

The Silver Lining

*... 'Tis not the manger, but the cross,
That sets the spirit free.*

Hymns of Zion #36



December 2008

Sermon by Bro. Todd Graf, Akron, OH

Psalm 81 and St. Luke 2:1-40

Greetings dear ones, in the most precious name of Jesus. We sang a hymn this morning, if I could just reflect on the one verse that we sang. It was in the 'Morning Hymn' (*Zion's Harp # 166, v. 6*).

*Come then, Lord of life eternal,
Step into our midst, we pray;
Help that we may not be merely
Hearers of Thy Word today.
To our teacher, O, be near;
Bless the children gathered here;
May we thrive in fullest measure,
And Thy heart in us find pleasure!*

How well that expressed our desire for the Lord to come, the Lord of life eternal, and to step into our midst. It also instructed us that we need help, not to be merely hearers of the Word today. It was a prayer unto our teacher to be near. Bless the children gathered here. Lastly, may we thrive in fullest measure and Thy heart in us find pleasure. Doesn't that so well express the desire of our heart as we gather around the Word of truth.

In the Psalm, we were instructed and encouraged to sing aloud unto God our strength and make a joyful noise unto the God of Jacob. To take a psalm and bring hither the timbrel and pleasant harp with the psaltery. To keep the solemn feast for this was a statute in Israel and the law of the God of Jacob. This he ordained in Joseph for a testimony, when he went out through the land of Egypt: where I heard a language that I understood not. I removed his shoulder from the burden: his hands were delivered from the pots. Thou calledst in trouble, and I delivered thee; I answered thee in the secret place of thunder: I proved thee at the waters of Meribah. (Psalm 81:1-7). We are reminded here in this Psalm, perhaps a number of years and generations after the time of the deliverance from Egypt, that the children of Israel remembered well from whence they were delivered. They were instructed to keep that solemn feast, for it was a statute in Israel and a law.

They were once a year to take the firstling from the flock, a lamb. They were to sacrifice it. They were to put the blood upon the door posts of their house. That when the death angel that made a difference between the redeemed people of Israel and the people of their bondage, the Egyptians, the death angel would pass over that, he would see the blood upon the door posts of their homes and he would pass over them.

In that solemn feast, they were also instructed to eat it standing up. They were also instructed to eat unleavened bread seven days. This was to remind them that they did not have time for the leaven to raise the bread, but they needed to prepare to depart, at a moment's notice, from their bondage. For they realized that they were in bondage. It speaks that He removed their shoulder from the burden. Their hands were delivered from the pot. Thou called in trouble and I delivered thee. They were to be mindful of God having chosen them for His people. Having prophesied to Abraham that they would serve a people in a strange land four hundred and thirty years, then He would bring them forth in a mighty way (Genesis 15:13,14; Exodus 12:41). This was a statute that they were to remember, that they might realize that they were once purchased. They were once bound and they had cried out to the Lord.

The Word of Life is so complete, Old Testament through the New, that all works together in such a wonderful way. How this even could be as a forerunner and prophecy of the deliverance of mankind from sin through Jesus Christ. That lamb that was, when the heavens were searched for one that could pay the price for sin, there was only one found. It was the lamb, Jesus Christ. There was much anxiety in heaven as they looked for one that could pay the price of the sin of man. There was much joy when there was one found that could bear that. They said, worthy is the lamb to open the book. (Rev. 5)

So we, likewise, are to remember,

those of the New Testament covenant,

Sermon continued on page 42

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*"Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."
(Luke 12:32)*

Light From The Word



Writings based
on God's Word

December 2008

Courage

"O love the Lord, all ye his saints... Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the Lord" (Psa. 31:23-24).

Are you fearful, worried or discouraged? Perhaps the possible consequences of difficult decisions make the future seem frightening? Maybe the risks associated with changes in your life bring doubts? Are there seemingly insurmountable obstacles in your life? All of us experience fears, and whether they are rational or irrational, they can be debilitating. The Word of God teaches us to overcome our fears. In the case of irrational fears, overcoming requires faith. In the case of rational fears, it also requires courage.

Courage is the ability to face real or perceived danger, change, or risk **in spite of our fears**, trusting God and abandoning ourselves to Him. *"Though he slay me, yet will I trust in Him" (Job 13:15).*

Let's consider some examples of courage from the Bible. *"And Moses called unto Joshua, and said unto him in the sight of all Israel, Be strong and of a good courage: for thou must go with this people unto the land which the LORD hath sworn unto their fathers to give them; and thou shalt cause them to inherit it. And the LORD, he it is that doth go before thee; he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed" (Deut. 31:7-8).*

Moses was full of years when he spoke these words. He wasn't speaking about theories. Moses knew what it meant to be strong and of good courage—he had learned the hard way. God called Moses to do a task that he felt ill-equipped to handle. He was afraid, and based on his experience his fears may have been justified. Nevertheless, at the commandment of God, Moses took courage and returned to Egypt, confronted Pharaoh, and led the children of Israel through the Red Sea, and on to the Promised Land. He did not go in his own strength or understanding. God was with him. Through obedience, Moses learned that God is faithful.

Soon after the death of Moses, God spoke directly to Joshua and repeated the exhortation that Moses had given. *"There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I swear unto their fathers to give them. Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper withersoever thou goest" (Josh. 1:5-7).*

Joshua obeyed the Word of the Lord. He promptly began to prepare the people to cross over Jordan. He instructed them to follow the priests into the swollen Jordan River. It took both faith and courage to tell the people that the Lord would stand the waters up in a heap. Joshua trusted God and went forward in spite of his fears.

It took courage for the priests to step into the flooded waters of the Jordan River. It is very rational to fear walking into a rushing river in flood stage. In spite of their fears, the priests obeyed the word of the Lord and stepped into the water. In much the same way, we may feel justified in maintaining certain fears in our life. Our human experience teaches us caution in many aspects of life, and our concerns may be rational. However, when God speaks, we must go forward in spite of even our most rational fears. This requires faith and courage.

If our fears are irrational, and this prevents us from doing as we should, we must understand that this can lead to decisions and behaviors which are sinful. Irrational fears may be directly related to a lack of faith. *"... whatsoever is not of faith is sin" (Rom. 14:23).* They may also be related to a lack of understanding of the nature of God and what He expects of us. Unfounded fears are really a result of doubting God, so they must be addressed. God gives us several ways to address doubt. It may be sufficient to confess it and ask God to strengthen our faith, or we may need to seek counsel to better un-

derstand God. It can also be very helpful to understand how our emotions or thinking lead us to doubt.

Courage is the mobilization of our faith. It is the conscious decision to obey God in spite of our fears—even when those fears are reasonable.

For Queen Esther, it was forbidden to enter into the presence of the King. However, her spiritual father, Mordecai, challenged her to understand the position God had placed her in—and to take action in spite of her fears. *"Think not with thyself that thou shalt escape in the king's house, more than all the Jews. For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed: and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this? Then Esther bade them return Mordecai this answer, Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day: I also and my maidens will fast likewise; and so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish" (Est. 4:13-14).*

Esther's response was to first seek God and then ask others to join her in prayer and fasting. Then trusting in God she could say, "If I perish, I perish." This is courage—fulfilling the calling of God without regard to the consequences, even if the consequences mean the risk of our life.

With both Joshua and Esther, there was a call to courage by their mentors. Moses and Mordecai had experienced the faithfulness of God. Their encouragement to Joshua and Esther had credibility. Because they had been courageous themselves, they were able to encourage the following generation to fulfill the will of God. Age and experience often bring a fuller understanding of the faithfulness of God. Have you experienced God's faithfulness in your life? Perhaps you have the ability to motivate others to be strong and of good courage, helping them to lay fear aside and trust in God.

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

Eastern European Assistance

For several decades the Mission Committee has maintained contact with those of like mind and faith in Eastern Europe. These brethren, known as Nazarenes, represent a special part of the Lord's harvest as He worked through our early church fathers, including Samuel Froehlich, in spreading the Gospel into Eastern Europe.

Today Nazarene brethren exist in Sweden, Germany, France, Austria, Hungary, Slovakia, Croatia, Romania and Ukraine. They as we, often find themselves bewildered by the changes that seem to be without precedent. In order for us to understand the position of the East European Nazarenes, we need to take a brief look at their history. For centuries the church and government were the same, and ruled with an iron hand. After the reformation, Anabaptist groups such as the Nazarenes suffered greatly for their faith. Unspeakable atrocities took place over the years, and this has had a significant impact upon the outlook of these brethren yet today.

This has made our East European brethren what they are. Young families that are the hope for the future have heard the stories of this oppression over and over even though they have not experienced it. However, the memories of these struggles will live in the minds of the elderly until they draw their last breath. Even though we try to sympathize, we cannot really understand. We simply do our best to help.

For seventy years communism held the eastern European countries in its firm grip, and there was little opportunity to practice their faith openly. Although the flame of truth

often grew dim, by the grace of God it did not go out. Young people are the hope for the future, and they have special needs which we can help meet so that they can establish stable, productive lives.

Assistance needed

Dozens of churches have been built, Bibles and hymnbooks have been printed, and vehicles purchased to enable these brethren to practice and maintain the true faith of our fathers. Due to continued difficult economic conditions in most of these countries, there are still many hardships among the brethren. Our ongoing assistance for various daily needs, self-help programs and additional church construction projects are all greatly appreciated.

These brethren are still not comfortable with their situation. They are wary of governments, the state church, and the mafia. With the changes brought about by the European Union, it has been necessary for the Mission Committee, working jointly with the European Committee to find avenues in which this assistance can continue and still conform to laws not only in our own lands, but in the nations whose people we assist.

The past year or so has brought tightening of the ways we are allowed to work, and we are trying to respond in a way that is both legal and conforms to the goals of helping our suffering brethren. Changes come quickly in the modern world, and often swift response is necessary.

Necessary adjustments

Some years ago the leadership in Eastern Europe requested that an organization independent of the Nazarene church be formed through

which we could channel funds. The anxiety of governmental interference in their spiritual affairs has been the driving motive for this request. In response, a non-governmental organization legally incorporated under Romanian law has been instituted which has been operational for several years. This corporation, known as Asociatia Antiohia (Antioch Association) is an international joint effort of the World Relief Board, Mission Committee, European Committee, Fellowship of Evangelical Baptists in Germany as well as other interested parties. Functioning in accordance with proper accounting procedures, Antioch is audited yearly under Romanian law and files annual tax returns. Great care is exercised to comply with ongoing changes in EU regulations that affect the way business must be conducted.

As time goes by, increasing amounts of our assistance are being run through this channel to conform to both legal and good accounting practices. Efforts are also being made to create an avenue by which we can be more effective in assisting the brethren in Ukraine.

Appreciation for continued support

The Mission Committee, along with the others involved want to assure our brethren that we are using due diligence and trying to do everything possible to assist our needy brethren who have endured so much, while at the same time conforming to law and good accountability. Your prayers and continued generous support for fulfilling the scriptural directive to "do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith" (Gal. 6:10) are greatly appreciated.



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

Eastern Europe

Although it is now 19 years since the oppressive communist regimes fell in Eastern Europe, our struggling brethren, the Nazareans, continue to face ongoing challenges.

The economic situation is growing steadily worse, not better, with inflation raging, and uncertainties in governments as well as in the daily lives of everyone.

The European Committee continues to monitor the situation very closely, as three groups have gone into Eastern Europe in the last several months, and constant communication is maintained. Quite clearly, without the faithful and loving support of our American brethren, the elderly in particular would find it hard to have food and heat at the same time.

Several years ago Antioch was able to purchase a number of chain saws, which remain the property of the corporation, but are being used by individual brethren to cut firewood. Needs are great, although the people reduce the temperature in the homes, heating only the area in which they are living, so that they can have enough money to buy food.

Fuel prices are rising rapidly everywhere in the world, and incomes are not keeping pace at all. Old sisters living in the apartments built by the communists cannot cope with rent and utilities, much less have enough to buy food.

Our joint international effort, through the corporation known as Antioch, has many programs in place to address these needs. Food packages are made up each month with supplies purchased locally. At this time, we have the good fortune

of being able to buy in volume from large stores much like our Sam's club. This has allowed us to keep this program going in spite of rising food costs. This, too, is funded with restricted donations specified for this purpose.

The bicycles purchased last year have had an impact upon their daily lives, becoming more valuable as gasoline and diesel costs go up. Auto fuel is now over \$7.00 a gallon, so travel obviously is reduced only to that which is necessary.

Heating Crisis Exists
Since nearly all Nazareans are poor, they depend upon us for assistance in winter heating. Due to the current situation, there is a shortfall of \$70,000 needed for this purpose. The brethren who have the responsibility for the various countries feel this is a real need, and ask for your support to help our suffering brethren cope with the coming winter.

At this time there are four honey projects functioning, with a processing facility being installed at the Antioch compound. This has capability of processing many tons of honey per year, which is a great help to enable our suffering brethren to become more self-reliant, and less dependent upon outside help. This has always been the stated goal of this endeavor, with future prospects looking good at this time.

Although there is no governmental oppression, the archenemy of our Lord's work never ceases to cause discord wherever possible, and this struggle continues to go on, as it

does everywhere men seek to serve God. Each nation and ethnic group seems to have their own difficulties with all trying to do their best.

Most Nazarean families are large, often with more than ten children, which brings its own problems in trying to keep the family functional. One of the big ways our US brethren can help in this situation is to help purchase school supplies. Research has revealed that costs for each child are about \$50 per school year. Few families have incomes of more than \$500/month, meaning that a family of ten needs one full month's income simply for school supplies.

Last year Antioch purchased school supplies by the pallet, cutting costs a lot, and this seemed to be a big help. It seems good to repeat and expand this program for this year. Therefore, the European Committee has approved the purchase of these supplies, with hopes of receiving enough restricted funds to finance this effort, not only in Romania, but all across Eastern Europe where these needs exist. Numerous Sunday Schools participated in supporting "Project Bicycle," which was highly successful, so it is hoped this will also be given consideration for this effort, which is called "Heft Project." Heft in the German language means "notebook" thus the reason for that name. This is a family-to-family project that hopefully will bring support from our Brotherhood.

Contact to send donations or for more information:

European Treasurer
Apostolic Christian World Relief
1118 Charlotte Circle
Van Wert, OH 45891
(419) 238-2845

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

"Oh, give thanks unto the Lord; call upon His name; make known His deeds among the people ... Seek the Lord and His strength: seek His face evermore. Remember His marvelous works He hath done..."

Psalm 105:1,4,5

We desire to seek the Lord for His strength and wisdom in our lives here at ACHH. We have sensed His direction and guidance in some new endeavors with our services. Our agency has begun to implement an agency wide "paperless" charting and documentation system. This has required many hours of preparation and education, but we are thankful that we are well underway with this project. We thank the Lord for the staff who have assumed the leadership with the project, and the willing hearts of the staff to learn the system, and the provisions for the equipment necessary to accomplish this. We are especially thankful that the outcome of these changes can enhance the services our residents receive.

We are also thankful for the Lord's direction and guidance with our "rightsizing" project referred to in the last Silver Lining article. This is under way as well. We have purchased three homes in Morton where smaller groups of residents will be able to be served in more home like places. The first group of four men plan to move to a house on Brentwood Street next week. These men are excited for the opportunity to live in this home, and establish their residence there. We thank the Lord that we sense His hand in these developments, and believe that He has our lives in His hands.

We are also thankful that at our larger facility, Timber Ridge, our redecorating project is close to completion. Countless volunteer hours have been spent wallpapering the halls at Timber

Ridge. This new look as well as other redecorating has really changed our Home, too. The residents, staff and families wish to thank God for making this possible.

It is good to stop at this Thanks giving time and consider how the Lord has been involved in our lives here at ACHH. We are amazed at His continued love and involvement here.

GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME Brian Knudstrup

As I write this, we are experiencing our first bit of real winter weather here at Gateway. The snow melted quickly away this morning, but it was a gentle reminder that the season of Christ's birth is here. For many of the children that we serve, this may be the first Christmas they celebrate with true peace in their hearts and a real understanding for why Jesus came down to Earth.

Before Jesus was born, Zacharias said of Him,

"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people, and hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David; as he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began: That we should be saved from our enemies, and from the hand of all that hate us; to perform the mercy promised to our fathers, and to remember his holy covenant; the oath which he sware to our father Abraham, that he would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life."

St. Luke 1:69-75

Our Father sent His Son as a gift so we could have a relationship with Him based not on fear but on love. When talking with some of the Gateway resi-

dents in Sunday School, they overwhelmingly expressed a desire for relationships and quality time with people. Even though many of them come from very poor backgrounds, it is their hearts that they want filled, not their stockings.

A very prominent Christian leader warned his church members with the following: "Children are being raised in a consumeristic culture that trumpets false models of happiness." He laments that consumerism keeps youth from searching out real truth and meaning, and that "adolescents, youth and even children are easy victims of the corruption of love, deceived by unscrupulous adults who, lying to themselves and to them, draw them into the dead-end streets of consumerism."

This Christmas season as you think about ways you can give, consider focusing on building up the relationships with those around you, specifically the children in your life and the children we serve. Pray that their hearts would both desire AND be filled with the peace that God offers.

NEWS:

- We are pleased to announce the hiring of Bro. Darren and Sis. Britni Eisenman (West Lafayette) as Alternate Houseparents. Both come to us with degrees from Purdue in psychology. We expect them to arrive here in early January. Please pray for them during this time of transition.

- We rejoice with Bro. Jason Klopfenstein (Leo) and Sis. Rachel (Huber) Klopfenstein as they were united in marriage on December 8, 2008. May God bless them as they begin their lives together. We are also thankful that God has directed Sis. Rachel to become our new Foster Care Case Manager. Sis. Rachel recently served as an Assistant Houseparent in the Maple House.

- Bro. Todd Stoller has announced his intentions to leave Gateway Woods and pursue the ministry at the Casa Vida Y Esperanza orphanage in Magdalena, MX. Bro. Todd will be a

teacher at the orphanage and he will assist with the after-school program and other duties. His plans are to head to Mexico in June after the school year is over for language training, and then begin at CVE in time to help with the school program next fall. We are so thankful to Bro. Todd for his service here at Gateway Woods School and wish him God's blessings as he begins a new journey in life. As a result of this, we will be looking to hire a Math Teacher.

- We are encouraged that companies, families, Sunday Schools, Vacation Bible Schools, etc. have joined together to complete our Furnish-A-Room (FAR) project for the Pine House. The funds were raised to completely supply all the furniture, appliances, bedding, and decorations for the new home. Referrals are up for regular children and pregnant teens. We hope to have the house staffed and ready for residents by the first of the year. We are truly grateful for all the effort and generosity to complete this important project. Hundreds of children in years to come will be blessed by what has been provided.

- Pine House construction is currently ahead of schedule and under budget. However, we are still short of construction funds for the house. We still need a good small car and a big van. Please contact us at (888) 443-4283 if you can help us out with these vehicles.

- We are very thankful that He continues to provide us with the right staff. Because of our Adoption services expanding into Illinois, construction of the Pine House, and other ministry opportunities, 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 notices 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**

"O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good."

Psalm 118:1

It is a joy to hear children shouting that from the bottom of their hearts. We have been talking a lot about Thanksgiving, and hopefully they figure out that it's more than just eating a big feast. Some of the things they come up with when asked what they're thankful for are pretty funny. One girl, with much gusto, said "HAMBURGERS!" Some other things that were mentioned were mom and dad, trains, popcorn, football, jets, the airport, sippy cups, dogs and humans. A couple even said they were thankful for teachers, which warmed our hearts.

Aside from learning about thankfulness, we have also covered the letters M, N and O. Also we just want to say thanks for all your continued prayers and support. It is much appreciated.

**ALABAMA, ATHENS
Louise Hall**

"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing. Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter into his gates with Thanksgiving and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations."

Psalm 100

Truly as we look back on this past year, we have much to be thankful for. God is faithful and provides for every

situation.

We want to thank Bro. Randy Mogler (Sis. Evie, Washington, IL) for preaching the Word to us this month. It is always special to have them back "home" in Athens and we thank them for their efforts.

We were privileged to host Single Focus Weekend with the Nashville church. Saturday's program was held in our Tennessee Fellowship center. Bro. Randy was here for that, along with Bro. Joe Klotzle (Altadena) and Bro. Marshall Heinold (Ixtilan). We were strongly encouraged and reminded of our duty as Christians to spread the Gospel message. It was a blessing for everyone who attended.

**ARIZONA, PHOENIX
Heather Hinrichsen**

"Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine."

I Timothy 5:17

Elder Bro. Steve Ringger (Bluffton North) assisted our Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich and Deacon Bro. Herb Knochel in reading the Memorandum to the church. We truly are a blessed people that have overseers who care for our physical, emotional and spiritual well being. Bro. Ron Heiniger (Bloomington), Bro. Lenard Meyer (Chicago) and Bro. Nile Bucher (Bluffton North) also shared God's Word with us this month.

On November 5, Bro. Mike, Sis. Valerie and Brett Howell welcomed Sophia Grace into their hearts and home. Grandparents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Sheryl Knobloch (Lester) and Pamela Howell and Mike and Debbie Howell (Bay City). Bro. Erik and Sis. Cindy Langhofer became grandparents again when Owen Alexander came into the world on September 25 in New York City. Owen's parents are Kory and Rachel Langhofer.

