

The Silver Lining

A multi-tiered waterfall cascading over mossy rocks in a lush green forest. The water flows from the top left, down several levels of dark, wet rocks, and finally into a pool at the bottom. The surrounding area is filled with vibrant green foliage, including ferns and various trees, creating a serene and natural setting.

*For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne
shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters:
and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.*

Revelations 7:17

August 2008

Sermon by Elder Bro. Mark Masters, Mansfield, OH
Jeremiah 5:14-31 and Romans 10:1-21

Greetings loved ones. As the pages of the scripture part here in the Bible this morning, we can look forward to the teaching of our Father in Heaven.

In this fifth chapter of Jeremiah, we've been reminded of the judgment of an Almighty God, of the waywardness of His people. It's a God who warns us, and loves us. If He would never visit us with reminders of correction, no doubt we would wander far from His ways and His Word. Fittingly, the hymnal has opened to hymn number 192 (Zion's Harp), a morning hymn, 'Awake, Ye Witnesses'. As we have read of the children of Israel who fell asleep, who seemed to want to go their own way, who had a desire for the things of the life that they lived and not to their Heavenly Father, it does us well to be reminded over and over that this, as we say in the sixth verse, is a mortal combat.

"We are engaged in mortal combat; A coward soon despairs, turns back and flees, But he whom Christ gives sword and armor, Will persevere and gain eternal peace. Then joyfully, O brethren, ever on; For after victory we'll wear the crown."

In Romans chapter 10, the apostle speaks so boldly and so clearly. Perhaps we can't fully identify with the message to the children of Israel, but loved ones, can't we fully identify with the message of responsibility to those who have known and heard the truth of the Word of God? No, we're not the children of Israel. No, that's another place. And they'll answer for their disobedience and for their lack of faith and trusting in a Saviour. But those of us that come under the sound of the Word this morning, we have heard and we've been taught, and surely God has told us, each one of us, that He

wants us to be saved. That He wants US to hear the truth of righteousness, the power unto salvation that's brought forth by the gospel message, and we have a responsibility for it.

Just like the children of Israel, God planted the seed of the gospel message in our heart. Perhaps the first day the seed was planted was today. Perhaps it was long ago. It doesn't matter. The seed – the pure Word – has not disintegrated. It has not fallen out of favor. And given nurturing, given preparation, the seed can come alive. The seed can begin to grow. The seed can become established and take root. For it is God's desire that we should all be saved. What a precious thought!

What shall we be saved from?—we might ask. Saved from ourselves. Saved from this life. Perhaps there's many, many thoughts we could have about what we would be saved from. Christ said that He shall set us free. The Truth shall set us free. (St. John 8:32) But in the final analysis, we'll be saved from something that's unending. We'll be saved from a fire that does not consume. We'll be saved from eternal darkness. We'll be saved from a place where there weeping and there's gnashing of teeth that never will end! And we will be saved in a place where Abraham can hold us as he did Lazarus in his bosom.

We can say we can be saved to a place where we can rest from our weariness. We can be saved to a place where there's no more sorrows, where there's no more tears, where the Son of Righteousness is shining upon us. In whatever measurement we can say, every day, every year – it's time without end! The days and the hours and the minutes don't have a meaning there. But we can be saved to that

place.

Doesn't it stir our hearts to think of Heaven? Doesn't it stir our hearts to think of the love of God

Sermon continued on page 42

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

September

1. Fort Scott, KS
2. Oakville, IA
3. Kitchener, Ontario, CANADA
4. Leo, IN
5. LaCrosse, IN
6. Chicago, IL

Suggested Donation: \$14/subscription

Next correspondence due:

For September Issue

(16 July News - 15 August News)

Due: 20 August 2008

The Silver Lining (Vol. 63, #8)
 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)

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 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

“...the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth”
(1 Tim. 3:15)

Light From The Word



Writings based
on God's Word

August 2008

Attributes of Our Church

In Revelation 2 and 3 we read of the attributes of seven churches that existed in the time of the Apostle John. Each one was unique, with various merits as well as shortcomings. It was beneficial for those churches to be examined in light of the unchanging standard of God's Word, and this is beneficial for the Apostolic Christian Church today as well.

The foundation of our church is Jesus Christ, and the basis of our teaching is the unadulterated and unerring Word of God, which we believe is the singular and complete foundation of our understanding of God and His will for man. God's word is the authority of all truth, and provides direction for all aspects of life. We are exhorted to speak the truth in love (Eph. 4:15) and to share the Gospel message with all mankind.

Our church places a strong emphasis on the conversion of souls and on living a sanctified life. The starting point of our spiritual re-birth is “repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ” (Acts 20:21). Through a genuine conversion, by God's grace, there is a turning away from the world and wholly following Christ under the direction of the Holy Spirit. Each one of us is to “grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ” (2 Pet. 3:18), and being sanctified by His Word (John 17:17) and persevering until the end with care and diligence (Matt. 10:22).

Based on God's Word, our church teaches that we are saved by grace through faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ (Eph. 2:8-10) and that there is a need to integrate both faith and works in our lives. Faithful discipleship is not a means to grace, but it is our response to God's grace, knowing that faith without works is dead (Jam. 2:26). Our daily walk should reflect a loving response to what our Lord has done for us (1 John 4:19). We believe in living a life faithful to Christ's teaching and patterned after His image; not to obey in order to be blessed, but to obey because we have been blessed abundantly through Christ's work on the cross.

The church is a brotherhood of love in which the fullness of the Christian life is experienced in a loving, supportive fellowship. The dynamic character of the

first century church included a commitment to simplicity of worship, and of mutual accountability within a caring and loving church community, which remains our model. We have been called to hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering (Heb. 10:23). Our profession of faith reflects submission and love for one another, as well as a servant attitude, esteeming others better than ourselves.

The Apostolic Christian Church is built on the foundation of the teachings of Christ and the Apostles. We seek the inspiration of the Spirit for our preaching and teaching, and not the enticing words of man's wisdom (1 Cor. 2:4). As part of the body of Christ we strive for the preservation of true faith. We do not take part in modern trends such as ecumenism with its de-emphasis on distinctiveness in doctrine and practice, which ultimately leads to a watering down to the lowest common denominator of standards of belief.

It is the will of God that the Christian not be conformed to the worldly influences of the times, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind (Rom. 12:2). In every area of our human experience where a moral principle is involved, our walk must be distinctive when compared to the life of an unbeliever. This extends to our applications in modest living. We do not seek to glorify or lift up man, but that our lives, our behavior, our speech, our possessions, and our appearance would be a reflection of our desire to glorify God. Brothers are called to humbly portray spiritual headship in the home and sisters signify their submission to God's order of creation by covering their heads in times of prayer and worship.

We have a goodly heritage, exemplified by the love of Christ being manifested in many generations of loyal Christian families. In an age when family life has deteriorated badly, divorce rates are high, and sins of the flesh are rampant, we must continue to build the family structure upon unchanging biblical truth.

We should never be so naïve as to think that our church does not have shortcomings. In order to have an honest assessment of the attributes of our church, it behooves us to acknowledge areas that we can improve. The Lord was very frank with the churches listed in Revelation when He said “Notwithstanding I have a few things

against thee...” (Rev. 2:20). May we always be open to God's correction.

In our relatively small brotherhood we need to be careful that isolationism does not develop, because Jesus taught that we are to be in the world but not of the world (John 17:15-16). However, we must not get too close to the world and take on prideful attitudes, materialism, unwholesome entertainments as well as immodesty and fashion in appearance and other worldly attributes (Matt. 6:19-21; 1 John 2:15). We also should not let interpersonal conflicts, complacency, harsh reactions, implacability and self-righteousness get in the way of God's work. All of these carnal things contribute to disunity and polarization (Matt. 12:25).

We can do better in spreading the Gospel message of salvation (Matt. 28:19-20), in being peacemakers and in nurturing personal holiness in all aspects of our lives (Heb. 12:14) and in supporting edifying approaches for effective Bible teaching and learning to promote understanding and application of the Scriptures (Josh. 1:8; 2 Tim. 3:15-17). We need to make full use of the whole counsel of God (Acts 20:27) and be careful in our discerning of the spirits and of the times.

Perhaps one of the root causes of disunity and polarization is what Paul warns against in 2 Corinthians 10:12: “but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.” Instead our focus should be on comparing spiritual things with spiritual and putting on the mind of Christ (Phil. 2:5). A church divided against itself cannot stand (Matt. 12:25).

In an era of instability and lack of commitment, the attributes of any church can change very quickly. When sincere effort to rightly divide (correctly interpret and apply) the Word of God is sustained, ill-advised changes which appeal to human desires will be readily recognized and avoided. Maintaining sound doctrine and reaching commonality in appropriate areas of application require the grace of God and humble, submissive hearts. We desire that our church remains firmly built on the foundation of Jesus Christ, faithful and true to the end.

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

God's Grace in India

The Rural Gospel and Medical Missions of India were founded by Mr. B.B. Bhagwat and his wife in 1938. Their hearts were burdened for the lost souls in India and the focus of their ministry was in the tribal area of rural India. They labored over 30 years and established numerous congregations of believers, as well as developing two boarding homes and medical facilities to improve health care.

During a tour in the United States, they became familiar with the Apostolic Christian Church and approached several elders about taking the oversight after their deaths. Two trips were made by brothers from our church in the 1970's to inspect the work in India. A decision was made to accept that responsibility by our Elder Body and a seven member board was appointed in 1980 to manage the assets of the Bhagwats after their death and provide spiritual counseling and guidance in the various operations of the mission in India.

The scope of the mission

The mission consists of three churches, twelve village prayer halls, two boarding homes, a small hospital and numerous medical clinics. There are also many small group services in the remote villages that are conducted by the RGMMI spiritual staff. RGMMI also sponsors nearly 50 girls at an orphanage in the city of Monmad, located about 50 miles from the mission headquarters, which are located at Nashik, India.

The new English Medium School, which was completed two years ago at Khardi, is beginning another term. Over 130 students are enrolled. Many of them are Hindu children

from the area and their parents appreciate the opportunity to have their children learn English which will make them more qualified for employment upon graduation. Six teachers have the responsibility of instructing these youngsters. The youngest boys of the RGMMI boarding home at Khardi also attend this school. This school year there will be five grades taught and for the next five years a new grade will be added each year.

Future involvement

In January of this year a young couple from Bluffton spent several weeks in India. Their mission was to assist in the installation of more water purification systems, offer consulting to the vocational teachers and assist in the medical clinic, as the sister is a nurse. The administrative staff and the RGMMI board were very appreciative of their efforts. They had discussions with Dr. Parkhe, the mission director, concerning how brethren from the USA might be further used in India. Some possible future projects might include: Web based businesses, retirement care for the elderly, mental health counseling, dental clinic, and orthopedic surgical care and rehabilitation. There will need to be more assistance in implementing these projects. Outlines that contain scope, timetable, and budgets for each area will need to be drafted.

A DVD has been produced to better inform the brotherhood of the work of RGMMI. This media source will include general information of the history of India, the current economic and political situations, and the work of the RGMMI ministry. The goal is to have this shared with all our churches. The RGMMI board is very appreciative of young

brothers from Bluffton who have developed this documentary.

Medical transitions

The medical arm of RGMMI has been an important area in making initial entrances into the tribal villages. This segment of the mission is going through a period of transition. A young female physician has been employed to fill the position vacated after the death of a longtime employee of the mission. A new physician, who is a member of the Nashik church, is expected to join the mission at the end of this year. Dr. Shantwan, a former orphan boy, will be retiring once the new personnel are in place.

Group home for orphans

The foundation for the first group home has been installed at a small village near our church in Balhana. The actual building construction will begin this fall. This home will have eight orphans who will be supervised by a set of house parents. The project is a joint effort between RGMMI and Loving Shepherd Ministries of Bluffton.

Prayers are needed

A visit this fall by the USA board of directors of RGMMI has been postponed because of the illness of our director's wife, Damayanti Parkhe. She is currently undergoing treatments for cancer and she and Dr. Parkhe are appreciative of the many prayers that have been offered in their behalf.

The many prayers for RGMMI are appreciated by the USA Board, as well as the generous support of many of our brethren. May we continue to pray that the Lord will open doors of opportunity for our brethren to assist in this mission.



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
World Relief

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

Informational Meetings

Have you ever worked on a project where tears of gratitude or expressions of thankfulness have blessed you? Whether it's big smile or someone looking upwards saying "Thank you Jesus, thank you Jesus." One of the most precious gifts we can receive is hearing someone has given his or her heart to the Lord because of the opportunity we were given through these projects to let our light shine for Jesus.

Or maybe you've been at the other end. Did you receive help when your home was in need of repairs or you needed a new one built? Perhaps you were in desperate need of fresh water or a morsel to eat? Has someone helped your child get an education and another meal? Did you feel a ray of hope when your faith was encouraged because someone reached out with a helping hand to show you they cared?

We know we are blessed with a brotherhood that is willing to be there when we need help. There are many who are not so fortunate.

Giving a cup of cold water

Through your prayers, contributions, and hands-on involvement, many people's lives are touched. When we work together on local World Relief work nights or participate on work teams, they can see God working through us. The more whole-heartedly we give of ourselves, the more we are blessed.

Your day to be inspired

Enjoy an inspiring day of accounts from the life experiences of those involved with World Relief by attending an Informational Meeting. Our speakers are excited to share

the blessings and opportunities God has provided through their service with World Relief. A common misconception is that this meeting is for World Relief board members only. Although they are welcome, this meeting is for the general Apostolic Christian church attendants, friends and members alike; or anyone with a heart for helping others. This is a very special opportunity so be sure to bring someone along!

If you would like to host this meeting, please contact either Bro. Leon Gerber for the Eastern churches or Bro. Tom Schifferer for the Western churches. The dividing line for the Western and Eastern churches is the Illinois/ Indiana border. The meetings for the 52 Western churches and the 38 Eastern churches are each held once a year.

The Eastern meeting will be in Valparaiso, Indiana (hosted by La-Crosse/Valparaiso) on November 8, 2008. The Western meeting will be in Princeville, Illinois on March 14, 2009.

What to expect

At the Informational Meetings, we hear from those who have been on work teams in Mexico, Indonesia, Jamaica, Haiti and Biloxi, Mississippi. We hear accounts from brethren who are living in a foreign land, away from their families, so they can serve humanitarian needs and share Jesus with those who have no knowledge of Him.

In addition, this is a great time to exchange ideas with other sewing coordinators, learn what is happening at our home churches and discuss what is going on at the distribution centers. There will be information available on topics such as work team guidelines, kit instruc-

tions, precise labeling of materials sent to distribution centers and how to send current information to the World Relief office to help us work in the same direction. At this meeting we will be demonstrating how to use the World Relief website, www.acworldrelief.org, which is a great help to keep us informed about World Relief.

In addition, there will be displays of Haitian and European linens, Ixtlan head coverings, information on children waiting to be sponsored and various church projects. Information on Gateway Woods, the World Relief office, and updates for each World Relief representative and sewing coordinator will also be on display.

What you can do

We often hear the question, "What are some projects our congregation can do for World Relief?" Of course, there are always kits to make and items that need to be collected. But since we all don't want to be working on the same thing, feel free to search out new projects such as helping with the needs of local nursing homes, children's homes, crisis centers, crisis pregnancy centers, schools or any other areas of your community in need of help.

If you have questions or suggestions, visit www.acworldrelief.org, call or e-mail:

Eastern Meeting Coordinator

Leon Gerber (Mary Kay)

Phone: 765-728-2864

Email: leong@parlorcity.com

Western Meeting Coordinator

Tom Schifferer (Kathy)

Phone: 847-695-7510

Email: tomandkathy@schifferer.com

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

“Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free” (Gal. 5:11). Thanks to Christ we are free and able to do what was impossible before — to live unselfishly.

We celebrated our freedom as Americans with two large gatherings — Timber Ridge residents watched from outside the north end of their home and the group home residents, staff and families had a “front row” seat from the lawn of Linden Estate.

Many people enjoyed wearing red, white and blue hats and waving flags to join in the birthday party for America.

Beautiful summer days have given opportunity for many to enjoy walks, bike rides, outdoor band concerts, camping outings and one-day bus trips. Several groups of volunteers have made a difference at the various homes this summer. Fairbury 5th and 6th grade Sunday School students spent a Saturday afternoon in June hearing about life at Timber Ridge from some residents who shared with them and then playing games and making friends with people at Oakwood and Linden. In July a group of volunteers from Rockville, CT, spent a week doing a large wallpaper project at Timber Ridge. The people at the group homes are looking forward to sharing a Saturday noon picnic with the Forest Church volunteers who are planning to come on a Saturday in August.

GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN’S HOME Todd Stoller

“My brethren, count it all joy

when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.”

James 1:2-4

It’s interesting at times to look at the stories in the Bible and watch how people are often stretched in very uncomfortable ways. Moses was quite comfortable (and perhaps complacent) as a shepherd in the wilderness before God stretched him and appointed him the head of a very large and often uncooperative group of people. Saul was very comfortable as a common man, the son of a common man, doing common things, until God stretched him and appointed him king of Israel. I wonder if any of the prophets in the Old Testament might have looked back at their former lives, before God stretched them, and vaguely wondered what it would be like to once again have a normal life, without fear or intimidation or loneliness or rejection. I wonder if the apostles ever felt uncomfortable as God started to pull, sending them to places and people they’d never accepted or loved before, far away from family, friends, comforts of home, and acceptance from peers. Whether it be Abraham, Joseph, Joshua, Daniel, Nehemiah, Gideon, or any other biblical character, there always seems to be an element of stretching, pulling, discomfort, and often pain. It is during these times of discomfort that we are faced with a choice: to embrace the stretching as a gift from God, or pull back, huddle up, and wonder why God would allow such a thing to happen.

As a teacher, I’m quite comfortable standing in front of a crowd of students (eager to learn, of course, hanging on my every word as I dis-

cuss the hidden wonders of algebra...) in a controlled, familiar, classroom setting. What’s not so comfortable is to take some of those same students out into the community as employees of Top Quality, one of our summer programs for the kids, into unfamiliar, unstructured settings, and teach them about the value of hard work, sweat, cooperation, and getting along with coworkers. I’ve had to face situations I’m not used to facing, solve unfamiliar problems, and deal with unpleasant situations that aren’t common to a math teacher’s experience. In the process, I have to make a decision: do I embrace this and learn from it, considering it a gift from God, or do I just try to survive, to retreat, to escape?

Somehow, some way, God will be stretching you in the near future, if He isn’t already: how will you handle the opportunity?

NEWS:

- We are thankful to announce the hiring of Sis. Alexis Stoller (Latty, OH) as our new English Teacher. Sis. Alexis recently married Bro. Jonathan Stoller. Sis. Alexis began her new career on August 8. Please remember to pray for her as she educates troubled teens and works to ‘turn lives around’.

- We extend a heartfelt thanks to Bro. Justin Wiegand and all of our volunteers who gave of their talents and time this summer. It was truly a blessing to see them work together for God’s kingdom! - Praise God for the progress being made on the Pine House. The roof is completed and the walls and windows are in place. Please visit our website at gatewaywoods.org to see ongoing construction pictures and learn how you can assist us with this project. Volunteer masons began work this month. Call us if you can help. We ap-

preciate 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, 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!

- Our 32nd Annual Sale will be history when you read this. We are so very thankful for all the great donations and wonderful support we receive from all who attend and contribute to this great event for our on-going work with at-risk children.

Look for more news in the next issue of The Gate Post.

**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
PRESCHOOL
Athens, AL
Sarah Hodel**

Time flies, doesn't it? It seems we just had our graduation and were just starting summer. All of a sudden, though, it's time to start school again. It is kind of sad to see our big kids go off to Kindergarten, but they are excited for a new adventure, and we are excited for them. We just pray that seeds have been planted and they will not soon forget the things they learned about Jesus when they were in preschool.

We want to thank Sis. Deb Blunier (Eureka, IL) for coming down to volunteer a week. We very much appreciate her willingness to come help out. The kids enjoy it too, as they usually ask if Miss Deb can tell another story!

We are thankful that God has sent us Sis. Jenna Runion (Bluffton, IN) to be our new teacher. God always supplies our needs, even when we start to get nervous that He won't. Our Sis. Melissa Slagel has been such an asset to the preschool the past four years. Thank you, Miss Melissa, for all your hard work. You will be missed and we pray that God blesses you for all you have done!

**ALABAMA, ATHENS
Louise Hall**

We have been blessed to have a few extra visitors this summer who have stopped by to worship with us while traveling. That includes our ministering Bro. Mark Steiner and his wife, Sis. Sue, from Smithville, OH. We want to thank him for bringing the Word to us.

Our prayers are with Eric Coulter (Bro. David and Sis. Barbara) as he

has been stationed in Fort Hood, Texas. If you would like to encourage him, his address is:

*509th FSC 303rd
Mi BN
Mailbox 175 B
Fort Hood, TX 76544*

We also think of Molly King who has recently spent time in the hospital. She is the daughter-in-law of our Sis. Kat King.

We look forward to the baptism of Mark Klaus this month. We know it will be a very blessed weekend for our church.

**ARIZONA, PRESCOTT
Denise Steidinger**

We are thankful for the faithful service of the following ministering brothers visiting our congregation this past month: Bros. Curtis Kaufman (Tucson), Mike Rieker (Peoria), Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto), James Emch and Jim Meiss (Phoenix).

**ARIZONA, TUCSON
Lisa Knapp**

Summer greetings from Tucson! We are midway through summer and enjoying some wonderful monsoon weather. We are having afternoon and evening thunderstorms and temperatures in the high 80's and low 90's, a nice break from triple digit temperatures.

In June we enjoyed a Sunday with three visiting ministers traveling through Tucson on their way to Mexico. Bro. Duane Rocke and Bro. Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN) and Bro. Marvin Steffen (North Ft. Myers) were gratefully welcomed by our little church as we had anticipated having one minister that day who was to be alone on the pulpit. We have a gracious and ever faithful Father in

Heaven, don't we?

Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA) spent a Sunday with us in July. It's always good to see Bro. Ben (who is usually here visiting his daughter, Lauren, during the school year) and we certainly thank him for sharing the Word with us.

We were visited by around 45 members of a work team from Champaign and Chicago this past Sunday, which tripled our usual summer Sunday attendance. Bro. Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL) and Bro. Brad Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) were among the members of this team and were willing to serve the Lord on the pulpit. We thank them both for their willingness and efforts.

Our Bro. Don and Sis. Gloria Bauer celebrated 50 years of marriage on July 13. Their 5 children and their spouses and 15 grandchildren held a celebration in their honor on July 20. The consensus of the evening was that they have indeed been abundantly blessed by God who deserves all honor and praise. What a rich life we have in Christ!

