

The Silver Lining

*Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus
shall suffer persecution.*

2 Timothy 3:12

September 2008

Sermon by Bro. Darren Plattner, Champaign, IL

Amos 5:1-15 and Colossians 4:2-6

How many times did we read in Amos 5 - I didn't count exactly, but I know it is at least three or four times - seek? Seek. Seek who? He says, seek ye me, in verse four. In verse six he says, seek the Lord. In verse eight he says, seek him that makes the stars and Orion. In other words, the Creator. The Creator of the universe. Seek Him. And what? If we seek Him, we have the promise in Scripture, that when we seek the Creator God, we will find Him (St. Matthew 7:7). Seek and ye will find. Seek and here it says, you shall live (Amos 5:4). You shall live. Which is an exciting thing.

Of course, on one hand, one might say, well, what do you mean, seek ye me and ye shall live? Aren't I already alive? Aren't all six billion or whatever there are on the planet at this particular time in history, aren't they all alive? They are. They are at least biologically alive. They're breathing. Physically they are alive. But many are dead, spiritually. Many have no spiritual life whatsoever. They are dead spiritually, because they know not God. They know not their Creator. They don't have a personal relationship with Him. They've not been reconciled to Him as He has offered Himself that we might in fact be reconciled to Him.

He sent His Son, Jesus Christ. That act on the cross, that we speak of often, would take away our sin. Would take away that barrier that exists between Holy God, Creator God and sinful men and women. Jesus Christ came to be the mediator. The one and only mediator, it says in Timothy, if I remember right (I Timothy 2:5). The one and only go between. The one and only way for men to be reconciled to that Holy God. The one who created us that we might know Him.

So the promise of Scripture is that we will live! Live in a sense of living life the way it was intended to be lived. Living, to quote the New

Testament, the more excellent way (I Corinthians 12:31). To live the way it was intended. And then ultimately, not just to live in this life the way God intended. But ultimately to live with Him for all of eternity. And to look forward to time - well, time will have no meaning, it's probably not even the right word - but when we leave this earth, to a time of life eternal with God.

This part of chapter four in Colossians is broken up into two parts. The first three verses really deal with prayer, or this exercise where we go before God. Specifically, I think you could make the argument, the portion of prayer that he is talking about here, he is talking about praying for others. He says, pray for us. He talks about having a door that would be open that we could speak to others. (Colossians 4:3). This is what we would title sometimes, intercessory prayer. Where we go to God interceding on behalf of someone else. Where we pray to God or speak to God about others.

Interesting thing is, the next part of it is exactly the flip flop of that. Because the next part is all about sharing the gospel. Walking in wisdom towards them that are without. Redeeming the time. (v.4) So what is that? That is really about us going to others and speaking to them about God. You see the two there? The first part; we speak to God about others. We go to God in prayer, speaking. But then it is not just that. If it just is that, if all we are about is prayer, twenty four hours a day and we stay in our closets - it's a wonderful place to be - but there is also work to be done. So there is also that opportunity then, after we have gone to God on behalf of these people, we have the opportunity to go to them, on behalf of God in a sense. To speak to others about Him as we have spoken to Him about them.

So let's just look at this practical advice. Again, the first three verses

dealing specifically with prayer. The first comment is just to continue in it (v.2). It's just an exhortation to persevere. It is an exhortation to make

Sermon continued on page 42

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

October

1. North Ft. Myers, FL
2. Alto, MI
3. Iowa City, IA
4. Washington, IL
5. Athens, AL

Suggested Donation: \$14/subscription

Next correspondence due:

For October Issue

(16 August News - 15 Sept. News)

Due: 20 September 2008

The Silver Lining (Vol. 63, #9)
1389 County Road 1600 N
Roanoke, IL 61561

USPS 496780

Published Monthly By The Apostolic
Christian Church of America

Counselors:

Ron Schambach, Tom Stock

Official Apostolic Christian
Church Website
www.apostolicchristian.org

SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO:

cleman@davesworld.net
(e-mail is preferred)

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

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

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

"Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man."

(Col. 4:6)

Light From The Word



Writings based
on God's Word

September 2008

Biblical Principles of Effective Communication

In basic terms, communication is the exchange of information between people. However, effective communication goes far deeper. It is also a means to convey our feelings or thoughts and enables us to understand one another. When guided by biblical principles, our communication will leave a favorable impression on others. We will build bridges and not walls between one another and create harmony instead of contention within the church.

The Apostle Peter was a successful communicator when the Jews contended with him after he preached to the house of the Roman centurion Cornelius. Peter patiently *"rehearsed the matter from the beginning, and expounded it by order unto them"* (Acts 11:4). His reasonable and carefully considered response prevented an argument and instead brought about agreement. The Jews then realized that God had extended the gift of salvation to the Gentiles: *"God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life"* (Acts 11:18).

By contrast, the Corinthian members created polarity and contention within the church when various individuals stated, *"I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ"* (1 Cor. 1:12). When the Apostle Paul learned of this situation, he reminded them that though they consisted of many members and possessed a diversity of spiritual gifts, they were to be united as one body in Christ (1 Cor. 12:12). In addition he exhorted them to *"all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you"* (1 Cor. 1:10).

Gossip or tale bearing is an evil form of communication that often carries severe consequences. The Bible tells us, *"He that covereth a transgression seeketh love; but he that repeateth a matter separateth very friends"* (Prov. 17:9). The wounds caused by gossip are both deep and slow to heal, *"The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly"* (Prov. 18:8). Unless we seek God's help through prayer, our tongue will be an uncontrolled fire (Jam. 3:6-9). The Psalmist David's prayer was, *"Set a*

watch, O Lord, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips" (Psa. 141:3).

Numerous biblical principles offer instruction regarding effective communication: *"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear"* (1 Pet. 3:15). In addition, our expressions should be *"words of truth and soberness"* (Acts 26:25). Other Scriptures teach us to *"let thy words be few"* (Ecc. 5:2), to refrain from uttering *"words to no profit"* (2 Tim. 2:14) and to avoid *"malicious words"* (3 John 10). Speaking often on spiritual matters is pleasing to the Lord. *"Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another: and the Lord hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon his name"* (Mal. 3:16). The Apostle Paul summed it up beautifully, *"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"* (Eph. 4:29). Inevitably, we will disagree with someone, but we should avoid arguing or raising our voice: *"A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger"* (Prov. 15:1).

Making a conscious effort to listen is essential to communication. If we ask, the Lord will teach us to balance our speaking with productive listening. Isaiah said, *"The Lord God hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary,"* and further, *"he wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned"* (Is. 50:4). We perform a very important service to others when we listen with the sincere intent to identify with and understand their feelings or difficulties.

There is a variety of other ways to communicate with loved ones. Writing a note, making a phone call, or sending a card or email to someone who needs encouragement are all very effective modes of communication. Our actions are also a form of communication. As followers of Christ, we are instructed to *"do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith"* (Gal. 6:10). This can be as

simple as a smile, pat on the back or an appropriate hug. A donation or being available when someone needs a friend is a charitable act that sends a powerful, loving message.

One of the most important types of communication is to be friendly with everyone. *"A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly..."* (Prov. 18:24). This applies not only to those with whom we feel comfortable, but also to others with whom we are less familiar. Though this may require some effort on our part, experience teaches us that doing so will result in increased trust, and over time will draw us closer to one another.

If there are certain people whom we purposely avoid and consequently we fail to communicate with them, we are fostering division and are conducting ourselves in an unscriptural way. Jesus taught, *"For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so?"* (Matt. 5:46-47). When we assemble in our churches, we should make sincere effort to greet as many brethren and friends as possible and to exchange kindnesses in the true spirit of Christ.

Our communication will have an impact on others—either good or bad. Many times, we may not recall exactly what someone said to us, but we can easily remember how we felt at the time. This occurs because a person's motive and the sincerity of his or her love will often come through in body language and tone of voice, which make up a significant part of communication.

Effective communication is crucial to preserving unity within the church as well as in our marriages and families. To be effective, communication requires that we maintain a Christ-like love and esteem for one another. We should always remember that the enemy of our soul tries to build walls and create resentments among believers, but we should pray fervently for the grace to communicate in ways that will bring glory to God and will edify one another. *"Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man."* (Col. 4:6).

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

Mission Update

Information is published on this page to keep our Brotherhood well informed of the mission activities of our church. This enables everyone to be aware of opportunities for prayer, financial support and personal service. This article reports the highlights of meetings held in May and July of 2008.

Vision

The Mission Committee and the Outreach Committee have worked together to formulate a statement which describes the vision for future mission efforts in our church. The Word teaches that "Where there is no vision, the people perish" (Prov. 29:18). The vision statement is utilized as a succinct reminder of our Lord's deep love for lost souls and His exhortation to prayer and action.

The approved vision statement is as follows: "The Mission efforts of the Apostolic Christian Church exist to embrace and respond to Jesus' vision: "Behold! Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest... pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers..." (Matt. 9:38; John 4:35) to make disciples of Christ wherever God opens doors, so that Jesus may receive His harvest of sanctified believers (Matt. 28:19-20; John 14:26).

Mission website

Work is progressing on establishing a website for the mission activities of our church. Some of the purposes to be served by this site include: offer a central point of communication for timely matters; provide information regarding existing mission programs; facilitate brethren becoming involved in various

mission opportunities; and offer assistance regarding ways all brethren can become more active in sharing the Gospel in their daily lives.

Reports

The Outreach Committee has added several subcommittees to assist in carrying out the various components of its charge. A selection process is being developed for those who will be considered for service in both short and long-term mission assignments. This will include establishment of a Selection/Interview Committee which will serve the needs of both Missions and World Relief. Another group is working on the preparation process for those selected to serve on long-term assignments. More organized efforts are needed to provide language and cultural training before individuals are placed in the field.

A survey of brethren who have served in the past or are currently serving provided helpful information regarding the kinds of preparation needed for mission work. Efforts are also underway to ensure that proper spiritual nurturing is provided. We are taking steps to keep the Brotherhood informed with appropriate information so there is broad understanding and support for these efforts.

A report was given regarding the special needs of our European brethren. The economy has not improved in Serbia and there are still many hardships among the brethren. Our help for some of their daily needs as well as improvements to several church buildings is greatly appreciated. Approval has been given for assistance in building a new church in Brsadin, Croatia and remodeling of a church building in Slovakia. The self-help programs

in these countries continue to be a blessing. Assistance for brethren in Ukraine was also reported, and it is evident that this has improved the lives of the believers there.

Regular reports are made on the mission work in Mexico and India and various other activities. More detailed reports will appear in separate articles.

There was extensive discussion of the outpouring of support from our Brotherhood to provide assistance to Oakville and Taylor brethren. The amount of effort put forth by brethren from many locations has been a great blessing to the local brethren and has also had a significant impact on the surrounding community. This provides a special opportunity for giving glory to God by portraying the light and example of Jesus Christ. There is clearly an opportunity to touch hearts with the good news of the Gospel as part of this ongoing work.

Appreciation and opportunity

As the opportunities to present the Gospel to the lost have been increasing in our Brotherhood, there has been clear evidence of growing support in a number of ways. There have been a number of brethren who have come forward with willing hearts to serve where they can be of help. Many brethren continue to generously share of their resources to support the missions activities of our church. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, all have the opportunity to pray that the Lord will add His increase to these efforts so that souls can be saved and also that a special measure of grace will be given to those making significant sacrifices to carry out various responsibilities in the Lord's work.



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

Bluffton Distribution Center Activities

The National Distribution Center Committee coordinates six distribution centers. These locations are Goodfield and Fairbury, Illinois; Wolcott and Bluffton, Indiana; Bay City, Michigan; and Sterling, Ohio. The committee also supports the distribution efforts of Leo, Indiana and Athens, Alabama.

The centers receive material and monetary donations from corporations and individuals. These donations include food products, medical supplies, clothing, and household items. These donations are distributed locally, shared with other distribution centers, or shipped internationally. Each facility has activities unique to their center. With this article we would like to let you know how the Lord is working through the Bluffton Distribution Center.

Bluffton has been blessed with a building in which God can surely be glorified. In the building they have four areas which are very active: Bible distribution, Haiti and Mexico, disaster activity and a food bank. They are also active with other projects that come along throughout the year.

Bible Distribution

The Bible distribution area orders and distributes various items to whoever needs this service. There are a wide variety of needs all around and the goal is to try to supply every person possible with the Word of God. They offer Bibles that are written in English, Spanish, and Creole. There is also an option of print size. If unable to read, they also distribute tapes and CDs. Bible

story books and Bible concordances are also available.

Haiti and Mexico

Bluffton has two committees that are in correspondence with Haiti and Mexico. Many different items are kept in inventory for these two countries in the distribution center. This is necessary because of different needs throughout the year. The items stored are primarily donated items, along with some purchased items. Throughout the year, four to six sea containers are shipped to Haiti.

Two containers were sent recently to Haiti. One for Loving Shepherd Ministries contained items to help a new orphan home that was built for children abandoned on the street due to the loss of one or both parents. The other container was sent to MEBSH with construction and child care provisions, and medical supplies for clinics.

They also make shipments to Mexico. These shipments are made by semis, with the most recent load destined to Isaiah 55 at Reynosa with supplies and health kits.

Disaster Activity

This activity is fairly new to the building. Although many projects in the building could be classified as disaster relief projects, this activity is the assembly of relief boxes. These boxes are distributed to people affected by tornados, hurricanes, floods, and any other natural disasters. They contain food and hygiene items along with a Bible and story book. Approximately 1,500 boxes have been assembled to date. Through this project they hope God will be glorified during times of natural disaster.

Food Bank

In another area they operate a food and clothing bank which serves primarily Wells county families. It is open from 9:00 to 11:15am on the second and fourth Tuesday and Thursday of each month except during the month of January. They service approximately two hundred families per month. During the month of December they have a special Christmas week where they serve over three hundred families. The food bank is supported by local churches, businesses, schools, and individuals. This support consists of actual products or monetary donations which can buy items needed.

Once a year the Bluffton community holds a postal drive. A few weeks prior to the drive, an informational postcard is sent to the community asking for food and grocery items for the food bank. On the day of the drive the people in the community place their donated items beside their mailboxes. Postal workers and local volunteers pick up the donations and deliver them to the food bank. Waiting at the food bank are many volunteers who sort the items into their assigned food categories.

The products are then used to help the many needy families in the community. Last year the postal drive collected around 13,000 pounds of grocery items. The food bank is a great opportunity for both young and old to get involved in helping others in the community. They have over one hundred volunteers from the community on a scheduled monthly basis.

The Bluffton Distribution Center is a wonderful place to receive a blessing from God. We only have to be willing.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

Innocence. Isn't that a lovely word? Oh, to be able to claim ourselves innocent. Some of us have probably had the thought run through our minds that if only we could go back and do things differently in some areas of our lives having gained from hindsight, we would surely have caused ourselves less grief, guilt, and pain.

To be around the residents at the Home for the Handicapped gives us a great picture of innocence. What a blessing to be involved with these loved ones.

Matthew 19:14 "But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven."

What is unfathomable, is that we can be innocent ... in God's eyes. We can be forever grateful for the precious shed blood of our Savior and Lord, Jesus, which cleanses us and covers us. Our sins are in the depths of the sea. We are at peace with our Creator.

II Corinthians 9:15 Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift.

In the days we are experiencing, there is much uncertainty and skepticism. We can take an example from the Residents of the Home who live life seemingly just one day at a time, trusting that their needs will be met.

Proverbs 3:5-6 "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."

GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME Kristi Reinhard

Our theme this year at Gateway Woods is "teamwork". We are focusing on the necessity of each and every one of us giving our all and doing our best to accomplish the Lord's work at Gateway. This theme reminded me of a battle described in Chapter 17 of Exodus.

"Then came Amalek, and fought with

Israel in Rephidim. And Moses said unto Joshua, Choose us out men, and go out, fight with Amalek: tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in mine hand. So Joshua did as Moses had said to him, and fought with Amalek: and Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill. And it came to pass, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed: and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed. But Moses' hands [were] heavy; and they took a stone, and put [it] under him, and he sat thereon; and Aaron and Hur stayed up his hands, the one on the one side, and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun. And Joshua discomfited Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword."

Exodus 17:8-13

I have always loved this Bible story; I can still remember the artist's rendition in my picture Bible book from childhood. What stands out to me is not just the team effort involved to fight this battle, but the different positions that needed to be filled to accomplish the victory.

Although there are a variety of roles in life, most of us are arm-lifters like Aaron and Hur. I am an arm-lifter in the office of Gateway, working to ease the weight of responsibility for my co-workers. I pray you are an arm-lifter for the ministry and people at Gateway as well. You can hold up our arms through prayer. You can hold up our arms through volunteering your time and talents like many Brothers and Sisters did these past summer months. You can hold up our arms through your gifts just as many of you did at our Annual Auction on August 16. Our team is not complete without many arm-lifters. We readily recognize this and are grateful for your support.

As you lift up the ministry of Gateway Woods, you are helping us to be able to lift up the hurting children and families we serve. Together, we can help these families be victorious in their own battles!

NEWS:

- Gateway Woods is very thankful to

say that this year's 32nd Annual Auction on Saturday, August 16, was an overwhelming success. We are very thankful for the beautiful weather and for those who attended. God blessed us with over \$410,000 worth of donations! The Auction success would've been unthinkable without God's help, volunteer participation, and your support. From the bottom of our hearts, we thank you for working with us to continue to make a difference in the lives of children and families in need.

- We are very grateful to Sis. Judy Gehring for her 10 years of service at Gateway Woods. Sis. Judy is retiring on September 19. She says "I have dearly loved all my years at Gateway Woods and will miss working with each of you deeply. Yet, I am also excited to be able to enjoy more time with my children and grandchildren. Thank you for all the kindness you have shown me over the years. May God bless you as you continue His work here."

- 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 are available on our website.

- Both our Foster Care and Adoption Programs continue to remain very busy. There are currently over 42 foster children in 35 homes. We are thankful that God is encouraging parents to adopt and to become foster parents. Please continue to pray for these children as they adjust to their new families.

- 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, con-

struction 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!

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

School is back in full swing! It's great to see the excitement in the kids as they learn new things. There is one who tends to give frequent updates (nearly every hour) saying "I'm still having fun!"

The month of August our themes were Back to School and I Am Special. They really are special and I am sometimes amazed at how unique and different their little personalities can be at just a couple years old. Even as I type, I can hear one of the dramatic ones coming in sobbing after what is probably a tiny boo boo. And yet at the same time, I can look outside and see a brute of a boy go crashing off his bike, laugh, and hop right back up.

Also the start of the school year means starting back with the letter A again. Each week we have a verse to go along with our letter, and go over it every day during circle time. One little boy gets stuck on the same verse, and no matter what the letter, he says our verse is "Train up a child in the way he should go..." That's okay, though, since it just happens to be our mission, and we pray that's what will be accomplished over the next year!

**ALABAMA, ATHENS
Louise Hall**

We were very excited to be able to witness the baptism of our Bro. Mark Klaus the last weekend in July. Baptisms are

few and far between in our small congregation and it was such a blessing and an encouraging weekend for all of us. Church was full and we had plenty of fellowship! We want to thank all of our visitors for making the effort to come down, especially our visiting ministers. Our Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Sis. Roberta, Smithville) was here, along with Bro. Andy Klaus (Sis. Jana, Tokyo), Bro. Randy Mogler (Sis. Evie, Washington), Bro. Daron Price (Sis. Monica, Milford) and Bro. Ted Hirstein (Sis. Joyce, Morton).

The Athens church would like to give a warm welcome to Sis. Jena Runion from Bluffton who has come to work at the preschool. We are happy to have her and pray she can feel right at home.

We also want to wish our best to Matthew Moore (Bro. Mike and Sis. Pam) as he moves to Arkansas for college. We will miss him but we know that God will take plenty good care of him!

**ARIZONA, PRESCOTT
Denise Steidinger**

We appreciated having Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern), Bro. Craig Martin (Princeville) and Bro. Herb Knochel (Phoenix) minister to our congregation this past month. Our church also enjoyed a Saturday evening potluck hosted by Bro. Dennis and Sis. Jackie Knobloch from Lester. They brought their son Max back out for his second year of college at Embry Riddle Aeronautical University. We are so thankful for all the families visiting on their summer vacations.

I apologize in failing to mention last month that Bro. Tyler and Sis. Alexis Scott were blessed with their first bundle of joy from Heaven. Evan Graham Scott was born on June 27. Grandparents are Bro. Randy and Sis. Shirley Koehl (Morris) and Ted Scott and LuAnn Rehm (Bluffton).

**ARIZONA, PHOENIX
Ron and Ev Hoerr**

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them that are the called according to his

purpose."

Romans 8:28

The weekend of July 26-27 we enjoyed special love and fellowship when Bill Hamilton gave his testimony and was baptized. We gratefully greeted Bro. Bill in God's love. A fellowship dinner followed, and then our ministering brothers presented the results of the Elder survey. We were blessed, encouraged, and challenged.

Our visiting ministers were Bro. Jeff Neihofer (Francesville), and Bro. Lenny Meyer (Chicago). We are always grateful for their efforts and messages from God's Word.

We are also thankful for God's healing power as our Sis. Linda Yackley and Bro. Ernie Dapper had surgeries in Minnesota, while Bro. Ed Frautschi underwent surgery here.

Bro. Scott and Sis. Katie Klopfenstein are the happy parents of James Scott born August 6. Happy siblings welcoming him home are Matthew, Jared, and Lindsay.

Our Elders and ministers met in Princeville August 6 - 8 for the annual Conference. May we ever appreciate their loving efforts and take to heart their loving encouragements as well as their admonishments. "...I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth." (Is. 29:20)

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him."

I John 2:15

Note of Thanks:

Life... and deaths came on us in rather quick succession. We will always miss our dear parents, Sis. Alice and Bro. Glen Baumgartner and Sis. Iola Knobloch; but treasure precious memories of them. Thankfully as time passes, grief eases. Your loving support has brought us thus far. God knows each thought, prayer, visit, and loving deed you have offered in our behalf, and we pray He will abundantly bless and reward you.

We also thank you for your prayers

and kind deeds during Leon's illness and recuperation.

With Humble Love and Thanks,
Bro. Leon and Sis. Nancy (*Knobloch*)
Baumgartner

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp

Not much to report here in our little church. July and August are usually pretty quiet. Everyone has returned safely from their vacations and we are anticipating starting Sunday School, Fellowship Suppers and Wednesday evening church next month.

Our younger children have started back to school and our college students will start next Monday. We pray they will all carry the values that they have been taught at home and at church into their classrooms and school environments.

Our monsoon storms are almost history now with a few more possible storms the next few days and then the forecast getting back to dry and hot. We certainly enjoy them while they're here!

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

Catherine Brame

We gave thanks for reports of excellent exchanges at the Elder's Conference, and rejoiced to have the safe return of our own dear Elder, Bro. Tom and Sis. Jody Klotzle, and Ret. Elder, Bro. John and Sis. Lois Klotzle. We look forward to hearing the tapes from the Elder's Conference during the next several Wednesday evenings.

Bro. Fred Witzig (Sis. Nancy) ministered to us on the Sunday following the Elder's Conference. It is always good to have visitors to our smaller church, and visiting ministers are such a wonderful opportunity for us. Thank you for your service to our congregation.

Sis. Robin and Bro. Justin Moser are delighted with their new addition, Natalie Esther Moser, born on August 23. She is welcomed by her brothers, Cody and Garrett. Grandparents are Bro. Doug and Sis. Carol Moser (Rockville, CT) and Bro. Rick and Sis. Karen Kellenberger (Fort Scott, KS).

We bade farewell to Sis. Alyson Luthi

as she left our congregation to begin her new life in Morton, Illinois. Bro. Scott and Sis. Shayna Mangers have joined our congregation here, coming from St. Louis. Sis. Briana Wagenbach has also decided to make her home with us while she is attending school. She joins us from San Diego. We are glad to welcome all of them to our fellowship.

Our congregation was delighted by the announcement of Bro. Jim Klotzle's (Elder Bro. Tom and Sis. Jody) impending marriage to Sis. Krissa Skoglund (Minneapolis, MN – daughter of Bro. Mark and Sis. Lori Skoglund, West Bend, IA). The wedding has been set for September 28 in Altadena. We rejoice with this young couple and pray that they will find great joy in serving God through this beautiful covenant.

Sis. Mary (Bro. Bill) Witzig was recently hospitalized, and we are glad to learn that she is now home. Bro. Bill continues to covet prayers for his health and for his comfort. Sis. Mary and Bro. Laszlo Cser also continue to covet prayers for their ongoing recoveries.

We are eagerly anticipating the beginning of the new Sunday school year, and the joy of the upcoming wedding feast that autumn will bring.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Yasmin Koehl

Three years ago, Bro. George, Sis. Willow and their children, Mya and Travis, Gramm became a part of our congregation. We fellowshiped, made fond memories and worshipped God together. Now the Lord has directed their paths towards Gridley, IL, Bro. George's home town. Our hearts and prayers go with them as they establish their roots there. Their presence amongst us will be missed, but we are so grateful for the greatest presence in our lives...God who sends us His Holy Spirit to be our Comforter and Guide.

We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz and his wife, Sis. Leonda (Leo, IN) visit our congregation. We pray God's blessings to rest upon Bro. Lynn and his family as he lovingly brought forth the Word.

"But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life."

John 4:14

KITCHENER, ONTARIO CANADA

Kim Leman

"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man..."

Ecclesiastes 12:13

We appreciated our Elder Bro. Mark Bahr being with us for a topical Bible study and ministering to us the following day also. Our visiting Brothers bringing the Word to us were Bros. Ken Dietz (Sis. Mardell, Bradford, IL), Ken Schneider (Sis. Bernice, Remington, IN), and Dale Stoller (Sis. Sandra, Fairbury, IL).

How our hearts rejoiced with the wonderful news that our friends, John and Liz Kralt, have made a beginning in repentance. We wish them much grace as they follow God's will for their lives.

We began listening to the Conference tapes. We hold our Elder Brothers up in prayer as they lead the flock.

COLORADO, DENVER

Ann Gonglach

Another school year has begun. We're thankful for our youth and pray that the Lord would watch over them and teach them as they begin another year of formal learning.

In days of youth seek ye the Lord,
His love and truth with one accord,
Go offer Him thy youthful days
and walk within the Saviour's ways.

Hymns of Zion #135

We rejoice with Kaylynne Hohulin (Bro. Doug and Sis. Sharolyn) who desires baptism and Kristy Schmidt (Bro. Rod and Sis. Cindy) who is seeking the Lord in repentance.

Welcome to George, Lily, Luke, Jesse

and Sam Zarkovacki who have moved here from Bluffton, IN, and are worshipping with us.