Bro. Bob Farney (Arlene) and Sis.

Laurie Knochel (Bro. Herb) underwent surgery and we are thankful that they are experiencing God's healing touch. Sis. Nancy Baumgartner (Bro. Leon) has gone home from rehabilitation where she has been since her car accident 6 weeks ago. She continues to need our love and prayers.

Jordan Roth and Bob Myers Jr. exchanged wedding vows on November 15. Their parents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Patty Roth and Bob and Carolyn Myers. We wish them God's blessings as they begin a new phase of life.

We were thankful for all who could attend this year's Sunday School picnic on October 26. The children and the choir sang praises to God and everyone enjoyed the time of fellowship.

May we remember how much we truly have to be grateful for, as the Thanksgiving holiday approaches.

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT **Denise Steidinger**

In the past month, the Lord has provided strength and encouragement from His Word through the willing service of several visiting ministering brothers: Bros. Alan Schambach (Sis. Sarah, Remington), Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha), Herbie Knochel, Jr. (Phoenix), Tom Schambach (Sis. Connie, Elgin, IL), Gary Brown (Sis. Jane, Forrest) and Ron Heiniger (Sis. Kay, Bloomington).

Bro. Herbie Knochel, Jr. (Phoenix) gave us Communion exhortation on November 9, as we look forward to partaking of Holy Communion on November 23.

On Saturday, November 15, our congregation gathered together for a supper and singing as we welcomed four couples visiting from Forrest, Illinois.

As always, we extend a warm welcome to anyone who plans on passing through Prescott or is wanting to support a small church, to come and worship with us. We always appreciate the fellowship and encouragement of our

brothers and sisters in Christ.

ARIZONA, TUCSON **Lisa Knapp**

We enjoyed a visit from our Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix) and his wife, Sis. Nancy. They came Saturday, November 1, to help out with our semi-annual church cleaning and stayed over for Sunday to worship with us. We always enjoy spending time with them and thank them sincerely for all of their efforts. God's blessings to you both!

Bro. Curt and Sis. Caroline Kaufman and their family need our prayers as their son-in-law, Travis Brown, is awaiting a lung transplant and is currently undergoing testing for that purpose. We are praying for Travis, Carrie, Lexie, Grace and baby Robert that their family can feel our love and support and especially feel God's presence during this anxious time. We love you all very much.

We are happy to welcome back Bro. Loren and Sis. Joan Knapp from their time in Illinois. That means it won't be long until our winter visitors are here!

We are experiencing a windy, cool (70's) day as we approach the weekend before Thanksgiving. Feels a little more like fall than it has recently.

Wishing you all a very blessed year in 2009. Come see us!

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA **Catherine Brame**

"And the sight of the glory of the Lord was like devouring fire on the top of the mount in the eyes of the children of Israel."

Exodus 24:17

We are a strange people, in a strange land. Never is that more clear to us here in Southern California than when the fires rage in the fall months after the dryness of summer. The fury of the fire evidences the magnificent power of God, for we know that He is stronger

and bigger than any fire that comes our way.

Being a "native Southern Californian," I remember the storms in Central Illinois, and the power of the thunder as it shook the full four stories of my old Victorian home. Before I became a Believer, I was terrified by the raw power of those storms. But after I came to know and understand the power of God, I was enthralled by the nearness of His hand as the thunder roared and the windows trembled, and I praised Him even in the awfulness of the storm. It strikes my heart now that the fires that raged here most recently felt the same to me. God is in all, and He will be glorified in all things. We serve a powerful and mighty God.

The month was filled with many opportunities for us to gather and worship together. On October 18, our church held its annual Vision Day meeting to renew our commitment to each other and to our community as we reviewed the plans that we had implemented as a means of serving our friends and members in this small church environment. We were blessed to find that many of the plans that we had put in place had proven helpful in forming relationships among our congregation, and we discussed meaningful ways of improving our efforts.

On October 19, we elected our Trustees for the ensuing terms. We praise God for providing so graciously, and thank the brothers who have willingly agreed to serve in this capacity: Bros. Steve Cser, Tom Luginbuhl (Sis. Heidi), and Scott Manger (Sis. Shana).

As a church, we have made a commitment of outreach to our community. On October 25, we participated in a Habitat for Humanity work day. We thank Bro. Virgil Graf (Sis. Marilyn) for heading up this effort and the efforts of all who were able to assist in the building of this home.

Also, our Sunday School collected love gifts to be given for Christmas to the Navajoes in New Mexico. The gifts must travel unpaved roads which be-

come impassable when the winter snows hit, and so they went out prior to Thanksgiving to ensure their safe and timely arrival. It touches our hearts to know that there is a third world country that exists within the United States – a place where there is no running water or electricity. We learned that these people still tend their sheep on cold winter nights, and they are among the poorest people in the world. It was a good thing to know that we can help to bring Jesus to a foreign country without having a passport or expensive travel.

October 26, following our second service, we were blessed to receive a presentation of photographs and excellent information from Sis. Stephanie Moser regarding the time that she spent in China. We received a better understanding of the circumstances in China and the areas where we can pray.

On November 2, our members observed Holy Communion following our second service. Partaking in this holy meal knits our hearts together in unity at the foot of the cross. We are grateful for the gift of salvation that Christ afforded us, and this celebration of His divine gift.

Bro. Clarence Graf underwent surgery this past month, and we were pleased to have him back with us without any problems.

As I write this, we are at the close of another year, and Thanksgiving Day is soon upon us. We pray that all who read this have been blessed in what have been trying times for many, and that no matter what the blessings have been, that all of you hold onto the joy and peace of the Lord.

**KITCHENER, ONTARIO
CANADA
Kim Leman**

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

Ecclesiastes 3:1

We always appreciate the brethren who make an effort to visit our small congregation. Special thanks to ministering Bros. Warren Schlatter (Sis. Cindy, Junction, OH), Tim Ramsier (Sis. Jonell, Rittman, OH), Don Steidl (Sis. Nan, Akron, OH), and Marvin Dotterer (Sis. Nancy, Forrest, IL). May God richly bless them for their labors among us.

We enjoyed working together at our World Relief Family night. It's always a blessing to gather to provide necessities for those in need, and we trust that God will add the increase.

**COLORADO, DENVER
Ann Gonglach**

At one of our mid-week Bible studies we read and discussed I Cor. 3. “Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.” Like Paul and Apollos and our leaders, we too are building upon the foundation of Jesus Christ as we represent Him. Are we putting forth the effort it takes to build up those who God puts in our life with things that will last?

This fall, we celebrated the 50th wedding anniversary of Bro. Tom and Sis. Marlene Leman, and the 25th anniversary of Elder Bro. Mike and Sis. Deb Leman. May God continue to bless these dear couples as together they serve Him.

A singing was held at Red Rocks (an outdoor amphitheater in the foothills of the Rockies) with some from the Nazarene church in Colorado Springs. Like last year, it was an amazing experience.

The Sunday school students and teachers filled and wrapped shoe boxes to send to needy children in other parts of the world for Christmas. We cut and tied fleece blankets for local children. A group traveled to Magdalena, Mexico, to help work on the orphanage there for

a week over Thanksgiving. May God bless our efforts as we strive to serve Him and may He be glorified.

**CONNECTICUT
ROCKVILLE
Laura Virkler
Amber Rocke**

“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!”

Psalms 133

We have had a busy month here in Rockville! Many visitors have come, for which we are thankful. We had the blessed privilege this month to hear the Memorandum read to us. Laboring with our home Elder in this important work were Elder Bros. Andy Stoller (Sis. Roberta, Smithville, OH), Ken Indermuhle (Sis. Linda, Sardis, OH) and John Jackson (Sis. Peggy, Bay City, MI). Ministering Bro. Shawn Metzger (Sis. Sandy, Philadelphia, PA) was also visiting us that weekend. We shared a wonderful evening of encouragement, instruction, and admonition, all necessary things for the believer to hear. May these brothers be blessed richly for the time they spent for the work's sake.

“...Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

Matt. 3:2

Our hearts rejoice with souls that have begun a walk of repentance in the past weeks. Our friends, Patrick McMann, Louis Lipton, and David Beutel (Bro. Gene and Sis. Lynne), surely have our prayers and encouragement. May they ‘strive aright’ to lay a solid foundation. We pray many more would be encouraged to come and taste and see!

“Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.”

Genesis 2:24

The engagement of two couples has been announced to us. Believing that the Lord has brought them together, Bro. Josh Bahler (Bro. Steve and Sis. Lori) and Sis. Carole Hoffman (Bro. Arlo and Sis. Lynn) plan to be joined in marriage. Also, Bro. Jacob Virkler (Bro. Terry and Sis. Cindy) and Sis. Ashlee Hunt (Ken and Sis. Karen) have the faith to seek a new life together in marriage. We wish both of these couples the blessing of God as they seek to walk together in the Lord.

Ministering Bro. Ted Witzig Jr. and his wife, Sis. Donna, were with us for a weekend this month. It was a blessing to have them with us, and we thank Bro. Ted for being willing to be used while in our midst. May his efforts be blessed!

Bro. Andrew and Sis. Colleen Luginbuhl welcome a new little boy to the family. Anderson Kenneth joins big brothers, Wade and Landon. Grandparents are Elder Bro. Kevin and Sis. Cheryl Ryan and Bro. Ken and Sis. Kay Luginbuhl.

Our Sis. Gerri O'Brien was recently hospitalized, and has recovered, for which we are thankful. Our prayers remain with all who experience the trials of health that life often brings, and hope that God will bring healing and comfort to each one.

Our prayers and sympathy extend to those who have lost loved ones recently. Sis. Diane (Bro. Dan) Stoller's mother passed away in the past weeks. Also, our friend, Chris Kozak (Trudi), lost his father, Kenneth, in the past few days. May each of these dear ones feel the love and sympathy of the brethren in their time of need.

"Now the Lord of peace himself give you peace always by all means. The Lord be with you all."

II Thessalonians 3:16

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
WASHINGTON
Henrietta Meyer**

Our caretakers for October were Bro. Nate and Sis. Rhonda Gutwein from Francesville, IN. We still need caretakers for February. Please contact Sis. Doreen Steffen at bdsteff@yahoo.com.

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Bill Waibel (Sis. Carol, Bay City, MI), Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Sis. Michelle, Philadelphia, PA), Bro. Daron Price (Sis. Monica, Milford, IN), Bro. Tom Bolliger (Sis. Jane, Tremont, IL) and Bro. Lynn Fiechter (Sis. Ronda, Bluffton, IN).

"This do in remembrance of me."

Luke 22:19

The Sunday Bro. Ben was here we were blessed to be able to take part in Holy Communion.

An additional benefit of college students attending school in our area is having parents and grandparents visit. Visitors this month were from Rockville, CT; Gridley and Forrest, IL; Indianapolis and LaCrosse, IN; Morris, MN; Taylor, MO; and Philadelphia, PA.

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

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

**FLORIDA
FORT LAUDERDALE
Renee Mangold**

We were thankful to have visiting ministers this month. Visiting were Bro. Gene Lehman (Sis. Verna, Wolcott, IN) and Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL). We pray that God would bless them.

We enjoyed a potluck at Bro. Rod and Sis. Sally Gress's home while Bro. Earl and Sis. Dixie were here. It was a nice evening to sit outdoors and enjoy each other's fellowship.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Joe and Sis. Shirley Braker on the passing of Sis. Shirley's father. We pray that the Lord would hold them close and comfort them in their time of loss.

We were so thankful that Della Martin suffered only a minor injury from a fall when she was recently accosted for her purse. There are so many hurtful things that happen in the world these days and it's our prayer that our faith will always remain strong and that the Lord would show us the way to pray for and forgive those who challenge us in our Christian walk.

**FLORIDA
NORTH FORT MYERS
Naomi Vogel**

We were just getting a nice crowd (up to 80) and now some are heading north to spend the holidays with family. By the looks of the weather news, they will be anxious to come back. Actually, when it is cold up there, it is cooler down here, so we have had to break out warmer clothing.

Our Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz and his wife, Sis. Jeni, were down for a visit and he read the Memorandum. Afterwards, we had a potluck dinner. As always, there was an abundance of delicious food and warm fellowship!

We have resumed our mid-week services at N Ft. Myers but the Naples services will not resume until January. We have been searching for a new location for those services, but have not had any success, so they will continue to be at

the Best Western for another year. Last Sunday we all attended a surprise 80th birthday celebration for Sis. Carolyn Siegle after church. She was truly surprised! Her children planned it and 5 out of the 7 of them were present. She is still very active and brings a pie for our "potluck" lunch every Sunday.

We pray for healing for Sis. Donna Wuethrich and Sis. Ginny Schock who are undergoing tests for physical problems, Sis. Mary Ann Feller who is recovering from an automobile accident, and Bro. Stan Vogel who had shoulder surgery. We have also learned that Bro. Stan Hodel is having hip replacement surgery soon, so keep him in your prayers.

Apparently, our bodies are showing the tests of advanced age and the only consolation is that we are closer to our Heavenly Reward!

FLORIDA, SARASOTA

DiAnne Brown

Greetings from sunny and chilly Florida! The Gulf Coast has been experiencing a true autumn the last few weeks with temperatures about 30° below average. The crisp, sunny days and nippy nights have been such a nice welcome to the season and will certainly be one of the blessings on my list this Thanksgiving.

The chaotic state of world markets is causing great concern for many and could diminish the counting of blessings this Thanksgiving, but count them we shall. Blessings like faith and redemption, family and loved ones, a home, opportunities to serve, work to do, full tummies and warm beds. The list does not end, and while we surely have thankful hearts every day, it is good to come together and express a special time of gratitude to our Lord. If we had no other blessing than the right to assemble and praise our God, that would be blessing enough and we will remember those who do not have this blessing to count.

With great joy we announce the safe

arrival of China Estelle Ott. She made a surprise debut (one month early!) last Monday, November 22 in perfect health and is the first child of Bro. Aaron and Sis. Kimberly Ott. Grandparents are Bro. Glenn and Sis. Mardell Ott (Congerville, IL) and Bro. Vic and Sis. Brenda Bauman (Smithville, OH). We also welcome Bro. Glenn and Sis. Mardell as our newest winter snowbirds. It will be so nice to have you with our congregation the next few months.

A team effort was employed on "Make a Difference Day" as several brethren and friends gathered to perform labor for our elderly brethren and our church. One crew did lawn and landscaping work at Bro. Rich and Sis. Aldine Martin's, another team spent the day washing windows for Sis. Marjorie Pittman and a third performed needed painting and maintenance on the church property. The givers were certainly as blessed as the receivers in this endeavor.

Many hands made light work as we gathered for World Relief night to make applesauce for our elderly. It was hard to tell who enjoyed it the most – the adults or the children. The chopping, cooking and mill grinding was made lighter as Bro. Virgil (Sis. Suellen) Kaeb led us in a cheerful chorus of "The Golden Harvest". When all was done, we had a bountiful harvest that will bless many tables this winter.

On November 8, Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Sis. Judy) was assisted by Elder Bro. John Laukhuf (Sis. Marcia, Latty, OH) and our Bro. Jeff Streitmatter in the reading of the Memorandum. We are so thankful for these brethren and their guardianship of our faith. When visiting ministers grace our services, our walk of faith is strengthened by their ministry. An offering of thanks is given to Elder Bro. David Graf (Sis. Barbara, Akron, OH) and Bro. Vic Bauman (Sis. Brenda, Smithville, OH) for their sharing of the Word with us in recent months.

All of us in Sarasota wish you a Happy Thanksgiving and a Christmas

season full of cheer and blessings. If you live in a colder climate – remember it is usually sunny and warm here and our welcome mat is always out.

GEORGIA, ATLANTA

Melinda Gramm

Our congregation has been gathering gifts to pack in shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child. We filled 60 shoeboxes with crayons, small toys, watches, soap, toothbrushes, socks and other items. We pray that many lives can be touched and the message of God's love can be shared around the world.

We want to thank our visiting ministers for their service this month: Bro. Gary Maibach (Sis. Mary Ann, Smithville, OH) and Bro. Ben Manz (Junction, OH).

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE

Doreen Moser

Jenn Johnson

In this life one thing is needful,
That we may Thy pleasure seek
This shall be my constant striving
Thee, Lord, in my heart to keep...

Seeking the pleasure of sharing God's Word, Bro. Sam Bachtold expounded on the topic of mercy at a recent Wednesday evening gathering. Mercy has different meanings to most of us and Bro. Sam shared God's Word and helped us all to understand what mercy really means in a Christian's life.

Seeking the pleasure and striving to do God's will while here on earth, Bro. Josh Steffen and Sis. Colby Sutter's engagement was announced. Bro. Dean and Sis. Carol Steffen and Bro. Richard and Sis. Kay Sutter are the parents. Sis. Colby and her son, Lathyn, will certainly be welcomed and we hope they will visit Belvidere often as Bro. Josh will be moving to Taylor.

Seeking the pleasure of the fellowship of the saints, our congregation hosted invite a friend weekend this

month. We had many brothers and sisters share time with us. Aspiring to please our Lord, we enjoyed a singing on Saturday and Sunday evening. Sunday evening, we also celebrated the precious birth of Madeline Grace, granddaughter of Gary and Sis. Doreen Moser.

He who has Thee in this life
will not faint in fiercest strife
He can praise Thee, Lord, with glad-
ness,
Tho' the world should rave in mad-
ness.

As the holidays are approaching and the world certainly seems to be in turmoil, may we always remember to give thanks always and to trust and praise the Lord whatever may come our way. May we continue to strive in the Lord's vineyard here on earth as long as He allows us to.

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

As we approach Thanksgiving, we are reminded how much we have to be thankful for, even in today's troubling times. Bro. Dennis Kaufmann recently noted in his sermon that Thanksgiving is a year-round state of the heart, not just a single day of the year.

We rejoice with Bryce Wegman (Bro. Dave and Sis. Karen) as he has chosen to give his life to the Lord. We pray that he feels God's grace and guidance through his repentance.

Bro. Rick and Sis. Shawn Masters welcomed a new baby girl, Khloe Addison, into their family on October 16. She joins siblings, Cody, Kaitlyn, and Kylie. Grandparents are Bro. Everett and Sis. Bev Hari, and Bro. Bill and Sis. Mary Masters (Fort Myers, FL).

Congratulations to Bro. Tim Schmidgall and Sis. Emily Frank (Tremont), who were united in marriage on November 2. Their parents are Bro. Randy and Sis. Marj Schmidgall, and

Bro. Doug and Sis. Cheri Frank (Tremont).

Thanks to everyone who helped make the Bible Class Chili Supper and Servant Auction a success. Proceeds will fund the 2009 Bible Class Mission Trip.

**ILLINOIS, BRADFORD
Philip and Donna Nenadov**

It seems like this past year flew by so fast that we can't even imagine where the time was spent. So many things have happened and it feels like the next year is going to be the same way as the last one. We can be thankful that we have the assurance that God is in control of all things, that whatever takes place in our lives will have the overshadowing of one great promise: The Lord will provide.

We are thankful the Lord has provided peace to Loren Stoller who has expressed this wonderful peace in his life and now desires baptism and a new covenant with his Lord. Loren is the son of Bro. Nate Jr. and Sis. Sherrill.

God has provided the opportunity for Julia Ruth to be born November 12 to our Elder Bro. Bruce and Sis. Elizabeth Endress. Her siblings are Matthew, Sarah, Laura and Andrew. Grandparents are Bro. Perry and Sis. Carol Klopfenstein (Gridley) and Bro. Gary and Sis. Evelyn Endress. Great-grandparents are Bro. Robert and Sis. Pearl Miller (Portland, OR) and Sis. Ruth Schrock (Oakville, IA). We are thankful for her safe arrival and wish God's blessings upon this dear family.

We were privileged to have ministering Bros. Paul Eisenmann (Sis. Elaine, Burlington), and Tony Manz (Sis. Denise, Junction) visit our church this past month. May the Lord continue to bring forth His Word in might and power. We are thankful He provides us with the opportunity to hear His Word from the pulpit each week.

God be with you 'til we meet again.

Note of Thanks:

I am thankful that the Lord has been with me during my recent hospital stay and recovery at home. I truly appreciate all the prayers on my behalf and know that the Lord does truly provide. May He bless each of you for your thoughts of love and kindness.

Sis. Lucille Kieser

**ILLINOIS, CHICAGO
Rachel Meyer**

Greetings from Chicago. We thank two dear visiting ministers for sharing the Gospel with us this past month. On October 19, Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington, IL) ministered to us, and on November 12, Bro. Dan Moser (Elgin, IL) presented a Topical Bible Study on "The Mind of Christ". We thank him for being used by the Spirit on our behalf.

Loved ones among us often face ups and downs regarding health issues. Bro. Bill Art needs our prayers as he is recovering from a medical procedure. Our Sis. Ruth Schumacher, who was an important part of our Chicago church for many years, is facing a serious health issue and we wish to hold her up in prayer. Sis. Ruth is living in Morton, IL, presently.

On October 24, our church family was able to meet at the table for our Communion Supper. How important it is that we "remember" as Christ instructed us in the Bible. We appreciated the efforts made by our Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann and Bro. Brad Eisenmann, (Ordained Deacon).

