

The Silver Lining

*I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire,
that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment,
that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame
of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint
thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.*

Revelation 3:18

June 2008

Sermon by Bro. John Lehman, Wolcott, IN
Job 7:1-21; St. Mark 5:21-43

If we would read just that one chapter (Job 7), and that was all we would get out of the book of Job, it would certainly be very discouraging. We would just look at a snapshot, and not see the whole picture, not see all that Job went through, the beginning of where he came from, and the end, the conclusion of the matter of where he finally was able to observe God's will and how he desired only for good even to come from that time of transgression. But all he saw at that time was just the darkness, just the terrible despair.

But this morning as Bro. Gene shared about the purpose of Palm Sunday, and the triumphant entry into Jerusalem and expounded just briefly on the beginnings of that week, the passion week, we can understand more fully that it was because of the bitterness of the despair of the souls of man that Christ even came. To give us the hope that we wouldn't have to rest in that state, the state of bitterness that Job was in, and what he went through in his great time of trial. But that was not where God wanted him at all. Nor any of us. But to set our feet on the solid rock and give us a hope of a far greater joy than anything even that this world has to offer.

Of all of the many miracles that Jesus did, is there anything that would be more profound than to take someone who was pronounced dead, and to restore them back to life? I think that we can say, even of the woman that had this issue of blood a long period of time or someone that maybe had some other physical impairment: hearing, or sight, or lameness, or some other physical problem...as long as there's life, there's hope. So we could say that in each one of those cases, as long as they had life, there's always this hope that they would have that ailment would be healed.

She went to the doctors, one doctor after another. It says she spent her whole life, and all of her money going to all of these different physicians trying one thing after another. It says that she suffered many things of

many physicians. (St. Mark 5:26) If any of you have gone through a series of treatment with doctors, and maybe you have a problem and you go to one doctor and they try to do whatever they can do to make that problem go away. If they can't do it, maybe you go to another doctor. If you've gone through a series of that, tried several different doctors, maybe this one little phraseology about 'suffered many things of many physicians' would have special meaning to you. Because certainly if you go through a period of treatment or a series of treatments, you can feel like you're almost suffering more at the hands of the physicians from trying different things. And yet, of all of those, it says that she wasn't any better - but worse: but rather grew worse.

So she had tried everything, but in each one of those, wouldn't you believe and expect that every time she would go to a new physician, she would go there with a hope that her problem would be solved? Every time you go there with that hope and expectation. Why else would you go? So she'd go to another physician, thinking that maybe this time, it'll be healed. Maybe this time it'll get better.

So every time, as long as she had life, as long as she continued to live, there was this hope that she had she would really be healed, and her problem would be solved. But once the body has grown cold in death, at that point you give up all hope. There's no hope in this life. Even when Lazarus was dead and Mary and Martha were so close to him and they had such a close relationship with Jesus and loved him dearly and saw some of the miracles that He performed - they didn't understand that He had the power to raise from the dead. And they didn't have any expectation for Him to. Didn't even entertain the thought that maybe He could. Once he's dead, we understand...and they even worded it saying, "...I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day." St. John 11:24. But once the body had passed on, we just

don't have any hope or expectation for what happened.

So of all the miracles that Jesus did, certainly this makes the greatest impact! And, as Jesus walked in and re-

Sermon continued on page 43

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

July

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

Suggested Donation: \$14/subscription

Next correspondence due:

For July Issue

(16 May News - 15 June News)

Due: 20 June 2008

The Silver Lining (Vol. 63, #6)
 1389 County Road 1600 N
 Roanoke, IL 61561

USPS 496780

Published Monthly By The Apostolic
 Christian Church of America

Counselors:

Ron Schambach, Tom Stock

Official Apostolic Christian
 Church Website
www.apostolicchristian.org

SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO:

cleman@davesworld.net

(e-mail is preferred)

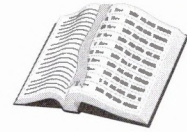
The Silver Lining
 1389 County Road 1600 N
 Roanoke, IL, 61561
 309-923-7192 (phone)
 775-923-9987 (fax #1)
 309-923-7359 (fax #2)

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

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

"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 2:5)

Light From The Word



Writings based
on God's Word

June 2008

Mutual Esteem

February's "Light From The Word" identified two specific threats with which Satan hopes to destroy the church from within: a return to man-centered "friendship with the world" (Jam. 4:4) and a man-centered focus on religion rather than Christ and His Word (Mat. 23:23). Both threats stem from a self-centered outlook, which Paul calls carnality. "They that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh, but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace" (Rom. 8: 5-6). "Carnal" literally means "fleshly," and further study of Scripture's use of the word leads to an inescapable conclusion: in everything we do, we either serve self or God.

The most practical way to serve God is to serve others. Understanding the meaning of "carnal" reveals why. In serving others, we don't serve ourselves, which, by definition, means we avoid carnality and draw near to God. Christ vividly illustrates this in Matthew 25:40: "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." Paul also decries carnality in delivering the same instruction: "...use not liberty as an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another" (Gal. 5:13). Christ exemplified this at the Last Supper when he washed the disciples' feet (John 13:5).

In seeking to show Christ's love to all men, we should particularly serve our brothers and sisters in Christ. "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith" (Gal. 6:10). We cannot wholeheartedly follow this instruction unless we mutually esteem one another.

To esteem one another is obedience to biblical instruction and reflects understanding of biblical truth. We "all have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23), so no one has the right to place himself above another. Furthermore, as Christians, we are "members one of another" as one body of Christ (Rom. 12:5). "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female,

for ye are all one in Christ Jesus" (Gal. 3:28). Therefore, we must not think of ourselves "more highly than [we] ought to think" (Rom. 12:3), for we are all created equally in God's image for the purpose of bringing praise unto Him (Isa. 43:21, Rev. 4:11).

This understanding engenders a characteristic prerequisite to mutual esteem, which is humility. Philippians 2:3-8 identifies the essence (what is it?), practice (how do we demonstrate it?), and source of humility.

The essence of humility is esteeming others – both God and man – better than oneself. "Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than themselves" (Phil. 2:3). We practice humility by placing others' needs above our own priorities and desires. "Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others" (Phil. 2:4). This is contrary to our carnal nature, which always seeks to please itself and which, without Christ, we are powerless to overcome. Paul lamented this struggle, writing, "For the good that I would I do not, but the evil which I would not, that I do...O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?" (Rom. 7:19, 24).

Our Deliverer and the only source of true humility is the One who defeated death and sin, Jesus Christ. Philippians 2:5-8 reads: "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God, but made himself of no reputation and took upon him the form of a servant and was made in the likeness of men; and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."

As one with God, Christ was equal with God and the only man justified in exalting himself above his brethren, yet he chose to humble himself before his Father and his fellow man in obedience and love. This is the ultimate demonstration of mutual esteem, and only with the mind of Christ are we able to emulate it.

Humility and mutual esteem are both heart conditions resulting from and dem-

onstrated by submission. The Greek word for submission is *hypotasso*, which literally means *to rank under*. Among those to whom the Bible instructs us to submit are church leaders (Heb. 13:17), elders (1 Pet. 5:5), wives to husbands (Eph. 5:22), husbands to wives (1 Pet. 3:7), and of course, God (Jas 4:7, 1 Pet. 5:6).

In addition, the Bible repeatedly instructs us to submit to each other (Gal. 5:13, Eph. 5:21, 1 Cor. 16:16). This is also against our carnal nature and only possible with the mind of Christ. In Romans 14, Paul essentially instructs us to take responsibility for choices impacting each other's spiritual walk, submitting to the needs of a weaker brother and sacrificing our personal liberties to avoid putting "a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in [our] brother's way" (Rom. 14:13). This is mutual esteem in action, exercising our obligation to "follow after the things which make for peace and things wherewith one may edify another" (Rom. 14:19).

Forgiveness is one of the highest forms of mutual esteem. "Be ye kind one to another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you" (Eph. 4:32). Remember that we, who are least worthy of forgiveness, have been forgiven by He who is least obligated to forgive. We must do likewise. "If any man have a quarrel against any, even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye" (Col. 3:13).

We will always have some differences in areas where the Word does not give specific direction (Rom. 14), but we serve the same God and have salvation in the same Christ. It is this common faith in Christ and the entire counsel of His Word that unifies us (Acts 20:27; 1 Cor. 12:4-6). As said at the Bluffton conference, contending with each other is not contending for the faith. Let us, therefore, choose to "forbear one another in love" (Eph 4:2) and "stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel" (Phil. 1:27).

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

Go Ye Also Into the Vineyard

Since the earliest days of the Church, believers, moved with the joy of their salvation, have obeyed the Lord's commandment to share the gospel with friends and neighbors.

"Now they which were scattered abroad upon the persecution that arose about Stephen travelled as far as Phenice, and Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to none but unto the Jews only. And some of them were men of Cyprus and Cyrene, which, when they were come to Antioch, spake unto the Grecians, preaching the LORD Jesus. And the hand of the Lord was with them: and a great number believed, and turned unto the Lord." (Acts 11:19-22)

In those days, there was no Mission Committee, nor World Relief Board, and very few established methods of sharing the Gospel. Nevertheless, believers lived their faith and ministered to the Lord (Acts 13), putting into practice what the Lord had taught his disciples: "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself" (Matt. 19:19).

As Jesus commended those who fed the hungry, clothed the naked, and visited those in prison, we see that loving our neighbors as ourselves requires action. While formal church committees may be suited to oversee large-scale efforts, some of which are in foreign countries, we should not expect to delegate this greatest of responsibilities to others. We are all called to invest the "talents" that God has given us.

Current efforts

Our Apostolic Christian brotherhood has a long history of spread-

ing the gospel, and offers many church-sponsored avenues to share the love of Christ today. Some of these efforts have resulted in new congregations being established; some are international in scope; but many more are regional and local in nature. Some of these local efforts include organized programs such as: Bible distribution, prison ministries, food banks, meal delivery and crisis centers. Some reach out to student populations. Others reach out across cultural lines in our communities.

The Mission Committee provides financial support and/or oversight for many of these activities. Many others are carried out through the committed efforts of faithful brethren working alone or in small groups.

Whether through an organized effort, or on an individual basis, the love of God shared from heart to heart, and neighbor to neighbor, in our daily lives is the heartbeat of Holy Spirit-inspired evangelism. This "grass-roots" faith, shared as the Holy Spirit opens doors, is a biblical and effective form of ministering to the needs of others.

It is human to feel unworthy, or even unable to share the hope of salvation effectively. However, none of us would have this hope of salvation if faithful men had not responded to Christ's call to share the good news. While it may be that our human tendency is to shift responsibility to others, God calls us to accept responsibility for our brethren, and our neighbors. This outpouring of love is both a commandment of God, "But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? My little children, let us not

love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth" (1 John 3:17-18), as well as a result of His workmanship in our hearts.

A willing heart

Therefore, if we have been blessed in the spirit, it is imperative that we be willing givers to those in need – first to the household of faith and then to all men (Gal. 6:10). We have already seen that such sharing of faith is not necessarily directed from a central command structure, but is the result of individual faithful believers sharing God's love locally.

For this reason, we should ... "sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear" (1 Pet. 3:15). If we are willing servants, our Heavenly Father has a way of using us in His service, even though we may not be completely aware of His workmanship in our lives. Often, God has used willing men in ways that they had never dreamed, accomplishing great things for His Name's sake.

Opportunities

There are many ways you can be useful in the Lord's vineyard. Many of our Apostolic Christian brethren serve as volunteers in hospitals, food banks, or schools. Some provide Bible lessons to prison inmates, volunteer in nursing homes, or simply maintain friendships with souls in need.

Living a life of godly example, and unashamedly sharing one's faith is a powerful way to fulfill the words of Jesus, "Why stand ye here all the day idle...? Go ye also into the vineyard and whatsoever is right, I will give you." (Matt. 20:6-7)



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

Biloxi, Mississippi Work Project 2008

World Relief felt the Lord's direction to return to the Biloxi area the third year to assist in the building of homes for families devastated by Hurricane Katrina in fall of 2005. This year the mission was building nine new homes and doing repairs to several others. The location for building is in the Pass Christian area, about 20 miles west of Biloxi off Interstate 10.

In mid December, World Relief trucks, vans and tool trailers arrived at the campground behind Cedar Lake Church and School, as well as campers for the more permanent volunteers. Weekly volunteers found new mattresses and bunk beds in the sleeping quarters this year. This is the third year to use this facility.

A new week begins on Sunday when the weekly volunteers arrive. Church services for our brethren are held Sunday afternoon and Thursday evening. A normal day consists of packing a sack lunch 5:30 to 6:00AM, breakfast 6:00 to 6:30AM, and devotions 6:30 to 6:50AM. Most have left for the job site by 7:00AM, returning around 5:30PM with evening meal at 6:30PM. Noon lunch is eaten at each job site. This year for devotions the Book of James was read and several verses from James, Chapter 2 were memorized.

The kitchen volunteers begin their week with Sunday evening meal and continue with meals thru Friday evening. Their day starts early to be ready for 6:00AM breakfast each day, Monday thru Friday. Wednesday is their evening off due to church services for Cedar Lake Church.

The building began immediately after Christmas with some repair work and also on clearing sites for setting posts or piers. Most homes were built on piers to be above the flood plain. The work was staggered between homes in order to take advantage of more volunteers. By the second week, the Barnes house was fully enclosed to enable plumbers and electricians to begin their "rough in" work. Over half of the homes were begun by the end of this week.

By mid January two more homes were enclosed with much effort on putting in posts, installing trusses and framing walls in others. By the third week of January, insulating and dry walling were begun, followed by painting in the first home. A group of skilled carpenters and electricians were hired to boost the project in late January due to the limited volunteers at this time.

Early in February some homes were being framed, shingled, porches built and siding put on, while in others cabinets were hung, flooring installed and trim completed. All inspections were received by mid month so the insulation, drywall, mudding and painting crews could move from house to house.

Work continued with sizable groups in mid/late February and early March. Each week the variety of work continued. Insulating under the homes which were built on piers and landscaping began early March. By then it became apparent the project would be finalized by the end of March.

Finally, the most rewarding part of the project began as occupancy permits were received by the city officials and the new home owners were ready to move in. Dedications

were held for the homeowners. A message from the Bible and prayer was given by our ministers, Bibles were given to each family, followed by a dessert and fellowship. Although there were more than 600 volunteers that helped, ten families once again have a place they can call home.

All too soon, work began to dismantle the site and get all the vehicles ready for the trip north. Nine pickup trucks, 12 passenger vans, seven cargo trailers, 11 campers and one Bob Cat made the journey. Many thoughts go through our minds as we think about all that has happened the last three months, but the best is the special time when we are at the job site and the home owner comes by. They are so thankful and grateful for the help...

Mrs. Jeanne Shehorn said this was her "House of Blessing" and had a plaque hung in the house early in the construction... "Bless this house, as we come and go, bless our home, as the children grow, bless our families, when they gather in, bless this house, with love and friends." Mrs. Audrey Saucier was thankful and always emotional each time we talked with her. She quoted, "I want to say thanks to all you good people for all you have done for me. May God bless each of you." Likewise, Mrs. Janelle Barnes was so grateful and it was written all over her face when she stopped by to visit.

Many talents came together in this work of faith and labor of love... dedicated volunteer work teams, coordination and planning efforts, transportation, financial support, those that donated materials, tools and vehicles and the many prayers offered. May God richly bless each one that has had a part.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

“Ask ye of the LORD rain in the time of the latter rain; so the LORD shall make bright clouds, and give them showers of rain, to every one grass in the field.”

Zechariah 10:1

Oh, glory glory let the Son shine! We at the Home are so thankful that spring has finally arrived. Although the 2008 winter was long and cold, it too had its very own magnificence. With certainty we can all appreciate the beauty of spring. The season brings forth many blessed changes in the lives of our residents. New landscaping at several of the group homes will enhance safety while making the grounds more esthetically pleasing. Soon some residents will begin transitioning to new homes providing increased independence while maintaining a focus on the Christian environment. Flowers are being planted at all of the homes, which makes one ponder the splendor as well as the fragileness of life itself. Just as no man may stop the seasons, change will continue on an ongoing effort at the Home. As spring brings forth a renewed and reinvigorating energy, we are prayerful we may use this spirit to produce the Lord's fruits while following the path our Lord leadeth.

GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

Ed Graf

As a nation, we just celebrated Memorial Day. Perhaps you enjoyed a beautiful spring day filled with sunshine, warmth and gentle breezes. Or possibly a cool, damp, and drizzly day graced your locale. Perchance you were able to spend this day with friends and family, and maybe you had a picnic. Did you visit a cemetery to pay

respects to departed loved ones or offer prayers of gratitude for those who sacrificed their lives on our behalf?

Cemeteries are still fresh with new flowers and gently fluttering flags. Rows of crosses and markers stand testimony to those who were. Memorial Day is a tribute to, and memory of the past. But the concept of memorial is not exclusively of the past.

“And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM has sent me unto you. And God said moreover unto Moses, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath sent me unto you: this is my name for ever, and this is my memorial unto all generations.”

Ex 3:14,15

This passage in Exodus conveys the first use of the word memorial in the Bible. God gives the memorial, and His memorial testifies that He is alive, that He is God, and that He offers promise for the future.

The New Testament offers another perspective on memorials.

“For in that she hath poured this ointment on my body, she did it for my burial. Verily I say unto you, Wheresoever this gospel shall be preached in the whole world, there shall also this, that this woman hath done, be told for a memorial of her.”

Matt 26:12,13

“There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of the band called the Italian band, A devout man, and one who feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God alway...” “...Thy prayers and thine alms are come up for a memorial before God.”

Acts 10:1,2,4

In both these New Testament accounts, the worship and service of people became a memorial to them. Instead of looking backward, these accounts pointed at the present and looked toward the future.

We often think of a memorial as something that reminds of the past. Yet, according to the Word, the actions we take today can become a memorial to those in the future. Let us each seek to worship God and serve others in a manner that pleases Him and becomes a memorial to future generations. May God bless us today with a vision for the future as we go about our day-to-day lives.

NEWS:

We are thankful for the arrival of Bro. Justin Wiegand (Gridley, IL) as our 2008 Summer Volunteer Coordinator. Bro. Justin brings much enthusiasm to Gateway Woods and we are excited to see how God will bless us with volunteers this summer. Sis. Amy Hohulin, a 2007 summer volunteer, shares “It's neat to see that we have a mission right here in the states.” Please fill out a volunteer application online or contact us at 888-443-4283 if you have a desire to spend time this summer making a difference in a child's life at Gateway Woods.

We also welcome Sis. Bethany Witzig (Gridley, IL) as our 2008 Summer Intern. Sis. Bethany is an art education major attending Illinois State University. She will be working at the school for the entire summer assisting the school staff and students in the various programs. Please pray for her as she adjusts to her new position.

We thank God for the progress being made on the Pine House. The slab work was completed mid-May and the framing is taking shape very quickly. Please visit our website at gatewaywoods.org to see ongoing construction pictures and learn how you

can assist us with this project. We appreciate your prayers and financial support, which enables us to touch the lives of more children and families in need.

This spring and summer we are encouraging companies, families, Sunday Schools, Vacation Bible Schools, etc. to commit to our Furnish-A-Room (FAR) project by raising the funds to completely buy all the furniture and bedding needed for one resident's bedroom. For larger groups there are larger rooms like the living room or kitchen to be supplied. Check with your local Gateway Woods Rep, VBS Coordinator or Sunday School Superintendent to learn if your church is planning an FAR project. For complete information on FAR please call our office 888 443-4283 (GATE) or check our web site at gatewaywoods.org. Further updates will be on the web as summer progresses.

Praise 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, construction of the Pine House, and other ministry opportunities here, there are a number of service positions waiting to be filled. Open positions include Counselor, Teacher, Assistant Houseparent, Alternate Houseparents, and IL Adoption Manager. Please see the ads in this month's edition of The Silver Lining for more information. 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!

Gateway Woods is very pleased to introduce to you a totally redesigned website found at gatewaywoods.org! The site is modified for several different audiences and it includes a section specifically dedicated for Church Family and Friends. The new website features testimonies from adoptive parents, foster parents, residents, and

others served by Gateway Woods. You will also notice our new online donations component, which makes it easier for you to assist with the financial needs of Gateway Woods. There is way too much information to even begin to list, so please check out the site soon. The site will continue to be an ongoing project and will eventually include video clips, prayer requests, and much more!

We were recently saddened to hear of the passing of our former Board Member, Bro. Sid Leman (Forrest/Eureka). He was one of the early pioneers in the development of our program.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX Ron and Ev Hoerr

"This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh."

Galatians 5:16

Dear readers, as you read the above verse for encouragement, delight yourself in reading Galatians Chapters 5 and 6.

Bro. Todd and Sis. Heather Hinrichsen became parents on April 22 to Ava Katherina. Ava's grandparents are Bro. Mark and Sis. Sue Hinrichsen (Roanoke) and Bro. Larry and Sis. Kathie Labudde.

Sis. Mary Ella Klopfenstein passed away April 23. A funeral service for Sis. Mary Ella was held at the church on April 27. Our prayers and sympathy are with her dear family. Our friend, Don Fisher, who frequently used to visit us here in Phoenix, passed away on May 8.

We celebrated the wedding of Bro. Sam and Sis. Danielle (Mojic) Sutton on Mother's Day. Bro. Randy Gasser (Detroit) was here to assist Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich with the wedding service.

Our May Fellowship dinner was held in our new Fellowship Hall. Afterward a dedication service was held,

seeking the Lord's blessings and remembering His hand in its construction.

We are grateful to visiting ministers, Bro. Earl Beery (Rittman), Bro. Jeff Streitmatter (Sarasota), Elder Bro. Steve Ringger (Bluffton North), and Bro. Doug Wagenbach (San Diego). The Lord provides so sufficiently through His servants.

Sis. Abby Freed was our surgical patient and is doing well. We thank God for His healing power.

Bill Hamilton (Jennifer) has peace and is awaiting baptism. What a wonderful reminder of the saving power of our Lord, and how He continues to work in the hearts of those who are willing to surrender to Him.

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT Jane Hodges

Now it is accomplished! I'm no longer mine;
Lord, I will forever and always be Thine,
For thou hast created and purchased me too,
Baptized with Thy Spirit, Thou makest me new.
Zion's Harp #209

Max Knobloch (Bro. Denis and Jackie, Lester, IA) gave his testimony and was baptized the weekend of April 26-27. We welcome him as our new brother in Christ. Our Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich (Sis. Nancy) and Deacon Herb Knochel Jr. (Sis. Laurie), both of Phoenix, handled the proceedings. We were thankful for the family and brethren who came many miles to support Max and our congregation.

Other visiting ministers this last month included Bros. Jim Koehl (Sis. Hilde, San Diego, CA), Ken Schneider (Sis. Bernice, Remington, IN), and Jay Knapp (Sis. Lisa, Tucson, AZ). May the Lord bless each one and their families for their service of love to us and the Lord.

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp

We enjoyed a visit from our Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich and our deacon, Bro. Herbie Knochel (Phoenix, AZ), as they discussed with us the results of the Elder survey we took awhile back. As always, we thank them for their time and love; it is appreciated.

As we enjoyed a cool, blustery day today with temperatures in the 70's, it's hard to believe that next week is Memorial Day Weekend. The end of this school year brings graduation day for three of our "Tucson Babies". Ryan Knapp (Bro. Jay and Sis. Lisa) and Daniel Bauer (Bro. Brad and Sis. Sandy) will both graduate with Bachelor's degrees from the University of Arizona. A few days later, Matthew Knapp (Bro. Jay and Sis. Lisa) will graduate from Sahuaro High School. We are amazed at how fast these little boys became young men. We pray that they will all allow God to work in their hearts and lives and guide them along the path He has set out for them. It's on that path that we can trust they will be safe and prosperous. Daniel plans to continue his education at the University of Arizona, Ryan is looking into job opportunities with the possibility of also continuing his education and Matthew plans to attend college here in Tucson. What a blessing to have them all here with us. God is so very gracious to us!

During the months of June, July and August, we will take a break from our Sunday School classes, Fellowship Suppers and Wednesday evening services.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

Tina Jackson

"Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel."