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA **Catherine Brame**

"But their scribes and Pharisees murmured against his disciples, saying, Why do ye eat and drink with publicans and sinners? And Jesus answering said unto them, They that are whole need not a physician; but they that are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

Luke 5:30-32

We in Altadena have a deeply comforting fellowship of kindred spirits. We commute into a small island of spiritual sanctuary, and then return to our outposts to form relationship with others in our

day-to-day lives. Our fellowship encourages us in our faith and renews our courage to remain in relationship. We can be salt to the world and, yet, protected and renewed by the Holy Spirit through our worship together. Without being in relationship with the world, it is not possible for us to share with them His truth in love. Without fellowship with one another, it is not possible to "love the sinner, but hate the sin," - it is not possible to remain unsoiled and unspotted by the world. We give thanks to our ministering brothers for leading us in this beautiful fellowship.

We praise God for the visitation of ministering brother, Ted Witzig, Jr. and Sis. Donna Witzig, who traveled to be with our congregation for a 2 day presentation about the spiritual gifts that have been given to all believers. We are thankful for the time and effort that has been invested in us by Bro. Ted and the ACCFS, and pray for the continued outreach of this ministry.

Prayers have been offered up for Bro. Lazslo and Sis. Maria Cser as they each suffered health problems this month. We are grateful that God provided the perfect timing for treatment and pray for speedy recovery and return to our fellowship.

We have been in prayer for Bro. Jim Klotzle, who has been ill in Magdalena during his missionary service. We are pleased to learn that he is mending and that he will be able to conclude his ministry there.

Sis. Stephanie Moser has returned from her missionary service in China and we rejoice to have her among us for worship. We pray for her comfort and peace as she reestablishes herself in what has now become a foreign country to her.

With the upcoming Elder's Conference, we remain prayerful that our Elders will be inspired by the

Holy Spirit in all that they do, and that much will be accomplished to the glory of God.

The summer months here are beautiful, and the weather has been lovely. We extend an open and heartfelt invitation to all who would travel here during the summer months.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO **Yasmin Koehl**

We appreciate and value the love and closeness we share with our brethren here in San Diego. The ties we make fellowshiping and serving God together only broadens when a beloved brother or sister relocates. Sis. Linda Fulop (Bro. Denes and Sis. Joy) has recently moved to Illinois to continue her education. She's continually in our thoughts and prayers. We are already anticipating her visits!

Elder Bro. Tom Klotzle (Sis. Jody, Altadena, CA) and ordained deacon Bro. Herbie Knochel (Sis. Laurie, Phoenix, AZ), along with their families, visited our congregation this month. We appreciated both brothers' service on our behalf and pray the Lord's richest blessings upon their lives and their ministries.

KITCHENER, ONTARIO **CANADA** **Kim Leman**

"The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel."

Mark 1:15

We appreciate the labors of the ministering brothers who visited us recently. They were Bros. Greg Rassi (Sis. Carla, Chicago, IL), Dan Stoller (Sis. Diane, Rockville, CT), and Beirne Messner (Sis. Joyce, Morris, MN). May God bless these brothers

for their service to us.

Our friend, Nick Davidson (Michelle), graduated from 8th grade. We wish him God's blessings as he enters high school.

Our congregation enjoyed the many visitors who came for our Invite-a-Guest weekend. It's always special for us when we have to set up extra chairs in our assembly room!

COLORADO, DENVER **Ann Gonglach**

Baptized, I feel His grace
My sinful mind subduing;
And look in all distress
To God my faith renewing,
Thou art the central force,
Help me to manifest
What true baptism means
And what it should attest.

—from *Baptismal Hymn*
Zion's Harp, #43

Baptism was held on June 29 for Whitney Steffen (Bro. Larry and Sis. Sue) and Kevin Haeflinger. We were glad to have Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Sis. Leonda, Leo, IN) and Bro. Dean Steffen (Sis. Carol, Belvidere, IL) with us, helping on this special occasion.

We were also thankful for visitors, Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL), Bro. Gary Endress (Sis. Evelyn, Bradford, IL), and Bro. Curt Kaufman (Sis. Caroline, Tucson, AZ), and their ministry to us.

We rejoice with Dominique Braun-Lasnier (Sarah Lasnier) who also desires baptism.

"For the promise is unto you, and to your children . . ." (Acts 2:39a). Bro. Ted and Sis. Andrea Orcsik have become parents with the safe arrival of their daughter, Elise, on June 21.

We are glad to have Sis. Tifani Bahr fellowshiping with us. She has moved here from Kiowa, Kansas.

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

True love doth fellowship desire,
it seeks a faithful brother-heart;
True solace here we can acquire,
where hand in hand and heart in
heart
in mutual harmony are bound,
and Christ's love has a dwelling found.
Zion's Harp #76

We were blessed with many visitors this month, including a large number invited by our couples over the weekend of July 4. It was a blessing to meet and greet many from near and far, and fellowship together. Among our visitors also was ministering Bro. Jerry Isch, his wife, Sis. Linda, and their family from Philadelphia, PA. Also on a Wednesday evening, Bro. Duane Metzger and his wife, Sis. Ruth, from West Bend, IA, were with us. We are grateful to these brothers for the time they spent among us being used to preach the Word. May each have felt a blessing while spending time here in Rockville.

Our friends, Kevin and Jeannette Guay, recently had their first child, Alaina Carlene. Grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Terri Mangold, and Jacques and Irene Guay. May they feel God's strength and guidance in raising their new little daughter.

Our best wishes extend to our friend Carolyn Boynton as she and Mark LaGassie were united in marriage. Parents are Ken and Sis. Jan Boynton and Larry and Barbara LaGassie. We also congratulate our friend Alan Hoffman and Katie Gagne as they were joined in marriage. Parents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Joan Hoffman and Michael and Jean Gagne. We wish both of these young couples much happiness and the

blessings of God as they begin this new phase of their lives.

Blest is he who overcometh,
and the first true love maintains,
who in truth builds firm foundation,
and false teaching doth disdain.
Him with fruit I'll ever nourish
from the tree which there doth flourish,
which above in paradise,
is prepared by God all-wise.
Zion's Harp #30

As many of our friends graduate, and consider where they will be going next in life, we hope and pray that each will seek God's guidance in their decisions. Amid the busyness and preparation for their earthly futures, we pray that the highest calling of all would be remembered, and a foundation laid for a life beyond this present one. Our graduates this year are: Bradly Bahler, Carly Bahler, Nathan Bahler, Nathan Galat, Sis. Sarah Lanz, Ashley Luginbuhl, Shane Luginbuhl, Kristy Moser, Whitney Tracey, Nicholas Petrolito, Sis. Lydia Schneider, Lauren Skinner, Shannon Smith, and Sis. Rebekah Viens. We wish them all well.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Wilbur Schneider, Sis. Lavina Ballasy and Sis. Helen Luginbuhl at the recent passing of their brother, Norman. May they and their dear families feel comforted.

Bro. Art Gottier was recently in the hospital and our prayers go out to him and his wife, Sis. Judy, as he recovers. Sis. Peggy Bahler (Bro. Dave) has also been hospitalized and underwent serious surgery. May she feel our support and prayers throughout her recovery.

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

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

Psalm 127:3

Bro. Adam, Sis. Liz and Elise Hermann welcomed David Walker Hermann to their family on June 22. Also welcoming David are grandparents, Dennis and Sis. Ginger Hermann (Morton, IL) and Mark and Becky Meister (Wilmington, DE).

Our most recent caretakers have been Bro. John and Sis. Rosemary Hartman from Fairbury, IL.

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Mark Wettstein (Sis. Karen, LaCrosse, IN), Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA), Bro. Ron Heiniger (Sis. Kayleen, Bloomington, IL), Bro. John Hartman (Sis. Rosemary, Fairbury, IL) and Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Sis. Jeannine, Mansfield, OH). Other visitors this month were from Forrest, Fairbury, Gridley, and Peoria, IL; Bluffton and Bluffton North, IN; West Bend, IA and Latty, OH.

We were very glad to see Ken Belsley in church last Sunday.

My apologies to Garrett Wirtz; I had changed his name in last month's article. We enjoyed having him worship with us the month he was in our area.

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**

As the summer months are upon us, we are experiencing smaller gatherings so we appreciate our visitors. This month our ministers were: Bro. Marvin Steffen (Sis. Rhea, N. Ft. Meyers, FL); Bro. Scott Wegman (Sis. Dawn, Taylor, MO); and Bro. Erik Givens (Sis. Debbie, Princeville, IL). We appreciate all those who come to share the Gospel with us.

We want to pray for Sis. Vi Gerber, who was hospitalized and is currently in a rehab facility after experiencing a fall.

We held a farewell dinner for Bro. George and Sis. Katherine Fulop who will be moving back to Ohio after living here 29 years. They will be attending the Akron church. May God bless them and their family.

**GEORGIA, ATLANTA
Melinda Gramm**

The engagement of Bro. Andy Schick to Sis. Victoria Warner was announced on July 21. Bro. Andy is the son of Bro. Stan and Sis. Margie Schick from Princeville, IL. Sis. Victoria is the daughter of Bro. Scott and Sis. Deborah Warner from Morton, IL.

We had many visiting ministers this month and we praise God for His faithfulness! They were: Bro. Tim Gerber (Sis. Wendy, Mansfield, OH), Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Sis. Jeannine, Mansfield, OH), Bro. Matthew Rassi (Sis. Bridget, Chicago, IL) and Bro. Clark Stoller (Sis. Cindy,

Gridley, IL).

A wonderful day of fellowship, good food, and boating were enjoyed by the church family at Chris and Sis. Peggy Camp's cabin on Lake Wedowee. We always look forward to this day every year and appreciate the Camp's warm hospitality.

Our prayers are with Bro. Rich (Sis. LaNae) Aberle as he recovers from an accident.

**ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE
Doreen Moser
Sheila McCoy**

Why, Lord, we ask? Why the floods that took our homes? Why the fire that took our home? Why the accidents that have left our lives shattered? So many whys and so many more reasons to read the Word, to trust in the Lord, to pray for one another, to love each other and to encourage each other along the way.

There is not much news to share from our Belvidere congregation. Darcy Steffen (Bro. Dean and Sis. Carol) and Hannah Schock (Bro. Ted and Sis. Heidi) gave us all a scare at a recent Sunday eve gathering when they had an accident. They spent an evening in the hospital but are now home and doing well. We are thankful that the Lord kept them in the hollow of His hand.

We are sending our prayers and love to all our brethren who may need extra encouragement in the daily battles of life. We are praying for you even if we can not physically be there to help you through.

“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.”

Psalm 46

**ILLINOIS
BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL
Betsy Zimmerman
Alissa Kieser**

As we celebrated the 4th of July this month, we are thankful for our freedom from sin with Christ's death on the cross, and also the religious freedoms we so often take for granted in our country.

We extend a warm welcome to those new to our congregation. Bro. Andrew Huber, formerly of Francesville, IN, has moved to Bloomington and made our church his home. Also joining us are Bro. Aaron and Sis. Jacki Masters, formerly of Fairbury, and Lesley Miller and her two children, Chance and Katelyn Bonds.

We rejoice with Josh Robinson (Bro. Mike and Sis. Liz) and his family as he has shared his desire to walk with the Lord. We pray for him and all of our converts.

Matt and Kirsten Hany welcomed a baby boy, Matthew "Phillip" on June 26. Grandparents are Bro. Rick and Sis. Carol Hany and Dick and Carol Schertz (Metamora). Matthew joins sister, Gracie.

Also welcoming a new baby were Bro. Delayne and Sis. Lori Stickling. Kate Evelyn arrived on July 1, joining big sister, Macy, and big brother, Drendon. Grandparents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Diane Stickling and Bro. Neil and Sis. Linda Schmidgall (Morris, MN).

David and Alison Orns have a new baby girl, Madison Grace, born on June 27. Alexis and Levi welcomed her home. Grandparents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Carol Strassheim.

Bro. Tim Schmidgall and Sis. Emily Frank (Tremont) announced their wedding engagement on July 6. Parents are Bro. Randy and Sis. Marj Schmidgall and Bro. Doug and Sis. Cheri Frank (Tremont). We wish them God's blessings as they prepare for their special day and for their life together.

Congratulations to Brant

Kaufmann and Kyli Wall, who recently announced their wedding engagement. Parents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Nancy Kaufmann and Sam and Tara Wall (Alliance, NE).

Our thoughts and prayers are with several in our congregation who have experienced loss in their families. Phillip D. Thames (Reta), father of Sis. Carol (Bro. Rick) Hany and Bro. Jeff (Sis. Brenda) Thames (Washington, IL), and grandfather of Matt (Kirsten) Hany, Sis. Lexi (Bro. Will) Nussbaum, and Julia Hany, passed to his heavenly home June 21.

Bro. Edward (Sis. Lucille) Gramm, uncle of Bro. Dave (Sis. Karen) Wegman and father of Ben (Linda) Gramm, Normal, passed away on June 21.

Sis. Dorothy Martin, Francesville, IN, met her Savior on June 24. We pray for her daughter, Sis. Janice (Albert) Horner, and grandsons, Bro. Brad and Jason Horner.

On July 6, Sis. Alice Kempf of Roanoke was called home. She was the mother of Sis. Maxine (Bro. Dave) Hodel and grandmother of Bro. Andy (Sis. Marla) Hodel, Sis. Molly (Bro. Ben) Knochel, and Bart (Misty) Hodel (Charleston, WV).

Frances (John) Martin of Kankakee passed away May 14. Frances was a sister to Sis. Eloise Diggelman, a cousin to Sis. Verena (Bro. Ralph) Knapp and Sis. Marilyn (Bro. Bob) Hany, and an aunt to Bro. Mike (Sis. Barb) Meece.

Our sympathies go to Sis. Ann (Bro. Roy) Maurer, Sis. Rose Huette, and Hank Aberle over the loss of their brother, Ezra Aberle (Phoenix, AZ).

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Bill Masters (North Fort Myers, FL) and Bro. Tim Hohulin (Roanoke). We appreciate their willingness to preach God's Word to our congregation.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD Philip and Donna Nenadov

"In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."

John 14:2-3

We are thankful when a believer can enter into eternal rest and lay down his cross. Bro. Leroy Streitmatter, 90, passed from this life on July 25. Bro. Leroy is survived by Sis. Esther, his wife of 61 years. Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle (Sis. Lois, Shioda, Japan) assisted our home ministers in the funeral service.

We enjoyed the visit of our dear Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Sis. Sandra, Morris, MN) during a Zapata reunion. We appreciated his willingness to serve us that Sunday.

Our graduates this year from high school are Jerrica Kieser (Joe and Geri) and Bro. Daniel Klumpp (Bro. Dave and Sis. Barb). We wish our graduates God's richest blessings as they both enter college.

God be with you 'til we meet again.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO Rachel Meyer

Greetings from Chicago. We thank Bro. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH) for serving us in the ministry this past month.

Our dear Sis. Pauline Schrenk fell and broke her hip. She has had surgery and is recovering and certainly would appreciate our prayers.

It was a joy to hear about the help of our brethren on behalf of Oakville and Taylor in the wake of the flood. As cleanup continues, let us pray for everyone affected. We know that at

these times of utter hopelessness and vulnerability peoples' hearts are more open to prayer and hearing about God – a rock that can never be washed away.

There is a section of highway that I travel fairly often. At one point there are four lanes all headed in the same direction. However, when I look at the road signs I see each of the four lanes will soon split off into four different highways/routes. As a driver, I must know which lane is mine or I will be forced onto a highway/route I do not want – with no idea where it goes. Even worse, I will have to find a way to get back to going the right direction.

This parallel is so clear when making decisions in life. There are daily decisions that may seem small and other decisions that will be life-altering. Get out the map. Know your route. It is in the Bible.

Lastly, I recently found myself in a situation in which I had to make a large decision that would affect more lives than just my own. I was at a house to meet with some people and had a few minutes to wait. I went into the bathroom, shut the door, and got on my knees. I was so fearful...I didn't know what to do. Would I make the right decision? What should I say? Was I going to lose a friendship? Would God be glorified in my words and behavior? What if, what if, what if??? As I knelt in that bathroom I whispered one name. Jesus. I said it over and over. Jesus, Jesus, Jesus. I am so thankful I was taught by Christian parents. I was given my map. The direction was: Whenever you don't know what to do, get on your knees and pray.

ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN
Jackie Eisenmann

“Therefore we are buried with

him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”

Romans 6:4

Greetings from Champaign-Urbana! Our congregation has been blessed this month with two weekends of baptisms! For a little church that is very exciting! On June 21-22 Brett Steffen gave his testimony and was baptized. We welcome Bro. Brett into our Champaign church! Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington, IL) was here for the weekend and we thank Bro. Ron for his services.

On July 5-6 we welcomed our Sis. Michelle Cornell into the fold when she gave her testimony and was baptized. Elder Bro. Earl Ringger and Bro. Clark Stoller were here for the special weekend and they blessed us by their willingness to be used on the pulpit. We are so thankful for these two souls who have answered God's call and are willing to let God lead them through this life. May God continue to guide them and bless them!

Sunday, June 29, was our annual Sunday School Picnic held at a local park. It is always a blessing to see the children enjoy the activities together. We also appreciate the church coming together to spend time with our children. To see their joy and innocence is always such a good reminder of Matthew 18:3, “And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.”

Sunday, July 13, was the wedding of our Bro. Brent Sauder to Sis. Janelle Kilgus from Tremont. We wish them God's many blessings in their new life together! We are very glad to be able to welcome Sis. Janelle into our Champaign congregation and hope she feels at home soon.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK
Vickie Maul
Janie Waldbeser

We are happy for two dear couples who have been united in marriage. On June 29, we witnessed the vows of Sis. Teresa Kaeb (Bro. Eric and Sis. Lou Ann) to Bro. John Hartter (Bro. Tim and Sis. Charlene) of Sabetha. Bringing us the Word of truth on this special day were Bros. Ron Isch (Lamont-Gridley, KS), Ken Schneider (Remington, IN), Calvin Schneider (LaCrosse, IN), Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL), Les Kaeb (Francesville, IN), David Hartter (Sabetha, KS) and Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL).

On the following Sunday of July 6, we also rejoiced in the union of Sis. Bonnie Frank (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Bonita) and Bro. Randy Manz (Bro. Russ and Sis. Vera) of Junction. Visiting ministers who worshipped with us for this special day were Bros. Ben Manz, Donald Manz, Tony Manz (all of Junction, OH), Dale Frank (Oakville, IA), and Joe Gerst (Iowa City, IA). May God richly bless them for their labors of love.

We had the opportunity to enjoy a slide presentation at the fellowship hall by Franz and Doris Clotaire from Haiti about the ongoing work at S.E.E.D. Ministries. Several from the Cissna Park congregation have spent time there on work teams. We see how much we take for granted. God has richly blessed us and given us the privilege to share with others.

Our annual all church picnic was held on a beautiful Sunday afternoon at the park. It is always a blessing for young and old to gather together, for each can be such an inspiration to the other.

We rejoice with Bro. Rod and Sis. Beth Steffen as their son, Bro. Brett (Champaign, IL), was recently baptized there.

Bro. Gerald and Sis. Joan Rudin are thankful for the safe arrival of their new grandson, Kaleb Brandon Peoples. Josh and Sarah (Rudin) Peoples are the happy first-time parents.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE Holly Zobrist

We would like to thank the ministers who, through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, brought us God's Word this past month. They include Bro. Ted Hirstein (Sis. Joyce, Morton), Bro. Bruce Endress (Sis. Elizabeth, Bradford), Bro. Brandon Emch (Sis. Maria, Kansas City), Bro. Steve Baner (Sis. Donnalou, Gridley), Bro. Nate Wieland (Sis. Suzanne, Goodfield), Bro. John Steiner (Sis. Carol, Oakville), and Bro. Gary Anliker (Sis. Edith, Elgin).

Bro. Chris and Sis. Michelle Miller welcomed Devin James into their home this past month. Big brother Christian and big sister Mikayla anxiously welcomed him home. The grandparents are Bro. Chris and Sis. Phyllis Miller (Congerville) and John and Sis. Barbara Gastman (Roanoke).

July 6 was the wedding of Bro. Perry Klopfenstein (Bro. Perry and Sis. Carol) and Sis. Joan Craig (Bro. Kim and Sis. Carol). We wish them God's richest blessings as they start their new lives together.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN Amy Gasser Miriam Gasser

Among those who visited in the past month were ministering Bros. Earl Beery (Rittman, OH), Dan Koch (Tremont, IL), and Todd Stoller (Latty, OH). We appreciated their willingness to stand and teach us through the inspiration of the Spirit.

On June 14, Clint Schambach

(Bro. Bob and Sis. Jeanne) married Lori Hambleton of Woodlawn, IL. Another couple, Walter Miller of South Elgin and Natalie Dietz (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Sara), made their wedding vows on July 11. We wish each one happiness and a deepening love and commitment to each other and their families as the years go by.

We empathize with those who have suffered injury or required surgery due to serious medical conditions. Arvid Miller (Cindy), Kathy Mohr, Sis. Norma Schambach (Bro. Stan), and Sis. Pauline Schrenk (Bro. John) have all spent time in the hospital, recently. Our prayers are that each would feel God's healing touch, in time.

Two in our congregation have lost loved ones. Sis. Marie Hugh's sister, Alice McConnell of Ely, MN, died unexpectedly on June 20. Bro. Eric Humbracht's grandfather, Roy Olwin of Elgin, passed away on June 29. May the Comforter help fill the void left in the hearts and family circles of those who are grieving.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA Cindy Stoller Dee Baer

We are thankful for the ministering brethren who have visited Eureka recently. Those who have labored on our behalf include Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) and Bros. Brad Eisenmann (Chicago, IL), Kenny Eisenmann (Cissna Park, IL), Tony Manz (Junction, OH), Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL), Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL), and Duane Rocke (Minneapolis, MN).

We welcome Carson Joseph, new son of Bro. Steven and Sis. Rachel Dotterer. Happy older sister is Ashlyn and grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Donna Kupferschmid and Bro. John and Sis. Jeanne Dotterer.

Our friend, Rose Stoller, an-

swered the call to repentance. We rejoice with every soul who hears and receives the grace to humble themselves at the foot of the Cross. Rose is the daughter of Bro. Tom and Sis. Edie Stoller.

Best wishes to Bro. Joe Ehnle (Bro. Gary and Sis. Carole) and Sis. Andrea Knobloch (Bro. Stan and Sis. Dawn; Lester, IA) on their engagement. May the Lord bless them as their lives blend into one.

As joy comes, so must sorrow come in this life. Sis. Velma Lemman (Bro. Gerald) and Sis. Clara Kempf mourn the death of their sister, Sis. Alice Kempf (Roanoke, IL). Sis. Doris Guingrich and Sis. Judy Cottrell and family grieve the loss of their son and brother, Bro. Richard Guingrich (Peoria, IL). Our Bro. Alf Grusy took his final breath of life. Surviving are his son, Randy (Connie); sister-in-law, Sis. Ruby Grusy; brother, Bill Grusy (Texas); and sister, Virginia Jarnagan (Iowa). Blest are all they who die in the Lord.

Those we have prayed for and miss seeing because of sickness include Clayton Schumacher (Bro. Dan and Sis. Heidi), Sis. Eva Rocke (Bro. Dave), Sis. Carol Zobrist (Bro. Gene), Sis. Gretchen Zimmerman (Bro. Mike) and Bro. Milt Lemman (Sis. Geri).