October 25 brought the Annual Sunday School Weiner Roast at Bro. Jim and Sis. Kathy Schlatter's home. This is a rich tradition and we thank them for continuing to welcome us from year-to-year.

On October 26, the Sunday School children and young adults sang for the church. Don't we all feel a precious hope for these souls as they grow in the Lord?

As a church, we were privileged to

study and continue our ongoing discussion of the topic, "Assurance of Our Salvation." Our study and discussion encourages involvement by any Brother, Sister or Friend; for this is how we learn. "Where two or three are gathered..."

A very well-known media mogul has a monthly article in which she writes about, "What I Know for Sure." Recently, I picked up a copy of a magazine in which she had posed the question, "What Do You Know For Sure?" to some well-known/prominent persons. I read with interest their responses. Some of them took up more space than others, but all of the answers were different in their perspectives. Also, some of these persons struggled to come up with an answer and consequently ended up musing about the answerability of the proposed question.

I decided I wanted to answer the question. As I ruminated upon what I knew for sure, I realized there is only one answer that will fit – an answer every person on this Earth can know for sure. So, here is my answer to the question, "What Do I Know For Sure?"

I know for sure that Jesus Christ is the Son of God; He died for me so I can go to Heaven; and He is returning some day to the Earth to take His saints to be with Him and God forever. That is what I know for sure.

ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN **Jackie Eisenmann**

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

Proverbs 3:5-6

Our congregation has been reminded of this truth in a number of ways this month. "Trusting in the Lord with all thine hearts", Sunday, October 19, was the wedding day of our Sis. Heidi Knobloch and Bro. Joe Gerber

from Bluffton, IN. Their parents are Bro. John and Sis. Cheryl Knobloch (Morton, IL) and Bro. Doug and Sis. Ruby Gerber (Bluffton, IN). Their wedding was held in the Morton, Illinois, Heidi's home church. The Champaign congregation is rejoicing that God has "directed" Joe and Heidi to make their home in Champaign!

Hannah Waibel (Bro. Brian and Sis. Wendy) has started her repentance and is learning to "trust God and lean not on her own understanding". We rejoice with Hannah and pray that she will feel God's nearness as she seeks Him with all her heart.

While our congregation is rejoicing, we are feeling a loss as we have had two families move away from Champaign-Urbana this month. Bro. John and Sis. Lisa Walder and their six children have moved to Remington, IN. Sis. Michelle Cornell and her daughter, Katie, have moved to the Bloomington area and plan to attend the Gridley church to be with her family there. While we rejoice with these families that God is "directing their paths", we will greatly miss them here in C-U. We will pray for them in this transition in their lives and know that God will go with them. We hope they will come to visit their friends in Champaign often.

Our congregation has been instructed in the ways of the Lord by several visiting ministers for our Wednesday night Bible studies this month. We want to thank Bro. Ron Heiniger (Bloomington, IL), Bro. Paul Zimmerman (Forrest, IL), and Bro. Justin Koch (Washington, IL) for their efforts on our behalf. We also were blessed on Sunday, October 19, when Bro. Glen Braker came to help out on the pulpit. We also want to thank Bro. Glen for his service.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK **Vickie Maul** **Janie Waldbeser**

We appreciate the labors of love from ministering Bros. Don Sinn

(Silverton), Les Kaeb, Jeff Neihouser (Francesville), Ted Hirstein (Morton), and Beirne Messner (Morris) who willingly shared God's Holy Word.

"Love of all gifts is the greatest..."

We rejoice with two couples who recently joined together. Bro. Brett Steffen (Bro. Rod and Sis. Beth) and Sis. Olivia Hoerr (Bro. Don and Sis. Jackie, Peoria) were united together as one on October 26. We are also thankful that Bro. Lester Stock and Sis. Joyce Bauer were united in marriage on November 16. We wish them God's richest blessings as they now begin their walk together in the Lord.

Bro. John and Sis. Jennifer Fehr welcomed twin boys, Jason Alan and Jordan Alex, into their family circle. Excited siblings are Aaron, Stephanie, Michelle and Brian. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Shirley Ifft (Forrest) and William and Helen Fehr of Fairbury. Bro. Fred and Sis. Joan Waldbeser are thankful grandparents of Mary Elizabeth, born to Bro. Phil and Sis. Charlotte Waldbeser of Elgin, IA. We wish God's blessing on their family. Also welcomed into this world was little Zoe Elizabeth, born to Antonio and Cristela (Martinez) Cardenas of Mokena, IL. Welcoming her home are brothers, Christopher Aranda and Abdiel Cardenas.

Sis. Bertha Honegger passed away on November 17. She had been a resident at Fairview Haven Nursing Home in Fairbury. Surviving are a son, Everett (Maleah) Honegger of Alaska; a daughter, Bonnie (Henry) Wademan of California; and sister-in-laws, Sis. Gladys Knapp and Sis. Jean Knapp.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE **Holly Zobrist**

When we asunder part
It gives us inward pain
But we shall still be joined in heart
And hope to meet again.

Hymns of Zion #156 v.4

This past month, we bid farewell to

Bro. Phil and Sis. Kristen Wyss and their two little girls, Naomi and Rachel. They felt the Lord's leading to Elgin, IA. We will miss them, but have confidence that God can use them in Elgin.

We also said good-bye to our Sis. Kali Zobrist (Bro. Mike and Sis. Susie) as she has felt the Lord's leading to move to Magdalena. We, once again, are thankful that God can use her there, but we will miss her presence in Congerville.

We felt blessed to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of our new Bro. Andy Stevens and Sis. Elizabeth Currier. It was evident that the Lord has worked in each of their lives.

Dearest child, we bid thee welcome in this precious brotherhood.

Zion's Harp #34 v.2

Our visiting ministers this past month were Elder Bro. Jim Plattner (Sis. Marlene, Princeville), Bro. Wayne Wiegand (Sis. Rosemary, Goodfield), Bro. Jim Vierling (Sis. Linda, Eureka), Bro. Earl Beery (Sis. Suzanne, Rittman), and Bro. Floyd Frieden (Sis. Jan, Elgin, IA). We appreciate them taking the time to minister to us.

Bro. Merion Miller passed away this month. Our thoughts and prayer are with his surviving children, Fred (Judy), Russell (Carol), Sis. Norma Stahl (Bro. Ernie), and Sis. Joyce Zobrist (Bro. Rusty).

I've failed to mention in the past few months, that another soul has made the decision to live for the Lord. Evan Zimmerman (Bro. Ben and Sis. Kathy) decided to turn his back on the world and turn to the Lord in repentance. We rejoice that he's made this decision and will keep him in our prayers.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN

**Amy Gasser
Miriam Gasser**

"And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins."

Matthew 1:21

We had an unusual number of visiting ministers last month, most of whom came for a special gathering on October 26. May God bless each one who willingly proclaimed His Word through the Spirit. The ministers included Bros. Erik Givens (Princeville, IL), Brad Gudeman and Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL), Dan Koch (Tremont, IL), Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL), Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL), Todd Stoller (Latty, OH), Chris Wuethrich (St. Louis, MO), Jon Zeller (Morton, IL), and Paul Zimmerman (Forrest, IL).

It encourages us to hear of souls who heed the Master's kind invitation. Those who have recently answered the call to repentance are Jill Kellenberger (Bro. Ken and Sis. Vicki), Heather Steffen (Bro. Gary and Sis. Lois), and Maria Steffen (Bro. Dave and Sis. Linda).

On November 4, Avery Leann joined the family of Bro. Fred and Sis. Shaena Dietz. Logan, Ashlyn, and Leighton welcomed their new little sister. Bro. Don and Sis. Leann Schambach and Bro. Ken and Sis. Mardell Dietz (Bradford, IL) are also delighted to have a new granddaughter.

We pray for God's blessings on the marriage of Derek Krueger (Jim and Mary) and Kalan Berry of Alabama. Their wedding was on November 16. The couple plans to move near Rochester, MN, for employment.

Our sympathy is extended to those who have lost loved ones. Sis. Edie Anliker's sister passed from time to eternity, as well as Rick Schmidgall's grandfather and Bro. Keith Leman's mother, Sis. Edna Leman of Eureka, IL. May the Comforter help to fill the void in each heart.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

**Cindy Stoller
Dee Baer**

Best wishes to Sis. Lainey Frank (Bro. Scott and Sis. Elaine) and Bro.

Josh Banwart (Brad and Julie, West Bend, IA) who were recently married. We will miss Sis. Lainey in Eureka, but are confident that God will provide in her new home.

Our thanks to visiting Elder Bro. Curt Frank and ministering Bros. Ed Knecht (Silverton, OR), Kevin Banwart (West Bent, IA), Paul Kilgus (Fairbury, IL), Floyd Frieden (Elgin, IA), and Dan Stoller (Remington, IN).

We also appreciate the service of Bro. Ben Walder (Congerville, IL) along with Bro. Ervin and Bro. Steve in the reading of the Memorandum. We were edified and encouraged.

Bro. Bill and Sis. Heidi Wettstein welcomed a new daughter, Trudy Sue, on November 2. Happy siblings are Abbie, Molly, Mitch, Darci, Burke, and Josie. Thankful grandparents are Sis. Donna Wettstein and Bro. Sam and Sis. Pat Plattner (Goodfield, IL).

Prayers are offered on behalf of Sis. Ruby Grusy, Sis. Mick Hodel (Bro. Harold), Sis. Evelyn Gudeman (Bro. Don), Bro. Eli Fisher (Sis. Helen) and Bro. Jim Ringger (Sis. Lyola) as they are recovering from various maladies.

Gone to her reward is Sis. Edna Leman, mother of Sis. Sharon Martin (Bro. Alan) and Sis. Jane Wiegand (Bro. Don) of our congregation, and Bro. Keith (Sis. Libby, Elgin, IL) and Sis. Jean Compton (Bro. Gary, Bluffton, IN).

Also grieving are Bro. Sam Schmidgall (Sis. Gladys) and Sis. Ruth Martin (Bro. Lester) in the death of their brother, Bro. Clarence Schmidgall (Morton, IL). Sis. Thelma Saathoff (Bro. George) said farewell to her brother, Richard, of Fairbury, IL. Also, Sis. Lola Stoller (Bro. Stan), Bro. Ted Blunier (Sis. Donna), Bro. Myron Blunier (Sis. Elaine) and Kawin Blunier said goodbye to their step-sister, Sis. Maxine Larson, Minneapolis, MN.

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY
Elizabeth Fehr
Anna Schmidgall

"He hath showed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?"

Micah 6:8

The results of the recent election may cause our hearts to fear as we wonder what the future holds, but God will provide for us if we can fulfill His requirements and trust in Him.

Bro. Matt Steffen (Sis. Deanna, Princeville) and Bro. Bob Beebe (Sis. Sue, South Bend, IN) served our congregation when our Bible class hosted Tremont and Eureka Bible classes. Other visiting ministers this month were Bro. Art Mueller (Sis. Marlene, Belvidere), Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Sis. Nancy) and Bro. Paul Zimmerman (Sis. Loretta), both of Forrest, and Bro. Clark Stoller (Sis. Cindy, Gridley).

We wish God's richest blessings for our Sis. Susan Herr (Sis. Cindy) and Bro. Ben Mueller (Bro. Ron and Sis. Loida, Forrest) as they joined hands in holy matrimony. May our Lord be their constant Guide.

Our congregation rejoices with Bro. Kent Steidinger (Bro. Martin and Sis. Trish) on his engagement to Sis. Beth Manz (Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Gwen, Junction, OH). We pray for God's Spirit to be with them as they plan for a future together.

The angels in heaven rejoice over one soul that repents, as do we. Wayne (Verla) Davis has found the blessing of humility in turning to the Lord in true repentance. We wish him much grace and we also pray God will grant healing strength for him as he has spent time in the hospital. Also hospitalized was Bro. Donald Broquard (Sis. Ione) who suffered injuries from a fall off of a grain bin. He underwent his second surgery since the fall. We pray for continued healing and strength for him.

We extend sympathy to the family of

Sis. Bertha Honegger, who passed away on November 17. Originally from Cissna Park, Sis. Bertha attended church at Fairbury since moving to Fairview Haven several years ago.

Note of Thanks:

We want to express our thanks and appreciation for those who showed their care and concern through gifts, cards and all the prayers offered on our behalf. May God richly bless each one of you!

In Christian Love,
 Bro. Don and Sis. Leona Kaisner

ILLINOIS, FORREST
Jill Wenger
Lori Leman

We thank Bro. Steve Baner (Gridley, IL) and Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN) for sharing God's Holy Word with us. May God bless them for their service in the Lord's vineyard.

Our Bro. Ben Mueller (Bro. Ron Sr. and Sis. Loida) and Sis. Susan Herr (Sis. Cindy) joined hearts and hands in holy matrimony at Fairbury, IL, on November 2. We wish this young couple God's richest blessings and warmly welcome Sis. Susan to our church at Forrest.

"I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven, over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance."

St. Luke 15:7

Thankfulness and joy abounded throughout our congregation as 14 souls came seeking the Lord humbly in repentance. They are: LeAnne and Carmen Edelman (Bro. Ken and Sis. Carol), Clint and Colin Steidinger (Bro. Ray and Sis. Shelly), Betsy and Larissa Steidinger (Bro. Glen and Sis. Holly), Kay and Gary Leman (Bro. Phil and Charlotte), Amanda Mueller (Bro. Stacey and Tonda), Ashley and Abby Steidinger (Bro. Roger and Sis. Sheila),

Jodi Wenger (Bro. Rich and Sis. Jill), Tami Schmidgall (Bro. John and Sis. Janet), and Sharon Kaeb (Maurice and Brenda).

Our prayers are with Sis. Kathryn Steidinger (Bro. Ivan), Bro. Larry Bachman (Sis. Donna), Jordan Zimmerman (Bro. Kent and Sis. Paulette) and Bro. Les Zimmerman (Sis. Louise), who have spent time in the hospital this month. May the Lord sustain them in their affliction and make all things bearable through His mercy and love.

We extend our love and prayers to Debbie Bachtold on the loss of her mother, Judith Harper of Colfax, IL. May the Lord be near her in this time of grief.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD
Amber Grimm
Rita Bauman

"And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him."

Genesis 2:18

On November 8, Sam Rokey and Kristin Barnes were united in marriage. Their parents are Bro. Ben and Sis. Shelley Rokey and Randy and Beth Barnes, Eureka. We wish this couple God's blessings as they start their life together.

Our hospital patients this past month were Sis. Sandy Hohulin (Bro. Sam), Sis. Cindy Schmidgall (Bro. Randy), and Bro. Gale Wiegand (Sis. Jane). We are prayerful for their recovery, entrusting them to the Great Physician to comfort and heal according to His will.

Our visiting ministers this past month were Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL) and Bros. Trent Meiss (Sis. Lucy, Eureka, IL) and Don Manz (Sis. Connie, Junction, OH). We thank them for their messages and pray that God will bless them for their labors of love.

"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

Our convert, Bethany Bauman (Bro. Ben and Sis. Marge), has found God's peace. We look forward to her testimony and baptism. May she continue to walk in this precious peace.

Note of Thanks:

We would like to thank all of you who remembered us during Larry's recent surgeries, hospital stay and since returning home. Thank you for the cards, food, visits and especially the prayers. May God bless you for your thoughtfulness and love shown to us.

Bro. Larry and Sis. Betty Bauman

**ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY
Perry Klopfenstein**

Surely, we have many joys in our Christian fellowship from Sunday to Sunday. Often, they come in a surprising way. Recently, I asked a young eleven-year-old girl if her older brother (in high school) was repenting. With enthusiasm, she confirmed he was. She confirmed, too, that he was doing pretty well in his new walk. I asked her if she prays for him, and with equal enthusiasm, she responded affirmatively. This was very touching to me.

Our Thanksgiving season has come and gone. Bro. Ed Fritz (Washington, IL) was here for the Thursday morning service. It is wonderful our nation has instituted a special day of Thanks giving. The original intent was to thank God for the annual blessings. And multitudes still do. But often, when people of the nation refer to being thankful, they sometimes omit the phrase "to God." Nonetheless, Thanksgiving Day is a special one, and unique to our country. May we one and all be thankful to God for our many, many blessings.

Bro. Mark Wettstein (LaCrosse, IN) was our visiting minister on November

30. We surely thank him (and God) for his humble willingness to preach twice; and we were richly blessed. Surely, the friends of the truth were reminded of God's call, and the consequences if they don't respond in repentance. May God draw souls to the Saviour, here and everywhere. And may they respond, as the old fathers used to say, "Before it is once and forever too late."

Sis. Carolyn Schlipf had knee surgery, and is recovering. Bro. Tom Miller continues to take treatment for cancer, as does Bro. Barry Ehresman.

Diana Vercler (Bro. Tim and Sis. Sonia) is engaged to marry Nicholas Warnecke. Their wedding date has been set for March 7, 2009.

We welcome Sis. Michelle Cornell and her daughter, Katie Cornell, to our congregation. They live at 408 Rinney Drive in Normal. Also, we are glad to welcome Dan and TeAnna Herr and son, Zachary, who will be living at 29077 N. 1925 E. Road, south of Gridley in the old "Jampen" place.

A daughter, Mercy Ann, was born to Bro. Jeff and Sis. Cynde Stoller. Grandparents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Karen Stoller, and Bro. Gary and Sis. Elna Wettstein (Roanoke, IL). Siblings are: Jeremiah, 10, Faith, 9, Patience, 6, and Matthew, 2.

**ILLINOIS, MORTON
Annette Tanner
Julie Bahr**

God has provided a new enlarged facility for the Apostolic Christian Counseling and Family Services. The new building is located on the north edge of Morton. An Open House was held on November 16. Thank God for His faithfulness!

On November 3, Bro. Bob Pflederer held our Wednesday evening Family Worship service. Bro. Bob had an interesting topic dealing with the troubling times in which we live. We were truly blessed as we listened to the spiritual knowledge God imparted to him pertaining to today's world dilemmas and

the believers' responsibility towards them. In addition, we were blessed by several visiting ministers this month, including Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley), Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke), Bro. Tim Roecker (Peoria), Bro. Tom Bolliger (Tremont) and Bro. Brad Metz (Bloomington). We are grateful!

On November 2, Bro. Clarence Schmidgall passed on to meet his Creator. Surviving are his wife of nearly 74 years, Sis. Helen; two sons, Kenneth (Sandra) and Jack (Sis. Elaine), and one daughter, Sis. Shirley Braker (Bro. Joe). Bro. Harry and Bro. Sam Schmidgall are his surviving brothers and Sis. Ruth Martin his surviving sister. Our prayers and sympathy are with each one in the loss of Bro. Clarence.

Sympathy is also extended to the family of Sis. Irene Farney, wife of late Bro. Earl. Two daughters and two sons survive: Sis. Phyllis Farney, Janice (Daniel) Sturm, David (Sharon) Farney, and Daniel (Mary) Farney.

On November 8, Bro. Rod (Sis. Teresa) Blunier's mother, Alberta McCord, passed away. Let God comfort each one in their loss.

The weekend of November 15-16 Sis. Lara Kaiser (Bro. Mike and Sis. Joyce), Bro. Michael Leman and Bro. Nathaniel Leman (Bro. Tim and Sis. Beth) shared their testimonies of their great love for their Savior and were baptized. We were blessed to share in their joy!

We rejoice with Bro. Jack Krantz and Sis. Dorothy Roeschley as they were united in marriage the evening of November 19. It was a blessing to witness their vows.

Note:

On the evening of November 19, following the wedding, a woman's size 14, beige wool winter coat, $\frac{3}{4}$ long length, was mistakenly taken from Morton church. The owner's name is on a slip of paper in the pocket of the coat. A man's beige top coat was left in its place. Please call Morton church at

309-263-2883 and leave a message if you have information on this exchange.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Pam Fritzenmeier

We rejoice with Bro. Breck and Sis. Janie Nelson as their daughter, Gabrielle, has come in repentance. "Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth." Luke 15:10.

Lydia Renee was born October 22 to Rick and Susan (Huthmann) Scott. Her big sister, Allison, welcomes her home as well as grandparents, Bro. George and Sis. Ruth Huthmann, who are happy to have them close by in Morton.

Sunday, October 26, was the wedding day for two members of our congregation. Sis. Olivia Hoerr (Bro. Don and Sis. Jackie), and Bro. Brett Steffen of Champaign (Bro. Rod and Sis. Beth, Cissna Park) were united in holy marriage here in Peoria. The church was filled with many visitors including these ministering brothers: Bro. Jeff Neihouser (Sis. Sue, Francesville), Bro. Darren Plattner (Sis. Sue, Champaign), Elder Bro. Tom Stock (Sis. Karol, Cissna Park), Bro. Sid Kaufmann (Sis. Sandra, Cissna Park), Bro. Larry Bahr (Sis. Julie, Ft. Scott), and Bro. Neal Widmer (Sis. Kristine, West Lafayette). Meanwhile, our Bro. Ryan Menold (Bro. Mike and Sis. Sharon, Princeville) was married in Washington to Sis. Sheri Martin (Bro. Steve and Sis. Vicki, Eureka). We welcome Sis. Sheri to Peoria and pray for God's blessings on both of these newly married couples.