We were grateful for the ministry of these visitors: Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Sis. Cheryl, Rockville, CT), Bro. Chuck Kellenberger (Sis. Debbie, Elgin, IL), Bro. Bob Meyer (Sis. Ann, Bluffton North, IN), Bro. David Obergfel (Sis. Kathleen, Peoria, IL), Bro. Tim Ramsier (Sis. Jonell, Rittman, OH), Bro. Ed Sauder (Sis. Bonnie, Roanoke, IL), Bro. Mark Schmidgall (Sis. Lisa, Eureka, IL), and Bro. David Steffen (Sis. Linda, Elgin, IL).

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE

Amber Rocke Laura Virkler

What a friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer!
...HZ #161

We have all felt the blessing of having Jesus as a close friend. It seems that there are times in our lives that our relationships with the Lord seem closer than at other times. At these times, we are so thankful to have one another to go to. Our congregation has certainly felt the importance of fellowship, and the nearness of God throughout this past month.

We were privileged to witness the marriage of Bro. Doug Luginbuhl (Bro. Rick and Sis. Sue) and Sis. Leah Goric (Bro. Bob. and Sis. Lynette). It was a blessing for Bro. Doug, his family and our entire congregation, to have his uncle, Elder Bro. John Jackson (Sis. Peggy, Bay City, MI) here for the weekend. May the Lord bless his efforts on our behalf.

Our congregation was also granted the opportunity to witness the provings and baptisms of two dear souls, Sis. Holly Virkler (Owen Virkler and Sue Ellen Machuga) and Bro. Nathan Galat (Bro. Dave and Sis. Ellen). We appreciated all those that made the effort to be with Sis. Holly and Bro. Nathan for such a significant event in their lives. For us all, including our children, it was such an encouraging weekend to witness the

Spirit work in the lives of these souls.

We have a new arrival in our congregation! David Scott was born to Bro. Scott and Sis. Tecca Virkler. He has an older brother, James. Maternal grandparents are Clair and Sis. Bev Keever (Mansfield, OH), and paternal grandparents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Dorothy Virkler. We are thankful to report that both mother and child are doing well. May the Lord continue to be by their side as they adjust to the new demands placed upon them. Bro. Doug and Sis. Carol Moser have a new granddaughter, Natalie Esther, born to Bro. Justin and Sis. Robin Moser (Altadena, CA). Her siblings are Cody and Garrett. May God bless this family.

We want to remember Bro. Josh and Sis. Kate Virkler (Congerville, IL) in the passing of their newborn daughter. Although absent from our congregation for a measure of time, they continue hold a special place in our hearts, especially among family and friends. May they feel our love and prayers.

Our prayers extend to Sis. Jane (Bro. Jim) Moser, Bob Dombek (Sis. Lorraine), their siblings John, Wallace, and Stanley, and their families, as they mourn the loss of their brother, Paul Dombek (Beth). May they also feel our love and prayers.

We rejoice with Kevin Luginbuhl (Bro. Rick and Sis. Sue) as he begins his journey of repentance. It is wonderful to have an addition to our Young Group. We pray that the Lord will provide him much grace and humility through this process.

Those hospitalized this past month were Sis. Eunice Schneider, and Sis. Margaret Gottier (Bro. Warren). We pray that the Lord will continue to restore both of them to health. As the songwriter continues:

Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged,
take it to the Lord in prayer.
... (HZ #161)

May this be a comfort to us each one through another month.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA WASHINGTON

Henrietta Meyer

Our caretakers the second half of July were Bro. Don and Sis. Carol Bazzell from Fairbury, IL. The August caretakers are Bro. Ray and Sis. Jeanie Haerr from Fort Myers, FL. Sis. Doreen reports we still need caretakers for a few weeks in December. Her contact information is in the ministers' book.

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Darren Plattner (Sis. Sue, Campaign, IL), Bro. Jerry Isch (Sis. Linda, Philadelphia, PA), Bro. Larry Wenninger (Sis. Joyce, Latty, OH), Bro. Nile Bucher (Sis. Phyllis, Bluffton North, IN). Other visitors this month were from Elgin, IL; Rockville, CT; Budapest, Hungary; Bluffton and Bluffton North, IN; West Bend, IA; Smithville, OH; Prescott and Phoenix, AZ.

Our thoughts and prayers are with our convert Ken Belsley as he had surgery and is currently in a rehab facility.

Sis. Michelle Bachtold (Chicago, IL) was here for another four week internship. We wish her God's blessings and grace as she begins her career as a physician's assistant.

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 or Sis. Henrietta Meyer at (703) 904-8301 for assistance and to let us know how many to expect for Sunday services. If you would like to get together on Saturday evening, please let us know that as well. We would be happy to have an evening of fellowship and/or singing.

FLORIDA FORT LAUDERDALE

Renee Mangold

We were thankful to have visiting us this past month Bro. Ron Jones (Port-

land, OR) and Bro. Wayne Leman (Sis. Julie, Roanoke, IL). We pray that God would bless His servants who work so faithfully to share His Word.

Our continued prayers for recovery are with Sis. Vi Gerber (Bro. Ed) who took a fall. Our prayer is that the Lord would have His healing hand on her and return her to good health.

The meetings for redesigning and modernizing our church continues. Sis. Donna Hodel (Bro. Ron) came in to share ideas for the renovation at recent building committee meetings.

Joe Mangold has returned from working in Illinois this summer and along with his brother, David, will start their college classes.

Sis. Tara Hohulin has returned to Illinois to resume her senior year at ISU.

FLORIDA NORTH FORT MYERS Naomi Vogel

Oops! I forgot to submit the Ft. Myers news last month. We were in Illinois visiting family and friends. The deadline just passed by unnoticed. Sorry!

We returned to Florida the evening before hurricane Fay arrived. Once again, we were spared any problems in our area since Fay entered Florida farther east than originally predicted. It is still roaming around northeast Florida and is expected to veer west across the northern border to destinations currently unknown. Our prayers are for those who are being affected!

The attendance has been extra meager this summer since some of our full-timers have been away for as much as a month at a time. Bro. Ray and Sis. Jeanie Haerr are in Washington DC taking care of the church this month. We are grateful that Bro. Larry and Sis. Teresa Bruellman have relocated here from West Bend. We are hoping more couples will make that decision! There are some excellent bargains in the real estate market right now!

Bro. Bill and Sis. Mary Masters have opened their hearts and guest house for two young single mothers that had been residents of the home for unwed pregnant girls where they had been volun-

teering as temporary houseparents. Stephanie has a one year old named Malachi and Amy has a newborn named Erving. It will be fun having babies at church! Both girls plan to attend Edison college.

We were saddened by the news of the death of Sis. Alice Kempf of the Roanoke congregation, mother of Sis. Maxine (Bro. Dave) Hodel who winter with us. Sis. Alice had visited them down here a short time the last few years. May God comfort you at this time of sorrow!

FLORIDA, SARASOTA DiAnne Brown

Greetings from steamy, soggy Florida. Tropical Storm Fay came in like a lady, but left like a lion, making landfall a record 4 times in our state and dumping almost 3 feet of rain in some areas. I'm hoping this year will not be a repeat of the 2004 Hurricane season when we moved to Sarasota, only to be 'welcomed' by 5 hurricanes. Our area was blessedly overlooked by Fay and none of our Sarasota congregation suffered any flooding.

We remain mindful of the many friends and brethren still recovering from the storms and flooding in Oakville and other Midwest communities. Please know you are remembered often and we send heartfelt prayers for speedy restoration. May God lend strong hands and a late Autumn to aid the effort.

Several brethren need our prayers for healing and comfort including Sis. Marilyn (Bro. Gordon) Bryant, Sis. Marie (Bro. Arthur) Keller, Sis. Marjorie Pittman and Bro. Miklos (Sis. Aranka) Bozzay. Bro. Rich (Sis. Aldine) Martin was well enough to move back home recently.

Sis. Edna Roscher now resides at Consulate Health Care, 4783 Fruitville Rd, Room #102, Sarasota FL 34232.

We welcome Bro. Schuyler Brown (Bro. Larry and Sis. DiAnne) as a brother in Christ. He gave an inspiring testimony and was baptized on Sunday, June 29. Elder Bro. Dale (Sis. Judy) Eisenmann and Bro. Jeff (Sis. Lynne) Streitmatter directed the services and the entire congregation was invited to a baptism dinner afterwards. Bro. Schuyler and his family

are so grateful for all who took part in making this a day to cherish forever.

It has been a pleasure to have Sis. Anna Esslinger worship with us while working in Florida over the last few months. She has returned to the Midwest and we will miss her greatly.

And often for each other flows
The sympathizing tear.

Hymns of Zion, #156

Our entire church body shares the pain of losing a loved one – and their victory over death. We send our deepest prayers for God's merciful comfort and grace to Bro. Virgil (Sis. Suellen) Kaeb and Bro. Timm Kaeb on the passing of their mother.

We also extend our prayers of sympathy and love to Sis. Marie Reardon and Sis. Colleen Reardon on the loss of their daughter and sister. We pray God will find ways to help you remember the joy of her life and lighten the pain of her loss.

Visiting ministers do so much to 'feed the flock' of those churches blessed by their service. We thank Bro. William Masters (Sis. Mary, North Ft. Myers) and Bro. Victor Bauman (Sis. Brenda, Smithville, OH) for recent visits. Bro. Erik Givens (Sis. Debbie, Princeville, IL) provided a special treat by leading us in an illuminating Bible study about the rebellious nature of our hearts.

GEORGIA, ATLANTA Melinda Gramm

Sunday School began for 2008/2009. On the first Sunday, the Bible Class brought food to a family in need and had their Sunday school lesson with them. For the follow up visit, the class will share the Gospel message.

Our Sunday school children and several of our congregation were blessed to be a part of a VBS weekend held in the Smoky Mountains of North Carolina. Bro. Kerwin Edelman (Sis. Sara, Athens, AL) ministered to us on "Where your treasure is there will your heart be also". We were admonished to "burn the ships" if that is what it takes. Bro. Rich Gramm (Sis. Samantha, South Bend, IN) turned the question around and asked us

"Where is God's treasure" and "What is God doing?". Bro. Rich pointed to a big clue found in II Chron. 16:9, "For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him." Finally, we were taught that the core beliefs of the early Christians have been challenged throughout history by even the main stream church, just as Jesus' teachings are often ignored by the nominal church today. We enjoyed the beauty of the mountains, singing and Christian fellowship.

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue, Detroit, MI).

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE

**Jenn Johnson
Doreen Moser**

Love is an action verb: what a profound statement. A minister in our church recently spent some time addressing this simple topic. The best way for us to exemplify Christ is to show love to those around us. It is very easy for us to say that we love someone merely out of habit. I find myself doing this all the time. But, Christ wants us to show love by doing. He wants us to go out of our way to do things for other people. He wants us to send little notes of encouragement, make a quick phone call to check on someone, or even just smile at someone we see on the street. When I think of a real love, I think of the children's song that goes like this: "Christians this is your call, love your neighbor as yourself, for God is love."

Christ's love for the church is so divine it is difficult for the human mind to grasp. We are looking forward to welcoming two brothers to Christ's church in the coming weeks. Trent and Troy Steffen (Bro. Dean and Sis. Carol) will, Lord willing, give their testimonies and be baptized the weekend of September 6-7.

Our ministering brothers attended the ministers' meeting and the Brotherhood Conference in Princeville the week of August 4-8.

May God's love be the driving force

behind every action you do throughout the day!

ILLINOIS BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

**Betsy Zimmerman
Alissa Kieser**

The summer months, with their long, warm days, seem to last forever. As we bask in the warmth of the earthly sun, may we also bask in the warmth of the Heavenly Son, in whom our souls delight.

We are thankful the Holy Spirit continues to work and call those in need of a Savior. We rejoice with Mark Dietsch and Randy Stuerman as they have recently begun their walk with the Lord.

We were blessed to have Bro. Matt Steffen (Princeville) visit our congregation and are thankful for his service.

We rejoice with Erin Stevig (Bro. Larry and Sis. Barb) as she was united in marriage to Thomas Frankie in July. We wish them God's blessings as they begin their new life together.

We extend our sympathies to Sis. Marlene (James) Steidinger at the passing of her brother-in-law, Bro. Doug Moser (Sis. Julia, Fairbury), July 26 following a farming accident.

With the coming school year, we have new teachers coming in to faithfully teach the love of God to our children. Sis. Wendy (Bro. Alan) Edelman, Sis. Margie (Bro. Steve) Sauder, Sis. Tami Inoue, Bro. Andy (Sis. Marie) Kaufmann, Bro. Joe (Sis. Carrie) Kieser, and Bro. Brian (Sis. Roze) Strassheim are beginning their terms this year.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD Philip and Donna Nenadov

'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,
Just to take Him at His Word;
Just to rest upon His promise;
Just to know, "Thus saith the Lord."

Hymns of Zion # 147

It is such a secure feeling to know that we have an Almighty God that we can trust in to provide for all our needs. True simple faith is what we need as we face

the trials of life.

We were thankful to have a good number of visiting ministers. Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champagne), Bros. Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata), Ron Joos (Sis. Christy, Bloomfield), Mike Ursu (Sis. Barb, Kitchener), Paul Gasser (Sis. Joyce, Akron), and Glen Braker (Sis. Audrey, Princeville) were with us on the eve of the Conference. Although not all shared in the service, we were thankful for their presence.

We had several new babies this past month. Libby Jane was born to Bro. Ben and Sis. Katie Endress. Excited siblings who welcomed her home are: Corbin, Marissa, Maria, Mallory, and Elijah. Grandparents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Becky Endress and Bro. Dick and Sis. Marilyn Slutz, all of the Bradford congregation. Bro. Bill and Sis. Kristal Stahl welcomed Bethany Mae into this life. Ryan, Kyle, Tyler, Wyatt, and Ashley are excited to have a new sister to join the family. Bro. Lyle and Sis. Betty Stahl and Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Elaine Wagenbach (all of Princeville) are Bethany's grandparents. Brookelyn Mae was born to Bro. Matt and Sis. Becky Elsasser. Brittany and Shelby are her sisters, and Bro. Jordan and Sis. Sharon Elsasser and Bro. Roger and Sis. Ila Bradle (Eureka) are her grandparents.

God be with you 'til we meet again.

Note of Thanks:

We would like to thank everyone who showered us with love and kindness during the time of Roy's illness and death. Every visit, card, thoughts and prayers, lovely floral pieces and food brought in were all greatly appreciated. May God richly bless everyone!

The LeRoy Streitmatter family

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO Rachel Meyer

Greetings from Chicago. We are thankful to two ministering brothers who shared God's Word with us this past month. They are Bros. James Koehl (San Diego, CA), and Daron Price (Milford, IN).

Two dear ones in our church family lost loved ones recently. Our sympathy and prayers go out to Bro. William Art upon the loss of his brother, Alfred Art, of Westlake, OH. Sis. Gladys Fisher's sister-in-law, Sis. Alma Wittmer, passed away in Morton. May God's presence be your comfort.

Our beloved Christine Eckel is recovering from a mild heart attack and heart bypass surgery. Our sincere prayer is that God's healing hands continue and that Christine may feel God's love for her.

July 19-26 found many from our congregation in Magdalena on their Bible Class Mission Trip. Praise God for their safe trip and the many blessings they experienced. A few stories have been shared regarding hearts being touched and new relationships made. I'm sure there were many more and we continue to see God's hands move in our Mexico missionary efforts. Truly, it is His work.

Our friends, Allison Rager and Julie Eisenmann, have been announced for baptism in September. We thank God they have peace of heart and look forward to celebrating in the spirit of the Lord at their baptism. Allison's parents are Bro. Kent and Sis. Jill Rager and Julie's parents are Bro. Brad and Sis. Cindy Eisenmann. How precious these families are to our Chicago congregation.

We are thankful Sis. Bekah Plattner (Bro. Aaron) has agreed to serve in Sunday School. We give Sis. Bekah our love and support. May she experience a blessing along with the children she will teach.

We are thankful to have had Bro. Blake Knapp with us for the summer. As he returns to Champaign, IL, we wish him success and pray he enjoyed his summer here.

As our Elder Brothers met August 5-8 for the Brotherhood Conference in Princeville, we were thankful for the opportunity to pray for peace and good will along with God's blessings upon their endeavors. Thank you, brothers.

How happy we were to hear of the engagement of Bro. Nathan Rassi from St. Louis and Sis. Michelle Beery from Rittman, OH. Bro. Nathan's parents are

our own Bro. Greg and Sis. Carla and Sis. Michelle's parents are Bro. Walt and Sis. Lynda. May God be with them as they begin this life transition. We give them our love and support.

I would like to share with you a frightening experience I had this past month – because it sent me to praise God for His watchfulness over His people. Upon her mother's request, I was privileged to take my little student with autism to a friend's birthday party. As these young children played and splashed in the public pool, we adults kept watch and stowed our bags, towels, etc. at various beach chairs on the deck. Unfortunately, we were not watchful – or careful enough.

When it was time to leave, I returned to our chairs and bags only to find our bags gone. Nowhere in sight. I immediately alerted the pool authorities and a thorough search was made of the perimeter of the water park. No bags. I began to feel sick, panicky and very fearful. We both had personal items in our bags – including my car keys and cell phone.

As the police were on their way, our bags were found in the locker room. All of our belongings had been ripped out and strewn across the floor. My cell phone had been ripped apart. And my car key? Safe in its small pouch...protected...missed by the intruder's eyes. Coincidence? I think not.

All the way home I thanked God for His watchfulness and protection. I had recently been reading in Ecclesiastes, and part of chapter 12 verse 5 came to mind. It says:

“...they shall be afraid of that which is high, and fears shall be in the way...”

Being human, fear often gets in the way of faith. Sometimes it takes wake-up calls from God to remind us that He is not the author of fear.

“For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”

II Timothy 1:7

ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN Jackie Eisenmann

“He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock.”

Luke 6:48

Our Bible class had the privilege to travel with the Chicago Bible class for a mission trip to Magdalena, Mexico. The theme for the trip was “Dig Deep”, based on the above verse. Many blessings were experienced throughout the week of working together, spending time with those in Mexico, further developing the relationships within the group, and “digging deep” on the Lord, Jesus Christ. Nineteen from Champaign enjoyed the trip together.

August 3, we were blest by Bro. Dan Moser (Elgin, IL) speaking God's Word to us. We thank Bro. Dan for his willingness. We are also thankful our Bro. Matthew Kieser is recovering nicely from knee surgery. Aren't we thankful that God provides for us daily in so many ways?

August 10, our Bro. Brett Steffen was engaged to Sis. Olivia Hoerr of Peoria. Their parents are Bro. Rod and Sis. Beth Steffen (Cissna Park, IL) and Bro. Don and Sis. Jackie Hoerr (Peoria, IL). We wish Brett and Olivia God's blessings in their engagement and future together. We also wish Bro. Brett God's blessings as he has moved to Peoria, IL, for employment as an elementary teacher. We will miss Brett in Champaign.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK Vickie Maul Janie Waldbeser

We were thankful to have visiting ministers among us this month to feed us with the Living Word. They were Bros. Michael Wagenbach (Wolcott, IN), Warren Schlatter (Junction, OH), Duane Reutter (Rockville, CT) and Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL). We thank them for their efforts on our behalf.

We continue to keep Sis. Mabel

Farney in our prayers as she was hospitalized this month. We pray God will strengthen her and keep her in the hollow of His Hand as she recovers.

We prayed for our Elder brothers and ministering brothers as they met in Princeville for our Brotherhood Conference. We look forward to hearing the tapes which encourage us to keep striving to keep the Faith of our fathers.

Welcoming a new little granddaughter is Sis. Wilma (late Bro. Charles) Walder. Little Ellie Lynn was born to Bro. Mark and Sis. Judy Hartman (Fairbury, IL). Also achieving the name of Grandpa and Grandma for the first time is Bro. Eric and Sis. LouAnn Kaeb. Rose Patricia was born to Bro. Chad and Sis. Janice Kaeb (Remington, IN). We pray a blessing on these families and their precious little bundles.

"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."

Eph. 5:31

Bro. Brett Steffen (Champaign, IL), son of Bro. Rod and Sis. Beth Steffen, was announced to Sis. Olivia Hoerr, daughter of Bro. Don and Sis. Jackie Hoerr of Peoria. We wish them God's blessings as they plan their wedding.

We look forward to the day when we will never have to say goodbye to loved ones because of death. Our dear friend, Emanuel (Mann) Feller, passed away. We pray God will comfort his loved ones left behind. He is survived by four daughters and sons-in-law, Dana and Kim Knoll of Hoopeston, IL; Karol and Steve Schaefer of Cissna Park; Lori and John McGrew of Ballwin, MO; and Sis. Sharon and Bro. Dennis Walder of Cissna Park. His sisters, Wilma Baier of Paxton, Sis. Ann Leman of Eureka, Arlene (Jim) Wieland of Ft. Lauderdale, FL; 12 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren also survive. May this family feel God's love and comfort in this time of loss.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE Holly Zobrist

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

Mark 10:14

What a comfort to know that Madison Jill is with Jesus in the kingdom of God. Our hearts go out to her parents, Bro. Josh and Sis. Kate Virkler, with their loss. We will keep them in our prayers along with Madison's older sister, Molly, and grandparents, Bro. Kim and Sis. Carol Craig and Bro. John and Sis. Maureen Virkler.

We were thankful to hear that Rex Wettstein (Bro. Larry and Sis. Marilyn) has started his repentance. We will be praying for him.

July 20 was the wedding day of Bro. Andy Ott (Bro. Glen and Sis. Mardell) and Sis. Erin Zimmerman (Bro. Ben and Sis. Kathy). May God bless them as they start a new life together.

Bro. Brad Knapp (Sis. Mary Knapp and Bruce Knapp) and Sis. Anna Rinkenberger (Bro. Jake and Sis. Glenna) announced their engagement to the church. We are rejoicing with them and pray that God will bless them in this new chapter of their life.

Quinton Lee was born to Bro. Fred and Sis. Stephany Wiegand. He is welcomed home by his older brothers, William and Mitchell. His grandparents are Bro. Wayne and Sis. Rosemary Wiegand (Goodfield) and Bro. Jon and Sis. Cyndee Anderson. Beau Samuel was born to Bro. Derek and Sis. Rebekah Rassi. Older sisters, Bonnie and Emily, welcome him home. His grandparents are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Diane Rassi (Fairbury) and Bro. Greg and Sis. Jill Stoller (Forrest).

We were thankful for the number of ministering brothers we had with us this past month. They include Bro. Virgil Kaeb (Sis. Suellen, Sarasota), Bro. Dennis Rassi (Sis. Diane, Fairbury), Bro. Tim Zimmerman (Sis. Barbara, Lamont-Gridley), Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sis. Linda, Sardis), Bro. Dan Goric (Sis. Mary-Lou, Rockville), Bro. Ron Isch (Sis. Jane, Lamont-

Gridley), Elder Bro. Mike Leman (Sis. Deb, Denver), Bro. Tom Leman (Sis. Marlene, Denver) and Bro. Steve Pamer (Sis. Arliss, Akron).

ILLINOIS, ELGIN Amy Gasser Miriam Gasser

On the evening of July 19, Bro. Ron Heiniger (Bloomington, IL) gave an instructive overview of the Crown Financial Bible Study, which will be presented in Elgin. The next day, Bro. Ron Bollier (Indianapolis, IN) offered himself in the ministry of the Word. A visiting teacher and several ministering brothers also came to support Vacation Bible School. Those who spoke to the students were Bros. Brent Knobloch and Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL), Justin Koch (Washington, IL), and John Bradle (Roanoke, IL). Bro. Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL) gave an all-church topical presentation on Wednesday. We are grateful to all these servants for their labors on our behalf.

Velma Moore of Normal, IL, passed away on July 16. She was the mother of Bro. Larry Moore (Sis. Beth). He and his family have our sympathy.

July 20 was the last Sunday in Elgin for Bro. Keith, Sis. Emily, and little Kaleigh Schambach, before their move to Magdalena, MX. May the Lord bless their efforts as house parents at the orphanage.

The Sunday School picnic was held at the Fellowship Center on July 27. It seems to serve as a mile marker between one Sunday School year and the next. Classes changed on the following Sunday, and new teachers began their terms. Bro. George Eason and Bro. Eric Schambach replaced Bro. Dan Cargill and Bro. Eric Schieler; and Sis. Nancy Schieler replaced Sis. Alison Schambach. We appreciated the dedication and service of our outgoing teachers.

At the Elder Meeting in Princeville, Bro. Dave Steffen (Sis. Linda) was interviewed by the Elder Body and approved to become our ordained deacon. September 14 is the date set for his ordination service.

Kathy Stefan and Maria Bayer gave

their testimonies of conversion and faith on Wednesday evening, August 13. They had been attending since the closing of their local Nazarene church. We welcome them as our sisters in the Lord.

There is joy in the presence of the angels over one sinner who repenteth. We are rejoicing also that Greg Schambach (Bro. Les and Sis. Alison) has answered God's call to repentance and has moved back home.

It was unfortunate that Marianne Power (Kevin) had complications after her recent surgery, but she has returned home and is improving. Our prayers will continue with Marianne and her family, as she faces further treatments in the time ahead.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

**Cindy Stoller
Dee Baer**

We were privileged to add four new souls to the fold as Bro. Joe Leman (Bro. Ed and Sis. Ruth), Sis. Bethany Carr (Bro. Tim and Sis. Donna), and Bro. Keith Wiegand and Sis. Kaylene Wiegand (Bro. Brian and Sis. Tina) were baptized. Elder Bro. Ben Walder (Congerville, IL) assisted with this work. May we hold each one up in prayer, considering our calling to be faithful until death.

Other visiting ministers included Bros. Ed Knecht and John Wiegand (Silverton, OR), Mike Ursu (Kitchener, Ontario), Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO), Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL), Bill Dotterer (Lamar, MO), Randy Mogler (Washington, IA), Tim Zimmerman (Lamont-Gridley, IA), Tim Hohulin (Roanoke, IL) and Craig Martin (Princeville, IL). We are thankful for their visits and their labors in the Lord.

Our friend, Braden Martin (Bro. Tim and Sis. Becky), had an unfortunate accident and is now home healing by the permissive hand of God.

We are thankful to welcome little ones into three families. Bro. Jason and Sis. Janel Sanders welcomed their first-born, Samarah Judith. Her grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Sue Sanders and Sis. Judy Cottrell and Bill Cottrell.

Sam and Emily Wettstein are first-time parents with their son, Will Edward. Grandparents are Bro. Gary and Sis. Elna Wettstein (Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Scott and Sis. Elaine Frank. Bro. Jake and Sis. Janelle Fehr brought their new son, Lester James, home. His brother is Ernie and grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Sandy Fehr and Bro. Tim and Sis. Donna Carr.

We rejoice with new converts, Clayton Schumacher (Bro. Dan and Sis. Heidi) and Katie Wiegand (Bro. Andy and Sis. Vicky). May God be very near them as they learn to serve Him.

The engagement of Sis. Lainey Frank (Bro. Scott and Sis. Elaine) to Bro. Josh Banwart (Brad and Julie, West Bend, IA) was recently announced. May God bless them as they make their marriage preparations.