Notes of Thanks:

We want to thank all that sent us food, flowers, and so many cards of love during Helen's time in the hospital and Nursing Home. Also, thanks for your many prayers and visits. May the Lord be your rich reward.

Bro. Bob and Sis. Helen Wiegand

I want to thank everyone for their love, cards, gifts and flowers I received, which made my 90th birthday special. God bless you.

Sis. Dorothy Ginzl

There are so many things on earth we simply can't explain; why one of us is taken while the rest of us remain.

But till the day we see the Lord and He makes all things clear, we must find comfort knowing that His love is ever near.

We would like to say thank you for the many deeds of kindness and love shown to us through Sid's illness and death. May God bless you richly.

The family of Bro. Sid Leman

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

Lila Fehr

Anna Schmidgall

As our Sunday School year ended, we all enjoyed the annual picnic. Bros. Nelson Zehr and Doug Moser as well as Sis. Dawn Huber have completed their terms. May God bless them for their service. Our prayers continue for new teachers, Bros. Dave Blunier and Jeff Moser and Sis. Crystal Miller.

We were thankful for visiting ministers which included Elder Bros. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL) and Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL) and Bros. Bill Masters (North Ft. Myers, FL), Tim Hohulin (Roanoke, IL), John Bradle (Roanoke, IL), Ted Hirstein (Morton, IL), and Bruce Endress (Bradford, IL).

Bro. Nic and Sis. Lori Roth welcome Madeline Ruth to their family along with siblings, Ty and Mia. Grandparents are Bro. Walt and Sis. Rosie Edelman and Bro. Ken and Sis. Deb Roth (Forrest, IL). Also, Rachel, Shayla, Jolyn, Bro. Bill and Sis. Shay Stork are thankful for new arrival, Elle Anna. Her grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Eunice Stork and Bro. Chris and Sis. Kay Steffen. Babies are a gift from God and bring us much joy.

We rejoice with Sis. Maggie Huber

(Bro. Rich and Sis. Dawn) and Bro. Cody Maher (Bro. Dan and Sis. Kim, Roanoke, IL) as they were married in the Lord on July 13. We are grateful for the three-fold cord bound by God's love.

Sis. Shannon Fehr (Bro. Ivan and Sis. Cinda) was announced to Bro. Brad Brown (Bro. Gary and Sis. Jane, Forrest, IL). How thankful we are for them and wish them God's richest blessings.

Bro. Merle Kaisner spent time in the hospital and is now recovering at home.

Note of Thanks:

We would like to thank all who have shown us and our children support through prayers, words of encouragement, cards, gifts and many other kind deeds after the loss of our precious Malachi. Though our hearts ache, God has been faithful to show us His love through you. May He bless each one and continue to use our brotherhood to draw us closer to Him.

Bro. Dave and Sis. Kara, Faith, Marcus, Jared and Lily Blunier

ILLINOIS, FORREST

Jill Wenger

Lori Leman

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

We are so thankful to welcome two new brothers into the fold this month. Our prayers are with Bro. Caleb Leman and Bro. Jaylin Teubel as they continue on in the narrow way, and we wish them much grace to

serve the Lord. Their parents are Bro. Fred and Sis. Brenda Leman and Bro. John and Sis. Lavonne Teubel.

July 6 was the beautiful wedding day of our Sis. Crystal Stoller and Bro. Evan Braker of Lamar, MO. Their parents are Bro. Greg and Sis. Jill Stoller and Bro. Jerry and Sis. Carol Braker (Lamar, MO). We will miss Sis. Crystal, but we pray that God will continue to be with them as their lives are joined as one in Him.

On July 20, we rejoiced with our Sis. Kyrstin Kilgus (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Denise) and Bro. Clinton Wagenbach (Bro. Jerry, Jr. and Sis. Bonnie) of our Oakville, IA, congregation as they were married in the Lord. But our hearts hurt for Sis. Bonnie and her family as all were concerned for Bro. Doug Moser who was so seriously injured in a farming accident. We realized God was in control, not we poor humans. Sis. Kyrstin will also be dearly missed in our congregation as she takes her place in Oakville.

We were thankful to hear the wedding engagements of two couples this month. Bro. Seth Leman (Bro. Fred and Sis. Brenda) and Sis. Renee Grimm (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Nita) of Sabetha, KS, feel the Lord's direction to become one. Also following God's leading are Bro. Brad Brown (Bro. Gary and Sis. Jane) and Sis. Shannon Fehr (Bro. Ivan and Sis. Cinda) of Fairbury. May God grant these couples humility and grace as they plan for this important time in their lives.

Bro. Tim and Sis. Myra Mueller are thankful to welcome another little boy into their hearts and lives. Cody Ray is also welcomed home by big brother Connor and grandparents, Bro. Ray and Sis. Shelly Steidinger and Bro. Ronnie and Sis. Loida Mueller.

Our prayers are with Bro. Larry Bachman (Sis. Donna) and Sis.

Kathryn Steidinger (Bro. Ivan) as they have both undergone surgery this month. May God grant His healing as He sees fit.

We are thankful for the brothers that are willing to share the Bread of Life with us. May God bless Elder Bros. Rick Plattner (Fairbury, IL), Lawrence Luthi (Lamar, MO), and Curt Frank (Lacrosse, IN), as well as ministering Bros. Trent Meiss, Mark Zimmerman, and Mark Schmidgall (all of Eureka, IL), Jay Knapp (Tucson, AZ), Mike Baumann (Mansfield, OH), Greg Braker (Lamar, MO), Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL), Bob Beebe (South Bend, IN), John Steiner and Jerry Wagenbach, Jr. (Oakville, IA), Mike Wagenbach (Wolcott, IN), and Chris Wuethrich (St. Louis, MO) for their work in His vineyard.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD
Amber Grimm
Rita Bauman

The Lord has provided bountifully for our needs with encouragement from His Word. We were thankful to have Bro. Gene Metzger (Sis. Dolores, Lester, IA) among us to willingly lend himself in His service.

In sorrow and pain
 Thy trust do retain
 In Jesus the merciful Saviour
 When burdened with care
 When thou wouldst despair
 Then call on thy loving Redeemer.

Zion's Harp #46, verses 1-2

May God's grace and comfort be with Sis. Carol Hohulin (Bro. Harold) in the loss of her brother, Bro. Richard Guingrich (Peoria, IL). Also, Bro. Duane Freidinger (Sis. Vermeda) said goodbye to his father, Alvin Freidinger, of Eureka, IL; and Bro. Steve Gerst (Sis. Bonnie) bid farewell to his father, Bro. Richard Gerst (Sis. Liberty, Oakville, IA).

May God's comforting hand be upon these families who have experienced a loss.

We bid farewell to Bro. Jake and Sis. Meika Gerst as they follow the Lord's direction to move to Alto, MI. We will miss them but look forward to the times when they return to visit.

Prayers for God's healing are expressed for Bro. Jon Knapp (Sis. Pat). May Bro. Jon feel the nearness of the Holy Spirit and God's all powerful strength each day anew.

We have several in our congregation who have announced their engagement:

Bro. Robert Rokey is engaged to Sis. Melissa Kuenzi from Silverton, OR. Their parents are Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Phyllis Rokey and Bro. Jim and Sis. Barbara Kuenzi.

Bro. Royce Schieler is engaged to Sis. Sarah Bolliger (Tremont, IL). Their parents are Bro. Brian and Sis. Teresa Schieler and Bro. Tom and Sis. Jane Bolliger.

Cassie Gerber is engaged to Alex Knepp (Roanoke, IL). Their parents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Trish Gerber and Bro. Richard and Sis. Janet Knepp.

Ryan Joos is engaged to Brooke Harminson. Their parents are Bro. Glenn and Sis. Bev Joos, and Karen and the late Rich Harminson.

We wish each of these dear couples God's blessings as they make wedding preparations.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY
Perry A. Klopfenstein

We have had two weddings in Gridley during the past month, and marriage in the Lord is a wonderful thing. A Dayspring anniversary card clearly depicts the value of a marriage between couples: "I think of you and how our lives have intertwined; two cords, separately insignificant, wrapping around each

other, weaving something new and stronger altogether. And the third Cord braided through makes us stronger yet; joining us together; making one from three...strength in unity...strong enough to withstand time. A cord of three strands...You, me, and the Lord — working together to strengthen forever the bonds of marriage." (by author Alvalyn Lundgren)

On July 13 we witnessed the wedding of Sis. Christa Gramm to Bro. Eddie Meister of Peoria. She is the daughter of Bro. Mike and Sis. Rosie Gramm, Gridley, and he is the son of Bro. Ed Meister, II, and Sis. Dana Meister, Peoria.

July 6 was the wedding date of Bro. Perry Klopfenstein, Jr. to Sis. Joan Craig of Congerville. He is the son of Bro. Perry and Sis. Carol Klopfenstein of Gridley. Her parents are Bro. Kim and Sis. Carol Craig, Congerville.

We surely extend our best wishes to both couples as they spend their lifetimes together. The vows, which included being true and faithful to each other — and to "cherish" one another — are impressive. The power of God can unite and sustain married couples, and allow for ongoing happiness. Marriage in the Lord is a wonderful treasure among humble believers in Christ Jesus.

Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Rachel Schlipf became parents for the first time on July 29. A son, Levi Joseph, was born on that day. Grandparents are Bro. Art and Sis. Twyla Schlipf, Gridley, and Bro. Randy and Sis. Carol Feucht, Roanoke. Levi is the great-grandson of Bro. Maurice and Sis. Ida Mae Barth, Roanoke, Bro. Walter Feucht, Peoria, and Sis. Oleda Menold, Morton. We surely extend our best wishes to this couple as they "train up" this child in God's ways.

Sis. Lucille Romersberger was ill

for a short time, but has recovered. Bro. Dave Steffen was also sick. Sis. Lucille Wagner had surgery. Sis. Esther Kaupp has moved to the Eureka home.

Bro. Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL) was a visiting minister on July 13.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

**Annette Tanner
Julie Bahr**

Visiting ministers are very much appreciated at our Morton assembly. Special thanks to Bro. Ronald Allenbach (Kiowa), Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman and Bro. John Bradle (Roanoke), Bro. Erik Givens (Princeville), Bro. Randy Mogler (Washington), Bro. Glen Funk (Wichita), Elder Bro. Tim Funk (Peoria), Bro. Steve Baner (Gridley), Bro. Jeff Grimm (Goodfield), Bro. Ken Wuethrich (Indianapolis) and Bro. Steve Sauder (Tremont). Bro. Steve had our Wednesday evening family night topic "Three Mighty Men." Thank you for your encouragement to walk faithfully!

Sis. Penny Zaugg and Bro. Zach Maher became one in Holy Matrimony on June 29. Sis. Penny (from Morton) is the daughter of Bro. Norm and Sis. Polly Zaugg (West Bend). Bro. Zach is the son of Bro. Dan and Sis. Kim Maher (Roanoke).

Retired Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Sis. Shirley) held the wedding service for granddaughter, Sis. Laura Braker, and Bro. Ryan Luginbuhl on July 20. Sis. Laura is the daughter of Bro. Brad and Sis. Deb Braker. Bro. Ryan is the son of Bro. Rob and Sis. Gina Luginbuhl, Roanoke.

On June 28, Brock Bahr was united in marriage to Caitlin Maddock. Brock is the son of Bro. Brian and Sis. Julie Bahr. Caitlin is the daughter of Jim and Lori Maddock of Washington.

The announcement of the engage-

ment of Sis. Tori Warner to Bro. Andy Schick (Princeville) was made known July 20. Sis. Tori is the daughter of Bro. Scott and Sis. Deb Warner. Bro. Andy is the son of Bro. Stan and Sis. Margie Schick, Princeville.

On July 15 a new baby girl, Lola Jane, was born to Tim and Jodi Wagenbach. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Randy and Sis. Jane Schick and Bro. Si and Sis. Lavonne Wagenbach, Tremont.

Baby girl, Sophia Reagan entered the lives of Todd, Traci, and Andrew Uhlman on July 10. Bro. William and Sis. Eleanor Uhlman are the thankful grandparents.

Our prayers and sympathy are extended to Sis. Ella Herman in the loss of her sister, Catherine Wiedman; to Sis. Vi Funk in the loss of her brother, Bro. Edward Gramm (Sis. Lucille, Eureka); and also to Sis. Pearl Rassi (Bro. Eli) in the death of her brother, Willard Sweigert.

Sis. Elaine Schmidgall has asked for prayerful support for her physical health. Sis. Elaine specifically requested to report that she is recovering (without complications) from a June 24 surgery for the reoccurrence of her ovarian cancer and that she will have to resume chemotherapy at the end of July. Please be prayerful for Sis. Elaine.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

**Carissa Klopfenstein
Kristin Menold**

Two precious girls have been born this past month. We wish to congratulate Jay and Tara Brenner on the birth of their little girl, Myah Elizabeth. Proud grandparents are Bro. Spark and Sis. Rhonda Meister. Congratulations to Bro. Steve and Sis. Claire Hodel on the birth of their first child, a daughter, Mallory Raven, on June 18. Grandparents are Bro. Irvin and Sis. Sharon Hodel (Peoria)

and Bro. Jerome and Sis. Mary Witzig (Gridley).

We wish to congratulate our newly wedded couple, Bro. Eddie and Sis. Krista Meister. They were married in Gridley on July 13. Sis. Krista is the daughter of Bro. Mike and Sis. Rosemary Gramm (Gridley) and Eddie's parents are Ed and Sis. Dana Meister. Bro. Mike Rieker was the officiating minister. We welcome Sis. Krista to our Peoria Church and fellowship.

June 29 was the Sunday School picnic at the Fellowship Hall. It was a wonderful time of fellowship and fun for everyone. We wish to thank all the Sunday School teachers for their efforts to teach our children. May you be richly rewarded.

Vacation Bible School was a success. The students enjoyed all the fun activities and lessons. Great job to all of the teachers who volunteered and worked so hard to teach our children.

We appreciate all the visiting ministers that spoke to the Bible class during Vacation Bible School. They were: Monday - Bro. Kevin Knapp (Bloomington), Tuesday - Bro. Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington), Wednesday - Bro. Justin Koch (Washington), Thursday - Bro. Scott Wegman (Taylor), Friday - Bro. Trent Schrock (Leo). May God bless each of you and your families for serving us.

We were thankful to have Bro. Brad Bauer (Sis. Sandy, Tucson, AZ) and Bro. Bill Schick (Sis. Joan, Magdalena) minister the Word of God to us on Sunday, July 6. Bro. Bill came home to visit his mother. Our prayers are with you, Bro. Bill, and your family during this time.

We rejoice with Karl Weyeneth as he has begun his repentance this past month. Karl is the son of Bro. Merle and Sis. Mary Weyeneth. May you feel God's blessings as you grow in

your walk with God.

Because of the blood of Jesus, four converts have been announced for testimonies and baptisms on the weekend of July 26-27. They are: Annie Davidovics (Bro. Fedi and Sis. Ruth), Alex Funk (Elder Bro. Tim and Sis. Deb), Caleb Sauder (Bro. David and Sis. Rachel), and Tyler Hoerr (Tom Hoerr and Becky Hoerr). Our love and prayers are with each of you.

Please continue to lift up in prayer those who are ministering to the orphans in Mexico at La Casa de Vida y Esperanza. Bro. Tim and Sis. Joan Reinhard and family have been enjoying some well deserved rest on their furlough. It has been so good to have them in Peoria again. They plan to be in California for three weeks before they go back to Haiti the end of the summer.

Our Bro. Richard Guingrich has won the victory over death. After battling cancer for around six months, Bro. Rich passed away on July 8. Our prayers go to his wife, Nancy, and their children, as well as his brothers and sisters, including Wayne from our congregation.

Our sympathy also extends to Bro. David Sauder as his sister, Julia Malone, passed away on June 21. Sis. Wanda Grimm's father, and Sis. Lavonne Kieser's brother, Bro. Clifford Grimm, from West Bend, Iowa, also passed away this past month. Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this time of loss. May you feel the comforting presence of the Holy Spirit.

Prayer requests this month include Bro. Dan Messerli as he recovers from surgery, Bro. David Sauder Sr. with health issues, Sis. Verna Baurer, and Bro. Vernon Hohulin. May you feel God's almighty healing power.

We also prayerfully remember those in Oakville and Taylor whose

lands and homes have been flooded.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

**Linda Joos
Connie Christ**

"Love of all gifts is the greatest, which the Spirit does bestow." We rejoice with Bro. Mark Stoller (Bro. Gale and Sis. Sonia) and Sis. Katelyn Fehr (Dave and Sis. Linda) from Washington, IL, as their engagement was announced on June 22. On July 20, we also shared in the joy as Bro. Andy Schick (Bro. Stan and Sis. Margie) and Sis. Victoria Warner (Bro. Scott and Sis. Deborah) from Morton, IL, announced their engagement. May God bless both couples as they prepare for their lives as one in the Lord. We also rejoice with Jacob Streitmatter (Chuck and Linda) and Mary Ireland (Dave and Jean) as they were united in holy matrimony on July 5. May God's blessings be theirs now and in the coming years.

We are thankful for our visiting ministers this month. They included Bros. Ken Schneider (Remington, IN), John Lehman (Wolcott, IN) and Greg Lehman (Wolcott, IN). We appreciate their willingness to be our servants in bringing the living Word.

We have had several loved ones who have suffered the infirmities of the flesh this past month. They include Sis. Helen Knobloch (Bro. Jim), Sis. Gladys Knobloch, and Sis. Beulah Ehnle (Bro. Dave). May God's healing power be theirs in the coming days. Also, we are happy to report that our Sis. Elsie Mueller was able to move from the hospital to Peoria Skylines Home this month. May she continue to feel God's nearness and healing strength in the coming days.

We are thankful to welcome Bro. Jonathan and Sis. Megan Hodel and their children, Dexter, Hattie and Lexie, from Roanoke, IL, to worship with us. We are looking forward to

sharing our love with them as they join our church family.

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

**Judy Sauder
Dee Fehr**

The weekend of June 21-22 was a blessed occasion of welcoming three precious souls into the family of God and the brotherhood of Christ. Joan Swartz and Stephanie and Marc Rieke are our new sisters and brother in faith. We were also privileged to have three visiting ministers assemble with us on that Sunday: Elder Bro. Tim Funk (Peoria), Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield) and Bro. Steve Baner (Gridley). Bro. Justin Koch (Washington) also visited us this past month on July 13.

On June 22, Bro. Gary and Sis. Elna Wettstein's son, Bro. Curt (Gridley) was married to Sis. Larissa Wiegand, daughter of Bro. Larry and Sis. Lori Wiegand (Goodfield). The weddings of two of Bro. Dan and Sis. Kim Maher's sons took place in the past month. Bro. Zach Maher and Sis. Penny Zaugg (Morton) were united in marriage on June 29. Sis. Penny's parents are Bro. Norm and Sis. Polly Zaugg (West Bend). Bro. Cody Maher and Sis. Maggie Huber became husband and wife on July 13. Bro. Rich and Sis. Dawn Huber (Fairbury) are Sis. Maggie's parents.

Bro. Stephen and Sis. Susan Bertschi are first-time parents with the birth of Theodore Marcus on June 28. Grandparents are Bro. Rich and Sis. Bev Bertschi and Bro. Clark and Sis. Lisa Leman. Also welcoming their first child into their family are Bro. Nate and Sis. Jamie Hodel. Haley Jo was born on July 2. Her grandparents are Bro. Brent and Sis. Marge Hodel and Bro. Jim and Sis. Kay Knochel (Bay City). Bro. Matt and Sis. Hope Sauder celebrated the 4th of July with the birth of Jonah

Louis. Welcoming him home is big sister, Aliya, as well as grandparents, Bro. Bob and Sis. Jan Sauder and Bro. George and Sis. Fern Knapp (Goodfield). John and Sis. Barb Gastman gained another grandson on June 29 when Devin James joined the family of Bro. Chris W. and Sis. Michelle Miller (Congerville).

Bro. Jonathan and Sis. Megan Hodel have recently moved and are now making Princeville their home church. We pray for God's blessings and guidance as they and their children adjust to this change in their lives.

"The righteous cry, and the Lord heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles." (Psalm 34:17). Sis. Dorothy Martin was delivered from the infirmities of the physical body on June 24, when she entered into her eternal reward. Her surviving family includes one daughter, Sis. Janice (Al) Horner (Bloomington), and four sons, Bro. Sam (Sis. Jane), John (Arlene), Gary (Pam), and Ed Martin. Sis. Alice Kempf was also able to lay aside the earthly body and step into eternity on July 6. She is survived by five daughters, Elaine (Roger) Hodel, Sis. Maxine (Bro. Dave) Hodel (Bloomington), Gail (Gene) Smith, Boots (Jeff) Schrock, and Bernie (Don) Miller. Our sympathy is also extended to Bro. Bob and Sis. Marilyn Ott, upon the passing of Bro. Bob's mother, Elaine Ott, on July 4.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT
Teresa Rowell
Janice Sauder

We want to thank our visiting ministers for coming and sharing God's Word with us this past month. They include Bros. Matthew Rassi (Chicago, IL), Duane Rocke (Minneapolis, MN), Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL), Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL),

Darren Plattner (Champaign, IL) and Paul Kilgus (Fairbury, IL). May God bless each one for their service in our behalf.

Our congregation will miss David Callan, but wishes him God's presence and guidance as he leaves our area to begin his service as a Judge Advocate General in the Army. He will be going through about 5 ½ months of training in Virginia and South Carolina before his wife, Tammy, plans to join him at Fort Campbell, KY. They expect to be stationed there in Kentucky for the next few years.

On July 6, the engagement of Sis. Emily Frank (Bro. Doug and Sis. Cheri) and Bro. Timothy Schmidgall (Bro. Randy and Sis. Marj) of Bloomington was announced to our congregation. The next Sunday, on July 13, we heard the engagement announcement of Sis. Sarah Bolliger (Bro. Tom and Sis. Jane) and Bro. Royce Schieler (Bro. Brian and Sis. Teresa) of Goodfield. We certainly wish God's blessings upon these two dear couples as they make their plans for their upcoming weddings.

July 13 was the day our Sis. Janelle Kilgus (Bro. Todd and Sis. Rita) and Bro. Brent Sauder (Bro. Steve and Sis. Mary) exchanged their wedding vows. We wish them God's richest blessings as they begin their married life in Champaign, IL, where Bro. Brent has been living and working.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to the family of Willard Schweigert, upon his passing from this life. They include his wife, Della, and sons Clark (Janet), Don (Magdalena) and Robin, all of Tremont; and his daughter, Sis. Cherie (Bro. Drake) Moser of Bluffton, IN. Also, two of Willard's surviving siblings are Sis. Lydia Rassi and Sis. Elizabeth Sauder of Tremont.

Bro. Cleo Koch was a hospital patient this past month, and we wish him God's healing hand as he recovers.

