle, and Collin. Grandparents are Bro. Rod and Sis. Arlene Grimm and Bro. Doug and Sis. Joyce Wulf.

Keelan Carl was born to thankful first-time parents, Bro. Koertland and Sis. Rebekah Beyer, on October 9. Happy grandparents are Bro. Galen and Sis. Nancy Rokey (Bern, KS), Sis. Luanne Beyer (Oakville, IA), and Peter Beyer (Columbus, OH).

Bro. Dennis and Sis. Beth Hartter are grandparents of a new baby boy. Cole Trenton was born to Bro. Trent and Sis. Rita Menold (Bern, KS) on September 9. Bro. Joe and Sis. Kathy Rokey (Bern, KS) are the paternal grandparents.

**KANSAS, WICHITA
Emma Miller**

Several brothers from our Wichita congregation are helping with the A.C. World Relief Project in tornado

stricken Greensburg, Kansas, where we committed to rebuilding a home. The trip to Greensburg is at least two and a half hours from Wichita, so going for one day's work makes a very long day. We have so few able bodied men in our congregation who can go for an extended period of time. The mission involves building a home for an older widow who seems to be renewing her trust in the Lord and praises Him for the help she is receiving.

We are rejoicing with Mike Bowers as his wife, Fonza, was cleared to leave Madagascar and has joined him in Wichita. We welcome her and pray that this is a marriage bound with a three fold cord, not likely rent apart.

A certain brother in our congregation frequently leads us in prayer and on nearly every occasion he asks for a blessing on the ministering brothers who willingly lead our worship services. Bro. Glen Funk and Bro. Cory Metzger both have families of their own who need their counsel, guidance and time. It is necessary for them to coordinate their plans in order that the pulpit duties be fulfilled. Bro. Max Reimschisel often comes to their aid. We must ask ourselves if we appreciate their dedication and how can we help them bear the burdens of ministering the Word.

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON **Barb Huber**

"It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto thy name, O Most High."

Psalm 92:1

As we again reflect and remember the bountiful blessings that our God and Creator has given to us, may we always keep the spirit of Thanksgiving daily in each of our lives.

We are grateful for ministering Bros. Bob Pflederer (Sis. Ellie, Morton) and Mark Zimmerman (Sis. Cheryl, Eureka). Thanks to both of you and may God bless you richly for being willing to travel and share God's Holy Word. We also welcomed other visitors from Fairbury, IL; Burlington, IA; and Alto, MI. Our small church appreciates all your labors and efforts to fellowship with us. We're thankful the Lord has heard the many prayers for our dear Sis. Rebecca Germann (Bro. Doug) as she has been able to assemble with us again after having major surgery. We continue to lift up Sis. Rebecca in prayer as she will begin her treatments soon. We pray God's healing hand will restore her health. May our Almighty and loving God provide strength and comfort to her dear family during this special time of need. May God bless our dear friend, Dan Henderson, with His healing touch, as he is still suffering from his broken ankle.

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

MEXICO, IXTLAN **Claudia Gonzalez**

"For I will restore health unto thee, and I will heal thee of thy wounds, saith the Lord..."

Jeremiah 30:17

Our prayers and sympathy are with Sis. Cecy Robledo and her family as her father, Luis Robledo, passed away on October 7. We thank the Lord that he repented and found peace with God on August 2 after becoming seriously ill. Through this time of suffering, her mother, Socorro, also found grace to repent.

We wish to thank all the students that come to Morelia to study Spanish who also support the members there by sharing Bible studies and passing time with them. Thank you for your encouragement.

We also appreciate all of you dear ones who are praying for the new believers in Barra Vieja and also those who are going there to show your support.

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

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

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

Psalm 32:8

We are thankful for the confidence that we have that God will direct our paths and in that same confidence we trust that God has directed the following two families to return back to their former homes. Our prayers are with Bro. Brian and Sis. Marie Ricketts and their six children: Emily, Laura, Philip, Matthew, Megan, and Justin, as they returned back to Forrest, IL, in the month of September. We also will be saying farewell to Bro. Joe and Sis. Denise Maller as they plan to return to Bluffton, IN, at the end of October. We thank God for bringing each of these couples here, for their time serving at CVE, their talents, the love that they have shown, and their example of Christian marriage and family for our children here at CVE and the community. We pray that God will continue to bless their daily walk as they follow His footsteps and that God's faithfulness will be evident as they transition into this next chapter of their lives. Please come back and visit!

Por Jehová son ordenados los pasos del hombre, Y él aprueba su camino.

Psalm 37:23

We praise God for the safe arrival of Timothy René Ricketts on October 3. Rejoicing with Bro. Brian and Sis. Marie and family are grandparents, Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Janice Steffen, and Bro. Nick and Sis. Jean Ricketts (all of Forrest, IL). May God give them much grace and wisdom as they bring up their children in the Truth of God's Word.

Meet Sis. Ruth Duarte:

I lived in an orphanage from the time I was 5 or 6 years old. I lived there 6 or 7 years. It was a Christian orphanage and had a combined choir of 40 children that traveled to different places to sing. I was part of this choir and enjoyed it very much. Several times I ran away from the orphanage and finally after many times, my uncles let me and my siblings stay with their family. My uncles took us to church. When I was 10 years old, my mom returned. She had three more children with her and began to go to dances, leaving me to care for her children. After a time, I grew tired of this and moved with my boyfriend to another city. We lived there for 2 years and then separated, but I was pregnant. I gave birth to my daughter but continued to be interested in dances, parties, alcohol, and more. I found another man, who is the father of my last three children. When I was pregnant with my last child, I separated from their father and lived by myself with my children in Magdalena. At this time I was attending a Christian church. I heard that a children's home was being constructed and went there in search of work. I was told that there were many volunteers and they didn't have any work for me.

I left that day very sad but as I left, I met one of the local Sisters. She asked me if I wanted to talk and there began our relationship. One day in July, she came to drop off an invitation to Vacation Bible School. She was surprised to see that I had already had my baby a few days prior. My kids went to Vacation Bible School every day that next week and she even kept them a little bit longer afterwards so that I could rest. When Ángel was 10 days old, we came to church for the first time. I continued coming because I enjoyed it. Shortly thereafter I repented, about 2 years ago. I was baptized in November of 2006.

Now I am happy. I have peace and joy, although I am still working on patience! I am happy that I can bring my children to church to learn about Christ. I am very thankful to my brothers and sisters in Christ, those who have shared Christ with me and those who have prayed for me. For those who aren't yet Christians, my desire for you is that Christ will touch your hearts.

With much love,

Your Sister in Christ, Ruth

MICHIGAN, ALTO
Rose Watson
Terri Huber

There is so much to report this month. As always, we have to mingle good news with bad. Much to our sadness, we bid goodbye to Bro. Robert and Sis. Mary Herrmann and their son, Robert Michael. Work has taken them back to their home state of Illinois. We were surely blessed by the years they lived here and we will miss their enthusiastic support and active participation in Sunday School and World Relief. May God bless their growing family and future decisions.

Another precious soul has entered the world. Steve and Sis. Sandy Schutte are thankful first-time

grandparents of baby Alexandria Grace. We wish Alex and her parents, Mark and Sara, the greatest of continued joys in their home.

Bro. Wally and Donna Gerst are delighted to share the announcement of their son's engagement. Through prayer, Bro. Jon has felt God's guidance to ask for Sis. Amy Fiechter and they anticipate a February wedding. Sis. Amy's parents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Shari of Bluffton. Jon and Amy will be living in Indiana and attending the Leo church. What a blessing to see the hand of God in lives both young and old, and to know that He cares for us and He is glorified when we trust Him and strive to do His will.

Our congregation has finished listening to the Conference tapes. We have also been blessed with the preaching of Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Bloomfield, IA) when he and his wife, Sis. Clara, were in town on a Wednesday night.

At this time I am fortunate to be able to report that those who have had surgery are home and recuperating as expected. Sis. Joan (Bro. Tom) Schrenk and Bro. Aaron (Sis. Loretta) Steffen were able to gather with us on Sunday after their hospitalizations. Many others, especially our youngsters, have suffered with viruses and winter-type ailments recently even though the weather has been unseasonable warm. We can send an extra prayer of support for the weary parents that care for and worry about their children when illness strikes.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY
Sarah Knochel
Janelle Ramseyer

Michelle Ruegsegger (Bro. Glenn and Sis. Maria) and Brad Marciniak were united in marriage on September 22. We wish them God's richest blessings in their life together.

We also rejoice with Bro. Rod and Sis. Evelyn Wieland in the birth of a grandson, Landon. Landon's parents are Lorne and Beverly Dyar.

We pray for the Lord's healing powers on Bro. Bill Waibel as he spent a few days in the hospital and is still recovering from an infection.

Now thank we all our God
With heart, and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done,
In whom the world rejoices,
Who from our mother's arms
Has blest us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
And still is ours today.

As the day our nation sets aside as Thanksgiving approaches, may we ever be thankful to our Heavenly Father for the blessings He has given us.

May God be with each one in the coming days.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT
Manuela Denes
Kay Rauhe

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above..."

James 1:17

We are pleased to announce the engagement and upcoming marriage of Sis. Alexis Gasser (Bro. Randy and Sis. Sue) to Bro. Jon Stoller (Bro. Rod and Sis. LeAnn) from our Latty, OH, congregation. May God bless their love, their upcoming marriage, and their future together with a lifetime of special joys...congratulations!

On October 6, Amazing Love, the Apostolic Christian Men's Octet from Bloomington, IL, sang beautifully to praise and honor our dear Lord and Saviour. What a wonderful and blessed evening our congregation had and one that we will remember fondly for a long time.

Our heart-felt thanks goes to Bro. Pat Allen for recently completing three consecutive three-year terms on the Woodhaven Board of Directors, and we're asking for prayerful support for his successor, Bro. Brian Barton.