Mark 16:15

Bro. Randy Mogler (Sis. Evie,

Washington, IL) traveled from the Midwest to speak to our small congregation about evangelism. We appreciate his willingness to share with us his depth of insight on the topic and also preach the gospel message from our pulpit. A special thanks to Bro. Doug and Sis. Sandy Aberle, who hosted a church dinner at their home during the weekend of the Mogler's visit.

We are enjoying the fellowship of Bro. Shannon and Sis. Jill Stahl and their young daughter, Carrissa, while Shannon works at California Institute of Technology during the month of May. They will be heading back to their home church in Belvidere, IL, in early June.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Yasmin Koehl

Our month began with ministering Bro. Mike and Sis. Carol Rieker's visit (Peoria, IL). We deeply appreciate Bro. Mike's willingness to allow the Spirit to work through him on our behalf. The Riekers have become very special to us all, for they've shared the many times our congregation has rejoiced or wept together. We always look forward to their visits throughout the year and feel blessed by their prayers and love. We hope they also can feel our love stretching across the many miles and each time we have the opportunity to personally greet them.

"Thus united and in concord, let us walk the path of life..." is a hymn close and dear to each one of our hearts and sung after every Communion service here in San Diego. We were thankful to observe Holy Communion together and truly feel love binding us as we walk hand in hand throughout this life. Ordained deacon Bro. Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata, TX) came to assist our Elder Bro. Peter Petrovic. We are grateful for Bro. Leland's labors of love as he served us. May the Lord bless him and Sis. Mary in their service in Texas and wherever He leads them.

Our congregation was richly blessed as ministering Bro. Dan Dubach (Prescott, AZ) with his wife, Sis. Bethany, and their children visited our church. Our time together was precious and blessed as Bro. Dan shared God's Word with us. We felt the Holy Spirit among us as Bro. Dan spoke on the precious talents God has given us in our church, brotherhood, spouses, children and friendships. We were encouraged to use these prized gifts wisely so that when the Lord returns we would not go empty handed to greet Him. We thank Bro. Dan and his family for making the effort to come and give of themselves. May God's blessings of peace, strength, love and joy continue to reign in their hearts and lives.

Our prayers and thoughts will be with Elder Bro. Peter Petrovic each day he is in Eastern Europe as he travels for the Mission Committee/World Relief Euro Board. We are often moved for the love and sacrifice Bro. Peter continuously makes upon the behalf of each one in our congregation. He will be missed and we look forward to the time we can once again be all together praising our Lord and Savior for His wondrous love and for the blessings we experience in one another's presence.

KITCHENER, ONTARIO

CANADA

Kim Leman

"If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed."

John 8:36

We thank the ministering brothers who came to share God's Word with us. They were Bros. Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue, Detroit, MI), Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi, Alto, MI), and Ted Luginbuhl (Sis. Stephanie, Smithville, OH). May God richly reward these brothers for their labors among the flock.

COLORADO, DENVER

Ann Gonglach

In spring, nature bursts forth with new life. We have also have the opportunity to celebrate new life in Christ this spring.

As Jesus died for all our sin,
So all His own new life begin;
Through baptism we renewed shall
be,
And clothed in immortality. Hallelu-
jah!
Zion's Harp #8, v. 7

We commemorated the new life we have because of Christ's broken body with Holy Communion. Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL) was here to minister and partake in this special time with us.

We celebrated the new life of a Christian as Chloe Gonglach (Bro. Bob and Sis. Ann) was baptized. We also were blessed to hear the testimonies of Mike and Rose Zarkovacki and welcome them into our congregation. We appreciate Elder Bro. Don Braker (Sis. Eileen, Kansas City, MO) for being with us and helping with this occasion.

It is a joy that the Holy Spirit continues to change lives and call the lost to Himself. Whitney Steffen (Bro. Larry and Sis. Sue) has professed peace and desires baptism. Kevin Haeflinger has turned to the Lord in repentance.

The Wiegands have welcomed a new life into their family. A little girl, Cristiana Ruth, was born to Bro. Chuck and Sis. Naomi on May 9. She joins Demetrius, Sebastian, Gabriella, Katharina, Alexandra and Katelynne at home. Also rejoicing in new life are Bro. Larry and Sis. Sue Steffen, who have become first-time grandparents. Mason Alan's parents are Bro. Britt and Sis. Megan Steffen of the Washington, IL, congregation. Bro. Nate and Sis. Yvonne Lehman have a new grandchild also. Her name is Hope and she is the daughter of Bro. Andy and Sis. Jill Lehman of Gridley, IL

(Bloomington congregation). Hope is adopted from Ethiopia.

Many from the church in Kiowa, Kansas, traveled to Colorado to bless us with a weekend of Christian fellowship. It's nice to have the opportunity to get to know our brethren better.

We appreciate our trustees and all who participated in the spring clean-up of our church building.

CONNECTICUT

ROCKVILLE

Laura Virkler

Amber Rocke

"But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed."

Isaiah 53:5

What a blessing it was in the past weeks to partake of the Lord's supper as brethren, in the peace and stillness of an evening to be taken back to Calvary and be reminded of what transpired for the soul of mankind. May the remembrance of it continue with each of us and sustain us through the coming year.

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

Proverbs 31:10

This month we all took time to honor our earthly mothers, for the many deeds of kindness, and sacrifices they have made. How thankful we can be for the many mothers we have, for those that have raised us, and those who have been mothers to us in the household of faith. May each one feel God's blessing and strength to continue in their calling. We surely do appreciate them!

We rejoice with two dear converts, Nathan Galat and Holly Virkler, who have found peace with their God and fellow man. May they feel God's near-

ness and favor as they await Holy baptism, which Lord willing will be the weekend of August 3.

Two families have been blessed with new babies this past month. Bro. Jonathan and Sis. Amy Zahner had their first child, little Maya Mae. Grandparents are Bro. Wally and Sis. Judy Carlson, and Bro. Warren and Sis. Bonnie Zahner. Bro. Ben and Sis. Amber Rocke had a little girl, Myra Kate who joins big brother Tristan. Grandparents are Bro. Duane and Sis. Kay Reutter and Bro. Rob and Sis. Jan Rocke (Eureka). It is a miracle every time a child is born, truly a gift from God. May He strengthen those that He has entrusted children with, to raise them with a love for Him.

Our Sis. Amber Hoffman has moved for the summer months to Silverton, OR, to spend some time with family there. We wish her God's many blessings and hope she will return to us before long!

Hospital patients this month have been Bro. Leon Schneider and Bro. Lester Heintz. We wish them God's nearness, and wish them a speedy recovery that they can return to church soon!

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

WASHINGTON

Henrietta Meyer

With the warm weather comes an increase in the number of visitors. We welcome any increase in our size.

Our caretakers this month are Bro. Justin, Sis. Marcia, Ben and Logan Koch from the Washington, IL, congregation.

Visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL), Bro. Shawn Metzger (Sis. Sandi, Philadelphia, PA), Bro. Brian Huber (Sis. Jacki, Francesville, IN) and Bro. Justin Koch (Sis. Marcia, Washington, IL). Other visitors this month were from Rittman and Smithville, OH; Morton, Eureka, Congerville and Princeville, IL.

We also welcome Bro. James, Sis. Tonya and Clayton Schneider from Silverton, OR, who are in the area while Clayton is undergoing treatment in Baltimore, MD.

Our thoughts and prayers are with our convert Ken Belsley (Roberta) as he will be undergoing surgery on May 20.

Directions in the new Ministers' Book are good for those coming from the north or west. For those coming up I-95 from south of DC or from the eastern part of the area, you need to take I-95/495 to Exit 28A (New Hampshire Ave) for approx. 2 miles to Rt. 29 North. Go about 3 miles to Fairland Road and follow the directions in the Ministers' book.

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 thankful to have with us Elder Bro. Earl Ringger for the testimony and baptism of Tara Hohulin (Bro. Mike and Sis. Faye). Our prayers are with Sis. Tara, to grow in spirit, in her walk with Christ.

Congratulations to David Mangold (Mike and Renee Mangold) upon his graduation from Cardinal Gibbons High School. Currently David is planning on attending a local college and pursuing a business major. Congratulations, also, to Bethany Wirtz (Bro. Jim and Sis. Joan, West Bend, IA) on her graduation from college in West Palm Beach, FL. We pray that God would continue to be with David and Bethany as they pursue their futures.

Our thoughts and prayers are that God will watch over Joseph Mangold (Mike and Renee Mangold) while he spends the summer working at Bro. Mike Mangold's auto dealership in Eureka, IL. We'll miss him.

We are continuing to hold our weekly remodeling project meetings and are thankful for the brethren who have been able to take part in this process.

Our midweek services will be suspended for the summer and resume again in the fall when our winter residents begin to return.

**FLORIDA
NORTH FORT MYERS
Naomi Vogel**

It has been a rather quiet month here in the sunny south. A few "snowbirds" have stayed longer than usual and some went north and then came back for a few weeks. Some who went north wish they would have stayed here longer— warm weather has been slow arriving up there.

Our only visiting minister this month was our Elder, Bro. Ed Schwartz. However, we have had a few unexpected, but very welcome, visitors. We are hoping the high gas prices won't keep anyone from paying us a visit through the summer months!

Bro. Ray and Sis. Jeannie Haerr are in Wales to welcome a new granddaughter, Madison Mai, born to Nelson and Maxx Haerr. Her big sister Morgan is happy to have a little sister!

We hope Sis. Carolyn Seigle will recover quickly from her second foot surgery. Knowing how you were dreading being homebound, we pray you will feel God's presence and comfort during this time! We miss you (and your delicious pies)!

Once again, we were saddened to learn of the death of some of our previous long-time winter residents. Bro. Lester Meister, more recently attending the W. Lafayette church, has not been able to come to Florida for several

years, but we cherish the memories of him. John and Vi Wuethrich, of Francesville, spent their winters with us up until just a few short years ago. Vi went to be with the Lord and John joined her the night before her funeral. Wouldn't we all like it to be like that for us! We extend our sympathy to all those near and dear to these loved ones!

On behalf of the wife, children and grandchildren of Bro. Eldon Steffen, we would like to thank you all for the prayers, cards, and gifts received at the time of his passing.

**FLORIDA, SARASOTA
DiAnne Brown**

"And David spake to the men that stood by him, saying; What shall be done to the man that killeth this Philistine, and taketh away the reproach from Israel?"

Samuel 17:26

Our family attended a home school convention this past weekend and heard of the many "Goliaths" we often face. We find our family facing many "Goliaths" as my husband prepares to retire, our daughter plans for college, our son prepares for his baptism and we all make ready to move – a 4th time in as many years. David chose to place his focus on the reward – not the challenge. Historical data regarding the measure of cubits and spans gives a height range for the giant of between 9 and 13 feet tall. How could this giant be beaten by one described as "...but a youth, and ruddy, and of a fair countenance" (I Samuel 17:42). In other words, David was puny, pale and the fact that the Israelites sent him to fight enraged the giant. Instead of fear or doubt, David's reaction was to tell King Saul, "Let no man's heart fail because of him (Goliath); thy servant will go and fight with the Philistine" (I Samuel 17:32).

David chose to focus on the great re-

wards that could only be gained by facing Goliath, namely riches for his father's house, Saul's daughter in marriage and defending the name of the living God. We would do well to choose to face our Goliaths as David did.

Warm congratulations and wishes for God's blessings to our graduates. Alyssa Siladie (Bro. Mike, Sis. Jeanette) graduated from University of Central Florida with her B.S.N. this month. On May 24, Sis. Lindsay Leigh Brown (Bro. Larry, Sis. DiAnne) graduated from high school in Orlando and plans to attend college this fall to study Elementary Education and American Sign Language. We expect the Lord to use these two fine young women mightily.

Special birthday greetings go to Bro. Rich (Sis. Aldine) Martin. Bro. Rich was visited by several family members; together in Florida for the first time in over 30 years to celebrate his 80th birthday. Beloved Bro. Ben (Sis. Lorene) Maibach celebrated his 88th birthday this month also. God's blessings on these very special octogenarians.

Surgical patients included Sis. Marie (Bro. Art) Keller and Sis. Betty (Bro. George) Siladie. Both are recovering at home and would appreciate your call or card.

We were blessed by the ministry of visiting Elder Bro. Bro. Paul Messner (Winthrop, MN) who was with us on a Wednesday evening. We thank you for your labors of love.

With joy we share that Schuyler Brown (Bro. Larry, Sis. DiAnne) has been announced for peace and his testimony and baptism are being planned for June 28-29. Please include him in your prayers as he prepares to enter this new and wonderful life...and the Goliath's sure to come.

GEORGIA, ATLANTA

Melinda Gramm

Thankyou, Bro. Frank Sauder (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL), for ministering to us this month.

On Mother's Day weekend our church family met at two local gas stations and gave over 100 single mothers and widows free gas, Bibles, story books, and water bottles. It was a very rewarding experience to see the joy and disbelief on the faces of these dear women. May the name of the Lord be praised. Many of them shared prayer requests with us and we had the privilege to bring these before the Father of miracles and will continue to remember them in prayer.

The Sunday school classes and singles served the mothers a delicious lunch at church on Mother's Day. The mothers also received mugs with homemade art work from the Sunday school children.

We have been so blessed to have Bro. Mark and Sis. Laura Lindberg with us for the past two years. God has led them to relocate to the Chicago area and we sincerely pray for God's grace and richest blessings as they assemble with the Chicago congregation.

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE

Sheila McCoy Doreen Moser

"O LORD, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand."

Isaiah 64:8

Our Elder Bro. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL) was a visiting minister this month. Bro. Art Mueller had a topical Bible study on "Choosing a Career". We are grateful for the ministers of our Lord who help "mold" us.

"Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name."

Luke 11:2

We are thanking our heavenly Father for the recovery of Brianna Jepson (Bro. Jim and Sis. Carlene) after her appendectomy and post-surgical complications.

"Give me now wisdom and knowledge..."

Chronicles 1:10

New Sunday school teachers are Bro. Jim Jepson and Sis. Sheila McCoy. Bro. Jordan Steffen is our new trustee. May our Father grant wisdom to all His servants and bless Sis. Heidi Schock, Bro. Brian Anliker and Bro. Brent Knobloch for their years of service.

"Honor thy father..."

Luke 18:20

We remember and pray for fathers especially this month. May they be filled with that wisdom which cometh from above and may we give our fathers the love and honor that is due them.

ILLINOIS BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

Betsy Zimmerman Alissa Kieser

We remembered the suffering of our Savior when we took Communion on April 19. Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL) assisted with the evening. We thank him for his support. We also thank Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke), and Bro. Howard Plattner (Alto) for joining us on the pulpit this month.

Our congregation was deeply saddened over the sudden loss of Bro. Earl Steffen in a tragic traffic accident. We keep his wife, Sis. Betty; and children, Bro. Sam (Sis. Shelley), Johnathan (Fairbury) and Sarah (Dennis) Brummitt (Cropsey), in our prayers during this difficult time.

We also extend our sympathies to Linda Lorch as she grieves the loss of

her father, James Redic (Normal).

Bro. Matt and Sis. Rebekah Kaufmann welcomed a baby girl, Aria Kay, into their family. She joins big brother, Joshua, and big sister, Darci. Grandparents are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Bonnie Kaufmann and Hisato Inoue.

Congratulations to our high school graduates. They are Sis. Jennifer and Sis. Lisette Brosman, Bro. Eric Greiner, Dan Greico, Jason Kieser, Sis. Sarah Maurer, Sis. Casey Nussbaum, Danielle Robinson, Ashley Terrini, and Sis. Hannah Zimmerman.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD Philip and Donna Nenadov

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

Hymns of Zion #218

We are thankful for the assurance we have that the Lord has His little ones safe on His breast when He calls them home to be with Him. Our prayers are with our retired Elder Bro. Marvin and Sis. Jane Leman in the unexpected loss of their newborn grandson. Malachi David went to be with the Lord after living only several hours. Our prayers are with his parents, Bro. Dave and Sis. Kara Blunier (Fairbury, IL) as well as his siblings, Faith, Marcus, Jared, and Lily. Sis. Kara had complications and all are thankful that she is doing well.

Our visiting ministers this month were Bros. Ken Schneider (Remington, IN) and Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL).

We will miss a special family that has felt direction to move to Gateway Woods. Bro. Joe and Sis. Heather, Hannah, Cooper and Conner Beer packed their belongings and moved to Leo, IN, where Bro. Joe and Sis. Heather will work as houseparents at the Children's Home. We pray the

Lord's blessings upon them and hope they will visit us again soon!

God be with you 'til we meet again.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO Rachel Meyer

Greetings from Chicago. We wish to thank Elder Bro. Tim Funk (Peoria, IL) for being willing to share in Communion with us. We thank God for the evening's blessings. We give thanks also to ministering Bros. Walt Rager (Toledo, OH), and Byron Stoller (Gridley, IL), for spending Mother's Day with us. May God bless all.

April 19-20 was the weekend of our Annual Bus Trip. This year's visit was to Columbus, OH. It was a joy to meet new and old friends alike, and we thank the Columbus church family for their hospitality.

On April 26 we followed the Lord's command to remember Him by sharing in Communion. It was a special blessing to be together.

May 3 found many participating in cleaning church and/or landscaping around our church property. We appreciate all who joined in as well as those who organized the day.

Recently, we were reminded that the first pillar of our church is to spread/share the gospel. The phrase may roll off the tongue quite easily, but how are we doing in following up on it?

A thought – even those among us who feel the weakest, oldest, most insignificant, least courageous, isolated – (you fill in the blank), are joyfully included in Christ's command to preach the gospel. You may ask how or where? What about starting with our own houses...then moving next door, down the road, across the field, at the library Story Hour. Do you live around people? A funny question, perhaps, yet important. In order to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ, all we need to do is to interact with at least one other person than ourselves – who they are or how many is God's decision. The fol-

lowing quote/question (by Mr. Greg Long) has stayed with me from the first time I heard it. I hope it stays with you, too.

“If it takes fifteen times, to hear about Jesus, for someone to believe. Wherever I stand in line, I've got to make a difference. In case it comes down to me. Because, I may be the third, may be the seventh, there may be years in between. But what if I'm fifteen? What if I'm fifteen?”

ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN Jackie Eisenmann

Sunday, May 3, was a special day for our congregation. First of all, we were thankful for a visiting minister, Bro. Ron Heiniger (Bloomington) to speak loving words to us from God's Word. After our afternoon service the singing group, Amazing Love, from Bloomington, IL, sang to our congregation. We were all blessed as we listened to the beautiful songs that they presented to us. We want to thank each one of the Brothers from Amazing Love, for sharing their talents God has given to them. After the program we had an all-church student appreciation supper. We use this time to thank the college students for what they do for our congregation throughout the year.

We want to congratulate the graduating students this spring semester. Bro. Josh Steffen (Belvidere, IL) received his Bachelor's degree in Architecture. Bro. Matt Wyss (Washington) received his Bachelor's degree in Farm Management. Sis. Amber Miller (Gridley) received her Bachelor's degree in Horticulture. We congratulate these graduates on their achievements and wish them God's blessings on their lives as they begin a new chapter in walking with Him. We are thankful here in the Champaign church since we get to “keep” Sis. Amber here. She has taken a job with a local greenhouse

and florist. We are thrilled, Amber!

We want to thank our visitors who helped out on the pulpit this past month. Wednesday, April 23, we were blessed by Bro. Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL), and Sunday, May 13, Bro. Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL) was here and spoke God's Word to us. May God continue to bless all of our ministering brothers as they continue to be used by God.

Our church in Champaign had the opportunity to take Holy Communion on Wednesday, May 14. We were blessed by the presence of Elder Bro. Mark Streitmatter (Bloomington, IL), and we thank him for his assistance in serving us Communion along with our Elder Bro. Wayne.

We are thankful that Sherm Bauer has expressed a desire to continue in his repentance. We are praying that he will feel God's nearness during this time. We are also thankful to be able to look forward to the upcoming testimony and baptism of Michelle Cornell on July 5-6, Lord willing. One more reason our congregation is thankful is that our convert, Brett Steffen, has returned from his mission trip to Rwanda. We are happy he is back and are anxious to hear of his experiences. God is so good, and all of these are great reminders to us of what a Great God we serve.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

**Vickie Maul
Janie Waldbeser**

We always appreciate the visiting ministers who lend themselves so willingly to bring forth God's Word to us. Our thanks to Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH), Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington, IL), Bro. Bill Dotterer (Lamar, MO) and Bro. Bob Beebe (South Bend, IN).

We rejoice with the engagement of Sis. Bonnie Frank (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Bonita) to Bro. Randy Manz (Bro. Russ and Sis. Vera) of Junction. We want to wish this dear couple God's blessings

in their upcoming marriage.

We are thankful to hear that Joann Kaeb (Terry) has found peace with God and is awaiting baptism.

The young Sunday School students were delighted to deliver flowers and fruit to the residents at Heartland Health Care on Sunday, May 4.

Our high school graduates are Sis. Julia Kaeb (Bro. Max and Sis. Beth), Quinn Steffen (Bro. Rod and Sis. Beth), Katrina Kaeb (Bro. Eric and Sis. Lou Ann), Chris Aranda (Cristela Cardenas), Bonnie Stock (Elder Bro. Tom and Sis. Karol), and Marissa Wilkening (Mark and Sis. Dinah). We wish them God's guidance and nearness.

We also have enjoyed two foreign exchange students that have spent the past year with Elane Young, Mi So Jeon from South Korea and Evelyne Riedell from Germany. We will miss them. They have been a nice addition to our Bible class.

Note of Thanks:

We, the family of Eldon Steffen, wish to thank everyone for your loving kindness, your prayers, cards, food and money during the illness and death of our dear husband and father. May God richly bless each and every one of you.

Melba Steffen

*Kenny and Patsy Steffen and family
Dean and Shirley Steffen and family*

*Tom and Terri Young and family
Marvin and Rhea Steffen and family*

*Jon and Sandy Steffen and family
Greg and Darla Steffen and family*

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

Holly Zobrist

We would like to thank the visiting ministers who brought us the Word this past month. They include Bro. Alan Schambach (Sis. Sarah, Remington), Bro. Greg Lehman (Sis.

Mary Beth, Wolcott), and Bro. Nathan Wieland (Sis. Suzanne, Goodfield).

We rejoiced to hear the announcement of Bro. Andy Ott (Bro. Glen and Sis. Mardell) and Sis. Erin Zimmerman (Bro. Ben and Sis. Kathy). We wish them God's richest blessings as they take this next step.

Bro. Kurt and Sis. Julie Schrock were thankful for the safe arrival of Gabriel Kenneth. He is welcomed home by his older brother, Josiah. Thankful grandparents include Bro. Ken and Sis. Janet Schrock and Bro. Fred and Sis. Mary Ellen Zimmerman.

We were saddened to hear of the passing of our Bro. Harvey Schieber. He will be missed.

Sis. Marion Miller spent some time in the hospital recently and would like to thank the church for all who thought of her. She is thankful for those who took time to visit or to help out in any way they could. We are thankful that she has recovered nicely.

Note of Thanks:

The family of Bro. Harvey Schieber wishes to express their thanks to all who remembered them with prayers, sympathy, cards, gifts, food, and memorials. May God richly bless each one of you.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN

**Amy Gasser
Miriam Gasser**

We were served by many visiting ministers during the past month, including Elder Bros. Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL), Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL), Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL), and Doug Schock (Bloomfield, IA) and Bros. Ron Bollier (Indianapolis, IN), Dan Koch (Tremont, IL), Alan Schambach (Remington, IN), and Ted Schock (Belvidere, IL). May God bless each one for his labors on our behalf.

On May 2, we received news from across the ocean that a little girl had been born in Uccle, Belgium. Bro.

Darren and Sis. Krystin Schambach named her Castalie Anae. She is adored by her big brother Tobin and her grandparents. They are Bro. Tim and Sis. Marcia Kellenberger and Bro. Stan and Sis. Norma Schambach.

When we think of the troops serving our country, we can pray specifically for a young man who grew up in our church. Paul Schifferer (Lisa), son of Bro. Tom and Sis. Kathy, will probably be in Iraq for 10 months. His address is as follows:

MSG Paul Schifferer
B Troop, 1-126 Cav Sqdn
APO, AE 0932
pschifferer@hotmail.com

Each spring, the raising of baby chickadees in a house outside our kitchen window keeps our attention until the time the young birds fledge. The little chickadees always seem to leave the nest around graduation time; and what a thrill it is to see them pass their flying lessons!