In a month of many weddings, we are delighted to report two more members of our congregation reciting their holy marriage vows. On November 9, Sis. Ashley Hoerr (Tom Hoerr and Becky Hoerr) was married to Bro. Logan Hangartner (Bro. Mark and Sis. Karen, Washington). Among the many visitors were ministers: Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Sis. Pam, Washington), Bro.

Jeff Thames (Sis. Brenda, Washington), and Bro. Steve Baner (Sis. Donnalou, Gridley). One week later, our Bro. Philip Sceggel (Bro. Mark and Sis. Judy) was united in marriage to Sis. Anna Esslinger (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gerty, Bloomfield) in Bern on November 16. Many from Peoria rode the bus out to Bern to share in their special day. God's blessings to each of these dear couples.

Our monthly family night on Wednesday, November 5, was presented by Bro. Wayne Leman (Sis. Julie, Roanoke). His topic was "As for me and my house" and we felt the prompting of the Holy Spirit in his words. We sincerely thank each visiting minister for your time and efforts on our behalf.

Our ministering Bro. Ken and Sis. Darlene Hoerr celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on October 25. Congratulations and thank you for your Christian witness!

We extend a hearty welcome to Bro. Willis and Sis. Lois Ehnle. They have made a life-changing transition from fifty-four years in Japan to Skyline Drive in Peoria. May God be your rich Rewarder and Companion as you adjust. Due to health reasons, Sis. Verna Puschell has moved to Florida to be with her family. Please pray for these dear ones and those near to them in this transition.

Surgical patients this month include Sis. Emily Tanner and Bro. Wayne Guingrich. Bro. George and Sis. Ruth Huthmann and Sis. Lois Ehnle continue to battle afflictions of the body. Please do pray for these dear souls.

Saturday evening, November 15, the young group hosted our senior citizens for a tasty meal followed by a singing program. Old and young alike are blessed by an evening such as this.

Several members of our congregation traveled to foreign lands this month. Bro. Ken Hoerr, Bro. Fedi Davidovics, and Bro. Mark Kieser were in Romania and Bro. Breck Nelson

spent time in China. We are thankful for their work in the Lord's service and their safe return home.

Please continue to pray for Bro. Tim and Sis. Joan Reinhard and family in Haiti. They report that the country is experiencing extra hardship yet due to the hurricane. Some roadways are nearly impassible, causing delays and concerns for safety in travel. Also, be prayerful for Bro. David Sceggel and Bro. Jonathan Aupperle, both in Magdalena. "For the oppression of the poor, for the sighing of the needy, now will I arise, saith the Lord; I will set him in safety from him that puffeth at him." (Psalm 12:5)

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

Linda Joos

Connie Christ

"Haste and seek your soul's salvation, Heed the word of God today." (Zion's Harp #52). We are thankful that Lindsey Kieser (Bro. Tim and Sis. Denise) has heeded God's Word and has begun her repentance. Our prayers are with her and all of our converts as they seek their soul's salvation.

We were privileged to hear the Memorandum on November 1 as Elder Bros. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Bruce Endress (Bradford, IL) assisted our Elder Bro. Jim in reading this timely letter to us. We appreciate the love and concern of our Elder Brothers as they fulfill their responsibilities given by God. Our other visiting ministers this month included Bros. Fred Witzig (Indianapolis, IN), Gary Brown (Forrest, IL), Scott Wegman (Taylor, MO), and Ed Knecht (Silverton, OR). We appreciate each brother's willingness to be used by the Spirit for our benefit.

We have several loved ones who have encountered health concerns during this past month. Andrew Streitmatter (Bernice), Sis. Teresa Martin (Bro. Dale), and Sis. Julie Dapper appreciate our prayers on their behalf. Sis. Grace Streitmatter would also

appreciate prayers for her son, Bob Streitmatter from Maryland, as he is experiencing health struggles as well.

We have several grandparents enjoying a new grandchild. Bro. Dean and Sis. Dawn Herrmann have welcomed Jenna Lanae, born to Bro. Matt and Sis. Kim Zimmerman (Forrest, IL) on October 11. Cambria is a happy big sister. Bro. Steve and Sis. Mary Lynn Streitmatter are enjoying Hunter James Cozadd, born to Ben and Esther on November 4. Gage, Lily and Madi are excited big siblings.

Our prayers are with several young couples who have recently announced their engagements. Bro. Dick and Sis. Jeanette Graham's son, Bro. B.J. Graham from Indianapolis, IN, was announced to Sis. Suzanne Zeller of Indianapolis, IN (Sis. Ginny and late Bro. Erik Zeller). Jill Wagenbach (Curt and Marybeth) is engaged to Luke Hoerr (Sis. Shelley Hoerr) from Taylor, MO. Sarah Baer (Bro. Larry and Sis. Vera) is engaged to Joe Malone from Charleston, IL. We pray for God's nearness and blessings for all of these couples as they plan for their late spring/summer weddings.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Walter Christ (Sis. Doris) as his brother, Kurt Christ from Germany, recently passed away. May God provide comfort to all sorrowing hearts.

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

**Jamie Hodel
Judy Sauder**

Glory be to God in heaven,
Praise to Christ, our Savior great!
By the power of Thy Spirit,
A new man Thou didst create.
Angels see in joyous rapture,
God's own word in deed fulfilled;
And amid our glad embraces
is this child of God revealed.

Zion's Harp #34

We were able to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of three dear souls. We rejoice with Bro. Gordon

and Sis. Karen Presley and Bro. Brandon Durand (Tom and Sis. Marsha) and welcome them into the fold. We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley) with us for the testimonies.

Bro. Tom Bolliger (Tremont, IL) was with us for our October topical Bible study. He shared with us "Lessons from the life of Joseph." Joseph's life reminds us of the words of Hymn #196 in our Zion's Harp:

Oft through bitter conflict,
yet to peaceful concord
leads my pilgrim way;
He who fought so glorious,
over death victorious,
He will near me stay;
Thou, O Lord, O'ercome'st the world,
so we'll conquer in believing,
victory achieving.

May we each keep an eternal focus that looks beyond our earthly tribulations.

"Two are better than one...and a threefold cord is not quickly broken." (Eccl. 4:9 & 12) We rejoice with Sis. Shelli Fischer (Bro. Keith and Sis. Dori) in her engagement to Bro. Matt Oesch (Bro. Tom and Sis. Michelle) of Alto.

Bro. Wayne and Sis. Marge Blunier became grandparents again on October 10 when Grace Catherine was born to Mark and Cathy Blunier. Grace's older sister is Audrey. Bro. Steve and Sis. Jill Aeschleman are second time grandparents. On November 14, Tyler Matthew came to bless the home of Matt and Jodi Gordon. Also welcoming Tyler home is big sister Alli. Tyler's paternal grandparents are Rich and Sharon Gordon of Normal.

Our prayers are with Bro. Brad Blunier as he mourns the loss of his mother, Olene McCord.

Sis. Malinda (Bro. Lloyd) Gerber, Bro. Dan (Sis. Kim) Maher, Sis. Charlene (Dan) Monk, and Sis. Dorothy Pfister are all facing various health issues. We pray they each can feel the healing hand of God.

We are so thankful for our young

group and their service to our congregation. On October 31, the annual Harvest Party was held for the youth of our congregation. Also, on November 14, they again served by offering to rake leaves for many in our congregation. We pray God will bless our young group for their love.

On November 15, the annual benefit sale was held for our Nursing Home. We are thankful for all who helped make this day a blessing. Funds raised from this sale benefit our Home and its residents.

Jonathan Braker (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Janice), who is currently serving with the Illinois Army National Guard, will be deploying for a one-year tour of duty to Afghanistan. We pray he will feel God's nearness as he serves overseas. Jonathon's address is:

SPC Jonathon Braker
PRT Asadabad
Camp Wright
APO AE 09354

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

**Teresa Rowell
Janice Sauder**

"I sought the Lord, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears. They looked unto him, and were lightened: and their faces were not ashamed."

Psalms 34:4-5

Once again our congregation enjoyed "the most special time of church life" when we could witness the testimonies and baptisms of two souls. We welcome Sis. Rachel Aberle (Bro. Pete and Sis. Debbie) and Sis. Alice Patton as dear Sisters in the family of God!

Our visiting ministers this past month were Bro. Craig Martin (Princeville, IL), Elder Bro. Mark Streitmatter and Bro. Matt Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL), Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzell (Sabetha, KS), Bro. Ken Dietz (Bradford, IL), and Bro. Don Miller (Minneapolis, MN). May God richly re-

ward these ministers of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

We rejoice with our Sis. Emily Frank (Bro. Doug and Sis. Cheri) and Bro. Tim Schmidgall (Bro. Randy and Sis. Marj) of Bloomington, IL, as they exchanged their wedding vows on November 2. May God bless their life together as they now establish a new home.

We have said "Farewell" to two dear brothers in faith this past month. First was our oldest Brother in Tremont, Chris Schweigert. He is survived by three sons: Dan (Connie), Roger (Nancy), and Joe (Nancy), all of Tremont; one daughter, Mary (Marv) Sauder of Peoria, IL; and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Bro. Chris also had three sisters: Sis. Matilda Koch, Sis. Eunice Rowell, and Sis. Vera (Bro. Walt) Aberle of Tremont.

We also extend sympathy to the family of our Bro. Wayne Miller. He is survived by his wife, Ruby; two daughters, Lanette (Tim) VanEtten of Havana, Leslie (Mark) Lindgren of Mt. Zion; one son, Shane (Joby) Miller of Astoria; and four grandchildren. May God comfort their hearts with the assurance that Bro. Wayne passed "from life unto life".

We also want to remember Bro. Ron Wagenbach (Sis. Liz) and his family at the passing of his first mother-in-law, Olene McCord. She was the mother of the late Tammy (Blunier) Wagenbach, and grandmother to their children. Our Sis. Jeanne (Bro. Dan) Wagenbach has also lost a grandma with the passing of Sis. Betty Leuthold from Lester, IA. May God's loving presence be with all these dear ones!

We joyfully report the birth of two baby boys! Brody Thomas arrived at the home of Kappy and Gayle Koch. He is also welcomed by brothers, Ryan and Sean, and grandparents, Bro. Elmon and Sis. Janice Koch. Our Sis. Kathy Rocke welcomes another grandson. Eli Simon was born to Bro. Doug and Sis. Trisha Rocke of Elgin, IA. May these

two couples receive wisdom from the Lord in the coming years as they rear their little boys.

We pray that Sis. Lee (Bro. Jim) Pflederer continues to find strength and healing after her hospital stay. Oftentimes it takes patience as one has to wait for that desired health to return. May God continue to grant us all the grace we need day by day.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON Elizabeth Heinold Nancy Knepp

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given."

Isaiah 9:6

Recently, I heard a meditation on this verse. A child was born. A son was given.

God has given us another child. Wade Leman is the new son of Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Nancy Leman and new brother of Wyatt. Grandparents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Lezlee Leman (West Bend, IA) and Bro. Norm and Sis. Polly Zaugg (West Bend, IA).

God has given us a new couple. The engagement of Bro. Drew Fehr (Dave and Sis. Linda) and Sis. Jodi Anliker (Bro. Art and Sis. Carol, Eureka) was announced. It is a special joy when both are from our home congregation. God bless you.

God has joined two couples in marriage. Bro. Logan Hangartner (Bro. Mark and Sis. Karen) wed Sis. Ashley Hoerr (Tom Hoerr and Becky Hoerr) in Peoria. Bro. Ryan Menold (Bro. Mike and Sis. Sharon, Princeville) wed Sis. Shari Martin (Bro. Steve and Sis. Vicki, Eureka). We enjoyed Bro. Steve on the pulpit that day and also Bro. Mark Schmidgall (Sis. Lisa, Eureka). Welcome, Sis. Ashley, and we miss you already, Sis. Shari!

Bro. Brad Metz (Sis. Karen, Bloomington) presented a Bible Study on always being ready to give an account of our salvation that others

might be saved, entitled "So, what's your story?"

Many received a blessing by singing with the Timber Ridge residents and others by attending Single Focus week-end in Nashville. The young group has given their time and talents to help others with fall chores.

God has given His Son. What have you given?

INDIANA, BLUFFTON Stefanie Kipfer Jan Schwartz

The Bluffton church has had the privilege over the last few months and weeks to be united in prayer for our church leadership and future. Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz presented to the congregation the opportunity to present a name for co-elder at the February conference. After much consideration and prayer, we are at peace and overwhelmingly support our Bro. Lynn Fiechter (Sis. Ronda) for this position. Our prayers are with him and his family as they make this transition and look forward to sharing responsibilities with Elder Bro. Ed. It has been evident through this process that God has directed this decision and that our ministering brothers have a love for each other and our church. This process has been a great reminder to all of us of the love that we share toward each other and our ministers.

As a church, we also grieved the passing of our retired Elder Bro. Orville Ringger on Sunday, November 9. We are prayerful for his children, Sis. Dixie Kipfer (Bro. Ned) and Kent Ringger (Jan), as they are saddened at his passing. We are thankful for Orville's living example to the end.

We also have been prayerful for the family of Sis. Dorothy Frank as she went to see Jesus on October 29. Our hearts are with Bro. Herb and Sis. Nancy and their families as they grieve the passing of their mother, grandmother and great-grandmother.

Several of our members and friends

have had to spend time in the hospital this month. We have been and will continue to lift up Sis. Justine Gerber, Sis. Violet Steffen, Todd Landrum (son of Sis. Colleen Landrum), Sis. Millie Schladenhauffen, Ivory Isch (daughter of Sis. Brittany Isch), Bro. Jeremy Ringger (Sis. Sarah), and Sherri Longenberger (Mark). We pray that they will all feel God's hand as they face uncertain times and health.

Our church was excited to share in the testimonies of Al and Becky Pfister on November 8; and Kyle Gerber (Bro. Kent and Sis. Kim), Mark Maller (Bro. Bob and Sis. Kim) and Joel Reinhard (Bro. John and Sis. Pam) on October 25. We were very blessed to have Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein (Sis. Linda, Francesville, IN) and Bro. Steve Ringger (Sis. Myra, Bluffton North) share the pulpit and message with us that weekend.

On October 22, our Bro. Rex Gentis and Sis. Martha Reinhard (Bluffton North) were united in marriage at Bluffton North. We pray that God will be with them as they join together in marriage.

The Bluffton churches were also blessed with many college-aged visitors during College Weekend on October 18-19. They were a blessing and we are thankful for their enthusiasm.

There were many Bluffton families excited by the arrival of little bundles this month. On October 23, Hudson Taylor Douglas was born to Jason and Leanne. Bro. Steve and Sis. Jan Kaehr are the happy grandparents of Hudson. Sis. Carla Girod gladly welcomed grandson Grady Andrew Rockwell into her family on October 24. Grady is the son of Kent and Brenda Rockwell. Cline William Gerber made his presence known on October 26 to Bro. Clint and Sis. Amy Gerber. Grandparents of Cline are Bro. Keith and Sis. Kay Gerber and Bro. Don and Sis. Suzie Fiechter. Cline joins brother Hudson in his family. Nora Ringger received a brother, Halden James Ringger, on November 4. Halden's parents are Bro. Jameson and Sis. Sheena and his

grandparents are Bro. Kendall and Sis. Sandy Ringger and Rob and Sis. Tonya Troxel. Bro. Aaron and Sis. Rachel Isch rejoiced with the addition to their family on November 14. Tyler Aaron joins his sister, Corinne. Tyler's grandparents are Bro. Barry and Imogene Isch and Bro. Rick and Sis. Beth Fiechter.

There are so many things to be prayerful and thankful for a month that all we can do is praise God for His many blessings. "I will be glad and rejoice in thee: I will sing praise to thy name, O thou most High." (Psalm 9:2)

**INDIANA
BLUFFTON NORTH
Jessie Longenberger
Sherry Pfister**

Two families from our congregation welcomed a new baby this past month. Bro. Graig and Sis. Corrine Stettner welcomed a son, Asa Fenton, on October 14. He joins two sisters, Ella and Mimi, and two brothers, Aidan and August. Bro. Kent and Sis. Brenda Rockwell were blessed with the birth of Grady Andrew on October 24.

Our sympathy and prayers are with the family of Sis. Dorothy Frank who went home to be with the Lord on October 29.

Hospitalizations this month were many. Bro. Rocky Giltner (Sis. Melinda) underwent a heart stent procedure and Sis. Anna Lantz (Bro. Jason) was hospitalized for pneumonia before returning home. Bro. Steve Gerber (Sis. Gayla) was hospitalized for an infection for several days and Ivory Isch, three year old daughter of Sis. Brittany and Marvin, underwent surgery at Riley hospital. Sis. Mildred Schladenhauffen was hospitalized and now resides at Christian Care with a halo to stabilize her spine. Sis. Lorene Geisel underwent hip surgery and has relocated to Christian Care. Sis. Joyce Fischer (Bro. Steve) had surgery and is recuperating at home and Sis. Rochelle Gerber (Bro. Rodney) is currently at Parkview Hospital for care. May we keep these loved ones in our prayers as

they trust in the Lord for their futures.

Bluffton North hosted College Weekend October 18-19. We were blessed to hear the young people sing together after Sunday services before they departed.

On November 9, we received Godly instruction with the reading of the Memorandum by Elder Bros. Phil Stettner and Steve Ringger.

"In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

1 Thess. 5:18

**INDIANA
FRANCESVILLE
Mildred Clauss
Barb Huber**

"Thou who hast given so much to me, give one thing more—a grateful heart!" When I read this quotation, I thought it seemed like an excellent prayer to have on our hearts at this special season of thanksgiving.

Bro. Jan and Sis. Val Gutwein and their family gave us an informative update on the mission work in Haiti on Sunday evening, October 26. They have now returned to their home and their work in Haiti. Our prayers are always with them; for God's grace, for His strength and courage to fortify them for the task at hand, namely to share the message of salvation through Christ.

Sis. Yvonne Gutwein has moved from her country home to a duplex in Parkview Village. We pray she will feel blessed as she adjusts to her new residence.

On Wednesday evening, November 12, Paul and Wilma Clauss shared their testimonies of faith to the congregation and were baptized. Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Remington, IN) assisted Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein and it was a blessed evening. We are so thankful God does not cease drawing hearts to Him, even in the later years of life.

On November 1, Bart Leman (Bro. Doug and Sis. Margaret) took as his bride, Amber Koebcke, daughter of lo-

cal residents, Dan and Bonnie Koebcke. We pray for God's love and His blessings to be a part of their lives.

Bro. Phillip Huber and Sis. Stephanie Gerst were united in marriage on November 9 in Alto, MI. Their parents are Bro. Wally and Donna Gerst (Alto, MI) and Bro. Brian and Sis. Jacki Huber from here. We are pleased to know they will make their home in our area and will be a part of our congregation. We wish them God's rich blessings in their life together.

Two young couples have announced their engagement: Dustin Wuethrich (Bro. Rick and Sis. Judy) plans to marry Sarah DeWees, daughter of Patrick and Karen De Weese from Rensselaer. Darin Gudeman (Bro. Dale and Sis. Peg) is engaged to marry Ariel Hartwell, daughter of Paul and Denise Hartwell of Rensselaer. We extend our best wishes and our prayers to these young couples as they make plans for their weddings.

Sis. Karel Anliker (Bro. Wendell) and also Bro. Leon Wuethrich have both recently undergone surgery. We are thankful to say each of them is having a good recovery.

Bro. Chad and Sis. Pam Huber and their family returned home from their mission work in Jamaica on November 19; and we rejoice to have them spend time here in our fellowship and with their families. We pray this can be a blessed time of refreshing for them.

We want to express our sincere thanks to Sis. Jessica Murray for her years of serving our congregation as one of our Silver Lining correspondents, and we welcome Sis. Mildred Clauss as she has agreed to help with this responsibility. May you both feel the blessings of God's nearness and peace in your lives.

**INDIANA
INDIANAPOLIS
Sandy Lichtle
Penny Schroder**

We shared in two special weekends

this month. On November 1, Elder Bros. Steve Gutwein (Sis. Linda, Francesville, IN) and Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign, IL) read the Memorandum. We appreciate the time and efforts our Elder Brothers give on our behalf.

The weekend of November 15, the Covenant Chamber Choir came to Indianapolis. They blessed us by singing on Saturday evening and Sunday afternoon. It was a beautiful opportunity to worship our Lord through song. We also enjoyed fellowshiping with those in the choir. The choir is comprised of members from various congregations.

A special thanks to Bro. Scott Schafer (Sis. Gigi, South Bend, IN) for sharing the Word with us on November 9.

INDIANA, LACROSSE

**Bethany Johnson
Julie Roche**

The holidays are fast approaching and the pace of life certainly does not slow. It is important to take time, even a few moments here and there, to remember what our God has done for us and to be thankful. From spiritual to physical things, He has supplied our every need. At the same time, remember that "Unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required" (Luke 12:48) It was made abundantly clear just how much we've been given at the Eastern World Relief Meeting that we were blessed to co-host with the Valparaiso congregation. Many thanks to the presenters, those who came to listen and share, and to the many who pitched in to help in one way or another. May God continue to work in our hearts, leading and directing us in paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

Bro. Paul Gasser (Sis. Joyce, Akron, OH) and Bro. Lucas Frank (Sis. Crystal, Detroit, MI) shared their time and service with us in the past month. Thank you to both brothers for their labors of love. May God richly bless all

who serve Him and preach the Word in truth.