We so appreciated visiting ministers, Bro. Howard Plattner (Sis. Kristen; Alto, MI), Bro. Glen Funk (Sis. Sally; Wichita, KS), Bro. Virgil Kaeb (Sis. Suellen; Sarasota, FL), and Bro. Trent Schrock (Sis. Heidi; Leo, IN) for sharing the Word with us. We certainly appreciated their willingness to "serve the Lord with gladness." (Psalm 100:2)

We were saddened to hear about the death of Daniel Koprince. Our deepest sympathy, continued prayers, and love to his sisters, Sis. Martha Szilagyi and Sis. Vi Barton (Bro. Jim), and to his family.

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

1 John 4:12

MINNESOTA
MINNEAPOLIS
Mary Mogler

"Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him and bless his name. For the Lord is good; and his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations."

Psalm 100: 4-5

While we pause in this season to consider all the Lord has done for us and to count our many blessings, this verse speaks to our hearts. Truly the Lord is good as He continues to extend His mercy and let His truth be known.

We welcome Wendy Wagenbach of

Tremont, IL, to our area. Wendy is employed by Pinnacle Airlines and we enjoy having her worship with us.

A visit to his son brought Bro. Duane Metzger and his wife, Sis. Ruth (West Bend, IA), to the Twin Cities. We appreciate Bro. Duane ministering to us on Sunday.

Jennifer Bentz spent time in the hospital and in recovery at home following an emergency appendectomy. Also, we lift Sis. Maxine Larson up in prayer as she continues to face health challenges.

Our annual fall outing to Clearly Lake was held on a bright, crisp fall weekend, which was indeed a blessing after many rainy ones. The time of fellowship, activities and camping is looked forward to by children and adults alike.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS
Heidi Nohl
Sheila Reuter

Our hearts rejoice with Alissa Koehl (Bro. Randy and Sis. Shirley) as she has turned her heart to the Lord in repentance. We trust she will feel God's nearness as she makes this new beginning.

We were thankful to have Bro. Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN) share the Word of God with us this month. May the Lord bless him for his labors.

Winston Daniel was born to Bro. Tim and Sis. Kristin Schaefer. Excited to welcome home a new little brother were Greta and Remington. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Pam Schaefer. Also thankful for the safe arrival of their baby boy, Kendall Joe, were Bro. Matt and Sis. Jerilyn Waldbeser. Excited to welcome him home were big brothers, Derek and Braden. We wish them God's richest blessing as they raise their children.

The engagement of Bro. Jonathan Joos and Sis. Mindy Wulf was an-

nounced. Their parents are Bro. Harv and Sis. Debra Joos and Bro. Doug and Sis. Joyce Wulf. May God bless this couple as they make plans to be joined together as one.

Note of Thanks:

The family of Sis. Lillian Koehl wishes to thank you for the prayers, food, phone calls, gifts of love and the many deeds of kindness during the passing of our dear loved one. May God richly bless each one of you.

The Lillian Koehl Family

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP
Rachel Steiner
Julie Schmidt

Meet today in social union,
spend the hour in sweet communion
as in seasons past.

Christian friendship is a treasure,
pure in nature, rich in measure,
Filling us with heav'nly pleasure,
while the moments last.

Hymns of Zion #53 vs. 2

As a small church every visitor is a special blessing. This month we've been privileged to host several single groups from various congregations as well as 5-8 grade students and their teachers from West Bend, IA, and Minneapolis, MN. We hope friendships were made and that they all felt welcome and eager to visit us again.

We were reminded recently about opportunities to pray. Perhaps a brother, sister or friend is burdened with physical affliction or dealing with a loss of a loved one. When we think there is little we can do, let us look around for opportunities to lift up others in prayer.

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY
Becky Weiss
Brittany Fehr

Our annual fall Work Day was held

on September 15. The efforts of all who helped are greatly appreciated. It's always a blessing to come together to work and fellowship.

We extend a warm welcome to Sis. Elizabeth Conzo. May she feel at home as she assembles with our church family.

Sis. Marty Rokey (Bro. Garry) has spent time in the hospital recently due to a double knee replacement surgery. May she feel God's healing hand upon her as she recovers.

The annual Wiener Roast was held at the home of Bro. Randy and Sis. Karen Kellenberger. We always enjoy this time of fellowship as a congregation and may God bless them for their efforts.

MISSOURI, LAMAR
Mindy Braker
Becky Marti

"Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine."

II Timothy 4:2

Among our visitors this past month were Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL) and Bro. Neal Widmer (West Lafayette, IN). We appreciate their willingness to be used in the Lord's service to minister His Holy Word.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS
Betsy Schrenk

Bro. Ken and Sis. Devon Rinkenberger welcomed another grandchild, their third born since June. Austin James was born on October 6 to Bro. Brandon and Sis. Mindy Rinkenberger (Chicago). His siblings are Kelli, Kyle, and Ashley.

Also on October 6, Abigail Braker (daughter of Bro. Morris Braker) married Geoffrey Luegger. We pray

for God's blessing on this young couple.

With warm weather continuing, our congregation enjoyed a cookout in Castlewood Park on October 14.

We thank Elder Bro. Don Braker (Sis. Eileen, Kansas City) and Bro. Lenny Meyer (Sis. Charlotte, Chicago) for bringing God's message to the St. Louis congregation this month. We have been blessed with many visitors this fall.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR
Sally Haerr

"Faith is the Victory" (Tabernacle Hymns #112). This precious old hymn is a sermon in itself. We also read in Hebrews 11:6 (Holy Bible) "... without Faith it is impossible to please God." Aren't we a blessed people to be taught the truth? Let's share it with others!

On September 29 we had the opportunity to take part in the Women's Seminar, taught by Bro. Ted Witzig Jr. (Apostolic Christian Counseling and Family Services). As I use the term "taught" it makes me realize just how much I/we need to learn God's plan for Godly women, through His Word, the Holy Bible. It is so different than what the main stream media of this world teaches us. Romans 12:1-2 was a key Bible reference for this program as well as key verses to live by each day. It was an added joy to have Bro. Ted, Sis. Donna and their girls with us for Sunday services. Thank you for blessing after blessing.

Sunday, September 30, our congregation enjoyed a carry-in/cook-out at Bro. Louis and Sis. Ruthie Hoerr's home, as an expression of our appreciation to our Taylor ministering brothers. We so often speak of our joy and thanks to visiting brothers and neglect to tell or encourage our home ministers who serve us so faithfully.

We hope that they will always feel our love and support and not have to experience rejection and criticism as "Jesus himself testified, that a prophet hath no honor in his own country." (John 4:44)

Bro. Randy Mogler (Sis. Evie, Washington, IL) came to present our monthly Topical Bible Study, "Becoming More Certain - Trusting God's Guidance". He read II Chronicles chapter 20. As this biblical account of a battle points out, it is the same for us today, in life's daily battles, we are not to fear or be dismayed "... for the battle is not ours, but God's." (II Chronicles 20:15)

On October 7, Bro. Ed Sauder (Sis. Bonnie, Roanoke, IL) came to spend the day with us and we want to thank him for preaching God's Word to us in love. On this same day, the annual Sunday School Fall Cook-out took place at Bro. Kenny and Sis. Phyllis Knapp's farm. It takes everyone working together: a place to hold an event, food preparation, games planned, parents to cooperate and encourage their children to attend. Much effort is put into these events and we are so thankful for each one that helped make these lasting memories with the children.

On October 14 a large group of young believers spent the weekend here, in response to the "Taylor Invite". What a blessing to witness their vibrance and zeal to serve a living Lord and Saviour. Elder Bro. Kent spoke to the group about spiritual storms and gave them much scripture based advice on how to be prepared. Their scripture verse/focus was Hebrews 11:7

Those sick or hospitalized this month were: Bro. Irvin Schmidgall (Sis. Lucille), Sis. Emma Dee Hoerr (Bro. Robert), Paulina Shoemaker (mother of Sis. Roberta Bostrom), and Bro. Paul Haab (Sis. Kathy). We can never be reminded too often to

pray for those who are sick and hurting as well as those who are faithful care givers.

NEW YORK CROGHAN-NAUMBURG Hope Graves

We were grateful to have Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI) travel to the Croghan area to have the funeral service for Sis. Esther Rauhe. May the Lord bless him for his labors.

On September 30, we were blessed with visiting ministering Bro. Vic Bauman and his wife, Sis. Brenda (Smithville, OH). Elder Bro. Dennis Warner (Lester, IA) was with our congregation on October 3. We thank them both for the messages that were brought forth.

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

Psalm 119:105

We rejoice with Jacob Farney, as he is repenting. May he look to His guidance in his walk with the Lord.

On October 13, we had a potluck followed by a singing. We appreciate our visiting brethren from Ohio that were with us for the weekend.

Thank ye the Lord!
Give thanks to the Lord,
For He is gracious,
His mercy it endureth evermore...
Bless ye the Lord,
O bless ye the Lord!
My soul, remember His goodness
And His gifts bestowed on thee!...

Hymns of Zion #245

OHIO, AKRON Mara Henico Rachel Pamer

Whatever betide
This promise assures us
The Lord will provide...

We are thankful that we can welcome a few new couples to our congregation. We heard the testimonies of Bro. Victor and Sis. Tammy Botosan and Bro. Les and Sis. Judy Steidl. What a blessing to be reminded of the importance of walking close to our Lord and heeding His direction in our lives as well as how faithful He is! We also are thankful that Bro. Paul and Sis. Sharon Gherian have recently relocated to our area and plan to make Akron their home church. We trust that God will always bless our fellowship with those who have a sincere desire to serve Him humbly.

We rejoice with Bro. Eugene and Sis. Diana Bako as they have a new granddaughter. Little Ava was born to Bro. Amos and Sis. Sarah Maibach (Rittman, OH). Also, Bro. John and Sis. Joyce Schambach welcomed grandson Jed, who was born to Bro. Rod and Sis. Jill Steiner (Rittman, OH). We were also thankful to hear of Serina Kate's safe arrival. Nathan, Connor, and Brianna are the other children who have been entrusted to Bro. Victor and Sis. Tammy Botosan.