Our best wishes for similar success go to our local seniors, who are Brian Kellenberger (Bro. Daryle and Sonia), Jillian Kellenberger (Bro. Ken and Sis. Vicki), Brittany Kilgus (Tim and Patti), Scot Moore (Bro. Larry and Sis. Beth), and Heather Steffen (Bro. Gary and Sis. Lois).

We have been prayerful for Sis. Debbie Sauder, who has not felt well enough to leave her home. May the Lord provide for her and Sis. Gert, who faithfully cares for her daughter. We miss them both!

Elgin will be collecting Silver Lining dues during the month of July. The suggested donation per subscription is \$14, which may be deposited in the Maintenance box. Your voluntary contributions will be appreciated.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

Cindy Stoller

Dee Baer

We are thankful for our newest con-

vert, B.J. Schieler, son of Bro. Ted and Sis. Peg. May all of our converts continue to draw from the pool of grace available to all who humble themselves in the Lord.

Visiting ministers this month included Bros. Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL), Jon Zeller (Morton, IL), Kent Getz (Elgin, IA), and Tony Manz (Junction, OH). We are thankful when the Word comes to us in truth and clarity.

Bro. Clint and Sis. Kayla Metzger and Ryan and Kierra welcome home their new baby, Brenna Lynn. Grandparents are Bro. Harlan and Sis. Shirley Metzger and Kent and Sis. Beth Steffen (Congerville, IL). Also, Bro. Rob and Sis. Jan Rocke are thankful for their new little granddaughter. Myra Paige was born to Bro. Ben and Sis. Amber Rocke (Rockville, CT).

Congratulations to Bro. Charles and Sis. Karen Sinn's son, Tim, who was married to Regina Yoder (David and Faith) of Lyndon, KS.

Our church was greatly saddened by the sudden death of our Bro. Ryan Carr. Many hearts are left grieving from this loss, yet there is faith and confidence to know there are no mistakes in God's plan. Bro. Ryan's family includes his wife, Sis. Kandi; children, Hailey, Preston, and Anderson; parents, Bro. Tim and Sis. Donna; and siblings, Bro. Jason (Sis. Jill), Sis. Janell Fehr (Bro. Jake), Sis. Brenda, Michael and Bethany. His grandparents are Bro. Les and Sis. Ruth Martin and Doris White. "God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes..."

Sis. Ann Leman said a final farewell to her husband, Bro. Sid, after his short illness. Surviving are his son, Bro. Jerry (Sis. Kathy), and step-daughter, JoAnne Lockwood, of our congregation.

Sis. Ruth Martin (Bro. Les) and Bro. Sam Schmidgall (Sis. Gladys) lost their brother, Bro. Ervin (Morton, IL). Also, Sis. Marge Rocke (Bro. Rich), Bro. Milt Leman (Sis. Gerry), Bro. Roy Leman (Sis. Wanda) and Bro. Gerald

Leman (Sis. Velma) said goodbye to their brother, Loren Leman. May the Lord give comfort to all who sorrow.

Those who have dealt with health problems recently include Sis. Madeline Cawley, Bro. Milt Leman (Sis. Gerry), Bro. Ed Gramm (Sis. Lucille), Bro. Lon Kupferschmid, Noah Zimmerman (Bro. Matt and Sis. Sara) and Stacy Martin (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Sheri). "Comfort the feeble-minded, support the weak..."

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

Elizabeth Fehr

Anna Schmidgall

We appreciate the efforts of a number of visiting ministers who have shared the Word with us during the past month: Elder Bro. Ben Walder (Sis. Juanita, Congerville), Bros. Dan Moser (Sis. Anne, Elgin, IL), Greg Lehman (Sis. Mary Beth, Wolcott, IN) and James Knapp (Sis. Lisa, Congerville).

The angels in heaven rejoice over one soul who repents. We also are rejoicing with Sarah Fehr (Bro. Randall and Sis. Janis) who has found the need to turn her back on the world and serve her Maker. May God grant her much grace.

Jesus has taken a beautiful bud
Out of our garden of love,
Borne it away to the city of God,
Home of the angels above.

Full-blooming flowers alone will not
do,
Some must be young and ungrown;
So the frail buds He is gathering too,
Beautiful gems of His throne.

—James D. Vaughan

God has gathered from all stages of life this month. Our hearts weep with Bro. Dave and Sis. Kara, Faith, Marcus, Jared, and Lily Blunier in the loss of their infant child, Malachi David, who died shortly after birth. May they feel God's loving arms around them. Retired Elder Bro. Marvin and

Sis. Jane Leman (Bradford) and Sis. Joyce Blunier (Princeville) are the grandparents.

We hold our dear Sis. Anna Steffen up in prayer in the loss of her son, Bro. Earl Steffen (Sis. Betty) of Bloomington. Bro. Earl suffered fatal injuries from a semi accident in a snowstorm.

Our prayers are with Bro. Bill and Sis. Anna Schmidgall and family in the passing of his mother, Lavina Schmidgall, of Fairbury.

As some weep others rejoice. Bro. Mike and Sis. Holly Steidinger, along with children Colton, Katelyn, Wyatt, Logan, Talen, welcome home Dalton Walker on April 18. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Jane Steidinger and Bro. Joe and Sis. Kathy Rokey (Bern, KS).

Collin Grant is the name chosen for Evan's little brother born on April 22. Bro. Grant and Sis. Amy Hartman are his thankful parents. Grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Rosemary Hartman and Sis. Sherri Schlatter (Forrest). Great-grandparents are Bro. Vernon and Sis. Pat Hartman and Bro. Harvey and Sis. Velma Ifft (Forrest).

First-time parents, Bro. Darl and Sis. Janelle Rassi, welcome home Kyla Joy born on May 6. Grandparents are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Diane Rassi and Bro. Bill and Sis. Anna Schmidgall. Great-grandparents are Sis. Lydia Rassi, formerly of Tremont, and Walter Teubel of Fairbury.

May 3 was the wedding of Kevin Stoller of East Peoria and Autumn Tackett of Metamora. Parents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Sandy Stoller and Bonnie and Val Boucher of Roanoke.

Sis. Darlene Bittner suffered a broken arm and cracked ribs after a fall. We pray God's healing hand for her.

Our graduating seniors are Laura Zehr (Bro. Nelson and Sis. Amy), Janelle Nestor (Frank and Joyce), Dustin Steidinger (Dave and Deann), Sis. Bethann Kafer (Bro. Ben and Sis. Carol), Sis. Valerie Kaisner (Bro. Don

and Sis. Leona), Sis. Kaylee Fehr (Bro. Nathan and Sis. Marsha) and Rebecca Herr (Sis. Cindy). We hope and pray they will all make God their best choice for the future.

ILLINOIS, FORREST

Jill Wenger Lori Leman

We thank our visiting Elder Bros. Lawrence Luthi (Lamar, MO), Rick Plattner (Fairbury, IL), Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL) and ministering Bros. Tim Gerber (Mansfield, OH), Beirne Messner (Morris, MN) and Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA) for being willing servants in God's vineyard.

We are happy for two dear couples who have felt God's leading in their lives and are engaged to be married. Sis. Crystal Stoller (Bro. Greg and Sis. Jill) and Bro. Evan Braker (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Carol) from the Lamar, MO, congregation are planning a July 6 wedding. Sis. Kyrstin Kilgus (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Denise) and Bro. Clint Wagenbach (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Bonnie) from Oakville, IA, plan to become one in Christ on July 20.

Bro. Ben, Sis. Lori Leman and big brother, Kyle, are thankful for the safe arrival of Justin Robert. His loving grandparents are Bro. Marvin and Sis. Nancy Dotterer and Sis. Donna and the late Bro. Robert Leman. Stephen and Kaci Zimmerman and big brother, Cole, welcomed into their home, Addison Nichole. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Paul and Sis. Loretta Zimmerman and David and Marsha Taylor.

Our hearts rejoiced on the weekend of April 26-27 as we witnessed the testimonies and baptisms of four dear souls. Our new brothers and sisters in Christ are Sis. Tessa Nussbaum (Bro. Terry and Sis. Debbie), Sis. Amy Gutwein (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Wendy), Bros. Brad and Troy Brown (sons of Bro. Gary and Sis. Jane).

A Christian now baptized,

to me much grace is given.
Why was this granted me?
That I with Christ am risen!
This is the Holy aim;
he who does this neglect
Cannot in truth proclaim:
"I'm one of God's elect."

Zion's Harp #43

Our hospital patients this month were Bro. Paul Wiegand (Sis. Edna), Sis. Laura Wenger, Sis. Emma Ifft (Bro. Elmer) and Sis. Lavonne Lanz (Bro. Elmer). May God be near each one in their time of affliction.

Our heartfelt sympathy goes to Bro. Richard (Sis. Lou Ida) Steffen and Sis. Louise (Bro. Les) Zimmerman in the tragic death of their brother, Bro. Earl (Sis. Betty) Steffen of the Bloomington, IL, church. We also want to extend our love to Sis. Laverne (Bro. Mark) Aberle and family in the death of Laverne's father, Harley Martin. God has called home a faithful soldier of the cross, Bro. Sidney Leman of Eureka, formerly of Forrest. He is survived by his wife, Sis. Ann (Eureka, IL); and two daughters, Sis. Marjorie (Bro. Robert) Rumbold (Peoria, IL), and Sis. Susan (John) Stella (Gridley, IL); two sons, Bro. Dale (Sis. Mary) Leman, (Bloomington, IL), and Bro. Jerry (Sis. Kathy) Leman (Eureka, IL); two step-daughters, Joanne Lockwood (Peoria, IL) and Sis. Joyce (Wes) Hohulin (Goodfield, IL). We continue to remember all of the bereaved and their families in our prayers.

We extend congratulations to our 20 graduating high school seniors. They are Loren Anliker (Bro. Bob and Sis. Linda), Sis. Abby Edelman (Warren and Sis. Cindy), LeAnne Edelman (Bro. Ken and Sis. Carol), Lindsey Ifft (Bro. Duane and Sis. Mary), Sis. Krystle Kaeb (Bro. Eldon and Sis. Stephanie), Waylon Knapp (Bro. Harlan and Sis. Jean), Stephen Koehl (Bro. Joe and Sis. Marie), Nathan Kuntz (Bro. Rollyn and Sis. Brenda), Gary Leman (Bro. Phil and Charlotte), Amanda Mueller (Bro. Stacey and

Tonda), Kristi Rudin (Bro. Craig and Sis. Trudy), Sis. Valerie Schaffer (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Martha), Ashley Steidinger (Bro. Roger and Sis. Sheila), Clint and Colin Steidinger (Bro. Ray and Sis. Shelly), Amber Stork (Bro. Reuben and Sis. Devra), Sis. Tamra Stork (Bro. Paul and Sis. Dawn), Kinsey Teubel (Bro. John and Sis. Lavonne), Thadd Zimmerman (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Stephanie) and Bro. Tyler Zimmerman (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Nancy).

May each one apply Proverbs 3:6 to their life:

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

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

**Amber Grimm
Rita Bauman**

We are grateful for our home and visiting brethren who help us keep our lives focused on Christ and His Word. Our visiting brethren last month were Bro. Neil Widmer (Sis. Kristine, W. Lafayette, IN), Bro. James Knapp (Sis. Lisa, Congerville, IL), and Bro. Bob Pfloderer (Sis. Eleanor, Morton, IL). May God bless you for your labors of love.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Shirley Wyss (Bro. Roy) who spent some time in the hospital last month. May she feel God's nearness during her time of recovery.

"Blessed are they that mourn; for they shall be comforted."

Matthew 5:4

Our thoughts and prayers are with those who have lost loved ones this past month. We extend our sympathy to the family of Bro. Sid Leman (Sis. Ann, Eureka, IL). He was the stepfather to our Sis. Joyce Hohulin (Bro. Wes). Also Sis. Elsie Hohulin's sister, Sis. Francis Martin (Gridley, IL), was called from this life into eternity. May God's comforting hand be upon each dear one who has lost those near and

dear to them.

Note of Thanks:

The family of Bro. Floyd "Shorty" Hofman wish to express thanks to the many loved ones who gave sympathy and love through prayers, cards, gifts, food and memorials to the Eureka Apostolic Christian Home and kindness during the time of our loss of our loved one.

Sis. Evelyn Hofman & Family

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY Perry Klopfenstein

The Lord Jesus taught in parables, and often we can gain insights when ministers tell of experiences that relate to a Biblical principle. One of our ministers told an interesting account of making the bed each morning. He told of pulling the covers up, and adjusting the pillows neatly. He said care must be taken to smooth out the covers. I wondered where he was going with this story. He said his Mother advised to always get the wrinkles out of the covers. He then related that to the church, which is to be "without spot or wrinkle, or any such thing" (Ephesians 5:27). It was a good analogy, and relates to the Bible's message about the pureness of the Church, which is Christ's body here on earth.

Ministering Bro. Clark Stoller was recently hospitalized for gall bladder surgery. He has recovered, and is back into his preaching ministry. Sonya Hughes had surgery, and has recovered as well. Sis. Lucille Wagner was a surgical patient and is now back home. We thank God for His healing balm.

We offer our sympathies to Sis. Mary Stoller on the death of her brother-in-law, Floyd Stoller of California.

Sis. Melissa Kaeb will spend eight weeks in Mexico to further her education. We wish her well in her studies, and may God's protecting Hand be with her.

On the weekend of May 28-29, proving and baptisms were held for Dave and Scheila (Schlipf) Mool. They became our new brother and sister in the Lord. We wish them well in this new walk of life. Elder Bro. Ron Messner was here to help with this work.

May 8 was the birth date of Miles Daniel Wettstein, the son of Bro. Kyle and Sis. Tara (Gramm) Wettstein. His sibling is Benjamin, age 2. Grandparents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Darletta Gramm, and Bro. Lyle and Sis. Linda Wettstein, all of Gridley. Great-grandparents are Ron and Ann Daughtery, Gridley. A great-great grandparent is Sis. Ruth Gramm, of the Eureka Home.

On May 20, a son was born to Bro. Matt and Sis. Jennifer Feucht. He was named Javin Robert.. He has a brother, Joshua (5), and a sister, Charity (3). Grandparents are Bro. Randy and Sis. Carol Feucht (Roanoke) and Bro. Bob and Sis. Mardell Dotterer (Rittman, OH). On June 2, Javin was hospitalized for a blood transfusion. Surely, the prayers of the congregation were offered to God on his behalf.

I continue to be amazed at our legacy of Christian hymns which we access through the hymnals we use at worship, at singings and otherwise. One such hymn is found in page 86 of the Gospel Hymns, entitled, "Scatter Seeds of Kindness". The message(s) of these songs surely relate to everyday living, and with the Holy Spirit within our hearts we can implement heaven-sent virtues for the benefit of others. The first verse of this hymn reads:

Let us gather up the sunbeams,
Living all around our path;
Let us keep the wheat and roses,
Casting out the thorns and chaff.
Let us find our sweetest comfort
In the blessings of the day,
With a patient hand removing
All the briars from the way.

By the end of May, nearly all the

corn and soybeans have been planted, and plentiful rains have come to boost these seedlings. Surely, it is God that gives the increase. I am always impressed when our brothers silence their implements on Sunday, the Lord's day!

ILLINOIS, MORTON

Annette Tanner

Julie Bahr

Our Senior High graduates for 2008 were Whitney Braker, Sis. Heather Funk, Allison Grimm, Anika Hermann, Lara Kaiser, Sis. Mckenzie Ploussard, Sis. Amber Rassi, Sis. Jennifer Rassi, Jon Schuon, Sam Sollberger, Emma Taufer, and Sis. Larissa Witzig. Our graduates have many decisions before them. Pray for them that they choose to stand for the Lord Jesus Christ, building their future foundations on God's Word. Bro. Ted Hirstein (Sis. Joyce) gave the graduation service entitled "Making Right Decisions."

Our thanks to visiting ministers: Bro. Greg Rassi (Sis. Carla, Chicago); Bro. Scott Schaffer (Sis. Gigi, South Bend); Elder Bro. Mark Streitmatter (Sis. Sara, Bloomington); and Bro. Tim Roecker (Sis. Diane, Peoria).

We are grateful for Bro. Chad Braker (Bro. Brent and Sis. Becky) and Bro. Clinton Leman (Bro. Tim and Sis. Beth) who have chosen to trust their lives to Jesus Christ. Their testimonies and baptisms were on April 26-27. It was a blessed weekend indeed!

Jesus loves me this I know, though my hair is white as snow. "Then He bids me COME." Sis. Emma Gerber (Lester, IA), a sister to Bro. John Feucht, was called Home. Sis. Mary Ellen Klopfenstein (Phoenix) also passed away. She was the grandmother to our Bro. Jeff (Sis. Candace) Klopfenstein, Morton. On May 4, Bro. Irvin Schmidgall passed away. He is survived by his wife, Sis. Lucille, a son, Terry (Susie), and a daughter, Mary Ann (Ken) Hiermeier. Bro. Irvin had

two brothers from Morton, Bro. Clarence (Sis. Helen) and Bro. Harry (Sis. Helen). Bro. Earl Farney went to his Heavenly Home on May 11. He is survived by his wife, Sis. Irene Farney. Sis. Phyllis, Janice (Daniel) Sturn, David (Sharon), and Daniel (Mary) are his surviving children. On May 8, Sis. Ann (Bro. Ken) Getz's sister, Marjory Lilja, Durand, IL, passed away. Our prayers are with each grieving family.

Let God richly bless those who retired their services for our Sunday school, and those who are assuming their duties. Bro. Jeff Stoller (Sis. Stacey) and Bro. Keith Schick (Sis. Janice) have completed their terms. Bro. Curt Meiss (Sis. Cassie) and Bro. Randy Schrock (Sis. Lisa) are assuming these duties.

On May 11, Bro. Mark and Sis. Cheryl Wuthrich became blessed grandparents to a new little grandson, Gideon Samuel. Parents and siblings to little Gideon are Brad, Marti, Max and Madeline Pascual of Morton.

Adam Ackerman and Linsey Frolich were united in marriage on May 10. Adam is the son of Bro. Roger and Sis. Margie Ackerman. Linsey is the daughter of Stan and Jill Froelich, Abington, IL. Their address is 3320 Cain Harbor Dr., Nashville, TN 37214.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Carissa Klopfenstein

Kristin Menold

Congratulations to Jay and Tara Brenner on the birth of their little girl, Myah Elizabeth, who was born April 22. Proud grandparents are Bro. Spark and Sis. Rhonda Meister of Peoria. We rejoice with you and pray God's blessings as you raise this little girl.

The Peoria Choir hosted their annual Benefit Dinner on Saturday, April 26, at the Peoria Fellowship Hall. The theme this year was "Lord, Keep my Focus on Thee." We were privileged to have the composer of this piece present for the dinner and program. As

usual, the food was amazing — Prime Rib created by Bro. Dean and Sis. Holly Ramseyer with all the trimmings. Bro. Wayne Klopfenstein led the choir, accompanied by Sis. Carissa and Sis. Kyra Klopfenstein on the piano. We were also privileged to have a special group comprised of Bro. Bob Hoerr, Sis. Faith Carlson, and Sis. Mindy Kaisner sing two songs. The recipients of this year's funds were Berean Ministries, Midwest Food Bank, and Lifesong for Orphans. Thank you to those that came and supported this event. We hope that you received a blessing and that the Lord was glorified.

We thank Bro. Jeff and Sis. Sue Neihouser (Francesville, IN) and Bro. Paul and Sis. Joyce Gasser (Akron, OH) for being with us April 27 and bringing forth God's Word. We wish you God's blessings and love in your ministry with your home churches.

We thank Bro. Will Schieler and his wife, Sis. Sue, for coming for our family night on Wednesday, May 7. The topic for the evening was on the life of Job. Thank you, Bro. Will, for your efforts in preparing this topic.

The National Day of Prayer was on Thursday, May 1. Our church held a special prayer service to commemorate this day.

We are happy to have another convert! Cassie Feucht (Bro. Tim and Sis. Robyn) has the desire to live for Jesus. We rejoice with you and wish you God's blessings.

Please continue to pray for Bro. Tim and Sis. Joan Reinhard and their family in Haiti. The situation does seem to have settled a bit with the promise of foreign aid coming in to help reduce the price of food.

Please continue to pray for Bro. Dave Sceggel and Bro. Jon Aupperle at the orphanage in Magdalena, Mexico.

Congratulations to the class of 2008! They include:

Sis. Sandy Fritzenmeier, daughter of Mark and Sis. Pam Fritzenmeier

Bro. Isaac Funk, son of Bro. Tim and
Sis. Debi Funk
Sis. Samantha Ginzl, daughter of
Bro. Geoff and Sis. Angie Ginzl
Sis. Sadie Hoerr, daughter of Bro. Don
and Sis. Jackie Hoerr
Bro. Willie Hofstetter, son of Bro.
Ralph and Sis. Karen Hofstetter
Bro. Johnny Huber, son of Bro. Jim
and Sis. Jean Huber
Ryan Kempf, son of Bro. Gary and Sis.
Gina Kempf
Sis. Jodi Kieser, daughter of Bro.
Mark and Sis. Kathy Kieser
Bro. Zachary Nelson, son of Bro.
Breck and Sis. Janie Nelson
Zach Marx, son of Randy Marx and
Becky Marx
Brooke Metzger, daughter of Bro.
Merlin and Sis. Judy Metzger
Bro. Aaron Roecker, son of Bro. Tim
and Sis. Diane Roecker
Chad Weber, son of Mike and Sis.
Janet Weber

Probably the most exciting news of all this month would be the selection and election of a new minister in our church. After prayerful consideration, Bro. Craig (Sis. Jacki (Zobrist)) Stickling has been put in as Peoria church's new minister. Please lift up this family in your prayers as they transition into their new role in the church.

Please pray for the recovered health of Sis. Loretta Eisenmann, Sis. Marge Fehr, Sis. Maria Graham, Bro. Richard Guingrich, Sis. Dot Hoerr, Bro. Lou Lonteen, Sis. Ruth Huthmann, Bro. Dan Messerli, Bro. Grant Rauhaus, and Sis. Shirley Triplett.

Our sympathy goes to Bro. Bob and Sis. Marge Rumbold in the death of her father, Bro. Sidney Leman, and Sis. Ida Schwenk and Sis. Verna Pueschel in the passing of their sister, Sis. Frances (Stoller) Martin. May you feel our love and prayers.

As this month marks an important milestone for our graduates, here are a few verses for you:

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

"Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you."

Jeremiah 29:11-12

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

**Linda Joos
Connie Christ**

We rejoice with the angels in heaven and with our dear friend, Paige Steffen (Bro. Matt and Sis. Deanna), as she has found faith and grace to surrender her all to God in repentance. Our prayers are with her and all of our converts as they build their firm foundation on that Rock, which is Jesus.

We are also rejoicing with our Bro. Jason Stoller and Sis. Rebekah Laubscher (Washington, IL) as they became one in the Lord on May 18 in Washington, IL. Their parents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Kathleen Stoller and Bro. Wayne and Sis. Gloria Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL). May God bless their marriage as they build it on the Lord Jesus Christ.

We thank Bro. John Bradle (Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Bruce Endress (Bradford, IL) for being our visiting ministers this month and bringing us God's Word. May God richly bless each ministering brother who willingly submits to the Spirit, and is an instrument in God's work.

We have had several loved ones in the hospital this month. They include Sis. Elsie Mueller, Richard Stahl, Sis. Teresa Martin (Bro. Dale), and Bryson Wagenbach (Bro. Troy and Sis. June). Our prayers are with all of our loved ones who are struggling with their health. Sis. Elsie remains in the hospital at this time, and has been there for an extended period. Our special prayers arise to God for her.

Bro. Robert and Sis. Mary Herrmann were blessed with a pre-

cious little son, Gabriel Riley, on May 6. Big brother, Robert, eagerly welcomes him as well as his thankful grandparents, Bro. Howard and Sis. Mary Ann Herrmann, and Bro. Dennis and Sis. Karen Leman (Roanoke, IL). Other grandparents rejoicing on the arrival of a precious granddaughter are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Luann Endress as Troy and Lindsay Endress welcomed their first child, Izabelle Rayann, born on March 30.

Our sincere sympathy and prayers are with our Sis. Joyce Blunier (late Bro. Dale) as she has lost a precious little one day old grandson, Malachi David Blunier (Bro. David and Sis. Kara, Fairbury, IL). May God comfort every grieving heart with His tender love and compassion.