Our hearts go out to Jason and Karla Martin and their family in the death of his grandfather. May God comfort them in their loss.

We are thankful that Bro. Gene Nuest (Sis. Norma) has completed his treatments and is continuing to feel better.

**INDIANA, LEO
Elizabeth Schrenk
Abigail Schrenk**

"Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the Lord thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee."

Deuteronomy 31:6

In the last month, many decisions were made that will affect our nation's future. This verse from Deuteronomy reminds us that despite the outcome, God is still in control.

The month of November contained several changes for Leo. We would like to welcome two new Gateway Woods house assistants. Sis. Lisa Zaagman (Alto, MI) is beginning to make a difference in teenage girls' lives. Sis. Kendra Baer (Washington, IL), is also getting accustomed to her new life here.

Willis Scott Wiegand arrived into the lives of Bro. Tim and Sis. Christa on October 26. Big brother Jack and foster sister Angela Larkin are excited to have him home. Bro. Roy and Sis. Jan Wiegand (Goodfield) and Bro. Dave and Sis. Brenda Kaeb (Bloomington) are his grandparents and also welcome Willis home.

Many family and friends have visited us over the past month. Among them are ministering Bros. Matthew Rassi (Sis. Bridget, Chicago) and Dwight Stoller (Sis. Lori, Latty). We want to extend a heartfelt thanks to all who have visited us.

INDIANA, MILFORD**Pam Beer
Carol Hurd**

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

Zion's Harp

On Sunday, November 9, our Sunday School classes sang songs of thanks with their "hearts and hands and voices". It is always a blessing of joy to listen to young voices in song.

The Milford church has been blessed with many visitors this month. On October 19, the families of Bro. Alvin and Sis. Carol Haab and also Bro. Bob and Sis. Barb Beer joined us for worship. Bro. Dick and Sis. Gwen Steffen had guests who are relatives of Gwen's and Bro. Don and Sis. Ruth Beer.

Bro. Maurice Beer went to his heavenly reward on October 24. He will be sorely missed by the Milford congregation.

Bro. Maurice's passing took some of the joy out of his brother Carlton's anniversary celebration. We wish to congratulate Bro. Carlton and Sis. Mary Ann Beer on their 60th wedding anniversary. May God continue to bless them.

We want to wish Bro. Jesse Beer a blessed 75th birthday. He is also Bro. Maurice's brother.

On Sunday, October 26, the Milford congregation had visitors present for the Haab Reunion. Visiting ministers were Bro. Earl Beery (Rittman, OH) and Bro. Gary Sinn (Latty, OH).

Our guest minister on Sunday, November 2, was Bro. Tom Troxel (La-Crosse, IN).

On Saturday, November 8, Elder Bros. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) and

Dan Kilgus (Remington, IN) read the Memorandum.

INDIANA, REMINGTON**Jenni Honegger
Marcella Tyler**

Greetings from Remington! Kaleb Isabell, the grandson of Bro. Phil and Sis. Diane, underwent back surgery and we are keeping him in our prayers that God will keep him in His care. He is able to be home again and we are thankful to see him in church. May God continue to heal him.

We have recently been blessed by several visiting ministers this past month. Bro. Gene Lehman (Sis. Verna) from Wolcott, IN, presented a Topical Bible Study reminding us that as descendants of Abraham we must strive for the same faith and trust that he had in God. Would we be willing to leave the comforts of home, having nothing, and go where God leads us? Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzell (Sis. Ellen, Sabetha, KS) was with us for the reading of the Memorandum. We were so encouraged by the efforts of our Elder Brothers on our behalf. And we also enjoyed the presence on our pulpit of Bro. Bruce Frank (Sis. Bonita, Cissna Park, IL).

Finally, with the elections decided this month, we are once again powerfully reminded that God alone is sovereign. "Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else." (Isaiah 45:22) We must remember to be prayerful for all of our elected leaders that they will seek God's guidance in fulfilling their duties.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND**Becky Langhofer
Natalie Virkler**

"Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."

Isaiah 1:18

As I sit writing this, I occasionally glance out my window at the melting snow. This snow, that was six inches deep and white as could be only days ago, is now patchy and dirty. The ground is showing through in places, marring the white landscape. When I read this promise, I am so thankful that God's imputed righteousness doesn't melt away like the snow. It's not patchy. Even though my righteousness is "as filthy rags", dirty and gross like the mud, God sees me as the clean, pure snow.

We are thankful to Bro. Tim and Sis. Jenny Sauder and Bro. Shane and Sis. Stephanie Beer for coming to share the details of God's work going on at Gateway Woods with us. May God continue to bless all those serving there at Gateway.

We also want to thank our Elder Bro. Curt Frank and his wife, Sis. Lyla, for coming to share the Memorandum with us. We were very encouraged to hear from our Elder Body and are thankful for the care and prayers we feel from them.

We were able to enjoy a Thanksgiving program put on by our small but enthusiastic Sunday School group. It is such a blessing to hear the Word of Truth spoken by our children, the next generation of our Church. Psalm 119:11 "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee." May this be true for each one of our precious little ones.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO**Marguerite Hoerr**

Our first Sunday in November was brightened by visitors who came to help us celebrate our Harvest Sunday. Ministering Bro. Ron Kipfer (Sis. Linda, Bluffton Country) blessed us with his morning service. The singing was especially beautiful because we had the voices from "Psalm 100" quartet and many young people from Francesville. I was tempted to quit singing so I could

listen more fully, but it challenged me instead to do my best and lift my voice in song along with them.

In the afternoon program, we were inspired again with a talk by Bro. Ron Kipfer, who spoke on "Creationism." Bro. Lyle Zeltwanger read a poem called "The Dash". It gave us all pause for thought in that on our grave memorials there is a dash between the date we are born and the date we meet our Maker. The poem asked, in essence, "what will our "dash" mean to those who follow? How much did we do for the Lord during the 'dash' that signifies our lifetime?" "Psalm 100" enlivened our spirits by their uplifting songs. Most of you are aware that "Psalm 100" is a men's quartet from Bluffton. The men who sing in this quartet are Bros. Matt Drayer, Derrin Drayer, Chet Baumgartner and Ryan Bertsch. On this particular Sunday, Bro. Ryan Bertsch was unable to attend. Sis. Tiffany Drayer, Matt's wife, sang in his place, and her sweet voice filled in and blended with the men's very ably and beautifully.

On Harvest Sunday, it has been a custom in Valpo church that the men prepare the Harvest supper. Our good friend, Dave Kotzer, chaired the food committee once again. This year we had a preview of the Thanksgiving dinners to come; turkey and dressing. It's only appropriate that we thank Dave and his committee for the treat they gave us. We do this from the bottom of our hearts.

On Saturday, November 8, our building was full of Eastern World Relief representatives (Indiana and East). We joined with the LaCrosse congregation in hosting this meeting. The all day informational meeting featured reports of the following projects: Servant Fund, Indiana Floods and Nappanee Tornado; Midwest Food Bank, Biloxi update, Loving Shepherd Orphanage, World Relief close to Home, Child Sponsorship Program, Magdalena MX, Indonesia/Mexico Work, Snapshots of Eastern Europe, Jamaica/Haiti, Mis-

issippi River Flood of 2008. The women had displays of their sewing projects in the Ladies Sewing room, and a beautiful display of needlework from Haitian girls who are taught this art.

The day was a blend of cooperation between the LaCrosse and Valparaiso churches, and I'm sure we all benefited from working together for this enriching and informative day to happen in our area of the State.

Our Bro. Ed Lester, Sr. is facing shoulder surgery quite soon. Bro. Ed has had multiple problems and surgeries with his shoulders and we are remembering to pray for him as he undergoes this surgery. When we ask how he's doing, he usually has a humorous reply. We respect his acceptance of the pain and we ask that God be especially close to him and his family during this time.

Bro. Doyle Frauhofer (Sis. Jane, Bluffton North) visited Valpo on November 16, and blessed our congregation with his ministry. Also visiting that day were Bro. Dick and Sis. Jeanette Graham and Bro. Ed. and Sis. Frances Knobloch of the Princeville congregation. Bob and I have fond memories of Bro. Doyle visiting the Milford congregation and the uplifting and memorable sermons he had for us.

On Wednesday, November 19, our Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Wolcott) and Bro. Steve Ringger (Sis. Myra, Bluffton North) journeyed to Valpo and blessed us by sharing the minutes of the Brotherhood Conference. Accompanying Bro. Steve and Sis. Myra, were lifetime friends of ours, Bro. Bob Sr. and Sis. Lela Meyer of Bluffton North. When brothers and sisters give of their time and talents and travel miles to do it, we are thankful for their love from the bottom of our hearts.

Looking back over the news items makes me realize our small congregation was mightily blessed during the month of November. Many of you found your way to our church and shared your love with us. As Indiana

winter months approach and the cold winds blow, the blessings we had in November will fill our hearts with warmth to carry us through. Yes, God has blessed us mightily.

**INDIANA
WEST LAFAYETTE
Hollie Meister
Darlene Walder**

Our congregation gathered for Family Praise Night on November 9. We participated in praise songs and Thanksgiving trivia. We also enjoyed food and fellowship that evening.

The Conference report was also shared with us this month. We would like to thank our Elder Bro. Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN) and Bro. Robert Beebe (South Bend, IN) for serving and sharing so faithfully.

We are also very thankful for the following ministers who have traveled to share God's Word with our congregation this month: Bros. Nile Bucher (Bluffton North) and John Reinhard (Bluffton).

Our congregation continues to pray for Sis. Reva Waibel, Sis. Mary Lou Kaeb (Darlene Walder's mother), and Chad Getz who have all been ill and in the hospital this past month.

May God bless each of you during this time of healing.

**INDIANA, WOLCOTT
Lynell Blume
Erica Blume**

We wish to extend a warm welcome to Bro. Allen and Connie Furrer. They have felt led to be a part of our Wolcott congregation and we pray that they can feel the love of the brotherhood as they assemble with us.

Bro. Gene Lehman conducted our topical Bible Study on October 29. As a basis for his subject, we studied the "father of faith", Abraham. Abraham's unquestioning obedience to God's requests brought him countless blessings. How many blessings do we miss out on by not submitting to our Lord

and Heavenly Father?

Our faith was renewed and strengthened by the reading of the Memorandum on Saturday, November 1. Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzell (Sis. Ellen; Sabetha, KS) shared this work with our Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna; Remington, IN). How necessary it is to be aware of the dangers that face God's children in these latter times! We certainly appreciate Bro. Gerry's willingness to serve us.

Bros. Randy Gudeman (Sis. Becky; Francesville, IN) and Nick Gutwein (Sis. Suzanne; West Lafayette, IN) were also willing to be used in the Lord's service this past month. May God bless these servants for their love and their labors on our behalf.

Sis. Arles Kropf endured a brief stay in the hospital, but she has recovered nicely, for which we are thankful to God.

Our dear Sis. Irene Radcliffe closed her eyes in death on November 4 at the age of 95. She had been a resident of Parkview Haven in Francesville, IN. Sis. Irene's spirit was one of meekness and gentleness. Even though she will be missed, we are thankful she could be relieved of her earthly afflictions. May God's love and nearness surround her dear children: Lee (Ruth Pape); Barbara Sanders; Robert II (Cynthia); Barry (Mary Ellen); Diane Clevinger (Jon); and Michael (Angeline). Our prayer would be that He would also fill the void for her sister, Anna Belle Burbage, her grandchildren, and her great-grandchildren.

At this Christmas season, let us remember the true meaning of Christmas. Let us reflect on the Babe of Bethlehem. And as the song writer states, "Be not content this babe to know, Nor stay at Bethlehem, But go with Christ to Calvary's brow... Then open wide the door of heart. And let the Savior in." ("The Babe of Bethlehem," Hymns of Zion #36).

IOWA, BLOOMFIELD Christy Wiegand

Many from our congregation went to Oakville on Sunday, October 26, to witness the marriage of Sis. Wendy Schulz and Bro. Henry Wettstein. We rejoice with them and pray God's blessing on their marriage. We welcome Sis. Wendy to our congregation in Bloomfield and pray that the Lord will help her to adjust to all the "new" things that come with marriage and moving. Thankful parents of the couple are Bro. Roger and Sis. June Schulz (Oakville) and Bro. Denny and Sis. Emily Wettstein (Congerville).

"Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort."

II Corinthians 1:3

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Evelyn (Bro. Roy) Metzger at the passing of her sister, Sis. Betty Leuthold (Lester, IA). May God draw Sis. Evelyn and her family close in His comfort and care at this time of loss.

With Thanksgiving fast approaching, we are always reminded to be thankful for all our blessings. Our congregation is very thankful to hear that Sis. Lora (Bro. Kenny) Wuthrich came through back surgery well and is feeling much better. We are also thankful for visitors that come to visit from far and near. We were blessed with visitors last Wednesday evening from as far away as Rittman and Croghan-Naumburg, and as near as Eureka. Most of all we are thankful for Jesus dying on the cross to save us from our sins.

IOWA, BURLINGTON Karla Gerst Dixie Messner

Now thank we all our God
With heart, and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done,
In whom the world rejoices,
Who from our mother's arms

Has blest us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
And still is ours today.

Zion's Harp #236

In this special time of the year set aside as a time to give thanks, we need to sit back and count our blessings and be thankful for what we have instead of always wishing for more.

In Burlington we are thankful for our visitors this past month. We have had more of the volunteers that are helping in Oakville worship with us midweek. We especially enjoyed having Bro. Ned Stoller (Alto, MI) and Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL) share the Word with us.

Also, Bro. Paul and Sis. Elaine Eisenmann welcomed a new grandson, Samuel Demetrius, into their family. Little Samuel had an extended stay in the hospital due to complications of pneumonia but he is home now and doing well.

IOWA, ELGIN Gloria Frieden

"And she brought forth her first-born son, wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger..."

Luke 2:7

This is certainly not the way that many believed this great Messiah, the "King of kings" and Lord of lords", would make His earthly appearance. And because of His lowly birth, many refused to believe that He truly was the Son of God, the Saviour of the world. Sometimes God causes things to happen in a way that requires a little more faith on our part to believe.

On November 8, our little flock was richly blessed with two new babies. The first to arrive was Mary Elizabeth Waldbeser (Bro. Phil and Sis. Charlotte). Mary was welcomed home by her siblings, Lisa, Molly, Luke, Laura, Isaac and Joseph. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Fred and Sis. Joan Waldbeser (Cissna Park, IL) and Bro.

Gene and Sis. Shirley Nester (Lester, IA). Arriving a little later was Eli Simon Rocke. Bro. Doug and Sis. Trish are thankful for this addition to their home and hearts. Eli's happy grandparents are Sis. Kathy Rocke (Tremont, IL) and Bro. Keith and Sis. Ida Kellenberger (Bradford, IL).

Bro. Tim and Sis. Kathy Butikofer welcomed their fourth grandchild into their family circle, when Vinley Zyah Jensen (Rhett and Amy) was born on November 11. Siblings welcoming their new little sister home are Trevin and Avery.

Arriving on November 18 was Anna Ruth Wyss (Bro. Phil and Sis. Kristin). Anna has two sisters, Naomi and Rachel, to help welcome her home. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Mark and Sis. Tammy Roth (Congerville, IL) and Bro. Bruce and Sis. Donna Wyss (Goodfield, IL).

Those on the sick and surgical list this past month have been Brian Frieden (Susie) and Tammy Callahan (Jeff). We are thankful that both seem to be well on their way to recovery.

On November 2, Bro. Wayne Fehr (Portland, OR) paid us a welcome visit and shared God's Word unto us. May he continue to feel God's nearness and grace as he labors in the Lord's vineyard.

IOWA, IOWA CITY **Diana Butikofer**

We were very thankful to have the family of Bro. Dennis Rassi (Sis. Diane, Fairbury, IL) with us on a Wednesday evening. We pray the Lord will bless Bro. Dennis' service to us.

"For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."

Isaiah 9:6

Christmas is all about our Lord:

Christ's birth
Hope for eternal life through Him
Redeemer
Innocent – no sin of His
Son of God
Took our sin
Miracle of virgin birth
Amazing love for our Father and us
Sacrificed for us

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

Two families have welcomed precious babies into their homes. Dustin and Julie Timmerman are the first-time parents of Ashlyn Lee born on October 23. Bro. Greg and Sis. Lori Popkes are the happy grandparents. On November 11, twin boys, Joshua Peter and Caleb Daniel, were born to Bro. Isaac and Sis. Melissa Rinkenberger. Rebekah, Noah and Barak are excited for two little brothers. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Pete and Sis. Susan Van Whye and Bro. Jake and Sis. Glenna Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL).

"Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God."

John 3:3

On the weekend of October 25-26, we welcomed Bro. Andy Knoblock (Bro. Terry and Sis. Elaine), Bro. Brent and Sis. Priscilla Bosch (Bro. Tony and Sis. Pam) and Matthew Warner (Bro. Stan and Sis. Sue) into the fold as our brothers and sister in faith. Elder Bro. Don Braker (Kansas City, MO) and Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzell (Sabetha, KS) assisted our Elder Bro. Dennis Warner with the provings and baptisms. Bro. Pat Zaugg was also here for that weekend. May God bless these brothers for their labors.

"Repent; for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Matthew 4:17

We rejoice with our new converts: Alice Schmidt (Bro. Mike and Sis. Mavis), Alvie Meyer (Bro. Dean and Sis. Linda) and Emily Knapp (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gay, Congerville, IL). May they feel our prayers and support as they begin their walk with the Lord.

On October 26, the betrothal of Sis. Maria Warner (Bro. Stan and Sis. Sue) and Bro. Drew Metzger (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Joleen) was announced to our congregation. The engagement of Bro. Daniel Messner (Bro. Henry and Sis. Charlene) and Sis. Stephanie Schaeffer (Bro. Rodney and Sis. Denise, Morris, MN) was shared on November 2. Our prayer is that God will bless both of these couples as they make plans for their married life together.

Bro. Kevin Metzger (Sis. Dawn) and Bro. Denis Meyer (Sis. Jill) have spent time in the hospital. May the Great Physician provide healing and relief.

"The Lord bless thee and keep thee."

Numbers 6:24

Sis. Joni Wulf (Bro. Dale and Sis. Becky) has relocated to Latty, OH. We pray that God will continue to bless and direct her life.

How beautiful heaven must be,
Sweet home of the happy and free:
Fair haven of rest for the weary,
How beautiful heaven must be.

Gospel Hymns #79

Our Sis. Betty Jean Leuthold passed into Eternity on November 7 at the age of 80 years. She leaves behind her dear husband, Bro. Paul, and five children: Bro. Larry (Sis. Mardi), Bro. Bob (Sis. Cindy), Sis. Diane Stickling (Bro. Dale, Goodfield, IL), Sis. Becky Wulf (Bro. Dale) and Sis. Bev Mogler (Bro. Brian). May Sis. Betty's legacy of gentleness and compassion be a source of comfort to this family. Our sympathy is also with Sis. Mariann Metzger (Bro. Elmer), Sis. Estelle Leuthold, Sis. Donna Gerber (Bro. John), Sis. Janet Wysong, Bro. Leo Moser (Sis. Leona),

Bro. Frank Moser and Elsie Leuthold as they bid farewell to a dear sister and sister-in-law.

Bro. Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL) and Bro. Jim Butikofer (Iowa City, IA) have recently shared the Word of Life with our congregation. May God reward them for their efforts in His service.

IOWA, OAKVILLE Sharla Wiegand

On a Wednesday night, October 22, Bro. Ted Witzig, Jr. gave a presentation on Helping One Another After A Major Stressor. His dad, Elder Bro. Ted Witzig, Sr., accompanied him. The topic was very timely as many families in our congregation have dealt with major stress as a result of the flooding.

October 26 was the wedding day of Sis. Wendy Schulz (Bro. Roger and Sis. June) and Bro. Henry Wettstein (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Emily, Congerville, IL) of Bloomfield, IA. We will miss Sis. Wendy as she and Bro. Hank make their home in Bloomfield. Elder Bro. Ben Walder (Congerville, IL), Bro. Beirne Messner (Morris, MN), Bro. Phil Schulz (Burlington, IA) and Bro. Joe Dotterer (Bloomfield, IA) came for the wedding and we appreciate their labors on our behalf.

IOWA, WEST BEND Janet Fehr Sue Schneider

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

Ephesians 2:8-9

Kurt Zaugg (Bro. Pat and Sis. Julie) received this precious gift of salvation as he became a brother in faith on the weekend of November 15-16. Elder Bro. Dennis Warner (Sis. Esther, Lester, IA) was in West Bend to assist our Elder Bro. Wayne with Kurt's testimony and baptism. We thank Bro. Den-

nis for his labors in this matter and also his kind reminder and encouragement to our brotherhood to help in the “feeding of the lambs”. We also enjoyed the blessed fellowship of our many visitors.

Bro. Leland Plattner and his wife, Sis. Mary (Zapata, TX), likewise made West Bend their destination in November. We appreciated his efforts as he read from and meditated on God's Holy Word.