Note of Thanks:

Bro. Art Graf and family would like to thank all the brothers and sisters and friends for your kindness and charity during these past months. May God be your rich rewarder

OHIO, COLUMBUS Nancy Banks

It is always an encouragement to have other visitors come worship with our small assembly. Our heartfelt appreciation goes out to our visiting ministers this month: Elder Bros. Andy Stoller (Sis. Roberta, Smithville, OH) and Mark Masters (Sis. Jeannine, Mansfield, OH) and Bros. Larry Wenninger (Sis. Joyce, Latty, OH), Jessie Bedolla (Sis. Bonnie, Detroit, MI) and Tom

Schambach (Elgin, IL).

With Thanksgiving approaching, our congregation has had so many reasons to be thankful in this last month. The last weekend of September, many gathered to hear the testimony of Todd Saurer (Bro. Roger and Sis. Sue, Smithville, OH). What a blessing to have Bro. Todd as part of our precious brotherhood. May God stand by his side throughout his life's journey.

We are so thankful and rejoice at the news that our friend, Cheryl Gehres, has turned her heart to the Lord in repentance. She is currently recovering from surgery and we will continue to pray for her physical and spiritual healing.

Two more reasons to give thanks arrived this month to fill our church baby room. October 1 was the arrival date of Benjamin Alvin who was born to Bro. Corbin and Sis. Audrey Schlatter. Natalie, Nicole, Allison and Wyatt welcome their new little brother. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Ralph and Sis. Sheila Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty Baltic (Indianapolis, IN). Then on October 6, Bro. Scott and Sis. Hope Schambach welcomed little Alayna Brooke into their hearts and home. Alayna's grandparents are Bro. Tom and Sis. Connie Schambach (Elgin, IL) and Bro. Paul and Sis. Marilyn Nenadov (Eureka, IL). May God grant much grace and wisdom to these families as they raise their precious children in His ways.

Our love and prayers are extended to Sis. Shirley Stoller and her family in the Latty congregation as they grieve the sudden loss of their husband, father and grandfather, Bro. Mark Stoller. What a comfort to know that Jesus knows our sorrow and will hear our every prayer.

OHIO, JUNCTION

Cindy Schlatter

Bro. Ralph and Sis. Sheila Schlatter are happy to welcome another grandson into their family circle. Benjamin Alvin was born to Bro. Corbin and Sis. Audrey Schlatter (Columbus, OH) on October 1. We wish them much grace and wisdom in the raising up of their precious children.

It was a privilege to have visiting ministers amongst us this past month. May God richly bless Bro. Ned Stoller (Alto, MI) and Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH) for making the effort to spend a weekend with us. It was truly a blessing to us and we trust it was for you, too.

OHIO, LATTY

Amanda Steffen

Carmen Eisenmann

We were thankful and blessed to have Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Sis. Cheryl, Rockville, CT) here to assist our congregation in the partaking of Holy Communion. Also visiting us this month were Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern, KS), Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Nelson Beer (Sis. Shelby, Milford, IN), Bro. Dan Stoller (Sis. Deb, Remington, IN), and Bro. Walt Rager (Sis. Sharon, Toledo, OH). May these brothers be blessed for their willingness to be used by the Lord to serve our congregation.

We were thankful to hear that our converts, Brian and Mackenzie Wenninger, were announced to the congregation as having peace with God and man. A couple of weeks later, on September 29-30, they along with Brock Williamson (Bro. Jason and Sis. Wendy) gave their testimony and were baptized. We pray God will be with these two dear brothers and new sister in the Lord as they continue on this path of life.

October 1, the day after being baptized, Bro. Brian and Sis. Mackenzie Wenninger welcomed Meagan Brooke into this world. Breanna is her excited older sister. Bro. Dave and Sis. Deb Wenninger and Ed and Jackie Scarbrough are the thankful grandparents. Seth Avery was born on October 3 to Bro. Bruce and Sis. Amy Rosswurm. Happy older siblings are Mallory, Rachael, John, Dana, Adrienne, and Bryce. Grateful grandparents are Sis. Irma Stoller and Bro. Dick and Sis. Eileen Whitman.

Bro. Jonathan Stoller (Bro. Rod and Sis. LeAnn) and Sis. Alexis Gasser (Bro. Randy and Sis. Sue) of Detroit were announced to be married. We pray that God will bless them and be near unto them as they prepare for their marriage. On September 22, Bro. Chris Stoller (Sis. Irma) took Sis. Katy Schlipf (Bro. Rich and Sis. Kathy, Milford, IN) to be his wife. May God bless them abundantly in the years ahead.

Bro. Darin and Sis. Erin Laukhuf, along with their children, Anna and Vince, have decided to make Bluffton their home church. We will miss them and pray that God will bless them.

We had several surgery patients this month. They were Sis. Dolly Laukhuf, Bro. Melvin (Sis. Irene) Stoller, and Sis. Deb (Bro. Dave) Wenninger. May God grant them healing according to His divine plan.

Our congregation was shocked and saddened by the sudden death of our dear Bro. Mark Stoller who died in a tractor accident. Surviving are his wife, Sis. Shirley; children, Stephanie (Wes) Merillat, Gabe, Summer (Travis) Banks; his mother, Sis. Mildred; his brother, Bro. Jim (Sis. Tam); his sister, Dixie Thomas; and four cherished grandchildren. We certainly lift this beloved family up in prayer as only He alone can provide comfort during this difficult time.

OHIO, MANSFIELD

Esther Baumann

We rejoice with Eric Boliantz (Bro. Don and Sis. Joyce) as he has begun his repentance. We trust he will feel God's nearness as he makes this new beginning.

On September 23, three young sisters were baptized and welcomed into Christ's family: Sis. Lydia Dotterer (Bro. Gaylord and Sis. Betty), Sis. Rachel Gerber (Bro. Tim and Sis. Wendy) and Sis. Bethany Miller (Bro. Roger and Sis. Dorina). We thank Elder Bro. Dave Graf (Sis. Barb, Akron, OH) for assisting in this special work. We also thank Bro. John Grimm (Sis. Julie, Columbus, OH) and Bro. Gary Brown (Sis. Jane, Forrest, IL) for their help in the ministry for the weekend.

We were excited to learn of the engagement of Sis. Beth Hill (Bro. Chip and Sis. Sieda) to Bro. Dallas Steidinger (Bro. Randy and Sis. Dawn) of Fairbury, IL. May they continue to be blessed as their lives are blended into one.

On October 6-7, we held our annual 'invite-a-friend' weekend. We appreciate every guest who came to be a blessing to us. Special thanks to the ministering brethren who came: Bro. Dan Goric (Sis. Mary Lou, Rockville, CT), Bro. Jerry Baumann (Sis. Martha, Rittman, OH), Bro. Ron Palitto (Sis. Lynell, Akron, OH) and Bro. Don Steidl (Sis. Nan, Akron, OH).

We were also blessed by Bro. Brent Kellenberger (Sis. Beth, Kansas City, MO) who lent himself in the ministering of God's Word to us this past month.

Continue to pray for Sis. Florina Baumann (Bro. Mike) as she recovers following a recent hospitalization.

Lord, I would clasp thy hand in

mine,
Nor ever murmur nor repine—
Content, whatever lot I see,
Since 'tis my God that leadeth me.
Gospel Hymns #637, v. 3

In this Thanksgiving season, let us be thankful for God's leading this past year and be content and willing to follow His leading for whatever He holds for the future.

OHIO, RITTMAN

Sarah Bauman Linda Zollinger

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

Eccles. 12:1

We rejoice with Charity Riggenbach (Bro. Bob and Sis. Lorie), Leah Beery (Bro. Walter and Sis. Lynda), Katrina and Minnie Baltic (Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty, Indianapolis, IN) who have answered God's call to repentance. May God bless and direct their lives.

This month we were blessed with two visiting ministers. Bro. Mark Zimmerman (Eureka, IL) and Bro. Todd Stoller (Latty, OH) kindly shared God's Word with us. We thank these dear brothers and pray God will be their rich Rewarder.

Our thoughts and prayers are with those recently hospitalized, including Sis. Carolyn Marty, Bro. Michael Dotterer (Bro. Richard and Sis. Dawn), Sis. Mary Ellen Saylor (Bro. William), Sis. Carole Widmer (Bro. Harold), Sis. Beverly Moore (Randy) and Doretta Kaufman. It's a comfort to know God is the Great Physician.

God has blessed our congregation with three new babies. We rejoice with Bro. Scott and Sis. Cindy Steiner in the birth of their son, Solomon

Daniel, born September 20. Solomon is welcomed home by his big sister, Adelynn. Grandparents are Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Jane Hartzler (Smithville, OH) and Bro. Richard and Sis. Patricia Steiner. Ava Juliann was born to Bro. Amos and Sis. Sarah Maibach on September 22. Ava is welcomed by big sister, Andrea, and big brother, Jack. Grandparents are Bro. Alpha, Jr. and Sis. Denise Maibach and Bro. Eugene and Sis. Dianna Bako (Akron, OH). Brant and Tiffany Gasser are first-time parents to a son, Austin Michael, born September 25. Grandparents are Bro. Dale and Janet Gasser and Stanley and Wendy Haverty. May God richly bless these families as they raise their dear children.

On September 23, Bro. Eric Maibach (Bro. Alpha, Jr. and Sis. Denise) and Sis. Ruth Tieche (Greg and Sis. Peggy) were united in marriage. We pray the Lord will richly bless this union.

Three engagements have been announced this month, including Bro. Jon Zollinger (Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Rebecca) of Smithville, OH, to Sis. Kelly Ramsier (Bro. Timothy and Sis. Jonell); Bro. Dean Stoller (Bro. Joseph and Sis. Marian) to Sis. Brienna Indermuhle (Bro. Brian and Sis. Beverly) of Smithville, OH; and Bro. Evan Gasser (Bro. Fred and Sis. Mary) to Sis. Amanda Rupp (Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Carol). May God richly bless and guide each one of them as they prepare for marriage.