Three families are rejoicing as their little babies have arrived! Bro. Todd and Sis. Wendy Sauder (of Morton) added Colt Joseph to their family on June 2. Caleb, Tori and Savannah welcome their new brother, along with grandparents, Bro. Bruce and Sis. Becky Sauder of Tremont. Savannah Marie Stuber was born on July 3, and her happy family is Bro. Troy and Sis. Anne, and big brothers, Matthew and Alex. Her grandparents are all from Tremont, Bro. Todd and Sis. Beth Stuber and Bro. Roger and Sis. JoAnn Beutel. Also happy grandparents are Bro. Pete and Sis. Debbie Aberle. They report the birth of Khloe Renee to their son and daughter-in-law, Ryan and Courtney Aberle of Troy, OH.

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

Eccles. 3:1

May we all rejoice in the Lord as He goes with us through all the seasons of life.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON
Elizabeth Heinold
Nancy Knepp

If you have gone a little way ahead of me, call back -

It will cheer my heart and help my feet along the stony track;
 And, if perhaps, Faith's light is dim,
 because the oil is low,
 Your call will guide my lagging course
 as wearily I go.

Call back, and tell me that He went
 with you into the storm;
 Call back, and say He kept you when
 the forest's roots were torn;

That, when the heavens thunder and
the earthquake shook the hill,
He bore you up and held you where
the lofty air was still.

O friend, call back, and tell me for I
cannot see your face;
They say it glows with triumph, and
your feet sprint in the race;
But there are mists between us and
my spirit eyes are dim,
And I cannot see the glory, though I
long for word of Him.

But if you'll say He heard you when
your prayer was but a cry,
And if you'll say He saw you through
the night's sin-darkened sky –
If you have gone a little way ahead, O
friend, call back –
It will cheer my heart and help my
feet along the stony track.
— Streams in the Desert

I was reminded of this poem when
Elder Bro. Ted Witzig (Sis. Cindy,
Morton, IL) presented our monthly
Bible study on mentoring. We were
also blessed by the visits of Bro. An-
drew Klaus (Sis. Jana, Tokyo), Bro.
Jay Knapp (Sis. Lisa, Tucson, AZ),
Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Sis. Kathy,
Roanoke, IL), and Elder Bro. Kent
Heimer (Sis. Jan, Taylor, MO).

We pray God's blessings on the en-
gagement of Sis. Katelyn Fehr (Dave
and Sis. Linda) and Bro. Mark Stoller
(Bro. Gale and Sis. Sonia, Prince-
ville). Our surgical patients this
month were Sis. Dolly Schick and Sis.
Stacy Ledford.

Our Elder Bro. Ron Messner and
his wife, Sis. Pam, are visiting their
son and his wife in Switzerland. We
pray for their safe return.

Note of Thanks:

On behalf of Tyson, Leslie, and
T.J., we thank you from the bottom of
our hearts for your generous gifts,
love, and prayers during this difficult
time in their lives. They have heard
from so many people and most of

them they have never met. This is ex-
tended to our Washington Church
family and other Apostolic churches
as well. It has been incredible! God
has revealed Himself through all of
you and we will be forever grateful.
We love you all.

*Bro. Steve and Sis. Vicki Bucher
Dan and Cody*

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

Stefanie Kipfer Jan Schwartz

“And we know that all things
work together for good to them that
love God, to them who are the called
according to His purpose.”

Romans 8:28

As God's children this month, we
have had many opportunities to
praise God for His purposes. Some of
that praise has been done with glad-
ness as we have welcomed new con-
verts, the joining of lives together in
marriage and the births of little
blessings; however, some of our
praising has been in tears as we have
lifted up in prayer our brothers and
sisters in the hospital or those that
have left their families and sought
their Heavenly reward.

The Bluffton congregation has
had two converts this month. Shane
Fiechter has decided to follow Jesus.
He is the son of Bro. Doug and Sis. Jill
Fiechter. Also joining the family of
God is Joanna Worthman. Joanna is
the daughter of Kent and Amy and
the granddaughter of the late Bro.
Bob Steffen. We, along with the an-
gels, rejoice with these two as they be-
gin their life-long following of Jesus.

On June 22, we also had the oppor-
tunity to witness the joining of Bro.
Kyle Schwartz (Bro. Scott and Sis.
Patty) and Sis. Kyann Kershner
(Bro. Dan and Sis. Jacki, Bluffton
North) in marriage. We are praising

God for their faithful examples as
they follow His leading.

On July 13, Bro. Rodney
Reimschisel (Bro. Todd and Sis. Lori)
and Sis. Heather Price (Bro. Steve
and Sis. Tonia) vowed their lives and
futures to one another during their
wedding service. Again, we had an
opportunity to view two young peo-
ple following their Savior and we are
thankful.

During this month, we have also
had three families rejoicing in the
birth of their children. Joe and
Cheryl Caffee's family increased in
size on June 28 with the addition of
Trey Brian. Trey's grandparents are
Bro. Denny and Sis. Becky. On July
1, Zion Wayne Garner made an ap-
pearance in the world when he was
born to Chris and Teresa. Zion joins
his brother Christopher and his
grandparents are Bro. Ralph and Sis.
Lucinda Steffen. Two days later, Ha-
zel Jane Pfister entered the world.
Hazel's parents are Bro. Vince and
Sis. Brandy and her siblings are
Lillian and Maxton. Hazel's excited
grandparents are Bro. Kendall and
Sis. Sandy Ringger and Bro. Al and
Sis. Becky Pfister. What a blessing
children are to their families!

As a church body, we have had
many opportunities to be on our
knees this month in prayer. Our Bro.
Jerry Gerber, Sis. Carolyn Roberts,
Bro. Steve Reinhard, Sis. Sarah
Reinhard, Bro. Mark Moser, Leslie
Aschliman (granddaughter of Bro.
Bob and Sis. Ida), David Gerber (son
of Bro. Darryl and Sis. Jinny) and
Mary Moffet (granddaughter of Sis.
Alice Steffen) have all spent time in
the hospital this month. We love
these children of God and will con-
tinue to pray for them.

We have also been praying for Sis.
Dora Aschliman's family as Dora
passed away recently. Our hearts go
out to all the family members who

have experienced loss.

It has also been our privilege to pray for our friends and family who are serving the Lord or their country across the world. This month we have had the opportunity to remember Kimberly Hart (niece to Gladys Mitchel) who is serving as a missionary in Nepal and India and Bro. Gary and Sis. Peggy Ifft who are serving in Ethiopia. Bro. Gary and Sis. Peggy have also reminded us of the growing famine and needs in Southern Ethiopia.

Brian Steffen (Bro. Craig and Sis. Jean) is serving his country in Iraq right now and our church body has the opportunity to remember him in prayer.

Bro. Rich and Sis. Amber Pfister and their four children, Katelyn, William, Seth and Kendra, have made a commitment to go to the mission fields of Haiti in March of next year. We are thankful for their faithfulness and are prayerful for their transition, their families and their purpose in Haiti.

The Bluffton congregation is saddened to say good-bye to the Zarkovacki family as they have decided to move back to Colorado. They will be missed!

On July 6, Bro. Steve Frauhiger (Sis. Irene, Bluffton North) shared God's Word with us over the pulpit. We are thankful for Steve's willingness to minister to us and be used by the Spirit.

This month three couples celebrated special anniversaries. Both Bro. Les and Sis. Rose Gerber and Bro. Wayne and Sis. Dorothy Fiechter have been blessed with 50 years of marriage. Celebrating their 60th anniversary were Bro. Bob and Sis. Jane Isch. All their lives are a wonderful example for the church.

As a church, we have much to praise God for!

**INDIANA
BLUFFTON NORTH
Jessie Longenberger
Sherry Pfister**

"I will sing of the mercies of the Lord for ever: with my mouth will I make known thy faithfulness to all generations."

Psalms 89:1

On June 22, our congregation rejoiced at the wedding ceremony of Sis. Kyann Kershner (Bro. Dan and Sis. Jackie) and Bro. Kyle Schwartz from Bluffton (Bro. Scott and Sis. Patti). Bro. Everett Hari (Sis. Beverly) from Bloomington visited and shared in the services for this happy occasion.

Sis. Virginia Groh passed away on July 12. Her husband, Floyd, preceded her in death in 1990. Her daughter, Sandy (Aaron) Kipfer, survives. Our love and prayers are with this family in their time of loss.

Hospitalizations this month included Sis. Carolyn Roberts who had hip surgery and Bro. Chandler Gerber (Bro. Todd and Sis. Michelle) who had surgery to correct a swallowing problem.

Many of our brothers and friends traveled to the Oakville, Iowa, area in this past month for work on the levies during the recent flooding there. We are thankful for traveling protection and the many opportunities to give help during this disaster effort.

We will continue to be prayerful for the upcoming Elder Conference the first part of August. Praying God's Spirit will be felt throughout the meetings and General Conference.

**INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE
Barbara Huber**

Jessica Murray

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

Hebrews 11:1

With this bedrock verse we greet you in the name of Jesus from Francesville. As we witness the health and growth of the crops in the fields around us, we can parallel it to an active, growing faith in our God.

We were richly blessed with a week of Vacation Bible School. Our theme was "God's Workshop" based on Ephesians 2:10 from which we were instructed and enlightened on how to be reconciled, renewed and ultimately rejoice by pursuing a purposeful life in Jesus Christ. Coming to serve us during the week were Bro. James Emch (Sis. Gina, Phoenix, AZ), Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Ruth, Wolcott, IN), Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern, KS) and Bro. Matt Kaufmann (Sis. Rebekah, Bloomington, IL). We pray that God richly blesses them for their love and service to us and that He also grants repentance and renewal to all of us.

We are rejoicing with our Bro. Phillip Huber (Bro. Brian and Sis. Jacki) as God has granted his prayerful desire by placing a special love for Sis. Stephanie Gerst in his heart. Sis. Stephanie is the daughter of Bro. Wally and Donna Gerst of the Alto, MI, congregation. They plan to be married on November 9. We extend our warmest congratulations and welcome Sis. Stephanie to our Francesville congregation. "The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, and he delighteth in his way." (Psalms 37:23)

Our Bro. Chad and Sis. Pam Huber, Paul, Anna, Timothy, Emma, Dylan and baby Lucas returned to Jamaica on July 4. Once again, we bid

them farewell with prayerful hearts for God's guidance and nearness as they follow God's will.

Our High School Bible Class traveled and returned from a mission trip to Mexico. We are so thankful for their safe travel and safety while in Mexico. It has been a blessing to hear testimonies of their experiences as they worked together in order to show Jesus Christ to a very needy culture. It is evident that the week impacted them greatly.

We are so thankful that our dear friend, Laura Hannon, has answered the loving call of Jesus to repent and live for Him. We pray that God grants abundant grace as she grows in faith and grace. "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God." (Ephesians 2:8)

"For I the Lord thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee." (Isaiah 41:13) We are prayerfully claiming the hope and promise of this verse as we pray for those in our congregation going through various trials of health at this time. We pray that they all will feel our love and prayers and then be touched by the comfort of the Holy Spirit.

**INDIANA
INDIANAPOLIS
Sandy Lichtle
Penny Schroder**

It has been a blessing to have Bro. Lon and Sis. Sarah Vogt (Bro. Ron and Sis. Edie Bollier) and their daughter, Aesha, visiting throughout the summer. They have been on furlough from their missions work in India. It was encouraging to hear how God has been faithful to them over the past two years and is working in the lives of those around them. We are sad to see them return; however, thankful we can entrust them

into the care of our Father.

This month we had two visiting ministers: Bro. Scott Schafer (Sis. Gigi, South Bend, IN) and Bro. Steph Baner (Sis. Donnalou, Gridley, IL). God's blessings on you for your service to our church family.

**INDIANA, LACROSSE
Bethany Johnson
Julie Rocke**

Summertime has been busy here with many of our congregation traveling and others coming to visit us. We are so glad to have visitors joining us for the wonderful Christian fellowship with which God has so richly blessed this faith.

Some of our brethren were able to travel to Oakville and Taylor this past month to help in the efforts there. We are thankful that God spared some and our hearts go out to the many who lost so much. We pray that each will feel God's nearness as He provides for His children according to His will.

Visiting ministers this month were Bros. Mike Rinkenberger (Sis. Pat, Congerville, IL) and Dale Zeltwanger (Sis. Rachel, Morris, MN). Thank you to each for ministering so faithfully and teaching the gospel message once more.

**INDIANA, LEO
Elizabeth Schrenk
Abigail Schrenk**

"For the LORD loveth judgment, and forsaketh not his saints; they are preserved for ever..."

Psalm 37:28a

This month we have seen the goodness of the Lord in several lives in our congregation.

Sis. Sharla Zollinger joined the staff at Gateway Woods as a Guid-

ance Counselor. She comes to us from our Sardis, OH, congregation. We are thankful to the Lord for her servant heart. We pray Sis. Sharla will feel at home in our assembly.

The Lord has also provided His faithfulness to us so far this summer in bringing many volunteers to Gateway Woods. We appreciate everyone who has come to share in this work of the Lord and pray God will richly bless each person beyond measure for their contribution.

Bro. Alex Gutwein (Sis. Lorelei) witnessed the watchful eye of the Lord as he recovered this month from an accident while on a family vacation. We have seen the Lord answer our prayers as Bro. Alex has been back worshipping with us again.

**INDIANA, MILFORD
Pam Beer
Carol Hurd**

God

Grant me the serenity
To accept the things
I cannot change ...
Courage to change
the things I can
and Wisdom
to know the difference.

As I was reaching for books for inspiration, a copy of this prayer fell out of a book. Somehow it seemed appropriate as the Milford congregation continues to pray for God's healing powers and much grace for Sis. Shelby Beer and her family.

Mathew Longcor, son of Bro. Bill and Sis. Judy, is recovering from gall bladder surgery. We thank God that this young man can feel well again.

On Wednesday, June 25, young and old alike enjoyed the annual church picnic. It is always good food and good Christian fellowship.

Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter continues to lead the Milford congregation

in special Bible studies. Recent verses used for meditation were:

“But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal.”

Matthew 6:20

“Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up.”

I Cor. 13:4

As I was looking at the church calendar, I could not help but notice that each month the ministers from the Milford Apostolic Christian Church are scheduled to help with special services at the Lakeland Loving Care Nursing Home here in town. I hear from my brother and sister-in-law how much these ministers are appreciated.

INDIANA, REMINGTON

**Jenni Honegger
Marcella Tyler**

At the end of June we enjoyed our annual Sunday School Picnic. The students recited from the Word and everyone present had a wonderful time. Seeing the youth of our church move up through the classes as they grow and mature is a wonderful privilege and joy for our whole church family to witness. This is the time of year when our new teachers begin their terms, and we want to be sure to encourage them that we are praying for them in their new duties, as well as to thank the outgoing teachers for their time and devotion.

Bro. Ken Weerts (Sis. Myrna, Cissna Park, IL) ministered to us one Sunday, and we appreciate his efforts on our behalf. We are so blessed to have men who are willing to be used by the Lord to faithfully bring us His

Word.

We were recently reminded of the end times and that we will need to endure by faith. Jesus tells us in Mark 13:6-8 to: “Take heed lest any man deceive you: For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. And when ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars... and there shall be earthquakes in divers places, and there shall be famines and troubles: these are the beginnings of sorrows.” We can see the strong hand of God in the floods that recently hit so many areas. We need to be steadfast in our walk with God. He earnestly tells us to “Watch”.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

**Becky Langhofer
Natalie Virkler**

“O give thanks unto the Lord for He is good: because His mercy endureth forever. The Lord is on my side, I will not fear: what can man do unto me? It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man. It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in princes. The Lord is my strength and song, and is become my salvation. This is the day that which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it. O give thanks unto the Lord for He is good: for His mercy endureth forever.”

Psalms 118:1,6,8,9,14,24,29

We are very thankful to those who have visited us this summer. Especially those who have come to share the Word with us: Bro. Walt Rager (Sis. Sharon, Toledo, OH) and Bro. Ken Hoerr (Peoria, IL). Thank you for your willingness!

Bro. Otto and Sis. DeAnn Schlatter brought their little girl home from Russia this month. We are thankful that the adoption process

went smoothly (although it has been a very long road) and that Diana Joy has joined their family! Diana's big brothers are Kenneth and Samuel, her grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Sue Beebe (South Bend), and Bro. Otto and Sis. Pat Schlatter (Alto, MI). May God bless you and your precious daughter!

INDIANA VALPARAISO Marguerite Hoerr

We are having our Vacation Bible School on three Wednesday nights in July and August. The first one was held on July 16, when ministering Bro. John Reinhard and Sis. Pam from the Bluffton congregation visited us. His lesson blessed everyone who could be there. We are eagerly looking forward to the other evenings of VBS for this year.

On one Sunday this month we were blessed with a visit from Bro. Lloyd Schumacher and his wife, Sis. Betty, from the Washington, IL, church. They met familiar faces and so many of us remembered much younger times when we had a chance to be with one or the other of them. As we all lunched together, we enjoyed the beautiful roses on the buffet table that Bro. Lyle Zeltwanger brought from his garden of roses. When everyone had been served, Bro. Lyle brought the bouquet to Sis. Betty, who was delighted with her gift. She said she would get double joy from them by sharing them with Sis. Ann Meiss, Lyle's oldest sister, when she returned home to Illinois. During the afternoon service, Bro. Mike Thomas noted that he'd seen this gift of roses take place and the song “Jesus Rose of Sharon” was announced. It seemed so appropriate, as we sang it with joy in our hearts. This event that we saw take place is an example of another bit of kindness that we observe

so often in our little church. There are few of us in number but the love between us is something to be treasured.

On July 6 we were blessed with another couple visiting us. Bro. Dick and Sis. Judy Klopfenstein from Elgin were our guests. They were so enjoyed by all of us. We asked them to remain with us to be guests at the Ice Cream Social the Sunday School kids were putting on after services in observance of Independence Day; but Dick and Judy were planning to visit family as they headed toward Elgin that evening.

Speaking of the Ice Cream Social ... After we all joined together in the dining room, the Sunday school young people asked us to join them in singing "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" and "I'm so Proud to be Called an American". Each one of them presented us with a reading or a poem that made us realize just how blessed we are to live in our America, where we're allowed to worship God freely and in our own way. Our Sunday School has become small in number, but the young folks and their teachers gave us a huge blessing.

Our Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus was with us on July 13, along with his wife, Sis. Jenna, and their two sons and a nephew. As always, their visit to us was one of showing love and helpfulness. We welcome them back any time.

As I was reading my devotions this morning, the following verse became very significant to me: "Look not every man on his own things; but every man also on the things of others." (Philippians 2:4). It impressed on my mind once again how often we've received comfort from our brothers and sisters. Caring for each other is truly a gift of love; and that gift can be extended among small congregations

as well as large ones. We're grateful to be among a group of believers who have that gift of caring. It encourages me to take heed and "pass it on".

We are feeling love so richly this week, as we sit by the side of Dick Pelath, our son-in-law who has chosen, after a three year bout with Multiple Myeloma and after another hospital stay, to return to his home to die. One by one, all of our children came from various states, with their spouses, to be with him during this time. We also had adult grandchildren come from Oregon and Minnesota. Those who couldn't come called. It's such a tender time when we observe family love at its fullest.

We have also observed church family love at its fullest when our ministering brothers and their wives visited us. They gave comforting hugs and words and prayed with us. Every day we receive a phone call from one of our church families. To feel the strength that comes from this love is truly a gift from God. We thank all of you who have been following this long journey of Dick's, and who have prayed for him. We felt your prayers.

Dick passed away early Sunday morning, July 27. Becky and two of their boys were with him. He got his wish "to die at home". Thank you for your loving prayers during his three years of illness.

**INDIANA
WEST LAFAYETTE
Hollie Meister
Darlene Walder**

Our congregation gathered this month for "Family Praise Night". We all enjoyed food, fellowship and fun. Bro. Lon and Sis. Sara Vogt and their daughter Aesha joined us to tell us about their mission in India. We would like to thank them and pray God would bless them as they con-

tinue to teach His Word.

Our sympathies go out to the Meister family for the passing of Bro. Bob Meister. He will truly be missed but we rejoice in knowing he is no longer suffering and has received his eternal reward with Christ.

We would like to thank Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Lacrosse, IN) and ministering Bro. James Emch (Phoenix, AZ) for helping on the pulpit this month. We appreciate their willingness to share God's Word with our congregation.

Note of Thanks:

We want to thank you for all the prayers, cards and visits we received during our hospitalizations and recovery. It is very comforting to feel the love and prayers from our church family.

Bro. Leon and Sis. Reva Waibel

**INDIANA, WOLCOTT
Lynell Blume
Erica Blume**

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior! As summer is upon us, the Lord sends the sunshine and the rain as He sees fit; so we each must rely on Him for our spiritual and physical needs.

Special thanks to Bro. Nate Lehman (Denver; CO) for ministering God's Word to us. It's always heartwarming when he and Sis. Yvonne return to visit us.

"These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."

St. John 16:33

Phillip and Sasha Kyburz have been blessed with peace that passeth all understanding. We look forward to hearing their testimonies in the

near future.

Our love and sympathy is extended to Bro. Troy and Sis. Lisa Furrer's family in the recent death of Sis. Lisa's brother-in-law. We pray that the many prayers offered on their behalf have been a source of comfort to them.

We enjoyed an afternoon of food and fellowship at our annual Sunday School picnic on June 29. We thank our Sunday School teachers who have put in much time, effort and love into teaching our children the Way, the Truth and the Life.

Submitting to surgery this past month were Benjy Lehman (Bro. Rob and Sis. Beckie) and Sis. Viola Stoller (Bro. Richard). We're thankful that they are both able to assemble with us again and are recovering well.

Note of Thanks:

We want to sincerely express our thanks and appreciation to our church family from near and far, including many whom we've never met, for the many prayers, cards of encouragement, gifts, food, and clothing given to us since we lost our home. We are thankful that God, in His mercy, spared us further tragedy and pain by allowing us to be in Kansas when our home burned. We have been overwhelmed and humbled by the outpouring of love and generosity to us, and just feel so unworthy of the many deeds of kindness. It has been your prayers and the Grace of God that has carried us through this valley in our lives. May God richly bless each one of you for your prayers, love, and overwhelming support in our time of need.

In Christian love,

Mike and Jody Bahler

Amber, Larissa, Leandra, Kenzie & Erin

IOWA, BLOOMFIELD
Christy Wiegand

"For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh."

Ephesians 5:31

We were blessed to have two marriages in our congregation this month. Sunday, July 6, was the wedding day for Sis. Boni Wettstein (Bro. Jon and Sis. Rita) and Bro. Vern Hostetler. Sunday, July 13, was the wedding day for Sis. Barbara Schock (Elder Bro. Doug and Sis. Clara) and Bro. Dan Rokey (Bro. Ken and Sis. Phyllis, Goodfield). We rejoice with these two couples and pray the Lord will be the center of their marriages.