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Sis. Lezlee (Bro. Dale) Leman with the loss of her grandmother. Most grandmothers play an important role in the lives of their grandchildren and are deeply missed when they depart this earth.

Three of our loved ones had knee surgery in the past month. They are Bro. Don (Sis. Verda) Bruellman, Ervin (Nettie) Banwart, and Linden (Ione) Venhulzen. We are thankful all are doing well in their recovery process. Bro. Cory (Sis. Jennifer) Fehr was hospitalized also with an infection, and we pray for God's miracle of healing in his life.

November 9 was the wedding day for Bro. Josh Banwart (Brad and Julie) and Sis. Lainey Frank (Bro. Scott and Sis. Elaine) in Eureka, IL. May God richly bless their lives together in Him and we welcome Sis. Lainey to West Bend.

At Christmas

May the fragrance of cedar,
Of spruce and of pine,
Remind you that God
Gives great gifts to mankind.
And as snowflakes fall
From the heavens above,
May you feel the fresh beauty
Of Jesus' sweet love.

—Chris Ahlemann

JAPAN, SHIODA Carrie Ito

We are thankful for our recent visit from Elder Bro. Mark and Sis. Bev Bahr (Detroit). They were able to have fellowship with many of our Shioda brethren and friends during the week and

then worship with us on Sunday. On Sunday afternoon we partook of Holy Communion. We are thankful for our ordained deacon, Bro. Andrew (Sis. Jana) Klaus, who helped Bro. Mark with this special service. After Communion we all greet each other and express our love and appreciation for each member. We pray that our members and friends can continue to grow in unity and grace each day.

JAPAN, TOKYO Jana Klaus

We were blessed to have Elder Bro. Mark and Sis. Bev Bahr (Detroit, MI) worship and fellowship with us the first Sunday in November. We thank Bro. Mark once again for his serving us in the ministry. We always look forward to the Bahr's visits! They could also join us the next day (November 3, a national holiday called Culture Day) for our annual Fall Shuyokai (fellowship meeting).

Both churches joined together for a day out in the beautiful mountains of Takao. Our activities were singing, Topical Bible Study—we thank Bro. Andrew Klaus for his talk on “The work of the Holy Spirit,” a buffet lunch at a Japanese restaurant, and a long hike to enjoy the fall colors. The children also had fun petting rabbits, guinea pigs and ponies and playing at a log playground.

KANSAS, BERN Jill Meyer Rita Menold

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

Matthew 6:33

After seeking God first in their lives, two couples have been led to become one. Sis. Kristen Edelman (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Linda) and Bro. Paul Klotzle (Bro. Bob and Sis. Shirley; Smithville,

OH) were announced on November 2, and are making plans for a March 22 wedding. We witnessed the marriage of Sis. Anna Esslinger (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gerty; Bloomfield, IA) and Bro. Phil Sceggel (Bro. Mark and Sis. Judy; Peoria, IL) on November 16. May God bless these couples as they begin their lives as one.

We are thankful to welcome two new babies to our congregation! Lincoln John was born on October 20 to Bro. Myron, Sis. Lori and Colin Menold. Grandparents are Bro. James and Sis. Lou Menold and Elder Bro. John and Sis. Connie Lehman. On October 23, Trinity Pearl joined the family of Bro. Dominic, Sis. Jenny, Kenzie and Landon Meyer. Grandparents are Earl and Sis. Darlene Meyer and Bro. Don and Sis. Ada Plattner (Sabetha, KS).

Sharing the Word of God with us this month were Bro. Ron Isch (Sis. Jane; Lamont-Gridley, KS), Bro. Ted Hirstein (Sis. Joyce; Morton, IL) and Bro. Jeff Bahr (Sis. Janice; Kiowa, KS). We pray God can continue to work through His servants.

It is so nice to see Sis. Ramona Strahm (Bro. Ed) back in church after a lengthy illness. Our prayers continue to be with Sis. Darlene Meyer (Earl) as her recovery from knee surgery has been difficult.

As we enter another holiday season, may our focus remain on our eternal home, and the One who gave His Son as a sacrifice to make this possible!

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT **Martin Hohulin**

Our visiting minister this month was Bro. Greg Braker (Sis. Wendy), and three small sons from Lamar. We appreciated their visit. Sis. Wendy is a native of Bern, KS.

Our best wishes and God's direction to Bro. Kent Kellenberger who has accepted a position in Memphis, TN.

As news is scarce this month, perhaps you will indulge me to share some early history of the Fort Scott and

Lamar, Missouri, churches. The railroad connects these two towns and also runs through the small town of Iantha. Iantha has been our home for the past 35 years. We live a mile from the old Frisco tracks, now known as the Santa Fe-Burlington Northern, just close enough to enjoy the train whistles. Sometimes at night, I try to determine which way the train is moving by it's whistle.

The steeple bells in Iantha's two churches have long ceased calling people to worship on Sunday mornings. You might wonder what is the connection? At one time, Lamar and Fort Scott had passenger train service. It was possible to board the morning train at Lamar or Iantha and attend the morning services at Fort Scott and return again in the evening. A departed Sister once told me the young male friends would take the morning train to Fort Scott to visit the young female friends before returning the same evening. Many of these friends repented and a few of them got married.

My parents were married in Fort Scott. Mother was from Lamar, but was working in Fort Scott at the time. Many of the early settlers in the church moved here by train from the East and North. Boston, Missouri, was on the Missouri Pacific rail line, but was near where some of the people settled. Little is known about the early members at Fort Scott except what is found in 'Footsteps to Zion'. Some came from Weiner, Arkansas, as well as the Indian Territory in Oklahoma. Those railroads were built by team and slips and involved thousands of backbreaking manhours of labor in the early 1870's. Now hundreds of cars of coal glide over these ribbon rails, but over the same graded roadbeds that were carved out so many years ago.

My lifetime doth pass away,
Hourly to the grave I hasten
and I know each fleeting day
my allotted span will lessen.

Zion's Harp #253

Many years have come and gone with many changes, but one thing we are sure of — God's work will never change.

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

"Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God."

Ephesians 5:20-21

How thankful we need to be even in troubles and temptations for the grace and abundant love of our dear Lord and Savior.

We enjoyed fellowshiping with a group from the Denver congregation. We were thankful for the time we had together and the new friendships we made. It truly was a blessing and we are thankful for the efforts they made to travel to Kansas.

Christmas is a special time of year. People get excited and have a lot of cheer. Let us truly remember the reason we have to celebrate this wonderful time.

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down His
sweet head;
the stars in the sky looked down
where He lay,
the little Lord Jesus, asleep in the hay.
Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to
stay
close by me forever and love me I
pray;
Bless all the dear children in thy ten-
der care,
and take us to heaven, to live with
Thee there.

Hymns of Zion # 38

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

We appreciate the labors of Elder

Bro. Lawrence Luthi (Sis. Becky, Lamar, MO) in assisting Elder Bro. Jay in reading the Memorandum and for bringing forth the Word to our edification and admonishment. May we hear and heed the warnings given.

Bro. Bill and Sis. Susan Emch are thankful for the safe arrival of a new grandson, Jesse Brandon, the son of Bro. Brandon and Sis. Marie Emch (Kansas City, MO).

KANSAS, SABETHA

**Rebekah Beyer
Carrie Grimm**

We are so grateful to our visiting ministers this month. They included Bro. Brent Kellenberger (Sis. Beth, Kansas City, MO), Bro. Dale Zeltwanger (Sis. Rachel, Morris, MN), and Bro. Don Sinn (Sis. Linda, Silverton, OR).

Our congregation enjoyed an all-church Thanksgiving Dinner on November 9. We also had many visitors in attendance for our invite-a-couple weekend on October 26.

Trinity Pearl was born on October 23 to Bro. Dominic and Sis. Jenny Meyer (Bern, KS). Her grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Ada Plattner and Earl and Sis. Darlene Meyer (Bern, KS). Kenzie and Landon are her welcoming siblings.

Bro. Steven and Sis. Kelly, Maddie, Ethan, Annie, and Alpha have a new baby sister. Emily Ann was born on November 12. Her grandparents are Eugene and Judy Edelman (Sabetha) and Bro. Roger and Sis. Ilene Hartter.

Maria and Rose Hartter (Bro. Tim and Sis. Charleen) and Josh Hartter (Bro. David and Sis. Beth) have our prayers as they feel at peace with God and man and are awaiting baptism.

It is a great blessing to come together as a congregation and listen to the teachings from the Elder Conference. So much wonderful instruction has been received as we endeavor to remain as pilgrims in this life's journey.

KANSAS, WICHITA

Emma Miller

In the past months we in the Wichita congregation have been blessed with visiting ministers. First there was Bro. Jeff Bahr (Kiowa), then Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Lamont-Gridley), next Bro. Jeff Fischer (Ft. Scott), then Bro. Ron Allenbach (Kiowa) and Bro. Ned Stoller (Alto, MI). It is humbling to have so many willing to spend their time and energy for our benefit.

The fall Sunday School picnic was held at the lovely rural home of Bro. Max and Sis. Judy Reimchisel. The young boys who make up the Sunday School enjoyed the challenges as they competed against each other.

The Ft. Scott - Wichita choir met in early November and offered us the opportunity to hear their songs of praise. Members and friends from Lamont-Gridley and Kiowa came to enjoy the evening with us.

Bro. Howard Warner is recuperating at a rest home in Hutchinson where he is receiving therapy in hopes that he can regain his balance so he can return to his home. While Bro. Phil Bowers is home from the hospital, his mother, Sis. Lillian, returned for more treatment.

Our friends, John and Paula Read, met with misfortune when their home in Andover burned. We have many reasons to pray for the relief He promises to bring about. I am reminded of #86 in the Zion's Harp which reads "Though troubles assail And dangers affright, though friends should all fail, And foes all unite, Yet one thing secures us Whatever betide, This promise assures us the Lord will provide".

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON

Barb Huber

"Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses."

I Timothy 6:12

Greetings, dear ones, in the precious name of our dear Lord and Saviour. We have been encouraged to stay focused on our dear Lord Jesus, grow in His Word, and serve Him faithfully each day. He will always provide and supply what we need. Just as Jesus was tempted in the wilderness, He endured through God's Word, and God sent His angels to minister unto Him. May we not be discouraged, but encouraged, to keep our focus on Him, and "fight the good fight of faith", ... "because greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world." (I John 4:4)

We pray for God's special blessings on all the visiting ministers, their wives, and families who put forth effort to travel the many miles to minister God's Holy Word. We were blessed to have Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Sis. Sandy, Eureka, IL), Bro. Tom Schambach (Sis. Connie, Elgin, IL), Bro. Paul Kilgus (Sis. Carmen, Fairbury, IL), and Bro. Jeff Grimm (Sis. Ruth, Goodfield, IL).

Other brethren who assembled with us were represented from the following churches: Chicago, IL; Detroit, MI; Francesville, IN; and Rockville, CT. It's always an encouragement to have visitors worship with us.

"Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift." (II Cor. 9:15) May you find much peace and joy as we celebrate our Saviour's birth at this season of the year.

A hearty welcome is extended to anyone who may be in our area or travelling through to worship with us. You may contact the Germann's (859) 223-0294 or Bro. Lester Huber (859) 745-2541. Church services are no longer being held at the Comfort Inn. Directions to the church are: From Lexington: I-75 exit #110 (US 60), east about 6 miles to Road #1923 (Combs Ferry Road), right about 5 miles to Road #3371 (Becknerville Road), left 1/2 mile. From Winchester: Road #1958 (Bypass) south to Road #1927 (Colby Road), west about 3 miles to

Road #3371 (Becknerville Road), left 2 miles.

MEXICO, IXTLAN

Matt Gerber

“Ah Lord GOD! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee.”

Jer. 32:17

Please join us in praying fervently that God would provide Mexican teachers who are Christians and certified for elementary education. So far, our efforts to find teachers haven't been successful, at least on the surface. But we also want to be open to God's plan and timing for the school, which may be much different than ours.

Meet Sis. Marcela Salceda

I was baptized June 22, 2008. Before I repented, I had a great hatred toward my father. Since I was little he rejected me because I wasn't a man, and he said that women were good for nothing. I hated him so much that it caused me to become extremely depressed. I took out my anger on other people around me. Two times I even tried to take my own life. Life seemed meaningless. A thousand times I wished I could have been a man to make my father proud, but I wasn't.

I decided to show my father that women could also make him proud. I left home without permission and moved to Morelia to find work. I was afraid I wouldn't be able to find work and would have to return home as a failure. Thankfully, I found work a week later at a store owned by a Christian family. Their lifestyle was very different than what I knew, and I saw they were united and happy. That's how I wished my family could be.

They began to invite me to their church. At first, I was embarrassed that my coworkers would make fun of me. But one day I decided to go. I liked it,

and started to become more interested. I wanted to know everything about Jesus. On some occasions, I lied to my sister, saying I was going to work so that I could really go to church.

I started feeling like I finally mattered to Someone, and He was going to give me the happiness I had searched for so much. I started to feel more joy and hope to keep on going forward. I wanted my whole family to have this happiness in their hearts, and to forget all the sadness of the past. I wanted them to know that Christ was the only One who could do this.

When I returned to my hometown, the only thing I wanted to do was talk with my family about Christ. However, they rejected me, because this wasn't what my parents had taught me (they taught me Catholicism). The rejection was so painful that for some time I distanced myself from God. I stopped reading the Bible, and began to feel the hatred again toward my father. But I didn't want to feel that way again, so I started to read the Bible once more, and started to attend the Apostolic Christian Church in Ixtlan. A long time passed before I finally realized I needed to repent, forsake the sin in my life, and begin living to please God. I decided to become converted and start a new life.

I think this has been the best decision of my life. Christ has transformed my life, which before was full of sadness and resentment, hatred and darkness, but now is full of joy and love. Christ also changed the way I feel toward my father. I've understood that in Christ we find forgiveness, and that forgiveness changes our lives. I'll never be able to thank God enough for what He's done for me. Those of us who know Christ have received something great—the salvation and forgiveness of sins that Jesus gives! We live with the assurance that when the sun shines its last ray of heat, and the stars fall from heaven, we will live with Him.

MICHIGAN, ALTO

Rose Watson

Terri Huber

It was a happy day in November for Bro. Phillip Huber (Bro. Brian and Sis. Jackie, Francesville, IN) and Sis. Stephanie Gerst (Bro. Wally and Donna) when they were united in holy matrimony. Many friends and family members were in Alto for the service. It is a glory to God when two of His children are joined, through faith, to form a threefold cord with Him. There were 14 visiting ministers in church that day! The services were given by Bros. Dennis Kaufmann (Sis. Bonnie, Bloomington, IL), Clark Stoller (Sis. Cindy, Gridley, IL), and Bro. Brian Huber. The ceremony was performed by Elder Bro. Ted Steffen.

Bro. Matthew Oesch (Bro. Tom and Sis. Michelle) has purposed in his heart, by the grace and guidance of God, to ask for Sis. Shelli Fischer's (Roanoke, IL) hand in marriage. Shelli's parents are Bro. Keith and Sis. Dori of Eureka. We are very happy for them as a couple, and truly excited to welcome Shelli to Alto.

Another blessed event was the October weekend that the Mortonaires came to visit. We are thankful that their trip on the bus was uneventful, and that they were willing to travel all that distance. The singing was truly an honor and glory to the Lord and a blessing to us, and the fellowship was encouraging. There were many visitors from Detroit and Bay City who came to listen on Saturday evening. Thank you to the Morton men and their families for serving us in such an uplifting fashion!

It seems that joint replacements are in season—what amazing technology. We are so pleased that help is available for those who are in pain. Our hospital patients recently have been: Bro. Joe Oesch (Sis. Melva, knee); Steve Schutte (Sis. Sandy, hip); Dave Stouffer (Bonnie, hip); and Bro. Denny Koehl.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

**Sarah Knochel
Janelle Ramseyer**

It is such a blessing to see the Lord working in the hearts of those in our congregation. We rejoice with our dear friend, Clinton Ruegsegger (Sherri), as he has professed peace with God and man. We look forward to Clinton's baptism day.

Our thoughts are with Sis. Florence Wieland as she has moved to Woodhaven and will be worshipping with those of our Detroit congregation. We will miss Sis. Florence and pray that God will be with her during this transition.

We have several who are experiencing infirmities of the flesh and we pray that God's will may be done in each of their lives. They include: Beau Bateson (Bill and Lori), Bill Bateson (Lori), John Gorney (Sis. Winifred), Helen Knochel (Fred), Sis. Marlene Mosher, Bro. Dean and Sis. Connie Pashak, and Bro. Merle Wieland (Sis. Elaine).

It is hard to believe that Christmas will soon be here. What a blessing it is as Christians that we not only can celebrate Christ's birth as the true meaning of Christmas, but we have hope of Heaven through His death at Calvary.

May each one have a safe and blessed Christmas.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

**Manuela Denes
Tamra Coughlin**

"Brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall."

II Peter 1:10

Our country started the month of November electing a new individual to serve as it's president, but hopefully each one of us made an individual determination in our hearts to clarify our true leader and King, Jesus Christ. May God make us continually aware of His election of us as 1 Th 1:4 says "knowing, brethren beloved, your election of God"

and help us keep a proper perspective on the kingdoms of this world.

Multiple small groups in our congregation have completed the ten week Crown Financial Study and the time we all spent in the Word learning God's principles was immensely fortifying for our faith and enlightening for our walks of life. We will perhaps be observing this Thanksgiving holiday with thanks for our many blessings from God coupled with a greater responsibility for our stewardship of the possessions and opportunities He gives us.

We welcome Sis. Florence Wieland to Woodhaven and our Detroit congregation from Bay City.

We join Carrie Ramseyer with prayers and joy as she anticipates sharing her testimony with the church and experiencing baptism as Christ has instructed on January 10-11.

Sis. Ann Tachar was in the hospital and is presently recovering in a nursing home. We are prayerful for Sis. Kay (Bro. Warren) Rauhe, Sis. Darlene (Bro. Bill) Kujawa and Sis. Florence Wieland who are recovering from injuries.

We are thankful that Elder Bro. Mark and Sis. Bev Bahr had a safe trip to Japan and back and we are looking forward to our many visitors from our churches across the country for the national World Relief meeting at the start of December.

Looking ahead to the exciting Christmas season, our Sunday School Christmas program is planned for Sunday, December 14, at 10:40 am at Woodhaven and 7 pm at church. Christmas caroling is scheduled for Saturday, December 20, starting at Woodhaven at 5:30 and ending at Woodpointe at 7:30. Please invite your family and friends!

**MINNESOTA
MINNEAPOLIS**

Mary Mogler

We appreciated Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Betty, Silverton, OR) and Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Sis. Sandra, Morris,

MN) traveling to be with us and sharing the Memorandum letter. We joined together for a potluck and singing, bringing the weekend of encouragement and fellowship to a blessed close.

It was indeed a wonderful surprise to see Bro. Wayne Fehr and his wife, Sis. Kathy (Portland, OR), come through our doors a few Sundays later. We are grateful to God for bringing them our way, the opportunity to catch up on their lives and the inspired message Bro. Wayne brought forth.

We shall sleep, but not forever,
There will be a glorious dawn!
We shall meet to part no, never
On the resurrection morn!

Hymns of Zion #125

As we worshipped and fellowshiped together and then said our farewells, little did we know that it would be our last Sunday with our dear Sis. Maxine Larson as she passed away unexpectedly at her home on Tuesday, November 11. Sis. Maxine gave her time to the old and young alike and she will be greatly missed. Our loving sympathy is extended to her sons and their families, Jeff (Gretchen), Greg (Lorri), and Scott (Tara); also to her mother, Sis. Katie Blunier; and sister, Sis. Diane (David) Stewart and daughter Laura of our congregation, as well as her other siblings, nieces and nephews, many who live in our community.

Our thoughts and prayers have also been with Sis. Carol (Bro. Perry) Virkler as she said good-bye to her brother, Richard Zehr of Fairbury, IL; and to Bro. Don (Sis. Bernadine) Miller in the passing of his brother, Bro. Wayne Miller, of Tremont, IL. With anticipation of meeting loved ones and our Lord Jesus Christ, we look forward to that glorious dawn!

It our desire to make the brethren aware of mid-week services in Rochester, MN, the third Wednesday of the month starting in Jan. of '09. Services start at 7:30pm and will be held at 310 16th Ave SW (Rochester, MN) which is within walking distance of the Mayo

campus. Contacts are:

Sis. Anne Wagenbach
(507) 993-6916

alwagenbach@aol.com or

Bro. Jim and Sis. Deb Tilbury
(507)281-2875

tilbury@us.ibm.com.

Brethren and friends in the area for medical treatment or visiting others are welcome and encouraged to worship with us. Where you have flexibility in scheduling of your appointments and can accommodate the 3rd week of the month, we'd enjoy your fellowship.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS

**Sheila Reuter
Susie Wulf**

We were thankful for the visiting ministers, Bro. Kent Mogler and Bro. Myron Knobloch (Lester, IA) that brought forth the Word this month.

We rejoice with Sis. Stephanie Schaefer (Bro. Rodney and Sis. Denise) as she was announced to Bro. Daniel Messner (Bro. Henry and Sis. Charlene) of Lester, IA. May they feel God's peace and joy as they plan for their marriage.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Wallis and Sis. Diane Feuchtenberger in the passing of her mother, Luella Max.