We extend our prayers and sympathy to those in our congregation who have lost loved ones. Marie Nussbaum (late Bro. Frank) passed away on September 18 and to her grandson, John (Sis. Cynthia). Arlene Rupp passed away October 14 and to her dear children, Bro. Jim (Sis. Sharon), Earl (Pat), Ron, John, Tom, Bill (Sandi), Jeff (Lisa) and Sue. We want to remember these families in

prayer during this difficult time.

OHIO, SARDIS Faith Beard

Haste and seek your soul's salvation;
Heed the Word of God today!
Haste to flee His condemnation;
Seek the straight and narrow way.
Evil are the worldly pleasures,
Leading to eternal fire;
Seek the everlasting treasure,
Ere the day of grace expire.
Zion's Harp, #52, vs. 1

With great joy we report that Jason Brake (Bro. Bill and Sis. Miriam) has turned his back on those worldly pleasures and instead has begun his walk on that straight and narrow way.

"Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine."

II Timothy 4:2

Even though we realize this verse is meant for all of us, we also recognize those who stand before us during worship services. Those who ministered to us this month were Elder Bro. Merle Hartzler and Bros. Ron Steiner and Art Ingold of Rittman, OH; and Bros. Ron Pallito and Steve Pamer of Akron, OH.

Little children, little children,
who love their Redeemer,
Are the jewels, precious jewels,
His loved and His own.

Children's Harp, #24, vs. 3

A young child's innocence and inherent love for their Jesus is precious to witness and soon blooms in each new baby that is born to parents that teach her the true Gospel. Bro. Gary and Sis. Terry Zollinger happily share the news of the birth of their newest

grandchild, Jerusalem Joy, daughter of Bro. Matthew and Sis. Bridget Rassi (Chicago, IL).

"Sing, O heavens; and be joyful, O earth; and break forth into singing, O mountains: for the Lord hath comforted His people, and will have mercy upon His afflicted."

Isaiah 49:13

We thank the Great Physician that He has brought Staci Indermuhle (Bro. Allen and Sis. Janet) through a (somewhat minor) brain surgery, and she is now able to gather with us again. Soon after, Sis. Janet (Bro. Allen) was then hospitalized for a chronic, recurring illness. We daily and often remember this family in our prayers.

Many people participated in the "old-fashioned" outdoor activities and projects at our annual "Fall Gathering" on Saturday, October 20. We appreciated our many visitors as all enjoyed the warm fellowship that matched the beautiful weather and brilliant colors splashed over the hills. "O Lord my God! When I in awesome wonder consider all the worlds thy hands have made..."

OHIO, SMITHVILLE Edith Miller Ruth Gasser

God has been faithful in providing the Bread of Life again through His servants, and we are thankful for the efforts of our own ministers as well as those who have visited us. Sharing the Word recently were Bro. Warren Zahner (Rockville, CT), Bro. Mark Ramsier (Sardis, OH) and Bro. Tim Ramsier (Rittman, OH).

We're also thankful that the seed sown in hearts is producing fruit. We're pleased to hear of two seeking the Lord in repentance. Jackie Hartzler (Dwight and Bev) has expressed that need, and also Jason

Brake of Sardis, OH (Bro. Bill and Sis. Miriam), who worships with us while attending school in this area. We pray that each one will build a firm foundation on the Lord, and find true peace of heart. We look forward to hearing the testimonies of those who recently have experienced peace. This includes Roseanna Stoller (Bro. Dan and Sis. Kim) and Craig Stoller (Bro. Ed and Sis. Verla).

Bro. Ken and Sis. Jane Hartzler have been blessed by the addition of another grandson. Solomon Daniel Steiner was welcomed into the home of Bro. Scott and Sis. Cindy Steiner (Rittman, OH) on September 20. It is our hope and prayer that each child brought into our Christian homes can some day be part of our precious faith.

On September 22, Hannah Rufener (Bro. Larry and Sis. Susan) and Tom Studer became husband and wife, bringing the blessing of many visitors to us that weekend. On October 14, Bro. Kyle Indermuhle (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Shari) and Sis. Diane Maletich (Bro. Dave and Sis. Connie) pledged their lives in Holy Matrimony before many witnesses. We pray the Lord will be honored by these unions.

Bro. Jon Zollinger (Bro. Ken and Sis. Becky) and Sis. Kelly Ramsier (Bro. Tim and Sis. Joni, Rittman, OH) have announced their engagement and are planning a December wedding. The betrothal of Bro. Dean Stoller (Bro. Joe and Sis. Miriam, Rittman, OH) and Sis. Brienna Indermuhle (Bro. Brian and Sis. Bev) was also announced. May God bless these couples as they make preparations for this second most important step in life.

We extend our sympathy to the loved ones of Dorothy Carter, sister of late Bro. Elmer Blough (Sis. Lorene). Also grief has come to Sis. Dorothy Ramsier (Bro. Jim) and Sis. Sue Steiner (Bro. Mark), as their mother

and grandmother, Georgia Rice, has passed on. May God comfort those in sorrow.

We continue to remember Sis. Carol Schuster (Bro. George) in prayer as she experiences ongoing health difficulties and hospitalization.

OHIO, TOLEDO
Teresa Rywalski
Rebecca Beard

Isaac and Haven are happy to announce the safe arrival of their little brother, Micah William Shields. Bro. Brad and Sis. Holli Shields are the parents of this blessed family. May they continue to seek the Lord for guidance in raising their family.

Visiting us this month on the pulpit was Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH). We appreciate his willingness to serve us.

Sis. Geri Beard (Bro. Dave) had surgery this past month. May she feel God's healing touch.

OREGON, PORTLAND
Brianna Strahm

Our Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Betty) was with us this month for an exhortation on Communion, which will take place in a few weeks, Lord willing. Also, Bro. Ed Knecht (Sis. Judie), Bro. John Wiegand (Sis. Jane) and Bro. Harvey Kuenzi (Sis. Jennifer), all of Silverton, preached the Word to us. We appreciate the labors of each of these brethren and wish them the Lord's continued grace and boldness to rightly divide the Word of truth.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with our Sis. Kathy Fehr (Bro. Wayne) as she was recently diagnosed with cancer. We pray she and her family can feel the love and prayerful support of the brethren as she undergoes chemotherapy treatments. May the Lord grant strength and healing

where it would be His perfect will.

Austin Knecht (Bro. Allen and Sis. Jennifer) has also been in our thoughts and prayers as he recently suffered a broken arm.

OREGON, SILVERTON
Melissa Kuenzi
Cindy Metzger

Our congregation has been blessed with three new arrivals this month. Gayle Marie was born to Bro. Monte and Sis. Kellie Kuenzi. She was welcomed home by her siblings, Madisen, Nolan, Jenna, Cora, and Beth. Grandparents are Bro. Richard and Sis. RosaLee Kuenzi and Woody and Sherri Hill. Eliza Anne was born to Bro. Christopher and Sis. Mary Kuenzi. Eliza's siblings, Arlen and Alex, welcome her home. Her grandparents are Bro. Lynn and Sis. Marilyn Kuenzi and Bro. Art and Sis. Betty Metz. Bro. Tyler and Sis. Amy Kuenzi had their first child named Mitchel Dean. His grandparents are Bro. Terry and Sis. Ann Kuenzi and Bro. Dean and Sis. Jackie Knobloch (Goodfield, IL).

Our heartfelt sympathy and prayers are with Bro. Jim and Sis. Deb Roth and family in the passing of Bro. Jim's dad, Bro. Keith Roth of Congerville, IL.

On September 23, retired Elder Bro. Roy and Sis. Dona Grimm (Taylor, MO) were in Silverton and shared their slides from a recent trip on India. A few weeks later we also had the opportunity to view a presentation from Elder Bros. Peter Petrovic and Art Metz who showed us slides on their recent trip to our Eastern European Churches and the work that is being done there.

We are thankful to those who were visiting and ministering unto us this month: Bro. Paul Gasser (Sis. Joyce, Akron, OH), Bro. Art Ingold (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman, OH), and Elder Bro. Peter Petrovic (Sis. Marian, San

Diego, CA), as well as Bros. Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy) and Ron Jones (Sis. Liz) of Portland, OR.

PENNSYLVANIA
PHILADELPHIA

We had a blessed weekend shared with Elder Bro. Doug and Sis. Clara Schock from our Bloomfield, IA, church and Elder Bro. Tom and Sis. Kathy Hoffman from Roanoke, IL. We thank these dear Elder Brothers who so willingly labor in the Lord's vineyard. Messages of unity, peace and joy were shared as we look to our common goal, the attainment of our heavenly home.

We also shared a weekend of fellowship with our local congregation as well as many visitors to focus on the topic of how we make important decisions in our lives. One of our responsibilities as believers is to support and encourage one another to a greater depth of understanding, a greater desire to please our Lord and to follow His path of righteousness. For that, there is great reward. We thank all who helped from near and far to bring this topic to light with a Christian perspective.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE
Mike and Monica Fritz

We are thankful to the Lord for the willingness of our visiting ministers to serve and encourage us with God's Living Word. Our recent visitors have included Bros. Mike Rinkenberger (Sis. Pat; Congerville, IL), Jesse Bedolla (Detroit, MI), and Dave Marquart (Sis. Lori; Taylor, MO), and Elder Bro. Ted Witzig Sr. (Sis. Cindy; Morton, IL). We have also appreciated the fellowship of numerous brethren and friends visiting from Congerville, Eureka, Forrest, and Morton IL; West Bend, IA; Detroit, MI; Lamar and Taylor, MO; and Junction, OH.