We have two loved ones who have moved to our Peoria Skylines Home. They are Sis. Eleanor Asal and Richard Stahl. May God be very near and bless them with His peace and love as they adjust to their new home.

Our high school graduates this year include Ashley Herrmann (Bro. Doug and Sis. Angie), Bro. Grant Herrmann (Bro. Dean and Sis. Dawn), Sis. Rebekah Herrmann (Bro. Roger and Sis. Darlene), Bro. Seth Kieser (Bro. Tim and Sis. Denise), Austin Knobloch (Bro. Keith and Sis. Lisa), Sis. Kalla Knobloch (Bro. Alan and Sis. Mary Ann), Michelle Martin (Bro. Ed and Sis. Gladys), Bro. Lance Martin (Bro. Alan and Sis. Janice), and Sis. Heidi Schick (Bro. Stan and Sis. Margie). Our prayers are with them as they begin a new phase of life that they may "in all their ways acknowledge Him so that He may direct their paths."

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

**Dee Fehr
Judy Sauder**

"Can he have followed far, who has no wound nor scar?"

Amy Carmichael

Romans 5:9: "Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him." Bro. Matt Steffen (Princeville) presented our monthly Family Worship on April 23. His topic was "Justification" and his text was Romans 5. On May 4, Elder Bro. Mike Leman (Denver) was our guest minister. We thank these brothers for their labors of love on our behalf.

Romans 2:4: "...that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance." Don Brown (Sis. Helen) has begun his walk with the Lord. We are so thankful for the Lord's work in the hearts of men.

We rejoice with three dear families who welcomed new babies into their homes recently. Reagan Leigh was born to Bro. Brock and Sis. Jodi Gerber on May 4. Her grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Ann Knepp and Bro. Roger and Sis. Trish Gerber (Goodfield). On May 5, Brandon Tyler was born to Joe and Lisa Adams of Washington. His older brother is Nathan and his grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Marilyn Ott and Don and Joan Adams of Normal. Then on May 19, Trenton John was born to Bro. Neal and Sis. Jessica Beer. His older sister and brother are Riley and Jackson, and his grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Linda Hodel and Bro. Dan and Sis. Deb Beer of Milford.

Genesis 2:18: "And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him." Our congregation has been blessed to have several marriage engagements over the last few months. On May 11, the engagement of Bro. Richard Zimmerman to Sis. Margaret (Sis) Heinold of LaCrosse was announced. Also, Brock Baurer (Bro. Brad and Sis. Cheryl) is engaged to Jen Buhrmester (Dave and Sue) of Antioch. We rejoice with these dear couples and wish them God's rich blessings as they plan their futures together.

Psalm 116:15: "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints." Bro. Earl Farney (Sis. Irene) of Morton passed away May 14. He was a brother to our Bro. Alvin (Sis. Mary) Farney, Sis. Edna (Bro. Harold) Roth, and Sis. Helen (Don) Brown, and a brother-in-law to our Sis. Doris Farney. We extend our love and sympathy to this dear family and pray for God's comfort upon them.

Romans 12:6,7: "Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, ...he that teacheth, on teaching;". Bros. Jim Hodel, Matt Kaufman, Jason Knepp, Matt Mangold, and Tony Mueller were selected as intermediate Sunday School teachers. Bros. Russ Leman and Andy Luginbuhl were elected as Bible Class Sunday School teachers. May God bless these brothers as they faithfully teach our youth the truths of God's Word.

On May 18, a baccalaureate service was held for our high school graduates. They are: Laura Fehr (John and Jane), Kirk Knapp (Bro. Norm and Sis. Kathy), Bro. Brian Schwind (Bro. Dan and Sis. Donna), Tim Schwind (Bro. Denny and Sis. Rita), David Stoller (Bro. Ed and Sis. Boni), and Bro. Joel Wuthrich (Sis. Val of Roanoke and Bill of Peoria). We wish these graduates God's blessings as they look to the future.

Bro. Tim (Sis. Linda) Martin plans to be a kidney donor for his nephew, Jacob Achterberg (Sally and Scott). We pray for God's protection and healing for Jacob and Bro. Tim.

Sis. Jill (Bro. Steve) Aeschleman, Bro. Duane (Sis. Rachel) Schroeder, and Sis. Lorene (Bro. Bob) Hodel are facing various health issues. We pray for God's healing hand upon them.

"We are not necessarily doubting that God will do the best for us; we are wondering how painful the best will turn out to be." (C.S. Lewis)

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Teresa Rowell

Janice Sauder

"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."

Philippians 4:8

This verse was the basis for the topical lesson "Think on these things" shared with us by Bro. Trent Meiss (Sis. Lucy) of Eureka. We thank Bro. Trent for encouragement of ways to apply those teachings to our lives. Also visiting us this past month were Bros. Doyle Frauhiger (Sis. Jane, Bluffton North, IN), Ken Schneider (Sis. Bernice, Remington, IN), Don Gudeman (Sis. Mary, LaCrosse, IN) and John Rowell (Sis. Nelda, Burlington, IA). May God bless them for coming and sharing God's Word with us.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

Elizabeth Heinold

Nancy Knepp

Thanks to all our visitors on Invite-a-Guest Sunday, especially to our ministering Bros. Greg Lehman (Sis. Mary Beth, Wolcott, IN) and Jaye Rinkenberger (Sis. Peg, Goodfield, IL). We also appreciated the visit of Bro. Dale Stoller (Sis. Sandra, Fairbury, IL).

Mother's day was the wedding day of Sis. Natalie Hoerr (Bro. Doug and Sis. Peg) and Bro. Blair Neihouser (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Sue, Francesville, IN). Visiting ministers who worshipped with us that day were Bro. Ken Wuethrich (Sis. Lyn, Indianapolis, IN), Bro. Brian Huber (Sis. Jacki, Francesville, IN), Bro. Les Kaeb (Sis. Christine, Francesville, IN), Bro. Nick Gutwein (Sis. Susanne, West Lafayette, IN), Bro. Neil Widmer (Sis.

Kristine, West Lafayette, IN), Bro. Bill Schick (Sis. Joan, Magdalena) and Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger (Sis. Peg, Goodfield, IL).

On the following Sunday we celebrated the wedding of Sis. Rebekah Laubscher (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Gloria, Cissna Park, IL) and Bro. Jason Stoller (Bro. William and Sis. Kathy, Princeville, IL). Elder Bro. Tom Stock (Sis. Karol, Cissna Park, IL), Elder Bro. Jim Plattner (Sis. Marlene, Princeville, IL) and Bro. Darren Plattner (Sis. Sue, Champaign, IL) worshipped with us that day.

We also honored Bro. Matt Wyss (Bro. Ed and Sis. Kathy), Jason Slagel (Bro. Tim and Sis. Barb) and Sis. Lexy Ginzel (Bro. Ben) who graduated from college; and the following high school graduates: Sis. Mandy Steffen (Bro. Scott and Sis. Marvella), Jodi Slagel (Bro. Tim and Sis. Barb), Cass Schumacher (Bro. Dave and Sis. Julie), Jacob Stoller (Bro. Rich and Sis. Kathy), Daniel Bucher (Bro. Steve and Sis. Vicki), Galen Rocke (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Janine) and Kaitlin Rumbold (Bro. Myron and Sis. Lori).

Many prayers ascend upward for Leslie Aeschleman (Bro. Steve and Sis. Vicki Bucher), her husband, Tyson, and son TJ, as she battles the enemy "cancer". We also pray for Phil Thames, the father of ministering Bro. Jeff Thames, who has a terminal illness. Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Dolly Schick in the loss of her sister, Sis. Emma Gerber.

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts together in times of joy and sorrow.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON
Stefanie Kipfer
Jan Schwartz

"For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake."

II Corinthians 4:5

In Bluffton this month, we have seen Christ being preached through many lives. We know that any time a new child enters the world, a new ministry is created; and every time that a child of God passes from this world, a ministry is completed. In addition to these ministries, the living ministries we witnessed were the joining of lives, the commitment of engagement, the celebration of continued marriage and the preaching of Christ through His Word. What a blessed church we are!

In April, we had the opportunity to watch six families grow with little additions. April 6 ushered in Kaden Marcus Popplewell. Kaden's parents are Adam and Breanne Popplewell, and his grandparents are Bro. Dick and Sis. Rita Everett.

On April 14, Rick and Jen Schwartz welcomed a daughter, Emma Marie, to their family. Grandparents of Emma are Elder Bro. Ed and Sis. Jeni Schwartz.

Just one day later, Bro. Kent and Sis. Heather Merritt (Leo, IN) welcomed Paige Riley to join their family. Paige is blessed with Bro. Gary and Sis. Sharon Merritt and Sis. Sherri Cress for grandparents.

Bro. Shawn and Sis. Kara Leman rejoiced in the birth of their son, Tristan Jeffrey, born on April 22. Also smiling are grandparents, Bro. Jeff and Sis. Val Leman and Bro. Herm and Sis. Julie Drayer.

Adler Reid Neuenschwander was born on April 25 to Bro. Alex and Sis. Shauna. Bro. Terry and Sis. Jean Neuenschwander and Bro. Don and Sis. Suzie Fiechter were able to see this blessing in the birth of their grandchild.

On May 6, Bro. Jason and Sis. Joni Fiechter looked upon their new miracle when their daughter, Kinzie Jae, was born. Grandparents of Kinzie are Bro. Dave Fiechter and June Fiechter.

This month we also grieved when we heard of the passing of Sis. Goldie Steffen. Our hearts were also sad-

dened by the death of Bro. Dennis Klopfenstein's (Sis. Carol) mother, Sis. Mary Ella Klopfenstein, in Phoenix, AZ. The Bluffton church wants to send our heartfelt sympathies out to these two families.

On April 20, we had the opportunity to rejoice with Bro. Derrick Kipfer and Sis. Stefanie Dailey as they joined their lives and hearts as one. We pray a blessing on their marriage ministry.

One week later, Bro. Steve and Sis. Renee Reinhard announced the engagement of their daughter, Sis. Abby, to Bro. Logan Aschliman (Bluffton North, IN). Bro. Logan's parents are Bro. Kelly and Sis. Lisa, also of Bluffton North. It is our prayer that their lives will be full of joy as they continue to serve God in a new capacity.

It is so wonderful to hear of these new beginnings, but it is equally encouraging to hear of Bro. Melvin and Sis. Doris Fiechter's 65th wedding anniversary on May 5. Praise God for their example and witness for Christ.

Also ministering to us on the pulpit through their words and lives were Bro. Ben Manz (Sis. Carolyn, Junction, OH) and Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North) on April 20. On April 27, the Bluffton church was privileged to hear Bro. Brian Huber (Sis. Jacki, Francesville, IN) and Bro. Ken Wuethrich (Sis. Lyn, Indianapolis, IN) as they preached. We appreciate their willingness to come and participate in our Sunday worship.

INDIANA
BLUFFTON NORTH
Sherry Pfister
Jesse Longenberger

"The earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein."

Psalms 24:1

On April 27, the engagement of Bro. Logan Aschliman (Bro. Kelly and Sis.

Lisa) and Sis. Abby Reinhard (Bro. Steve and Sis. Renee) was announced. May the Lord guide their wedding plans and future together.

Sis. Carolyn Roberts is appreciative of prayers on her behalf as she had successful knee surgery and is now recuperating.

On May 3, our Sunday School sponsored a Bike-A-Thon to benefit St. Jude's Children's Hospital. The children enjoy riding and knowing they are working to help other children.

May 11 was the first day for our seniors in Sunday School to attend the Graduate Class. Our love and prayers are with them in their future endeavors and we hope to see them continue to attend class.

Monday evening, May 12, our congregation held its annual church cleaning. It was well attended and a great joy to work together in the Lord's house.

Monday night prayer time continues to be a blessing for our church as many gather at church to pray while others pray at home. There are many needs in our congregations, families, and communities and prayer is a great privilege and responsibility. By praying, God allows us to work alongside Him in carrying out His work.

**INDIANA
FRANCESVILLE
Barbara Huber
Jessica Murray**

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

Ecclesiastes 3:1

Clearly, this truth was evident in our congregation this month. Rejoicing with new births in their families are ministering Bro. Chris and Sis. Sharon Huber upon the arrival of Zolan Ezra, who was born to their daughter, Tonya, and her husband, Jeremy Schieler. Also, ministering

Bro. Brian and Sis. Jacki Huber welcomed Faye Lydia who arrived to bless the household of their daughter, Sis. Sharlin and Bro. Jaret Wieland. Lastly, grandparents Bro. Doug and Sis. Margaret Leman were blessed with the birth of a grandson, Brandt Douglas, who was born to their daughter and husband, Tanessa and Dan Eberhart. Also welcoming baby Brandt home were their children, Larissa and Hayden.

May God bless these generational additions and grant His grace and joy as the little ones are reared to His glory.

Bro. Lance and Sis. Erica Gutwein welcomed their third child, Maddox, into their hearts and home on May 3. Maddox joins big sister Kelsey and big brother Landon. Maddox is the grandson of Bro. Harv and Sis. Ellen Gutwein. We are thankful that we will be able to see these children grow up in our midst.

Another joyful and timely gift from God was the wedding of our Bro. Blair Neihouser and Sis. Natalie Hoerr which was celebrated on May 11. Their parents are ministering Bro. Jeff and Sis. Sue Neihouser and Bro. Doug and Sis. Peg Hoerr of Washington, IL. Our congregational prayer for them is for much joy and grace as they now together serve Jesus.

May 17 was the wedding day of our beloved Betsy Gutwein (Elder Bro. Steve and Sis. Linda) and Ryan Riley. Ryan is pursuing his doctorate in Computer Science at Purdue University. Again, we pray God's richest blessings on the new home they have established.

Our dear friend, Vi Wuethrich, age 91, passed away on Friday, May 16. On the eve of her funeral which was held on Monday, May 19, her dear husband, John Wuethrich, also passed away. Again, we see the hand of God in the timetable of their lives. We pray that the family is comforted at this time.

On May 14, the funeral service for

baby Lauren Elyse Huber was held. Lauren was born prematurely in Jamaica to Bro. Chad and Sis. Pam Huber who are serving there as missionaries. She is survived by her twin, Lucas Andrew, and siblings, Paul, Anna, Timothy, Emma and Dylan. Her grandparents are Bro. Gene and Sis. Barb Huber and Algrid and Erica Gudas of Winamac. Her great-grandfather is Bro. Eugene Huber of Francesville. We are truly comforted in knowing that she is with God and her life, although very brief, served the purpose for which God created it. May God continue to grant comfort to her entire family.

We are rejoicing that Sis. Sharon (ministering Bro. Chris) Huber continues to improve from her serious encounter with tropical disease. How blessed we are to realize that God has heard and answered the many prayers offered in her behalf. We are all looking forward to having her assemble with us again!

Our dear Bro. Jarod and Sis. Molly (Gutwein) Steffen and their children, Marlee and Miles, will be moving to Grabill, IN, as they have felt the leading of the Lord to serve as alternate houseparents at Gateway Woods. We will certainly miss their loving service here at Francesville but we send them with our loving prayers and support. "Take The Name Of Jesus With You" was our farewell hymn to them and illustrates the prayers of our collective hearts for God's blessings on their move.

We recently had the privilege of hosting a High School Weekend for the converted students of our Indiana churches. We were richly blessed with their presence and realize again that they are our future church. We offer our sincere thanks to Bro. Fred (Sis. Nancy) Witzig of the Indianapolis congregation as he graciously ministered to the young people on Saturday and served us on Sunday. May God bless his efforts on our behalf.

We extend our loving congratulations to our six graduates as they finish high school. They are: Albert "AJ" Gutwein (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Janice), Hilary Nuest (Bro. Don and Sis. Debbie), Sis. Shanna Rayburn (Bro. Jim and Sis. Barbara), Bro. Jacob Tanner (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Gina), Jesse Wuethrich (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Kathy) and Bro. Ryan Zeltwanger (Bro. David and Sis. Kelly). May God richly bless each one of them. "I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye." (Psalms 32:8)

Note of Thanks:

With grateful hearts, we wish to sincerely thank everyone who remembered us in prayer and loving deeds at the death of our precious daughter, Lauren. Our hearts continue to be overwhelmed by the love of our brethren. We are truly blessed to be members of such a nurturing fellowship and we give God the glory for the examples of His presence in your lives. May God richly bless each and every one for their outreaches to us as we travel through this time of adjustment.

With sincere appreciation to God and our Church Family,

Bro. Chad and Sis. Pam Huber

Paul, Anna, Timothy, Emma, Dylan and Baby Lucas

**INDIANA
INDIANAPOLIS
Sandy Lichtle
Penny Schroder**

Bro. Tim Sauder (Leo, IN) and several others from Gateway Woods were here on April 30 to share how that ministry is touching the lives of children. They also shared various ways we can be involved with their work, including through prayer.

Our congregation shared in Communion the evening of May 3. Elder Bros. John Laukhuf (Sis. Marcia, Latty, OH) and Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign, IL) reminded us

of the precious relationship we share with our Lord.

Lucia Claire Sprunger was born to Bro. Joe and Sis. Tara Sprunger on May 4. Her siblings, Chloe and Samuel, welcomed her home with open arms. Thankful grandparents include Sis. Susan Byerly (Bluffton, IN) and Bro. Kent and Sis. Sheila Sprunger (Bluffton, IN).

Sis. Erica and Sis. Rachel Witzig (Bro. Fred and Sis. Nancy) shared their testimony with the church on the evening of May 17. What an encouragement to see their pure and tender love towards God. Elder Bros. Tom Klotzle (Sis. Jody, Altadena, CA) and Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign, IL) were with us for the weekend. On Sunday we witnessed their baptisms.

We rejoice with Betsy Gutwein and Ryan Riley as they were married on May 17. Their parents are Elder Bro. Steve and Sis. Linda Gutwein (Francesville, IN) and Ken and Linda Riley (Colorado Springs, CO). Betsy will be missed here in Indy since they will be living in Lafayette. May God continue to bless their lives together.

In addition to those listed above, we were blessed to have the following visiting ministers: Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Sis. Leonda, Leo, IN), Bro. Erik Givens (Sis. Deb, Princeville, IL) and Bro. Dwight Stoller (Sis. Lori, Latty, OH).

**INDIANA, LACROSSE
Bethany Johnson
Julie Rocke**

We rejoice with Sis. Margaret (Sis) Heinold and Bro. Richard Zimmerman (Roanoke, IL) as they were announced for marriage. May God bless and guide them as they make plans for their upcoming wedding and new life together.

Several of our congregation are thankful for the safe arrival of new grandbabies. Carson Cole joined the family of Bro. Lucas and Sis. Crystal, Logan and Kaleigh Frank on March

14. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Jo Frank and Bro. Dave and Sis. Dottie Ramsier (Smithville, OH). Vienna Lynne arrived on April 17 to bless the home of Jeremy and Rachel Westhuis of Laveen, AZ. Thankful grandparents are Ardis Westhuis of Gilbert, AZ, and Bro. Gene and Sis. Evie Heinold.

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Lucas Frank (Sis. Crystal, Detroit, MI), Ron Palitto (Sis. Lynette, Akron, OH), and Jim Butikofer (Sis. Diana, Iowa City, IA). May God be their rich rewarder as they serve Him on our behalf.

Bro. Gene Nuest (Sis. Norma) spent some time in the hospital this month. We are thankful that he has been able to come home now. Brett Schneider (Bro. Calvin and Sis. Jeannie) broke his arm. We pray that God will provide His healing touch to both of them and grant them a full recovery.

**INDIANA, LEO
Elizabeth Schrenk
Abigail Schrenk**

Each morning begins with the song chorus of birds who are arriving from their winter homes. The melodies are fresh every morning. The birds appear to be carefree as if Someone is watching over them. "Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?" (Matthew 6:26) How are the melodies in our hearts? Are they fresh every morning? His mercies are new every day. Great is His faithfulness.

The month of May brings three graduating seniors into a new walk of life. We honored Jonathan Schumacher (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Tina), Jason Graf (Bro. Ed. and Sis. Deb), and Sis. Shannon Fiechter (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Brenda) at a graduation breakfast. We pray God's richest blessings on them

as they begin a new chapter in life.

Bro. Paul and Sis. Nicole Suvar welcomed a dear little girl into their family. Hannah Karen was born on April 24. Big brother Owen is excited about sharing life with little Hannah.

Sis. Andrea Moushon spent time recovering from an illness. We pray God will continue to increase her health and strength. Talitha Fischer (Bro. Paul and Sis. Leanne) spent healing time at home after surgery to correct her broken leg. It is nice to see Talitha back in church again with her big smile.

We were privileged to have Bro. Jedd Rocke (Sis. Marsha, Goodfield, IL) with us. We want to thank him and his family for sharing the Word of God so clearly with us.

Summer time brings many new faces to us here at Leo. We want to welcome several new people to our congregation. Bro. Justin Wiegand will be with us all summer as the Gateway Woods Volunteer Coordinator. Sis. Bethany Witzig will be ministering at Gateway Woods in the position as Summer School Intern. Bro. Joe and Sis. Heather Beer have moved to Gateway from Bradford, IL, as Alternate House Parents. Their children are Hannah, Cooper, and Conner. Bro. Jarod and Sis. Molly Steffen have joined the staff at Gateway as Alternate House Parents. We welcome their children, Marlee and Miles, to our congregation from Francesville, IN. We desire that our new Gateway staff and children will feel welcome in the body of believers here at Leo. We thank you for your commitment to serving Jesus faithfully.

INDIANA, MILFORD
Pam Beer
Carol Hurd

Mother's Love
 Her love is like an island
 In life's ocean, vast and wide.
 A peaceful quiet shelter

From the wind, the rain, the tide.

'Tis bound on the north by Hope
 By patience on the West.
 By tender counsel on the South
 And on the East by Rest.

Above it like a beacon light
 Shine Faith and Truth and Prayer;
 And thro' the changing scenes of life
 I find a haven there.

—author unknown

On Mother's Day, May 11, Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter reminded the Milford congregation that "children are an heritage of the Lord:" (Psalms 127:3). Then Bro. Bill opened unto Proverbs 31. "Her children arise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her." (Proverbs 31:28)

The Milford congregation rejoices for another soul has found the grace for repentance. Norma Terrazas joined her husband, Jose de Jesus, in seeking the Lord's forgiveness for their sins. Let us all pray for this young couple as they give their lives to the Lord.

Bro. Walter Steffen, Pat Stoller, and Bro. John Hurd have been in the hospital for tests. We pray for God's healing hand as all have been able to return home.

INDIANA, REMINGTON
Jenni Honegger
Marcella Tyler

Greetings from Remington! We do not have a large quantity of news to report this month, but regardless of the amount we can be thankful for the blessings of the past and the hopes that we have been given from Christ for the future.

Bro. Eldon Getz (Sis. Charlene) was recently in a car accident. We are prayerful that his upcoming shoulder surgery will be a success and that God keeps His healing hand upon him.

Our thoughts are with Sis. Tammy Waibel (Bro. Dean) and her family as they grieve the loss of her grand-

mother, Lois Thompson, of Gary, IN. We pray that they can feel the comfort that only God can provide and the support of the church in this difficult time.

We want to look forward to celebrating Father's Day in the month ahead and remember to be prayerful for the fathers in our church. We are so blessed to have so many men of sound faith to lead our homes and our churches. It is only by the grace of our heavenly Father that our earthly ones can lead and provide and guide in the way that He intended, and we never want to neglect to be thankful for their loving examples.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND
Becky Langhofer
Natalie Virkler

"The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. He will not always chide: neither will he keep his anger forever. He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us."

Psalm 103:8-12

We are very thankful to have a new couple attending our small church family! Bro. Ed and Sis. Tricia Lester have moved to the area. Welcome, we are looking forward to getting to know you better!

INDIANA, VALPARAISO
Marguerite Hoerr

The beginning of the month of May was a real test for Sis. Leona Bucher (Bro. Merle). Her mother, Anna Lindsey, who was 104 years old, was very ill at Parkview Haven in Francesville, and family knew it was a matter of time until she met her Lord. Sis. Leona had hip surgery planned for

May 5. As it is the way with Mothers who always seem to smooth the way for their children, Anna met her Lord earlier in the week before and her services were held on Sunday, May 4. Leona was able to undergo her surgery on May 5, as was planned. We are most grateful she's recovering very nicely, and should be able to worship with us again soon.