Elder Bros. Wayne Grimm (Sis. Rose, West Bend) and Bruce Hohulin (Sis. Charlene, Goodfield) were here to assist in the ceremonies. Additional visiting ministers were Bros. Roy Koehl (Sis. Jenell, Morris), Wayne Wiegand (Sis. Rose, Goodfield), and Brad Funk (Sis. Laura, Garden Grove). We thank each of these brothers for being with us.

Our thoughts and prayers are with our Bro. Cleo Rinkenberger and his wife, Sis. Esther. Bro. Cleo has had some medical problems and has spent some time in the hospital. May the Lord continue to provide each day for those who call upon His name for help.

Our congregation is rejoicing with Matt Wettstein (Bro. Jon and Sis. Rita) as he has turned his heart in repentance to the Lord. We trust that God will guide Matt as he becomes established in His service.

We thank Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Sis. Judy, Forrest) for coming to help review the Elder surveys. We pray the Lord will bless them for

their love and support.

IOWA, BURLINGTON
Dixie Messner
Karla Gerst

We would like to express our thanks to God and to the visiting ministering brothers we had this past month for their service in His Word. Elder Bros. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) and Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA) were with us as well as all of the Oakville ministers - Bros. John Steiner, Dale Frank, and Jerry Wagenbach.

In spite of the circumstances, it was a blessing to be together with the Oakville brethren as they assembled with us until Oakville church was accessible once again. We have also appreciated the other visitors who have come for services with us as they take time out to help with the local flood cleanup. We are thankful for the loving kindness of the brotherhood and the fellowship that we can share in the Holy Spirit.

Love of Jesus, love of brethren,
Heal our souls from ev'ry smart!
Grant to us Thy purest motives
And a pure, unspotted heart,
And a pure, unspotted heart.

Zion's Harp #72, vs. 9

IOWA, ELGIN
Gloria Frieden

"Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord."

Psalms 127:3

Over and over, in scripture, children are referred to as a gift and a blessing. Perhaps, in today's world, there are those who might consider them a burden, but, in the eyes of God they are precious and esteemed highly.

On June 24, Mark and Sis.

Melanie Stettler welcomed little Gracie Kay into their hearts and home. Excited siblings are Faith and Jody. Also thankful for this addition to their family circles are Gracie's grandparents, Elmer and Darlene Stork and Mike Stettler.

We are thankful that those who have been on the "sick or surgical" list are back worshipping with us again. Sis. Millie Butikofer (Bro. Paul), Alex Callahan (Jeff and Tammy) and Sheryl Schroeder have each experienced God's healing hand upon them.

We appreciate all who have included the "Little Switzerland of Iowa" in their vacation plans. It is a wonderful blessing to have visitors and we welcome more to remember our little flock here in Elgin as they plan their vacations.

Our thanks to our Elder Bro. Wayne Grimm (Sis. Rose, West Bend, IA) for their surprise midweek visit. We appreciate Bro. Wayne's love and concern for our small gathering.

The annual Brotherhood Conference will be over by the time this issue reaches our homes, and we trust that God's Spirit was again felt deeply and many hearts were (and will continue to be) stirred by the directives that went forth.

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE **Willia Clark**

Once again parents and children are preparing for the beginning of another school year. Whether it is going off to college or the first day of kindergarten, attending public, private or home schools, the student endeavors to learn new facts, figures and concepts. At this time especially it is important to remember Psalms 111:10. "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments."

Solomon says in Proverbs 2, "My son, if thou wilt receive my words and hide my commandments with thee, so that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding, if thou criest after knowledge and liftest up thy voice for understanding . . . then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God. For the Lord giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding."

Our prayer for each student is that they will gain not only knowledge for this earthly life, but that they will also study to receive God's Word, grow in wisdom and have good understanding of His commandments. Those of us who think we are past the "student" stage would do well to remember we must be life-long students of His Word.

We have been blessed by the presence of many visitors this summer. This month we thank Bro. Rex Frieden (Sis. Vera, Lamar, MO) for their efforts to serve us.

Our hearts go out to the many who have experienced flood waters and storm damage recently, especially in the Oakville and Taylor areas. In view of flooding in many areas of Iowa, an Iowa organization's newsletter read, "We are thankful to have a little water in our basement." Ordinarily water in the basement would not be a gift to be thankful for, but when some homes and businesses have water to the roofline, a little water in the basement is a great gift.

IOWA, IOWA CITY **Diana Butikofer**

Bro. Darren and Sis. Nora Fehr (West Bend, IA) and their family visited us recently, as did Bro. Dale and Sis. Cheryl Moore (Elgin, IA). We thank Bros. Darren and Dale for their service to us in sharing God's

Word.

Our annual College Student Picnic will be on Sunday, September 21. All students who will be attending a college in the area are invited to attend church with us for the day and the picnic following. Family members (parents, spouses, siblings, friends, etc.) are also welcome. Please let Sis. Connie Gerst (319-846-2348) know of any students who will be in our area.

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

Visiting ministers this past month included: Bro. Fred Funk (Morton, IL), Bro. Paul Schmidgall (Morris, MN), Bro. Jim Butikofer (Iowa City, IA), Bro. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS) and Bro. Darren Fehr (West Bend, IA). We do appreciate their labors of love on our behalf.

"The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee, and give thee peace."

Numbers 6:26

We rejoice with convert, Cassie Metzger (Bro. Tom and Sis. Deb), as she has found that wonderful gift of peace that comes when our burdens are lifted at Calvary and we can feel the forgiveness from our sins. May Cassie continue to place her trust in our loving Heavenly Father.

On June 29, the betrothal of Sis. Andrea Knobloch (Bro. Stan and Sis. Dawn) and Bro. Joe Ehnle (Bro. Gary and Sis. Carole) from Eureka, IL, was announced to the congregation. We pray God's blessings on these dear souls as they make plans for their life together.

Our hospital patients were John Popkes (Sis. Karmin), Sis. Rachel Leman (Bro. Cory) and Bro. John Tolvstad. Our convert, Betty Popkes, is hospitalized at this time.

May God provide His Hand of healing and comfort according to His will.

What glorious state, to be a lamb of Jesus,
To feel the faithful Shepherd's loving grace.
In all the earth there is no higher standing
Than this to follow in the Saviour's ways.
Zion's Harp #16

The weekend of July 12-13, we heard the provings and witnessed the baptisms of Sis. Kyla and Sis. Maura Knobloch (Bro. Stan and Sis. Dawn) and Sis. Whitney Metzger (Bro. Blair and Sis. Julie). It was truly a special time as we welcomed these three tender lambs into the fold and pray that God's grace and nearness will be upon them as they begin their life as sisters of Jesus Christ. Elder Bro. Ben Walder (Congerville, IL) was here to assist our Elder Bro. Dennis Warner in this important work. Also here for the weekend were ministering Bros. James Knapp (Congerville, IL), Kevin Banwart (West Bend, IA) and Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL). May God bless and provide for them all as they preach the gospel of salvation.

"I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in Heaven over one sinner that repenteth."

St. Luke 15:7

We rejoice that Janae Mogler (Bro. Dwight and Sis. Donna), Joanna Knobloch (Bro. Terry and Sis. Elaine) and Shannon Desmet (Bro. Bob and Sis. Shirley) are turning their lives to God in repentance. Our prayer is that they will feel the grace of God guiding them as they establish a firm foundation on Jesus Christ, the Solid Rock.

IOWA, OAKVILLE

Sharla Wiegand

It was a great blessing to gather on June 28 and 29 for provings and baptisms of Kory Wagenbach (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Bonnie Jr.), Alex Lanz (Bro. Ron and Sis. Timna) and Kelsey Lanz (Bro. Tom and Sis. Mary). Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL) came to assist in the work. Bro. Phil Schulz also shared in the ministry on Sunday.

Because of the flood in our area, we have been blessed with visitors from all over who have come to volunteer. On July 6, our pulpit was filled with visiting ministers: Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Matt Steffen (Princeville, IL) and Bro. Rod Bajema (Lester, IA). May the Lord bless them for their efforts.

Sunday School election was held on July 6 and the new teachers are: Bros. Walt Gerst, Brian Knapp and Mark Schmidgall, and Sisters Joni Massner and Luann Schmidgall. We thank the outgoing teachers for their years of service: Bros. Dan Frank, Ken Lanz, Marc Wagenbach and Sisters Nola Gerst and Stacia Tapp.

IOWA, WEST BEND

Sue Schneider Janet Fehr

"Live joyfully with the wife whom thou lovest all the days of the life of thy vanity, which he hath given thee under the sun..."

Eccles. 9:9

During the month of June, three young couples from our area have joined hand and heart in the bond of holy matrimony. Jesse Leman (Bro. Dale and Sis. Lezlee) and Molly Hefty (Dave and Becky) were the first of

these couple to take this step. Their wedding took place on June 21. On June 28, Carrie Fisher (the late Harold and the late Marie) and Matthew Putz became one. The following day, June 29, Sis. Penny Zaugg (Bro. Norm and Sis. Polly) and Bro. Zach Maher (Bro. Dan and Sis. Kim) from Roanoke, IL, were united in marriage at Penny's home church in Morton, IL. May God be an important part of each of these new marriages and households.

Andy Bruellman (Bro. Larry and Sis. Teresa) has returned home from his tour of duty in Kosovo. We are all thankful! No doubt, the experiences he had will remain with him for a lifetime.

On Sunday, June 22, we were glad that Bro. Dean Messner (Sis. Wanda, Winthrop, MN) could be here with us. Also on July 6 Bro. Larry Wenninger (Sis. Joyce, Latty, OH) and Bro. Roy Koehl (Sis. Jenell, Morris, MN) joined our flock to assemble around the Word. We appreciated each one and their service to the Lord.

Our prayers were with Ervin (Nettie) Banwart during his surgery and return home. May God provide healing and His presence in his life.

JAPAN, TOKYO

Marie Inoue

Our rainy season has just finished for this year. Our hearts go out to the Iowa brethren who were affected by the flood situation. I was quite surprised to open our daily English newspaper a few weeks ago and read an article about the Oakville area. The article included a small picture with brethren filling sand bags and the Oakville church in the background. There was no mistake that it was our church as I noticed the headcoverings and the modest dress of the sisters. May God bless every ef-

fort put forth to help the brethren.

We are thankful we could have two visiting ministers this summer. Bro. Akihiro Ito (Sis. Carrie), our new minister from the Shioda church spent a Sunday with us in June. We always appreciate their help and concern with the members and friends of our church. In July, Bro. Loren Schrenk (Sis. Betsy) and Bro. Matt visited here on an Asian trip to a conference in Hong Kong. He mentioned of his affliction with tongue cancer. This was a trying time for their family and they thank the Lord for His healing and guidance in their lives. The Lord has also helped him provide medical assistance to those with eye problems in Mexico.

Another visitor was Bro. Aaron Kachalmuss (Bloomington, IL). He was an exchange student at the college level for a month. He happened to be located not far from our area. We enjoyed his fellowship and sharing in our services at church. There happened to be a problem with his telephone number which gave an occasion for my husband to speak with Aaron's host father, Mr. Hayashi. After the problem was straightened out, Mr. Hayashi commented to Akito what a special guest Aaron has been in their home, a very cooperative and pleasant student. We thank the Lord for Aaron's Godly example to a family who is yet to know the true God.

Likewise we enjoyed another visit of Sis. Doris Fischer (Roanoke, IL). She is employed by CAT and comes here a week or so at a time for business. May God bless her endeavors as she lets her light shine.

KANSAS, BERN

Jill Meyer

Rita Menold

We congratulate Bro. Morris and

Sis. Arlinda Rokey on the addition of a new grandson to their family. Connor Willis was born to Trent and Jenny Rokey of Shawnee, KS, on June 2.

Cabriel Renyer (Greg and Sis. Carol) and John Mead exchanged their wedding vows on June 21. May God bless them as they make their home in Argonia, KS.

We were blessed to have Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Sis. Julie; Oakville, IA) here on July 13 to share the Word of Life with us. Our prayers continue to be with all of our Elders and ministers in the great responsibility they have been given.

As the wheat harvest here in Kansas draws to a close, it reminds us of the great harvest that will come someday. May we all be found ready and waiting for the return of our Lord and Savior!

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT

Martin Hohulin

This month I waited until the last minute to send in the Silver Lining report and on July 14 received word our dear Sister in Christ, Maria Bahr (Bro. Jerry Bahr), was struck by a car while riding her bicycle. She was air lifted to a trauma center in Joplin, MO. We are grateful God was watching over her as she was able to return home the same day. The helmet she was wearing broke, but spared her from further injuries.

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

On the weekend of June 21, our church was filled with friends and

relatives for the joyous occasion of the proving and baptism of David Sinn. Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Connie), assisted by our local ministers, so ably conducted this important work. Bro. David is 30 years old and has attended church for many years. We embrace him as our Brother in Christ.

We had several volunteers travel to Kiowa, KS, to assist with the wheat harvest. A few weeks later, more volunteers drove to Taylor, MO, to assist with the flood efforts. These Brothers and Sisters reported receiving many blessings for their efforts.

On July 13, Bro. Ed Fritz (Sis. Sally, Washington IL) was our visiting minister. This was especially meaningful to me as I have known his family for many years. It is always so special to renew lifelong friendships in Christ.

KANSAS, KIOWA

Janice Bahr

Jenny Stewart

The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not
want;
He maketh me down to lie
In pastures green, He leadeth me
The quiet waters by.
My soul crieth out: "Restore me again,
And give me the strength to take
The narrow path of righteousness,
E'en for His own name's sake."
Yea, tho' I should walk the valley of
death,
Yet why should I fear from ill?
For Thou art with me, and Thy rod
And staff me comfort still.
His yoke is easy, His burden is light,
I've found it so, I've found it so;
He leadeth me by day and by night,
Where living waters flow.

Hymns of Zion #130

With all of the many summer activities, it is such a blessing to know that we have a loving Shepherd to lead and guide us. May God direct you

on His path, and may you have room in your hearts for Him.

**KANSAS
LAMONT-GRIDLEY
Ester Knobloch**

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."

O grant me now Thy grace
That I, with true devotion,
May ever by Thee stand,
Though stormy be life's ocean.
And with Thy blessing, Lord,
May I in faith remain,
And to that kingdom come
Where peace shall ever reign.

Zion's Harp #43, vs. 1,4

Our congregation rejoiced as Liz Isch (Justin) made a covenant with God and buried her old life in the waters of baptism. We welcome her as our Sister in Christ and pray that she will always feel God's peace and nearness. Here to assist Elder Bo. Jay in this important work was Elder Bro. Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA). Other visiting ministers this past month include Bros. Brandon Emch (Kansas City, MO), Shawn Metzger (Philadelphia, PA) and Cory Metzger (Wichita, KS). We thank them for being willing servants of the Lord.

Bro. Tim and Sis. Barb Zimmerman are thankful for the safe arrival of their first grandchild, Makila Marie, born May 13 to Aaron and Stacie Kuenzi (Silverton, OR). Bro. Max Burnham is also welcoming a new grandson, Octavian Edward, born June 12 to Paul and Kristin Dean. We pray that God will grant both sets of parents much strength and wisdom in raising their precious gift.

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

Luke 15:10

How thankful we are that Corbin Knobloch (Bro. Tom and Sis. Jeri) has answered God's call and is seeking his soul's salvation in repentance. We pray that God will grant him grace to turn his back to the world and keep his eyes on the cross.

Sis. Kasha Kraft (Bro. Doug and Sis. Judy) graduated from high school and Sis. Andrea Luthi (Elder Bro. Jay and Sis. Jane) graduated from college. We trust that God will bless them as they go on into the future and that they will look to Him for guidance and direction in this life.

**KANSAS, SABETHA
Rebekah Beyer
Carrie Grimm**

We are prayerful for those who have infirmities of the flesh or were recent surgical patients. They are Sis. Jeryl Grimm (Bro. Doug), Sis. Carrie Strahm (Bro. Tom), Kyle Grimm (Bro. Kent and Sis. Molly), and Janice Young (Roger).

God has led two lives together. Sis. Renee Grimm (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Nita) is engaged to Bro. Seth Leman (Bro. Fred and Sis. Brenda) of Forrest, IL. A September 21 wedding is being planned.

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Jeff Bahler (Sis. Heidi, Wolcott, IN), Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen, Kansas City, MO), Bro. Kevin Banwart (Sis. Sandy, West Bend, IA) and Elder Bro. Wayne Grimm (Sis. Rose, West Bend, IA). Thank-you for lending yourselves in the service of our Lord.

Bro. Gene and Sis. Marian Kellenberger recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary.

Family and friends gathered to share memories and thankfulness for the many years of togetherness that God has provided this dear couple.

Our congregation was saddened to hear of the passing of our friend, Nancy Wernli. Nancy was a resident of Lakeside Terrace here in Sabetha.

Excitement has filled the home and hearts of Bro. Darin and Sis. Marci, Ashley, Brianna and Megan Grimm! A boy, Weston Ray, was born to their family on July 7.

It is an enjoyable occasion when we can gather as a church family and spend time in fellowship. A potluck supper and singing were held in conjunction with the Bern congregation on June 29. Also, the Sabetha congregation gathered for a picnic on July 12.

Tyler Huber (Bro. Gordon and Sis. Sharlyn) is looking forward to sharing his testimony with the church on July 19 and then, Lord willing, baptism on July 20. What a blessing it is to hear how God has worked in a dear soul and to watch as they live a new life in Christ.

The Sabetha and Bern Singles Groups recently hosted an invited guest weekend. The fellowship and kindred ties were an encouragement to all!

**KANSAS, WICHITA
Emma Miller**

Summer days bring opportunities for visitors who are passing through Wichita to worship with us and they also offer those in our home church a time to take vacations. Our three ministers cooperate to see that we are not left without a minister for our weekly services.

I had an interesting experience this past month. I knew on Friday night that I would not have a way to go to church on Sunday. I resigned myself to the fact, yet, I felt the Lord

was telling me to make plans to go. At 8:00 Sunday morning, Elder Bro. Jay Luthi called to say they could stop for me as they were enroute to Wichita. Not only does Bro. Jay care for us as a church, but he cares for us as individuals.

Derek Funk is home for a brief time from his duty in Iraq. His time in the States permitted him to take his wife and three small sons to visit his paternal grandmother in Morton, Illinois. From there they planned to attend the Art Wullschleger family reunion in Holland, Michigan. Derek plans to return to his work in Iraq. Our prayers should intercede for the safety of those who are involved in the conflict as well as for their families who are waiting for their return.

When one has happy moments, praise God; difficult moments, seek God; quiet moments, worship God; painful moments, trust God; and every moment, thank God.

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON **Barb Huber**

"But let all those that put their trust in thee rejoice: let them ever shout for joy, because thou defendest them: let them also that love thy name be joyful in thee."

Psalm 5:11

What a privilege it was to assemble on June 28 to remember the sufferings of our dear Lord and Saviour Jesus and partake of Holy Communion together.

Our Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Sis. Roberta, Smithville, OH) was assisted by Elder Bro. Merle Hartzler (Rittman, OH). May God richly reward these dear Brothers for their faithful efforts in His service. Other visiting ministers this past month were Bro. Lenard Meyer (Sis. Charlotte, Chicago, IL) and Elder Bro.

Tom Stock (Sis. Karol, Cissna, IL) and their dear family. We appreciate each of them and their willingness to share God's Holy Word.

We were also blessed by the fellowship of visitors from the following churches: Burlington, Oakville, IA; Fairbury, IL; Francesville, IN; Detroit, MI; Akron, OH; and Austin, TX. It's always an encouragement to have you worship with us.

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

MEXICO, IXTLAN **Matt Gerber**

"Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven."

Matthew 6:9-10

Jesus teaches us to pray corporately as well as privately to our Father, and reminds us that He rules in heaven with power and holy love. Instead of praying for God to make our name great, to further our personal agendas, or to make our lives more comfortable, we pray that His name would be honored, that knees would bow and tongues confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, and His rule would come into hearts, and towns, and people groups around the world. Oh, that we might be filled with the longing to see Christ worshiped in earth as fully and truly as He is being worshiped in heaven! Oh, that we not be satisfied until His salvation is known unto the ends of the earth!

This was our corporate prayer this past week during Vacation Bible School (July 7-11). We were blessed with a number of children and youth, and were moved as we saw them sing

praises to God and learn the stories of Jesus' power and miracles. The Saturday night before VBS week, the young group read Psalm 96 together to inspire us to share our salvation with others, and to remind us of the urgency of doing so. God's judgment is coming. Life is short, and young people sometimes die young. It's easy to have the attitude, "O well, if we don't reach them this year, there's always next year." But maybe not. Some of those young people might not live to next year, or Christ may return before then. This point hit home the weekend after VBS. A young man from one of the nearby towns where we picked up some children for VBS was driving on a road by a river. He missed the curve and plunged into the storm-swollen water. The passenger escaped, but they weren't able to find the driver. Tragedy strikes. Lives end. Unconverted young people die in their sins. The Gospel is the most important and most urgent message the world needs to hear.

VBS will be held in Morelia from July 21-25, and in Barra Vieja from August 4-8, Lord willing. We also plan to start English classes for adults and youth in September as an outreach to the community. We are grateful for your corporate prayers together with ours that Christ's name would be honored, God's kingdom would continue to come, His will would be done, and all for His glory.

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

Our thanks to visiting ministering Bro. Dan Koch (Sis. Julie, Tremont, IL) who preached God's Word twice in the midst of his family vacation. May he be blessed for his service.

The young group invited the Remington/Wolcott and Bluffton,

IN, young groups for a weekend of fellowship. It was a busy but delightful time. We sure appreciate the front benches being filled on Sunday and the extra voices lifted in songs of praise and hymns. A special thanks to the sisters who helped feed this large group!

One of the activities with the visiting young people was "food packing". We have also had several family World Relief nights in which rice pilaf or dried vegetable soup are mixed and packed in five or ten-serving bags. These are much in demand at our local soup kitchens and are also available to be shipped abroad. We are so glad to be able to help the needy even in what seems to be a small way.

Bro. Jim and Sis. Julie Blough are the ever-so-delighted grandparents of little Audrey Elenbaas. Audrey's parents, Jason and Joanna, and her brother, Jacob, are also excited to welcome her home.

We're sorry to see Bro. Nate, Sis. Kathy, Amanda and Derek Knochel head back to Phoenix after their summer in Michigan. It is a blessing to have them join our fellowship for a portion of each year.

Sis. Julie Blough (Bro. Jim) has been suffering from an unexplained partial paralysis. Our prayer is for healing and also for the medical professionals to be able to identify the cause and ease her symptoms. Sis. Listyn Oesch (Bro. Andy) was briefly hospitalized. We are praying that she will soon begin to feel better. There are always loved ones suffering pain and poor health, and we want to remember all of them in our prayers.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY
Sarah Knochel
Janelle Ramseyer

"...Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all

thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself."