If you are traveling in or through the Nashville area, please plan to worship with us. The following churches are scheduled for services in the near future: Gridley, IL (11/25); Rockville, CT (12/2); Wolcott, IN (12/9); and Bradford, IL (12/16). We do not have visiting ministers scheduled for December 23 or December 30, but if local brethren are in the area we will gather for tape or call-in services. 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 meet on Wednesday evenings for a song service at 7:15 p.m. and would welcome any midweek visitors. Contacts are Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica Fritz (615) 866-5543; and Sis. Gwen Leuthold (615) 356-5755.

TEXAS, AUSTIN

**Amy Ringger
Serenity Ringger**

We are thankful for the ministers who traveled to Austin this month: Bro. Todd Stoller (Sis. Pam, Latty), Bro. Erik Givens (Sis. Debi, Princeville), Elder Bro. Dave Graf (Sis. Barbara, Akron), Elder Bro. Peter Petrovic (San Diego), and Bro. John Lehman (Wolcott). We also had other visitors from Elgin, IL, Sabetha, Bern, Eureka, and Wolcott.

The following is the minister schedule for December: (2) Elgin, IL; (9) Remington; (16) Junction; (23) no service scheduled; (30) Phoenix.

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 gather-

ings. See the ministers' book for local contact information.

Directions to our church are these: from the intersection of Hwy 71 and 21 on the west side of Bastrop, go east on Hwy 71 about 1/2 mile and take the first exit (by the Ford dealership), proceed on the eastbound frontage road about 4/10 mile. The church is on the right. It is located about 18 miles east of the Austin airport. The address is 1025 W. Highway 71, 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

Sandy Kipfer

Greetings to all in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. We thank our visiting ministers, Bro. Greg Stieglitz (and son Graham, Indianapolis, IN), and Bro. Gary Brown (Sis. Jane, Forrest, IL) for taking their time and effort in expounding to us the written Word of the Lord. May God continue to richly bless them.

We would like to encourage those who plan to come south for a season to consider visiting the valley for a Sunday of worship and/or staying here for their stay. We are small in number and are happy to have visitors come and spend some time with us. The following churches are scheduled for services: Chicago, IL 11/4; Taylor, MO 11/18; Goodfield, IL 12/2; Bluffton, IN 12/16.

Our address is: Holiday Inn Express (formerly the Country Suites Inn), 1921 South 10th Street. Turn 1½ blocks off the Expressway on 10th Street. Services will be held at 10:30 and 12:30. Please see ministers' di-

rectory for local contact information.

TEXAS, ZAPATA

Mary Plattner

Each Sunday we are blessed as our assembly becomes larger. Our winter residents that spend their winter months in Zapata are returning and we are thankful for each of them.

Our summer heat has turned to fall time weather and we are seeing a large crop of citrus being harvested this fall. Many vendors seek their place along the highway selling their produce. Zapata has been a busy area this summer and fall. Oil and gas drilling is one of our main industries and production has been at a record level this year. Hopefully all have been that industrious (Roman 12:11) in our spiritual progress.

Anyone considering coming to Zapata this winter is most welcome to worship with us.

VERMONT

**CLARENDON/NORWICH
Nathan and Miriam Reutter**

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

Ecclesiastes 3:1

Greetings from our beautiful state of Vermont. This time of the year is so gorgeous with the leaves at their peak just ready to fall. We know what is waiting for us just around the corner and there is much work to be done. Wood to chop, gardens to be cleaned up, patio furniture packed away, lawns raked, chimney swept, on and on. Winter is coming and we need to be prepared for the storms that we know will come. This reminds us that there are also different seasons that we go through in our pilgrim journey. Let us always look to God and stay close to the Word for our much needed

direction and strength to fight this spiritual battle we are in!

We want to thank our visiting ministers who traveled here to feed our small flock. They are Bros. Tim Gerber (Sis. Wendy, Mansfield, OH), and Duane Reutter (Sis. Kay), Tom Bahler (Sis. Lanae), and Warren Zahner (Sis. Bonnie), all from Rockville, CT. We held our first Saturday evening singing in Rutland, VT, on the Columbus Day weekend, and it was well attended.

"In all thy ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct thy paths."

Proverbs 3:6

Bro. Mark and Sis. Luella Hoffman, formerly from Rockville, CT, have made Rutland, VT, their new home, feeling that this move has been directed of God. We, as a young church, are so thankful for this added blessing of experience and seasoned faith that this couple will bring to us. A warm welcome is extended to them, praying that they will soon feel at home among us.

If you are interested in fellowshiping with us here in Vermont, and would like information about service locations, and dates, please contact Bro. Chad & Sis. Jenny Virkler (802-325-2724). 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 10:10 AM

Afternoon Service 12:30 PM

Sunday school is held during the morning service.

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



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Full Time Service Positions in Haiti

The World Relief Child Sponsorship and Caribbean Committee open staff positions for the work with MEBSH in Les Cayes, Haiti. These positions will be centered on the campus of MEBSH in Cite Lumiere with residences adjacent to or near our Brethren currently residing in Haiti. Both positions (described below) will be full time and require a minimum commitment of three years. Financial support will be provided by the Brotherhood and/or WR through the Servant Fund. Candidates for both positions must be willing to learn Haitian Creole at a minimum and preferably also French.

Child Care Support

A Brother or Sister to work in the Child Care Office of MEBSH.

- 1) Prepare financial reports and reconcile bank statements.
- 2) Prepare information packets for new sponsors.
- 3) Order supplies and school packets (from World Relief Child Sponsorship Committee delivered via sea containers).
- 4) Organize correspondence with sponsors.
- 5) Liason between ACWR Child Sponsorship Committee and MEBSH Child Care Board.

MEBSH Construction Department

A sister to assist in the operation and administration of the construction department.

- 1) Supervise and manage the work team guest house.
- 2) Assist with the maintaining financial records.
- 3) Host women on work teams including rural work sites.

Those interested in considering these positions should contact:

Bro. Ted Hirstein

67 Sapphire Point, Morton, IL 61550

309-266-8769 hirstein@mtco.com

Apostolic Christian Counseling and Family Services

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

Thoughts from "Loneliness I"

In the first article, we learned that loneliness is an uncomfortable feeling of isolation – a painful awareness that we are lacking close and meaningful contact with others. We saw that many prominent "heroes of faith" in the Bible experienced times of loneliness, as evidenced by their descriptions of feeling separated from others or from God. And we were reminded that God made the human race to seek and to enjoy communion with Him and with others.

Divine companions

According to the Word, every believer can be comforted by the continual presence of God through the Holy Spirit. Because He is our Helper, we need not fear.

"For he hath said, I will never leave thee nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me." (Hebrews 13:5-6)

We may need to remember that God is ever-present, even when our feelings may indicate otherwise. We may feel emotionally distanced from God, but our feelings do not always align with the truth. Even when we don't feel God's presence, His presence is constant and steady.

"For the LORD will not cast off his people, neither will he forsake his inheritance." (Psalm 94:14)

Jesus was comforted by this very thought, as He faced the agony of His suffering and death:

"Behold, the hour cometh, yea, is now come, that ye shall be scattered, every man to his own, and shall leave me alone: and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me." (John 16:32)

Likewise, the Holy Spirit, dwelling in the hearts of every believer, is a constant companion and faithful Comforter.

"And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; . . . he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you." (John 14:16-17)

Recognize and break the "loneliness" cycle

When we are experiencing loneliness,

Satan works hard to make us feel as if no one could possibly understand what we're going through. He leads us to believe the lie that no one understands or has ever faced the challenges we're facing. This distorted perspective can make us feel even more isolated. We become stuck in the cycle of pulling away from our close relationships, and then feeling even more alone.

How can we break out of this cycle? We need to understand that Satan works by lies and deception, and that he can be defeated by God's power through prayer, the Word, and the Holy Spirit. We also need to understand how our thoughts affect our feelings of loneliness.

The role of our thoughts in loneliness

"For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he." (Proverbs 23:7)

Our thoughts and feelings are closely connected. How we think about and interpret a situation greatly affects how we feel about it. For example, we may have a negative thought such as, "That person probably thinks I'm not very interesting to be around." Negative thinking like this leads to negative emotions and behaviors. To continue the above example, we may react to that negative thought by feeling lonely, sad, discouraged, or depressed. Those feelings may cause us to withdraw from people, or try to temporarily feel better by eating, shopping, etc.

Sometimes our thoughts do not align with truth, which leads to reactions that are not based on reality. Two typical examples of this pattern of distorted thinking are "mind-reading" and "comparison."

Mind-reading occurs when we think we know what other people are thinking about us and believe that they are looking at us negatively. Comments we hear from friends and family may increase our isolation, especially if we interpret them (correctly or incorrectly) as insincere or insensitive. We must use discernment when interpreting others' comments. We do not need to accept opinions as facts, neither should we interpret others' opinions as true for us when they are not.

"For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise." (2 Corinthians 10:12)

Even though the Word warns against comparison, it is unfortunately a very common practice. Our thoughts and feelings about the extent to which we "fit in" can increase our sense of isolation as well. Any one of us can easily look around and find something that can serve as "evidence" that we don't fit in. However, when we look through the clouded lens of loneliness, we only see our differences that separate us from others.

But looking through the clear lens of God's Word, we find that this diversity is part of God's design for the body of Christ to fulfill His purpose in the world.

"For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and everyone members one of another." (Romans 12:4-5)

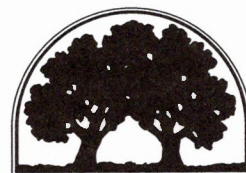
Dealing with loneliness

There are a number of very practical ways in which we can deal with loneliness and reduce its disabling effect on our lives. The first is presented here, and the others will be discussed in a future article "Loneliness III."

Seek support from God and His Word. Particularly in times of struggle, seek passages of Scripture that will bring you comfort and encouragement. Through prayer we can acknowledge God's presence and express confidence that He can support and encourage us in times of need. During these times with God, we can thank Him for who He is, we can pour out our needs before Him, and we can sit quietly and listen as the Holy Spirit speaks comfort to us.

"Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered." (Romans 8:26)

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
 E-mail: tsneuen@adamswells.com

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

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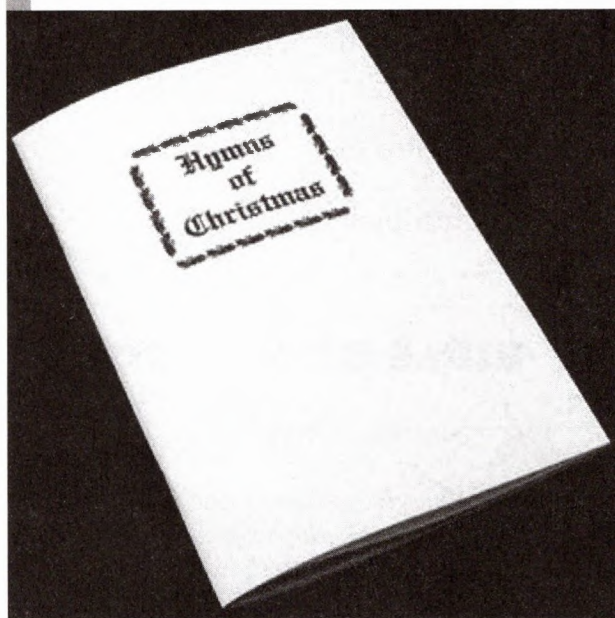
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Gateway Woods, a Christian residential childcare facility, has an immediate opening for a male or female counselor. Qualified persons for this position must hold a minimum of a Bachelors degree in Social Work,

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Residential Program Director
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Lynn Stieglitz
Counseling Elder
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(260) 657-1033

Volunteer Caretaker Opportunity

The Washington, DC congregation would welcome your help. They purchased a house in Silver Spring, Maryland, and are holding services there every Sunday.

Due to the small number of members and friends, and because most live a distance from church, they are looking for volunteer caretakers to live in the house and perform routine household and yard maintenance chores. Caretakers should plan to stay 3-4 weeks.

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

For more information, please contact Barry and Doreen Steffen at 410/569-3635 or bdsteff@yahoo.com.

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

Printed Sermons
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Fairbury, IL 61739
or phone (815) 692-3616

- NOTICE -

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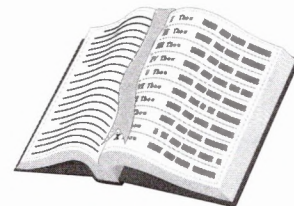
Jerry and Arlene Banwart, 307 First St, Congerville, IL 61729
(309) 448-2416

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



Director Of Nursing

*Apostolic Christian Home
Rittman, Ohio*

Due to upcoming retirement the Home is looking for a D.O.N. to replace our current manager. If interested please contact:

David Maletich
330-927-1010

The potential applicant should have previous management experience.

Sermon continued from page 2

n't there, I don't know. Certainly if we blaspheme the Spirit there will be a harsh judgment. Maybe it's just the fact that they walked in the faith and then they set it aside and then that brought despite against the faith and against God. That may be why their latter end is worse. But I don't profess to know exactly what he means. What all the reasons for that statement are.

"For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire." II Peter 2:21,22. We've seen that. It is discouraging. But yet it is just a warning.

We don't have to get, we don't have to be despondent or discouraged or overly worried! God is rich in mercy and grace toward us. He makes a way, through the Spirit and the working of His grace in our lives that, we don't have to sit and stare at those verses and wallow in them. We just need to know about them and be aware that they apply to us. We can fall away. Then we just leave it at that. Then we go and do the things that the Word says. We are about those good works. Works that would show what is in our heart. Those are the things we focus on and the benefit of those is that others could see the way. Others could be uplifted. We would encourage a convert or we would encourage one that has been on the way a while but might be discouraged. That's the way we can be spending our time. Not wallowing in these things and worrying about them overly. Just being aware of them.

We think about some of the things that Peter brings out here in the beginning. "But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in

damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not." II Peter 2:1-3. There is going to be a punishment there.

What it speaks of here, I am not entirely certain what all the meaning and thought is that is here. The Spirit will reveal to each of us what the meaning is and what we need to do with it. But the thought is that it will begin to pervade the church. We've seen it in the world around about us. We see evidence in each of our hearts if in only one avenue, one small stream comes into our heart, whether it is some thought from the world, whether it is this once saved, always saved idea or any thought. Being we are part of the church, we have allowed in some way, the world to pervade the church. We're here. If it's tainted us somehow and honestly, when we look at our lives, we know then it has pervaded the church. It's here. So we need to get rid of that. We wouldn't want to be responsible for bringing in any kind of pollution or leading someone astray.

We know the Word's clear how some could bring something like that, a little bit of that into their life and maybe the Word even says that here is something that is not expedient but it is not sin. Paul says that. He makes that distinction. It don't edify but it's not necessarily sin. (I Corinthians 10:23) But another brother who is weaker could be led astray. In that way, then two brothers are in trouble. We brought it in and then a weaker brother who had succumbed to whatever that was that we were strong enough, and now two. We know how it goes. Then maybe there would be four and then maybe there would be eight. Then it is a church problem. So we have to be

careful, and again, not anything to be discouraged about or worried about to the point where we would stop and say, I can't move. I'm paralyzed with fear.

We know that feeling. Each of us in some time or another have had that feeling where we just stop. You know how that is, maybe I have mentioned it before. But when we are very terrified, there's certain things that happen in our body. We tense up. We either totally stop or we just run without direction. That's panic. Usually bad things are going to happen when that happens. Those are both irrational responses. God doesn't want us to respond irrationally. The Word is clear here. We just need to be aware. We're thankful that we have been warned.

But if we are polluting our lives and polluting the church in that way, through what we allow, then if we would express those things, here's something I learned or here's some new idea, then it would spread within the church. We don't want that. We want to stay on the path that we've been set on.

Here in verse four, "For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment; And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly;" II Peter 2:4,5. It probably would be good if we went back and read what it says there in Genesis about Noah. It says he was a preacher of righteousness. If we read there, we'd get an even clearer understanding of how he was. We don't think that he resembled in any way what the world around him resembled.

This has been a subject of discussion, I think maybe is mentioned at the conference even. If we study Noah's life, who was a righteous man, then maybe we can get a picture of what we need to be doing. How we need to be if we are going to be spared in the end. Because Noah was. And his family. He not only kept

it for himself. But he also had something in his life where he was able to have his three sons also on the ark. And their wives and his wife. He wasn't all about himself. He was taking care of those things that had been entrusted to him, according to the Word.

It reminds me of how it is said of Job. It has always impressed me. How it says in Job, how he cared for his family. How wealthy he was and so many things he had going on. If we think about it, if we just read how it was with Job, we would almost say that he had a ridiculous amount of livestock. How he managed that is just hard to believe. But in that, here it is, "His substance also was seven thousand sheep, and three thousand camels, and five hundred yoke of oxen..." - that's a thousand animals - "...and five hundred she asses, and a very great household; so that this man was the greatest of all men of the east." Job 1:3. If anybody was busy, he was busy. We think we're busy and we think that we don't have time for the important things.

It says here then, "And his sons went and feasted in their houses..." Job 1:4. I don't want to get too far off the thought. But the thought was, Noah, as it says here, was righteous and he was saved from the flood. Then the thought is, Job was the same way. "...his sons went and feasted in their houses, every one his day; and sent and called for their three sisters to eat and to drink with them." - and here is the point - "And it was so, when the days of their feasting were gone about, that Job sent and sanctified them..." Job 1:4,5. He was a busy man. If we don't think that much livestock and all that he managed there, he was busy! We can't use that excuse. Because if we do, then we are obviously going to be left behind. Because Noah didn't use that excuse and Job didn't either.

"...that Job sent and sanctified them, and rose up early in the morning, and offered burnt offerings according to the number of them all: for Job said, It may be that my sons

have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts. Thus did Job continually." Job 1:5. He didn't let the things that were important fall by the wayside because he was busy. Apparently he didn't worry too much about all the livestock, cause God continued to bless him and it appears that he was doing quite well up to that point in time. So taking care of the spiritual matters in his family in that way obviously didn't detract from what he was able to accomplish here on earth.

Noah, the same way in verse five here in our reading. "And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly;" A preacher of righteousness. How is our preaching in our lives? So many of the brothers and the sisters, we know, we hear that there is an encouragement, how they lift each other up. That's just one of the things that we can do. Through our lives and our examples, we also hear - we heard it at the conference, how there was an opportunity on a plane, that a brother who was able to share with a woman who had committed - I don't know what it was. She was divorced. Committed adultery - I don't know. He was in the right spot and he was able maybe to plant a seed that there is something that needs to happen in her life, and maybe that will come to fruit someday in her eternal salvation. We don't know. But there's an opportunity. And he wasn't too busy to share that Word. A preacher of righteousness.

Verse seven, "And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked: (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;)" We have to consider a little bit how Lot was. We can see how Abraham - and I think that Lot was Abraham's nephew - when they divided the land, we know that Lot was not a perfect man. Because he took the good land. He took the lowland, the pastures. Abraham took the hillsides, up probably where it

was more rocky. (Genesis 13:10-12) But we know he was righteous because the Word says he was. So how was he? It says, for that righteous man dwelling among them and seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds. We have to think, how about us? Is our soul vexed by what we see? Is it as vexed as it was when we first became a believer and were out amongst them?

The Word says that we should be out among the world. Not that we should be separated and sent off by our self. But we should be out there, the salt and the light. That is part of the work that we have in the kingdom. We're glad! Because through that we are able to exercise in some small way the example that Christ was. We are able to be out there. We are able to be an example. Is our soul vexed by the things that go on out there? Or over time have we gotten close to it and has it calloused us to the point where we just can't, we can't even hardly have a negative reaction to it?