We were so pleased and blest to have Sis. Marie Heinold's family with us on Mother's Day; not only most of her family, but Sis. Marie herself, who now resides at Parkview Home in Francesville. Many of her great-grandchildren attended the Sunday school. Bro. Ken Bucher had help with the song leading and our benches were occupied with many lovely members of her family. We were able to meet folks we'd known for years and to meet folks we'd never known before. It was a Sunday filled with blessings and we thank God for it.

We're celebrating the graduation from high school this month of Tasia Weiss, and Stacia Meiss. Tasia is the daughter of Bro. Dennis and Sis. Marsha; and the granddaughter of our ministering Bro. Garry Bucher and Sis. Lois. Stacia is the daughter of Dale and Sherry Meiss and the granddaughter of Bro. Rollie and Sis. Jo Meiss. They both have been real blessings to the Valpo Sunday school and church with their cooperative spirits and their lovely singing voices. Tasia will be attending Bethel College as she pursues her studies toward a nursing degree; with a minor in Spanish. Stacia has chosen to attend Purdue North Central. She has not made up her mind for her major, but will take required freshman courses this year and will see where the Lord leads her. We wish them both God's richest blessings as they end their high school years and go on to advanced studies.

As we approach Memorial Day, our thoughts turn to those whom we loved that went to their Heavenly Home. We

also honor our men and women who have fought in the armed services and who are currently serving their country. We visited our small cemetery this past week and saw flags marking the graves of those who served. My thoughts turn to our beautiful cemetery in Milford, IN, where my folks and my brother, my grandparents and many other loved ones are buried. Special services are held in many cemeteries to honor the brave men, living and dead, who served and are serving our country. It's a time for reflection of what these people meant in our lives and it's a time to honor them by placing flowers and flags on their graves. All of us have someone to remember in this way. When we do that, let's give a prayer of thanks for all they did for us.

Tomorrow Bob will be in the waiting room of the hospital with our daughter, Becky, as Dick is having surgery on a broken arm. We try very hard to think of what we can do for them, because lately it's been a very rough road for both of them. It all boils down to the fact that prayer is the best help we can give them.

Don't forget if you're traveling, that a warm welcome awaits you at our Valpo church. We're on State Road 49 South, just 2 3/4 miles South of U.S. 30. Our services are 10:30 and 12:30 each Sunday.

**INDIANA
WEST LAFAYETTE
Hollie Meister
Darlene Walder**

We had our annual Purdue Young Group (PYG) spring picnic this month. The congregation would like to thank the group for organizing this fun gathering.

We pray for God's blessings for our Purdue students as many are away for the summer. We also would like to congratulate the following graduates: Jodi Beer, Laura Bowerman, Chad Fiechter, Joel Fiechter, Luke Furrer, Randy Gerber, Ryan Graf, Darin

Gudeman, Andrew Huber, Kent Levy, Ben Schlipf, Tyler Stieglitz, Austin Waibel, and Danielle Wuethrich.

Congratulations to our high school graduates, Jenessa Wahl and Kaitlin Bahler. We pray that God will be with them as each begin a new phase in their life.

We are very excited to wish God's blessings to two new couples. Recently engaged were Bro. Cameron Walder and Sis. Amanda Hodel. Parents of the couple are Bro. Russ and Sis. Darlene Walder (West Lafayette, IN) and Bro. Dennis and Sis. Brenda Hodel (Gridley, IL). We also had two Purdue students joined together in marriage, Bro. Blair Neihsouser and Sis. Natalie Hoerr. Parents are Bro. Doug and Sis. Peg Hoerr (Washington, IL) and Bro. Jeff and Sis. Sue Neihsouser (Francesville, IN).

We rejoice in the Lord for our convert Bob Meister who has found peace with God. Bob is the brother of Bro. Dick Meister. We pray for him as he prepares for baptism.

Visiting ministers this month were Elder Bros. Steve Gutwein (Francesville, IN) and Curt Frank (Lacrosse, IN), and ministering Bros. John Lehman (Wolcott, IN) and Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL).

We continue to pray for God's healing power for Bro. Leon and Sis. Reva Waibel. They are both recovering from recent surgeries.

**INDIANA, WOLCOTT
Lynell Blume
Erica Blume**

Of all the earthly things God gives
There's one above all others,
It is the precious, priceless gift
Of loving Christian mothers...

We would like to thank the Young Group, Bible Class students, and other young adults for their labor of love on Mother's Day. They willingly provided church lunch and served it to us. We

certainly appreciated all of their efforts.

“My son... Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.”

Proverbs 3:5-6

As our seniors stand on the edge of one phase of their lives and the threshold of the next, may they each trust in the Lord and allow Him to choose the road they should take. Those graduating from high school are: Abigail Bahler (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Heidi); Shane Bahler (Chris and Sis. Teresa); Joshua Furrer (Bro. Troy and Sis. Lisa); Sis. Kimberly Lehman (Bro. Greg and Sis. Mary Beth); and Marcus Schwab (Bro. Mark and Sis. Shari). Recent college graduates are Clinton Schieler (Bro. Dave and Sis. Merri); and Lance Schwab (Bro. Jon and Sis. Wendy). We extend our congratulations and best wishes to all of them!

As Father's Day approaches, we think of our Heavenly Father and all He has done for us. One of His most special blessings is certainly our God-fearing, earthly fathers. On their special day, and throughout the year, may we uphold them in prayer and show our appreciation by being obedient and respectful to their teachings.

IOWA, BLOOMFIELD **Christy Wiegand**

Greetings of Christian love!

We are thankful for Tim Dotterer (Bro. Joe and Sis. Rose), Ryan Schock (Bro. Dale and Sis. Teresa), and Nathan Schock (Elder Bro. Doug and Sis. Clara), as they have felt their great need of a Savior and are seeking the Lord in repentance.

The engagement of Sis. Boni Wettstein and Bro. Vern Hostetler was recently announced. We rejoice with them and pray God's continued bless-

ing and guidance as they plan for their lives together. Sis. Boni's parents are Bro. Jon and Sis. Rita Wettstein.

Congratulations to our high school graduates this year. They are Rachel Teubel (Bro. Paul and Sis. Charlotte), Matt Wettstein (Bro. Jon and Sis. Rita), and Nathan Wettstein (Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Carol). We pray that they will look to the Lord for guidance as they plan for their future.

It brings us joy to welcome Emily Sinn as our Sister in Christ. She brought forth her testimony and was baptized while home in Silverton, OR, on her spring break. We also congratulate Bro. Chris Messner on his recent engagement to Sis. Dixie Metzger, both from West Bend. We pray the Lord will be their guide as they make future plans together. Sis. Emily and Bro. Chris are both part of our church family as they are attending college in our area.

Bro. Russell Wuthrich and Joe Dean Wells both spent some time in the hospital this past month. We are thankful to report that both of them are doing well.

Thank you to Bro. Chris Kuenzi (Sis. Mary, Silverton) and Bro. Brad Funk (Sis. Laura, Garden Grove) for preaching the Word of God to us on Mother's Day. We appreciate their efforts and willingness to serve.

As Father's Day approaches, let us be thankful for our Fathers and grateful for the love of our Heavenly Father.

IOWA, BURLINGTON **Dixie Messner** **Karla Gerst**

“And it came to pass, as he sat at meat with them, he took bread, and blessed it, and brake, and gave to them. And their eyes were opened, and they knew him... And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?”

St. Luke 24:30-32

We were thankful to have many visitors this past month, including Bro. Dale Frank (Oakville, IA). We appreciate his willingness to share the Word with us.

Congratulations to Kent Eberhardt, son of Bro. Curt Eberhardt and Jean Eberhardt, as he graduates from high school this year. We know the future is in God's hands and that He will lead us, if we seek His guidance and listen for His voice.

“...And, behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains... but the Lord was not in the wind: and after the wind, an earthquake; but the Lord was not in the earthquake: And after the earthquake a fire; but the Lord was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice.”

I Kings 19:11-12

IOWA, ELGIN **Gloria Frieden**

“And when they had gathered the multitude together, they delivered the epistle, which when they had read, they rejoiced.”

Acts 15:30-31

On May 3, we gathered and rejoiced together as the letter to the churches (Memorandum) was delivered unto us. Our sincere thanks to Elder Bros. Dave Graf (Sis. Barbara, Akron, OH) and Wayne Grimm (Sis. Rose, West Bend, IA) for sharing these exhortations unto us. We also appreciated having ministering Bro. Mark Steiner (Sis. Sue, Smithville, OH) with us this weekend.

With thankful hearts, we welcome Bro. Doug and Sis. Trish Rocke into our little flock here at Elgin. May God continue to guide and bless them as they follow His leading.

Kami Knobloch (Bro. Jim and Sis.

Marcy) and Ben McCready (Julie) have made their engagement known and are planning an August wedding. May God be their Guide as they make plans for this second most important step in life.

“Thank Thee, Lord, for bringing me to this very special day to honor and to celebrate, all that’s come my way. Guide me as I journey on, in choices that I make. Be my Friend, and walk with me, every step I take. Be within the very heart of all I say and be and fill my life abundantly with love that comes from Thee.”

May this prayer be on the heart of Bro. Ben Frieden (Bro. Floyd and Sis. Jan) as he completes his high school education.

IOWA, IOWA CITY Diana Butikofer

We congratulate Celeste Reker (Bro. Roger and Sis. Rhonda), Sis. Rachel Snodgrass, and Jacob Snodgrass (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Becky) on graduating from high school and Matt Landherr (Ron and Audrey) on graduating from Iowa State University. Celeste plans to attend the University of Iowa to study biology, Sis. Rachel and Jacob plan to work for a year before attending college, and Matt is planning to continue on to medical school.

Elder Bro. Jim Plattner (Sis. Marlene, Princeville, IL) shared Communion with us. We appreciate his explanation of the wine and bread Jesus commanded us to partake of. We trust the Lord will bless Bro. Jim and Bro. Joe Gerst for their work that evening.

Please keep Iowa City in mind as you travel this summer. Our church is just several miles north of Interstate 80 and often makes a good meeting place between many of our congregations. We would love to have you!

IOWA, LESTER Polly Metzger Gloria Moser

Paul Matthew Hartter was born to Bro. Matt and Sis. Hana on April 25. Dustin, Marissa and Elizabeth are excited for a new brother. Bro. Jerome and Sis. Gail Hartter and Tedd and Sis. Diane Larsen are the grandparents. Bro. Dana and Sis. Kary Metzger and Jeremy welcomed a boy, Daniel Martin, who was born on April 26. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Marvin and Sis. Joleen Metzger and Bro. Jerome and Sis. Gail Hartter.

A precious girl, Elise Laree, was born on May 18 to Perry and Jessica Mogler. Mallorie and Rier are the happy siblings. Loving grandparents are Bro. Howard and Sis. Lillian Mogler.

“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you.”

Matthew 6:33

We rejoice that Stacey Desmet (Bro. Bob and Sis. Shirley) is seeking her soul’s salvation. May she find much grace to build upon a firm foundation. We are thankful for Kyla Knobloch (Bro. Stan and Sis. Dawn) as she has found peace with God and man and we look forward to hearing her testimony.

April 26 was the wedding day for Aaron Metzger (Bro. Gary and Sis. Beth) and Robyn Wulf (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Linda). Julie Popkes (Bro. Greg and Sis. Lori) and Dustin Timmerman were united in marriage on May 17. We wish both couples God’s richest blessings.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with little Luke Metzger (Bro. Jared and Sis. Carla) as he had been hospitalized for medical tests. We are thankful he is at home again.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the family of Sis. Emma Gerber who

passed into Eternity on April 26 at the age of 98.

Sis. Emma is survived by one daughter, Pauline Teubel, and six sons: Bro. Bob (Sis. Nancy), Bro. John (Sis. Donna), Ernie (Sharon), Wayne and Jim (Marlene). May this family be comforted by the faithful example of their loving mother. Our thoughts are also with Paul and Josie Feucht, Sis. Martha Feucht and Bro. Phil and Sis. Donna Mogler as they bid farewell to a dear sister and sister in law.

On May 9, the funeral service for Dick Doorneweerd was conducted by Bro. Dale Wulf and Elder Bro. Dennis Warner. He is survived by his wife, Leah, and five children: Allen, Doris Banks, Mary Claussen, Lila Tatge and Kim Messner, as well as sister in laws, Sis. Alice Wulf and Sis. Amelia Roemen. May they all feel the comfort from our Heavenly Father.

Visiting ministers this past month were Bro. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS) and Bro. Duane Rocke (Minneapolis, MN). We truly appreciated their labors of love on our behalf.

“Teach me thy way, O Lord, and lead me in a plain path.”

Psalms 27:11

As we remember our graduates, we also lift them up in prayer that they will look to their Creator for guidance and direction as they further their education or seek occupations.

Our high school graduates include: Nicholas DeHaan (Bro. Tim and Lois), Lucy Larson (Tedd and Sis. Diane), Aric Leuthold (Carl and Deb), Sis. Emma Metzger (Bro. Rodney and Sis. Polly), Martha Metzger (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Harriet), Tasha Metzger (Bro. Tom and Sis. Deb), Ross Mogler (Bro. Rodney and Sis. Lois), Laura Molitor (Bob and Carol), Benji Moser (Bro. Donn and Sis. Joyce), Alice Schmidt (Bro. Mike and Sis. Mavis), Derek Ver Beek (Tim and Sis. Becky) and Sis. Maria Warner (Bro. Stan and Sis. Sue).

Our college graduates are Angela Knobloch (Brad and Sis. Linda Klostergaard), Jay Knobloch (Bro. Terry and Sis. Elaine), Michael Leuthold (Bro. Bob and Sis. Cindy), Bro. Drew Metzger (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Joleen), Devin Mogler (Bro. Rodney and Sis. Lois) and Todd Moser (Bro. Donn and Sis. Joyce).

IOWA, OAKVILLE Sharla Wiegand

We appreciate the many visiting ministers we had this month. On April 27, Bro. Joe Gerst (Iowa City, IA) ministered to us and Bro. Phil Schulz (Burlington, IA) brought forth the Word on May 4. Mother's Day brought visiting ministering Bro. Rod Bajema (Lester, IA) and Bro. Gary Endress (Bradford, IL). May God richly bless them for their labors on our behalf.

Dan and Tanessa Eberhardt welcomed a precious baby boy, Brandt Douglas, on April 18. Also welcoming him home are Larissa and Haydn. Grandparents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Ruby Eberhardt and Bro. Doug and Sis. Margaret Leman (Francesville, IN).

Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to Bro. Monte and Sis. Kelly Lanz in the passing of her father, Marvin Austin. May the Lord comfort their family.

On May 4, the engagement announcement of Bro. Clinton Wagenbach and Sis. Kyrstin Kilgus was made known. Their parents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Bonnie Wagenbach, Jr. and Bro. Kevin and Sis. Denise Kilgus (Forrest, IL).

IOWA, WEST BEND Sue Schneider Janet Fehr

"This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it."

Proverbs 118:24

We've had a cool, slow, but beautiful spring in the West Bend area. The flowering trees are in full bloom. The plants in the fields, gardens and flower beds are emerging and growing. The earth is becoming lush and beautiful. We have reason to rejoice and be glad in each new day!

Andy Bruellman (Bro. Larry and Sis. Teresa) was back home in West Bend on a 10 day leave from Kosovo, as he had planned his time off around the planting season. We trust Andy's remaining days of active duty pass swiftly and safely.

A June wedding is being planned by Carrie Fisher and Matthew Putz. Carrie is the daughter of the late Harold and the late Marie Fisher. May God bless these two young people as they prepare for their special day.

On Mother's Day, the engagement of Bro. Kris Messner (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Audrey) and Sis. Dixie Metzger (Bro. Leland and Sis. Kathy) was made known. We rejoice with them, and pray for God's continued presence in their lives as they make their future plans.

Two became one as Jay Benedict and Annette Gerber were wed on April 26. Annette's parents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Diane, and Jay's parents are Holly and the late Wesley Benedict. May the blessing of God rest upon Jay and Annette's household.

Bro. Dale Moore (Sis. Cheryl, Elgin, IA) was our only visiting minister this month. It is always a special blessing to have visitors come and proclaim God's Word. Thank you, Bro. Dale, for your efforts.

Our entire congregation is very concerned and prayerful for our Bro. Clifford Grimm, his wife, Sis. Rosene, and their entire family. Bro. Clifford had been hospitalized and is now receiving care in his own home. May God be especially near this family each step of the way.

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own un-

derstanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him and he shall direct thy paths."

Proverbs 3:5-6

These words from Proverbs seem so fitting as college and high school graduation days are here. May a trust in God and a real desire for Him to "direct thy paths" be in the hearts of each of our graduates as they prepare for their future. Those completing their years of elementary and high school education include: Brittany Banwart (Brad and Julie), Ryan Bruellman (Bro. Larry and Sis. Teresa), Tory Metzger (Bro. Leland and Sis. Kathy), Sis. Paula Mogler (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Beth), Sis. Laura Virkler (Bro. Andy and Sis. Becky) and Tyson Wirtz (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Trela).

We are happy to share the news that Wes Banwart (Bro. Ken and Sis. Marlene) has found peace with our eternal Saviour. We pray for God's continual nearness in his life as he awaits baptism.

West Bend has two new additions to our flock. Maddie Marie Fehr (Bro. Greg and Sis. Denise) joined us on May 1. She has an older brother, Cole, and her grandparents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Eunice Fehr and Bro. Ken and Sis. Janet Lanz (Oakville, IA). The other blessing from above is Tyra Mae Schupbach (Bro. Greg and Sis. Gwen). Her playmates at home are Trystian, Leandra and Cortlyn, and grandparents, Bro. John and Sis. Janet Schupbach (Elgin, IA) as well as Bro. Dave and Sis. Yvonne Bruellman, welcome Tyra into their family circle.

Sis. Marie Metzger (95) passed from this life on April 28. She will be missed by her dear sisters, Sis. Darlene Metzger (West Bend) and Sis. Zelma Knobloch (Lester, IA), as well as her brother, Bro. Arnold Metzger of West Bend. Sis. Marie is remembered by her kind deeds of love and staying true to her God until the end.

In remembrance of Father's Day,

the following poem makes us think of our young sons looking to their earthly fathers for that good example.

Walk A Little Plainer Daddy

Walk a little plainer, daddy,
Said a little boy so frail.
I am following in your footsteps,
And I don't want to fail.
Sometimes they are so hard to see,
So walk a little plainer, daddy,
For you are leading me.

I know that once you walked this way,
Many years ago.
For sometimes when I am tempted,
I don't know what to do.
So walk a little plainer, daddy,
For I must follow you.

Someday when I'm grown up,
You are like I want to be.
Then I will have a little boy,
Who will want to follow me.
And I would want to lead him right,
And help him to be true.
So walk a little plainer, daddy,
For we must follow you.

—author unknown

JAPAN, SHIODA
Carrie Ito

A sincere thank you is extended to those who have prayed for Bro. Akihiro Ito as he began his ministry. He has certainly felt your prayers.

Our church visited the local nursing home and distributed hand towels to the women there for Mother's Day. They seemed to be thankful for the small token.

Recently a former kindergarten child came to our church. She is visiting her parents who live just minutes from the church. She fondly recalled many of the sisters who were her teachers and Ehnle's as well. We are thankful for the seeds that were planted by so many of our brothers and sisters in years past and pray that those seeds of faith and the witness of those good examples can bring forth fruit as the students mature into adulthood.

KANSAS, BERN
Jill Meyer
Rita Menold

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

Proverbs 3:5-6

This is our desire for our graduates as they move onward to another path in their lives.

Graduating from high school are Miranda Baumgartner (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Kim) and Molly Edelman (Bro. Rod and Sis. Joleen). Also graduating is Ilse Ketelaars who has been a foreign exchange student from the Netherlands and has been staying in the home of Bro. Rod and Sis. Joleen Edelman. We wish her the Lord's guidance as she returns to her homeland this month. Our college graduate is Bro. Jason Kaeb (Bro. Paul and Sis. Joan).

Following God's direction, Sis. Stefany Edelman (Bro. Earl and Sis. Donna) has moved to Oregon for further education. We wish her God's blessings as she assembles with the Silverton congregation.

We also wish God's strength and nearness to Sis. Sheila Moser (Sabetha, KS) as she makes a life-changing move to Haiti in the near future, Lord willing. Sis. Sheila has been the director of Lakeside Terrace, our handicapped home, for many years and there are many in our congregation who are involved in this by working or volunteering. (see job opening description in the back of this issue)

We thank Bro. Dale Wulf (Sis. Becky; Lester, IA) for sharing the Word of God to us this month. Our prayers are continually with all those who are willing to bring forth the Living Word to us each time we gather in His house.

Sis. Arlene Esslinger is currently a patient in the Sabetha Hospital. We're

thankful she is showing improvement and expects to return to her apartment soon.

KANAS, FORT SCOTT
Martin Hohulin

Mia Miller, little daughter of David and Trista Miller, was hospitalized a short time earlier this month and is now doing well.

On April 29, a darling baby girl, Talya Louise Banwart, was born to first-time parents, Tyler and Tina (Gramm) Banwart. She was born with a beautiful head of hair and does not lack for attention.

Our list of graduates includes Michael Boge and Bro. Ryan Kellenberger who earned their college degrees. Graduating from community college were Anna Marie Bahr and Mikayla Boge. Sis. Adrienne Bahr graduated from high school and Joseph Fisher graduated from 8th grade. On a personal note, our grandson, Bill Hohulin, graduated from high school from Lamar, Missouri, and will attend Missouri University of Science and Technology this fall. May God bless their future endeavors.

Christian sympathy to Sis. Julie Bahr, whose aunt, Sis. Emma Gerber, died in Lester, Iowa. Sis. Jan Boge's mother, Vera Ebel, died in Fort Scott with services held in Spencer, Iowa. Bro. Bill Boge was fortunate to escape injury in a car accident near the Kansas-Missouri state line.

Once again, we were encouraged by Bro. Glen Braker (Sis. Audrey, Princeville, IL). Also this month, Bro. Curt Rassi (Sis. Kathy and son, Caleb, Tremont, IL) shared God's Word with us. We appreciate all our visitors. As a dear departed minister once said, "It is the same Gospel, just dished out with a different spoon."

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

We want to thank our visiting minister for coming and helping us prepare our hearts and minds for our upcoming Communion services. Bro. Joe Klotzle and Sis. Sue were with us this month, and we really appreciate their fellowship.

May God's blessings be upon you for this summer season. Every time you see God's beauty may you remember that you also are God's creation.

We want you to feel welcome to visit our Kiowa congregation any time because we enjoy your fellowship.

KANSAS, SABETHA**Rebekah Beyer****Carrie Grimm**

"He hath delivered my soul in peace from the battle that was against me: for there were many with me."

Psalms 55:18

Lynn Rees (Jason) was announced for peace on April 20, and Tyler Huber (Bro. Gordon and Sis. Sharlyn) on May 4. Our prayers are with these converts as they seek the Lord's guidance in their lives.

We are so thankful for the many visiting ministers who came to Sabetha this month. Elder Bros. Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North, IN), Art Nohl (Sis. Sandra, Morris, MN), and Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, LaCrosse, IN) were here for an Elder Agenda Committee meeting and Wednesday evening church. Elder Bro. Dennis Warner (Sis. Esther, Lester, IA), Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi (Sis. Becki, Lamar, MO), Bro. Rex Frieden (Sis. Vera, Lamar, MO), Bro. Darrell Stoller (Sis. Gloria, Bern, KS), Bro. Ron Isch (Sis. Jane, Lamont-Gridley, KS), and Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern, KS) joined us for a weekend of baptisms. Our new Sisters and Brother in Christ are Sis. Lynn Rees

(Jason), Sis. Jodi Grimm and Bro. Levi Grimm (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Nita), and Sis. Lena Hartter (Bro. Dave and Sis. Beth). It truly was a blessed weekend as we heard their testimonies of faith, witnessed their humble hearts in baptism, and enjoyed the fellowship with many visitors.

Sis. Jeryl Grimm (Bro. Doug) and Cheryl Wenger (Dan) recently spent time under medical care.

Our congregation partook of Holy Communion on May 4. Elder Bro. Dennis Warner was here to assist our Elder Bro. Gerry for this occasion.