Note of Thanks:

May God bless each one who remembered me with a card or prayer on my 90th birthday. Humbly,

Sis. Bena Mae Roche

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

**Elizabeth Fehr
Anna Schmidgall**

As a congregation, we have experienced great sorrow and joy this past month. How thankful we are that all things are in God's hands and we trust in His perfect will.

With tearful eyes and heavy hearts, we bid farewell to our dear Bro. Doug Moser who was injured in a farm accident a week prior to his death. Our prayers ascend on behalf of his wife, Sis. Julia (Fehr) Moser, their six children (Walter, Sadie, Arthur, Wendell, Lilly and Loren); his parents, Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Martha Moser (Washington); siblings, Sis. Marsha (Bro. Nathan) Fehr, Sis. Janis (Bro. Randall) Fehr, Bro. Kevin (Sis. Kara) Moser, Sis. Sally (Bro. Les) Fehr, Bro. Jeff (Sis. Sara) Moser and Sis. Bonnie (Bro. Jerry) Wagenbach Jr. (Oakville, IA); and the Fehr family.

Martha Fehr, mother of Sis. Gladys (Bro. Ray) Slagel, passed away. Our sympathy to the family.

We rejoice with three converts who have turned their backs on Satan and the world. They are: Derek Chang from Taiwan who attended the University of IL and recently has been staying with Bro. Dennis and Sis. Diane Rassi. He will be a student at the University of IA this fall assembling with the Iowa City brethren. Justin Kilgus (Bro. Paul and Sis. Carmen) and Candice Steidinger (Bro. Randy and Sis. Dawn) are the other two converts. We pray for God's blessing and guidance in their lives.

We are thankful for two new babies. Levi Robert Kaisner has joined the family of Bro. Matthew and Sis. Jodi Kaisner and has two siblings, Lydia and Luke. His grandparents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Donna Kaisner and Bro. Ernie and Sis. Carol Leman (Forrest). Four brothers, Timothy, Trevor, Tanner, and Tyler, welcome Ellie Lynn along with their parents, Bro. Mark and Sis. Judy Hartman. Ellie's grandparents are Sis. Wilma Walder (Cissna Park) and Bro. John and Sis. Rosemary Hartman.

Bro. Jerry Wagenbach Jr. (Oakville, IA), Bro. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH), and Elder Bro. Ben Walder (Congerville, IL) shared God's Word with us.

Dan Herr (Sis. Cindy) and TeAnna Johnson (Bro. Harry and Sis. Til, Forrest) exchanged wedding vows at the Fellowship Hall on August 9. Our prayer for them is that God would be the center of their lives.

Sis. Lucille Steffen was in the hospital and is now recuperating at a nursing home. May she feel the healing touch of the Great Physician.

ILLINOIS, FORREST

**Jill Wenger
Lori Dotterer**

"Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."

Acts 2:38

We felt the presence of the Lord as we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of four souls the weekend of Au-

gust 16-17. We welcome into the fold two new couples, Bro. Kevin and Sis. Jodi Slagel and Bro. Dan and Sis. Abby Eisenmann. May God give them strength and grace to remain faithful until the end.

As we welcome these new brothers and sisters, we are also thankful that two more souls have answered the call. We rejoice with Kinsey Teubel (Bro. John and Sis. Lavonne) and Katie Wenger (Bro. Ed and Sis. Renee) and pray that they will build upon the firm foundation so that when the storms of life come they will be able to stand fast.

On August 9, Daniel Herr and TeAnna Johnson were united in marriage. Their parents are Sis. Cindy Herr (Fairbury) and Bro. Harry and Sis. Til Johnson. May God bless their marriage and provide for them as they walk life's pathway as one.

Bro. Buck and Sis. Taunia Henry are thankful parents of another son, Nehemiah David. His siblings are Samaria, Josiah, and Isaiah, and grandparents are Reginald and Edith Henry and Bro. Roger and Sis. Elaine Witzig (Eureka, IL). May God give them wisdom to raise their children in the heavenly way.

We were blessed with many visiting ministers this month. We pray that God will bless Elder Bros. Art Metz (Silverton, OR), Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL), and Curt Frank (Lacrosse, IN), as well as ministering Bros. Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL), Jim Koehl (San Diego, CA), John Wiegand (Silverton, OR), Dan Moser and Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL), Ken Eisenmann (Cissna Park, IL), Brad Eisenmann (Chicago, IL), and Kerwin Edelman (Athens, AL).

Note of Thanks:

We humbly thank our beloved brethren and friends for their love, prayers, and concern before and since my surgery. Each kind deed was appreciated, and may God richly bless each one of you.

Sis. Kathryn Steidinger

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

Rita Bauman

Amber Grimm

We are thankful to have started lis-

tening to the Conference tapes and pray we can have open hearts and minds to receive what the Lord has for us.

God's blessings on Sam Rokey (Bro. Ben and Sis. Shelley) and Kristen Barnes (Randy and Beth, Eureka IL) as they are engaged to be married. They look forward to a November wedding. Married this month were Bro. Pete Wettstein (Bro. Jake and Sis. Mary, Eureka, IL) to Sis. Holly Hinrichsen (Bro. Mike and Sis. Gerri); and Ryan Joos (Bro. Glenn and Sis. Bev) to Brooke Harminson (Karen and the late Rich). God's blessings on all of these couples.

"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

We are so thankful God continues to call and work in the lives of converts. Marla Wiegand (Bro. Art and Sis. Pam) was announced for peace and we look forward to her baptism.

God calls others to service in ministry for which we are thankful. Thanks to Bro. Curt Rassi (Sis. Kathy, Tremont, IL), Bro. John Jackson (Sis. Peggy, Bay City, MI), Bro. Trent Meiss (Sis. Lucille, Eureka, IL), Bro. Tom Bolliger (Sis. Jane, Tremont, IL), and Bro. Darren Plattner (Sis. Sue, Champaign, IL) for sharing the Word with us this month.

Prayers are with Bro. Wes Knapp (Sis. Millie), Sis. Marian Wiegand, and Bro. Richard Hartter (Sis. Verna) who were hospitalized this month. We pray for their continued healing and God's nearness.

Also praying for God's nearness to Bro. Dave and Sis. Pat Kuntz in the passing of his father, Bill Kuntz.

We are thankful as Bro. Tim and Sis. Susie Blunier welcome home a new baby boy, Jubal Robert. Jubal's sisters are Laura and Ella. "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." (Proverbs 22:6)

May we remember our children as they return to school and pray for them as they face daily challenges.

Note of Thanks:

We wish to thank all those who sent cards, offered encouragement, prayers, and compassion during the passing of our father and grandfather. May God richly bless you.

Bro. Duane and Sis. Vermeda Freidinger and family

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY
Perry A. Klopfenstein

"...and exhorted them all that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord."

Acts 11:23

The above verse surely is a reminder that our Christian walk is one that must be lived out with diligence. If we can find the grace from Above, it surely is to our benefit if we cling tightly to the teachings and ways of the Lord Jesus and the Apostles, rather than so much delight and interest in the things of the world.

On August 3, we witnessed the wedding of Bro. Seth Campbell to Sis. Jenn Ringger. His parents are Bro. Mark and Sis. Marcia Campbell. She is the daughter of Bro. Stan and Sis. Coleen Ringger. We wish them much happiness in this important step of life.

August 7 was the birth date of Piper Joy Zimmerman. She is the daughter of Bro. Andy and Sis. Amber Zimmerman. Piper has a brother, Roman, 2. Grandparents are Bro. Keith and Sis. Linda Zimmerman (Gridley) and Bill and Linda Hoerr (Peoria, IL). Great-grandparents are Sis. Marge Meiss (Gridley), John and Lois Zimmerman (Fairbury, IL) and Bro. Bob and Sis. Eileen Haefli (Peoria, IL).

Mylan Thomas Freed was born on July 31. He is the third son of Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Natalie Freed. Mylan has two brothers, Kyle, 8, and Tyler, 7. Grandparents are Bro. Tom and Sis. Kathy Freed (Indianapolis, IN) and Bro. Steve and Sis. Annamarie Stoller (Lacrosse, IN). Great-grandparents are Bro. Allan and Sis. Edith Freed (Phoenix, AZ), Bro. Chuck and Sis. Doris Neuenschwander (Bluffton, IN), Sis. Clara Huber (Eureka, IL) and Sis. Eleanor Baer (Eureka, IL).

May God's grace be with these young couples as they "train up" their children in the nurture of the Lord.

Four new souls were added to the fold: Bros. Austin Romersberger and Brandon Kaeb and Sisters Mindy Campbell and Brittany Kiefer. We thank God they heard the call to walk on the right pathway, and may He bless them in the future. Elder Bro. Mark Streitmatter (Bloomington, IL) was here for the testimony/proving. Elder Bro. Everett Hari (also of Bloomington) assisted with the baptisms as Sis. Brittany Kiefer is his granddaughter. Other ministers here were Bro. Les Kaeb (Francesville, IN), Bro. Mark Gerber (Bluffton, IN) and Bro. Ron Bollier (Indianapolis, IN).

Bro. Dick Kiefer has been transferred to the Meadows Mennonite Home. Bro. Barry Ehresman will soon face surgery. Bro. Tom Miller continues to receive treatment for cancer.

We welcome Bro. George and Sis. Willow Gramm, along with their children, Mia and Travis, to our congregation. They formerly attended the San Diego church.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

Annette Tanner

Julie Bahr

Ministers that blessed our Morton church this past month were Bro. Scott Schaffer (Sis. Gigi, South Bend, IN), Bro. Ken Hoerr (Sis. Darlene) and Bro. Dave Obergfel (Sis. Kathleen), both of Peoria, IL, Elder Bro. Dave Graf (Sis. Barb, Akron, OH), and Bro. Dean Steffen (Sis. Carol, Belvidere, IL). Many thanks also to Bro. Jon Zeller (Sis. Christie) for giving the Wednesday evening Family Worship topic "The Best Bible Character in a Supporting Role". Bro. Jon gave several examples of those who came along-side another to support and hold them up in their various journeys. My favorite was Jonathan who ever so faithfully supported David, whatever the cost.

Sis. Alma Wittmer passed away on July 25. She is survived by her husband, Bro. Walt, and sisters, Babe Carey and Alice Hirstein. Our love and sympathy are extended to the family.

We failed to report the news of the birth (on June 2) of little Colt Joseph who entered the home of Bro. Todd and Sis. Wendy Sauder along with siblings, Caleb, Tori, and Savannah. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Bruce and Sis. Becky Sauder of Tremont and Bro. Ted and Sis. Cindy Witzig.

On August 19, baby girl Kuper Makayla was born to Jessica and Scott Smith. Bro. Matt and Sis. Wendy Kupferschmid are the blessed grandparents.

Sis. Katie Ritthaler and Bro. Justin Hermann were united in marriage on August 3. Sis. Katie is the daughter of Bro. Jim and Sis. Kathy Ritthaler of Morton. Bro. Justin is the son of Bro. Greg and Sis. Beth Hermann, Peoria.

On August 28, Bro. Matt and Sis. Emily Koehl (Sarasota, FL) became first-time parents to a baby boy, Levi August Koehl. Thankful grandparents are Sis. Joanni (late Bro. Fred) Endress, and Bro. Ron and Sis. Carol Koehl (Sarasota, FL).

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Carissa Klopfenstein
Kristin Menold

Tori Stickling (Bro. Craig and Sis. Jacki) began repenting this month. We rejoice with you, Tori, and wish you God's grace as you grow in your walk with the Lord.

We are happy to welcome four new members into our congregation. On July 26-27, we witnessed the testimonies and baptisms of Caleb Sauder (Bro. David and Sis. Rachel), Annie Davidovics (Bro. Fedi and Sis. Ruth), Tyler Hoerr (Tom and Becky) and Alex Funk (Elder Bro. Tim and Sis. Debi). Visiting ministers for the weekend were Elder Bro. Mark Streitmatter (Sis. Sara, Bloomington) and Bro. Fred Funk (Sis. Diane, Morton). We wish you all God's blessings.

Visiting ministers in August include Elder Bro. Peter Petrovic (Sis. Marian, San Diego, CA), retired Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle (Sis. Lois, Shioda, Japan), and Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich (Sis. Nancy, Phoenix, AZ).

Congratulations to Brittany Feucht

(Bro. Tim and Sis. Robyn) on her marriage to James Lyons on May 28. They will be living in East Peoria. We wish you God's blessings.

Bro. Ryan Menold (Bro. Mike and Sis. Sharon Menold, Princeville) announced his engagement to Sis. Shari Martin from Washington (Bro. Steve and Sis. Vicki, Eureka). May the Lord bless this time of engagement and preparation for marriage.

We have three new babies to welcome this month. Bro. Matt and Sis. Christine Ginzel were blessed with a little girl, Anna Marie, who was born on June 8. Her grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Mary Ginzel from Peoria and Bro. Larry and Sis. Ardean Stoller from Gridley. Bro. Brent and Sis. Fawn Kieser are new parents of their third son, Nash Eli, born on July 3. He is welcomed by his brothers, Mason and Drew, and grandparents, Bro. Verle and Sis. Vonnie Kieser and Bro. Lee and Sis. Patsy Esslinger (Burlington, IA). Isabella Marie was born to Anthony and Jill Martini on July 12. Grandparents are Bro. Vernon and Sis. Marie Hohulin.

Bro. Tim and Sis. Joan Reinhard gave a presentation at the Fellowship Hall on Thursday, July 17, about their time in Haiti and the work they have been doing. It was very informative and good to see how the Lord has been working. There is still much to do but we are grateful for their willing spirits and know the Lord will continue to bless their efforts. They will be returning to Haiti via Colorado for missionary training at the end of August.

Please continue to pray for Bro. Dave Sceggel and Bro. Jon Aupperle and the children at La Casa de Vida y Esperanza in Magdalena, Mexico.

We wish to thank Bro. Ted Witzig Jr. for speaking at our Family night on August 6. His topic was "Anxiety". Thank you for making the effort to be with us and for taking the time to prepare this topic. May God bless you and your work with your congregation in Morton.

Our dear Bro. Bob Plattner passed from this life to eternity on August 10. His funeral was on August 13. Our prayers are with his dear wife, Sis. Martha, and their family.

Notes of Thanks:

The family of Bro. Richard Guingrich would like to express their heartfelt thanks and appreciation for all the love and prayers they received throughout Bro. Richard's illness and passing. May God bless you all with a double measure.

Bro. Dave Sauder would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, and gifts of love. Also, thank you to the church for having his sister's funeral and those that helped during that time.

Prayer requests this month include Sis. Verna Bauer, Sis. Cindy Endress, Sis. Marie Hohulin, and Bro. Vernon Hohulin for recovered health. Our dear convert, B.J. Elsasser (Bro. Brian and Mary Elsasser), had heart surgery (for 8 hours) on August 5. We are thankful that he is doing well. Our continued prayers are with the families that were affected by the flood in Oakville and Taylor.

It has been a pleasure writing for the Silver Lining the past two years. But alas, all good things must come to an end. And so, we say goodbye to this happy chapter in our lives and introduce you to our new correspondent from Peoria, Sis. Pam Fritzenmeier. Please contact her with any newsworthy items.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

**Linda Joos
Connie Christ**

We were blessed and privileged to host the Brotherhood Conference August 5-8. Evening services on Tuesday were held with Elder Bro. Peter Petrovic (San Diego, CA), Elder Bro. Merle Hartzler (Rittman, OH), and Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzler (Sabetha, KS) serving us, as well as the presence of many other visiting Elders in the congregation. God's nearness was felt among us. Friday concluded the week with many brethren gathering from near and far.

The weekend of July 26-27, three dear souls were added to the fold, and we welcome them. Bro. Quinn Steffen (Bro. Matt and Sis. Deanna), Sis. Lisa Martin (Bro. Sam and Sis. Mary) and Sis.

Michelle Martin (Bro. Ed and Sis. Gladys) gave their testimonies of faith and conversion and are now our sisters-and brother-in-faith. Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI), Bro. Ted Steffen (Alto, MI), Bro. John Bradle (Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Gary Endress (Bradford, IL) shared in this special time.

Other visiting ministers have been Bro. Tom Bahler (Rockville, CT), Bro. Leland Plattner (Zapata, TX), and Bro. John Grimm (Columbus, OH) on Sunday, August 10. Bro. Willis Ehnle (Shioda, Japan) and Bro. Andrew Klaus (Tokyo, Japan) were with us for mid-week services August 13. May God add the increase to the efforts of all these dear brothers as they speak His precious Word.

Sis. Virginia King (Harry) ended her earthly sojourn here on August 12. May God comfort her dear husband who so faithfully cared for her, her son, Larry Woertz (Marla), and her daughter, Sandra King. We are thankful Sis. Virginia prepared for this day.

Welcoming little Dawson George on August 9 are Bro. Tim and Sis. Tricia Wagenbach and happy siblings, Alec, Brenna and Carissa. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Elaine Wagenbach and Bro. Dean (late Sis. Judy) Martin (Peoria, IL).

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Dee Fehr

"Awesome - inspiring great reverence and wonder."

This adjective was heard often during the testimonies of three young converts as they spoke of God's love and grace touching and changing their lives. We joyfully welcome Bro. Fred and Bro. Daniel Leman (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Karen) and Sis. Ellie Wettstein (Bro. Gary and Sis. Elna) into the fold, and thank Elder Bro. Mike Leman (Denver) and Bro. Greg Lehman (Wolcott) for being with us for the weekend of August 3. We were also privileged to have Bro. Andrew Klaus (Tokyo) minister to us on August 6.

Believing they have sought the favor of the Lord and are being led in the direction of marriage, Bro. Jeremy Hodel and Sis. Tammy Sauder (Washington) an-

nounced their engagement on July 20. Their parents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Kathy Hodel and Bro. Bruce and Sis. Becky Sauder (Tremont). Also on July 20, Bro. Ryan Luginbuhl and Sis. Laura Braker became husband and wife. Bro. Ryan is the son of Bro. Rob and Sis. Gina Luginbuhl and Sis. Laura is the daughter of Bro. Brad and Sis. Debbie Braker (Morton). On August 8, Brock Baurer and Jen Buhrmester were united in marriage. They are the children of Bro. Brad and Sis. Cheryl Baurer and Dave and Sue Buhrmester.

Bro. Luke and Sis. Allison Fischer and Clay welcomed Halle Marie into their little family on July 17. Grandparents are Bro. Kevin and Sis. Annette Fisher and Bro. Duane and Sis. Rachel Schroeder. Bro. Gary and Sis. Elna Wettstein have a new granddaughter. Lydia May was born June 20 to Ed and Stephanie Wettstein.

It is always reason to rejoice when souls come to the foot of the Cross in repentance. Our prayers are with Tracy (John) Nutt and Rachel Hodel (Bro. Curt and Sis. Jenell) as they turn to the Saviour: "Come, believe! Be meek and lowly, for His Word is true and holy; Who believes Him is made free here and in eternity." (Zion's Harp #95).

"Beyond life's golden sunset lies a city bright and fair. In the land of God's tomorrow, our loved ones wait up there." Sis. Cynthia Aeschleman passed away on July 17. Surviving are three daughters, Sis. Sara Fischer, Sis. DeAnn Anderson (Bloomington) and Cindy Harrell; also one son, Ron Aeschleman.

As the saying goes, "The old must die, and the young can die". Steven Fischer departed from this life to that bright and fair city on August 11, just five days short of his 16th birthday. Left to mourn his passing are his loving parents, Bro. Bruce and Sis. Deb Fischer, and siblings, Sam (Erica), Emma and Nathan. Though unable to communicate with words, Steven always had a big smile and expressive eyes which spoke to the heart.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT
Teresa Rowell
Janice Sauder

When peace like a river attendeth my
 way
 when sorrows like sea billows roll;
 Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me
 to say
 It is well, It is well, with my soul.
Hymns of Zion #55, vs. 1

With the raging rivers swallowing houses, land, farms, animals, towns, etc, isn't it wonderful to be able to sing these words and feel the peace come over the soul? Our hearts go out to all those who are experiencing the floods, especially those whom we love and know. As the reports come back from those who have gone to sandbag, the awesome power of nature and ultimately, God, are profound. How thankful we can be that those of us who are His can take comfort in knowing that no matter what happens, He will be with us and will help us through whatever storm we are going through.

There are those in our congregation who are experiencing personal "storms". We extend a sincere sympathy to Bro. Ernie (Sis. Frieda) Aberle, Bro. Emil (Sis. Wilma) Aberle and Bro. Walter (Sis. Vera) Aberle in the death of their brother, Vernon Aberle. We also sympathize with Sis. Christy Gress in the death of her grandfather. Our sympathy is also extended to the family of Sis. Ida Schweigert (Bro. Chris) as she has gone on to her reward, and to Bro. Elmer Kaeb and his family in the death of his beloved wife, Sis. Darlene Kaeb.

Bro. Chris Pfloderer (Sis. Ruth), Sis. Trudy Bolliger (Bro. Dean) and Sis. Sally Koch (Bro. Roger) have all undergone surgery this month. We pray the Lord's healing hand upon them so that they may again assemble with us.

There are several families who have added new little ones to their families. Bro. Kerry and Sis. Kelly Baer had their first girl, Allison Marie. Big brother, Samuel, and grandparents, Bro. Dave and Sis. June Koch and Sis. Janna Baer (Bradford) are happy to have her around. Tim and Jodi Wagenbach had their first

child, Lola Jane. Bro. Si and Sis. Lavonne Wagenbach and Bro. Randy and Sis. Jane Schick (Morton) are her grandparents. Caleb James was born to Bro. Galen and Sis. Betty Rocke. Emily and Megan welcome him home. Sis. Kathy Rocke is his paternal grandmother, and Bro. Art and Sis. Eula Mogler (West Bend) are his maternal grandparents. Bro. Aaron and Sis. Katie Ehnle have added to their family with a girl, Brianna Kate. Bro. Kurt and Sis. Jane Ehnle (Bradford) are Brianna's grandparents. Bro. Fred and Sis. Jeanette Beutel are excited to add another grandchild. Bro. Lucas and Sis. Diana Gudeman (Bradford) are the parents of Bryce Nathan. Collin and Halle are Bryce's siblings.

We extend our congratulations to our high school graduates and wish them God's richest blessings as they begin this new chapter in their life. They are Brooklyn Sinn (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Gail), Sis. Lori Koch (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Cathy), Erica Beutel (Bro. Roger and Sis. JoAnn), and Sis. Rebecca Bolliger (Bro. Tom and Sis. Jane).

We had the privilege to have quite a few visiting ministers this month. Bro. Ed Fritz (Sis. Sally, Washington), Bro. Roger Aberle (Sis. Lavonne, Sabetha), Bro. Bruce Endress (Sis. Elizabeth, Bradford), Bro. Randy Mogler (Sis. Evie, Washington), Bro. Akihiro Ito (Sis. Carrie, Shioda, Japan), Bro. Dewayne Dill (Sis. LaRae, Minneapolis), Bro. Frank Sauder (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke), Bro. Virgil Kaeb (Sis. Suellen, Sarasota, FL), Bro. Jeff Thames (Sis. Brenda, Washington), Bro. Roger Sauder (Sis. Judy, Ft. Lauderdale, FL) and Bro. John Steiner (Sis. Carol, Oakville, IA) were here to bring us God's Word. We thank them for being willing to labor in our midst.

We also had the privilege to vote in a new minister as per God's leading and we welcome Bro. John Rassi (Sis. Heather) into this important work. Our Bro. Glenn Dill (Sis. Marilyn) has retired from many years in the ministry, and we wish him the Lord's richest blessings as he now passes the "baton" to the younger generation. Elder Bro. Jim Plattner (Sis. Marlene, Princeville) and Elder Bro.

Bruce Hohulin (Sis. Charlene, Goodfield) were here for a special installation service for Bro. John. We thank them for their willingness to speak plainly to Bro. John and Sis. Heather and to us as a congregation on our responsibilities to each other and to our dear Elder and ministering brothers.

We rejoice with two couples who are becoming one in the Lord. August 3 was the wedding day of Bro. Dale Koch (Bro. Dave and Sis. June) and Sis. Meg Dill (Bro. Dewayne and Sis. LaRae, Minneapolis, MN). We also heard the engagement of Sis. Tammy Sauder (Leo, IN) to Bro. Jeremy Hodel (Roanoke). Their parents are Bro. Bruce and Sis. Becky Sauder of our congregation and Bro. Ken and Sis. Kathy Hodel of Roanoke. We wish them the Lord's richest blessings as they begin their lives together.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON
Nancy Knepp
Elizabeth Heinold

We were blessed with many visiting ministers this month. With baptisms, the Conference and family ties, we were served by the following: Elder Bro. Tim Funk (Sis. Debra, Peoria, IL), Bro. Steve Martin (Sis. Vicki, Eureka, IL), Bro. Fred Witzig (Sis. Nancy, Indianapolis, IN), Bro. Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha, KS), Bro. Andy Klaus (Sis. Jana, Shioda, Japan), Bro. Joe Klotzle (Sis. Sue, Altadena, CA), Bro. Brent Kellenberger (Sis. Beth, Kansas City, MO), Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen, Kansas City, MO), Bro. Matt Gerber (Ixtilan, Mexico) Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Sis. Bev, Detroit, MI), Bro. Doug Wagenbach (Sis. Lillian, San Diego, CA) and Bro. Jim Meiss (Sis. Candy, Phoenix, AZ). We want to thank each one of these families for visiting and speaking the truth in love.

We rejoiced with Bro. Philip Drete and Bro. Jed Feucht and their families as they were baptized this month. Bro. Philip's parents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Kathy Drete and Bro. Jed's parents are Bro. Curt and Sis. Beth Feucht.

We are grateful that Sis. Dolly Schick has come home from the hospital. We

continue to pray for her as she recovers and regains her strength.

We were excited to hear two engagements. Our Sis. Tammy Sauder is engaged to Bro. Jeremy Hodel from Roanoke. Her parents are Bro. Bruce and Sis. Becky Sauder (Tremont, IL) and his parents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Kathy Hodel (Roanoke, IL). Our Sis. Shari Martin is engaged to Bro. Ryan Menold from Peoria. Parents of the couple are Bro. Steve and Sis. Vicki Martin (Eureka, IL) and Bro. Mike and Sis. Sharon Menold (Princeville, IL). We rejoice with these families and pray God's blessings on them.

With heavy hearts we report two couples in our church have lost dear loved ones. Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Martha Moser's son, Bro. Doug Moser (Fairbury, IL), died as a result of a farm accident; and Bro. Steve and Sis. Vicki Bucher's daughter, Leslie Aschliman, has died after a battle with cancer. So many prayers have been said for these families and we continue to lift them up to the Lord. Yet we don't sorrow as those who have no hope – we rejoice that these two souls are now with the Lord.

Note of Thanks:

I really appreciated the many birthday cards and wishes for my 80th birthday. Thanks so much to everyone. God bless you!

Sis. Lydiann Wyss

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

**Stefanie Kipfer
Jan Schwartz**

“The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?”