Luke 10:27

This verse was the theme of this year's Vacation Bible School, which was held June 16-21. On Wednesday evening, Bro. Lucas Frank (Sis. Crystal, Detroit, MI) shared "Love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, soul, strength and mind" and on Saturday evening, Bro. Gary Sinn (Sis. Paulette, Latty, OH) exhorted us on "And thy neighbour as thyself". Bro. Gary also spent the following Sunday with our congregation. Bro. Jim Butikofer (Sis. Diana, Iowa City, IA) spent a Sunday and a Wednesday evening with us as he was traveling on business. Bro. Don Manz (Sis. Connie, Junction, OH) also spent a Sunday with our congregation. We thank all of these brothers and wish them God's richest blessings.

Our prayers are with Bill Bateson (Lori), Sis. Marlene Mosher, and Sis. Mabelle Wackerle as each of them spent time in the hospital recently.

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

Psalms 127:3

John and Sis. Winifred Gorney welcomed another granddaughter into their family circle. Miley Margret was born to Greg and Joy Gorney.

Bro. Jim and Sis. Kay Knochel are thankful first-time grandparents. Haley Jo Hodel was born to Bro. Nathan and Sis. Jamie (Roanoke, IL). Bro. Norman and Sis. Leanore Knochel are Haley's maternal great-grandparents.

We are thankful that God has provided beautiful summer weather here in Michigan. Our thoughts and

prayers are with those who are suffering from the devastation of flooding in the Midwest. May God provide what is needed for each one.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT
Manuela Denes
Tamra Coughlin

"God loveth a cheerful giver..."
II Cor. 9:7

This July brought the annual Woodhaven / Woodpointe Benefit Day. The Lord and the congregation were thoroughly blessed through the singing of the Detroit Choir and the Covenant Chamber Choir. For all those visitors who shared your love, gratitude, music and/or financial support, we are deeply humbled by your giving spirit.

We also thank visiting Elder Bro. Ted Steffen and his wife, Sis. Sandi, who came from Alto on July 8 and held church services at Woodhaven.

MINNESOTA
MINNEAPOLIS
Mary Mogler

"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might."

Ephesians 6:10

With much enthusiasm, many Sunday school students came together for the week of Vacation Bible School, July 14-18. This year's theme was "Be strong in the Lord", and the evenings were filled with Old Testament accounts of godly men and lessons that we can apply to our own lives. It was a blessed week of learning, fellowship and song, and a wonderful opportunity to draw closer to God and each other.

Many fun activities and delicious

food was enjoyed as we gathered for a picnic to commemorate the completions of another year of Sunday school. We thank God for the blessings on these past months and our teachers for their loving commitment to teaching our children.

Bro. Doug and Sis. Connie Bergstrom shared the joyful news of the birth of their first granddaughter, Haley Marie. Haley's parents are Aric and Deena Bergstrom, and big brother is Blake.

We wish much happiness and God's presence in the lives of Brooke Kent and Ryan Fox as they became husband and wife on June 29. Brooke's parents are Darcy and Jill, and the late Sis. Rachael Kent.

Visiting ministers, Bro. Clint Schmidt (Sis. Magdalena, Winthrop, MN) and Elder Bro. Don Braker (Sis. Eileen, Kansas City, MO) shared God's Word with us this month. We appreciated their inspired messages and the added fellowship of their families.

For many years Bro. Don and Sis. Josie Esterling made their home in the Twin Cities area and they were a vital part of our congregation. We have precious memories of these years, and Bro. Don's gentle smile and love for each of us came to mind when we heard of his passing. We rejoice in his victory, but in their loss, we extend our sympathy to his dear wife, Josie, and their children and families, as well as Bro. Don's extended family that assemble with us.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS
Sheila Reuter
Susie Nohl

We were thankful for the visiting ministers this month. Bro. Mark Schmidgall (Sis. Lisa, Eureka, IL), Bro. Todd Stoller (Sis. Pam, Latty, OH), Bro. Brian Huber (Sis. Jacki, Francesville, IN), Bro. Galen Rokey

(Sis. Nancy, Bern, KS) and Bro. James Koehl (Sis. Hildegard, San Diego, CA) shared the Word with us.

Our congratulations are with Bro. Randy and Sis. Shirley Koehl on the birth of their grandson, Evan Graham Scott. Evan's parents are Bro. Tyler and Sis. Alexis Scott of Prescott, AZ. Bro. Paul and Sis. Heidi Wulf were blessed with daughter, Angela Ann. Welcoming her home is siblings, Megan, Jeremy and Julia.

Bro. Mike Koehl (Bro. Guy and Sis. Lynette) and Sis. Myra Messner (Bro. Sid and Sis. Cheryl) were united in marriage. May God bless them.

Our congratulations are with Brad Feuchtenberger (Bro. Robert and Sis. Gwen) and Jamie Kieffer as they were united in marriage. We also congratulate Scott Wulf (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Judy) and Alyssa Goeller as they were united in marriage.

We would like to welcome Sis. Kim Luginbuhl as she has moved here from Smithville, OH. May God be with her.

Our prayers are with Bro. Don (Sis. Josie) Esterling as he is currently in the hospital. Bro. Frank (Sis. Gladys) Messner and Sis. Shelia (Bro. Greg) Reuter were also in the hospital this month. May God's healing hand be upon them.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP
Rachel Steiner
Julie Schmidt

My country 'tis of thee,
 Sweet land of liberty,
 Of thee I sing:
 Land where my fathers died,
 Land of the pilgrim's pride,
 From ev'ry mountain side
 Let freedom ring!

Tabernacle Hymns #351

As we celebrated our country's

freedom, may we also be reminded of the freedom that we may obtain through the blood of our Lord and Savior.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Mike Messner (Sis. Joyce) as he had a recent surgery. We are thankful for God's healing hand upon him.

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY
Brittany Fehr

We appreciate the visiting ministers who have recently labored in our congregation. These include Bro. Eugene Metzger (Sis. Dolores, Lester, IA) and Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Sis. Jane, Lamont-Gridley, KS). May God's richest blessings be upon them for their efforts.

MISSOURI, LAMAR
Becky Luthi
Dana Braker

This month we welcomed several souls into our congregation. On July 1, Mariah Lynn was born to Bro. Michael and Sis. Kristi Huber. After spending some time in the hospital, she was welcomed home by siblings: Laura, Seth, Emily and Ely. Grandparents are Bro. Raymond and Sis. Violet Luthi and Bro. Gary Huber (Eureka, IL) and Karen Huber (Peoria, IL). We are thankful that she is home and well, and wish them much grace as they strive to raise their family in the fear of the Lord.

On July 6, Bro. Evan Braker (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Carol) and Sis. Crystal Stoller (Bro. Greg and Sis. Jill, Forrest, IL) were united in Holy Matrimony. We welcome Sis. Crystal to Lamar. We hope and pray they can continue to seek God's direction and strive to do His will in their lives.

Bro. Brian and Sis. Kristen Leman welcomed Kara Marie to their family on July 19. Her siblings are

Brett, Andrew, Quinton, and Abigail. Grandparents are Bob and Sis. Janice Stoller and Bro. Terry and Sis. Shirley Leman (Eureka, IL). We likewise wish them God's grace.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

Meagan Wuethrich

With mixed emotions we bid farewell to Bro. Scott and Sis. Shayna Mangers as they relocate to Altadena, CA. While we are rejoicing that the Lord is leading them in this new step in their lives, we are really going to miss their presence and active involvement in our small congregation. The St. Louis Sunday School is certainly going to miss Bro. Scott! We pray God's blessings on them both for the love they have shown us, and that His face will continue to shine on them.

Our visiting ministers this month were Bros. Marvin Leman (Sis. Jane, Bradford) and Craig Martin (Sis. Terri, Princeville). We appreciate their willingness to come and share the Word with us.

We welcome home Bro. Loren and Sis. Betsy Schrenk and their son, Bro. Matthew, who have just returned from a trip to China and Japan. When relaying their different experiences, they shared that the most enjoyable one was spending time with our brethren in Japan. What a tremendous blessing we have in our church to be able to travel many miles and find brethren of like mind and faith!

MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Kathy Eberhardt

As we were preparing for the flood, moving out and moving back in to save our earthly homes, I wondered if we were preparing so thoroughly for our heavenly home. The levee did hold for our Taylor families,

God has answered many prayers, and we would like to thank all the help from the brotherhood across our country. May God bless you all in return.

We are rejoicing in our church for two souls who have answered their heavenly Father's call: Craig Sutter (Bro. Steve and Sis. Deb), and Austin Yackley (Bro. Joe and Sis. Jerilyn). Sunday, July 13, we added four new members to our congregation: Bro. Chad and Sis. Lisa Massner (Bro. Allen and Sis. Rosie), Bro. Clinton Sutter (Bro. Steve and Sis. Deb), and Bro. Tyler Haerr (Bro. Shon and Sis. Peg). It was an uplifting day for our Taylor church family. Elder Bro. Tim Funk (Sis. Deb, Peoria, IL) and Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern, KS) assisted with the testimonies and baptisms. Also bringing forth the Word on this day was Bro. Fred Funk (Sis. Diane, Morton, IL), Bro. Virgil Kaeb (Sis. Suellen, Sarasota, FL) and Bro. Lenny Meyer (Sis. Charlotte, Chicago IL).

Our July Bible Study has been entitled "Lay Down the Burdens of Your Heart." Our theme verse is Matt. 11:28, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." The first week Bro. Cory Metzger (Sis. Jodi, Wichita, KS), spoke about spiritual burdens, referencing Hebrews 12:1, "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us." Bro. Dave Obergfel (Sis. Kathy, Peoria, IL) came for our second week. His talk covered Family Burdens, using Psalms 55:22, "Cast

thy burden upon the Lord, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved." For our third week, Bro. Matt Kaufmann (Sis. Rebekah, Bloomington, IL) used Gal. 6:2, "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ" to teach about Church Family Burdens. Our final week, we plan on hearing from Bro. Duane Rocke (Sis. Bonnie, Minneapolis, MN) about Financial Burdens, using Matt. 11:30, "For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." Thanks to all the visiting ministers this month, who have traveled many miles to spread the good news about Jesus.

Elder Bro. Kent Heimer and his dear family recently traveled to Haiti. They were there to help with the dedication of two group homes, for Loving Shepherd Ministries, which is based in Bluffton, IN. Bro. Ed Schwartz and Sis. Jeni (Bluffton, IN) also were on the trip. Each group home is made up of 12 orphans and one set of parents. While there, they also looked at three other group homes which are in various stages of construction.

NEW YORK CROGHAN-NAUMBURG Hope Graves

We were blessed to have retired ministering Bro. Everett Gerber and his wife, Sis. Nancy (Rockville, CT), with us for the weekend of June 22. Thanks are extended to Bro. Everett for again coming out of retirement to share God's Word with us. It is always a blessing to have them in our midst!

Our church hot-dog roast was held on June 23 at the Croghan Park. We were thankful for each one in attendance and the beautiful evening the Lord provided for us.

Many memories were made over the weekend of July 13 as we hosted

the 44th Fort Sam reunion. What a blessing to have so many visitors with us and to see our church benches full! With us to share the Word on Sunday were Elder Bro. Philip Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North, IN), Ordained Deacon Bro. Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata, TX), Bro. Duane Metzger (Sis. Ruth, West Bend, IA), Bro. John Steiner (Sis. Carol, Oakville, IA), Bro. Don Gudeman (Sis. Mary, LaCrosse, IN), and Bro. Garry Bucher (Sis. Lois, Valparaiso, IN). We also had retired Ordained Deacon Bro. Max Reimschisel (Sis. Judy, Wichita, KS) and retired ministering Bro. Ben Wysong (Sis. Jan, Sabetha, KS) with us. We thank all for making the weekend one that we will remember for many years ahead!

Our high school graduates were Richard Hirschey and Brandon King and graduating from college was Amos Bush. May the Lord guide them in their future endeavors.

Our prayers were extended to Bro. Don Farney who was hospitalized this past month. We are thankful he has returned home.

We rejoice with Terry and Tracy Farney in the arrival of their son, Mason Patrick. Mason is joined at home by big sisters, Cassie and Maggie, and older brother, Skyler. Terry is the son of Elder Bro. Duane and Sis. Karen Farney. Our prayers extend to them as baby Mason was transferred to the NICU in Syracuse for further treatment and observation.

OHIO, AKRON
Mara Henico
Rachel Pamer

"His promise assures us
 The Lord will provide."

We rejoice with Bro. Ted and Sis. Anna Gherian as little Christian

Robert joined his sister Alaina to make a family of four. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Rowan and Sis. Judy Schar (Rittman, OH) and paternal grandparents are Bro. Paul and Sis. Sharon Gherian of our own congregation.

We were thankful for all who were able to come to our Invite-A-Guest weekend. What a joy it was to meet new acquaintances and renew old friendships! After a weekend of fellowship, we long for our eternal home where we will not be separated by miles and busy with earthly duties, but can serve and praise our Lord as one with no time of parting. We were thankful that Bro. Art Ingold (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman, OH) was able to be with us and serve us in the Word that weekend, and trust he felt our support and prayers. How thankful we can be that we are permitted to hear the Truth proclaimed without fear of persecution!

Our prayers are with our Sis. Christine Demrovsky (Bro. Tom) as her father recently passed on. We trust that God will be near and grant comfort to all who grieve over this parting. We also remember our Bro. Joe Rye as he has recently had some injury and a hospital stay. Sis. Esther Boleratz also remains in our prayers as she recently has had times where she has not been able to assemble with us due to her health.

OHIO, COLUMBUS
Sarah Rufener

We are thankful for the following brethren who were willing to lend themselves in the rich ministry of God's Word: Bro. Ted Luginbuhl (Sis. Steph, Smithville), Elder Bro. Jim Plattner (Sis. Marlene, Princeville) and Bro. Mike Baumann (Sis. Florina, Mansfield). May God bless you for your efforts.

On July 19 and 20, our congrega-

tion hosted a busload of visitors from Princeville, IL. We are so grateful for their support and for the wonderful fellowship we could take part in. Praise God from Whom all blessings flow!

OHIO, JUNCTION
Vicki Boroff

Our congregation was blessed with two new arrivals. On June 28, Amber Ellen was born to Bro. Neil and Sis. Sandy Stoller. Thankful grandparents are Sis. Ruth and Bro. Craig Stoller (Latty), and Sis. Renee and Bro. Walt Sinn (Latty). On July 10, Josiah William was born to Bro. Warren and Sis. Cindy Schlatter. Thankful grandparents are Sis. Emily and Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter, and Sis. Renee and Bro. Walt Sinn (Latty).

On July 6, many from our congregation attended the wedding in Cissna Park of Bro. Randy Manz (Bro. Russ and Sis. Vera) and Sis. Bonnie Frank (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Bonita). We welcome Sis. Bonnie to our congregation, and hope to make her feel at home here.

We are so thankful that Joan Bauer has chosen to answer God's call. We wish her God's grace as she starts this new path.

OHIO, LATTY
Amanda Wenninger
Carmen Eisenmann

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

Proverbs 3:5-6

Bro. Jon and Sis. Alexis Stoller are trusting God to lead their lives together since they were joined as one

in marriage on June 22. Rejoicing with the newly married couple are their parents, Bro. Rod and Sis. Leann Stoller and Bro. Randy and Sis. Sue Gasser (Detroit, MI).

Bro. Jeff and Sis. Sarah Stoller became first-time parents to Shiloh Grace on July 2. Elated grandparents are Bro. Rod and Sis. Leann Stoller and Bro. Larry and Sis. Beth Moore of Elgin, IL. May God help Jeff and Sarah raise little Shiloh in His image and by His grace alone.

Visiting ministers this past month were Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Sis. Jane, Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Steve Stieglitz (Sis. Jane, Leo, IN), Bro. Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue, Detroit, MI), and Bro. Glen Braker (Sis. Audrey, Princeville, IL). A special thank you to these brothers for laboring on our behalf.

OHIO, MANSFIELD **Esther Baumann**

We rejoice with Julie Beer (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Robin) as she has begun her repentance. Continue to pray for her as she allows God's almighty power to work in her life.

Special thanks to Bro. Doug and Sis. Connie Boliantz for hosting our Annual Sunday School Picnic. We cherish the opportunity to fellowship with each other.

Bro. Harry Bocka (Sis. Mary Mae) continues to appreciate your thoughts and prayers as he was recently hospitalized.

The Juniors and Seniors of our Sunday School recently had the blessed opportunity to travel to Jamaica and help in our World Relief efforts in this country. We thank Bro. Pete and Sis. Linda Webel for once again organizing this trip.

Special thanks to the ministering brethren who were willing to serve us during our annual Vacation Bible School: Bro. Tony Manz (Sis. Denise,

Junction, OH), Bro. Todd Graf (Sis. Lydia, Akron, OH), Bro. Tim Ramsier (Sis. Jonell, Rittman, OH), Bro. Ted Luginbuhl (Sis. Stephanie, Smithville, OH) and Bro. Clark Stoller (Sis. Cindy, Gridley, IL). We also thank Bro. Dale Stoller (Sis. Sandra, Fairbury, IL) and Bro. Bradley Gudeman (Sis. Teresa, Bradford, IL) for serving us in the ministry this past month. May all be blessed for their labors of love.

Congratulations to our recent college graduates: Jesse Dotterer (Bro. Gaylord and Sis. Betty), Aaron Masters (Elder Bro. Mark and Sis. Jeannine), Bro. Luke Tucker (Dan and Sis. Barb), Sis. Elizabeth Ramsey (Bro. John and Sis. Dawn), Sis. Bethany Miller (Bro. Roger and Sis. Dorina), and Sis. Andrea Baumann (Bro. Mike and Sis. Lilly). We pray for them all that they will continue to seek and follow the perfect guidance of our loving Lord.

OHIO, RITTMAN **Linda Zollinger** **Laurie Beery**

We were saddened by the passing of Sis. Marge Weber on July 7. Our thoughts and prayers are with her son, Bro. Myron (Sis. Darlene, Smithville, OH); her sister, Evelyn (Roger) Hessidence; and her brother, Marvin Bauman. May this dear family feel God's nearness and comfort in the coming days.

Several from our congregation have spent time in the hospital recently: Ron Woyat (Jeannette), Sis. Nina Rufener (Bro. Wayne), Bro. Harlan Stoller (Sis. Jean), Bro. Ron Winkler, and Sis. Mabel Maibach. We are thankful that we can commit each one into the hands of the Great Physician.

The wedding of Scott Spade (Larry and Shelly) and Angela Widmer (Bro. Dan and Sis. Virginia)

was witnessed on April 26. Pam Reynolds (daughter of Bro. Eugene and Sis. Kathryn Bachman) was united in marriage to Travis Miller. Also, Bro. Eugene and Sis. Kathryn's daughter, Jolene, was married to Nate Masnick. Nathan Sample (Terry and Dorothy) and Whitney Stoller (Bro. Steve and Sis. Mary Lynn) were united as one on July 4. We pray that these new couples will look to God to guide their lives.

Bro. Justin Koch (Washington, IL) and Bro. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH) were willing to serve us on the pulpit recently. We are thankful for each brother that is willing to labor on our behalf.

Bro. Darrell and Sis. Alice Widmer and Kevin and Diane Slabach have a new granddaughter. Parker Madison was born on June 20 to Steve Widmer and Lisa Ashe. Christian Robert was born to Bro. Ted and Sis. Anna Gherian (Akron, OH). Grandparents of little Christian are Bro. Rowen and Sis. Judy Schar and Bro. Paul and Sis. Sharon Gherian (Akron, OH). I'm sure Alaina is excited for a new brother.

We are thankful that Ken Bauman has started seeking the Lord in repentance. May each one that begins on this way be given grace to surrender their all to God.

OHIO, SARDIS **Faith Beard**

We have been very blessed this past month to have a number of visiting ministers. Bro. Ron and Sis. Lynell Palitto (Akron, OH) were with us during the weekend of our annual Sunday School picnic. Bro. Ron spoke to the children at the picnic and shared some of his experiences during visits to Haiti, prefacing his message with the theme of "Are You Happy?". The children had much "food for thought" when they heard

of the small amount of food and "things" that the children in Haiti had, but yet show such happiness. How many children in the States would be satisfied with a toy collection of only a stone to kick around with bare feet?

Also serving us from the pulpit the weekend of our annual New Martinsville, WV, memorial services were Bro. Duane Farney (Sis. Karen, Croghan-Naumburg, NY) and retired Bro. Gene Lehman (Sis. Verna, Wolcott, IN). Bro. Steve Pamer (Sis. Arliss, Akron, OH) was also present. Others recently ministering to us were Bro. John Grimm (Sis. Julie, Columbus, OH) and Bro. Joe Dotterer (Sis. Rose, Bloomfield, IA). We are grateful to these families for their efforts and know they will receive their reward in Heaven some day.

Although the General Conference will be over by the time this is published, we remember this event in a couple weeks from now and pray for all those who make this very special event possible, both for the decisions made by the Elder Body and for the planning by the brethren in Princeville.

School will be back in full swing soon, and as those "young and tender hearts" acquire worldly knowledge in their studies, we must also do our part to ensure they continue to grow in Godly wisdom and spiritual understanding.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE

**Ruth Gasser
Edith Miller**

O, God, unite my heart with Thee
And with Thy Spirit bright,
And for the sake of Thine own Son
Inflame my heart with light!

Now grant Thy godly light to me;
Thy holy love instill!

May envy, hate, and darkness flee;
My heart with courage fill!
Zion's Harp #163, vs. 5-6

On June 22, we welcomed into the fold three new sisters after having given their testimony the night before. Our new sisters in faith are Leah Gasser (Bro. Ken and Sis. Sue Ellen Maibach and the late Bro. Greg Gasser), Jana Widmer (Bro. Jim and Sis. Karen) and Jackie Hartzler (Dwight and Bev). We wish God's blessing to them and much grace as they go onward in life, and as they seek to bring forth fruits pleasing to God.

We wish to thank the brothers who shared the Word with us on the weekend of the baptism. May God richly bless Elder Bro. Dave Graf (Akron, OH), Elder Bro. Merle Hartzler (Rittman, OH), and Bro. Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH). We appreciate their efforts.

Those who spent some time in the hospital recently were Boyd Nieman (Teri), Sis. Bonnie Nieman, and Jim Gasser (Kris). We're thankful when we can see a measure of healing upon those who suffer affliction. May God continue to be near each one.

Sis. Kim Luginbuhl (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Rose) has felt led to relocate to Morris, MN. Also, Jason Brake (Bro. Bill and Sis. Miriam, Sardis, OH) has returned to his home in Sardis after having spent some time with us while going to school. We wish both Sis. Kim and Jason God's blessings and direction as they adjust to the changes they encounter.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Myron and Sis. Darlene Weber and family as they have laid to rest Bro. Myron's mother, Sis. Marjorie Weber (Rittman, OH). May God's comfort and blessing be felt.

OHIO, TOLEDO

Teresa Rywalski Rebecca Beard

It was a blessed Sunday when we welcomed back old and new friends for our Sunday School picnic. What a blessing it is to spend time with the youth of our church.

Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH) spent a Thursday evening with us when both of our ministers were gone. We trust that our heavenly Father will be with Elder Bro. Bill and his family as he continues to serve us and that they will always feel loved and welcomed.