Bro. Alex and Sis. Myra Messner were blessed with daughter Emma Mae.

Hospitalized this month was Bro. Kenny Feuchtenberger (Sis. Sally). We pray God's healing hand will be upon him.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

**Julie Schmidt
Lindsay Schmidt**

Let us then be so united
As Thou with the Father art,
That not one of Thy weak members
Here on earth shall stand apart.
From the flames of Thy own burning
May our light partake its glow;
And that we are Thy disciples

All the world may surely know.

Zion's Harp #33

We're thankful to have had Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North, IN) here to share in the reading of the Memorandum. We were encouraged to be united and stand apart from the world so to be noticed as a Child of God. We also appreciated Elder Bro. Phil bringing forth God's Word for Sunday services.

"And there are diversities of operations but it is the same God which worketh all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal."

1 Corinthians 12:6-7

Our annual business meeting was held in November at which time newly elected positions were announced. Our prayers are with those who are to serve in these operations: Replacing Sis. Rachel Steiner (Bro. Glen) as Silver Lining Correspondent is Sis. Lindsay Schmidt. As Kitchen Coordinator, Sis. Rachel Steiner (Bro. Glen) will be replacing Sis. Julie Schmidt (Bro. Nick). And Bro. David Messner (Sis. Bethany) will be replaced by Bro. John Elder (Sis. Joleen) as Trustee and Bro. Chris Williams (Sis. Nancy) as Usher/Recorder. May God richly bless those who gave of themselves in service. Recently we were reminded that although we may not have an elected position, we have an even more important role as a Prayer Warrior. As Prayer Warriors we are encouraged to pray for the Church and its members.

Our Sunday School students hosted the annual 55 and Over Supper. Students and guests reflected on valuable lessons from life experiences. The reflections shared by the guests were greatly appreciated. Thank you to the students and teachers for their efforts in making this a memorable evening.

Regretfully, we omitted to mention the passing of Sis. Melva Messner's (late Bro. Roland) sister, Sis. Verna

Moser (Bro. Frank) of Lester, IA. Our prayers are with Sis. Melva and her family in this time of loss.

Our hospital and surgery patients this month have been Sis. Julia Messner, Bro. Ed Stoll (Sis. Ginny), and Marlyn Braulick (Sis. Becky). May the Great Physician continue to work in their lives.

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY

Brittany Fehr

Our congregation was blessed to have a number of visitors join us for our Invite-A-Guest weekend on November 8-9. These included ministering Bros. Larry Bahr (Sis. Julie, Fort Scott, KS) and Tim Zimmerman (Sis. Barbara, Lamont-Gridley, KS). May God bless these brothers for their labors.

MISSOURI, LAMAR

**Becky Luthi
Dana Braker**

We were blessed this month to have the reading of the Memorandum letter. Elder Bro. Merle Hartzler (Rittman, OH) was here to assist with the duties. Also this month, Bro. Michael Wagenbach (Wolcott, IN) was here to share the Word with us. May we continue to pray that God's Word will always come forth.

We extend our sympathy to our Sis. Corrine (Bro. Dale) Marti on the passing of her sister, Catherine Davis. We also want to remember our Sis. Mary (Bro. Orlan) Kellenberger on the passing of her brother, Bro. Wayne Miller (Tremont, IL).

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

Meagan Wuethrich

During this holiday season we are often reminded to give thanks; for all of the bounty and blessings we have, for the gift of Jesus... all from the Giver of perfect gifts, our Heavenly Father. Being thankful is also a vital part of our everyday walk with God. I often think of how my Dad likes to describe faith; it is

believing, trusting, obeying, and being thankful. They all go hand-in-hand. In St. Louis this season we are heartily giving thanks to the Lord for sending us a blessing in the form of Sis. Michelle Beery (now Rassi). She and Bro. Nathan Rassi (Bro. Greg and Sis. Carla, Chicago, IL) became one in the Lord in Rittman, OH, on November 16. While we know she will be missed by her parents, Bro. Walt and Sis. Linda, her family, and church, we rejoice that she will join Bro. Nathan in supporting our little church and welcome her with open arms.

Bro. Ted and Sis. Donna Witzig and their daughters visited us recently, and we spent a blessed weekend with them as Bro. Ted gave a presentation on depression Saturday night, and then shared the Word with us on Sunday. We greatly appreciate their efforts, as well as those of our other visiting ministers: Bro. Byron Stoller (Sis. Carol, Gridley, IL), Bro. Gary Brown (Sis. Jane, Forrest, IL), Bro. Greg Rassi (Sis. Carla, Chicago, IL), and Bro. Chuck Kellenberger (Sis. Debbie, Elgin, IL).

We always enjoy it when our visiting ministers bring a group with them. It's such a blessing to be able to extend the time of fellowship on Saturday and Sunday.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Kathy Eberhardt

With Christmas just around the corner, we start to think of gifts. We always should remind ourselves that Jesus is the greatest gift there is to have and to give.

We would like to thank Bro. Tim Sauder (Sis. Jenny, Leo, IN) for their informative presentation on Gateway Woods. It was very interesting, and we were reminded to pray for them. Thank you for the special effort of traveling here and spending the weekend.

We thank Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign, IL), for coming to Taylor to share God's Word.

We are happy for our Sis. Colby Sutter (Bro. Richard and Sis. Kay). She is engaged to Bro. Josh Steffen (Bro. Dean and Sis. Carol, Belvidere, IL). They are planning a spring wedding.

Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Sis. Pam, Washington, IL) had double duty in sharing a wonderful presentation on the Apostolic Christian Home for the Handicapped and helped with the testimony and baptism of Bro. Nathan Sutter (Bro. Dan and Sis. Tina). What a blessed weekend. Thanks for your help, Bro. Ron.

Our congregation was blessed with a little bundle from heaven. A daughter, Allana Grace, was born to Bro. Quinton, and Sis. Heather Snyder. Big sister, Emma, also welcomes her home. Grandparents are Bro. Greg and Sis. Kara Snyder (Kansas City, MO) and Bro. Tom and Sis. Cindy Hitz (Detroit, MI).

First-time parents, Bro. Dave and Sis. Jan Roberts (Peoria, IL), had a baby girl, Grace Elise. Grandparents are Bro. Mike and Cheryl Stratton (Taylor, MO) and the late Bro. David and Sis. Carolyn Roberts (Bluffton, IN). May God bless them.

A deep sympathy goes out to Sis. Loida Hodel and her family in the loss of her grandson, Rueben John Hodel. Parents are Kevin and Robin Hodel of Dorr, Michigan. May God ever be by their side, as they took good care of their special needs child for 18 years.

Bro. Kenny and Sis. Phyllis Knapp shared their farm for the Sunday School fall cookout. May God bless them for their hospitality.

Bro. Loren Schrenk (Sis. Betsy, St. Louis) spent a Wednesday night with our Taylor family and did a Bible study on "Why do bad things happen to good people?". By the end of the evening, he had shared his experience with his cancer. We learned that things come into our lives that we may glorify God.

Sis. Judy Huber (Vernon) and Bro. Rod Heimer (Sis. Barb) were hospital patients this month. May God grant His healing hand.

We are rejoicing with the angels in heaven over one sinner that repenteth. Our friend, Jimmy Sutter (Bro. Jim and Sis. Kris), answered God's call. May God grant him much grace.

May we all enjoy the Christmas season and may we remember the greatest gift of all, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

NEW YORK CROGHAN-NAUMBURG Hope Graves

We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Merle Hartzler (Rittman, OH) with us for the weekend of October 26. Bro. Merle and Sis. Bonnie were traveling home from the regional Elder meeting that was held at Rockville, CT. May the Lord bless him for his labors.

We are thankful to have Jacob Farney officially moved back home. May the Lord bless him as he strives to walk closer with Him.

Winter has arrived early this year. This arrival of snow caused us to have to cancel one of our Wednesday night services. We pray for the Lord's nearness and safety during the coming season.

NEW YORK CITY Secaucus, New Jersey

"Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms."

Psalms 95:2

During this month, when we remember the many things we are thankful for, we had the privilege of holding our last service of 2008. We were thankful this month for our visitors who came to worship with us in Secaucus, especially ministering Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Sis. Michelle), as well as visitors from Philadelphia, PA. In addition, we were thankful for all of the local members and friends who made the effort to attend. We trust that each received a blessing as we were re-

mindful of what our Heavenly Father has done for us by sending His only begotten Son to this earth as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of the world. During this time of reflection and the upcoming Christmas season, may each one of us take time to put aside the things of this world and have our hearts and mind focused on heavenly things.

We are working on the 2009 Secaucus schedule and plan on reporting it in the upcoming months. We trust that many will be able to join us as we worship together. 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

Now thank we all our God...
 ...Who from our mother's arms
 Has blest us on our way,
 With countless gifts of love
 And still is ours today.

We are thankful for two new little babies born to those in our congregation. Bro. Dan and Sis. Amy Reljin welcomed Klara Grace to their home. Older sisters are Hanna and Gabriella. Thankful grandparents are Zarko and Helen Reljin and Bro. Eugene and Sis. Diana Bako. Dexter Paul was welcomed home by Bro. Greg and Sis. Darla Henico and big sister Ariana. Dexter's grandparents are Bro. Denny and Sis. Kay Nieman (Smithville) and our Bro. Greg and Sis. Sarah Henico.

Our Bro. Leon Graf recently had surgery. We are thankful that he is doing better. We are also grateful for God's providence in feeding us from His Word and by inspiring our brothers to bring forth counsel for our lives today. We appreciated having Bro. Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North) with us for Memorandum and the Sunday following. How thankful we are when our brothers allow God to use them for our encouragement, edification and admonition! We also appreciated having Bro. Jerry Bauman (Sis. Martha, Rittman) visit us this past month. May God be with each brother who is called to serve in the Word.

OHIO, COLUMBUS
Sarah Rufener

All-seeing, gracious Lord,
 My heart before Thee lies;
 All sin of thought and life abhorred,
 My soul to Thee would rise.
 Hear Thou my prayer, O God,
 Unite my heart to Thee;
 Beneath Thy love, beneath Thy rod,
 From sin deliver me.

Hymns of Zion # 148

How thankful we are to have such a Savior of mercy to intercede on our behalf! What blessed assurance we have that our Heavenly Father hears our prayers and pleas. There is no detail too small, no problem too large, for our Lord Who loves us and gave His Son as a ransom for our grievous sins. Once again, God has provided for the needs of our church through faithful brethren and visiting ministers. Our congregation would like to thank Bro. Troy Leyse (Sis. Kelly, Bluffton) for taking the time to bring us God's Word this past month.

OHIO, JUNCTION
Vicki Boroff

We are pleased to share that Sis. Beth Manz (Bro. Ken and Sis. Gwen) is engaged to Bro. Kent Steidinger (Bro.

Martin and Sis. Trish) of Fairbury. We wish them God's blessings.

We were also thankful to have Bro. Bruce Frank (Sis. Bonita, Cissna Park) bring the Word to us.

Sis. Inez Rose and Sis. Madeline Manz were recent hospital patients. We pray for His healing hand upon them.

OHIO, LATTY
Amanda Wenninger
Carmen Eisenmann

It's been a quiet month here in Latty. There are times when it is nice not to have so much happening. It can give us a chance to reflect and be thankful for what we have amidst all the change going on around us. As I write this, Thanksgiving is nearly upon us, and as you are reading this, Christmas is nearly here.

November 1 and 2 was the weekend set aside for Latty to hear the Memorandum. Elder Bro. Ted Steffen (Sis. Sandy, Alto, MI) was here to assist Elder Bro. John with this. He and his family stayed over for Sunday, and we thank him for laboring on our behalf. Bro. Greg Stieglitz (Sis. Lisa, Indianapolis, IN) was our other visiting minister this month.

It is wonderful to hear the glad tidings of another soul turning her heart to God. Alysha Spangler (Mark and Laurie) began her repentance recently. We rejoice with her and her family. She is the granddaughter of Bro. George and Sis. Sharon Keysor.

At times the Lord asks us to move, and sometimes He means it literally. Sis. Joni Wulf has moved here from Lester, IA, and is making Latty her church home. Welcome, Sis. Joni!

Keith and Angie Williams will have November 8 as a special day in their lives, for it was their wedding day. She is the daughter of Bro. Jim and Sis. Tam Stoller. May God be with this new couple as they establish a home together.

OHIO, MANSFIELD**Esther Baumann**

On the weekend of November 1-2, we were richly blessed to hear the testimony and witness the baptism of Bro. Jesse Boliantz (Bro. Doug and Sis. Connie). Special thanks to Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sis. Linda, Sardis, OH) for his willingness to assist in this holy work.

We also thank Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Sis. Clara, Bloomfield, IA) for coming to assist in the reading of the Memorandum and for ministering to us.

On November 8-9, we held our annual Invite-a-Friend Weekend. We are grateful to all who could come and be a blessing to us including ministering brethren Elder Bro. Wayne Grimm (Sis. Rose, West Bend, IA), Bro. Pat Zaugg (Sis. Julie, West Bend, IA), and Bro. Ted Luginbuhl (Sis. Stephanie, Smithville, OH).

Pray for Sis. Susan Foss (Rick) and Sis. Delores Hill (Bro. Mick) as they recover following recent hospitalization.

Our sympathy to the family of Al Betz (of our 'sister' church) who recently passed away. His family includes his sister, Sis. Linda Webel (Bro. Pete), and nephews, Bro. Don Boliantz (Sis. Joyce), Bro. Doug Boliantz (Sis. Connie) and Bro. Jeff Webel (Sis. Julie).

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

Bro. Dale Stoller (Sis. Jeannette), Sis. Yvonne Beery, Bro. Jim Rupp (Sis. Sharon), Sis. Mary Ellen Saylor (Bro. Bill), Sis. Marilyn Trent (Bro. Ed) and Sis. Nina Rufener (Bro. Wayne) were hospitalized this month. We are thankful that we can commit them to God in prayer.

Klae Stoller (Bro. Steve and Sis. Mary Lynn) was united in marriage to Stacey Decker on October 18. Bro. Rudy Zollinger and Sis. Polly Uhler (Dale and Sis. Marilyn, Smithville) ex-

changed vows on Sunday, November 9. Many gathered on Sunday, November 16, to witness the marriage of Bro. Nathan Rassi (St. Louis, MO) and Sis. Michelle Beery. Their parents are Bro. Greg and Sis. Carla Rassi (Chicago, IL) and Bro. Walt and Sis. Lynda Beery. May all of these couples look to God to guide them towards Heaven.

First-time parents, Bro. Matt and Sis. Lynn Baltic, welcomed Drew Mitchell into their lives on October 18. Grandparents of Drew are Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty Baltic (Indianapolis, IN) and Bro. Steve and Sis. Jenee Rufener. On October 30, Hope Mary was born to Bro. Tony and Sis. Cherie Stoller. Siblings of Hope are Bailey, Alayna, Jack and Grace. Grandparents, Bro. Dale and Sis. Jeannette Stoller and Jeff and Elsie Maibach, are thankful for another little granddaughter.

Our sympathy goes out to Sis. Lorena Riggenschach in the passing of her daughter-in-law, Mary (Ivan) Riggenschach. Also, Albert (Margaret) Betz passed away on November 14.

Elder Bro. Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL), Bros. Greg Rassi and Matthew Rassi (Chicago, IL), Bro. Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL), Bro. Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL), Bro. Dale Stoller (Fairbury, IL), Bro. Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO), Bro. Chris Wuethrich (St. Louis, MO), Bro. Chuck Kellenberger (Elgin, IL), Bro. Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH), and Bros. Steve Pamer and Paul Gasser (Akron, OH) visited our congregation recently.

The angels in Heaven are rejoicing as another soul has turned to God in repentance. Kyle Keiper (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Carolyn) has begun on this way. We are thankful that God is still calling and souls are answering His kind call.

OHIO, SARDIS**Faith Beard**

"Lord, Thou wilt ordain peace for us: for Thou also hast wrought all our works in us."

Isaiah 26:12

We heard the news this month that Dave and Val Fisher have found peace in their repentance and in their lives, and they are prepared for baptism. We look forward to witnessing their testimony and baptism in January.

Kurt Indermuhle (Bro. Allen and Sis. Janet) has spent some time in the hospital to repair a fractured jaw. We are so thankful that his injuries have progressed well towards healing and he is now home and able to attend his daily activities. Also, our not-so-little-any-more Colby Maibach (Bro. Garth and Sis. Hannah) continues to grow and thrive as he moves toward an imminent discharge, hopefully by Christmas.

We are quickly approaching the season in which we commemorate the birth of our Saviour. It is easy to get caught up in the stress of the planning and preparation for holiday events, but instead, we must be thankful for that stress for two reasons: First, that the Reason for the stress does indeed exist and live in our hearts - and this Reason is available to all mankind! But the second cause may not be available to all, and that is, the more friends and family a person has could mean the more get-togethers to plan for. However, it has been well documented that the Christmas season is very lonely for many people, so let us remember those who do not have these blessings.

"And the Redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob, saith the Lord."

*Isaiah 59:20***OHIO, SMITHVILLE****Ruth Gasser****Edith Miller**

We appreciated the efforts of our Elder brothers as they brought to us the Conference Memorandum on Saturday evening, November 1. Elder Bros. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) and Merle Hartzler (Rittman, OH) assisted our

Elder Bro. Andy Stoller in this work. We are thankful Bro. Wayne could be with us the next day, as well. May God richly bless our Elders as they seek to discern God's will for our church.

Other ministers who have visited us this month were Bros. Ron Steiner (Rittman, OH), Doug Harmon (Toledo, OH) and Curtis Kaufman (Tucson, AZ).

We are thankful the Lord is still calling souls to repentance. Liz Weber (Bro. Myron and Sis. Darlene) and Mariah Beery (Bro. Dwaine and Sis. Shelly) have answered this call. We pray God's blessing upon them and trust that their house of faith will be built upon the Solid Rock.

On November 9 we were privileged to witness the marriage vows of Bro. Rudy Zollinger (Rittman, OH) and Sis. Polly Uhler (Dale and Sis. Marilyn). We wish this couple God's blessings as they go forth to serve Him as one.

Two engagements have been announced to our congregation this month. Bro. Paul Klotzle and Sis. Kristen Edelman (Bern, KS); and Bro. Jarin Tucker (Bluffton, IN) and Sis. Julie Widmer (Bro. Jim and Sis. Karen) have become engaged. We wish God's guidance and direction to both couples as they plan their wedding and marriage.

We have three new babies to report this month. On November 3, Bro. Denny and Sis. Kay Nieman welcomed a new grandson, as Dexter Paul was born to parents, Bro. Greg and Sis. Darla Henico (Akron, OH). Big sister, Ariana, will be happy for a playmate. On November 17, Bro. Vic and Sis. Brenda Bauman became grandparents to a little girl, China Estelle, born to first-time parents, Bro. Aaron and Sis. Kimberly Ott (Sarasota, FL). On November 18, Aniya Ann was born to first-time parents, Bro. Jason and Sis. Whitney Indermuhle. Bro. Dennis and Sis. Shari Indermuhle are Aniya's first-time grandparents. We wish God's blessings on each of these homes, and that the little ones can be brought

up in the fear and admonition of the Lord.

Bro. George Schuster (Sis. Carol) spent time in the hospital recently. We are thankful he is able to be in church again.

We extend sympathy to Ron and Candy Hartzler as Candy's mother, Beulah Bauman, passed away. May God comfort all who mourn.

OHIO, TOLEDO
Teresa Rywalski
Rebecca Beard

Greetings of love and a blessed new year from Toledo.

We were thankful to have two visiting ministers and their families with us this past month. Joining us on the pulpit were Bro. Sam Schlatter (Sis. Linda, Junction, OH) and Bro. Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue, Detroit, MI). How truly blessed we are to have brothers who are willing to stand before us and feed us from God's Holy Word.

Rejoicing in the safe arrival of a new grandson are Dave and Sis. Connie Sancraint. Casen Branden was born to Ryan and Kristie Sancraint. Looking forward to helping with their new brother is Ethan and Kyleigh. May they seek out the will of the Lord in teaching these young souls.

Our continued thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Betty Fetter and Sis. Clara Beard as they have been battling with afflictions of the body. Their presence has been missed and we hope they can feel the love and comfort of our Heavenly Father at this time.

Note of Thanks:

Our family would like to thank everyone for their love and support during the days of grieving for our son Jimmy. You carried a lot of our load with your prayers. Thank you for your Christian sympathy.

Jim and Norma Harmon and family

OREGON, PORTLAND
Renee Angstrom

On November 9, we were blessed to partake in Holy Communion. Sharing Communion with us was Elder Bro. Paul Messner (Sis. Janet, Winthrop, MN) and Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Betty, Silverton, OR). We would like to thank you for sharing this special day with our congregation.

Sharing the Word with us this month from Silverton were Bro. Ed. Knecht and Elder Bro. Art Metz. We appreciate the support given us.

OREGON, SILVERTON
Cindy Metzger

The Silverton congregation had our Communion service on October 18. Elder Bro. Tim Funk (Sis. Deb, Peoria, IL) was here to assist Bro. Art in this duty.