Psalms 27:1

Our Bluffton congregation once again had many reasons to be praying for our brothers, sisters, and friends this month. We've been prayerful for Bro. Mike Meade (Sis. Mary Dean) as he had an emergency 4-bypass heart surgery this past month. We pray he will have a quick

recovery. Dave Barnell, father of our Sis. Deb Snider, has also been a recipient of our prayers. He has been hospitalized several weeks following surgery. Our congregation also has been praying for Lonnie Frauhiger, son of Sis. Lucille Frauhiger, who has a large tumor. He is facing chemotherapy treatments before surgery that will soon follow. Also, our Bro. Steve Reinhard (Sis. Renee) continues to struggle with health difficulties. Our prayers are with Bro. Steve and Sis. Renee.

Our deepest sympathy and prayers are with Bro. Bob and Sis. Ida Aschliman as their granddaughter, Leslie Aschliman (Tyson) from Bollingbrook, IL, went to meet her Savior following several months of battling cancer. Leslie's parents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Vicki Bucher of our Washington, IL, congregation. Our thoughts and prayers are with Tyson and their little boy, TJ, as they must face the time ahead without their dear wife and mommy.

Sis. Jena Runion has accepted a preschool teaching position at our Apostolic Christian Preschool in Athens, Alabama. Our prayers go with her, and we will certainly miss Sis. Jena's smile here in her home church. However, we are thankful that the Athens church is so blessed to welcome Sis. Jena into their congregation.

This month our dear Sis. Abby Gerber (Bro. Doug and Sis. Ruby) left for Haiti to join the mission field there. We certainly will miss Sis. Abby, but she will be a recipient of our every day prayers. We wish her God's blessings as she cares for the many Haitian people.

Likewise, our Bro. Spencer Lewis has returned to Ixtlan, MX, after a short visit here in Bluffton. He also will continue to be in our daily prayers as he ministers to the many Mexican people there.

On June 14, Sarah Schwartz was united in marriage to Britton Claghorn. Their parents are Bro. Gary and Sis. Barb Schwartz and Tim and Teresa Claghorn. Our prayers go with them as they begin this blessed life together.

Bro. Jason Gerber and Sis. Ashley Fiechter were married on July 27. Parents of this happy couple are Bro. Gene

and Sis. Becky Gerber and Bro. Brian and Sis. Deb Fiechter. We pray they will have a blessed marriage as they serve the Lord together.

August 2 was the wedding day for two separate couples. Abby Longenberger was united in marriage to Dan Nagel. Their parents are Bro. Gene and Sis. Joni Longenberger and Sam and Beth Nagel. Wes Gerber took Dixie Zeltwanger as his bride. Their parents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Pauline Gerber and Bro. Dale and Sis. Rachel Zeltwanger from Morris, MN. We wish both these couples God's blessings in their married life ahead.

There are many births to report this month. On July 12, Emily Jane was born to Bro. Joel and Sis. Erin Drayer. She is welcomed by her big brother, Brett. Her grandparents are Bro. Herm and Sis. Julie Drayer and Bro. Dean and Sis. Holly Frauhiger.

Next, on July 17, Bro. Tyson and Sis. Amanda Frauhiger were blessed with their first child, Dirk Miles. He is welcomed by his grandparents, Bro. Kris and Sis. Ann Frauhiger and Bro. Jim and Sis. Rachel Isch.

Bro. Ted and Sis. Jane Habegger embraced their new little granddaughter, Lily Jane, on July 23. Lily's parents are Roger and Liz Richardson.

Bro. Lane and Sis. Christen Gerber are excited first-time parents as their son, Ryden Matthew, was born on July 31. Little Ryden is welcomed by his grandparents, Bro. Mike and Sis. Cheryl Gerber and Bro. Chuck and Sis. Marcia Geisel.

Bridget Glenn Lantz made her way into the world on August 8. Her parents are Bro. Chad and Sis. Stephanie Lantz. Bridget has three siblings to help take care of her, Garrett, Phoebe and Daphne. Little Bridget is blessed with grandparents, Bro. Steve and Sis. Renee Reinhard and Bro. Jim and Sis. Kathy Lantz.

On August 11, Bro. Braden and Sis. Adrienne Reinhard became first-time parents when they were blessed with little Blake Mitchell. His elated grandparents are Bro. Doyle and Sis. Jan Reinhard and Bro. Tim and Sis. Marlise Steffen (Bluffton North).

Bro. Lane and Sis. Tara Moser were

blessed with twin sons on August 14. Lance John and Jared Mark are welcomed by big brother, Blake. His grandparents are Bro. Mark and Sis. Wanda Moser and Elder Bro. John and Sis. Marcia Laukhuf (Latty, OH).

And finally, on August 15, Bro. Brandon and Sis. Amber Geisel were blessed with their first child, Jonah Brandon. Jonah's grandparents are Bro. Chuck and Sis. Marcia Geisel, Sis. Susan Byerly and Steve Byerly.

We were privileged to support our brethren in Leo on August 16 for the annual Gateway Woods Auction. Our congregation was thankful for the many visitors from various young groups as well as many families who joined us here in Bluffton for the remainder of the weekend. We appreciate all who traveled across the states to support the Gateway Woods Children's Home.

Our hearts rejoice to announce a new convert here in Bluffton. Rachel Tungate made a beginning in repentance and we will be prayerful for her.

And finally, we are thankful for our visiting ministers this past month. On August 3, we were blessed to hear the Word proclaimed by Bro. Dale Zeltwanger (Sis. Rachel, Morris, MN). And on August 17, Bro. Doug Wagenbach (Sis. Lillian, San Diego, CA) lovingly shared God's Word with us.

**INDIANA
BLUFFTON NORTH
Jessie Longenberger
Sherry Pfister**

"Thus will I magnify myself, and sanctify myself; and I will be known in the eyes of many nations, and they shall know that I am the LORD."

Ezekiel 38:23

Leslie (Bucher) Aschliman went to her eternal rest on July 26 following an extended illness. Our prayers are with her husband, Tyson, and little boy, T.J. Also, we pray for her extended family through this difficult time. Bro. Nile Bucher (Sis. Phyllis) would be her uncle.

Pete Liddy (father of Sis. Becky

Ringger) also went to his eternal rest. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and may they feel God's peace and comfort.

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee."

Isaiah 26:3

Loved ones dealing with health issues this month include Lyle Quackenbush (father of Sis. Tonya Troxel) and Sis. Sandy Kipfer (Bro. Aaron) who is recovering from open heart surgery.

Sis. Diane Mason is happy for the arrival of granddaughter, Audrey Lynne, born July 28 to Brian and Kara Wright of Fishers. Morgan is Audrey's big sister. Bro. Braden and Sis. Adrienne Reinhard welcomed a new baby boy, Blake Mitchell, on August 18. Bro. Doyle and Sis. Jan Reinhard and Bro. Tim and Sis. Marty Steffen are the happy grandparents.

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

Nahum 1:7

We rejoice with a new convert this month. Rachel Towle (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Jodi) has realized a need for our Saviour in her life and has made a beginning in serving our Lord. Let's be prayerful for her as well as the other converts.

We rejoice with Andrew Harris (Bro. Mark and Sis. Susan), Brian Curry (Sis. Kristi), Blake Fiechter (Bro. Tony and Sis. Peg), and Taryn Gerber (Bro. Blake and Sis. Fawn) who are ready for baptism on the weekend of September 6-7. Let us remember them in prayer as this weekend approaches.

"And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:7

**INDIANA
FRANCESVILLE
Barb Huber
Jessica Murray**

Greetings from Francesville! Psalms 118:24 tells us that "This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it."

Several of our loved ones are rejoicing that their special wedding days have arrived. Tyler Gutwein and Lacie Dobson were married on July 26. Tyler is the son of Bro. Harv and Sis. Ellen Gutwein and Lacie is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Steve Dobson. They are at home in Francesville and we welcome them.

Also celebrating their new marriage are Tom Leman and Heather Koebecke who married on August 1. Tom is the son of Bro. Doug and Sis. Margaret Leman and Heather is the daughter of David and Deb Koebecke. Tom and Heather are students at Purdue and live in Lafayette.

Then, on August 16, Kara Wuethrich made her vows before God and many witnesses to become Mrs. Jason Bohlinger. Kara is the daughter of Bro. Kevin and Sis. Connie Wuethrich. They will be living in Brook, Indiana.

So, you can recognize that we have had many occasions to rejoice! We, as a congregation, who have watched Tyler, Tom and Kara grow up, offer our warm congratulations and pray God's blessings and grace on them and the homes they are establishing.

We have had even further cause to rejoice as our dear, beloved friend, Paul Clauss, has been announced to have peace with our loving God. What a blessing to our fellowship he and his wife, Wilma, have been for so many years.

We look forward to his baptism and the joy of greeting him as our Brother in Jesus Christ.

In response to the guidance of God's Holy Spirit, Sis. Rachel Huber and Bro. Jason Klopfenstein are engaged to be married. Rachel is the daughter of ministering Bro. Brian and Sis. Jacki Huber and Jason is the son of Bro. John and Sis. Linda Klopfenstein of the Leo, IN, congregation. Sis. Rachel has been serving as an assistant houseparent at Gateway Woods and Bro. Jason works with his father. They will be making their home in

the Leo area and we pray that God will be the center of their home and that His grace and joy abounds unto them.

We were blessed with the ministry of Bro. Chris Wuethrich (Sis. Carla, St. Louis, MO). The presence of the Holy Spirit was truly among us as we were instructed to live as sacrificially and scripturally as the prophet Daniel did. We thank you, Bro. Chris, for your loving service to us!

Bro. Bob and Sis. Joy Huber and family of Imuris, Mexico, are here for a visit. It is a joy to fellowship with them once again and learn of their endeavors with Timothy House and the children they are reaching for the Lord.

We have several loved ones in our church circle in need of healing mercies and comfort at this time. Our prayer for all who are suffering and, hopefully, healing from their illness or accident, will claim the foundational promise of the words of Jesus, "With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible." (Mark 10:27) May it help to know that you are loved and prayed for.

We have been listening to the tapes from the Elder Conference which was recently held in Princeville. May we all have the heart to listen and then live according to the teachings we are hearing. May we also be thankful for our church leaders who labor so steadfastly in our behalf and realize that this is a genuine blessing from God. "And we beseech you brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you."

"And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves."

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13

**INDIANA
INDIANAPOLIS
Sandy Lichtle
Penny Schroder**

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Ron and Sis. Edie Bollier's daughter, son-in-law, and granddaughter. Bro. Keith, Sis. Emily, and Kaleigh Schambach (Elgin, IL) moved to

Magdalena, Mexico, in July to serve as houseparents at the home there. We wish them God's blessings and guidance as they seek to serve Him.

On July 31, Bro. Tom and Sis. Kathy Freed were blessed with a grandson, Mylan Thomas Freed. Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Natalie Freed (Gridley, IL) are Mylan's parents. August 6 was a special day for Sis. Rebecca Gudeman as her grandson, James Scott Klopfenstein, was born. Bro. Scott and Sis. Katie Klopfenstein (Phoenix, AZ) are James' parents.

On August 3, Bro. Andy Lehman (Sis. Jill, Bloomington, IL) gave an informative presentation on "Lifesong for Orphans". Their mission is to bring joy and purpose to orphans through adoption or orphan services. These services include showing the love of Jesus, teaching the Gospel, and providing food, clothing, shelter, and a quality education.

Our congregation recently held our Sunday School teacher election. Those voted into new positions include: Bros. Matt Ackerman, Mark Beebe, and Ron Gress and Sisters Alesa Bahler, Abby Klopfenstein, and Doreen Leuthold. We thank all of the outgoing teachers for their labors of love and encourage the incoming teachers as they teach the precious Word to our children. Our annual Sunday School picnic was held on August 17 at a local park. We all enjoyed an afternoon of food, fellowship, and activities for the children.

We were blessed to hear the Word brought forth by the visiting ministers this month. We appreciate the servant hearts of Elder Bro. Steve Ringer (Sis. Myra, Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue, Detroit, MI), Bro. Steve Stieglitz (Sis. Jane, Leo, IN), and Bro. Justin Koch (Sis. Marcia, Washington, IL).

**INDIANA, LACROSSE
Bethany Johnson
Julie Rocke**

Our prayers have been with the Elder body as they were at the Conference recently. May God richly bless each one of these Elders for the work that they do. It is an awesome responsibility that they

have and we need to continue to pray for them daily.

Bro. Ned Troxel (Bro. Tom and Sis. LuAnn) just got back from Germany and it is good to have him with us again and to see his smiling face. He was in Germany for several months doing an internship and taking some classes.

It is nice to have someone come home, but it is sad to see someone leave. Linda Harmon from our Toledo, OH, congregation and Trent Gasser from our Junction, OH, church have been here for the summer doing internships. They have both gone back to finish their schooling and we will miss them. Hopefully they will be back to visit us often! Also, Josh Troxel (Bro. Tom and Sis. LuAnn) and Ashley Elcock (Sis. Ruth) are heading away to college as well. May God be with them while they are gone.

The Sunday School teachers and children always take the month of August off as a break and a way to transition into new classrooms and teachers. Sis. Karina Troxel (Bro. Ed and Sis. Carol), Sis. Nicole Gudeman (Bro. Owen), Bro. Eric Heinold (Sis. Bobbi) and, Bro. Tim Troxel (Bro. Ed and Sis. Carol) are our new teachers. May God direct them as they strive to teach these children the right way. Many thanks to those teachers who have completed their terms!

Sis. Sharla Heinold (Bro. Gene and Sis. Evie) recently broke her arm. We pray that God will heal her in His time.

Our visiting ministers this month were Bro. Don Steidl (Sis. Nan, Akron, OH) and Bro. Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi, Alto, MI). Thank you for being willing servants to us.

**INDIANA, LEO
Elizabeth Schrenk
Abigail Schrenk**

"But godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come."

1 Timothy 4:8b

Webster's dictionary states that godliness is conforming to the laws and wishes of God. Timothy states that godli-

ness is good for all things and it brings promise. My heart is challenged with this thought. Are we conforming to the wishes of God? Are our thoughts what He desires us to think? Our prayer would be that God would find us striving to conform to the laws and wishes that He so clearly displays in His Word.

We have two engagements to share this month. Sis. Tammy Sauder (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Becky, Tremont, IL) has been a teacher at Gateway Woods. She is engaged to Bro. Jeremy Hodel (Bro. Ken and Sis. Kathy) from Roanoke, IL. We will miss Sis. Tammy's smiling face as she returns to Illinois. Bro. Jason Klopfenstein (Bro. John and Sis. Linda) is engaged to Sis. Rachel Huber (Bro. Brian and Sis. Jackie, Francesville, IN). Sis. Rachel has been worshipping with us while serving at Gateway Woods as an Assistant Houseparent. We pray God will guide these two couples as they prepare for marriage.

Bro. Brian Huber (Sis. Jackie) was with us on a Wednesday night to share God's Word with us. They joined us to celebrate the announcement of their daughter's engagement. We thank Bro. Brian for sharing with us again. Bro. Ron Palitto (Sis. Lynell, Akron, OH) was also here for a visit. We thank him for sharing the Word.

On July 26 our congregation sent a team of 19 people to work for one week with Bro. Kirk and Sis. Keri Plattner in Knockpatrick, Jamaica. We thank the Lord for the wonderful fellowship we had with them. Please continue to uplift the Plattners in your prayers as they continue to share the love of our Lord Jesus with those around them.

Sis. Eleanor Strahm has been in the hospital recovering from a fall. She is now residing in a local skilled nursing facility. Bro. Sylvan Pulfer spent time in the hospital. He is currently in a nursing home. We pray God will be very near to these two dear people during this time of transition.

We have been blessed with a new family assembling with us. Bro. Kent and Sis. Jill Rager moved here from Chicago, IL. Bro. Kent had a job transfer. Their four children are Allison, Kendall, Holly,

and Callista. We are thankful they have decided to worship with us.

The end of summer brings us the annual Gateway Woods Auction. We are thrilled once again with many visitors who support the ongoing work at Gateway. Among the visitors were Bro. Jeff Thames (Sis. Brenda, Washington, IL) and Bro. Andrew Klaus (Sis. Jana, Tokyo, Japan). We say thank-you to these Brothers for bringing the Word to us.

We want to say a special thanks to all those who have given of their time and talents volunteering at Gateway Woods this summer. We pray each one will receive a blessing from God for their labors.

INDIANA, MILFORD

**Carol Hurd
Pam Beer**

Our congratulations and best wishes go to Rhett Mikel (Russ and Sis. Pat) and Laura Bowerman (Bro. Bob and Sis. Sue) who were married on July 20.

We appreciate all our visiting ministers who traveled to Milford and shared God's Word with us. They were Bro. Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL), Bro. John Reinhard (Bluffton, IN), Bro. Nile Bucher (Bluffton North, IN), and Bro. Ron Kipfer (Bluffton, IN). May God bless them for their efforts.

Bro. Matt Pamer (Sis. Karen) and Sis. Shirley Beer (Bro. Jesse) were both hospitalized this month. We are glad prayers were answered and that they are both back assembling with us.

INDIANA, REMINGTON

**Jenni Honegger
Marcella Tyler**

Greetings to all from Remington! We have been well blessed this past month with many visiting ministers. Bros. Myron Knobloch (Sis. Beth, Lester, IA), Ken Weerts (Sis. Myrna, Cissna Park, IL), and Ed Fritz (Sis. Sally, Washington, IL) were all willing to be used by the Spirit on our behalf one Sunday and we surely benefited much by their labor of love. Bro. Greg Lehman (Sis. Mary Beth, Wolcott, IN) brought us a Topical Bible Presentation. And Bro. Todd Graf (Sis. Lydia, Akron, OH) was with us one

Wednesday night. His message was quite timely in light of the recent Elder Brother Conference in Princeville, IL. Bro. Todd reminded us that although we are of course first and foremost the sheep of our Lord the Good Shepherd, we are also a part of the flock whose care has been entrusted to our Elder Brothers. We must take care that we submit to their authority in trust and mutual love. And as always, we must be prayerful for their continued dependence on the Spirit's leading to keep our church body from going astray from the Word of God.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

**Becky Langhofer
Natalie Virkler**

"Whether therefore ye eat or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."

1 Cor. 10:31

We are thankful as always for our visiting ministers this month. Bro. Herbie Knochel (Sis. Laurie, Phoenix, AZ) shared the Word with us on August 3. Bro. Tom Leman (Sis. Marlene, Denver, CO) was with us and preached on August 6.

Thank you, Brothers, for taking the time to visit us! You are always welcome back!

INDIANA, VALPARAISO

Marguerite Hoerr

On July 27, our loved son-in-law, Dick Pelath, Michigan City, closed his eyes for the last time and went to be with his Maker. He leaves as a tribute to his time on earth his wife, our daughter Rebecca A. (Hoerr) Pelath, and three sons: Scott (Kim) Pelath who live in Michigan City with their two daughters, Israel and Isabella; Marc (Diana) who live in Chicago with their daughter, Nell; and Anthony who lives in Pittsburg. Dick was in our family for over 40 years and he became as a son to us and a brother to our four sons, Bob, Fred, Doug & Jeff. We want to thank all of you who remembered him in prayers through his two year journey with the pain and uncertainty of

Multiple Myeloma. He asked to read the Silver Lining each month.

The day following Dick's Memorial Services, our feelings were bounced from deep sorrow to true joy because on August 1 we felt we were very privileged to have Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle and his wife, Sis. Lois, visit us at our home in New Buffalo. Their daughter, Jewel Maida, and her son drove them to our home on Saturday. Willis and Lois stayed overnight with us and together we went to our church in Valpo on Sunday morning. What a blessing they were, both in our home and in our church. Lois is a first cousin of mine. We went through high school together and graduated and both of us found the Lord in the following year. She was my bridesmaid when Bob and I were married. She always wanted to marry a missionary and the Lord brought her and Willis together so they could lend their talents to start a church in Japan. We haven't seen each other often in the ensuing years but our love remained intact and it was true joy to see both of them again.

Another blessing to our Valpo church was Bro. Ken Wuethrich who came with his wife, Sis. Lyn, to contribute to our second Vacation Bible School evening. We ask God to reward them richly, as they gave blessings to us by traveling from their home in Indianapolis.

On the Sunday of August 8, Bro. John Lehman, his wife, Sis. Ruth Ann, from the Wolcott congregation and Bro. Cal Schneider and his wife, Sis. Jeanne, La-Crosse, came to be with us and ministered to our congregation. It was good to have some of their children along with them, too. We could enjoy their company longer after church as we met together at Bro. Lyle and Sis. Marilyn Zeltwanger's home and then have others join us, so we could go together to eat in a local restaurant. May God bless both of these young couples now and in the future, as they have calls to minister to their home churches and to others.

On the Sunday when it was the turn of our ministering Bro. Mike Thomas and wife, Sis. Claudia, to serve the fellowship lunch, Sis. Claudia was ill and unable to come. Their daughter, LaToya, and son,

Isaiah, told them it was no problem they could serve for her and they did, most ably with the help of friends from the Bible Class. It was a treat for all of us to be served by them and it was more enjoyable because they seemed to enjoy it, too.

Bob had the opportunity to travel to the Gateway Woods Auction in Leo with Bro. Lyle and Sis. Marilyn Zeltwanger and with Sis. Gwen Bucher. He arrived home full of enthusiasm and awe at the success the auction brought and with joy in meeting old friends. We remind you, that at our age most of our friends can be called old friends or friends from long ago; and what a blessing that is.

We want to extend a welcome again if you're traveling. We're located on IN State Rd. 49 S. just 2 3/4 miles S of U.S. 30. Our services are 10:30 and 12:30 each Sunday. For Wednesday night service time and location, call Bro. Garry (219) 733-2168 or Bro. Mike (219) 733-9347. We would love having you stop by.

**INDIANA
WEST LAFAYETTE
Darlene Walder
Hollie Meister**

Greetings in Jesus Name!

Our regular Thursday evening Bible Study with our church family and the Purdue students ends at the end of May and reconvenes at the end of August. These evenings throughout the school year are so beneficial to everyone that attends. To capture that same feel for intentional teaching, "The Book of Acts" has been studied by all that could attend the summer Thursday evenings. We appreciate the efforts put forth of our local ministry to bring these teachings to our congregation.

We have started the playing of the Conference tapes and so appreciate all the time and energy that went into the Brotherhood Conference this past August 8. Our Elder brothers certainly covet the prayers of everyone. We prayerfully support our Elder Bro. Curt Frank as he has been elected to serve on the Elder Committee. We know this will take even more of his time and only by God's grace will he be able to fulfill his du-

ties.

The school year for many has started and with that comes challenges and opportunities. For our sons in particular, one of our sons is a senior in high school and on the first day of school, it was encouraged to make every day count, to be able to look back when he graduates and say it was a good year, and to be respectful and kind. Isn't this true for all of us; to live every day with no regrets. "He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the Lord;... So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God." (Romans 14:6a, 12)

**INDIANA, WOLCOTT
Lynell Blume
Erica Blume**

What a blessed privilege we have had to hear God's precious Word expounded in all its truth and sincerity! We appreciated the visits of Bro. Dan Beer (Sis. Deb; Milford, IN) and Bro. Dale Banwart (Sis. Missy; Congerville, IL). Bro. Todd Graf (Sis. Lydia; Akron, OH) also ministered to us on a recent Wednesday evening. May the Lord bless these brothers for their love and labors for us.

Marcille (Niki) Harris and Nick Pilotte were joined in Holy Matrimony on July 26. As they have vowed before God to be faithful to each other, we trust that God will be faithful to help them in their marriage and to bless them! Their parents are Mike and Sis. Nancy Scott, and Duane and Roberta Pilotte.

Daily life presents the constant struggle of dying to self as we strive to keep our sights on Heaven. We were encouraged in this battle by our Bro. Greg Lehman (Sis. Mary Beth), who presented a topical Bible study on July 30.

With many concerns for our precious faith, our Elders and ministers gathered together for the annual Brotherhood Conference. Many prayers were lifted up in their behalf as they discussed the spiritual matters of our church. We have been assembling weekly to listen to the Conference tapes. May we all strive for unity by being more obedient to our shepherds and more faithful to our God.

Our annual church-Sunday School outing to Turkey Run State Park was

held on August 9. It was a beautiful day of fellowship in the midst of God's creation. We pray that days like this will remain warm memories in all of our hearts, but that most of all, our youth may someday desire to be children of God.

This time of year brings the start of a new school year. May our youth remember the teachings they received at home and in Sunday School, and may our Heavenly Father watch over them and keep them from harm and evil.

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 6:31

July 26 was the wedding day for Erica Knapp and Brent Wuthrich. We wish them God's continued blessing and guidance as they begin their walk together. Happy parents of the couple are Roger and Debbie Knapp and Bro. Roger and Sis. DeAnn Wuthrich.

July 27 was the wedding day for Bro. Chris Messner and Sis. Dixie Metzger at West Bend, IA. We wish this couple God's blessings and are thankful to see them often in Bloomfield as Bro. Chris continues his schooling near by.

We are rejoicing with Bro. Tim and Sis. Mary Maibach as they became first-time grandparents. Joseph Carl was born to Bro. Doug and Sis. Rachel Stoller of Smithville, OH.

A special thank you to all the Elder Brothers as they labored in love and set aside most of a week to meet for the general Conference.

IOWA, ELGIN Gloria Frieden

Ready to go, ready to stay,
Ready my place to fill;
Ready for service, lowly or great,
Ready to do His will.

Our annual election was recently held

and we trust that God will provide for each one as they submissively seek to serve Him.

Bro. Brent Strahm (Sis. Brianna) will be our new Sunday School superintendent and Bible Class teacher. Sis. Lisa Strahm was voted in for the intermediate Sunday School class. Sis. Maria Rocke (Bro. Dean) will be teaching the preschool class. Bro. Doug Rocke (Sis. Trish) was put in as usher and Bro. John Schupbach (Sis. Janet) as head song leader.

There is beauty all around,
when there's love at home;
There is joy in every sound,
when there's love at home.

We trust that God's love will reign in the home of Kami (Bro. Jim and Sis. Marcy Knobloch) and Ben (Julie) McCready who were married on August 8.

Tell it again and again...
Tell it again and again
The gospel story, of grace and glory,
Bears telling again and again.

We're thankful for three visiting "ministers of the gospel" who shared God's Word with us this past month: Bro. Jim Butikofer (Sis. Diana, Iowa City), Bro. Kevin Banwart (Sis. Sandy, West Bend) and our Elder Bro. Wayne Grimm (Sis. Rose, West Bend). May God richly bless each of them as they continue in His service.

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE Willa Clark

The cicadas are singing, a sure harbinger of the approaching autumn season, followed by winter. Everyday discussions turn to signs of a "hard" winter or an "open" winter. Dark bands on the "wooly worms", rings around the moon, thick coats on furry animals and the size of the walnut crop, all are said to be weather predictors, along with the "Farmers' Almanac", which claims to be correct 80 percent of the time.

Careful records will show that some of these really do seem valid, but none are

100 percent accurate. What we do find to be 100 percent on target are the prophecies recorded in the Bible. God's predictions never fail. His promises are true.