Appears to me that through the Word here, that if we're righteous in seeing and hearing, those things that we see and hear vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds. We should be. Vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked. I think conversation - probably the same way it does in another place in the New Testament - means the lifestyle. I think we are. I think when we really, we feel somewhat sheltered probably. Then when we get out somewhere or we hear of how things really are, it's shocking. I hope it is. How people live. Sometimes in work projects or those kind of things we see.

We were somewhere north of Peoria and there was a house. It's just unbelievable how people can live. Not to cast judgment. But just to say, we have been blessed, as we heard this morning. There is a whole world out there that doesn't live according to the Word, I guess I'll say.

Sermon continued on page 46

Sermon continued from page 45

But, like we do or like we should, again we don't want to cast judgment on them. But there is a lot out there. And it should shock us. If it doesn't, there's another warning that we need to heed.

We can look back and we should. There's a lot to be gained by comparing where we are at now to where we were. We hope we see growth. The Word is condemning a little bit when it talks and says, I'd like to feed you with meat but I have to still feed you with milk because you are too immature and you are not able to bear it (I Corinthians 3:1,2). That's where we look back and the apostle there, I don't know if it was Paul or Peter, but he was chiding them a little bit. That's where we'd look back and we'd know we'd need to change. We could look back and say, those things used to shock me. Going out into the shop or wherever we were, the language and the stories and those things, better make us blush. Because it surely shouldn't be something that we are comfortable with. And if it doesn't, then we've got to inspect ourselves a little bit and figure out what has changed. Probably not the words.

We see the things happen here, when Noah lived, the same stuff that happens today. Those things haven't changed. But has our relationship to them, our proximity, have we gotten closer to them? I think Lot was too close. I think the Word's pretty clear that way. He chose the lowland there. He was close to Sodom and Gomorrah. He got too close and it was for his wife's destruction. Abraham probably didn't have the same problem. He was up where not too many people wanted to be. But he was a righteous man.

"The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:" II Peter 2:9. Maybe we ought to dwell on that. That's a positive thing. The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations. James is very good

instruction in that way. Very simply - hard to apply but simple in concept - walk in the Spirit and we will not fulfill the lust of the flesh (Galatians 5:16). He says in another place, every man sins, when he is drawn away of his own lust and enticed (James 1:14) The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations. That should be encouraging for us. We should look at that and say, I know how the human is. Because we live here as a human. But God also knows and He makes a way and He grants us grace and the Spirit. Again, that we don't have to be discouraged or despondent or give up hope because it seems like such a difficult path. It is. There is going to be a struggle against the flesh and the Spirit as long as we are here. The promise to the overcomer is that we will inherit eternal life if we are willing and able, through His Spirit, to walk faithfully all our life. That's the promise.

Then He gives us the way. He says here, if we walk in righteousness, knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations. And in James, he says every man is tempted when he is drawn away of his own lust and enticed. Then when his lust has conceived, it bringeth forth sin. Sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. (James 1:14,15). Says here, "...and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:" II Peter 2:9. That's the death. We're not going to be part of that. If we walk faithfully, there's no reason to! If there is nothing else that we can tell someone, if they are discouraged, no matter what they are discouraged about, there is no reason to be, with respect from an eternal perspective. Unless we are unable to overcome. And if we are, it is not the fault of God. It is really the fault of something in ourselves where we either turned aside willing, turned aside as it says here at the end, wallowing in the mire (II Peter 2:22) or if we slowly drifted aside or we rejected God's help or we never began on the way. God will make a way for us to overcome.

Then maybe just a few teachings here from verse ten and eleven. Talks about how we should be here in the world that we've been placed in. "But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous are they, selfwilled, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities. Whereas angels, which are greater in power and might, bring not railing accusation against them before the Lord." It says we just have to be careful what we say or how our thoughts are. We can get awfully worried about the world system around us, about our own government. But we know that God in some way, in His wisdom and knowledge placed it there. He's got everything set up on the globe just the way He wants it. Doesn't mean that everything that is going on is according to how He would wish it to be. But He has allowed sin to be prevalent on the globe.

Why? So we can choose to follow Him in love or that we can choose to follow sin. If He didn't give us the choice, we wouldn't be able to make that choice to follow Him. We would have been coerced. Then we would have an excuse to say well, we didn't have a choice. How could I have done any different? We never want to put someone in that position, to where we tell them exactly what to do. They might do it and then if it goes wrong, how are they not correct to blame us? Whether it is in the work place - you told me to do it this way and it didn't work. God isn't going to do that. He just has allowed sins to be in the world. The system of the world, based on that, rejecting God, then we can see that. We can make a decision.

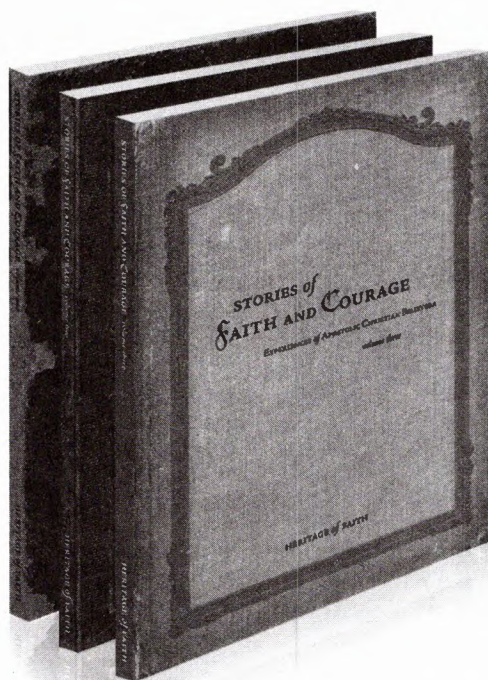
But what it says here is that we should be careful how that we talk. Whereas angels which are greater in power and might, bring not railing accusation against them before the Lord. We just say it is in God's will. It is in God's hands. We do our part to be an example. Assist where we are able to. We heard the last couple Sundays with the veterans, they did what they could. They did what was

within the Word and then within their physical power to support our government as it's been established and we are thankful for that. So as the admonition is here to angels, it would be the same to us. That we would be careful. That we wouldn't bring railing accusation against them before the Lord.

So we can see how we should be. The warnings here are clear. We

should read these again just so we are reminded. Not so that we'd become discouraged. Again, God's grace and His mercy will take us through all this. We know. We've seen evidence of lives lived in faith. That we won't return to our own vomit again as the dog does or as the sow to her wallowing in the mire. But that God would take us through this. That through that, the world could

see, as it becomes darker, the world could see our example and they would also be called and drawn. That it could be said that we were a preacher of righteousness. That we lived a righteous life by God's grace and through His will and through the power of the Spirit. May God bless His Word.



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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. For Jamaica, direct your inquiry to Bro. Mike Rassi, Ph. 1-309-359-5240 or E-mail michael_rassi@hotmail.com.

HAITI			
<i>Data updated from the Apostolic Christian World Relief web site as of October 16, 2007 - www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-caribbean/</i>			
Project	Date	Coordinator	Capacity
Les Cayes, MEBSH School Roof	Nov 30-Dec 7, 2007	Randy Kieser 309-695-6340 kieser84@geckoct.com	12
Les Cayes, FRW Vocational School	Dec 7-14, 2007	Rick Wuethrich 219-567-9488 topnotch@home.ffni.com	4
Les Cayes, MEBSH School Roof	Jan 4-11, 2008	Ron Palitto 330-336-5373 rcp@lek.net	12
El Seibo, Lifeline Construction	Jan 8-15, 2008	Jim Koehl 309-377-3201 jmkoehl@yahoo.com	6
El Seibo, Lifeline Construction	Jan 15-22, 2008	Ted Steidinger 309-377-3651 tsteid@route24.net	6
Les Cayes, SEED Agriculture Aid	Jan 25 - Feb 1, 2008	Dale Frank 319-766-3661 frankfarm@iowatelecom.net	9
Les Cayes, AWA Water Aid	Jan 25 - Feb 1, 2008	Troy Stuber 309-925-2603 tstuber1@peoplepc.com	5
Croix des Bouquets, Lifeline Medical/Dental	Feb 12-19, 2008	Russ Manz 419-399-4053 russ_manz@campbellsoup.com	8
Les Cayes, MEBSH School Roof	Feb 15-22, 2008	Dean Pashak 989-662-7685 dwpashak@charter.net	12
Les Cayes, SEED Agriculture Aid	Feb 22-29, 2008	Dale Frank 319-766-3661 frankfarms@iowatelecom.net	9
Les Cayes, FRW Vocational School	Feb 22-29, 2008	Rick Wuethrich 219-567-9488 topnotch@home.ffni.com	4
Les Cayes, FRW Simone Orphanage	Feb 29-Mar 7, 2008	Rick Wuethrich 219-567-9488 topnotch@home.ffni.com	8
Croix des Bouquets, Lifeline Medical/Dental	Mar 11-18, 2008	Jim Koehl 309-377-3201 jmkoehl@yahoo.com	8
Les Cayes, MEBSH School Roof	Mar 28 Apr 4, 2008	Rich Bertschi 309-467-6110 lemangm@mtco.com	12
Les Cayes, MEBSH Maintenance	Apr 18-25, 2008	Jon Zeller 309-266-9009 jzeller@mtco.com	12
Les Cayes, AWA Water Aid	May 16-23, 2008	Troy Stuber 309-925-2603 tstuber1@peoplepc.com	5
Haiti, MEBSH Caribbean Eval.	Jun 6-13, 2008	Tom Hitz 734-454-9229 thitzhome@juno.com	Invitation
Les Cayes, FRW Vocational School	Jun 20-27, 2008	Rick Wuethrich 219-567-9488 topnotch@home.ffni.com	4
JAMAICA			
<i>Data updated from the Apostolic Christian World Relief web site as of October 16, 2007 - www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-caribbean/</i>			
Kingston, CCCD	Mar 8-15, 2008	Terry Miller - 309-696-7804 Roger Stoller - 309-747-3228 rstoller@dtnspeed.net	40
Jamaica Deaf Village, CCCD Bluffton Sunday School	Mar 22-29, 2008	Courtney Pfister 260-824-5151 fizz@parlorcity.com	Bluffton Sunday School Only
Knockpatrick School, CCCD Morton Sunday School	Mar 22-29, 2008	Al Kaiser 309-256-7251 kecinc@kaiserelectrical.com	50
Jamaica Deaf Village, CCCD	May 16-24, 2008	Ted Hirstein 309-266-8769 hirstein@mtco.com	50