Bro. Doug Harmon (Sis. Lanna) and sons, John and Doug, returned safely from Jamaica where they worked at the Deaf Village.

OREGON, PORTLAND

Renee Angstrom

We appreciate the ministering brothers from Silverton this month that brought forth the Word. Bros. John Wiegand (Sis. Jane), Todd Zollinger (Sis. Michele) and Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Betty).

With the help of many brothers and friends from Portland, Silverton and West Bend, we were able to replace the roof of our church in two days. We appreciate each and every one that took time from their busy days to come and lend their service for the Lord.

Our prayers are with Bro. Ray (Sis. Ginny) Cooper as he has been hospitalized this past month. We miss Bro. Ray and Sis. Ginny and look forward to when they can worship with us again.

OREGON, SILVERTON

Cindy Metzger Melissa Kuenzi

Our annual Sunday School picnic was held June 21 at Willamette Mission park. We enjoyed a beautiful af-

ternoon of outdoor activities with the kids. We are also thankful that Bro. Paul Kilgus and his wife, Sis. Carmen (Fairbury, IL), were able to travel here on the weekend of June 27-29 for our annual Bible Class weekend.

We are glad to welcome Bro. Wes Banwart (Bro. Ken and Sis. Marlene) from West Bend, IA, while he spends several months working here.

There are several newly engaged couples in our congregation.

Congratulations to Laura Herberger (Dan and Tanya, Canby, OR) and Rick Dietrich (Bro. Jim and Sis. Joan) on the recent announcement of their engagement.

We are happy for Amy Snook (Vance and Sis. Liz) and Spencer Rockwell (Craig and Nancy, Salem, OR) on their engagement. A November wedding is planned.

Congratulations to Sis. Melissa Kuenzi (Bro. Jim and Sis. Barbara) and Bro. Robert Rokey (Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Phyllis, Goodfield, IL) on the announcement of their engagement.

We are happy our convert Darwin Sinn (Bro. Tom and Sis. Edith) has found peace and is ready for baptism.

Clayton Schneider (Bro. James and Sis. Tonya) spent some time at a therapy program in Baltimore, MD, and we are glad their family is home together again.

Sis. Carol Wackerle (Bro. Greg) was hospitalized and is recovering at home.

Our sympathy to the many loving family members of Daniel Gehring at his passing on June 7. He was the son of our Sis. Alice Gehring.

We thank our other visiting ministers this month including Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Sis. Jeni, Bluffton, IN) and Bros. Mike Rinkenberger (Sis. Patricia, Congerville, IL), Trent Meiss (Sis. Lucy, Eureka IL), and Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy) and Ron Jones (Sis. Liz) of Portland.

PENNSYLVANIA PHILADELPHIA

We have been blessed this month with a visit from two ministering brothers and their families. Bro. Justin and Sis. Marcia Koch and their family (Washington, IL) and Bro. Dewayne and Sis. LaRae Dill and family (Minneapolis, MN) joined us for the July 4th weekend. The brothers led topical discussions on Saturday and we had a wonderful day of worship on Sunday. Our congregation extends its appreciation to these brothers for their service in the Lord's vineyard.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE Mike and Monica Fritz

It was difficult for our congregation to say farewell to Bro. Darin and Sis. Tami Kupferschmid, and their children, Caleb, Garret, and Nora, who have followed the Lord's leading to move to Eureka, IL. It has been a joy and blessing to have them in our midst while they were here, and they will be greatly missed, but we trust the Lord to watch between us and guide them on life's path.

We rejoice with Bro. Tyler Huber (Bro. Gordon and Sis. Sharlyn; Sabetha, KS) who was recently baptized in Sabetha, KS, but who has also recently become a part of our Nashville congregation. We pray that the Lord will continue to direct his steps.

In the past month, we have been strengthened by God's Word through numerous visiting ministering brothers: Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Sis. Leonda; Leo, IN) and Bros. Frank Sauder (Sis. Kathy; Roanoke, IL), Tom Bolliger (Sis. Jane; Tremont, IL), Tom Waldbeser (Sis. Sue; Atlanta, GA), Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi; Alto, MI), James Knapp

(Sis. Lisa; Congerville, IL), and Dave Hartter (Sis. Beth; Sabetha, KS). We have also been greatly blessed by the fellowship of brethren and friends visiting from Rockville, CT; Atlanta, GA; Chicago, Congerville, Forrest, Goodfield, Roanoke, and Tremont, IL; Bluffton North, LaCrosse, and Leo, IN; Bloomfield and West Bend, IA; Sabetha, KS; Alto, MI; and Akron, Junction, Latty, and Rittman, OH.

If you are traveling in or through the Nashville area, please plan to worship with us. The following churches are scheduled for services in the near future: Eureka, IL (8/24); Francesville, IN (8/31); Taylor, MO (9/7); Goodfield, IL (9/14); Lamar, MO (9/21); and Bay City, MI (9/28). 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 miss Tucker Huber (Bro. Eric and Sis. Marcel) who is spending his summer working in the Denver, CO, area. Hopefully his summer will be profitable in important ways.

We are thankful for the following ministers: Bros. Ted Luginbuhl (Sis. Stefanie, Smithville), Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata), Tom Schambach (Sis. Connie, Elgin, IL), Greg Lehman (Sis. Mary Beth, Wolcott), and Kent Mogler (Sis. Mary, Minneapolis).

The following is the minister

schedule for September: (7) Peoria, (14) Roanoke, (21) Morris, (28) Rittman. We extend a warm welcome to anyone who may be in the area to worship with us, even midweek, though we don't have a regular schedule for midweek services. Please call ahead to help us plan for serving lunch. Also, because visitors add much to our local fellowship times, it helps if we know about your visit well in advance, perhaps even a month or more if possible, so that we can accommodate you more readily in our weekend gatherings. See the ministers' book for local contact information.

Directions to our church are these: from the intersection of Hwy 71 and 21 on the west side of Bastrop, go east on Hwy 71 about 1/2 mile and take the first exit (by the Ford dealership), proceed on the east-bound frontage road about 4/10 mile. The church is on the right. It is located about 18 miles east of the Austin airport. The address is 1025 W. Highway 71, Bastrop, TX 78602. It is a one-story building with limestone siding and the church sign in the front. Quite a few people have tried using the GPS system to find the church; but they found out that GPS doesn't know where it is, and ended up getting lost. We advise following the directions instead of GPS.

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

Our visiting ministers this month have been: Elder Bro. Jim Plattner (Sis. Marlene, Princeville, IL), Bros. Gary Endress (Sis. Evelyn, Bradford,

IL), and Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata, TX). May God richly bless them for their service in our behalf.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Bro. Aaron and Sis. Sandy Kipfer in the passing of her mother, Sis. Virginia Groh. May the Lord comfort their family in this time of sorrow.

The following churches are scheduled for services: (Aug. 24 - Tremont, IL), (Sept. 14 - Lester, IA), (Sept. 28 - Morton, IL), and (Oct. 12 - Bluffton, IN).

Our address is: Holiday Inn Express, 1921 South 10th Street.

Turn 1 1/2 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 NORWICH/CLARENDON Kirby Reutter

"And they shall come from the east, and from the west, and from the north, and from the south, and shall sit down in the kingdom of God."

Luke 13:29

Each season in Vermont manifests a special beauty of God's creation. Each season also brings to our midst visitors from all over the country. This month alone we have been blessed with a multitude of visitors from many states. We are especially grateful for those who come from near and far to serve us in the ministry. This month Bro. Steve Sauder (Sis. Mary, Tremont, IL) led us in Sunday worship, in addition to three of our dedicated servants from Rockville, CT: Bros. Dan Goric (Sis. Mary-Lou), Warren Zahner (Sis. Bonnie), and Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Sis. Cheryl). In addition, Bro. Duane Reutter (Sis. Kay, Rockville, CT) also

came north twice to minister at two of our midweek gatherings.

Every Sunday we alternate between two rental locations on either side of Vermont; however, we do not hold services on the fifth Sunday of the month. Every Wednesday evening we also gather to hear recorded sermons on cassette tape, rotating among three different houses. We have been especially blessed this summer to have many visitors track us down even for midweek services! For specific times and locations for Sunday worship services, please consult the Church Directory. For specific times and locations of midweek services, please speak with Bro. Chad or Sis. Jennifer Virkler at 802-325-2724.

On a side note, if you or your congregation is interested in purchasing head coverings hand-made by Sisters from Ixtlán, Mexico, please contact Areli Reutter over the phone at 802-683-8651 or through email at areutter@hotmail.com. Sis. Areli grew up in Ixtlán and has a collection of coverings ready for distribution. An inventory is available upon request in both paper and electronic formats.

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

Psalms 127:1



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Communication in Marriage

Do you remember playing the old telephone game when we were children? The first person in the circle would whisper a short message in the ear of the person next to him. This person would turn and whisper the message to the next person in line. This process continued until the last person in the circle received the message and blurted it out for all to hear. Giggles and laughter followed as players delighted at how different the final message was from the original message that was spoken.

This game vividly illustrates that communication involves a speaker, a message, and a listener. Veering off course in the process of communication was funny in this game, but it's not so humorous when it happens in a marriage relationship. The challenge to communicate accurately is often greatest when navigating highly-charged emotional issues where conflict is present. Let's take a closer look at how you can keep those difficult conversations on a productive course.

The Speaker:

Ephesians 4:11, "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers."

Before you speak you need to weigh the potential impact of your words. You must take responsibility for setting the stage for a productive conversation. One way to accomplish this is to use "I" statements and avoid "You" statements.

Some examples are helpful here. Preferably, one could say, "I feel frustrated when you don't call me to say that you'll be late." instead of "You are never on time. Why don't you call?" In the "I" statement the speaker takes responsibility for his/her own emotions. The "You" statement automatically puts the Listener on the defensive. As a general framework, consider using the X, Y, Z format: "In situation X, when Y occurred, I felt Z."

The Message:

Proverbs 15:1, "A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger."

Proverbs 25:11, "A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver."

A message includes what is said, when it is said, and how it is said. When

having a difficult conversation, keep each message fairly short and focused on one topic so that it can be more easily digested by the listener. Nonverbal communication includes tone of voice, body language, posture, eye contact, and facial expressions. Nonverbal communication often has a larger impact on the listener than the specific words used.

Timing is essential. Couples need to identify appropriate times to bring up certain issues. This requires awareness of your spouse's needs as well as your own. A helpful question for your spouse might be, "I would like to talk to you about _____ sometime. When is a good time to talk?" This communicates your desire to bring up the topic and honors your spouse by allowing him/her the courtesy of having input into when the timing would be good.

The Listener:

James 1:19, "Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath."

Listening may be the most overlooked and underrated of the skills involved in communication. Effective listening requires effort and intentionality. Just as you need to learn to talk so that your spouse will listen, learn to listen so that your spouse can talk.

Listen by fully focusing on your spouse. This means that when you listen to your spouse, you are not thinking about formulating your response. Rather, you are listening to him/her in a way that communicates respect and honor to your spouse. You will get your chance to share your thoughts and feelings when you are the speaker.

Active listening also involves hearing and taking-in what is being said, even if you do not agree. You can acknowledge what your spouse is saying as an expression of what he or she is feeling and thinking. Attempting to understand your spouse from his/her perspective is important before trying to respond or to solve a conflict. As it says in Proverbs 18:13, "He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is folly and shame unto him."

Most of us assume that the communication cycle is complete after the message has been transmitted from speaker to listener. This usually is not sufficient for difficult conversations. Two important but often overlooked follow-up steps can enhance effectiveness.

Acknowledge:

The purpose of the acknowledgement is to let the Speaker know that he/she has been heard. Remember that even the best attempts at listening may still result in misunderstandings. These misunderstandings can occur because we all tend to hear things in a way that is consistent with what we already believe about something. Unfortunately, this can hinder us from accurately hearing what our spouse is saying. When you reflect back to your spouse what you think you heard, he or she can correct any misunderstandings.

"Reflecting back" what you heard the Speaker say is one of the best ways to acknowledge what the Speaker said. If you have effectively listened, you will be able to reflect what has been said back to your spouse. Repeat what you understood from the Speaker's message. For example, "What I heard you say was..." Don't simply "parrot-talk" back. A good way to do this using our previous example would be, "What I heard you say was that you are feeling angry because I have been getting home later than we agreed on." When you are the Listener, you do not necessarily have to agree with what the Speaker said. Remember your role as the Listener is to provide validation to your spouse by letting him/her know that you heard what he/she said and that it registered with you. This is a practical way to show esteem to your spouse (Philippians 2:3).

Reassess:

When the Speaker hears the Listener's acknowledgement, he/she can then determine if the message got through correctly. Without Reassessing, each spouse is simply assuming that the other spouse heard and understands things in the way he/she thought it should be understood. However, assuming and "mind-reading" cause significant problems in marital communication.

Ephesians 4:15, "But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ."

The next time you encounter that difficult conversation with your spouse, practice the skills discussed above. Scripture tells us that communicating well with love and truth corresponds with growing up in Christ. By practicing good communication skills during those difficult conversations, you can help to build the healthy and vibrant marriage relationship that brings joy and peace to your marriage.

Child Placement Manager Opening



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7. Have commitment to ongoing personal and professional growth.

For further information and a job description, please contact:

Bro. Jeff Schumacher
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 jeff.schumacher@gatewaywoods.org

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Sermon continued from page 2

who desires for us to have Heaven and continually reminds us of its value? Who continually reminds us that the place we don't want to go is eternal damnation.

We heard last evening of souls who have turned from a life of sin. Each of them in their own way – admitting that there had been sin in their life and that they were not worthy of the plan of salvation. That in death they would have no hope of Heaven. But they could testify that now that's different. Now, the hope they have is a saving hope. A hope that they have of living in eternity with their Heavenly Father.

In some ways loved ones, I think I can (and don't misunderstand me. Perhaps none of us can really identify with the children of Israel) but in some ways I think I can. Some of us haven't come from this faith. Some of us weren't raised to know from the time we were born we were destined to sin. Some were deceived in thinking goodness and good deeds and attending church and praying, would save the soul. And then came an awakening – where the foundations of our hope in Heaven were shaken. Where the word repentance was ringing in our ears when we hadn't heard it before and we wondered about this Way. Does that seem odd? It shouldn't seem odd. When the scripture opens, loved ones, when the Bible speaks to us, when we don't pretend to turn from the chapters that might be convicting, or might (how should we say it) ruffle the feathers of those that would hear, when we just stay with the Word, it's amazing what happens.

For many of my teenage years, I went to a church most every Sunday. Fifteen or sixteen years, never heard the word repent – didn't know what it meant. Wasn't in my vocabulary. It never came across the pulpit that I sat in front of. And so the hope of the children

of Israel based on their works, is no hope at all. And if the gospel isn't piercing your heart, it should! Because God has a way, and He tells us what it is.

Christ said it plainly: "...I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." St. John 14:6. So ask ourselves: what is that way? What is that truth? What is the life? The Scripture is filled. Read it for yourselves – be enlightened! Listen to the preaching.

What did the Word tell us this morning? How shall they be saved except for the preaching? (Romans 10:14) The piercing of the two-edged sword into the heart, that would rent asunder, that would enlighten the children of Israel, that would enlighten lost mankind. (Heb. 4:12) The truth is the Way that Jesus taught us when He came forth from the wilderness. What were the first words he began to preach? "...Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Matt. 4:17.

John the Baptist, His predecessor, came before Him. He said, I am not worth of the Son of God even to latch His shoes. (John 1:27) But he preached about repentance in the wilderness. He preached about salvation, baptizing souls. The dead man could be buried and the alive, the new man could come forth. A new spiritual man with a hope. But Jesus didn't stop there. He went on to say in other ways, in other times: Repent!

But repentance is just a starting point, isn't it? Or perhaps we should back up. There's a better starting point than repentance. The starting point is a belief in something we can't touch. It's a belief in something we can't see. It's a belief in something we cannot prove. And it's called faith. And "...faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Romans 10:17. Faith is not just a gift that's handed to us that we can

store away in a safe place and never lose it. Faith comes because we have listened to the Word of God or we have read it.

Remember, in those days they didn't have the blessing as we have with the printed Word. They were listening at the feet of the teachers. And those teachers had such an awesome responsibility, because the people were totally dependent upon the truth, based on their version of it.

And loved ones, I can tell you, that as speaking I'm sure for the brothers that stand at this pulpit on a regular basis, they feel a terrific obligation to be vessels coming here empty with humble hearts filled with humility, that they can preach the truth. That they can impart the Word of God. And not change it. Not alter it. Because based on that Word, you and I will gain in faith. And so faith is the beginning.

If we read in the book of Hebrews, we hear the Word so plainly tell us, "But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*..." Hebrews 11:6. But God doesn't ask for a faith that's impossible to gain. He doesn't require a difficult faith. It's not some elaborate equation. It's not some elaborate set of rules or notions that are beyond our grasp.

In fact, in the first chapter of Romans, I think Paul was addressing this fact. Because remember, Paul was a very learned man and he was in this city of Rome. It was a capital city (so to speak). It was a seat of power in that day. There were many learned people and many of these people despised the gospel. They despised this simple truth. But He said, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation..." Romans 1:16. And He had a right to be ashamed. Because He was taught at the feet of a powerful Jewish teacher, Gamaliel. He was esteemed by the Pharisees, of which he was one. And he told

them in the first verse in Romans that he was separated unto the gospel of Christ. Before, he was separated by his sin from God and now he's separated from them and drawn to God in unity. Isn't that an interesting correlation? Sin separates us from God. But when we rid our lives of sin, we can be separated unto God from the world. So he wasn't ashamed of that gospel, because in the gospel was the truth. And he was willing to preach it.

And what did he say? I love the first chapter of Romans because it reminds me of our church. It reminds me of my visits to the Fairbury flock. And not just here! Some of us have the privilege of visiting perhaps dozens of our churches across the land, across the world. The Apostle Paul talked about, in that first chapter, the mutual faith! He loved the common faith. He said he longed to impart unto them a spiritual gift to the end, not that he could be esteemed, not that he could be lifted up or admired, but to the end that the hearer might be established.

And don't we love that? We're not looking for adulation, we're not looking for your promotion, we're not looking for compliments...we're looking to preach the gospel message so that the flock can be established. So the good seed can take root. So that when it does take root, when it grows from the ground and the weak sapling (if we can think of it that way) begins to grow taller and taller, when the winds come, when the turbulent weather comes, when the waves are fierce, when the north wind blows – the tree stands! It may bend, it may quiver, but it never breaks. It never bows completely. Because it has been established in the Word and the root system grows long, strong, founded upon the Rock, the Lord Jesus Christ.

So it's a simple faith. And basically, we read that the faith has two components. And it seems some-

times that it's a lot more than that, doesn't it? Sometimes the faith seems complicated. But who would want to complicate it – other than the Great Deceiver, the Liar, the Father of Lies?

In Hebrews, we read after that message, that "...without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is..." Heb. 11:6. That's so simple! Are any of us challenged this morning with believing that God is God? There may be some who are. But that's what He asks of us. Believe that God is God!

So who is God? He is our Creator. Well, is Satan challenging that very simple concept, that man was created by God? We know he is. Who is God? He is our Saviour. Is Satan challenging that concept? That Christ can save us from our sin? That we really don't need to embrace the full gospel? We started out by saying that Christ preached repentance. He also said that we should become like little children. Reborn. Born again. Be converted! Is the Devil challenging what God is? And God's Word? We know he is.

But we were born, I don't know who all is here, but most of us were born into a country, into a town, into a state, into families that knew about God. But there are millions, billions of people who don't have that privilege. Maybe it's not a struggle for us, but think of that young child who's been raised in a hundred-story tenement, somewhere in China, who only knows a statue sitting in the corner of the room that his father and mother bow down to it, and pay homage to a thing. To an image, to an idol! How far do they have to go to reach the faith that we take for granted, to know that God is God?!

And then he goes on to say, the writer of the Hebrews, that we must believe this: "...*that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." Heb. 11:6. Sometimes,

loved ones, when we're in our spiritual walk, it's just that simple. We need to put one foot in front of the other. And sometimes it's almost hard to take a full step, isn't it? Because Satan is coming hard at us. He's pushing us back. He's fighting against the truth. He's trying to corner us in believing a lie. He's leading us to sin. Remember the promise: diligently seek God, and he will reward you!

Seeking Him means we can't sit still. We can't let God just come to us. We've got to look for Him. We have to be assured that He will reveal himself to us. He will not hide. He will reward us. And that doesn't mean that our bank account will necessarily grow, or our possessions will increase a hundred-fold. But the reward that we're looking for - it's the life that Jesus talked about: the way, the truth and the life. It's eternal life. That's our reward.

So loved ones, be encouraged. The scripture is speaking to us today. And maybe the foundation of your hope in Heaven is shaken. Maybe you haven't yet experienced the blessing of repentance and conversion. Maybe some of these words are foreign to you. Maybe the peace of heart that passeth the understanding of man is something that you don't believe is your present possession. Oh, embrace it! Don't fight against it. Don't wonder why. Just accept that it's a gift that God has given. And that He wants it for you! Take it for your own – and let Him bless you, and bless you, and reward you, and reward you, and believe in the simple promise.

Paul had to ask a question to these learned people. He said, "How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed..." It's just that simple! "...and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard..." Rom 10:14. "And how shall they preach, except

Sermon continued on page 44

Sermon continued from page 43

they be sent..." Rom. 10:15.

The preaching has always been the way God has chosen to bring the gospel. We know that sometimes the preachers he chooses, we just can't fathom why! And some of us feel that even more acutely – why, me, Lord? But there have been those who are willing to preach. Again, back in that first chapter of Romans, Paul acknowledged this. He said he was called to be an apostle. Unto obedience. But in another place, in Corinthians we read that he didn't consider himself worthy of that calling. He was least among the apostles. He wasn't meet to be called an apostle, but he had a willingness of heart and mind. (I Cor. 15:9.) He had a desire to do what was right. And if we have that desire, no matter what our calling, God can work with us. God can help us. He can show us the way. He can lift us up and he can provide.

There was a young woman once, that came to our church. Came a number of Sundays, and wanted to visit with me. I was astounded at one of the things she had to say. She said, I really love coming to your church. The people are warm and they're friendly, and I feel welcome here – but I really have a problem with it. So I asked what her problem was. She said, I just do not appreciate your preachers. So, I wanted to hear more. We can always learn. She said, you know, preaching is not scriptural. There's nowhere in the Bible where it talks about preaching the Word. I was fairly astounded at this comment, but I let her talk. You know, she said, I was raised in a church and they taught us the truth. They taught us that we all had an equal right to preach. There was not just one person. So when we would assemble together, whoever had a thought on their mind or in their heart, they just shouted it out. She

said, yea, sometimes it would be a little chaotic because there might be 20 people shouting out their thought. But it's what I know, and it's what I appreciate, and I really don't think preaching is the way to go.