Graduating from High School this year were Bro. Jacob Hartter (Bro. David and Sis. Beth) and Bro. Micah Hartter (Bro. Tim and Sis. Charleen). Tyler Huber (Bro. Gordon and Sis. Sharlyn) and Morgan Wenger (Bro. Marc and Sis. Julie) graduated from college as well. We wish them God's rich blessings as they pursue further education or employment and make many important decisions!

KANSAS, WICHITA**Emma Miller**

Elder Bro. Kenneth Indermuhle and his wife, Sis. Linda (Sardis, OH), spent the last weekend in April with us. In addition to helping Bro. Jay Luthi serve Communion on Sunday, Bro. Ken enlightened us about the small church study.

Elder Bro. John Lehman and Bro. Ed Strahm (both of Bern, KS) were in Wichita for business purposes and took time from their busy schedule to worship with those who gathered on Wednesday evening.

We are looking forward to having Bro. Almanzo Strahm worship with us this summer. He will be here as a summer intern with a construction company.

It has been a long time since we were able to list graduating high school seniors from our congregation so it is with pleasure that I can say that both

Luke and Katie Carnahan are graduating from Rose Hill High School this month. The Carnahan family recently moved from their previous home near Rose Hill to nearby Derby, KS.

MEXICO, IXTLAN**Matt Gerber**

"Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong. Let all your things be done with charity."

1 Cor. 16:13-14

Bro. Grant Herrmann (Princeville, IL) arrived to spend his summer helping here.

Marcela Saucedo and Lupita Sibaja Leon were announced for peace this month. Their testimonies and baptisms are planned for the weekend of June 21-22, Lord willing.

Opening date for the new grade school has been delayed until fall 2009 because the time period for accreditation already passed for school year 2008. Even though this might seem like a setback, we take it as God wisely foreseeing what we can't see. This will give us more time to prepare, hire qualified teachers, and possibly teach English and computer classes in the meantime.

MICHIGAN, ALTO**Rose Watson****Terri Huber**

We would like to report on the special weekend resulting in the addition of a new Sister and Brother in the faith. Sis. Whitney Wilson (Mark and Robin) and Bro. Craig Huber (Bro. Ryan and Sis. Terri) gave their testimonies and were baptized on May 17-18. Whitney's soul shined forth with sincerity and commitment, while Craig's tender heart was revealed. It is always a blessing to hear how God has worked in other people's lives, and we can all use the reminder that God has done big things in the past and is still doing

them! We were thankful that weekend for the service of Elder Bros. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI), Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH), and John Jackson (Bay City, MI).

We have had very encouraging news about the progress of Sis. Jane Grawburg as she continues to recover from surgery to remove a large and growing tumor on her brain. She is now able to have visitors other than family members, and is grateful for the prayers of her church family.

We are also missing Sis. Susan Steffen (Bro. Nathan) as she has not been feeling well enough to worship with us for many weeks. We hope and pray that she will stay encouraged and be filled with peace that God is taking care of her and her family during this difficult time.

A committee of Elders has selected Bro. Ted Steffen (Sis. Sandy) to be interviewed at the August Elders' Conference as the prospective future Elder in Alto. We know that Ted, Sandy, and their eight children will appreciate prayerful support.

A somewhat sad farewell was offered to Xieanne Koehl as she left on May 26 to start her time in the Navy. She is apprehensive and yet excited, and we want to remember to pray for her and the many challenges that she will face in this new stage of her life!

Correction: Our congratulations to Justin Pratt on his graduation from college, not high school.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

**Sarah Knochel
Janelle Ramseyer**

Our Bay City congregation had the opportunity to hear the Memorandum on May 3. Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL) assisted our Elder Bro. John Jackson and we thank both of them for their service on our behalf.

Lori Bateson (Bill) was a surgical patient recently and we pray that the

Lord would stand by her side as she heals. We are thankful that Bro. Robert Knochel and Sis. Alice Wieland have each returned to their own homes after spending time in a nursing home. Sis. Alice is assembling with us again and we look forward to when Bro. Robert Knochel can again worship with us.

We rejoice with our high school and college graduates. We pray that the Lord's will may be accomplished in each of their lives and that they would seek Him as they enter into the next phase of their life. Our high school graduates are Ashley Gorney (John and Sis. Winifred), Bro. Andreas Schlatter (Bro. Jay and Sis. Carola), Kendra Schlatter (Bro. Ken and Sis. Pam), and Ryan Wrzesinski (Jim and Brenda). Our college graduates are Sis. Gail Szabo, Sis. Moonlight Szabo and Sis. Carol Wieland (Bro. Dale).

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

Numbers 6:24-26

Summer is almost here and with the warm weather, vacations are most likely being planned. Please consider including Michigan in your travel plans and join us in Bay City for a Sunday or Wednesday evening.

May God be with each one in the coming days.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

**Manuela Denes
Tamra Coughlin**

This Spring we have several graduates from various levels of education. Sis. Mira Matejin completed her Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from Lawrence Technological University. Sis. Alexis Gasser (engaged to Bro. Jon Stoller) finished at Illinois State University with a Bachelor of Science in Middle School Education.

Bro. Daniel Coughlin (Sis. Tamra) completed his Doctorate of Philosophy in Biochemistry. Sis. Kristi Baran (Craig and Sis. Pat Baran) received her high school diploma.

William and Sis. Trudy Schmidt are pleased to announce the engagement of their son, Joshua, to Caroline Hirt, daughter of Douglas and Jean. They are anticipating an October 3, 2008, wedding.

Our congregation extends thanks to everyone who made the effort to join us for an evening of hymn worship and fellowship at the All-Michigan and Toledo sing. We also thank Bro. John Jackson and Bro. Rodney Wieland for participating in church services at Woodhaven.

We rejoice with Sis. Danielle Mojic and Bro. Sam Sutton (Phoenix, AZ) who were married this past month. We also rejoice with Bro. Jesse and Sis. Bonnie Bedolla and Graham and Colin as they welcomed Claire Adrienne into their family on May 27. Her grandparents are Bro. Rodney and Sis. Evelyn Wieland (Bay City, MI) and Jesse and Teresa Bedolla (Ypsilanti, MI).

Upcoming events for our church family: Vacation Bible School from June 23-27 and Benefit Day on July 13.

MINNESOTA MINNEAPOLIS Mary Mogler

"The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust..."

Psalms 18:2

The promise of God's ever-present strength and mercy penned by the psalmist David was exhorted on by Elder Bros. John Lehman (Bern, KS) and Art Nohl (Morris, MN) as they recently joined our congregation in worship. Truly we can place our confidence in our great God with full assurance that no matter what we are facing, God will be our Deliverer.

We congratulate our high school graduate, Seth Mogler, and college graduate, Kelsey Messner. It is our prayer that God will direct and bless both as they take the next step in their lives.

May 17 was our annual potluck with our brothers, sisters and friends in the Winthrop congregation. A blessed time of worship, Christian fellowship and delicious food was enjoyed by all, and we thank our dear ones in Winthrop for hosting us.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS

**Sheila Reuter
Susie Wulf**

We were thankful Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi could come and assist our Elder Bro. Art Nohl with Communion and with the baptisms of Michael Nohl (Bro. DeWayne and Sis. Janice) and Anna Schmidgall (Bro. Paul and Sis. Shawn).

Other visiting ministers this month were Bro. Rex Frieden, Bro. Dale Wulf, Bro. Pat Zaugg and Bro. Jim Koehl. We appreciate their many labors of love for us.

Our congratulations are with Bro. Tom and Sis. Ruth Schmidgall on the birth of their grandchildren, Carsen Thomas and Logan Patrick. Carsen's parents are Matthew and Kelli Schmidgall and Logan's parents are Rachel and Josh Marshall (Peoria, IL).

We also would like to congratulate Bro. Tim and Sis. Jeanne Esterling on the birth of their grandchild, Cooper Zachary, the son of Zachary and Jessi Esterling (Morton, IL). Congratulations to Bro. Dave and Sis. June Schmidgall on the birth of their granddaughter, Nevaeh Joy. Nevaeh's parents are Tonia and Don Judkins.

Bro. Joshua and Sis. Heidi Schmidgall were blessed with a daughter, Susan Elien. Big sister Sonia welcomed her home. Grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. June Schmidgall and Bro. Verle and Sis. Christa Sauder.

Elise Marie was born to Bro. Jon

and Sis. Sally Nohl. Welcoming her home is siblings, Devin, Erin and Dustin. Grandparents are Bro. DeWayne and Sis. Janice Nohl and Bro. Dan and Sis. Eunice Fehr (West Bend, IA).

Daughter Adyson Kate was born to Bro. Kevin and Sis. Kelli Joos. Big sister, Mallory, welcomed her home. Grandparents are Bro. Harvey and Sis. Debra Joos and Sis. Sharon Adams (Forrest, IL).

Bro. Dan and Sis. Shadow Schaefer were blessed with son Emery Daniel. Welcoming him home are sisters, Elena, Esther and Eva. Grandparents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Pam Schaefer and Bro. Paul Jr. and Sis. Pam Fehr.

We rejoice with Robyn Wulf (Bro. Jeral and Sis. Linda) as she became the bride of Aaron Metzger (Bro. Gary and Sis. Beth, Lester, IA). We pray God will bless them as they make their home in Lester, IA.

Our prayers are with Sis. Diane Feuchtenberger as she has undergone a few surgeries. We pray God's healing hand will be upon her.

Sis. Myra Messner (Bro. Sid and Sis. Cheryl) was announced to Bro. Mike Koehl (Bro. Guy and Sis. Lynette). May God be their threefold cord.

We would like to wish our graduates congratulations on their graduation: Kent Luthi (Bro. Aldean and Sis. Charlotte), Heidi Wulf (Bro. Stan and Sis. Pam), Justin Wulf (Bro. James and Sis. Twyla), Erika Gramm (Bro. Ted and Sis. Wanda), Travis Moser (Bro. Lowell and Sis. Karen), Austin Schmidgall (Bro. Robert and Sis. Kathryn), Rita Wulf (Bro. Jeral and Sis. Linda), Craigan Wulf (Bro. Davis and Sis. Nancy), Daniel Furrer (Bro. Tom and Sis. Jill) and Harmony Sauder (Bro. Verle and Sis. Christa). May they look to the Lord for guidance along life's way.

Note of Thanks:

We are overwhelmed by all the love,

care and concern since Larry was diagnosed with his illness. Only God can reward each of you for all the prayers, gifts, phone calls, cards and food we have received. Our thanks and gratitude are inadequate, but may God bless each of you.

Bro. Larry and Sis. Bonnie Nohl

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

**Rachel Steiner
Julie Schmidt**

When of this blest bread they had partaken,
And brought thanks unto their God above,
Having been unto this feast invited
And found worthy of His grace and love,
He the cup into His hands did gather,
Giving thanks unto His Heav'nly Father,
Said to His disciples:
"Drink this wine,
As a token of my blood divine."
Zion's Harp #26

We are thankful for opportunity to come together and partake of Holy Communion with our congregation. We thank Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Sis. Judy, Chicago, IL) for coming and helping Elder Bro. Paul Messner serve us. We also thank Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Sis. Pam, Washington, IL) for coming and sharing God's Word with us.

We extend our congratulations to our college and high school graduates. Sis. Lindsay Schmidt (Bro. Verl and Sis. Jamie) graduated from college with a nursing degree. Jacob Isaacson (Jerry and Melissa) is our high school graduate. May God guide their paths as they begin a "new chapter" in their lives.

Our hospital and surgical patients are Bro. Dick Schmidt (Sis. Mary Lou), Sis. Shayla Messner (Bro. Dean and Sis. Wanda) and Bro. Verl Schmidt (Sis. Jamie). We are thankful that God's healing hand is upon them.

Note of Thanks:

I'd like to thank the Brothers, Sisters and friends who had a prayer on my behalf when I had surgery. Thank you for the cards and gifts we received. It was greatly appreciated. May God bless you all.

Bro. Dick and Sis. Mary Lou Schmidt

MISSOURI, LAMAR
Becky Luthi
Dana Braker

We are thankful God is still directing the paths of His children. This month the engagement of our Bro. Evan Braker (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Carol) to Sis. Crystal Stoller (Bro. Greg and Sis. Jill, Forrest, IL) was made known unto us. We wish them much grace as they make preparation for their life together.

On May 11, we witnessed the marriage of our Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi to our Sis. Becky Marti. Their parents are Bro. Raymond and Sis. Violet Luthi and Bro. Charles and Sis. Alice Marti, all from here. We wish them God's blessings on their marriage; may God's presence be with them in the upcoming time as Bro. Lawrence continues to have the oversight of our flock.

We were blessed with many visitors this past month, including Elder Bros. Art Nohl (Morris, MN) and Dennis Warner (Lester, IA) and ministering Bros. Glen Braker (Princeville, IL), Gary Brown (Forrest, IL), Larry Bahr (Ft. Scott, KS) and Ken Eisenmann (Cissna Park, IL).

Bro. Calvin and Sis. Jody Luthi had two children, Amber and Clint, in the hospital this month. We are thankful they are once again recovered and at home.

Congratulations to our many high school graduates this year. They are Corey Braker (Bro. Jay and Sis. Sharon), Audrey Luthi (Bro. Calvin and Sis. Jody), Sis. Emily Banwart

(Bro. Gene and Sis. Linda, Ft. Scott, KS), Bro. Christopher Marti (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Kathy), Ben Braker (Bro. Roy and Sis. Judy), Sis. Amanda Schmidgall (Bro. Larry and Sis. Marcy) and Heidi Stoller (Bob and Sis. Janice). Also graduating from a higher school of learning is Bro. Evan Braker (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Carol) and earlier in the school year is Nicole Braker (Bro. Jay and Sis. Sharon) and Sis. Katie Frieden (Bro. Rex and Sis. Vera). We hope and pray that all will seek God's direction in their lives.

MISSOURI, ST LOUIS
Betsy Schrenk

Visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan, Taylor), Bros. Dennis Kaufmann (Sis. Bonnie, Bloomington) and Mike Rinkenberger (Sis. Pat, Congerville). We were thankful to receive exhortation for Communion and we were encouraged to lead sanctified lives.

The dictionary definition of the adjective sanctified is "dedicated; consecrated" or "made holy". A consecrated life is one directed by God. A person cannot sanctify his own life. Grace from God is the key. When a sinner repents and is saved by grace, the Holy Spirit indwells him. This enables him to love God and to love his neighbor as himself. This perfect life of love was modeled by Jesus Christ. As His ambassador in this world, the converted person's dedication to the Father and the Son is apparent to his neighbors. He speaks the truth in love, never being ashamed of our Lord. He is leading a sanctified life.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR
Kathy Eberhardt

Everything has a season. (Ecclesiastes 3:1-2) "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die: a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted."

This month, in our Taylor family, these verses have touched our congregation. Bro. Irvin Schmidgall finished his earthly race and graduated to his eternal reward. We extend our sympathy to Sis. Lucille and her family. What a faithful brother he has been!

We have five students graduating from high school, and we wish them God's blessings in their future. The graduates are Sis. Alex Hoerr (Bro. Scott and Sis. Anna), Edie Reiman (Lester and Jane), Craig Sutter (Bro. Steve and Sis. Deb), Zach Sutter (Bro. Jim and Sis. Kris) and Austin Yackley (Bro. Joe and Sis. Jerilyn).

We would like to thank the Kingdom Academy from Bluffton, IN, for donating time and work to His Ranch. His Ranch had their grand opening and is ready to help underprivileged children on a one to one basis through personal time with horses and other projects. Any questions about His Ranch can be directed to Bro. Shannon and Sis. Susan Haerr (573)393-2385.

Bro. Roy Grimm is our hospital patient for this month.

We also are praying for the safety of our farmers as they are sowing their seeds. May we be ready to speak God's Word in and out of season.

NEW YORK
CROGHAN-NAUMBURG
Hope Graves

We were blessed to work together April 12 and 25 to accomplish World Relief projects. We made school, health and pre-natal kits and assembled snack bags for a local children's home. What a joy to help the less fortunate and at the same time teach our children to lend a helping hand. Before our snacks we sang some Children's Harp hymns with the children.

It was time again for our yearly church cleaning on May 5.

Our ministering brothers were given words to speak at Bro. John Rauhe's graveside service May 17. Again we remember their family and

many others in the loss of their loved ones, but what a comfort to think of them over there where they have reached the Heavenly goal that we are striving for. May we have that desire to serve Him faithfully each day so someday we can hear those most welcome words: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

Our prayers continue for Bro. Gerald Lehman as he is now home from another hospital stay.

"Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time."

Colossians 4:5

NEW YORK CITY SECAUCUS, NEW JERSEY

"To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts."

Hebrews 3:15

We were thankful this month for our many visitors who came to worship with us in Secaucus, especially ministering Bro. Dan Stoller (Sis. Diane), retired ministering Bro. Everett Gerber (Sis. Nancy), both from Rockville, CT, and Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Sis. Michelle, Philadelphia, PA). In addition, there were many other visitors from Rockville, CT, and Philadelphia—we appreciated each of their visit and enjoyed the fellowship and singing. We were reminded throughout the day of the importance of each day that the Lord gives us as to not to put off until tomorrow, what needs to be done today.

We would like to update the remainder of the 2008 Secaucus schedule. Lord willing, we plan on having services on July 13th, Sept 14th, and Nov 9th. Our services are held at the Hilton Garden Inn in Secaucus, New Jersey. As always, if you are in the area on other Sundays, you are always welcome to worship with the brethren in Philadelphia, PA, which is not that

far away.

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

OHIO, AKRON Mara Henico Rachel Pamer

We are so thankful for the many ways that God has provided for our congregation in the past weeks. We rejoice with Bro. Christopher Indermuhle (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Carol) and Bro. Hans Heib as they have been able to lay the old man to rest in the waters of baptism and join our fellowship as sons of the Heavenly Father. We are also blessed to have been able to hear the testimony of our Bro. Gaius and Sis. Ilona Laubli and welcome them into our fellowship in the same weekend.

We are thankful that Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH) was here to assist with these testimonies and baptisms and trust that he will feel God's blessing for his willingness to serve us. We also appreciate Bro. Tim Ramsier (Rittman, OH) who visited us on several occasions and Bro. Ron Steiner (Rittman, OH). We trust that God will give all of our ministering and Elder brothers the courage to continue to speak the truth in love as the Spirit leads, and comfort them with the knowledge that many prayers arise on their behalf.

Ruben and Sanyi Hegedus (Bro. Sandor and Sis. Gyongyi) and LaNae Schar (Bro. Tim and Sis. Joanne) have recently needed to don casts. We trust God will grant healing and patience for these experiences of life.

We were thankful to hear that little Reagan Janae, the first child of our Bro. Justin and Sis. Lisa Gherian, ar-

rived safely, though a little earlier than expected. Grandparents are Bro. Paul and Sis. Sharon Gherian and Bro. Steve and Sis. Janae Rufener (Rittman).

We are also thankful that Bro. John Graf has been able to leave this earthly home for our heavenly goal and trust that God will grant comfort and strength to those who remain behind on this pilgrim pathway.

OHIO, COLUMBUS Sarah Rufener

Our visiting minister this month was Bro. Todd Stoller (Sis. Pam, Latty). We are so thankful for the many faithful "visiting" servants over the years that have helped uplift and sustain the Columbus Church, along with our own dear servants, Bro. John Grimm and Sis. Julie. As I reflect on God's infinite goodness and mercy, I am reminded of the situation described in Exodus 17:11-13, where Moses needed the help and support of Aaron and Hur to win the battle (to "uphold" his hands). As for the churches within the Body of Christ—how much more effective is our ministry when we pray for and encourage each other daily?

Come ye brothers, sisters, sing unto our God.

Joyfully exalt Him, our defense and rod.

Praise God for His kindness, sing ye of His grace.

Who for us hath suffered, our sins to efface.

Zion's Melodies #16

OHIO, JUNCTION Vicki Boroff

We were thankful to have Bros. Nathan Wieland (Sis. Suzanne, Goodfield) and Gary Sinn (Sis. Paulette, Latty) bring the Word to us.

We are thankful to welcome two new sisters and a brother into our fold.

We enjoyed hearing the testimonies of Sis. Angie Manz (Bro. Don and Sis. Connie), and earthly siblings Bro. Jim and Sis. Beth Manz (Bro. Ken and Sis. Gwen). Assisting Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter was Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Sis. Sandra, Eureka). Additional ministers for the weekend were Bros. Ron Palitto (Sis. Lynell, Akron), Vic Bauman (Sis. Brenda, Smithville), John Steiner (Sis. Carol, Oakville), Larry Wenninger (Sis. Joyce, Latty), and Paul Eisenmann (Sis. Elaine, Burlington).

Bro. Randy Manz (Bro. Russell and Sis. Vera) is engaged to Sis. Bonnie Frank (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Bonita) of Cissna Park. We wish them God's blessings.

Bro. Eli and Sis. Evelyn Manz celebrated 60 years of marriage with a nice weekend surrounded by family. We were thankful that Bro. Eli was home from the hospital and able to enjoy the weekend.

OHIO, LATTY

**Amanda Wenninger
Carmen Eisenmann**

Our congregation witnessed the testimony and baptisms of three souls the weekend of April 19-20: Sis. Alyssa Nuest (Bro. Lee and Sis. Paula), Sis. Kim Miller (Derek), and Bro. Brent Schlatter (Bro. Tim and Sis. Becky). Also present for the weekend were Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH), Bro. Calvin Schneider (Sis. Jeanne, LaCrosse, IN) and Bro. Warren Schlatter (Sis. Cindy, Junction, OH). God bless them all for their efforts.

Other visiting ministers this past month were Bro. Sam Schlatter (Sis. Linda, Junction, OH), Bro. Dan Stoller (Sis. Deb, Remington, IN), and Bro. Earl Beery (Sis. Susie, Rittman, OH).

Hospital patients this past month were Bro. Wayne Stoller (Sis. Dorothy) and Steve Plummer (Deb). God grant them healing as only He can.

Bro. Aaron and Sis. Jennifer Shep-

herd welcomed their fourth child, a girl, on April 29. Sheyenne Grace is doted on by older siblings, Shayla, Simon, and Savannah. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Deb Wenninger. Bro. Tom and Sis. Kim Sinn are rejoicing as they are first-time grandparents to Kinzie Jae Fiechter, born on May 6 to Bro. Jason and Sis. Joni Fiechter of Bluffton, IN. Cris and Sis. Amy Hopkins had another boy on May 8. Jonas is welcomed home by Carli, Josi, Darci, Silas, and Evi. Grandparents are Bro. Phil and Sis. Gloria Grant.

Seth and Casey Wenninger have found peace with God and man and were announced to the congregation recently. They are anticipating a weekend for their baptism in the summer. May God continue to be with them.

Our 2008 high school graduates are Alicia Clippinger, Bryant Gerber (Bro. Dave and Sis. Patty), Andrew Gordon (Denny and Connie), Andrew Klopfenstein (Bro. Roy and Deb), Timna Klopfenstein (Bro. Lee and Sis. Desma), Riley Linder (Jim and Sis. Jane), Megan Miller (Bro. Roger and Sis. Kay), Aaron Nuest (Bro. Lee and Sis. Paula), Calvin Sinn (Bro. Todd and Sis. Janet), and Hannah Stoller (Bro. Todd and Sis. Pam). May all of these graduates look to God to guide their lives.

OHIO, MANSFIELD Esther Baumann

On April 20, we were encouraged to hear the good news that Eric Boliantz (Bro. Don and Sis. Joyce) has received God's perfect peace.

Our high school graduates this year are: Julie Beer (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Robin), Sis. Lydia Dotterer (Bro. Gaylord and Sis. Betty), Kari Lamb (Don and Susie), Bro. Justin Miller (Bro. Roger and Sis. Dorina), Sis. Christine Ramsey (Bro. John and Sis. Dawn), Bro. Luke Tucker (Dan and

Sis. Barb), and Nathan Vent (Richard Jr. and Tracy). We pray each one will listen to God's gentle leading as they move on in life.

On the weekend of May 17-18, we were blessed to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of three precious young souls: Bro. Luke Tucker (Dan and Sis. Barb), Bro. Paul Ramsey (Bro. John and Sis. Dawn), and Bro. Eric Boliantz (Bro. Don and Sis. Joyce). Special thanks to Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Sis. Jeni, Bluffton, IN) and Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Sis. Chery, Rockville, CT) for their labors of love in assisting in the weekend.