And God has promised His Son Jesus will return, after certain events have occurred. We see earthquakes and storms, war and rumors of wars. Are we ready for the Babe of Bethlehem to return as King of Kings?

We have been blessed with messages from God's servants, Bro. Duane Rocke (Sis. Bonnie, Minneapolis) and Bro. Ron Joos (Sis. Chris, Bloomfield). May God richly bless them for their service to us.

IOWA, IOWA CITY Diana Butikofer

We thank the Princeville congregation and our Elder Brothers for all the preparation and effort they put into holding the Conference this month!

Bro. Jeff Bahler (Sis. Heidi, Wolcott, IN) shared the Word of God with us recently. We appreciate his labor and his family's visit.

We rejoice with Bro. Chris and Sis. Sara Hattan upon the July 22 birth of their son, Isaias Thayne. His grandparents are Bro. Dean and Sis. Jacki Knobloch (Goodfield, IL), John Hattan of Gridley, IL, and Ann Hattan of Wenona, IL.

Our sympathies and prayers go to the Ron and Audrey Landherr family after the death of their close friend, Audrey Plotz. We pray the Lord will comfort them during this time.

IOWA, LESTER Gloria Moser Polly Metzger

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

Psalms 127:3

Precious little Ellie Susan was born July 20 to Ethan and Trixie Metzger. Erica loves her little sister, and her grandparents are Bro. Wes and Sis. Esther Moser and Bro. Harv and Sis. Mary Metzger. May God continue to bless these dear parents as they raise their

young family.

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee."

Isaiah 26:3

It is always a blessing to hear souls announced for peace. Andy Knoblock (Bro. Terry and Sis. Elaine), Brent and Priscilla Bosch (Bro. Tony and Sis. Pam) and Amanda Gerber (Bro. Dave and Sis. Diane, West Bend) are thankful God has blessed them with this precious gift. May the Lord continue to direct their path as they look to Him.

Bro. Bud Knobloch (Sis. Irene), Bro. Paul Leuthold (Sis. Betty), Samantha Besonen (Brant) and Jordan Meyer (Bro. Merlin and Sis. Marilyn) have all spent time in the hospital. We continue to ask God's healing hand for all those in affliction of any kind.

"For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:"

Ephesians 3:12

We always appreciate the visiting ministers that come to share with us. Elder Bro. Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL), Bro. Bruce Frank (Cissna Park, IL), Bro. Gary Sinn (Latty, OH) and Bro. Lenny Meyer and Bro. Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL) were here with us. We ask God to continue to bless and uphold all our ministering brothers; and thank them for their efforts.

July 11 was the wedding day of Catherine VerSteeg (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Vicki Leuthold) and Dustin Lefdal. August 16, Tonya Moser and Morris Metzger (Bro. Glen and Sis. Joyce) were united in marriage. We pray God will bless these two young couples as they begin a new life and establish their homes.

We were saddened to hear of the death of Bro. Rollie Messner (Winthrop) on August 6. We extend our sympathy to his wife, Sis. Melva, and her family, and to his in-laws here in Lester: Bro. Phil and Sis. Donna Mogler, Bro. Leo and Sis. Leona Moser, Bro. Gus and Sis. Florence Knoblock, Sis. Marge Mogler, Bro.

Howard and Sis. Lollie Mogler, and Bro. Frank and Sis. Verna Moser and their families.

We also extend our sympathy to Bro. Henry and Sis. Charlene Messner and their family in the loss of his dear dad, Bro. Frank Messner (Morris), who passed away August 9. Our sympathy to Sis. Gladys and her family of Morris, also. May God comfort these dear souls in their time of sorrow.

Note of Thanks:

The family of Emma Gerber wish to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, food and gifts. Your expressions of sympathy and kindness will always be remembered.

Bro. Bob and Sis. Nancy Gerber and family

Bro. John and Sis. Donna Gerber and family

Ernie and Sharon Gerber and family

Wayne Gerber and family

Pauline Teubel and family

Bro. Bill and Sis. Erma Gerber and family

Jim and Marlene Gerber and family

IOWA, OAKVILLE Sharla Wiegand

We are thankful for the many volunteers who have come to help in the flood relief effort. One benefit is that we frequently have visiting ministers. On July 16, Bro. Tony Manz (Junction, OH) ministered the Word. Bro. Gary Tonner (Bluffton, IN), Bro. Chuck Kellenberger (Elgin, IL) and Bro. Kent Getz (Elgin, IA) shared the Gospel on July 23. Bro. Bruce Frank (Cissna Park, IL) and Bro. Phil Schulz (Burlington, IA) brought us the Word on August 3.

July 20 was the wedding day of Bro. Clinton Wagenbach (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Bonnie, Jr.) and Sis. Kyrstin Kilgus (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Denise) of Forrest, IL. We are thankful to have Sis. Kyrstin in Oakville and hope she feels the love and warmth of our congregation.

Matt and Sis. Aimee Wagenbach are rejoicing as a new baby has joined their family circle. Ellah Kay was born on July 28. Older siblings, Lydia, Elise, Lucas and Hanna, welcomed her home. Grand-

parents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Bonnie Wagenbach, Sr., Craig and Ruth Shafer (Mediapolis) and Jeff and Becky Wrage (Gladbrook).

First-time parents, Bro. Kyle and Sis. Deanna Wagenbach, welcomed a precious baby girl, Callie Sue, on August 9. First-time grandparents, Bro. Jerry and Sis. Bonnie Wagenbach, Jr., are thankful for this blessing. Also rejoicing are grandparents, Bro. Ken and Sis. Janet Lanz.

We were saddened to hear of the passing of our Bro. Richard Gerst, age 94, on July 29. He had been unable to come to church for several years, but appreciated visitors and singing very much. He leaves behind his dear wife, Sis. Liberty Frank, who faithfully cared for him. Also grieving are their sons, Bro. Steve and Sis. Bonnie Gerst of Goodfield, IL; Bro. Wally and Donna Gerst of Alto, MI; Jeff and Kari Gerst of Wapello and Kevin and Selena Gerst of Wapello. May the Lord comfort their hearts.

IOWA, WEST BEND Janet Fehr Sue Schneider

Bros. John Hartman (Sis. Rosemary, Fairbury, IL) and Floyd Frieden (Sis. Jan, Elgin, IA) spent a weekend in July with us attending their Ft. Sam Reunion hosted here. We appreciated their God-given words over the pulpit, and pray God will bless them for their efforts.

Our prayers and sympathy are extended to those in our congregation who have lost loved ones in recent days. Sis. Ruth Dodd mourns the death of a brother-in-law who lost his life in an auto accident. Bro. Art (Sis. Eula) Mogler also suffered the loss of a brother-in-law with the sudden passing of Auriel Montgomery of Sabetha, KS. After a lingering illness, Jane Traub was laid to rest. Jane is Joan Traub's daughter-in-law. May God comfort where man's hand cannot reach.

We are so thankful to report Sis. Judy (Bro. Jerry) Schmidt and her son, Jamie (Linda) Schmidt, are both recuperating nicely following heart by-pass surgeries. Sis. Helen Zaugg has been hospitalized several times during the past month. We remember each of these loved ones in our prayers.

As we weep with those who weep, we also rejoice with those who rejoice. We are rejoicing with Bro. Derek Knapp (Bro. Brian and Sis. Lorna, Oakville, IA) and Sis. Annie Messner (Bro. Beirne and Sis. Joyce, Morris, MN) as their engagement was announced on Sunday, August 3. May God be in their lives and plans as they prepare for their upcoming wedding.

Bro. Kris Messner (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Audrey) and Sis. Dixie Metzger (Bro. Leland and Sis. Kathy) were wed on July 27. They have made their abode in Iowa City for now. We pray for God's continued nearness in their lives as they walk together as one in Him. In attendance were Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, LaCrosse, IN), Bro. Ron Joos (Sis. Christy, Bloomfield, IA), Bro. Joe Dotterer (Sis. Rose, Bloomfield, IA), Bro. Wes Moser (Sis. Esther, Lester, IA), and Bro. Dale Moore (Sis. Cheryl, Elgin, IA). We thank each one for their part in sharing God's Word with us on this special day.

Amanda Gerber's (Bro. Dave and Sis. Diane) prayers were answered as she has found God's wondrous peace in her life. We rejoice with Amanda and look forward to her testimony and baptism scheduled for August 23-24.

The summer is nearly over; fall is just around the corner. After a brief vacation, it is time for both school and Sunday School to resume. We trust we are all good "students", and both learn and do what we must in our earthly schools to attain our ultimate goal in life – a fulfilling walk with God while here on earth and finally, a home in Heaven.

JAPAN, SHIODA **Carrie Ito**

Yoroshiku (That is "greetings") from Shioda!

One of our old sisters in the nursing home, Sis. Haruko Saigusa, passed away in late July. Though I did not know her before she had her stroke, I have heard many accounts of her long and faithful service to the Lord and to the church. Though the funeral will be held in September, our congregation gathered at the family's home and at the crematorium to

sing hymns, pray, and read the Bible. We were thankful that her family desired a Christian service for her, though they are not Christians. Please pray that their hearts will be touched by the Holy Spirit through her passing and the funeral services.

We were thankful that some of our congregation could gather for our annual summer fellowship meeting which was held at Tokyo church in August. We had a blessed gathering with Bible lessons, good spiritual discussion, singing, and fellowship. "Joy and peace in the believer's life" was our theme for the two day meeting.

JAPAN, TOKYO **Marie Inoue**

The hot days of summer have left us for awhile with cool rains and cloudy weather. The Lord has sent us relief from the heat and humidity.

On August 8 and 9 we so enjoyed our summer fellowship meeting held this year at our Tokyo church with the theme, "Faith and Works". The main part of our lessons emphasized that we are saved by grace through faith, but are expected to bring forth fruits, shown by our deeds. Others cannot "see" our faith, but the Word says we are known by our fruits. (Matt. 7:16). It was also a sharing time for brethren to tell of experiences in their conversion and how the Lord helped them. Later, a friend commented that the load she carries is much heavier than the others who expressed themselves. Help us all, dear Lord, to remember, "my grace is sufficient for thee..." (II Cor. 12:9). The children present also enjoyed lessons on prayer and the story of Zaccheus, plus art activities and a special "walk" together.

Our visitors this month were cousins, Sis. Judy Bauer and Elaine Young (Cissna Park, IL). They are retired teachers who enjoy traveling. We thank them for sharing God's love with us and including us on their tour around-the-world as they visit brethren and loved ones in various places.

In the hospital for surgeries recently were Atsuko Iino (hand) and Sis. Marie Inoue (arm). They are both on the mend

and thank all for their concern, deeds of love, and prayers.

We want to thank Bro. Akihiro and Sis. Carrie Ito for so kindly helping with the ministry and fellowship of our assembly so our family could be away. We were thankful for blessed hours of fellowship with brethren and friends in Budapest, Hungary, and Briedenbach, Germany, and also dear relatives in Sarrebourg, France. To see our faith in a different country and somewhat different culture, and to fellowship with these dear ones was priceless.

Bro. Andrew Klaus has returned safely from the U.S. where he could attend the Brotherhood Conference in Princeville, IL. May the efforts put forth for the Conference by many, both spiritual and otherwise, be blessed by our Heavenly Father. We look forward to Sis. Jana, the children, and their nanny, Sis. Elizabeth Rayburn, to return this week.

KANSAS, BERN **Jill Meyer** **Rita Menold**

We rejoice with Bro. Duane Kaeb (Bro. Paul and Sis. Joan), as he brought forth his testimony and was baptized the weekend of August 16-17. May we each do our part to encourage him as he begins his walk in the body of Christ.

We were thankful to hear of the engagement of our Sis. Anna Esslinger, to Bro. Phil Sceggel, of Peoria, IL. Parents of the couple are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gerty Esslinger (Bloomfield, IA) and Bro. Mark and Sis. Judy Sceggel (Peoria, IL). We pray that they will look to God for guidance and direction as they plan for a lifetime together!

Bro. Todd and Sis. Cynthia Fehr welcomed little Wyatt Warren into their family circle. Excited siblings are Logan, Leanna, Rachel, Kenton and Emily. Thankful grandparents are Sis. Joann Edelman, and Bro. Warren and Sis. Shirley Fehr (Fairbury, IL).

Scott and Valerie Edelman welcomed Carson Dean into their family circle! Kaden is excited for a little brother, and Bro. Rod and Sis. Joleen Edelman are excited for another grandson!

Brett Edelman and Lisa Lierz ex-

changed wedding vows on July 26. Parents of the newlyweds are Bro. Rod and Sis. Joleen Edelman and Mark and Becky Lierz (Baileyville, KS).

Ministering the Word of God to us this month were Bros. Floyd Frieden (Elgin, IA), Tim Zimmerman (Lamont-Gridley, KS), Greg Stoller (Forrest, IL), Bill Dotterer (Lamar, MO), Mark Steiner (Smithville, OH) and Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO).

Jenna Rokey (Bro. Dwight and Sis. Anita) spent some time in the hospital this month. We are thankful she is home and feeling better.

Our prayers have been with Bro. Matt and Sis. Helen Edelman at the passing of their brother-in-law, Bro. Doug Moser, of Fairbury, IL.

As our Sunday School begins a new year, our prayers are with each of the teachers and students that the seed of truth may be sown in each and every heart!

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT **Martin Hohulin**

We continue to enjoy, and are blest by, visiting ministers which come our way. From Chicago, IL, Bro. Virgil Metzger (Sis. Mary), along with their son, Bro. Darrin, were well received. Bro. Virgil traveled to Springfield, MO, on business and attended Fort Scott church on Sunday.

A few Sundays later, Bro. Duane Metzger (Sis. Ruth, West Bend, IA) fed us well from God's Word. Along with several children, another guest was Sis. Helen Zaugg who came with them to visit her sister, Sis. Ruth Bahr. Unfortunately, her visit was interrupted when she fell sick and spent several days in the Fort Scott hospital. Bro. Bill Boge and Sis. Jan took her home following her release.

Arriving at church early Sunday morning, we were surprised to see a pick up truck bearing Indiana license plates. We were introduced to Bro. David and Sis. Kelly Zeltwenger and their son, Bro. Ryan. Bro. Ryan will attend Allen County Community College in Iola, KS, 45 miles west of Fort Scott. We welcome him into our church circle and pray his stay in Kansas will be a blessing for him

and us. Sis. Kelly was formerly from Phoenix, AZ, and enjoyed visiting people here who had previously lived in Arizona. The Zeltwengers are from Francesville, IN.

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

"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul; he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake."

Psalms 23:1-3

Close your eyes and picture the peace and quiet of an early morning just before dawn, beside the still waters of a lake where fish are jumping, ducks are swimming, birds are singing, and a blue crane is quietly feeding in the shallows. Then think of the beautiful words of the 23rd Psalm and the Zion's Harp #166: "Oh, how lovely is the morning, when it is begun with God; joy and thanks our hearts adorning, as behooves a child of God. Waking after night so fair, in the Maker's gentle care; rising without grief or sorrow, to a new and joyful morrow."

Recently, we had the privilege of spending 14 mornings this way, and it is amazing just how restored and at peace a person can feel in the presence of the Lord our God, and the beauty He has so richly given us to enjoy if we only accept this gift and quietly wait, look and listen.

"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes..."

Revelation 21:4

Our dear Bro. George Marvin Diel experienced this firsthand as he fell asleep in the arms of his Saviour on August 9 at the age of 90 years and 4 days. Two of his special hymns, "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" and "Jesus Loves Me" tell the rest of the story! For his faithful, loving wife, Sis. Matilda (Tillie), and family, we extend our love and sympathy through this difficult time.

We truly appreciate all who help with

our Rest Home services, including our youth, who always join in with songs and poems that bring smiles to those precious elderly faces.

Our prayers are ever with our loved ones who are unable to worship with us due to ill health, and our dear Sis. Matilda Diel has been unable to be with us for a long time. We miss her so much, and pray that God will grant her healing, as well as Marvin Ott, Bethany Hamilton, and all others who also face daily struggles in their lives.

It is again time for our precious children to start back to school, and may we as parents, grandparents, relatives and friends ever hold them up in prayer, that they may make choices that keep them close to the Lord their God.

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

"And all thy children shall be taught of the Lord; and great shall be the peace of thy children."

Isaiah 54:13

The Sunday school year has begun. We pray that God will grant the teachers wisdom and patience in instructing the children. May the students learn the ways of the Lord and may seeds of faith be planted in their tender heart's garden.

We rejoice with our dear friend, Kara Kraft (Bro. Doug and Sis. Judy), who has turned to the Lord in repentance. Our prayers are with her as she moves to Kansas City for schooling. We trust that she will feel God's grace and that she will seek His guidance always.

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

"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

John 14:27

We rejoice with Tyler Huber (Bro.

Gordon and Sis. Sharlyn) as he gave his testimony and was baptized on July 20.

Our prayers and encouragement are extended to Steve Brownlee (Sis. Selena) as he has been announced for peace and seeks baptism on August 24.

We have been blessed by the inspiration of God's Holy Word as we have had many visiting ministers come to lend themselves in the Lord's service. They were Elder Bro. Mike Leman (Sis. Deb, Denver, CO), Bro. Gary Brown (Sis. Jane, Forrest, IL), Bro. Tom Schambach (Sis. Connie, Elgin, IL), Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Sis. Nancy, Forrest, IL), Bro. Ron Isch (Sis. Jane, Lamont-Gridley, KS), and Bro. Dale Zeltwanger (Sis. Rachel, Morris, MN).

As is our yearly tradition, our Sunday School is taking a summer break for the month of August and will resume on September 7. The new Sunday School Teachers for the 2008-09 year are Bro. Kent Grimm (Sis. Molly), Bro. Tom Strahm (Sis. Carrie) and Sis. Jeanelle Plattner (Bro. Brian), Sis. Nita Grimm (Bro. Kevin), and Sis. Brenda Hartter (Bro. Seth). The substitute teachers will be Bro. Erik Hertzell (Sis. Shelli), Bro. Richard Meyer (Sis. Joni), Sis. Marla Beyer (Bro. Korbin), and Sis. Jeryl Grimm (Bro. Doug). We pray the Lord will grant them wisdom in teaching the young and tender hearts of our children. May the seeds they plant bring forth fruit.

We enjoyed a farewell potluck and singing for our dear Sis. Sheila Moser on August 9. Sis. Sheila left for Haiti on August 12 and will be of service there for three years. We pray the Lord will continue to guide her and provide her every need. We look forward to her return!

The annual General Church Conference was held in Princeville, IL, in August. We continue to pray for our Elders and ministers as they have met to make many decisions regarding our church. May the Lord guide each and every one as they shepherd their flock.

Lafe Grimm (Bro. Rodney and Sis. Arlene) and Kristen Spohr (Merle and Jean, Hancock, MN) announce their engagement and upcoming wedding which is planned for July 18, 2009. We pray

they look to the Lord for guidance as they plan their life together.

A precious baby daughter, Sienna Rae, was born to Bro. Keith and Sis. Andrea Grimm. The thankful grandparents are Bro. Doug and Sis. Jeryl Grimm and Bro. Randy and Sis. Shirley Koehl (Morris, MN). We pray the Lord will bless this dear family as they raise their child for His glory.

We continue to pray for Sis. Jeryl Grimm as she has finished her chemotherapy treatment and strives to gain her strength. We also pray for Janice Young (Roger) as her treatments have begun. May all who have had recent conflicts of the flesh feel God's nearness and gain strength through His power.

KANSAS, WICHITA

Emma Miller

Most of our children started back to school by the end of the second week of August. This is quite a change from the "old days" when nearly everyone began the new school session after Labor Day. Not only have our children returned to the classroom, but two of our parents are entering the classroom as first time teachers. Josh Kelly will be a first year teacher and Kathleen Setsor is doing her practice teaching. Our prayers are with them as they influence their students and guide them through the school year.

We were blessed with visitors who were in Wichita for family gatherings recently. One weekend a family from Sabetha and/or Bern came for a wedding and stayed to worship with us. Last week a family from the Ft. Scott church worshipped with us. Today we had visitors from Lamont/Gridley. Each day the Sunday School attendance more than doubled. We also have enjoyed fellowshiping with Ashlee Leman from Elgin, IL. She is on a training mission near Wichita.

A sister shared the following poem with me. It was written by our long ago departed sister, Glennis Allenbach. Sis. Glennis appreciated her Christian walk.

God Knew

God knew that I would hate to see
The lovely things of summer end;

So in compassion turned the key
To open autumn's wonderland.

I stood in awe and I could see
Bright autumn sing her song anew;
And marveled long how it could be
That I have this and heaven, too.

MEXICO, IXTLAN

Matt Gerber

"They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick."

Matthew 9:12

Meet Sis. Lupita Sibaja León

My name is Maria Guadalupe Sibaja León ("Lupita"), and I want to share with you the change Christ worked in me. Thanks to God, I come from a family where my four sisters and mother are believers. Though my father still isn't, I have the hope that someday he will be, too.

From the time I was three years old I started to come to church with my sisters. Even though I didn't understand at that time, I enjoyed coming. Now I know that God's will was to bring my sisters and I there, and later my mother. With time we began to understand more and change our beliefs (from Catholicism). Some years passed, and my older sisters and my mother were converted to Christ.

During that time, I was the "good girl" and tried not to disobey my parents, but as I grew up I entered another stage—middle school—where I began to follow bad examples. I got into the "punk" style—black clothes, crazy music, rebellious attitude—but I felt good because my friends accepted me.

But I didn't feel good for long. Soon I started to feel very alone. I didn't want to talk with my parents or sisters. I felt depressed, sad, and angry with myself and everybody else. It seemed something, or someone, was missing in my life, and I tried to find it in the world. I started going to parties and deceiving my parents. I was part of a bad group of friends. Some of them offered me drugs, but I turned them down. Other people talked bad about us and didn't want to have anything to do with us. I couldn't control my

behavior anymore—I looked for fights with other people I didn't like, and even insulted my teachers at school. I didn't care anymore about school, my family, and least of all going to church.

I remember one time when my sister came to visit with her husband and children that my attitude was so selfish and rude that I treated them badly. I wouldn't let them give me advice or even talk with me. But when my sister was getting ready to leave, I felt horrible regret. I went to her, cried, and asked her to forgive me. She told me not to worry—that she didn't hold anything against me and she was going to keep praying for me. Every time my sisters talked with me they told me, “Lupita, we're praying for you that God would change your heart.”

The most important event I remember was a day I talked with another one of my sisters. I told her my problems, and I'm not sure why, but I asked her about repenting. We started talking, and she told me that life with Christ is better than anything else. Everything I had (my music, my black clothes to get attention, the posters of punk artists in my room) was worthless. She reminded me of my other sister, who after being very rebellious, was converted to a completely new life in Christ. She showed me Psalm 27, especially where it reads, “The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? When the wicked, even mine enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell” (vv.1,2). She explained to me all that I could have in Christ, and in Him I wouldn't need to fear my enemies. As she talked I felt regret in my heart, and said, “When I repent, it's going to be when I'm prepared and ready to make that decision.” She replied, “There are always going to be difficulties and tests, and you will never come to a point where you feel prepared. But if you repent and ask God to forgive you, Satan won't be able to harm you because God will be with you.” Her words made me reflect for many days.

Afterwards, the day of my sister Issa's baptism arrived. As I saw her making the decision of her life, and the joy that re-

flected from her, it gave me courage and made me think about how sinful I really was. Memories of all the evil I had done came to my mind. I felt the need to ask God to forgive me for disobeying my parents, treating my sister so badly, hurting others, mistreating my body, the temple of God, and above all, the evil way I had lived. I could see that my sisters and mother had a great joy that I didn't have.

In the next couple weeks that followed, when I went to church and listened to the sermons I felt like someone was talking to me and saying, “Repent! You're living a worldly life, full of worthless pleasures, and you're carrying a great burden of sin.” After thinking hard during those weeks, I felt it was time to ask God to forgive me and change my life. I recognized I was a sinner and needed God's forgiveness, and wanted to surrender my life to Christ. After talking with the minister, I felt joy in my heart—the change and relief in my soul that came from Christ coming to dwell in me. I asked forgiveness from my family and the people I had hurt, and distanced myself from my bad friendships.

Now I like to spend time at home with my family, talking with my sisters, listening to my parents, reading the Bible, and going to church. I'm very thankful to God for helping me recognize that my sisters were always concerned about me and prayed for me, and my parents corrected me for my own good. But above all, I give thanks to God for offering me forgiveness for my sins through the blood of His Son Jesus Christ.

MEXICO, MAGDALENA Carissa Schlipf

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

Over the last of June and July we hosted four work teams at CVE: the Taylor, MO, Bible class; a group from Minneapolis, MN; the Francesville, IN, Bible class; and a combined group of the Chicago and Champaign, IL, Bible classes. We really appreciate the work that they did on the new house and around campus, as well as in the new church build-

ing.

In July the CVE Board met here in Magdalena. We appreciate the time and effort these brothers put into the future of CVE and the lives of the children who live here. May God give them much wisdom in their decisions!

We appreciate the efforts of Bro. Marshall Heinold (Ixtlán, México) as he shared the Word with us the Wednesday night before the Board meeting.

Our prayers continue to be with Sis. Dolly Schick, mother of Bro. Bill (Sis. Joan), in her time of illness. We are thankful that Bro. Bill was able to go to IL and spend a weekend with her in July.

We are excited to welcome CVE's first houseparent couple! Bro. Keith and Sis. Emily Schambach and their daughter, Kaleigh, have arrived from Elgin, IL, to live in the new house that is currently being completed. They will care for the girls who have been living in the dormitories on campus. We welcome them and pray for their adjustment to their new role here at CVE. Please also keep the girls in your prayers as they make the transition to the new house, as well as Sis. Gloria Gonzalez, their caregiver for the past 3 years.

July 30, a sibling group of five joined our CVE family: Alexia, Ramses, Nereida, José, and Gloria. The children range in age from 11 years to 2 months and have joined the other two sibling groups in the big house on campus. Please pray for their transition and for wisdom and grace for their caregivers!

As the summer draws to a close, we say good-bye to our summer staff: Sis. Kendra Neihouser (Francesville, IN), Sis. Amanda Kellenberger (Elgin, IL), Bro. Jim Klotzle (Altadena, CA), Sis. Andrea Luthi (Lamont-Gridley, KS), and Sis. Mandy Steffen (Washington, IL). We have greatly appreciated their help with summer school, in the kitchen, and with many other projects around campus! May God bless them abundantly as they return back to school and continue to pursue God's plan for their lives.

The first week of August we hosted Vacation Bible School here in Magdalena. We were thankful to be able to use the new church buildings for regis-

tration, the welcome and singing, and as extra classroom space. We were blessed with over 300 children and several adults from the community who attended throughout the week and pray that God blesses the seeds that were sown in their hearts. We praise God that many returned for church the following Sunday and pray that they continue to come to learn of God and His love for them. Special thanks to those who came and volunteered their time and efforts to help make the week go more smoothly!

“Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory, for thy mercy, and for thy truth’s sake.”

Psalm 115:1

MICHIGAN, ALTO
Rose Watson
Terri Huber

How exciting to welcome another couple to the Grand Rapids area and the Alto church! Bro. Jake and Sis. Meika Gerst are making Michigan their home. May they feel blessed as they settle into their new home, job, and friendships, even as they are blessing us with their fellowship.

Sympathy is extended to Bro. Wally Gerst (Donna) at the passing away of his father in Oakville, IA. As the preacher says, “to every thing there is a season.” While it is difficult to realize we will not see a loved one again here on earth, it is encouraging to know that his hope of heaven has been realized.

The angels are rejoicing, and so are we, at the news that Abigail Steffen (Bro. Ted and Sis. Sandy) is repenting. Many prayers will be lifted on her behalf, but let’s not forget to offer words of encouragement, as well.

Many have been hospitalized or ill. Elaine Wingeier (Stan) is recuperating from eye surgery. Bro. Lloyd Blough (Sis. Ella) has had a pacemaker put in, and Sis. Marguerite Blough (the late Bro. Noah) has been hospitalized. There are others who are traveling long roads of recuperation. We continue to pray that their physicians and health care workers will have the wisdom and skill to fix and heal as God wills, and that God will lift the spirits

of the sick and bedridden with peace and encouraging thoughts.

The tapes of the Elder Conference are being played on Wednesday evenings in August and September.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY
Sarah Knochel
Janelle Ramseyer

We are so thankful when we hear of a new convert and are grateful that Nicholas Schlatter (Bro. Jay and Sis. Carolla) was able to find the grace to repent.

Bob and Sis. Maureen Weiss are grandparents once again. We rejoice with them as they welcome Anna Maureen into their family circle. Anna’s parents are Aaron and Becky.

We are so thankful that Bro. Don and Sis. Tina Jackson and their daughters, Sis. Christi and Taryn, felt led, heeded the prompting of the Spirit and have moved back “home” to Bay City. May God provide for their every need as they endure a period of adjustment and settle into their normal routine. Welcome home!

We rejoice with Aaron and Shannon Wackerle as they were joined in holy matrimony on July 26. Aaron’s parents are Kip and Patti. May Christ be at the forefront of their lives as they establish their home.

We are thankful that Bro. Jesse Bedolla (Sis. Bonnie, Detroit, MI) was able to share the Word with our congregation recently. We always appreciate it when Bro. Jesse and Sis. Bonnie come to Bay City to visit their family here.

Our prayers are with those who have experienced ailments of the flesh during the past several weeks. They include Bill Bateson (Lori), Bro. Floyd Knochel (Sis. Marion), Bro. Robert Knochel, Bro. Vic Knochel (Sis. Elinor), Sis. Eleanor Munsel, and Sis. Mabelle Wackerle. May God grant healing and strength to each one.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT
Tamra Coughlin
Manuela Denes

We’ve been blessed with such a beautiful summer and it is hard to believe that

September is already here. The nights are getting shorter and we’ve had a few cool mornings. The smell of fall is in the air and how fortunate we are to be able to look forward to a bountiful season full of thankfulness! We’d certainly like to thank those brothers who took time out to come to visit us in Detroit. Bro. Darren Plattner (Sis. Sue, Champaign, IL) shared a weekend with us. We greatly appreciated weekday services at Woodhaven with Bro. Walt Rager (Sis. Sharon) and Bro. Ben Harmon and Sis. Esther Stoller.

“Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.”

Matthew 5:4

Our prayers are with Sis. Linda and John Reardon at the passing of his sister, Rosalind Thomas. May the Lord indeed give His comfort to their family at this loss.

We bid a fond farewell to Bro. Joel and Sis. Amber Virkler as he continues his medical internship at Chicago. We also wish pray for much success and the guiding Hand of our Lord as Sis. Kristi Baran leaves for schooling in the Toledo area. In fact, prayers and best wishes to all our students who are returning for a brand new school year!

May we continue to be prayerful for those who have been struggling with their health or who have loved ones that need extra prayers. Bro. Jim (Sis. Vi) Barton and Jesse Bedolla Sr. (Theresa), father to Bro. Jesse (Sis. Bonnie), were in the hospital earlier but are at home recovering. Virginia Smiley is hospitalized and our prayers go out to her and her family. Prayers and special thoughts also go out to Sis. Anna Sabados in her struggle with ill health and for her family.

MINNESOTA
MINNEAPOLIS
Mary Mogler

Blessings were abundant for our congregation on Sunday, August 3, as we were privileged to witness the marriage of Sis. Meg Dill (Bro. Dewayne and Sis. LaRae) and Bro. Dale Koch from Tremont, IL (Bro. Dave and Sis. June). We

rejoice with them and trust they will find much joy in serving the Lord together. Sis. Meg's joyful and uplifting spirit was special and we will truly miss her presence here in our small congregation. We look forward to their visits back home to MN.

This month our visitors included a number of ministers and we certainly enjoyed their fellowship and messages of truth. Among them were Elder Bro. Paul Messner (Sis. Jan) and Bro. Dean Messner (Sis. Wanda), both from Winthrop, MN, Bro. Justin Koch (Sis. Marcia, Washington, IL), Bro. Steve Sauder (Sis. Mary) and Bro. Dan Koch (Sis. Julie), both from Tremont, IL, Bro. Alan Schambach (Sis. Sarah, Remington, IN), Bro. Brian Waibel (Sis. Wendy, Champaign, IL) and Bro. Kent Getz (Sis. Betty, Elgin, IA).

At this time we have a number of couples who have announced their engagements and are looking forward to their wedding day. Kelsey Messner (Jason and Nancy) is engaged to be married to Josh Brandstead; Chelsey Messner (Bro. Doug and Sis. Sue) to Ben Swinton; Sis. Krissa Skoglund (Bro. Mark and Sis. Lori, West Bend, IA) to Bro. Jim Klotzle of Altadena, CA (Elder Bro. Tom and Sis. Jody); and Cory Bergstrom (Bro. Doug and Sis. Connie) to Tammy Filzen. We are happy for each of these couples as they experience this special time in their lives.

It is with thankfulness and excitement that Jordan and Masondra Metzger welcomed little Liam Arthur into their lives. He is also loved by big brother Koen.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS

**Susie Wulf
Sheila Reuter**

We were thankful for the visiting ministers that shared God's Word with us this month. They were Bro. Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA), Bro. Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN) and Bro. Rex Frieden (Lamar, MO).

Bro. Randy and Sis. Shirley Koehl are thankful for the safe arrival of their granddaughter, Sienna Rae, daughter of Bro. Keith and Sis. Andrea Grimm of

Sabetha, KS. Also, Bro. Micah and Sis. Holly Zeltwanger welcome a little boy, Kale Joshua, into their hearts and home. Excited siblings are Sierra and Sage, and grandparents, Bro. Dale and Sis. Rachel Zeltwanger. May the Lord bless these families as they raise their children.

Alan Schmidgall and Danielle Anderson were united in marriage. Their parents are Bro. Neil and Sis. Linda Schmidgall and Lonnie Anderson and Lori Lundquist. Also Heather Moser and David Quiram were joined together in marriage. Their parents are Bro. Todd and Kim Moser and Terrell and Dawn Quiram of Wasica, MN. May the Lord bless these couples as they begin their life together.

Sis. Annie Messner was announced to Bro. Darrin Knapp of West Bend, IA. Their parents are Bro. Beirne and Sis. Joyce Messner and Bro. Brian and Sis. Lorna Knapp of Oakville, IA. May God bless them as they make plans to begin their life together as one in the Lord.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family of Bro. Don Esterling as he has gone to be with the Lord. May the Lord be with his wife, Sis. Josie, and son, Bro. Tim and Sis. Jeanne Esterling. Also, our Bro. Frank Messner has gone to be with the Lord. Our prayers are with his wife, Sis. Gladys, and children, Bro. Sid and Sis. Cheryl Messner, Sis. Bev Minke, Bro. Beirne and Sis. Joyce Messner and Bro. Henry and Sis. Charlene Messner. We trust God's Spirit will be a comfort unto them.

Hospitalized this month was Sis. Eileen Nohl and Arlene Greiner. We trust the Lord will heal as it is His will.

Note of Thanks:

We wish to express our sincere thanks to all of you who remembered us with your prayers, cards, & kindness during Mom's illness and death. It is a blessing to know and feel that there are others praying for us during these extremely difficult times.

*The family of Sis. Geraldine Messner
(Winthrop, MN)*

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

**Rachel Steiner
Julie Schmidt**

Greetings in the Lord!

Many prayers were offered up as our shepherds gathered together for an Elder meeting and the annual Brotherhood Conference. May God grant wisdom and guidance to our Elders in this day and time. Many thanks to the Princeville congregation for hosting this year's Conference.

Our Sunday School year began on August 3. A picnic was held after church for the students. Our prayers are with the teachers as they plant and nurture the seed in these young and tender souls.

Beyond the sunset no clouds will
gather,
no storms will threaten, no fears annoy;
O day of gladness, O day unending,
beyond the sunset, eternal joy!

Hymns of Zion #172 vs. 2

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of Bro. Roland Messner as he passed from this life so suddenly on August 6. He is survived by his wife, Sis. Melva; a son, Bro. Dean (Sis. Wanda); a daughter, Sis. LeAnn (Bro. David) Rufener (Rittman, OH); seven grandchildren; one brother, Bro. Marlyn (Sis. Lois) Messner; two sisters, Sis. Delores Messerli and Elaine Rettig (Ray); two brothers-in-law, Bro. Roy Howk and Willmer Lehrke; and one sister-in-law, Sis. Georgia Messner. May God comfort these families during this difficult time.

Those suffering physical afflictions as hospital and surgery patients this month were Bro. Ernie (Sis. Marcelle) Dapper, Darrel (Jane) Redmann, Jean (Randy) Stresemann, Bro. Nick (Sis. Julie) Schmidt and Bro. Clint (Sis. Magdalena) Schmidt. May each feel the prayers during their time of recovery.

MISSOURI, LAMAR

**Dana Braker
Becky Luthi**

Among our visitors this past month was Elder Bro. Dennis Warner (Lester, IA). We appreciate his willingness to be

used in the Lord's service. May we continue to pray that the true Word will come forth each time we gather.

We express our sympathy to Bro. Raymond (Sis. LuEtta) Braker, Bro. Leonard (Sis. Bonnie) Braker and Sis. Alice (Bro. Charles) Marti in the loss of their brother, Oscar (Mary) Braker, of this community.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

Meagan Wuethrich

Our exciting announcement this month was the engagement of Bro. Nathan Rassi (Bro. Greg and Sis. Carla, Chicago, IL) to Sis. Michelle Beery (Bro. Walt and Sis. Lynda Beery) from Rittman, OH. We pray that God's grace and blessings will be with them through their engagement and upcoming marriage, and heartily welcome Sis. Michelle to St. Louis.

We thank our visiting ministers for letting the Spirit use them to bring the Word to us: Bro. Greg Rassi (Sis. Carla, Chicago, IL) and Bro. Scott Wegman (Sis. Dawn, Taylor, MO). We were also blessed to receive a visit from our Elder Bro. Kent Heimer and his wife, Sis. Jan, from Taylor. We thank Bro. Kent for taking time to come down on a Wednesday night and share about the Brotherhood Conference and the work our church is doing to share the love of Christ. What a wonderful reminder to pray for our Elder brothers as they strive for unity and the edification of the church.

As always, we extend a hearty welcome to anyone who plans to be in our area to share in fellowship and worship with us.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Kathy Eberhardt

What a summer it has been! Our God certainly is a big God. Our thoughts are with all the children and young adults returning to school. Proverbs 1:7 "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction." May God be in their presence wherever they go.

We welcome back Katie Eberhardt for another year of college in the area. We

also welcome Sis. Sheila Schwab (Bro. Tim and Sis. Rachel, Wolcott, IN) to our Taylor church family. She has found employment in the area.

A big thank-you to all the volunteers that came to His Ranch this summer. A real blessing for the ranch this summer was Sis. JaVon Steffen (Bro. Mark and Sis. Lori, Bluffton North, IN). She spent the summer at His Ranch and helped our community in the battle with threatening floodwaters. Thank you, JaVon!

We enjoyed a Wednesday evening with Bro. Perry Klopfenstein (Sis. Carol, Gridley, IL). He informed us about the second edition of "Marching to Zion". Thank you, Perry, for all your work. It was a very interesting evening.

We appreciate the visiting ministers that brought forth the Word this month. Bro. Neal Widmer (Sis. Kristine, West Lafayette, IN), Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL), and Bro. Les Kaeb (Sis. Christine, Francesville, IN) were willing servants of the Lord.

Hospital patients this month were Bro. Rod Heimer and Bro. Jacob Heimer. May God grant them healing.

We had our Sunday School picnic and program to conclude the Sunday School year. Our Sunday School children were so willing to participate and show Jesus' love through poems and songs. May God bless all our children. We elected new Sunday School teachers for this fall. Bro. Chad Massner, Bro. Adam Reinbeck, Bro. Jeff Rocke, Sis. Tricia Grimm and Sis. Lindsey Yackley were given the responsibility to teach the children of the love of Jesus.

Have we ever thought if we are ready to move to our Heavenly home? The hymn "This world is not my home, I'm just a passing thru" has more meaning in many of our lives.

NEW YORK

CROGHAN-NAUMBURG

Hope Graves

Our annual church meeting was held on July 28. We are thankful for the Sunday School teachers who have completed their terms and pray for those who are now teaching for the first time.

Our Sunday School picnic was held at

Whetstone Gulf State Park on Saturday, August 2. We enjoyed our time of fellowship together and were thankful for the canopy that kept us dry from the rain over lunchtime.

We were thankful for those that could travel safely out to our church Conference in Princeville, IL. They were each blessed with the words that were brought forth and we all are looking forward to listening to the tapes in the upcoming weeks. May the Lord richly bless the Princeville congregation for opening their hearts and homes to so many and for putting in many hours of labor for the Lord.

We are blessed with two new additions to our congregation. Curtis and Meaghan Bowers welcomed little Brendon Beanthony into their lives on August 3. He was welcomed home by sister, Baily Bell. On August 12, Angelise Renee was born to Bro. Jacob and Sis. Brooke Kuntz. She joined excited big brothers, Levi, Lucas and Aaron, at home. We are thankful for both of their safe arrivals and always love to see and hear the little children at church.

Hospitalized this past month was Kermit Virkler.

NEW YORK CITY

Secaucus, New Jersey

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

Hebrews 3:15

We were thankful this month for our visitors who came to worship with us in Secaucus, especially ministering Bro. Jerry Isch (Sis. Linda), as well as some brother from Rockville, CT. We are thankful that we can hear the Word preached in its truth and sincerity, in season and out of season. In an ever changing world, we are grateful for the constancy of God's Word, that never changes, and provides hope and direction for each one of us.

We would like to update the remainder of the 2008 Secaucus schedule. Lord willing, we plan on having services on September 14, and November 9. Our services are held at the Hilton Garden Inn in

Secaucus, New Jersey. As always, if you are in the area on other Sundays, you are always welcome to worship with the brethren in Philadelphia, PA, which is not that far away.

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

OHIO, AKRON
Mara Henico
Rachel Pamer

Word of Life, Thou dost enlighten
 And Thy warmth and love we feel
 Sinners in Thee read their portion
 Heaven's joys it does reveal...

We are thankful for the willing servants who so often stand before us to bring forth the Word. Recently, Bro. Tom Leman (Sis. Marlene) and Bro. Gary Maibach (Sis. Mary Ann) were able to be with us and we trust that they felt our prayers and will be able to serve us again if the Lord wills. We also are thankful that our Elder brothers met in Conference in Princeville to share with the Church. May we always keep their arms lifted as they serve us so faithfully.

We welcome Bro. George and Sis. Katherine Fulop (formerly from Fort Lauderdale church) to our congregation as they recently moved to our area.

Also, we are thankful that God is still working in hearts to call souls to repentance. Steven Greenbank (Bro. Glen and Sis. Joan) has recently acknowledged his need to repent and seek conversion and peace. We continue to pray for all of our friends that they would not wait until it is too late, but would be given grace to answer God's call in an acceptable time. We also trust that God will work in the hearts of our converts that His complete work can be accomplished.

OHIO, COLUMBUS

Sarah Rufener

We are thankful for the following brethren who traveled to our congregation, lending themselves in the ministry of God's Word: Bro. Bill Brake (Sis. Miriam, Sardis), Bro. Dale Stoller (Sis. Sandra, Fairbury), Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Sis. Jeannine, Mansfield) and Bro. Dwight Stoller (Sis. Lori, Latty).

"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen."

II Corinthians 13:14

OHIO, JUNCTION

Vicki Boroff

Our congregation was blessed with two new arrivals on the same day. Tori Marie was born to Bro. Doug and Sis. Heidi Schlatter. Excited siblings are Mason, Tyler, and Brooklyn. Grandparents are Bro. Ralph and Sis. Sheila, and Bro. Fred and Sis. Connie Domka (Mansfield). Kate Madelyn was born to Bro. Scott and Sis. Sara Manz. Kate's siblings are Haley and Ethan. Grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Connie, and Bro. Bill and Sis. Miriam Brake (Sardis). Bro. Dave and Sis. Kathy Manz are happy to have another grandchild; Caden John was born to Chad and Jill Christner.

We are thankful for the service of our outgoing Sunday School teachers, Bro. Roger Gasser and Sis. Charlene Schlatter, who have completed their terms. Sis. Sandra Manz and Bro. Greg Manz have begun their new terms and we wish them much grace.

Our hospital patient this month was Bailey Manz. We are thankful for his speedy recovery.

We were thankful to have Bro. Bruce Frank (Sis. Bonita, Cissna Park) bring the Word to us, along with Bro. Bill Brake (Sis. Miriam, Sardis).

OHIO, LATTY

Amanda Wenninger
Carmen Eisenmann

Our congregation is so thankful to an-

nounce that three dear souls have started their journey of repentance. We pray that Timna Klopfenstein (Bro. Lee and Sis. Desma), Michelle Steffen (Bro. Don and Sis. Karen), and Ann Klopfenstein (Bro. Leon and Sis. Deb) will feel God's grace, love, and peace as they begin this important journey.

Chelsea Williamson (Bro. Jason and Sis. Wendy) has professed having peace with God. We will continue to pray for her that God will be with her as she prepares for her weekend of testimony and baptism.

We were blessed the weekend of July 19-20 to be able to hear the testimony and witness the baptism of two dear souls. We warmly welcome Bro. Seth and Sis. Casey Wenninger into the fold. We thank Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH), Bro. Don Gudeman (Sis. Mary, Lacrosse, IN), and Bro. Don Manz (Sis. Connie, Junction, OH) for ministering to us that weekend.

Other visiting ministers our congregation was blessed with included Bro. Ben Manz (Sis. Carolyn, Junction, OH), Bro. Doug Harmon (Sis. Lanna, Toledo, OH), Bro. John Bradle (Sis. Jill, Roanoke, IL), Bro. Bill Brake (Sis. Miriam, Sardis, OH), and Bro. Dale Wulf (Sis. Becky, Lester, IA).

July 30 was the birthday for Luke Ryan born to Vinc and Natalie Krzesinski. Big sisters are Adrienne and Leah. Grandparents are Bro. Keith and Sis. Connie Krzesinski and Bro. Dwight and Sis. Lori Stoller. Reid Arthur was born to Bro. Chet and Sis. Amanda Wenninger on August 6. Grandparents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Joyce Wenninger and Bro. Don and Sis. Karen Steffen. May God's blessing be abundant in these families.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Tom Grant (Sis. Delores) regarding the death of his brother, Frank Grant. May God grant His comfort during this time of loss.

Our prayers are with Bro. Ralph Stoller (Sis. Esther) as he continues to recover from surgery. We are also thankful that young Kelsey Keysor (Bro. Chad and Sis. Jennifer) is recovering from a scary accident that happened at home. Praise

God for His mercy and goodness!

OHIO, MANSFIELD Esther Baumann

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

Luke 15:10

We rejoice with the angels at hearing the good news that Jesse Boliantz (Bro. Doug and Sis. Connie) and Roma Them have both been granted God’s perfect peace. Continue to pray for them as they await baptism.

Our annual Youth Fellowship Weekend was held on July 26-27. We thank all who assisted with this weekend. Special thanks to Bro. Todd Graf (Sis. Lydia) and Bro. Don Steidl (Sis. Nan) of our Akron, OH, congregation for ministering to us.

Continue to pray for our recently hospitalized loved ones: Roma Them, Sis. Pat Beer, Sis. Delores Hill (Bro. Mick) and Sis. Millie Gerber (Bro. Wilbur).

Sis. Staci Beer (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Robin) has recently graduated from college. We pray for God’s continued guidance in her life.

Special thanks to ministering Bro. Tim Ramsier (Sis. Joni, Rittman, OH) for his recent service to us.

OHIO, RITTMAN Laurie Beery Linda Zollinger

“But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 4:19

The engagement of Bro. Nathan Rassi (St. Louis, MO) and Sis. Michelle Beery was announced to our congregation on August 10. Sis. Michelle’s parents are Bro. Walter and Sis. Lynda Beery and Bro. Nathan’s parents are Bro. Greg and Sis. Carla Rassi (Chicago, IL). May they feel the Lord’s blessings.

On August 2-3 we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of our dear friends: Leah Beery (Bro. Walter

and Sis. Lynda), Charity Riggenbach (Bro. Bob and Sis. Lorie), and Chad Zollinger (Bro. Norman and Sis. Betty). We welcome our dear sisters and brother-in-faith and wish them God’s richest blessings in their walk with the Lord. We thank Elder Bros. Wayne Grimm (Sis. Rose, West Bend, IA) and Andy Stoller (Sis. Roberta, Smithville, OH) for assisting our Elder Bro. Merle Hartzler on this special weekend.

We appreciate the labors of love from Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH) and ministering Bros. Gary Sinn (Sis. Paulette, Latty, OH), Steve Pamer (Sis. Arliss, Akron, OH), Todd Stoller (Sis. Pam, Latty, OH), Ron Palitto (Sis. Lynell) and Paul Gasser (Sis. Joyce), both from Akron, OH, Darren Fehr (Sis. Nora, West Bend, IA), and Tom Lemman (Sis. Marlene, Denver, CO). We are thankful for faithful brothers who lend of themselves on our behalf.

Bro. Everett and Sis. Marjorie Stoller welcome a new granddaughter, Melody Anne Stoller, born July 19 to Bro. Scott and Sis. Charlene Stoller (Smithville, OH).

On July 24, Lydia Anne was born to Bro. Joe and Sis. Kendra Ramsier. Elizabeth, Kenneth, Brenda, Esther and Jehu welcome their new baby sister. Grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Janice Steffen (Forrest, IL) and Bro. Marvin and Sis. Terri Ramsier.

First-time parents, Bro. Eric and Sis. Ruth Maibach, welcome Hudson Cole born August 1. Grandparents are Greg and Sis. Peggy Tieche and Bro. Alpha and Sis. Denise Maibach.

On August 1, Caleb Anthony Stoller was born to Bro. Tony and Sis. Mary Beth Stoller. Sisters, Lauren and Kaitlyn, welcome their new baby brother. Grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Emily Rufener (Smithville, OH) and Bro. Rob and Sis. Joanne Stoller.

Our prayers are with Ginny (Frank) Hilty, Bro. Aquilla Barna, Gladys (Richard) Bauman and Bro. Everett (Sis. Marjorie) Stoller as they were recently hospitalized. It’s comforting to know God is the Great Physician.

Along with the many joys of life come many sorrows. We extend our sympathy

to: Bro. Mitchel (Sis. Violet) Baltic and Walter Baltic at the death of their brother, Paul Baltic; Bro. Bob (Sis. Marjorie) Boltz in the loss of his brother, Lewis Troutman; Sis. LeAnn (Bro. David) Rufener at the sudden death of her father, Bro. Rolland Messner of Winthrop, MN; Sis. Martha (Bro. Jerry) Bauman in the loss of her brother, Doug Dysinger; and Bro. Don (Sis. Carol) Powell at the death of his father, Donald Powell. We extend our sincere sympathies to these families and pray for God’s comfort.

A special note of thanks from the Lewis Troutman family for the love, prayers and gifts in the loss of their dear one.

OHIO, SARDIS Faith Beard

Jesus loves the little children,
All the children of the world;
Red and yellow, black and white,
They are precious in His sight;
Jesus loves the little children of the world.

Jesus lives for e’er and ever,
In His home with children sweet.
Oh how happy we shall be,
From sad heart forever free,
Jesus with His little children joyfully!
Gospel Hymns, #166, vs. 1,3

With thankful hearts, Bro. Jeb, Sis. Kristy and Wyatt Joos welcomed their new daughter and sister, Regan Claire, into their hearts and home on August 8. Grandparents are Bro. Ralph and Sis. Jenny Joos (Bradford, IL) and Bro. Denny and Sis. Doris Miller. We pray for Jeb and Kristy as they continue to seek God’s wisdom in the many decisions that will come with raising their children.

Then on August 20, a new granddaughter was born into the family of Bro. Bill and Sis. Miriam Brake. Kate Madelyne is the daughter of Bro. Scott and Sis. Sarah Manz of Junction, OH. Kate is also the great-granddaughter of John and Sis. Almeda Brake.

Jesus, gentle Shepherd, hear us,
As we bow our hearts to Thee.

Keep us safe in Thy embrace,
 And our worries all erase.
 Amen, Saviour, always do we trust in
 Thee.
 (vs. 2)

OHIO, SMITHVILLE

**Edith Miller
 Ruth Gasser**

We pray that God will bless the labors of visiting Elders and ministering brothers this past month. Elder Bros. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH) and Merle Hartzler (Rittman, OH) assisted our Bro. Andy with baptisms on July 20. Also, Bros. Joe Dotterer (Bloomfield, IA), Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL), Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH), and John Steiner (Oakville, IA) have served us in the Word. We are thankful for the humble preaching, knowing they rely upon the Spirit of God. We look forward now to hearing the Conference summary, and listening to the taped messages during the month of September.

Three souls have given their testimonies of faith and a new life in Christ and have become our brothers and sister in faith. We wish daily grace from God upon Bro. Jon Dotterer (Bro. David and Sis. Luanna) and Bro. Jason and Sis. Whitney Indermuhle as they walk as humble children of God. It was a joy to hear that Lynn Stoller (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Millie) also is seeking the Lord in repentance. May she find true peace in yielding her life to the faithful Shepherd, and establish a firm foundation of faith.