Well, after I recovered a bit from my surprise, I said, you know, it's not a time to debate. Maybe we could just search the Word. Maybe we could just look into the message that God's given us, and see if we can find any Scripture whatsoever about preaching. And you know, it's not hard to find. It's sown throughout the Word. We had a nice conversation, she was very respectful, and she was in awe! Because loved ones, she didn't know! She was like me, in so many ways! Under the sound of what we thought was the truth, that wasn't. It was left out! There were parts missing. And she was deceived. The foundation of her faith that afternoon was shaken. I don't take any credit for that. I don't know what happened to the young lady. She didn't return. But I know when she left, she knew more about the Bible than when she came.

So what can we learn from that? How faithful are we in praying for the Word? For praying for the ministry? The Apostle Paul tells us that we should be instant in prayer. (Rom. 12:12) He tells us that we should always be praying. That's really challenging. But we know the apostle Paul didn't mean that we should be praying always to the exclusion of every other aspect of our life. After all, he didn't. But we can see, through his letters, how he weaved the concept of prayer into his life. He prayed for the ministry. He prayed for the shepherds. He prayed for the governors and for the rulers and for the magistrates. He prayed for his friends. He mentioned them by name. He prayed that they might be blessed with grace and peace. He was a praying man.

Do we pray for the Word? Are we satisfied with the Word? You know, somehow the world and its influences can really wreak havoc on our ability to accept the simplicity of the gospel message. Because if we take into our life all the things the world has to offer: the entertainments, the allurements, the excitements, the media that we're constantly bombarded with this message and that message and it's more spectacular all the time, and the way technology moves - there's a thousand ways to deliver messages, instantaneously and continuously – well the preaching of the gospel can be kind of boring. The preaching of these unprepared sermons can just perhaps make us feel empty, because that brother maybe isn't too exciting. That brother really doesn't have a delivery that inspires us. But that brother is just a vessel, loved ones.

Do you know why the Apostle Paul uses the word vessel? Well, perhaps it's because in those days they had many kinds of vessels for storage. They stored precious ointment, they stored water and wine in vessels. But the most important thing wasn't the vessel. Because it could be damaged, it could be broken, it would wear out. The most important thing was what was inside. And he compared those who delivered the message of the gospel as vessels. Are we more concerned with the vessel than we are with what comes out of the vessel? Because it's the Word of God. It's not the word of man. And the Word of God will not be wasted. And when the truth is spoken, it doesn't matter if its eloquent, exciting, inspiring – it's still God's Word! God had to speak to the children of Israel, we just read it in our reading of the prophecy. He said it will be like fire in their mouths, and it will consume those that hear it. (Jer. 5:14) Loved ones, if we're finding fault with the Word of God as it's spoken, if we're looking for something

different, it will be like that to us. Because we're denying the truth! It will be as a consuming fire.

Actually in eternity, the fire does not consume. That's an interesting thing, isn't it? Have you ever watched something burn? Pretty soon, watch it long enough, and it will be extinguished. But that's not the way it'll be in Hell. The fire will never go out. It will burn, and it will burn, and it will burn, but it will not consume. The torment is forever!

So are we thankful enough for the Word? For the brothers who preach it? For the prayers? Does it touch our hearts? Do we come prepared? You know, we'd expect our brothers to come prepared to preach, wouldn't we? Do we come prepared to listen, to learn and to set aside our preconceived notions? Do we come as vessels, not having anything to offer, but everything to learn? Are we ready! - to hear the Word? And grow in it, and live by it, and if it changes us, are we ready to be changed? I hope so!

We spoke last night just for a moment about peace growing and multiplying. How does that happen? We can't grow and multiply and stay the same at the same time. We don't want our children to stay the same, do we? We want them to grow and mature. We want them to learn as adults. That's the way God wants His children to learn. He wants them to mature. The Apostle Paul talks about perfect and perfectness. It's not the same thing as perfect like the Lord Jesus Christ was perfect. It's a continual process of learning. Every experience, every day, the Spirit's there to teach us. Are we listening? Are we learning? Are we taking it in? Are we allowing our brother and sister to teach us, or do we think we've got it all figured out?

Well, I can tell you, this brother doesn't! And it's humbling more and more every day how much I don't know. You can teach me, and

you can help me. I know you will if you love me enough. You'll take me aside and you'll say, Brother Mark, this is the way you could grow. This is the way you could improve. If I'm easy to entreat, I'll receive those words with thanksgiving. And you know, sometimes that happens. I don't know if it's ever happened to you, but it's happened to me. And sometimes those words come and they're not just perfect, they're not too eloquent, and the brother and sister that comes, maybe they're just feeling a bit anxious, and they say it in a way that I think: Boy, if I would have said it that way, they wouldn't have received it very well. And that's the Devil talking! Because in every message, we can find some positive things to grow from. In every message, easy or hard to hear, we can improve.

That's what this Word was about to the Romans. They had to learn. They had to set aside some of the old things that they had preconceived ideas about, what the right thing to do was and they had to allow those preconceived ideas, those incorrect ideas to be replaced with the truth. And the Apostle Paul was being very specific with them: listen to the preaching! That's what he was telling them! He was being very base, fundamental. But like he said in that first verse, he did it because he wanted them to be established. And that's our desire for every one of you. That the establishment of the root of our faith could weather any storm. Any temptation, any battle of combat - mortal combat because it is to the death.

We will witness covenants being made this afternoon, precious covenants. This is something extraordinary, loved ones. It is extraordinary! Those words that are uttered are recorded in Heaven. We don't see God, but God's presence is here, and He is making a promise with three souls. It's extraordinary! Perhaps many of you will

never be able to speak the words in the questions like the elders do, but I can tell you, when I was about to be ordained as an elder, your dear brother Art told me this and there were a lot of older brothers, and I loved them for it, but I got to tell you, I had no idea what they meant. They called me and they encouraged me. They said, Brother Mark, we know how you feel. But just remember one thing, if you can't remember anything else, it's God's work. I didn't know what that meant. Well, I thought I did. But I didn't. And the first time I stood and looked into the eyes of a convert, at the waters of baptism, and spoke those words and heard those answers, I knew what they meant! This was God's work! Because you can see in those eyes, Peace! You can see sometimes the streaming of tears, of Peace! Of the converted soul! It's extraordinary, and we're witnesses to it, and may it never grow tiresome, old, redundant. May it be new to us every time.

May we be lifted up and inspired because we are witnessing the miracle of salvation again today! You know, Jesus turned water into wine, and they were just in awe. How can He do this? He healed the sick. He made the blind to see. He healed those who were crippled and infirmed. But the greatest miracle of all was the healing of the soul of man. And we see three souls who are evidence of that today. We are seeing modern day miracles, loved ones. May we never take them for granted. And may God be given the glory.

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:



Ed Graf
Residential Program Director
PO Box 151
Leo, IN 46765
1-888-443-4283
ed.graf@gatewaywoods.org

Lynn Stieglitz
Counseling Elder
15417 Doty Rd.
New Haven, IN 46774
260-657-1033

Teaching Position Available

Gateway Woods is excited to announce an opening for an English teacher at Gateway Woods School. Student census will be expanding with the addition of the Pine House. Gateway Woods School is a fully accredited educational facility serving 5th-12th grade students who have difficulty in public school. Qualifications include a Bachelor's Degree in Education and/or an active teacher's license. Special Education Certification and previous teaching experience is especially useful, but not required. Also you must be a Sister in the Apostolic Christian Church. If you hold these qualifications and have a heart for children, please ask the Lord if this is the position He has in mind for you. We offer a competitive salary and generous benefits. For more information please contact one of the brothers listed below.

Tim Wiegand
Director of Education
PO Box 151,
Leo, IN 46765
1-888-443-4283

Lynn Stieglitz
Counseling Elder
15417 Doty Rd.
New Haven, IN 46774
260-657-1033

Apostolic Christian Counseling and Family Services

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Preschool Teacher Needed

The Apostolic Christian Preschool has an immediate opening for a teacher directed of the Lord, with a degree and/or experience in Elementary or Early Childhood Education. It is a wonderful experience to teach children about the Lord in a loving, Christian environment. If you feel the call and want to find out more please contact:

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

**POSITION
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**Assistant to the
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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:

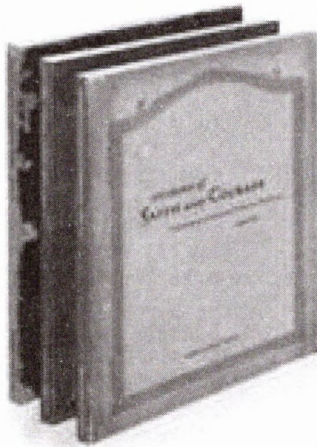
gbhuber@gmail.com
Phone: 574-946-3447
Fax: 574-946-4229

NOTICE

From time to time there are special projects within the church and its various committees which require the talents and gifts of writing and various computer skills. We are interested in identifying brothers and sisters who are willing to assist in creating presentations, web pages, pamphlets and etc. as the needs arise. There is a current need to develop a presentation on the subject of "Authentic Christianity."

Please contact Bro. Gary Anliker at gary_anliker@ameritech.net or 847-888-1988 if you are interested in the current project or if you just want to be available for a future project.

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*...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 - 2008/2009

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 August 13th, 2008 -www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-caribbean/

Project	Year 2008	Coordinator	Capacity				
Les Cayes AWA Water Aid	Nov 14-21	Troy Stuber 309-925-2603 troystuber@verizon.net	4	Les Cayes FRW Vocational School	Feb 6-13	Rick Wuethrich 219-567-9488 topnotch@home.ffni.com	4
Les Cayes MEBSH School Roof	Dec 5-12	Ted Habegger 260-694-6765 tjh@citiznet.com	12	Croix De Bouquets Lifeline Medical	Feb 10-17	Glen Steidinger 815-693-3473	8
Les Cayes MEBSH Haiti Support	Dec 12-15	Rich Bertschi 309-467-2351 lemangm@mtco.com	Invitation	Les Cayes MEBSH School Roof	Feb 13-20	Randy Kieser 309-695-6340 kieser84@geckoct.com	12
Les Cayes FRW Vocational School	Dec 13-20	Rick Wuethrich 219-567-9488 topnotch@home.ffni.com	4	Croix De Bouquets Lifeline Medical	Feb 17-24	Jim Koehl 309-377-3201 jmkoehl@yahoo.com	8
Project	Year 2009	Coordinator	Capacity				
Les Cayes MEBSH School Roof	Jan 2-9	Ron Palitto 330-336-5373 Ronp@palittoconsulting.com	12	Les Cayes SEED Agriculture Aid	Mar 13-20	Dale Frank 319-766-3661 frankfarms@iowatelecom.net	12
Les Cayes FRW Simone Orphanage	Jan 9-16	Rick Weuthrich 219-567-9488 topnotch@home.ffni.com	12	Les Cayes MEBSH School Roof	Mar 20-27	Rich Bertschi 309-467-6110 lemangm@mtco.com	12
La Higuera - D/R Lifeline Construction	Jan 20-27	Jim Koehl 309-377-3201 jmkoehl@yahoo.com	8	Les Cayes MEBSH Maintenance	Mar 27-Apr 3	Jon Zeller 309-266-9009 jzeller@mtco.com	12
Les Cayes AWA Water Aid	Jan 23-30	Troy Stuber 309-925-2603 troystuber@verizon.net	4	Les Cayes AWA Water Aid	Apr 24-May 1	Troy Stuber 309-925-2603 troystuber@verizon.net	4
La Higuera - D/R Lifeline Construction	Jan 27-Feb 3	Ted Steidinger 815-867-6452 tsteid@route24.net	8	Les Cayes MEBSH Medical	May 1-8	Keith Knepp 309-467-4691 kknepp@mchsi.com	8
Les Cayes MEBSH School Roof	Jan 30-Feb 6	Dean Pashak 989-662-7685 dwpashak@charter.net	12	Haiti MEBSH Caribbean Eval.	May 15-23	Tom Hitz 734-454-9229 tchitz@sbcglobal.net	Invitation
La Higuera - D/R Lifeline Construction	Feb 3-10	Eldon Steidinger 815-848-8988 eldonsteid@yahoo.com	8	Les Cayes FRW Vocational School	Jun 5-12	Rick Wuethrich 219-567-9488 topnotch@home.ffni.com	4
Les Cayes SEED Agriculture Aid	Feb 6-13	Dale Frank 319-766-3661 frankfarms@iowatelecom.net	12				

JAMAICA

Data updated from the Apostolic Christian World Relief web site as of August 13th, 2008 -www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-caribbean/

Project	Year 2009	Coordinator	Capacity				
Kingston School CCCC Gridley SS	Mar 21 - 28	Roger Stoller 309-747-3228 rstoller@dtnspeed.net	Full	Jamaica Deaf Village CCCC	May 22 - 30	Ted Hirstein 309-266-8769 hirstein@mtco.com	40
Montego Bay School CCCC Bluffton SS	Mar 21 - 28	Steve Gerber 260-824-9561 sandggerber@hotmail.com	40	Jamaica Deaf Village CCCC Akron, Rittman	Jun 20 - 27	Jay Maibach jmmaibach@embarqmail.com	40

Haiti and Jamaica Work Team Code Definitions

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 mfeichter@onlyinternet.net

Data updated from the Apostolic Christian World Relief web site as of July 9th, 2008 - www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-mexico/

Project	Date	Coordinator
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

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

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The following is a biographical sketch of Sis. Clara Ingold Hartzler, 101, of the Smithville, Ohio, congregation. Her daughter, Sis. Jeanette Blough, forwarded the information. Excerpts from her report were re-written for this "Remembering" article. Sis. Clara's mind is still quite good. She reads the Bible every day and talks about when she will meet the Lord. This is the first of a two-part series.

Clara Ingold Hartzler

She was born on April 14, 1907, in Round Bottom, Ohio. This town was in Monroe County not far from Sardis, Ohio. Her maternal grandparents were John and Marguerite Marty who came to America from Switzerland and settled in Illinois. They became lonesome for the hills of their native country and decided to follow the Ohio River and find another place to settle. They saw some high hills along the river — Ohio on one side and West Virginia on the other — and decided this is where they would settle.

They went back into the hills eight miles and built a two room cabin. Later, they built a larger six room house with two hallways running the length of the house. John Marty also built a three-story barn where Apostolic Christian worship services were held before the church building was constructed.

Clara's paternal great-grandparents immigrated from Switzerland as well. Her grandfather Jacob was born on the ocean during the trip to America. They also settled in Monroe County, Ohio. When Clara was born, the church building on top of the hill on Baptist Ridge was already built. It is used today as the Sardis Fellowship Hall.

A Terrible Loss

The first incident Clara remembers in her life was the family cleaning navy beans to sell. During this process her 11-month-old brother swallowed a bean and it lodged in his trachea. There was

no physician in the area — so his parents hitched up the horse and buggy and drove out of the hills in the dark to the Ohio River. They awakened the ferryman to take them across the river to catch a train to Wheeling, West Virginia, where the nearest hospital was located. It was too late when they arrived and the little boy died. He was brought back home in a little white casket. Clara remembers her father carrying the casket around the house weeping and lamenting. He felt his son died because he had not repented previously. This was a grievous time for him and his family.

Going To Church

Clara remembers going to church. Her family traveled down a hill to a creek that had a covered bridge. They did not travel over the bridge, but would drive through the water and go up another hill that eventually came out on Longridge Road (then called Locust Stump Road). They then traveled to Route 155 to Baptist Ridge Road where the church was located. There was a huge locust tree at the end of Longridge Road and Route 255. This tree was used as an object for giving travel directions.

When families got to church they would pull their buggies up to a platform. Clara does not remember if was made of wood or stone. At any rate, the women would step out on the platform and descend three or four steps to the ground instead of crawling over the buggy's wheels. The men would unhitch the horses from the buggies and put the horses in the horse sheds built at the church. One man would ride a mule to church and Clara says they always knew when "Jake" was coming because they could hear the donkey braying from quite a distance away.

Worship Services

The upstairs assembly room was heated with coal. There was a coal shed beside the church building. The dining

room was downstairs and was heated by a cook stove. Services were held in the morning and afternoon. Preaching and singing were in the German language because they used a German Bible. Everyone in the community spoke Swiss but they could understand German. There were four ministers: Joe Ingold was the Elder; and the other ministers were Sam Grossenbacher, Alex Bachman, and Rudy Indermuhle. They had one song leader named John Riggensbach. If he was not present, songs were possibly led by Rozena Walters.

Noon Hour

For lunch, each family brought their own basket and put it in mostly the same place in the dining room when they arrived. Each family would pack a little extra food in case there were visitors. An old single man usually came to church and Clara's family would invite him to eat lunch with them, so they always packed enough food for him and other visitors.

Rosie Indermuhle was what they called the "coffee Muter" (mother). She would always put a cup of coffee on the pulpit for the minister that preached. At noon between services, men would go out and feed the horses.

Attire

The women wore hats or scarfs to church and would change to their veils in church. The veils were heavier than they are today and the sisters would tie the ends in a loose knot. At home the sisters wore dustcaps which were homemade and covered all their hair. The men wore what Clara called "stiff hats" to church.

By Perry Klopfenstein

Next Issue:

Continued to include funerals, baptisms, conversion and daily living

The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean

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“What Is Man”

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

This past Sunday, July 6, 2008, Bro. Akihiro Ito read Psalm 8 and part of Luke, chapter 4, for our morning church service. Psalm 8 verse 4 reads, “What is man that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?” In Luke 4:4 we read, “And Jesus answered him saying, “It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.” Jesus was speaking to the devil but the thought came to me that He was also answering, at least in part, the question, “What is man?”

If man, or human beings, do not live by bread alone but by every word of God, it indicates that we humans are really spiritual beings, not just a combination of water and elements which return to dust. If we human beings are spiritual beings with an eternal destiny, we each have great value, so much that Christ was willing to die for us.

The latter part of Psalm 8:4, “And the son of man, that thou visitest him?” evidently refers to

Christ, who was often called the Son of Man, referring to the fact that he was born into this physical world as a human being. Hebrews 2:6-8 speaks of this Psalm as referring to Christ being made a little lower than the angels, that is, as a human being the Son of God was in a position lower than the position of angels. I believe that the first part of the verse refers to human beings in general and the latter part of the verse refers to Christ.

The dictionary says that a human being is a man, woman or child. It also says that a man is a male human being. That’s one way of getting around what we human beings really are. But I’m wondering what I really am and what you really are and I am not satisfied with synonyms for an answer. Therefore, I will start by saying that man, or human beings, are spiritual beings existing in temporal bodies. When we recognize this fact, it not only follows that each human being is of tremendous, eternal value, but also that we

should show much respect to our fellow human beings because of who they are, spiritual beings, with tremendous potential.

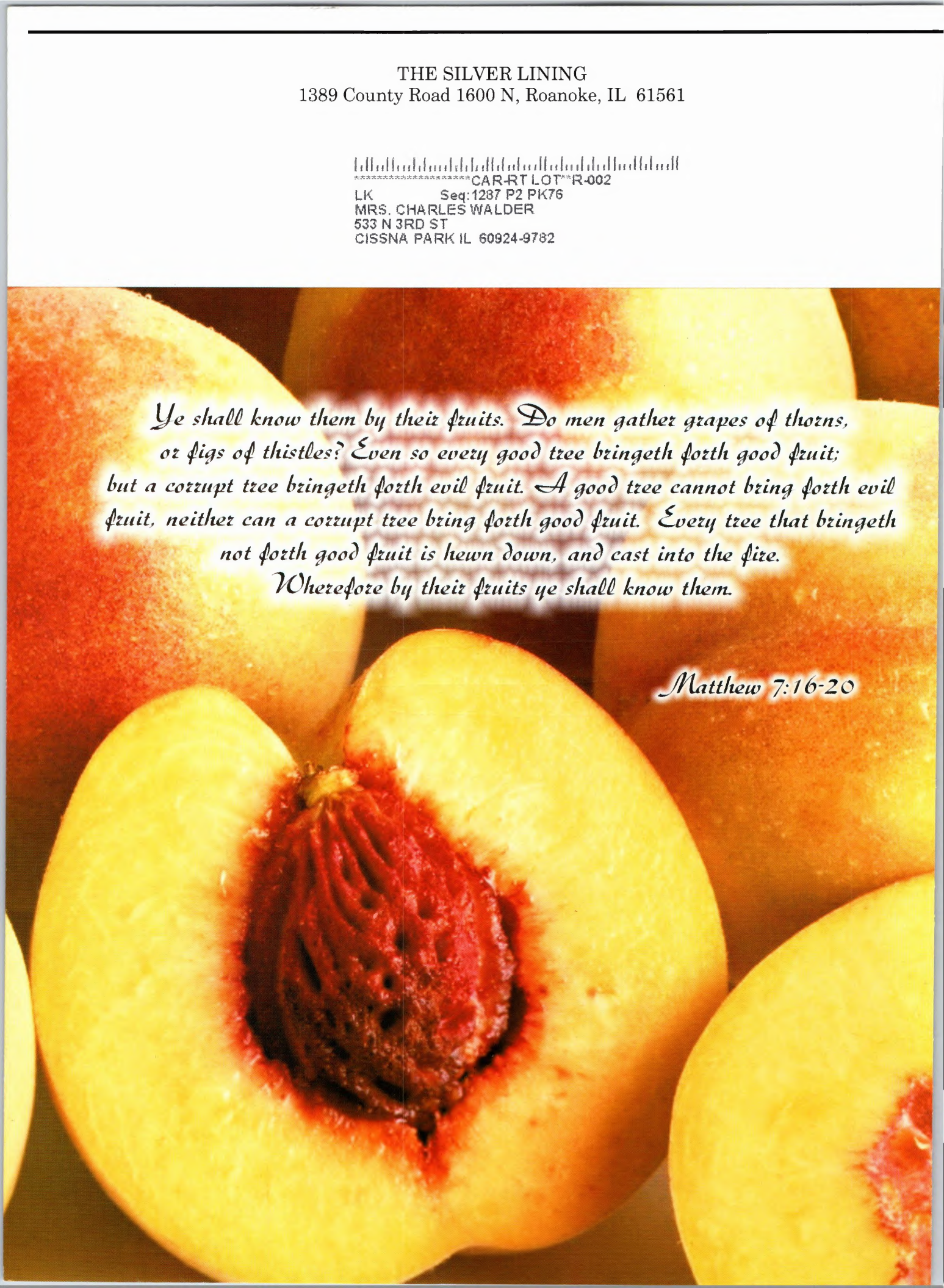
We human beings (according to II Corinthians 6:17-18) through Christ, can become sons and daughters of the living, Creator God. “And I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.”

This further defines man, or human beings, as a living identity which can be a child of God, which carries with it the position of being an heir of God. II Corinthians 8:17, “And if children, then heirs, heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ.” We human beings are not only spiritual beings, with the option of becoming children of God, but if we choose that option, we become heirs of all the treasures of the spiritual world, which I understand is much more real than the physical world. That’s what man is.

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*Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns,
or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit;
but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil
fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth
not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.
Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.*

Matthew 7:16-20