We also thank Bro. Paul Gasser (Sis. Joyce, Akron, OH) for coming to minister to us this past month.

Please pray for Sis. Mary Mae Bocka as she has been hospitalized.

OHIO, RITTMAN Linda Zollinger Laurie Beery

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

Proverbs 22:6

We are thankful for the safe arrival of Brianna Grace born to Brian and Anna Jentes on April 23. Grandparents of Brianna are Bro. Jim and Sis. Sharon Rupp. Bro. Justin and Sis. Lisa Gherian (Akron, OH) welcome Reagan Janae into their lives on April 22. Rejoicing in the arrival of little Reagan are grandparents, Bro. Paul and Sis. Sharon Gherian (Akron, OH) and Bro. Steve and Sis. Jenee Rufener. Bro. Sam and Sis. Gail Hartzler, Sarah, Heidi, Julia and Kelsey welcomed a new little brother to their family. Levi Reuben was born on May 8. Grandparents of Levi are Elder Bro. Merle and Sis. Bonnie Hartzler and Bro. Virgil and Sis. Lois Gasser. Abigail Betty was born to Bro. Tom and Sis. Elaine Hill on May 9. Brianna, Cody and Tyler are excited for a new little sister. Bro. Chip

and Sis. Sieda Hill (Mansfield, OH) and Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty Baltic (Indianapolis, IN) are grandparents of Abigail.

Several from our congregation have spent time in the hospital recently: Madalyn Bauman (Sis. Stacy), Casey Shane (Ken), Bro. Fred Stoller (Sis. Joyce), Bro. Dale Stoller (Sis. Jeannette), Bro. Harlan Stoller (Sis. Jean), Bro. Quill Barna and Bro. Chester Rufener (Sis. Roma). We pray that God will grant them all a quick recovery.

Tony Indermuhle (Bro. Dwaine and Sis. Joan) and Rachael Roth were united in marriage on May 3. May Tony and Rachael look to God to be the center of their lives.

Our prayers have been with Bro. Harlan Ramsier as his wife, Sis. Vivian, was laid to rest. Their children are Diane (Rex) Miller, Rita (Steve) Steiner, Kaye (Gary) Cox and Dana (Sharon) Ramsier. May each one feel the comfort of the Holy Spirit during this difficult time.

Several from our congregation will be graduating from high school soon: Kent Dotterer, Matthew Dotterer, Gregory Gasser, Keely Gasser, Rochelle Jenkins, Travis Mills, Zachary Murry, Sis. Katie Ramsier, Naomi Rupp, Jeffery Shane, Sis. Calla Steiner, Matthew Steiner, Nathan Steiner, Javan Stoller and Travis Wilson. We pray that each one of these graduates will look to God to guide their future.

OHIO, SARDIS Faith Beard

“Out of the mouths of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength because of thine enemies, that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger.”

Psalms 8:2

Babies seem to have that universal

quality of stilling the soul and putting a smile on anyone's face, even in the difficult moments. On March 28, Bro. Ed and Sis. Dee Beard rejoiced with the birth of their newest granddaughter, Leah Joy. Leah is the daughter of Bro. Joel and Sis. Heidi Beard of Forrest, IL.

Tho' years have gone, I can't forget
Those words of joy - I hear them yet;
I see her by the old armchair,
My mother, dear, in humble prayer.
Whene'er I think of her so dear,
It seems her angel spirit's near;
A voice comes floating on the air,
Reminding me of Mother's prayer.

Gospel Hymns, #808, vs. 3

How blessed it is when we can remember the gentle love of the woman who raised us from a child, and even more so when her example led us on the path of righteousness. We as mothers with young children must ensure we follow that good example by staying close to the Word so that we may “lay up these my words” in those impressionable hearts and souls. On March 11, our Sunday School served the noon lunch, and we thank all the children and fathers for their labors and delicious food.

“And [Jesus] said unto them, With desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.”

Luke 22:15

On May 17, we all gathered to share in the solemn occasion of remembering the Lord's body which was broken for us, and His blood which was shed for the remission of sins. We were reminded by our visiting Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North, IN) that anyone can be involved in “communion”, but what we were gathering for was Holy Communion. We thank Bro. Phil for serving us not only on that night, but also on Sunday for our worship services.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE Edith Miller Ruth Gasser

The following news was supposed to be in the May issue of the Silver Lining and was inadvertently omitted:

God has blessed us again through the ministry of His Word. Visiting us this past month were Elder Bro. John Laukhuf (Latty, OH), Bros. Steve Stieglitz (Leo, IN), Ron Palitto (Akron, OH), Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL) and Joe Dotterer (Bloomfield, IA). We appreciate each one and trust God will bless the seed which has been sown.

We are always thankful when we see the fruitfulness of God's Word, as souls surrender their lives to Him. Karleen Stoller (Bro. Dan and Sis. Kim) has made known her desire to follow the Lord, and is seeking His will in repentance. Jon Dotterer (Bro. Dave and Sis. Luanna) has repented and we hope to hear his testimony of faith in the future. We wish an abundance of God's grace for all those seeking Him.

Our prayers were with Bro. Adam Henico and Sis. Jeni Klotzle as they made their vows to one another in holy matrimony on April 6. Many friends and relatives gathered to support them and their parents, Bro. Gregory and Sis. Sarah Henico (Akron, OH) and Bro. Bob and Sis. Shirley Klotzle. May God bless this union as they serve Him as one.

The birth of a child is also a blessed event, especially when the loving parents wish to teach the child in the Lord's ways. Bro. Dan and Sis. Beth Kellenberger became first-time parents of Reuben John on April 3. Sharing the joy are grandparents, Bro. Keith and Sis. Ida Kellenberger (Bradford, IL) and Bro. Ed and Sis. Verla Stoller. The family circle of Bro. Vic and Sis. Brenda Bauman was enlarged as they became grandparents to Octavia Kate, born to Bro. Ryan and

Sis. Kori Stoller (Latty, OH) on April 2.

Sis. Bonnie Nieman was hospitalized and is thankfully able to assemble with us again. Bro. Robert Ramsier (Sis. Inez) was also hospitalized and will appreciate our prayers for healing. What a blessing it is to have a brotherhood to support us in time of need.

We grieve with the family of a dear one, Sis. Emily Greenbank, who passed away in Phoenix while visiting family. Many relatives and friends will feel the loss, especially her eleven children. They are John, Elmer (Julie), Ronald (Pat), Bro. Joseph (Sis. Patti), Edward (Leslie), Sis. Jane Hodges, James (Suzi), Dale (Roberta), Kenneth, Bro. Glen (Sis. Joan), and Sis. Janis (Bro. John) Rufener. Her funeral was held in Rittman after a memorial service in Phoenix. We also sympathize with the family of Mary Maletich, aunt of Bro. Dave (Sis. Connie), who had lived in Florida and Michigan. Her funeral was in Rittman with burial in Rittman Church cemetery. May God comfort those in sorrow.

June News:

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." (Proverbs 3:5-6). We have a number of young people who will be graduating from high school this year. We wish God's blessings upon them as they move on, and may God's will always be in the center of their plans. Those who have reached this milestone are: Kelsey Bauman (Bro. Vic and Sis. Brenda), Taylor Gasser (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Deb), Bryce Indermuhle (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Shari), Mitchell Maibach (Bro. Steve and Sis. Dawn), Bryan Marty (Bro. Ed and Sis. Elaine), Christina Marty (Bro. Ron and Tammy), Zachary Pertee (Bro. Dave and Shelly Colvin and Ron Pertee), Bro. Craig Stoller (Bro. Ed and Sis. Verla) and Jana Widmer (Bro. Jim and Sis. Karen).

Our thanks to Bro. Lucas Frank

(Detroit, MI) for lending himself in the preaching of God's Word this month.

Sis. Delphine Nieman was recently hospitalized. We're thankful to see her assembling with us again and wish her God's blessing of continued health.

We extend sympathy to Bro. Jim Ramsier (Sis. Dorothy) and Bro. Bob Ramsier (Sis. Inez) in the death of their sister-in-law, Sis. Vivian Ramsier (Bro. Harlan, Rittman, OH).

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

Greetings of love to all.

Our dear Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH) spent two Thursday evenings with us and has again brought to us the teachings of our Lord and Savior. We look to our heavenly Father to provide for Elder Bro. Bill and his family as only He is able.

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

Psalms 127:3

Sharon Harris is excited to welcome a new grandson, Robert Louis Harris, III. Parents Robert and Christy and big sister Kennedy are also thankful for his safe arrival.

Graduating from college are Bro. Ben Harmon (Bro. Doug and Sis. Lanna), Sis. Rebecca Beard (Bro. Dave and Sis. Geri), and Aaron Masters (Elder Bro. Mark and Sis. Jeannine, Mansfield, OH) who has accepted a position with Toledo Hospital. We pray for God's guidance as they begin this new phase in life.

We would like to extend a welcome to anyone who may be traveling in our area this summer to come and worship with us.

OREGON, PORTLAND

Brianna Strahm

Our visiting ministers this month included: Elder Bro. Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan, Taylor), Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign), and Bro. Ed Knecht (Sis. Judie, Silverton).

Our Sis. Kathy Fehr (Bro. Wayne) underwent surgery on April 28. She is recovering at home. We continue to keep the Fehr family in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

"Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved."

Psalms 55:22

OREGON, SILVERTON

Cindy Metzger **Melissa Kuenzi**

There are two new babies this month. Brooklyn Kate was born to Bro. Shawn and Sis. Kim Schurter on April 29 and joins her brother Kidron at their home. Her grandparents are Leonard and Cheryl Schurter, and Bro. Lynn and Sis. Marilyn Kuenzi.

Makaila Marie was born to Aaron and Stacie Kuenzi on May 13. Her grandparents are Bro. Tim and Sis. Barb Zimmerman (Lamont-Gridley, KS) and Bro. Jim and Sis. Barb Kuenzi.

We want to welcome both Sis. Amber Hoffman (Bro. Steve and Sis. Joan, Rockville, CT) who will be spending the next 5 months in our area and Sis. Stefany Edelman (Bro. Earl and Sis. Donna, Bern, KS) who is here for school.

Sis. Verla Hari and Bro. Rick Metzger (Sis. Ruth) spent time in the hospital this month.

We are thankful to announce Alice Gehring (Bro. Lawrence, dec.) was baptized May 11. We welcome her as our sister in faith.

The National World Relief Board held meetings in Silverton and we had

many visiting ministers on Sunday, April 27. We wish to thank Bros. Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North, IN), Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign, IL), Steve Ringger (Sis. Myra, Bluffton North, IN), Jim Plattner (Sis. Marlene, Princeville, IL), Joe Klotzle (Sis. Sue, Altadena, CA), Virgil Kaeb (Sis. Suellen, Sarasota, FL), Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Remington, IN) and Chuck Kellenberger (Sis. Debbie, Elgin, IL) for ministering to us. We also want to thank our brothers from Portland who shared the Word with us: Ron Jones (Sis. Liz) and Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy).

Note of Thanks:

We want to humbly thank our dear brethren and friends that remembered us in prayer and with deeds of kindness while Chuck was in the hospital and recovering at home. With God's grace we continue to press on. God bless you all richly.

Bro. Chuck and Sis. Karen Walter

PENNSYLVANIA PHILADELPHIA

A milestone has been reached by our dear friend, Joel Isch, as he graduates from high school. The word says in Genesis 46:33 "And it shall come to pass, when Pharaoh shall call you, and shall say, What is your occupation?" At this time in his life, Joel is contemplating his life's occupation and we wish him well. This is also a time when a young man considers his profession of faith as he has learned on parent's knees and in Sunday School. Hebrews 10:23 tells us "Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)" Let us all be reminded to hold fast the profession of our faith.

At this writing, our dear friend, Frank Via, is hospitalized with serious health challenges. Frank suffers from Cystic Fibrosis and is often weakened

by the general course this disease takes. May God provide him with the strength and spirit to go from day to day.

We are thankful to have Sis. Lauren Wiegand home with us in Philadelphia for the summer months. Sis. Lauren has been attending college in Tucson, AZ.

If your summer vacation plans happen to bring you to the east coast, please remember to include a weekend with our Philadelphia church community. We heartily welcome each visitor.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE

Mike and Monica Fritz

This past month Marisa Rowell (Bro. John and Sis. Nelda, Burlington, IA) received her Master's degree and is taking employment in Louisville, KY. We will miss her in our area and wish her God's direction and blessing as she moves into this new phase of her life. Also, Bro. Jordan Fritz (Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica) graduated from college and has found employment in the area. We are thankful that he is able to stay in Nashville, and pray that the Lord will continue to direct his path.

We have been greatly blessed and encouraged by the willing service of our visiting ministering brothers, and want to thank them for their efforts to share with us God's Living Word. Our recent visitors have included Bros. Dan Moser (Sis. Anne; Elgin, IL), Ed Strahm (Sis. Ramona; Bern, KS), Ron Koehl (Sis. Carol; Sarasota, FL), and John Rowell (Sis. Nelda; Burlington, IA), and Elder Bros. Rick Plattner (Sis. Mary; Fairbury, IL) and Lawrence Luthi (Sis. Becky; Lamar, MO). We have also been greatly blessed by the fellowship of brethren and friends visiting from Prescott, AZ; Sarasota, FL; Elgin, Eureka, Fairbury, Forrest, and Tremont, IL; Francesville, IN; Burlington, IA; Bern, KS; Lamar, MO; and Junction and Latty, OH.

If you are traveling in or through the Nashville area, please plan to wor-

ship with us. The following churches are scheduled for services in the near future: Roanoke, IL (6/22); Tremont, IL (6/29); Atlanta, GA (7/6); Alto, MI (7/13); Congerville, IL (7/20); and Rittman, OH (7/27). If you are planning to worship with us, please call ahead to confirm our schedule. Often we gather on Saturday evenings for fellowship, and all are heartily welcome. We also meet on Wednesday evenings for a song service at 7:15 p.m. and would welcome any midweek visitors. Contacts are Bro. Don and Sis. Faye Sauder, (615) 373-8928; Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica Fritz, (615) 866-5543; and Sis. Gwen Leuthold, (615) 356-5755.

TEXAS, AUSTIN

Amy Ringger Serenity Ringger

We are thankful for the ministers who were willing to serve us: Bros. Mike Baumann Jr. (Sis. Lilly, Mansfield), Dennis Rassi (Sis. Diane, Fairbury), Ron Heiniger (Sis. Kayleen, Bloomington), and Doug Wagenbach (Sis. Lillian, San Diego). We appreciated our visitors in the past month from Junction, Rittman, Rockville, Elgin, IL, Peoria, and Sabetha.

The following is the minister schedule for July: (6) Elgin, IL; (13) Gridley; (20) Winthrop; and (27) 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 gatherings. See the ministers' book for local contact information.

Directions to our church are these: from the intersection of Hwy 71 and 21 on the west side of Bastrop, go east on Hwy 71 about 1/2 mile and take the first exit (by the Ford dealership), pro-

ceed 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 Joyce Nohl

We are thankful for the following ministering brothers who have traveled to our small flock to share His precious Word: Bro. Frank Sauder (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL), Bro. Randall Gasser (Sis. Sue, Detroit, MI) and Bro. Randy Mogler (Sis. Evie, Washington, IL). May God bless each one of you for your willingness to serve us.

We also would like to thank those that come along with those that served. Each visitor adds so much to our little group. We are hungry for fellowship and appreciate and thank God for each of you that takes the time and resources to visit us. The room suddenly gets brighter as you enter the room with your love and smiles.

We would like to encourage those

who plan to come south for a summer vacation to consider visiting the valley for a Sunday of worship and/or staying here for your stay.

The following churches are scheduled for services: (July 13 - Bradford, IL), (July 20 - Goodfield, IL), (Aug. 3 - Bern, KS), and (Aug. 24 - Tremont, IL).

Our address is: Holiday Inn Express, 1921 South 10th Street. Turn 1 ½ blocks off the Expressway on 10th Street. Services will be held at 10:30 and 12:30. Please see ministers' directory for local contact information.

VERMONT CLARENDON/NORWICH Nathan and Miriam Reutter

We have been blessed with such beautiful weather here in Vermont. The trees are all in full bloom along with the tulips that seemed to appear overnight. This is such a refreshing time of year with all the new growth that we see around us after the long cold winter. It's also a time of spiritual refreshing as we prepare our hearts for partaking in the Lord's supper in this next month. We want to thank Bro. Warren Zahner (Sis. Bonnie, Rockville, CT) for coming and exhorting us in the preparation for Communion. He reminded us to meditate on the fourth chapter in Ephesians. May we pray for grace to always "walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called". We also wanted to express our thanks for those who have served us

from far and near. They are Bros. Earl Beery (Sis. Suzie, Rittman, OH), Art Mueller (Sis. Marlene, Belvidere, IL), Duane Reutter (Sis. Kay, Rockville, CT), and Dan Stoller (Sis. Diane, Rockville, CT) who all spent a Sunday with us. We also thank Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Sis. Cheryl, Rockville, CT) who was able to spend a midweek service with us. May God bless each and every one for all your love and support shown to us. We are truly blessed and have much to be thankful for!

If you are interested in fellowshiping with us here in Vermont, and would like information about service locations, and dates, please contact Bro. Chad and 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 10:15 AM

Afternoon Service 12:30 PM

Sunday school is held during the morning service.

If anyone is interested in purchasing beautiful head-coverings handmade 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).





Counselor Needed

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

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

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

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

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

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We currently have outlets for Hymns of Zion, Gospel Hymns and Tabernacles. We also have a request for a limited amount of Zion's Harps (1958 Edition). Please call before sending Zion's Harps. Bibles are always in demand.

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Effectively Managing Anxiety

Anxiety is one of the most common conditions we work with at ACCFS. It comes in a wide variety of forms and is experienced by all of us at some point in life. It is a common part of our lives and actually serves a very helpful purpose at times. For example, the anxiety you feel when you sense true danger activates your body and mind to seek your own safety and the safety of those within your care. God designed our bodies to react with this type of short-lived response to a true threat. However, anxiety can turn unhelpful when it is related to unrealistic fears, when it becomes a chronic pattern, or when it interferes with our every day responsibilities, relationships, and trust in God.

Three categories of anxiety include "spiritual anxiety," "situational anxiety," and "anxiety disorders." Spiritual anxiety occurs when we are not putting our faith and trust in God to deal with our circumstances. The Bible addresses this type of anxiety in Philippians 4:6: "*Be careful (anxious) for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.*" Rather than being anxious or troubled with cares, the Bible encourages us to lift worries to God in prayer. The result of this process is explained in the next verse, "*And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*" When we give all our requests and concerns to God instead of anxiously dwelling on them, God's peace will protect our hearts and minds. Because we are instructed to not dwell on concerns, we are also instructed about what to think on: "*Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report, if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things*" (Philippians 4:8).

When we are not following the helpful instruction of these verses found in

the letter to the Philippians, we can fall into anxiety. Anxiety can result due to a pattern of incorrect perspective, beliefs, and thinking which occurs when we begin to focus on our problems rather than focusing on God. Rather than trusting God, we believe that we must fix something that is beyond our control, or we fall into the trap of predicting what will happen in the future. Anxiety occurs when we predict the future negatively rather than remembering the promise of God's grace to carry us through whatever comes. Similarly, we can experience anxiety when, as believers, we are afraid of God and His judgment. While we do need a reverent respect for God, only nonbelievers need to fear His judgment. Those who believe in the name of Jesus have the blessed assurance of salvation. This blessed assurance equips us to face the trials and temptations that come along in life. We can be assured of God's grace, His presence in our lives, and His undying love for us.

The role of our thinking is integral in managing anxiety. Proverbs 23:7 states, "*For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he.*" Often, anxious thinking leads to anxious behavior and responses. When our thoughts are consumed by patterns such as "mind-reading," "jumping to conclusions," or "all-or-nothing thinking," anxious thoughts, feelings and behaviors frequently result. Rather than assuming we know what others are thinking about us, or negatively predicting outcomes, or seeing things in absolute, all-or-nothing categories, we can replace these patterns with truthful, healthy thought patterns. This process involves 1) recognizing the situations that trigger anxiety, 2) identifying unhealthy thought patterns, 3) replacing these patterns with healthy, truthful thinking, and 4) releasing ourselves from the grip anxiety has on life by believing and thinking on the truth.

Another common source of anxiety is an excessive focus on task-completion that overrides a Christ-centered peaceful heart. Consider the sisters

Martha and Mary:

"Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word. But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me. And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her." (Luke 10:38-42)

Martha was distracted from Jesus' teaching and was focusing on doing things (even seemingly good things) rather than being with Jesus. Mary chose to be with Jesus, to sit at his feet, and to hear his Word. Our numerous responsibilities can sometimes hinder us from "sitting at Jesus' feet" constantly, but we can strive to maintain an internal focus on Christ in the midst of our busy-ness. In addition, we need to take time out to quiet our heart, mind, emotions, and body in order to meet with the Lord in prayer and in reading His Word. This practice can be one of the greatest ways to prevent and manage unnecessary anxiety.

Sometimes, anxiety gets out of hand and becomes so intense that it interferes with daily functioning. When this occurs, it is often due to situational anxiety or an anxiety disorder. If you or someone you know is facing this type of struggle, remember one need not suffer alone. Talk to someone who can direct you on how to get additional help. A number of different types of anxiety disorders can greatly interfere with an individual's ability to function. However, they are treatable and there are a variety of options for dealing with them.

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
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U.S.A. BOARD WORK PROJECTS

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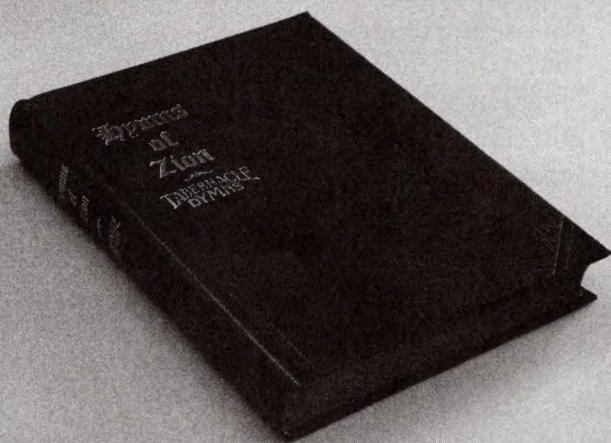


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stored this young girl back to life, He says, "And he charged them straitly that no man should know it..." St. Mark 5:43. Do you suppose it's possible for that to have been kept secret? It wasn't a secret matter, because all of those that were outside were making this great commotion - the weeping, the sorrowing, the terrible tragedy of what happened with that young child's life (that it was gone, they had no hope of it to be restored). And when He even suggested that He could do that, suggested that she wasn't dead but just sleeping, just even the suggestion of that brought great ridicule. It says they laughed him to scorn (St. Mark 5:40).

There's something symbolic about taking nourishment - that when you can, it's symbolic of a healthfulness. That when you're really sick, you don't feel like eating. But here she came back from the dead, "...and commanded that something should be given her to eat." St. Mark 5:43. There's something about that, that's just symbolic about life, taking a little nourishment.

Do you suppose it's even possible, they could have possibly kept that secret? But rather, his fame became known. But Jesus didn't want the fame for Himself. He didn't want to become known as some great prophet that would restore life, some great prophet that would bring health and healing. He didn't come for the purpose of those to bow down before Him.

So as Bro. Gene read this morning about His entry into Jerusalem, and they threw down the palm branches or clothes on the way to protect the feet of this beast of burden as he walked through the dust and the mud to somehow protect Him from becoming contaminated with the earth, He endured that. (St. Mark 11:7-10) But it wasn't that He Himself wanted to receive the greatness. He knew, He understood what He was going to endure that next week of time, but what Jesus wanted to do was to restore the hearts of people to their God. That was His mission. And He did it. He got their attention by performing

some of these miracles. When He saw the affliction of mankind, when He saw their pain and their suffering, their sorrow, He was touched by that. Touched in a tremendous way when He saw the mother that had lost her son and He restored that boy back to life. (St. Luke 7:12-15) In pity He saw her, and wanted to soothe and to comfort her. He had compassion.