Several families in our congregation have also experienced new life with the birth of a baby. Melody Anne was born to Bro. Scott and Sis. Charlene Stoller on July 19. Grandparents, Bro. Everett and Sis. Marge Stoller (Rittman, OH) and Bro. Joe and Sis. Lilas Rufener, welcomed her, as well as siblings, Bro. Doyle, Sis. Lynelle, Nelson, Warren, Tobias, Clark and Rose Mary. Bro. Doug and Sis. Rachel Stoller became first-time parents on August 5, as Joseph Carl entered their lives. Grandparents are Sis. Luella (late Bro. Harold) Stoller, and Bro. Tim and Sis. Mary Maibach (Bloomfield, IA). Bro. John W. and Sis. Emily Rufener received with joy a grandson, Caleb Anthony, on

August 1, born to Bro. Tony and Sis. Mary Beth Stoller (Rittman, OH). Paternal grandparents are Bro. Robin and Sis. Joanne Stoller (Rittman, OH). We pray God's care on these little ones and special grace on parents and grandparents on their nurturing.

Another family was established as Brad Maibach (Bro. Rudy and Sis. Barb) and Trisha Wolfe became husband and wife on July 25. May they seek the Lord's will in their life and marriage.

Although we are "fearfully and wonderfully made", the physical body succumbs to various conditions. Those needing hospitalization and special prayers were Ava Stoller (Bro. Cody and Sis. Kara), Bro. David Zollinger (Sis. Mary Ann), Sis. Whitney Indermuhle (Bro. Jason), and Diane Beery (Bro. Gaylord and Sis. Cheryl).

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Elizabeth Fetzer (Bro. Andy) in the loss of her father. Also, Sis. Laura Oppliger is in our thoughts and prayers in the loss of her grandson-in-law. May God comfort each in sorrow.

OHIO, TOLEDO

**Teresa Rywalski
 Rebecca Beard**

This past month we were blessed to have Bro. Lynn Fiechter (Sis. Ronda, Bluffton, IN) visit one Sunday with his family and serve on the pulpit. May God bless him and his family.

Sis. Clara Beard and Sis. Freda Rehkla were recently hospitalized and are back home. We pray the Lord's comforting touch on each one as they recuperate at home.

OREGON, PORTLAND

Renee Angstrom

We appreciate the ministering brother from Silverton this month that brought forth the Word: Bro. Christopher Kuenzi (Sis. Mary). May God bless you in your service.

Our prayers are with Sis. Barb (Bro. Ray) Moser as she has been under medical care and has been unable to worship with us. We miss Sis. Barb and look forward to when she can worship with us

again.

Our convert Dana Gallup spent six weeks in Japan staying with ministering Bro. Andrew Klaus and his family and worshipping with the Tokyo, Japan, congregation. We are thankful for her safe journey and welcome her back with us.

OREGON, SILVERTON

**Melissa Kuenzi
 Cindy Metzger**

We want to welcome Bro. Mark Dietrich into our Brotherhood after hearing his testimony of faith and witnessing his baptism on July 19-20. We are thankful that Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Sis. Judy, Chicago) was here to assist Elder Bro. Art for this special weekend.

Congratulations to Sis. Tresa Dettwyler (Bro. Loren and Sis. Marlene) and Bro. Josh Hansen (Bro. Tim and Carol) as they recently announced their engagement. We wish this couple God's blessings in their upcoming October wedding.

Many prayers are with our loved ones including Bro. Paul (Sis. Marie) Jensen, Sis. Miriam (Bro. Rick) Hoach, and Orrin (Matt and Kristen) Brockamp who recently spent time under medical care. We trust God's healing touch will be upon Bro. Paul who is at home, but is continuing to recover. It is our prayer that he will be able to assemble with us again soon.

We will miss Sis. Tara Kellenberger as she has relocated to the Lester, IA, area. It was a blessing to have her with us this past year working as a traveling nurse.

In addition to our visiting Elder Bro. Dale, we were thankful to have Bro. Ron Jones (Sis. Liz) and Bro. Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy) of Portland to serve us. We trust that God will give all of our ministering brothers the courage to continue to speak the truth as the Lord leads.

PENNSYLVANIA PHILADELPHIA

The Lord has offered His tender and loving call to our precious friend, Brittany Lanz. Brittany responded to

His call and has begun her spiritual journey to the eternal kingdom. We rejoice with Brittany and her family. Her parents are Bro. John and Sis. Kay Lanz.

Our dear Sis. Lauren Wiegand, who attends college in Tucson, AZ, was able to spend the summer months with us. We are so thankful for the times we can spend together. We continue to pray for each other when we are apart. We are reminded of how Christ prayed for us all: "While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled. And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves. I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I pray not that thou shouldst take them out of the world, but that thou shouldst keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth." (John 17:12-17)

We have been blessed this summer with several sizable groups of travelers. Even today, we enjoyed the visit of more than a dozen young brothers and sisters from Indiana and Ohio passing through our historic city. We appreciate each one for the blessing of fellowship it brings our small church. Come, let us worship together.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE Mike and Monica Fritz

We are thankful for our recent visiting ministering brothers who have so willingly brought us God's Living Word. These have included: Bros. Jerry Bauman (Sis. Martha; Rittman, OH), Bruce Endress (Sis. Elizabeth; Bradford, IL), Steve Pamer (Sis. Arliss; Akron, OH), and Tim Roecker (Sis. Diane; Peoria, IL). We have also appreciated the

fellowship of brethren and friends visiting from Bradford, Champaign, Chicago, Elgin, Forrest, Goodfield, Gridley, Morton, and Peoria IL; Milford, IN; 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: Lamar, MO (9/21); Bay City, MI (9/28); Forrest, IL (10/5); and Morton, IL (10/12). 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, McALLEN

Joyce Nohl

Our visiting minister for this month was Bro. Galen Rokey (Sis. Nancy, Bern, KS). We pray God will bless him for his willingness to serve. His son, Jordan, and Logan Fehr also came with Bro. Galen and Sis. Nancy. We enjoyed a blessed time with them.

Our prayers are with Sis. Sandy Kipfer (Bro. Aaron) as she underwent surgery this past week. We pray that God will put His healing hand upon her and she will soon recover. We look forward to seeing them in McAllen this fall.

The following churches are scheduled for services: (Sept. 28 - Forrest, IL), (Oct. 12 - Bluffton, IN), and (Oct. 26 - West Bend, IA).

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

VERMONT CLARENDON/NORWICH Nathan and Miriam Reutter

Our small flock in Vermont has been greatly encouraged with the coming proving and baptism of our dear friend, Adam Stevenson, who has professed his peace with God and man. We look forward to this joyous event, Lord willing, on the weekend of September 6-7.

We are thankful for the visiting ministers that we had this past month. They were as follows: Bro. Duane Reutter (Sis. Kay, Rockville, CT), Bro. Ron Palitto (Sis. Lynell, Akron, OH), Bro. Shawn Metzger (Sis. Sandra and their children, Philadelphia, PA) and Bro. Justin Koch (Sis. Marcia, Washington, IL). We were thankful for their exhortations and encouraging words. May God bless each and every one who supports our spiritual growth here in Vermont.

If you are interested in fellowshiping with us here in Vermont, and would like information about service locations, and dates, please contact Bro. Chad & Sis. Jenny Virkler (802-325-2724). We love to fellowship with believers whether it is during the week or on the weekend. Please let us know if you are planning on being in our area so we can accommodate you. Service times are as follows:

Wednesday Evenings - 7:00 PM

(on a rotation of different locations)

Sunday Morning Service - 10:15 AM

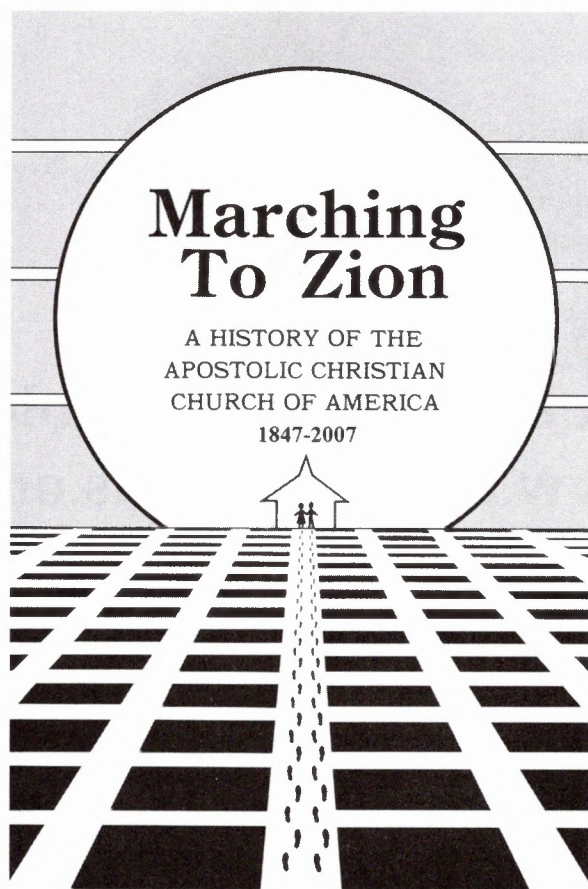
Sunday Afternoon Service - 12:30 PM

Sunday school is held during the morning service.

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



COMING SOON.....



\$20.00

Second Edition of:
***Marching To Zion: A History of the Apostolic
Christian Church of America, 1847-2007***

The second edition of *Marching To Zion* will soon be printed and distributed to the local congregations. The first edition was distributed in 1984, and the second edition covers each congregation's history and includes new data since 1984. It also includes the histories of twelve new congregations.

This new edition also chronicles the growth of World Relief, Mission Committee programs, Apostolic Christian Publications expansion, and our church's senior citizens homes, Gateway Woods and Home For The Handicapped. New developments in Mexico are also referenced.

The new updated *Marching To Zion* consists of 810 pages compared to the first edition's 650 pages. It contains a detailed name and topical index as well as a local congregational index which allows quick access to any local history. This volume contains over 380 footnotes.

Initial shipments will be made to the local congregations. After that the new book will be available from Apostolic Christian Publications, Eureka, Illinois, and from the author in Gridley, Illinois.

Please watch for more news in subsequent Silver Lining issues.

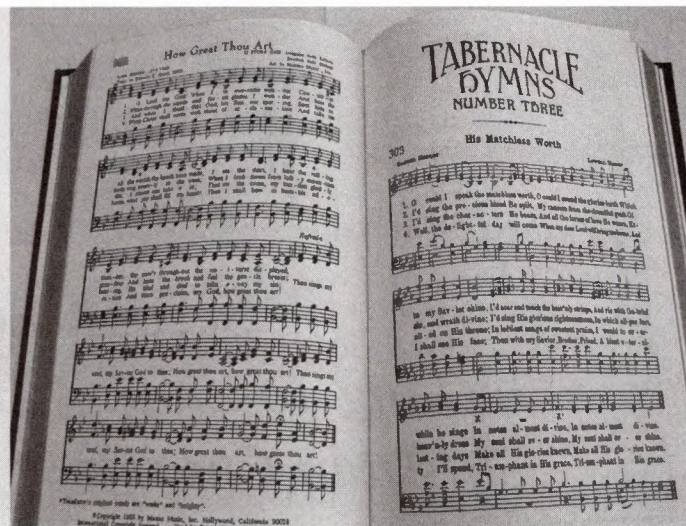
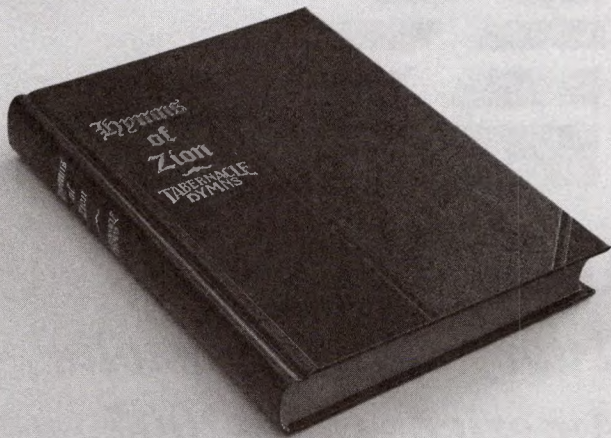


805 W. Cuger Street, Box 52
Eureka, IL 61530
Ph. 309-467-3611
Hours: Mon.—Fri. 8:30 to
11:30 CST/CDT

Online ordering available at
www.acpublications.org

Hymns of Zion/Tabernacle Hymns Combined Hymnal

Now available at the bookstore or online for \$11.00 each



This is a combination of the Hymns of Zion and the Tabernacle Hymns in one book. The first 301 hymns are left in the exact order as they appeared in the “Hymns of Zion” which originally was made up of a selection of hymns found in two books, “Songs and Hymns of Zion” and “Songs of Praise and Worship” as well as other selected hymns. Hymn 302, “How Great Thou Art” and Hymn 591 “When You Pray” are new additions and Hymns 303 through 590 are all taken from the original “Tabernacle Hymns”. The Tabernacle Hymns included many of the same hymns in the “Hymns of Zion” book, these are not included in the “Tabernacle” Section.

How to Order:

Online at www.acpublications.org During Business Hours: call 309-467-3611
After Hours: Call 309-467-3611 leave a message, or fax to the same number.

~*****~

Order blanks available: at each Church, on our website, by calling AC Publications, or by emailing office@acpublications.org



Counselor Needed

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

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

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

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

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

- USED BIBLE, BIBLE STORY BOOK, AND SONG BOOK DISTRIBUTION -

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

The U.S. government eliminated foreign surface mail in 2007. The cost of sending used books by air mail is greater than what new books could be purchased for in the foreign countries. We are currently working with organizations (such as Christian Aid Ministries) that send materials to foreign countries by sea container which is a more reasonable price. Some of the books are also used by U.S. churches and missions. Thank you to all who have provided books and those who help repair them.

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

Light From The Word

now available by downloadable PDF from the
Apostolic Christian Publication web site
www.acpublications.org

After entering the web site, click on the item located in the left hand frame entitled, "Silver Lining Reprints". The entire set of editorials are available in a complete download (*June 1987 through September 2008*).

BIBLE DISTRIBUTION

Sharing The Word In Love

*"Where there is no vision,
the people perish:
but he that keepeth the law,
happy is he."
Proverbs 29:18*

All books, including Bibles, in English and other languages, plus Bible Story Books which have been approved by the Apostolic Christian Mission Committee, are available for those who wish to distribute them in the name of Jesus Christ.

The book inventory is computerized, and the personnel at Bluffton can drop ship to nearly any address.

To order, contact,

Apostolic Christian Church
Bible Distribution
PO Box 30
1254 S. Main Street
Bluffton, IN 46714
Phone and Fax 260/824-5587
E-mail: biblelist@onlyinternet.net

Eye Glasses Needed

The Eye Clinic in Ixtlan, Mexico, has been providing eyeglasses and surgical assistance free of charge to the local community for over 10 years now. We are once again in need of donated eye glasses.

Please only send complete pairs of glasses in good condition. We are unable use loose lenses without their original frame.

In addition to all prescription eyewear (adult and children), we are especially in need of over the counter reading glasses.

Please send all donated items to:

Ixtlan Eye Clinic
c/o Bryan Stoller, OD
320 N Ladd St.
Pontiac, IL 61764

Apostolic Christian Counseling and Family Services

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

877-370-9988 (toll free) www.accounseling.org

Forgiveness: What It Is, What It Isn't, & How To Do It

While forgiveness is a central concept in Christianity, many people find it to be a confusing process that does not always come easily. The emotional impact that comes with dealing with being transgressed against is one factor that contributes to the difficulty of forgiveness. In addition, misunderstandings about forgiveness can make it harder than it needs to be.

Defining forgiveness as it is described in Scripture is a good first step towards understanding this concept. God, through Christ's sacrifice on the cross, offers forgiveness to all believers. Because He has forgiven us, we are called upon to extend forgiveness to others.

Ephesians 4:32 "And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

Withholding forgiveness, bearing grudges, harboring bitterness, and allowing hatred can all lead to serious consequences. Forgiveness keeps these negativities from developing and from causing more damage to a relationship and to each person involved.

Hebrews 12:14-15, "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled."

Being forgiving is part of God's character and nature. While God does not overlook sin, He is patient, gracious, merciful, and willing to forgive.

Ephesians 2:4-5, "But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved)."

What forgiveness IS NOT.

1. *Forgetting*: The often cited phrase, "Forgive and Forget" sometimes leads people to believe that forgiveness means that one will truly forget the memory. In fact, trying to deny that some act of mistreatment or betrayal may have hurt you can actually intensify the memory of what you are trying to forget. Instead of trying to literally forget a memory, the goal is to be re-

leased from the unhealthy emotional tie it has to you.

2. *Pardoning*: Pardoning is a legal term that means to release from punishment, or to not punish, for some crime or offense. When someone is forgiven, they are not necessarily pardoned. The pardoning does not relieve the consequences for their actions.

3. *Reconciling*: A distinct difference exists between forgiveness and reconciliation although many people see them as the same thing. Forgiveness is what one person extends to another. Reconciliation is the process whereby two people take steps to rebuild a relationship that has been hurt. The purpose of reconciliation is restoration and reconnection. Forgiveness together with reconciliation is a high calling and worthy goal. However, in some circumstances reconciliation is not always possible. In these cases, forgiveness can occur without reconciliation.

4. *Avoidance or denial*: Sometimes people are so hurt by something that they quickly say, "I've already forgiven it" in order to try to avoid having to feel the pain of the injury. Forgiveness is not simply a way of avoiding dealing with someone to get around pain or conflict. It is also not the same as denying we were truly hurt by someone's words or actions.

5. *Excusing the offense*: Forgiveness does not give the offender the right to offend again. Healthy boundaries are important so that we do not simply allow another person's hurtful or sinful actions to continue.

6. *Easy or cheap*: True forgiveness is not simply a few pleasant sounding words. It is hard work that involves a true and lasting change of behavior.

7. *Trusting*: Trust in relationships is built and maintained over time. The person who committed the offense must accept the fact that regaining trust will occur as a process over time.

8. *A feeling*: We can't wait to forgive until we feel like forgiving someone or are no longer feeling the effects of the offense. Rather, forgiveness is an act of obedience through which God can guide us.

What forgiveness IS.

1. *Extended with grace*: Those that need to be forgiven don't necessarily "deserve" or acknowledge the need for forgiveness. We certainly didn't "deserve" forgiveness from God. We extend grace to others because we receive grace from the Lord. The fallen nature that led to the offense against

us is the same fallen nature we deal with in our hearts. Forgiveness extended with grace both acknowledges the seriousness of the wrongdoing and releases our perceived "right" for vengeance or holding it against someone.

2. *An intentional decision and a process*: Forgiveness doesn't happen by accident. Rather, you must make a choice to commit to the process that is empowered by the Holy Spirit and takes time.

3. *A releasing of a debt*: People often find it difficult to forgive because they want some type of vengeance or want the offender to feel how badly they hurt. In forgiving, we choose to release the debtor from his or her debt. This choice also releases us from holding on to something that could hinder our walk with the Lord (Hebrews 12:1-2).

Some steps toward forgiveness using the acronym R.E.A.C.H.

(from Forgiving and Reconciling by Everett Worthington)

1. **Recall the hurt**: Acknowledge that hurt occurred.

2. **Empathize**: Try to understand what the other person may have been thinking, feeling and so on. Also, remember that forgiveness is extended with grace, and that we didn't deserve forgiveness from God.

3. **Altruistic gift of forgiveness**: Because we have received the gift of forgiveness from both God and other people, we humbly offer forgiveness to others.

4. **Commit to forgive**: Make a firm commitment to forgive and consider sharing your decision with another person so that they can hold you accountable for keeping that commitment.

5. **Holding onto forgiveness**: If you occasionally remember things from the past incidents that you have worked at forgiving, don't get discouraged. Recommit to forgive, commit the event and the person to God, and go on.

Don't stay stuck with the pain, anger, and hurt of unforgiveness. Seek God's help through the Word and prayer; and don't hesitate to seek counsel from a friend, mentor, minister, or Christian counselor if you need help working through forgiveness. Working through these issues will lead to healing and will provide you with an opportunity to learn more about Christ-like love and how it is lived out on a day-to-day basis.

Child Placement Manager Opening



As Gateway Woods expands our Christian Adoption Services into Illinois, we are in need of an IL Child Placement Manager. Applicants for this job must:

1. Be a member in good standing of the Apostolic Christian Church with approval of his/her local elder.
2. Have at least a Master's Degree in Social Work from an accredited school and three years work experience in social work administration OR a Master's Degree in a human services field from an accredited school and five years of work experience in human services administration.
3. Have a dedicated interest, love and sensitivity for youth and families.
4. Possess good motivational, organizational, teaching and communications skills.
5. Have ability to establish positive working and interpersonal relationships and use a team approach.
6. Have treatment philosophy compatible with the mission of Gateway Woods - Apostolic Christian Children's Home.
7. Have commitment to ongoing personal and professional growth.

For further information and a job description, please contact:

Bro. Jeff Schumacher
Administrator
PO Box 151
Leo, IN 46765
1-888-443-4283 (GATE)
jeff.schumacher@gatewaywoods.org

Bro. Lynn Stieglitz
Counseling Elder
15417 Doty Rd.
New Haven, IN 46774
260-657-1033
lynnstieg@lightningnet.net

ADMINISTRATOR OPENING

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

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

Due to declining health,
KAEB'S GOSPEL GIFTS
at 127 W Locust St, Fairbury IL
will close their doors permanently
Nov. 29, 2008.

For inquiries, fax us at 815-692-2437
or e-mail us at Kaebsgospelgifts@Route24.net

Please - no phone calls.

DIRECTOR OF NURSING EXCELLENCE

at

Detroit's Woodhaven Retirement Community

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

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

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

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

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

Sermon continued from page 2

prayer something which is a devotion to us. Something that we are committed to. Devoted to.

If somebody asks you, are you devoted to prayer? I know that I could not say yes. I'd like to say yes. I wish I could say that. But I find in my own life, prayer is, unfortunately, more characterized as a hit or miss. There's times where I'm prayerful and then there's others where you kind of go off and life gets busy and things happen. I say that, not because I'm proud of it. I just confess it. But it is not God's desire. It is God's desire that we would be persevering in prayer. That we would be devoted to it. That it would characterize our life. That we would be considered a person of prayer. That prayer is a priority in our lives. I think that whenever we speak of this, probably most of us develop somewhat of a guilt trip. Because I just think there are probably not a lot of us that would say, you know, I am exactly where I want to be with my prayer life. I pray. I feel really good about where I am at. If you are there, then praise God for that! That's wonderful. But most of us just aren't there.

So I always struggle a little bit when we talk about prayer because the point isn't to make you feel guilty. We want to do better. We want to press on. We all do. I want you to. I want myself to. So the Scripture this morning is speaking to our heart to do just that. But let's remember the words of, is it Paul in Philippians, where he says, I press on towards the mark. Forgetting those things which are behind. (Philippians 3:13,14) If we look back and said, you know, things haven't been going very well right now, today is a new day. Today is a day that God has given that we can press on towards that mark that we have that desire for. To serve Him and in this case, to be continuing in prayer. To persevere. To be devoted.

As an example, let's just think of a Scriptural example of someone who

is devoted in prayer. Who would you think of? When you think of somebody in Scripture who is committed to prayer, in season and out of season, to use another phrase that Paul used in a different book (II Timothy 4:2), who do you think of? There's probably lots of examples. One example that I can think of is Daniel. Daniel. What was the story with Daniel? (Daniel 6:4-23) Well, without reading it, we know that he prayed three times a day. In fact, he prayed with an open window. I don't think that he was there so others would see. It was just the way he was. He was sitting there praying and people could see.

There were those that didn't care for Daniel and wanted to get rid of him. So then they went to the king and said, let's make this decree, oh king, that if anybody prays to any other God or to anybody other than you, that they are thrown into this lion's den. He thought that was a pretty good idea. So that's what happened.

Of course, if you read the Scripture, it is just remarkable how Daniel, to use a modern day phrase, doesn't miss a beat. Maybe that is a poor phrase to describe it. But there is no verse that says, Daniel struggled within himself as to what he should do. He did nothing different! He was devoted to praying to God. He was committed. He was continual. It's what he did. It's what he was about, three times a day.

I wonder if I would have thought, if I had been Daniel, Lord this decree is only for thirty days. If I am remembering correctly, it was a thirty day thing. It's only for thirty days so maybe for these thirty days I'll just pray somewhere where they won't see me. Then after that we can go back to the way things were. But he didn't do that. There was no self justification here. It was just continual, committed prayer. This is a decree that has been set. It doesn't really matter. I'm going to do what I'm called to do. And he prayed continually.

Of course we know the rest of the story. He ended up being thrown into that lion's den. But of course, God spared him as a reward for his faithfulness. So, there's probably others. But the point is, we're to be as God's people, people that are committed to prayer. How can we really be God's people and all that He desires us to be if we don't have that access, that open line of communication with Him? It should be what we are about.

Then he says, watch in the same (Colossians 4:2). In other words, be watchful as you are praying. Be watchful. Whenever we think of watching and praying, we probably think, or at least I think and I'm sure most of you do too, as well, of the Garden of Gethsemane. How Jesus went there the night of His betrayal, to pray, to get apart. He asks the disciples to stay here. He's going to go further off on His own. He says, you stay here and watch and pray. And they couldn't do it! They fell asleep. They weren't watching. When we think, what does it mean to be watching, it means to be alert! It's to be aware of what's happening around us. They were unaware of all that was happening. They fell asleep. (St. Mark 14:32-40)

If you think about watching, or being alert, the picture I always think of is someone on guard duty, in an army. I don't know a whole lot about it but I have this picture of a group of people in a battalion or whatever and then someone who's on guard duty watching. Being alert. Now picture, if you will, two scenarios. Picture a battalion that is training here in America in some camp somewhere, or some fort or whatever. Maybe I'm wrong, but I'm presuming there is some kind of duty there of being on guard. So we have that person being on guard in that environment.

Then we have another situation over here that is in the middle of war, maybe in Iraq or maybe in Afghanistan. Somebody who is on guard duty there. Do you think the

two guards are equally alert? Do you think the two guards are equally aware of what's happening? I think it would be more likely to fall asleep or to shirk your responsibility over here in America. Why? Because there's not really a battle raging around you.

In other words, when I ask myself, am I alert? Am I aware of what's happening? The question I think we really need to ask ourselves is, do we understand and are we aware that there is a battle? When there is a battle, then it is only reasonable that we are watching and alert. And there is a battle! I guess this is the point. We're in a spiritual battle, not a physical battle here. But there is a spiritual battle going on for the souls of mankind. The Bible describes Satan as one who goes about as a roaring lion seeking whom he will devour (I Peter 5:8). Yeah, that's him. He is at war, in a sense, with us. We are at war with him. It's a real spiritual battle that we are in. So if in the physical sense it makes logical sense that one would be more watchful if they're aware they are in a battle or in a war, how much more so would we, in a spiritual battle need to be aware, need to be alert to what's happening around us.

Now what does that really mean in a tangible way? I guess I think of it as we need to be aware and alert as to what's happening in our world. One model of being continual in prayer was actually tried. I'm not here to pass judgment, and forgive me, it probably will seem like I am. I am not here to pass judgment on any individual, certainly. If we look at church history, Christian history, there was a time in history, hundreds of years ago, centuries ago, where there were many that made the decision to be devoted to prayer in a monastery. I think that is what it is called. I am not sure if that is the right term or not. But they withdrew from society. For twenty four hours a day, however many years, were secluded and were prayerful.