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

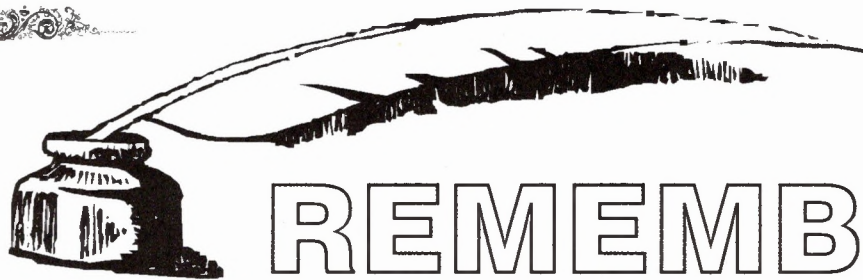
A.W.A. - B.= Apostolic Water Aid/Bluffton
A.W.A. - FRW = Apostolic Water Aid/Francesville, Remington, Wolcott
A.W.A. - T = Apostolic Water Aid/Tremont
(*) = Changes or additions since last issue
()** = Spring Break Timeframe

Mexico Work Teams 2007-2008

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

Data updated from the Apostolic Christian World Relief web site as of October 16, 2007 - www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-mexico/

Project	Date	Coordinator
Magdalena Construction	Dec 15-22, 2007	Kent Levy - Purdue 317-385-0752 kentlevy@gmail.com
Magdalena Construction	Jan 5-12, 2008	Darl Rassi 815-867-2195 mr.rassi@gmail.com
Magdalena Construction	Jan 12-19, 2008	John Teubel 815-657-8721 jteubel@maxwire.net
Magdalena Construction	Jan 19-26, 2008	Steve Kaeb 217-379-4707 kaebsb@illicom.net
Magdalena Construction	Feb 16-23, 2008	Bob Knepp 309-923-7335 rnep@verizon.net
Agua Prieta Medical/Dental	Mar 1-8, 2008	Kevin Gerber 260-565-3313 kevgerber@yahoo.com
Magdalena Construction	Mar 8-15, 2008	David Prevo 309-310-8060 daprevo@ilstu.edu
Reynosa Construction	Mar 8-15, 2008	Tristan Herrmann/ICC-Bradley 309-446-3502 ib_yg@yahoo.com
Agua Prieta Construction	Mar 15-22, 2008	Denis Fry 260-824-3055 fry.d@mchsi.com
Magdalena Construction	Mar 15-22, 2008	Matt Wyss/U of I 309-397-5919 mattwyss@yahoo.com
Agua Prieta Construction	Mar 22-29, 2008	Sam Kaehr 260-565-3200 sckaehr@adamswells.com
Magdalena Construction	Mar 22-29, 2008	Curt Hodel/Roanoke Bible Class 309-923-8091 cjhodel@juno.com
Reynosa Construction	Mar 22-29, 2008	Jeff Lemman 260-565-3815 jvleman@adamswells.com
Juarez Construction	Mar 22-29, 2008	Jay Grube 260-565-3402 grube@adamswells.com
Juarez Medical/Dental	Mar 26-Apr 2, 2008	Cheryl Herrmann 309-385-1082 cherrmann@verizon.net
Magdalena Construction	May 31-Jun 7, 2008	Doug Herrmann/Princeville Bible Class 309-446-9677 douglas@elmnet.net
Magdalena Construction	Jun 7-14, 2008	Don Hoerr/Peoria Bible Class hoerrfamily7@insightbb.com
Magdalena Construction	June 21-28, 2008	Brad Gehring/Taylor Bible Class 217-228-9849 bradgehring@yahoo.com
Magdalena Construction	Jul 19-26, 2008	Blake Stahl 630-740-7461 Chicago-Champaign Bible Class bcstahl01@hotmail.com



REMEMBERING

Our Spiritual Heritage

Statistics

The United States is a land of religious freedom. The Constitution guarantees that we can worship God according to the dictates of our conscience. A major incentive for immigration from Europe to America was to escape the tenets of the State Church. As multitudes came to America, they brought with them a variety of beliefs, and today religious pluralism prevails.

According to *The Encyclopedia of American Religions* there are 1200 churches (denominations) in the United States. In arriving at this number a two-fold criteria was used — a denomination had to have at least two congregations or one congregation of 2,000 members. Another study showed that today there are 384,830 individual congregations in America. This is highly illustrative of pluralism and diversity.

In view of the above, our church (and its leaders) have labored diligently to hold to a true, Biblical doctrine, with a corresponding diligence in applying the Scriptures in a God-pleasing way. We have been blessed from Above with a spiritual stability in which we can thrive, and hopefully by God's grace pass the faith from one generation to another. There is an old saying that reads, "Without a heritage, every generation starts over." We have been privileged to have the wisdom of previous generations as we exist in brotherhood today.

Apostolic Christian Church History, Volume I

In the 1940's, a book was written in Europe on the origins of our

church. It is, in the English language, entitled *Apostolic Christian Church History, Volume I*. It was published in 1949 in America. It traces the origins of the Froehlich movement in Switzerland and surrounding areas. This book was reviewed in October, 1951, by Dr. Delbert L. Gratz, the late head of the Bluffton College Library in Bluffton, Ohio. It was Dr. Gratz who once said, "The Froehlich movement in Europe was like the time of the Apostles."

This book today has 235 pages, and includes a section entitled "Fundamentals of Faith and Fellowship." This section (Part Four) was likely added to the 186-page original book. At any rate, this work is a wonderful primary source that gives insight, and context, to us today as we try to learn more of the God-inspired work of the early fathers. The work of Bro. Samuel Froehlich and his associates was — according to deceased minister Bro. Henry Beer of Milford, Indiana — to "re-establish a church based on the Scriptures." To that end, God blessed their work and we benefit still today. Many details of the early work of our forefathers in Europe are contained in this book.

The author was Herman Ruegger, Sr., who lived near Zurich. Delbert Gratz referred to him as an Elder. It is believed he was in his high seventies when he authored this work. In his 1951 review, Dr. Gratz writes: "Ruegger had as his main source for the first quarter of the century of the movement the writings, including diaries and many letters of Samuel Heinrich Froehlich. This vast amount of documentary material had previously been untapped for a study

of this nature, although certain of the letters of Froehlich had been printed and widely distributed. Archival materials at Bern and Zurich also supplemented the author's use of the Froehlich papers."

Gratz indicates that one of the high points of Bro. Froehlich's work was the rapid spread of the faith, especially during the first 50 years of its existence. Known as "Neu-Taufers" (new believers), they were busy winning new converts and starting new congregations. He writes, "In a matter of three decades after its inception active churches of this faith were to be found from one end of Switzerland to the other, in France, southern Germany, and in areas now a part of the countries of Austria, Hungary, Yugoslavia and Romania. Through migration and missionary endeavor, churches soon arose in the United States, their present stronghold." Ruegger's book today is sold at Apostolic Christian Publishing in Eureka, Illinois.

Although the title includes "Volume I," a second volume was never written, very likely due to Herman Ruegger's advanced age.

Church Name In Switzerland

The church in Switzerland was/is known as *Gemeinschaft Evangelisch Taufgesinnter*.

This translates to Evangelical Baptist. In America, this name was changed to Apostolic Christian.

By Perry A. Klopfenstein

Next Issue: Misc. History

The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean

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"You Don't Think"

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

Some years ago when we were in New Jersey visiting some of our family, I decided to buy a black suit in a department store. The clerk in the store gave us the name and address of an Italian tailor whom they recommend, where I could have the suit altered for a better fit. At the tailor's shop I ventured to tell him something like this, "I think the shoulders should be altered." His reply was immediate and somewhat arrogant. In his Italian accent, he said to me, "You don't think. I'm the tailor." That's the suit I wear when I go to the church conferences in the States. I consider it to be a good fit but it's the tailor's statement that gives me food for thought.

In Isaiah 55:8,9, we find these words, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts." In Romans 11:33 we read, "O the depth of

the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!"

As human beings we may struggle with things that happen to us and wonder why God permitted it to happen. We may wonder why there is so much violence in the Old Testament when our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, said, "Blessed are the peace makers," Matthew 5:9, and, "Love your enemies," Matthew 5:44. We simply come to the conclusion that we must leave some things with God. We don't understand. However, it may be that God is speaking to us through the Italian tailor. God seems to be saying to me, "You don't think. I'm the Creator." Only the Creator of life has the right to take life. We are thankful that God is not subject to human beings.

We may struggle with the fact that God told the nation of Israel to utterly destroy the nations before them. We understand that they were evil but so

was Israel, even though they had received God's blessings and seen His miracles. Deuteronomy explains it this way, 9:5,6, "Not for thy righteousness, or for the uprightness of thine heart, dost thou go to possess their land: but for the wickedness of these nations the Lord thy God doth drive them out from before thee, and that he may perform the word which the Lord sware unto thy fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob."

It is good to be a thinker and I believe God gave us a good mind to use. II Timothy 1:7 reads, "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." As we grow older, we may not be able to maintain a sound mind, but while we have a sound mind let's use it for God's glory. However, if we try to out-think God, we will fail. It can't be done. He may be saying to us, about those things we don't quite understand, "You don't think. I'm the Creator."

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Israel - The Golden Gate

*But Jesus answereth again, and saith unto them,
Children, how hard is it for them that trust in riches
to enter into the kingdom of God!
It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle,
than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.*

Mark 10:23-24



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