In fact, we didn't read the verse right before this, but it says, "Howbeit Jesus suffered him not, but saith unto him, Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee." St. Mark 5:19. That's the message of God to us, through the sending of His Son, because He had compassion on us in our lost and sinful condition, not willing to allow us to miss the promise that He had for us because of the presence of sin in the world. Because sin brings separation, and because there was sin in each of our lives and sin in the garden of Eden that causes separation, and the curse of death was pronounced on all mankind. But that wasn't where God wanted us to stay. He wanted to give us a greater hope. That we who are dead could be raised back into the newness of life, that we could be restored to a perfect relationship with Him again.

So we read the story about the ruler and his 12-year-old daughter. And, tucked in the middle of that story is a message about a woman, who came to Jesus with an issue of blood. (St. Mark 5:22-27) Maybe it's coincidental, but this woman began this issue of blood the same time, the same year that Jairus' little daughter was born. Both 12 years. 12 years is a long time to endure an illness like that. There's a point to where you just want to give up. There's a point where you say: It's not going to be healed. But when she saw Jesus pass through, she knew that in Him - she either had observed His miracles or she had a spirit speaking to her saying to go and to present yourself to Him - She had the faith to believe that just touching His clothes would be sufficient that she would be healed.

There's another man that came to

Jesus and asked for his son to be healed. Jesus just asked the question: Do you believe that I can do this? And he answered in a way that I think a lot of us would answer that: "...Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief." St. Mark 9:24. In the areas where I'm weak. I want to believe - help my unbelief, so that I will be fully vested, fully persuaded, and fully believing in Your power.

But He didn't have to ask that question to this woman, because He could see her heart. He knew the pureness that she had, the faith in Him. She was so persuaded: "...If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole." St. Mark 5:28. And when He turned around and asked: Who touched me?(v.30), He didn't have to ask: Do you believe I can do this? Her faith had already healed her. All He wanted her to do at that point was to testify. Testify what has been done in her life.

"But the woman fearing and trembling, knowing what was done in her, came and fell down before him, and told him all the truth." St. Mark 5:33. She testified to Him of what had happened and how much she had believed in Him. He then gave her this instruction: "...Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague." St. Mark 5:34.

How many of us, then, have those times where we become troubled with something? Maybe not to the point of where Job was so consumed with his problems and so desperately afflicted. I don't know if it's possible for any human to have gotten to the point of the testing that he went through. But yet, in our lives, what we go through, what we endure, when the world becomes very troubling and we don't see a solution in our lives, it can be just as dark. We can be just as consumed with our troubles. It's because of that, Jesus still wants to come to us and to give us a solution. To give us hope. That He would restore us again.

We sang in the hymn, "Joy and peace, Thy blessing, give us, Joy the world can not obtain! We are thirsty;

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come relieve us; What has strayed, unite again." (Pure and Holy Love, Zion's Harp #72, verse 2) We walked into the assembly this afternoon and you were singing Seeking the Lost (Hymns of Zion #180). It made me think of Matthew 18 and it talks about the Good Shepherd. How Jesus wanted to come and it says that the Good Shepherd will leave the ninety and nine and go after one lost sheep that has strayed. An hireling wouldn't do that. When a lion would come, the hireling will flee. The hireling won't sacrifice himself for the sheep. But not the Good Shepherd - the Good Shepherd will go out on the mountain. Those that have strayed - He'll go out and find them and bring them back. But, we have to simply be willing that we would come.

I've enjoyed the few years I've been raising sheep, and we've had some new lambs born here in the last few weeks. Our last ewe had her lamb this week. Of all the ones that I have, there's a set of twins where one of the mother ewes wouldn't accept her little lamb. So we tried to force the mother to take it, and it wouldn't. So finally we said, We'll just feed it with a bottle. So we've been bottle feeding this little lamb.

So this morning I go out there with the little bottle. At first it took a little fighting even to get the lamb to accept it (it wasn't as good as the mother's milk). But when they get hungry enough, they'll accept that. This morning I went out there with that little bottle and counted the lambs and they were all there except for the one that needed to be bottle fed. So I just said a couple words, just said: Where's the lamb? Just said a little word. And the little lamb was around the back side of the barn. He was the only one over there. He heard my voice and just came tearing around the barn, looking for that bottle. That's the desire of our Lord and Saviour. To go out looking for what's lost. But we have to be willing to accept it.

And as I've been raising these sheep, it's sort of helped me to understand the many illustrations that

Christ has taught us. Of the relationship of a Shepherd to the sheep. And it's helped me to understand a little better of the love that God has. Or as Jesus has come as the Good Shepherd, to come and to help restore that relationship of the sheep. There was a separation. We aren't perfect, and because of our sin, God, who is perfect in every way, looks down and He can't tolerate the sin because He is so perfect. We are so far from that, that it takes something to bridge the gap. So it's helped me to understand a little bit more of the great compassion of our perfect, loving God to come and restore us.

This also helped me to understand a little bit more about how to be a sheep. How to be the type of a sheep that the Shepherd can work with. That sometimes sheep are difficult. Sometimes they're independent. Sometimes they want to get out of the pasture when you set up a place for them to be safe and to be protected. Sometimes they want to go outside of that safety. Sometimes they want to be uncooperative. Sometimes they act like they're not even thinking. And I wonder even how God could make this connection between people and sheep. Yet as I start thinking about myself and my own life, I realize how sometimes I'm just like them.

Yet, there's something about that little lamb, when I held it in my arms this morning, and gave it the bottle. The lamb doesn't do anything for me. I'm doing for it! Yet the therapy that comes from taking care of that little lamb. It helps me to understand the great love that God has for us, and why He would want to restore that relationship. To come seeking after us when we stray and to bring us back in - why the Good Shepherd would go through that. Why, when there are these dear souls we read about in this chapter, as they have great times of sorrow and affliction, why He would want to restore life and to ease their pain and suffering.

When the leader, or the ruler of the synagogue, Jairus, it says when they came from the ruler's house, they said: "...Thy daughter is dead: why troublest thou the Master any fur-

ther?" Mark 5:35. Do you suppose Jesus thought that they were troubling Him? Do you suppose that when they were coming to Him with their need, that Jesus felt that - you're a burden to Me, you're troubling me!? Do you think that God gets weary with our continual praying to Him, that our prayers would be a burden to Him? I don't think so. When He instructs us that we should 'pray without ceasing', (I Thessalonians 5:17) and when He instructs us that '...men ought always to pray, and not to faint' (St. Luke 18:1), when He's encouraging us to come, that our whole lives would be a constant state of prayer, it's because He wants us to be connected with Him. It's not that we have anything to offer Him. It's not that He has need of us, except that in that state of falling under submission to His authority, He has the ability to provide for all of our needs. All He wants us to do is to accept it, to receive it. Just like that little lamb, that there's something therapeutic to me, even, to provide for that. He wants to provide for us. All he wants us to do is to come and accept it.

We've also had the blessing here in the last couple of weeks to take care of a newborn little baby in our home. This morning that little baby was kind of fussing and crying, and I just took it and laid down with it, just held it close to me. It just calmed down. Any of you, as you've taken care of your little children, mothers with your little babies, you know what that feeling's like when a little child just simply feels secure. Does a baby do anything for you? Of course not. You're doing everything for the baby. But who of us would say that you don't get something out of that? The little baby offers way more to us than we can possibly give it, in terms of just simply a feeling of a warmth and a compassion and a love.

So, we understand then, that God in His infinite love, who we can only grasp a small fraction of what He represents, but He then wants to come down and provide for our needs. He just wants us to allow ourselves to fall under His healing. If there's things that we're lacking, or needing, that

we would have this desire to just surrender it all. That if we're one of the ninety and nine that's in the fold, that we would rejoice when the one is brought back in. Or if we're the one that's out on the mountain and He comes out to find us, that we're willing to go with Him. He would simply say, as He said to the man with this son that was sick, Do you believe that I can do this? And we would also simply say, "...Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief." St. Mark 9:24. Lead me on! And teach me then.

As we observe this week, of the entire life of Jesus, we believe somewhere maybe around thirty three years, and how the Old Testament, so many times the prophecy points towards the coming of this Messiah, this Good Shepherd. Then the entire New Testament is totally wrapped around the life of Jesus. That one man in three short years can make the impact that it did on the history of mankind!

And then of all of the teachings of Jesus - Brother Gene mentioned this morning that nearly half of the book of John that we read out of is about this passion week. This one week leading up to the crucifixion of our Saviour. The significance of that - we believe that there are so many things that Jesus did that are not recorded in this book. But the things that are recorded are important for us to believe and to understand. So as He walked into Jerusalem, He went into the temple and cleansed it of the corruption of those, the changers of money (St. John 2:15). He brought a little child and set it on His lap, and said to the people "...of such is the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 19:14. "...Whoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child shall in no wise enter therein." St. Luke 18:17.

As He healed the souls that week, as He prophesied even of what would happen to Him, the disciples would reject that and would say: No way! There's no way that that'll happen. "But when he had turned about and looked on his disciples, he rebuked Peter, saying, Get thee behind me, Satan: for thou savourest not the

things that be of God, but the things that be of men." Mark 8:33. As He taught all of those things, they are recorded. So much of this Scripture surrounds what led up to the point of crucifixion. It helps us to understand the significance of this. That we wouldn't just take it lightly, but every word and every story, and every illustration of what took place that week we would understand how it led up to not just the crucifixion of Jesus, but why He was crucified, and what significant thing happened at that moment when God allowed this to happen, to provide a way of salvation for each of us. It's just simply miraculous. In His great love, His infinite love for us, that we would be spared the judgment of eternity. Because of His desire to pay the price. He created an expectation. Created a commandment that says, this is what I need, and then He offered the funds to be able to pay that requirement, to pay that debt.

All He asks of us then, is what He asked of the lady, or of those that were surrounding this Jairus' daughter. All He's asking them is that we allow ourselves to fall into obedience to what He's saying: "...Be not afraid, only believe." St. Mark 5:36. He wants us to be perfectly whole. He wants to restore that relationship. The gap that was created because of sin, He wants to bridge over that, to give us perfect peace, to set our feet on the solid ground and to point our vision towards Heaven. There's going to be joys that He will give us in this life. There's the desire that He has to give us an abundant life. John 10 talks about the Shepherd, and how He comes to not be a thief that would come to kill and to steal and to destroy, but come to give us life, that we would have it - and abundantly!

But what's more important than any thing that this life has to offer, is that when it's over, and time on earth for us is finished, that we will have a home in heaven. We can be with Him eternally. He says, "...Be not afraid, only believe." St. Mark 5:36. There isn't anything that can happen to us in this life. The worst thing that can happen to us would be that it would

end in death and we would live forever with Him. That's not something to be afraid of! That we would do the best we can to make a difference to ease the suffering of those around us, to be an encouragement, to be a light, to be a witness for Him. And when He takes us home, that we can have that blessed promise of living eternally in a life and a world, in an existence without pain, suffering, sorrow and separation. That we wouldn't have any of the current afflictions that we experience in this life! Without rejection, without fear, without darkness... We can look forward to that time. While we're here, dear ones, let's be not afraid. Let's only believe!

We sing in the hymn, Open the wells of grace and salvation. (Hymns of Zion #171) That would be our desire. That we would, as we sing in that hymn, open the wells. Open our hearts. See what is lacking in there. They taught us in medical training as an EMT, they taught us that if you have a wound, it needs to be cleaned out and they'd say: open it up and to pour some cleaning agents in it, to cleanse it, and then to seal it up. And we sing that in that hymn, Open the wells of grace and salvation. To pour into our hearts, to cleanse, and to seal.

But that would be our desire. That we would pray that to the Father, The Good Shepherd who has this desire to come and as we've read in these miracles today, and of the many others that we can read, He just wants to come into our hearts. To cleanse us, to restore us to prepare us for that eternal home.

"...Be not afraid, only believe." St. Mark 5:36.

Official Apostolic Christian Church Website

** Providing basic information about our church and linkage to other church-related sites is located at:*

www.apostolicchristian.org

Assistant Houseparent Needed

Gateway Woods has appreciated the Lord's blessing of being fully staffed with Assistant Houseparents for some time now. We are expanding our Residential Program, so we will have an opening for a single sister to work in a full-time ministry with troubled children. The Assistant Houseparent position offers competitive wages and generous benefits and a close relationship with brothers and sisters whose hearts and lives are dedicated to a mission with an eternal reward. If you feel the call to explore the possibilities, please call one of the brothers listed below:



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Teaching Position Available

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Bro. Mike Moore
(256) 729-0620
8653 Beechwood Rd.
Athens, AL 35611
Email: ALM@aol.com

**POSITION
AVAILABLE
Assistant to the
current
Administrator**

Parkview Haven Retirement Home of Francesville, Indiana, is seeking an Assistant to our current home Administrator. If you prayerfully feel the Lord's leading and have a desire for this position, please contact Gene Huber Sr. through the following listing:

gbhuber@gmail.com
Phone: 574-946-3447
Fax: 574-946-4229

DIRECTOR OF ACTIVITIES

*Management position available early this summer at
Detroit's Woodhaven Retirement Community.*

Our current Director of Activities was tragically widowed several years ago. After considerable prayer, she recently became engaged to a Christian widower of her same faith. Unfortunately he lives 3 hours away. She said that of all the jobs she has had, this one is by far the one she loved the most and will have the hardest time leaving.

The Director of Activities is an active participant on the nine member Management Team and also manages our Adult Day Services program. A college degree is desired, but not required. A love of the elderly and good oral and written communication skills are important.

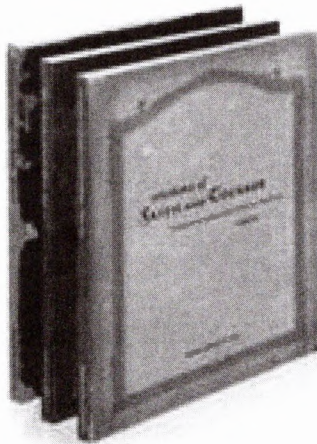
Woodhaven is licensed for 105 in the care facility and has 22 apartments and a 25 person, 7 day a week adult day program.

If God is tugging at your heart, please email:

*Executive Director Randy Gasser at randyg@woodhavenrc.org
or call him at (734) 261-9000*

*Did I mention we have a very active choir at our church?
Assistance with moving costs will gladly be provided.*

**Stories Of Faith & Courage
Experiences of Apostolic Christian Believers
Set of Three Volumes**



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30 Historical Accounts of brethren in Eastern Europe as they suffered persecution for their faith

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22 True Accounts of courage, suffering, and overcoming. Includes stories of American brethren serving as noncombatants in the military as well as Eastern European families who escaped to freedom

Volume 3

33 True Accounts depicting family and prison life of brethren during the World Wars and behind the Iron Curtain in Hungary, Yugoslavia, Romania, and the Ukraine.

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curricularesources@juno.com Phone 309-249-6281
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Volume 1, European accounts	\$10.00 plus shipping
Volume 2, American and European accounts	\$10.00 plus shipping
Volume 3, European accounts	\$12.00 plus shipping

*...This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of me, saith the Lord.
Isaiah 54:17*

CARIBBEAN BOARD PROJECTS - 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

Data updated from the Apostolic Christian World Relief web site as of May 12th, 2008 - www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-caribbean/

Project	Date	Coordinator	Capacity
Les Cayes, FRW Vocational School	Jun 20-27, 2008	Rick Wuethrich 219-567-9488 topnotch@home.ffni.com	4

JAMAICA

Data updated from the Apostolic Christian World Relief web site as of May 12th, 2008 - www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-caribbean/

Knockpatrick School, CCCD	Jun 28- Jul 5, 2008	Pete Weibel 419-756-2587 wpw47@aol.com	40
Jamaica Deaf Village, CCCD Akron, Rittman, Smithville SS	Jun 20-27, 2009	Jay Maibach jmmaibach@embarqmail.com	40

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 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 May 12th, 2008 - www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-mexico/

Project	Date	Coordinator
Magdalena Construction	Jul 12-19, 2008	David Zeltwanger/Francesville Bible Class 219-567-2378 dakzelt@urhere.net
Magdalena Construction	Jul 19-26, 2008	Blake Stahl 630-740-7461 Chicago-Champaign Bible Class bcstahl01@hotmail.com
Juarez Medical/Dental	Sep 17-24, 2008	Cheryl Herrmann 309-385-1082 cherrmann@verizon.net
Magdalena Construction	Nov 22-29, 2008	Rod Schmidt 303-774-7913 rschmidt@Acosta.com

Summer Worship Services in Colorado

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

July 13 & 20 -

Best Western Alpenglo Lodge - Conference Center
Located in downtown Winter Park (78665 US Hwy 40)
Office: 888-726-8088 (toll free)
www.wplodging.com

July 27 -

Ponderosa Conference Center (Conference rooms 1& 2 behind the bath house)
Located near Colorado Springs at Larkspur
15235 Furrow Road
Larkspur, CO 80118
(719) 481-2482
www.visitponderosa.com

Morning song service will begin at 10:15 A.M.; worship service at 10:30; followed by lunch and afternoon service. Ministering Brothers from the Denver congregation will be responsible for the services, however we welcome and encourage visiting ministers to support this effort if your travel plans bring you out west this summer. The intent of these services is to alleviate some of the crowding that we tend to experience during the busy summer travel season. (We don't want all our visitors to avoid Aurora!) We welcome all our visitors and deeply appreciate the fellowship that we share in Christ, whether in Aurora, or at the optional locations. For more information, and to help us plan more effectively, please notify Bro. Tom Lemam if you will be attending services on any of these dates. Home telephone: (303) 696-1540 E-mail: lemantom@comcast.net

ADMINISTRATOR OPENING

There is an administrator opening at *Lakeside Terrace*, a 12 bed intermediate care facility for the mentally retarded in Sabetha. This is a full time position for one individual, or could also be a shared position for two individuals. In general, the qualifications include an individual who holds a bachelor's degree in human services or education with one year of experience working with the developmentally disabled.

If interested, contact Bro. Ed Strahm at the Apostolic Christian Home in Sabetha at 785 284 3471 or estrahm@mewlan.com

Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, *Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world...*

And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

Matthew 25:34,40

DIRECTOR OF NURSING EXCELLENCE

*at
Detroit's Woodhaven
Retirement Community*

The position is coming available between now and the end of this calendar year, due to the retirement of our current Director. Woodhaven is Livonia, Michigan's only full service retirement community offering independent living apartments, licensed assisted living, memory care, skilled nursing & rehabilitation and adult day services.

Wonderful assistance, both short term with the transition and long term with ongoing responsibility, is assured from our Assistant Director of Nursing Excellence, who has been with us for more than ten years and also does a great job.

Excellent compensation and benefit package. Supportive and praying Board of Directors. Very warm and nurturing church family.

All replies will be held in the strictest of confidence. Assistance with moving costs will gladly be provided.

Please call Bro. Randy Gasser (734) 261-9000 or email: randyg@woodhavenrc.org



REMEMBERING

Our Spiritual Heritage

It is our intention to give biographical sketches of church forefathers and other relevant persons who are part of the Apostolic Christian heritage. It is the intent to show what God did, using faithful brethren to exert His power and guidance, for our eventual benefit. Sketches will be given, as they become available to us.

Joel Herman

- Early Minister in America

He was the grandfather of Bro. Noah T. Herman, a former minister at Peoria, Illinois, and Tucson, Arizona. The information for this historical sketch was provided from the records of Bro. Albert James Funk, formerly of Gridley, and now of the Peoria, Illinois, congregation.

The names of Joel Herman's parents are not known. It is known, however, that at one time they were German citizens. Joel Herman states in a census record that they were born in Switzerland. They came to America as German citizens to work on some type of federal project, as employees of the U. S. government. Joel Herman was born to this couple, and when he reached the age of 12 or so, his parents returned to Germany. They left their son with relatives or friends due to military conscription in Germany. It is not known who Joel Herman stayed with. The military draft was an ongoing process in Germany, similar to our nation during major wars.

Joel Herman's early life was very unpleasant. He told many stories of unpleasantness to his offspring. He had to work very hard with very

strict discipline. Finally, he felt it best that he run away — which he did — to find a better situation. It is thought he found a very nice family in the Streator, Illinois, area, which is about 25 miles north of Gridley. He may have worked in the quarries in that area since he later worked as a stone mason at some time in his life.

At some point, whether in Roanoke, Streator or Gridley, Illinois, he became converted.

He became one of the earliest ministers at Gridley in the early 1870's. The year of his ordination is not known. He lived in Woodford County for a few years as census records of 1860 show him living there. Likely he attended the church at Roanoke or Partridge Township (further west). At any rate, he ended up at Gridley.

The Woodford County census records show children were born to Joel and Fannie Gerber Herman while they lived in that county. Census records of McLean County (the site of Gridley) show children were born to this couple while they lived in Gridley. Both county census records list Joel Herman as a farmer at that time.

Around 1880, the Santa Fe Railroad persuaded people to relocate near their railroad lines in the areas of Kansas and Oklahoma. Joel Herman was told there would be plenty of cheap land for his boys to farm in those areas. So in 1883, Joel and Fannie moved to Harper, Kansas, with his entire family, except Ephraim, who remained in Illinois. A

daughter, Jacobina, had earlier married Joseph Ramseyer by this time and they remained in Illinois for 7 or 8 years before moving to Kansas, too.

Ephraim was tragically killed in 1888 at Peoria, Illinois, at a railroad crossing. It seemed he didn't hear or see an approaching train coming and drove a team of horses into its path. An account of this accident exists in copies of an old Peoria newspaper, "The Peoria Daily Transcript".

Other details of Joel and Fannie Gerber Herman are: He was born in Wayne County, Ohio, in 1825. She was born in Switzerland in 1832. Joel and Fannie were married in Woodford County, Illinois, on Sunday, May 13, 1855. Elder Benedict Weyeneth married them. Joel Herman owned farm property one mile east of the Gridley Cemetery according to Plat Books of that era.

Treasurers of Praise (our legacy of song)

"Let Thy love our hearts inspire
That we love Thee fervently;
Let Thy cov'nant bind us nearer;
Lead our conflict valiantly.

Ev'ry day, O Lord, we pray Thee,
Let thy blessing on us flow;
May our hearts with peace and glad-
ness
Ever by Thy radiance glow."
(Zion's Harp, p. 48, verses 10 and 11)

By Perry A. Klopfenstein

Next Issue: More history

The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean

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“Come Aside And Rest A While”

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

Is a church a place of rest or a place to work? Does worshipping require a lot of effort and is it work, if we do it earnestly? I have heard that to pray effectively is hard work. We need to agonize in prayer, it is said by some. James wrote, “The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.” (5:16). That sounds like work to me, so far as prayer is concerned, especially earnest prayer. Devotional prayer is different.

Psalm 29:2 reads, “Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.” That sounds like worshipping may be a little more relaxing. In Mark 6:31 Christ told the apostles, “Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while.” This sounds like something that is really relaxing. Now I am beginning to feel better.

Is the church a kind of a desert place? I believe it is in the sense that it is separated from the hustle and bustle of this world. Is the church a good place to rest? I believe it is and I don't mean that

it is a good place to sleep. I mean it is a place where we get away from it all, where we are surrounded by love and kindness from our Heavenly Father and other believers.

For those who have the responsibility of leading in the worship service, church may not be a place of rest, but we hope that even they may feel a spiritual rest. A spiritual and a wholesome change from our normal routine is very good for body and soul.

Christ's words, “Apart into a desert place,” indicates that the church should be away from turmoil and distress, a place of serenity and tranquility, where there is no tension nor strife. Yet the church is exactly where the devil tries to disturb the peace. It is often easier to get along well with people in the work place than in the church. We must change this. Such things ought not to be. We need to put forth effort to show much love, regardless. Things are just getting a bit too heavy and we need a respite.

That's one of the reasons we go to church.

The Lord Jesus added the words, “And rest a while.” If we consider the church to be the desert place Christ referred to, then it is all right to go to church to rest, spiritually and emotionally. We can relax and be ourselves in the fullest sense of the word, because we are among those who understand, who are loving and kind, and who like ourselves, know the forgiveness that comes from God through Christ, which makes us willing to forgive others, 70 times 7. When Peter asked Christ how many times he should forgive someone, Christ replied, “I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.” (Matthew 18:22).

Christ, by His example and by His teachings, encourages us to take time out and to get away from it all. The church is one place where we come aside and rest a while.

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*These see the works of the Lord, and his wonders in the deep.
Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness,
and for his wonderful works to the children of men!*

Psalms 107:24, 31