But they never were involved, in terms of being out in the world. Again, it's hard to speak of this without seeming judgmental, but I'm just not sure that that is the Biblical model. I just don't believe it is.

That's the first part of what we read but I don't see that that is walking in wisdom toward those that are without. I don't see that it's about letting our speech be with grace. About being able to answer every man. (Colossians 4:5,6) When we withdraw from society, we have very little, if any, opportunity to impact society. Jesus said, go ye into the world (St. Mark 16:15). He did not say, when He left and ascended into heaven, withdraw from the world and be continual in prayer, twenty four hours a day. We are to pray, yes. Continually be in prayer as far as our heart attitude. We are also to be alert, watching that which is around us so that we can be effective in the world. So that we can see things, current events, things that are happening around us and when people speak of them, we have opportunity to be a part of that and to then, when God gives us the opportunity, when God gives us the opportunity, to then share.

There is a balance here, don't get me wrong. Not that we just want to become like the world. In John, it is very clear. Jesus says, we are to be in the world, not of it (St. John 17:15). Not to take on the values of the world. Not to become like them in their thought process but to engage them, that we might make a difference and that we might be watchful.

Then, let's go on. Thanksgiving. With thanksgiving (Colossians 4:2). It reminds us of the attitude of prayer. Prayer must be clothed with thanksgiving. You just can't have one without the other. When we pray to God, it ought not to be just give me, give me this Lord. Here's what I want. It's about first of all offering up thanks for who He is and what He has done.

Then, instead of give me, just like we read here, praying for others.

Praying for others. Sure, there are times we ask the Lord for specific things. Let's just be careful that our prayers don't become selfish but that we ultimately are about thanking Him for what He has done.

Then he goes on in verse three and he says, praying also for us. I appreciate this because this is Paul the Apostle! The great Paul, the missionary. Probably brought thousands of people to Christ in his lifetime. Yet he is acknowledging he has needs! He's acknowledging to the people of Colossi that, I have needs and I'd appreciate it if you would pray for me. Pray for us, he said. It's okay, in other words. If it was okay for Paul, it is okay for you. It's okay for us to ask for prayer. In fact, it's good. It's wise. When things are hard and things are struggling and somebody says, what can I do, sometimes there's nothing they can do but pray. So we can say that. It's something that we shouldn't feel guilty about or feel, I don't want to burden you. This is what the church should be about, lifting each other up in prayer. Say, yes you really could be praying for me because here is what is happening. Pray for us, Paul said.

But then specifically, he said, pray that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds. (v.3) Isn't it interesting that Paul did not pray, he did not say pray for us that God would do some miraculous work like He did back there in Philippi, where we were released from prison. He didn't say that. He didn't ask that God would release his bonds, his chains. In this case, he was literally in jail, in prison. He didn't ask to be released. He asked that God would use him and those that were with him in this place. Again, just teaches us and reminds us of Paul's amazing devotion to God. He was not about himself. It was about God first and God's plan. Paul believed at this point, he was in the center of God's

Sermon continued from page 43

will. He was exactly where God wanted him to be. So he just prayed, in this place, in this jail, God, he's saying, pray to God that there would be a door open for us. An open door. An open door.

Do you pray, do I pray, for open doors. That God would open doors that we would be able to share the gospel with those around us? Specifically with those in our work place, with those that we see daily. Do we pray, God, open these doors? If we are struggling and if we are frustrated because it just seems like we never get the opportunity, I am going to say this to myself, number one here, am I praying that? In other words, I get what I ask for. If I don't ask, I don't get. God makes it very clear that He answers our prayers when we ask in faith.

So when we ask that God would open doors, He will open them. He will open them.

Open them what? To speak the mystery of Christ. The mystery of Christ. This is one of those words that is a little bit difficult to understand in our time. Because when we think of a mystery, we think of something, well you've heard people say it, it's just a mystery. We don't know it, we don't understand. We can't figure it out. It's just a mystery! This is not the mystery of Christ. It's not like, we don't really know what Christ is doing or who He is. It's not like that at all. This is a different use of the word. This is a word that really, in the time that it was written here, it is a word that meant, something that was maybe a bit mysterious, or maybe not completely revealed at this time. But then ultimately it was revealed. In fact there is a verse, I just want to read to you one other verse that lays this out. "Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints;" Colossians 1:26. In other words, when Christ came, it then became clear to all, to the saints specifically, I should say, who

He is. What He's about. What life is about. Before Christ came, it was a bit of a mystery. It was not maybe all that clear. It was in a sense, hidden from past generations. But now it is clear.

Maybe it's a bit like reading a mystery. If you ever read a good mystery, a good mystery is one that at the very beginning you don't figure it out. You're reading and your struggling, boy I can't figure this out, who did what. But then at the end, it becomes clear. It's no longer a mystery. It's called a mystery, but in the end it wasn't a mystery because it all came together.

That's in a sense, what's happened here with Christ. It was a bit unclear maybe for those in Old Testament times as to what God was really doing. They knew that the Old Testament pointed to a Messiah. But it was still very unclear as to how this Messiah would come. How many people didn't see Jesus when He did come because it was, in a sense, not real clear! It wasn't obvious to them. But now it is clear. God has given us His Word. It's clear to us who Christ is. The mystery of Christ has been revealed.

Then He goes on, pray he says, that I would make it clear (v.4). Manifest just means that I would make it clear. In other words, that the message of the gospel, when Paul would have the opportunity to preach it, would come forth with clarity. We need to pray that for us as well. God help me, when I get the opportunity to share with someone the good news of Jesus Christ, the gospel message, that I can make it clear. We all feel inadequate in that. I know that. We just do. But if we're praying that God would make it clear, I believe that if we go forward in faith, God will honor that. He will bless us. We may not always have the perfect, exact words that some high minded person might have, but that's okay. When people see our heart, they're going to know that the words that we speak come from there, from our heart.

Then it transitions to, okay now, you've been praying. But now are you going to do the work? Are you going to go out and do it? A man once said, pray as if everything depended upon the praying. But then he said, and work as if everything depended on the working. Pray as if it all depended on the praying! Be continuous in prayer. Watch in prayer. Praying that God would give utterance. Pray it with thanksgiving. All the things we just said. Pray as if it all depended on that. But then at the same time, don't just stop there. Now go work as if it all depended on the working.

"Walk in wisdom toward them that are without..." Colossians 4:5. In other words, now he is laying out what we as believers are to be about. Go walk wisely. This is about our witness. We talk about our Christian witness and what is it? It's the two things we read about in verse five and verse six. It's our walk - that's what verse five is talking about. Walk in wisdom. In verse six, it's our speech, it's our talk. We have the opportunity through our walk and through our talk to be a witness for Jesus Christ. To share with the lost world that's around us the good news of Jesus. Walk wisely toward them that don't know Christ. Redeem the time that God has given you. We're only given a short amount of time so make the most of all those opportunities. You've just been praying that God would open up the doors. Now use them. Now walk through the doors. Redeem the time that God has given. Walk in wisdom.

We can really, really mess up our Christian witness when our walk doesn't match our talk. When we say the right things, we say we are a Christian, but then it's obvious to somebody, that that doesn't really seem to match. We really hurt, not just ourselves, but we hurt the cause of Christ.

I just want to share with you something that happened at Central High School this last week. It's just

a real sad thing to me. I would only share this because the person that this is about, none of you would know who this person is. Otherwise I would never share it. We had a break-in Sunday night about three in the morning. Basically it is what is sometimes called a senior prank. But it became, in our minds, a little bit worse than a senior prank, because they got in, illegally of course. They took red pop and flour and mixed it and it was on all the floors. It was the biggest mess you can imagine. Turns out - I won't go into how - they caught all six individuals that did it.

The saddest thing for me is that one of them was one of my students. I've had him for two years. He was the leader, the leader of one of the Christian fellowship groups that meets on my campus. He was a leader of kids. He was leading Bible studies on Wednesday mornings. Kids would be coming in. And all the teachers know that he did that. And they also know that he broke into the school and did this. I can tell you there are a lot of people that are not believers in my school, in terms of teachers. And I know that many of them are simply saying, and he calls himself a Christian? What does that mean? I'm just broken hearted at what he did. I do know if he was here, he would probably break down and say, I'm sorry. He used very poor judgment. God has forgiveness there, on his part. But you know, it really hurt, it really hurt the cause of Christ in my school, when we say one thing and we talk it and we say I'm a Christian and we don't walk it and we do things that are not wise. What he did was not wise.

You could probably look in my life and find things as well, so I am not here to just point fingers. We all need to look inside and say, how am I walking? How am I walking? Am I walking in such a way that anyone would look at my life or could look at some aspect of my life and say, and you call yourself a Christian? Jesus would never do that.

But then it is not just about our walk. It is about our talk. Because we could just have this mentality of well, I'm just going to be a good Christian but I'm never going to talk to anybody. That's not the model in Scripture either. When given an open door, we are to take the opportunity to speak, to make the utterance that he talked about there. To let our speech, as we speak, be how? Be seasoned with salt. Be always with grace. (v.6) In other words, we speak graciously. We speak graciously. We're called to speak with kindness. To not have that kind of flippant attitude, sarcasm that's so often out there in the world. But let our speech be seasoned with grace. So somebody, when they would look at us, they would say, that person is just gracious. When you talk to them, no matter what the circumstances. no matter what's going on in their life, they're just gracious. They're sweet. They're kind. Their speech is seasoned with salt.

There's a lot of ways to think about that. We talked numerous other times about salt being a preservative or something that gives flavor. But I am just going to close with just this thought. The other thing I think about when I think of salt is that it makes one thirsty, doesn't it? You've all had that happen, where you eat maybe some pizza or something, maybe some French fries. Later on you are just so thirsty! When we eat salt, we get thirsty. So our speech is to be seasoned with salt. I guess I'd like to say it this way. Our speech ought to be who we are. When we speak, it ought to be something that makes someone thirsty for the Word of

God. That makes someone hungry and thirsty for more! That when we speak with somebody and we get this opportunity to have this door of utterance, that the person doesn't walk away saying, I'm never going to open up that conversation again. Because boy, they were kind of in my face and they were rude and telling me how wrong I am. We have that tendency sometimes but there's a way to speak the truth but to do it in love. So that our speech is seasoned with this grace and this salt so that the person, when they walk away, says, I didn't agree necessarily with everything they said but I enjoyed talking to them! I'd like to talk to them more. You've made them thirsty for the gospel. Thirsty for speaking.

It's just a challenge. These are all practical pieces of advice as we started with. Sound. practical advice. To be prayerful, to walk in wisdom, to talk when given the opportunity. I just encourage you, this is maybe one of those chapters, again, as I already mentioned, when we read it, I'm sure we can all find things where we say, I'm not where I want to be. So we can choose to walk out with just that guilt trip of, oh woe is me. I'm terrible. Or we can choose to say, God, no I'm not where I want to be. But I'm not going to just sit here and be guilty about it. I'm going to do something about it. I'm going to, with God's grace, I'm going to make an effort. I'm going to make an effort to do better than I have been doing. May God give us that grace. First of all, may He give us the desire and then the grace to follow through.

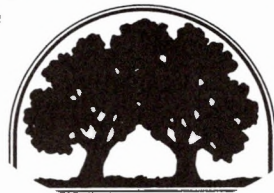
Official Apostolic Christian Church Website

** 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

Interested in Houseparenting?

Houseparenting at Gateway Woods offers an opportunity for a couple, directed of the Lord, to come to work in a full-time on going ministry at Gateway Woods. Due to several staff changes, we have a need for several couples. This position offers competitive wages and benefits and a close relationship with brothers and sisters whose hearts and lives are dedicated to a common mission with an eternal reward. If you feel the call to explore these possibilities, please call one of the brothers listed below:

Ed Graf
Residential Program Director

Lynn Stieglitz
Counseling Elder

*"We have always considered our position a ministry for our entire family not just a job for us. Relationships built during this time can last for a lifetime."
- Bro. Jason & Sis. Joy Kilgus, Houseparents*

Apostolic Christian Counseling and Family Services

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

877-370-9988 (toll free)

www.accounseling.org

*Christ-centered counseling for
depression, anxiety, relationship problems, etc...*

- Telephone consultations with a counselor
- Information about mental health issues and relationship problems
- Referrals to qualified counseling and family services in your area
- Referrals to specialized services
- Apostolic Christian Way of Purity
- Information and presentations on Biblical financial stewardship
- Materials and presentations on other specific topics
- Mentoring for students in mental health-related fields
- All calls are confidential

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
AVAILABLE**
**Assistant to the
current
Administrator**

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

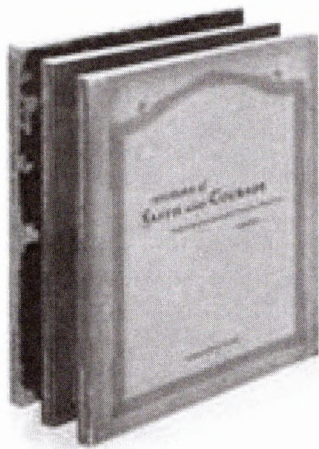
gbhuber@gmail.com
Phone: 574-946-3447
Fax: 574-946-4229

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.

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



Volume 1

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

Volume 2

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

Volume 3

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

Order from:

Heritage Press, 3420 W. Akron Road, Edelstein IL 61526
curricularesources@juno.com Phone 309-249-6281
or order on-line at: www.melttheheart.com

Volume 1, European accounts	\$10.00 plus shipping
Volume 2, American and European accounts	\$10.00 plus shipping
Volume 3, European accounts	\$12.00 plus shipping

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

CARIBBEAN BOARD PROJECTS - 2008/2009

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 September 12th, 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@citznet.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@geckocot.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 Haiti Support	Feb 20-23	Rich Bertschi 309-467-2351 lemangm@mtco.com	Invitation
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				

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

JAMAICA

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

Project	Year 2009	Coordinator	Capacity				
Kingston School CCCD Open to all	Mar 7 - 14	Roger Stoller 309-747-3228 rstoller@dtnspeed.net	40 (Open)	Jamaica Deaf Village CCCD	May 22 - 30	Ted Hirstein 309-266-8769 hirstein@mtco.com	40
Kingston School CCCD Gridley SS Only	Mar 21 - 28	Roger Stoller 309-747-3228 rstoller@dtnspeed.net	40 (Full)	Jamaica Deaf Village CCCD Akron, Rittman, Smithville SS	Jun 20 - 27	Jay Maibach jmmaibach@embarqmail.com	40
Montego Bay School CCCD Bluffton SS	Mar 21 - 28	Gene Gerber 260-824-4601 ggerber@meyerbuilding.com	40				

MEXICO

*If anyone is interested in leading a team to Mexico, contact Bro. Mike Fiechter at 260-597-7330 or mfiechter@onlyinternet.net
Data updated from the Apostolic Christian World Relief web site as of September 12th, 2008 -www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-mexico/*

Location	Year 2008	Coordinator			
Juarez Medical/Dental	Sep 17-24	Cheryl Herrmann cherrmann@verizon.net	Reynosa Construction	Mar 21-28	Mark Sauder/U of I University of Illinois 309-202-3279 markus_329@yahoo.com
Magdalena Construction	Nov 22-29	Rod Schmidt 303-774-7913 rschmidt@Acosta.com	Magdalena Construction	Mar 22-29	Pete Aberle Tremont Bible Class 309-925-5969 dpabfrms@hotmail.com
Location	Year 2009	Coordinator			
Magdalena Construction	Jan 3-10	Darl Rassi 815-867-2195 mr.rassi@gmail.com	Magdalena Construction	May 30-June 6	Scott Klopfenstein Phoenix Bible Class 602-721-7409 scottklop@yahoo.com
Magdalena Construction	Jan 10-17	Steve Kaeb 217-379-4707 kaeb@illicom.net	Magdalena Construction	June 13-20	Brent Knobloch 815-923-4736 bmknob@mc.net
Magdalena Construction	Jan 17-24	John Teubel 815-657-8721 jteubel@maxwire.net	Magdalena Construction	June 20-27	Aaron Klopfenstein Indianapolis Bible Class 317-596-8739 aaronklop@sbcglobal.net
Magdalena Construction	Mar 7-14	Dustin Huber/ISU Illinois State University 309-825-0864 dustin.huber@verizon.net	Magdalena Construction	June 27-July 4	Kent Mogler 651-452-8586 kent.mogler@comcast.net
Magdalena Construction	Mar 14-21	Joe Darlington/Purdue Purdue University 815-245-7913 joedarlington@gmail.com			

USA World Relief Committee

For area work or disaster projects, please contact the following USA committee member:

* Bro. Kent Heimer	<i>Counseling Elder</i>	Taylor, MO	Cell# 573-248-5701
* Bro. Paul Kaeb	<i>Chairman</i>	Bern, KS	Cell# 785-547-5269
* Bro. Chuck Kellenberger	<i>Sec/Treasurer</i>	Elgin, IL	Cell# 224-629-6531
* Bro. Les Schambach	<i>Administrator</i>	Elgin, IL	Cell# 630-247-5271
* Bro. Arnold Gerst		Taylor, MO	Cell# 217-242-8996
* Bro. Tom Neuenschwander		Bluffton, IN	Cell# 260-307-6026
* Bro. Ray Slagel		Fairbury, IL	Cell# 815-848-3714



This is the second in a series of two articles on the life of Clara Ingold Hartzler of the Smithville, Ohio, congregation. She is 101 years of age.

Funerals At church funerals the caskets were outside the church unless the weather was bad. In this situation the caskets were placed in the Sunday School room behind the dining room, and next to the cemetery which was (and still is) right behind the church. The caskets had to be stood on end to get them into the church, a difficult task — thus, differing procedures existed depending on weather conditions.

Baptisms The baptistery was a wooden trough. When baptisms were infrequent, the trough would shrivel up and get cracks in it. For baptisms, it would be placed by the drain in the kitchen and many buckets of water had to be carried in from the pump to keep it full.

Conversion Clara repented for her sins in 1930. After awhile, she asked her Elder when she would receive peace. He told after she made everything right (with others). When he said that, Clara said it felt like bricks fell out of her heart.

Proving/Testimony When she was ready to be “taken up”, the Elder thought she would understand her proving better if it was done in the English language (as opposed to German), so they waited for an English-speaking Elder to come. Elder Ernest Graf of Akron, Ohio, came to Sardis for the proving/testimony. For some reason, he asked the questions in German and she answered in Swiss. It was all held on a Tuesday, both the proving and the bap-

tism

Language All of the families were Swiss. They spoke Swiss at home. Church services were in German; and the schoolchildren were taught English. Clara said the children at school all talked Swiss at recess and on the playground. Clara learned how to read German from her aunt when they were assigned the task of watching cows in an unfenced area (so they wouldn’t wander off).

Charity There was a sister in church who was destitute. There was nothing like Social Security back then, and this sister had no relatives. So each church family took turns keeping her in their home.

Daily Living Clara’s family often had people who were visiting in Monroe County stay at their home. After the automobiles came the visitors would sometimes take their cars down to the creek at the bottom of a hill to wash them. Then they would sometimes sing hymns as they washed their cars. The songs would drift across the hills and valleys, and would sound very pretty.

There was a country store close to where Clara lived called Walter’s Store. It was here where people traded their produce (milk, eggs, butter, etc.) for things such as flour and sugar. The families had their own gardens and did their own butchering — so they were quite self-sufficient. Clara’s family rarely went out of the hills to town. Perhaps once per year to buy a hat or coat.

Schooling Clara was about six when the family moved from Round Bottom to a farm near Sardis. She had

gone to a one-room school in Round Bottom called Fox School. After moving she went to the Morton Ridge School until she was old enough to get a work permit. She had to repeat the 8th grade until she was old enough to get a work permit. The children hung their coats on hooks at the back of the room and put their lunch buckets on a bench in the back. Clara carried a little tin bucket, usually with a sandwich, apple and cookie.

The boys went to the neighbors for water (in a bucket with a dipper). Everyone drank out of the dipper. There was an organ or piano in the front of the room. There was also a bench in the front where the teacher would quiz students. Clara walked to school. Sometimes her father would pick her up with a horse and sleigh if it was snowing. Sometimes he would put bells on the horses.

Miscellaneous There was a church in the area with a steeple and bells. When someone in the area would die, the bells would toll for each year of the deceased’s life — so people would have to guess who had died. Clara can remember the names of all the members of the Sardis church when she was baptized. She moved from the Sardis area (with her family) to the Rittman area in 1931. In 1933 she married Ben Hartzler. They had seven children. At age 101 her mind is quite good. She reads her Bible daily, and talks about when she will meet her Lord.

By Perry Klopfenstein

Next Issue: More history

The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean

希望の光

“The Gospel Is A Way Of Life”

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

It is said that the gospel means good news, that Christ died for us and arose again so that we can have eternal life in heaven. I agree with that definition but I believe that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is more than that. I believe that the gospel is a way of life, that it permeates our being so that the things we see are not so important as the things we do not see. The fruit of the Spirit is far more important than houses, lands, and bank accounts. That belief affects our thoughts, our attitude, and our conduct. It causes us to realize that we are living to bring glory to God by helping others, and not to place ourselves above others. In Philippians 2:3 we read, “In lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than themselves.”

In that frame of mind, is it possible to fulfill II Timothy 4:2, “Reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.” I believe it is possible to fulfill this scripture in lowliness

of mind while esteeming the fellow believers you are exhorting, better than yourself. I believe it is done by including yourself in your exhortation, by saying, “We should do better,” not, “You should do better.” If I am not as worldly as you are, it doesn’t mean that I am better than you. It only means that God has graciously spared me pitfalls that you may encounter. All of us, by ourselves, are as filthy rags. Sometimes we forget and think that we are pretty good, it’s all those other people that we have to straighten out. Isaiah 64:6 reads in part, “All our righteousnesses are as filthy rags.” That should help us to esteem others better than ourselves. In any case, when we exhort others, it should be based on scripture, not on the idea that we are better than they are.

I believe that friendliness and hospitality are a part of the Gospel way of Life. In John 15:15 Jesus said, “Henceforth I call you not servants but I have

called you friends.” Let’s go to greet others, not wait for them to come to us. Let’s show love and concern for others in a respectful way. We are all different in personality, but let’s all put forth effort to be friendly in a good way, so that others can feel our love for them.

In Acts 22:4 the Apostle Paul states, “I persecuted this way unto the death.” Here the Christian life is spoken of as “this way”. That supports the idea that to repent and put our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is much more than simply getting all we can from God, as a gift, but it is a way of life, a beautiful way of life. We simply must surrender to God and live that life as it was meant to be lived.

If all of us in the Apostolic Christian Church can fulfill our obligations and privileges in walking in this way, the world will certainly take notice and say that we are friendly, happy, and courteous, and that we do not live for self.

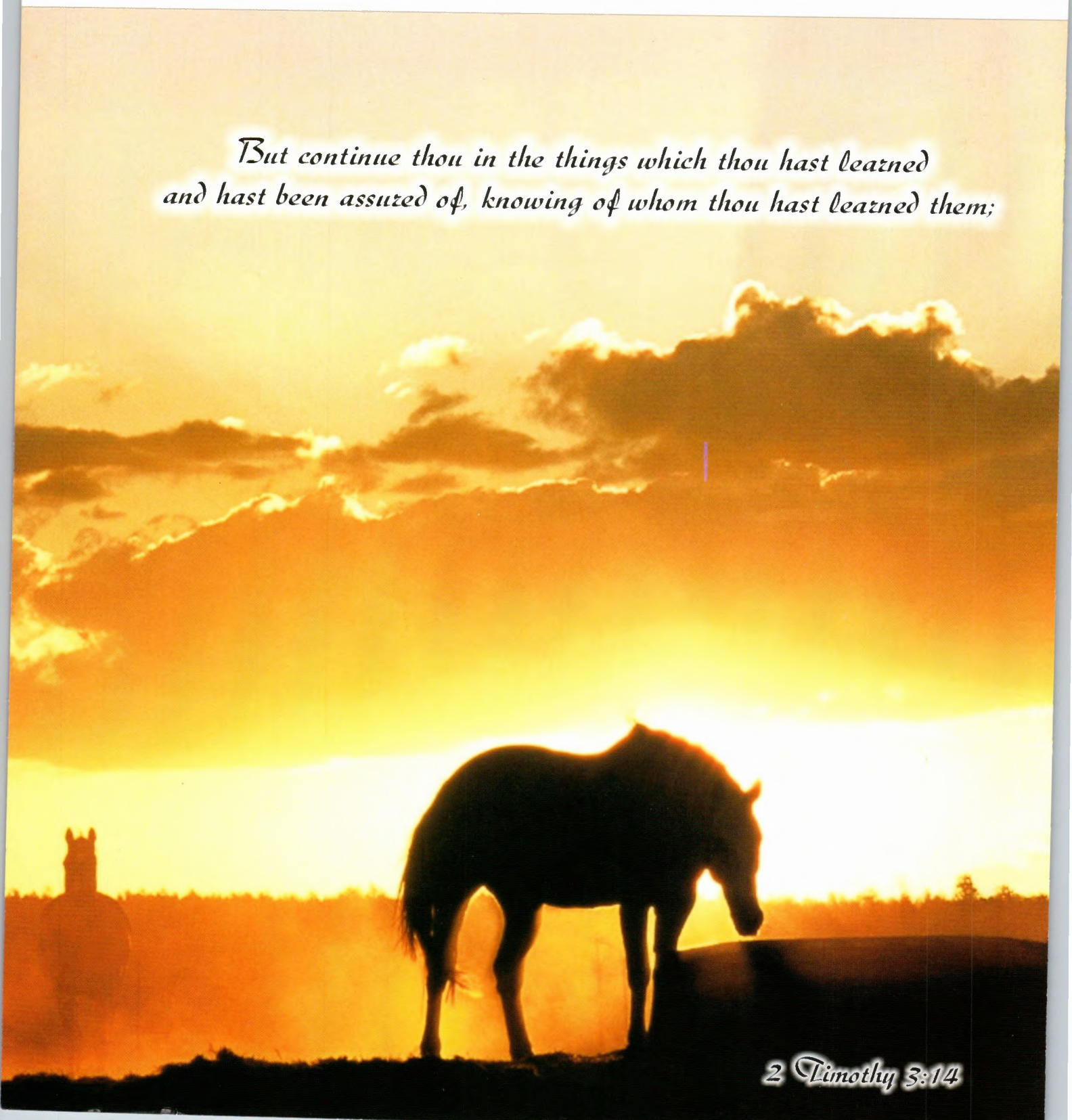
希望の光

THE SILVER LINING
1389 County Road 1600 N, Roanoke, IL 61561



*****CAR-RT LOT**R-002
LK Seq:1287 P2 PK76
MRS. CHARLES WALDER
533 N 3RD ST
CISSNA PARK IL 60924-9782

*But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned
and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them;*



2 Timothy 3:14