Our prayers are with Bro. Chuck Walter (Sis. Karen) and Bro. Lynn Kuenzi (Sis. Marilyn) as they have both spent time in the hospital. Stacie Kuenzi (Aaron) fell and broke both arms. She is thankful that her mom, Sis. Barb Zimmerman (Lamont-Gridley, KS) was able to come out and help her family during this time. We continue to ask God's healing hand for all those in affliction of any kind.

Spencer Rockwell and Amy Snook exchanged wedding vows on November 15. We wish them God's guidance as they begin their walk together. Parents of this couple are Craig and Nancy Rockwell and Vance and Sis. Liz Snook.

This month we said goodbye to Sis. Amber Hoffman (Bro. Steve and Sis. Joan, Rockville, CT) as she traveled back to her home in Rockville. We enjoyed having her around as she was with us for the past five months.

We always appreciate visiting ministers that join us from time to time. This month we want to thank Elder Bro. Peter Petrovic (Sis. Marian, San Diego, CA), Bros. Ron Jones (Sis. Liz) and Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy) of Portland for serving our congregation.

PENNSYLVANIA PHILADELPHIA

It seems like we just reported that Sis. Maggie Schrenk had come to be part of our Philadelphia congregation and now we must bid farewell. Sis. Maggie is a traveling nurse and has fulfilled her tour of duty at one of our city's hospitals. We have become very fond of Maggie as she brings Christian joy into our midst. While we're sad to see her move on and we will miss her, we trust that God will richly bless her for her faithfulness. We sing, "Each step I take, my Savior goes before me". Maggie, this is our wish for you.

Elder Bro. Tim Funk (Peoria, IL) joined our Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand in reading the Memorandum. I John 1:4 says: "And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full." It was a blessed weekend and we extend our thanks to you, Bro. Tim and Sis. Deb, for the love you shared with us.

We also thank Bro. Everett and Sis. Nancy Gerber (Rockville, CT) for their visit. Thanks, Bro. Everett, for your willingness to help out on the pulpit in time of need.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE Mike and Monica Fritz

The Nashville congregation was privileged to host Single Focus Weekend in November and was blessed by our many visitors.

We have appreciated the willing service of our visiting ministering brothers: Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN), and Bros. Marshall Heinold (Ixtilan, MX), Joe Klotzle (Sis. Sue; Altadena, CA), and Jeff Bahler (Sis. Heidi; Wolcott, IN). We have also been blessed by the fellowship of brethren and friends visiting from Altadena, CA; Champaign, Eureka, Gridley, Morton, Roanoke, Peoria, Princeville, Tremont, and Washington, IL; Bluffton, Bluffton North, Francesville, Indianapolis, and LaCrosse, IN; West Bend, IA; Bern, KS; Minneapolis, MN; Kansas City, MO;

and Columbus and Junction, OH.

If you are traveling in or through the Nashville area, please plan to worship with us. We do not have visiting ministers scheduled for December 21 or December 28, but if local brethren are in the area we will gather for tape services. 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. Mike and Sis. Monica Fritz, (615) 866-5543; and Sis. Gwen Leuthold, (615) 356-5755.

TEXAS, AUSTIN Amy Ringger Serenity Ringger

Ye of my blessed pilgrimage,
Dear and beloved companions,
Who have the precious privilege,
The Holy Ghost's communion,
God's blessings on you I acclaim,
And greet you in the Saviour's name!
Zion's Harp #173

Our fellowship with other pilgrims can create spiritual strength. Hopefully, many of you are planning a visit to central Texas this winter or spring. We look forward to your fellowship and can give you ideas for other things to do while here. The drop in fuel prices should make it more manageable, if it does not go up before this publication.

We appreciated the ministers and visitors who came to Austin this month. The ministers were: Bros. John Steiner (Sis. Carol, Oakville), Ron Jones (Sis. Elizabeth, Portland), Elder Bros. Tom Klotzle (Altadena) and Lynn Stieglitz (Leo). The visitors were from Rockville and Peoria.

The following is the minister schedule for January: (4) Taylor, (11) Smithville, (18) Junction, (25) Kansas City. We extend a warm welcome to anyone who may be in the area to wor-

ship with us, even midweek, though we don't have a regular schedule for midweek services. Please call ahead to help us plan for serving lunch. Also, because visitors add much to our local fellowship times, it helps if we know about your visit well in advance, perhaps even a month or more if possible, so that we can accommodate you more readily in our weekend gatherings. See the ministers' book for local contact information.

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

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

TEXAS, McALLEN Sandy Kipfer

Greetings to all in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. We thank our visiting ministers and their wives: Bro. Kevin Banwart (Sis. Sandy, West Bend, IA) and Bro. Gary Maibach (Sis. Mary Ann, Smithville, OH) for taking their time and effort in expounding to us the written Word of the Lord. May God continue to richly bless them.

We would like to encourage those who plan to come south for the season or a vacation to consider the valley for a Sunday of worship and/or making the

valley your home while you are in Southern Texas. We are small in number and are happy to have visitors come and spend some time with us. The following churches are scheduled for services: (December 21, Peoria, IL), (January 4, Princeville, IL), (January 17, Peoria, IL), (February 1, Winthrop, MN), (February 15, Rittman, OH).

Our address is: Holiday Inn Express, 1921 South 10th Street. Turn 1½ blocks off the Expressway on 10th Street. Services will be held at 10:30 and 12:30. Please see ministers' directory for local contact information.

TEXAS, ZAPATA Mary Plattner

We welcome Bro. Tom and Sis. Joann Schrenk back for the winter months. Bro. Tom serves on the pulpit during the winter months in Zapata. Shortly after arrival Bro. Tom had an accident which resulted in medical care. We are thankful that the injuries were not more severe.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Bro. Paul Leuthold and family in the sudden loss of Sis. Betty of the Lester, IA, congregation. We will feel the loss in Zapata as they were a faithful couple and an example in our congregation. They spent many winters in Zapata as winter residents.

Anyone coming to Zapata has learned to know and love our convert, Ericka Nohl. This summer she was able to get a new wheelchair which has enabled her to get around much easier. The little children are fascinated by her new transportation and she is thankful as well.

Each Sunday we are able to greet someone new that has come to spend their winter months in a warmer climate. Retired Elder Bro. Bob Walder (Congerville) and his wife, Sis. Gloria, live in McAllen but assemble with us when they do not have a scheduled minister in McAllen. Anyone coming to Zapata is most welcome to worship with us.

Because of the rain this summer,

our lake is full and beautiful. For greater than 25 years, people in our community have worked to get our lake filled. Because of a drought nearly 25 years ago, our lake was drained to accommodate the farmers in the Valley who irrigated. Many meetings were held to try to find ways to refill the lake. This summer God supplied abundant rains. An example of God's wondrous power and creation.

VERMONT CLARENDON/NORWICH Nathan and Miriam Reutter

Greetings, dear ones, across the many miles. We were blessed this month with many visitors and much Christian fellowship. We want to thank the visiting ministers for all their efforts made on our behalf. They were Bro. Clint Schmidt (Sis. Magdalena, Winthrop, MN) and Bro. Warren Zahner (Sis. Bonnie, Rockville, CT). On the weekend of November 1-2, the Memorandum was read. We were reminded about the pillars of our faith, that there are four to uphold and keep for the future generations and for our church's spiritual growth and development. Also, it was brought out that worldliness can also be part of our thought process (lifting ourselves up) and not just what we partake of. There were so many thoughts that we came away with we can't mention them all! Here for that was Elder Bro. Mike Leman (Sis. Deb, Denver, CO), Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Sis. Cheryl) and Ordained Deacon Bro. Warren Zahner

(Sis. Bonnie), both of Rockville CT. The following weekend Bro. Don Manz (Sis. Connie, Junction, OH) was with us along with others from the area. May God bless you all for your love and support of our flock 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 and Sis. Jenny Virkler (802-325-2724). We love to fellowship with believers whether it is during the week or on the weekend. Please let us know if you are planning on being in our area so we can accommodate you. Service times are as follows:

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(Contact local brethren)

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10:15 AM

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12:30 PM

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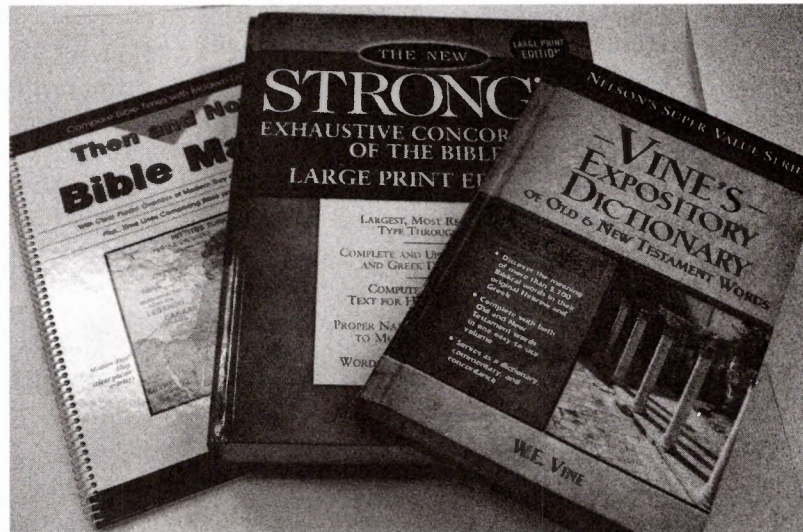
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No one can deny that we are living in a time of great financial uncertainty. Even the wisest of experts are struggling to bring calmness to the troubled waters of recent financial upheaval. Many people are deeply concerned because of the possibility of losing things they value – savings, retirement plans, jobs, possessions, and even homes.

But although we live with a degree of uncertainty, this does not have to be a time of insecurity. The difference is whether we will apply the principles of financial stewardship that are clearly spelled out in God's Holy Word. Those who wrote the words of Scripture were hardly financial counselors, and yet the biblical concepts of how to handle our money and possessions will provide much-needed security in an uncertain world.

Here are three of the most important concepts in the Bible that teach us how God wants us to relate to money and possessions.

1. Stewardship vs. Ownership.

One of the most important and oft-repeated biblical concepts is that we are stewards and not owners of our possessions. The word "steward" is defined as "a person who manages or administers another's property or financial affairs." God is the true owner of everything we have, and He entrusts them to us as stewards with the expectation that we will use them wisely, invest them to gain interest, and not consider them as objects of worship or trust.

1 Chronicles 29:12 "Thine, O LORD, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O LORD, and thou art exalted as head above all".

God's expectation of us as stewards is spelled out in several places, most notably in the parable of the unfaithful steward in Luke 16.

Luke 16:1-2 "And he said also unto his disciples, There was a certain rich man, which had a steward; and the same was accused unto him that he had

wasted his goods. (2) And he called him, and said unto him, How is it that I hear this of thee? give an account of thy stewardship; for thou mayest be no longer steward."

Jesus concludes this parable by saying that faithfulness is the attribute by which stewards will be judged.

Luke 16:10-11 "He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much. If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteousness mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?"

And the Apostle Paul reminds us in his letter to the Corinthians,

1 Corinthians 4:2 "It is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful."

2. Fellowship with God.

Another important concept in stewardship is the fact that how we handle money influences our fellowship with the Lord. Jesus equates this with the quality of our spiritual life. If we handle our money properly according to the principles of Scripture, we grow closer to Christ. However, if we are unfaithful with it, our fellowship with Him will suffer. This is clearly illustrated in the parable of the talents, where the master recognizes and rewards the faithfulness of his servant:

Matthew 25:21 "Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord."

In contrast to that, notice the master's judgment on the servant who hid his talent in the earth and simply surrendered it without any increase:

Matthew 25:26-30 "His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant . . . Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury [interest] . . . And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

As we handle money God's way, we have an opportunity to enter into the joy of a more intimate relationship

with our Lord.

3. Only One Master.

A third important concept is that there is great danger in letting our possessions compete with the Lord for first place in our lives. Money is a primary competitor with Christ for the lordship of our lives. Jesus tells us we must choose to serve only one of these two masters.

Matthew 6:24 "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other, or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon [money]."

It is impossible for us to serve money – even in a small way – and still serve the Lord.

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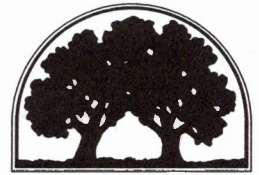
Many of us who grew up in the church remember singing the song about the foolish man who built his house on the sand, and the wise man who built his house on the rock. When we grew older, we learned that this song tells the story that Jesus told as recorded in Matthew 7. But do we remember that Jesus prefaced his parable with these words:

Matthew 7:24 "Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man . . ."

When we study and learn the principles of financial stewardship as taught in God's Word, we have the opportunity to build our financial house on the solid rock of Scriptural principles. When the storms of financial upheaval descend upon us, the house that is built on the rock will stand secure.

New Staff Member coming in March: ACCFS would like to welcome Bro. Bill Schmidgall (Fairbury) to our staff. He has worked in the U.S. Postal Service for nearly 24 years and is currently the Postmaster in Fairbury. He is taking early retirement from that position. Bro. Bill will serve as Program Director for Church Outreach Services starting March 1, 2009. Please pray for Bro. Bill as he prepares for the new tasks ahead.

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

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New Haven, IN 46774

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...This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of me, saith the Lord.

Isaiah 54:17

Sermon continued from page 2

that we too were once in bondage. That we were bound by the sin of our fathers. We were bound by our own sin. We were bound by the flesh with which we were clothed. We desperately needed deliverance. We cried out unto the Father in the day of our conviction and He responded to us in a wonderful way. That the blood of Jesus Christ was placed upon the door posts of our heart. Through faith in that blood, we could believe that we could have deliverance. We could find the power of His grace and His truth to be delivered from the sin that once bound us. Then we are to remember, like the children of Israel of old, that we have been delivered. We are to remember that we do not have time to dally about the business of coming out from among the land and the people of our bondage.

We are to remember the burden that was upon our shoulder. We are to remember the task master, the one that bound us and held us in sin. We are to remember that to cause us to remember that we do not ever, ever want to go back to our former lives. As the children of Israel were instructed in their generations, to hold this feast and to remember it.

He speaks to the children of Israel, how He had redeemed them and how He brought them. "There shall no strange god be in thee; neither shalt thou worship any strange god. I am the Lord thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt: open thy mouth wide, and I will fill it." Psalm 81:9,10. What a promise and a blessing was given unto them! That if they would have no other strange god before Him, they merely needed to keep themselves for their Lord and they could open their mouths and He would fill them with the good things of the land of promise.

There are many promises that are given in the New Testament. We do not look for the land flowing with milk and honey in the earthly sense. But we look forward to a well of water which will quench our thirst, that we may never thirst again, if we resort to the Word of God. We look forward to the bread of life that is contained in the Word of God. Breaking the bread,

that is the body of our Lord Jesus Christ. We look for the abundance in the spiritual life here upon the earth. We look for eternal life to come.

"But my people would not hearken to my voice; and Israel would none of me. So I gave them up unto their own hearts' lust: and they walked in their own counsels. Oh that my people had hearkened unto me, and Israel had walked in my ways!" Psalm 81:11-13. We do live in the day of grace, it is true. But we yet have the opportunity, both redeemed and unredeemed, to reject the Lord our God and to put other things before Him. If we choose life, we have His promises that He would subdue our enemies and have His hand turned against our adversaries. (Psalm 81:14) If we choose to put other things before Him, we have the promise that He will leave us to the lusts of our heart.

He speaks of how He would have liked to "...have fed them also with the finest of the wheat: and with honey out of the rock should I have satisfied thee." Psalm 81:16. We are so blessed that we have the opportunity to come to that very rock that He speaks of. That He could feed us with honey out of the rock and we can be spiritually fed and encouraged upon the pathway of life. If we find our salvation in the Lord and we walk close to Him, we will not see our self as in a desert place but we will see our self as a people very well provided for, with abundance of water.

He spoke to them, how He proved them in the waters of Meribah (Psalm 81:7). They came, they were thirsty and they found a well of contaminated water and began to complain. It displeased the Lord. But He provided that through instruction of trees being cut down and dropped into that well that the water was purified. So it is, if we find the Word of God that which is bitter unto us, He instructs us that we can be cut down, if we can fall upon the rock Jesus Christ and we can be converted and made anew. That will become a very pure and a very sweet water unto us. One that can sustain us and one that we can desire.

"And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from

Caesar Augustus..." St. Luke 2:1. Don't we just marvel as we think of the unfolding of the wonderful plan of salvation? How a decree went forth from Caesar Augustus. We think of this man Caesar. We think of his standing and stature among the nations of the world at that time. We see an empire that was vast, often wicked. But God could still use it to bring about His ends. So when we read in Paul where all power is ordained of God and He can use them according to His will and pleasure, we fully realize that the time and the era that we are living in, God well controls the powers that be (Romans 13:1). He will bring about His good and perfect will, in spite of our misgivings about the nations of the earth this day. So could He back then.

We think of the chaffing of the children of Israel as they resisted the rule of the Roman government. Yet, through this way, God brought order and peace and tranquility to a large part of the world. Through this decree that they chaffed under and the taxing that they had to come and bring, that there was a way that God's prophecies could be fulfilled that Jesus could be born in Bethlehem.

We think of the humble submission of Joseph and Mary, as they submitted unto this decree, decreed by perhaps a wicked government that was despised by their people and resisted, how they humbly came to the place where they were to be taxed. Joseph was of the lineage of David. How they submitted unto this thing. We must believe that it was just a tremendous inconvenience for them. We think of Mary being great with child. We think of foot travel. We think of the rocky Judean countryside.

We don't know what their financial status was but when they came to that place, they couldn't purchase a place for them. But they had to reside in a place that perhaps was fit for the beasts. But all this came to pass. We don't read of them grumbling or complaining, but they submitted to this. How wonderful it was that they could bring forth the Son of God. That they could be instrumental in this plan of salvation, humble and lowly as they were.

“And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.” St. Luke 2:6-7. It’s a touching story, as we think about the coming of our Lord. We think especially of children, when we think of this account. How tender and how wonderful this was and how this account can be related so lovingly to the children. How the children perceive this and they think, in their childhood, of the Creator of heaven and earth, the Lord Jesus as a child that came upon the earth in a manner like them. Was subject unto all things that we as adults and we as the children, were subject unto. Isn’t this truly love, that He who created the heavens and the earth, He who breathed the breath of life into us, was willing to come down and to redeem us by becoming as one of us? By being subjected to things that many of us have not been subjected to.

It also speaks, “...in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.” v. 8-10. Dear friends, those of you who have yet to believe to the extent that you are willing to come to this one who was a babe, then was crucified and rose again, if it seems a fearful thing for the revelation of Jesus Christ to come to you, as it was to the shepherds that were keeping watch over their flock by night, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them and they were sore afraid, if this seems like a thing that is beyond you and a fearful thing, many of us that have gone through this can testify that we have had the same experience in our lives. To think of repentance and to think of a life change and to think of submitting unto God and giving over the control of our life unto someone else was a fearful thing.

But as the angels spoke unto them, “...Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.” v.10. In like manner, we found that the tidings of God, through repentance, were a wonderful thing for us to experience. We experienced the letting go. We experienced being carried and cradled in the arms of a loving God. We experienced that we could turn from our sin and we could bear sorrow for it. We experienced that when we needed to go back to someone, that the Lord was ever so faithful. As we called upon Him, that He would bear us in His arms, that we could make restitution. It was such a fearful thing to the unredeemed.

The glory of God was revealed to us in many ways. The things that we could not overcome, the things that we struggled at, the things we feared, we were now able to do. The things that once bound us and the things that we were unable to rid ourselves of, there was now power to be released from those things.

So it is not a new thing, that the revealing of the power of salvation unto the children of men is a fearful thing. But all those that will in faith, receive it, can find the Lord to be a faithful God. That His yoke is truly easy and His burden truly light. We have found it so.

He revealed unto these men the coming of the Lord. “For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.” v. 11-14. Have you ever wondered if this Lord had not come and been willing, what the world would be like today as we know it? True, it is an evil place. It is a place where sin is rampant, much as it was in the times of Sodom and Gomorrah, in the time of the tower of Babel, in the time of Noah. But the wickedness is rampant upon the earth.

But it speaks in Daniel of a time where the kingdoms of this earth

would be smashed and broken into bits by one who would come as a stone and strike the nations of the earth upon the feet and break it into bits (Daniel 7:23). That stone would grow and all the earth would become a great mountain. We trust that that was Jesus Christ. He came as a baby but He grew. He grew and filled the whole earth. Though this earth is a wicked place, what would it be like without Jesus Christ?

We have known so many throughout our lives to be so kind to us. We have known the mercy of Jesus through many people. We know that many nations are blest because they have attempted to instate His teachings in their constitutions. As they adhere to them, they were blest. We just wonder what the earth would be like if there hadn’t been peace and good will toward men. Surely it would be a horrible place.

The shepherds made haste and they came to “...Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.” St. Luke 2:16-18. I’ve often wondered about this. I don’t think this thing was as quiet as we might perceive. For the wise men came from the east. They talked to Herod and Herod had some awareness of what was going on. These shepherds, once it was revealed unto them, told it abroad. They must have went through the streets of Bethlehem, proclaiming the wondrous things that were done. There must have been some knowledge by a good part of the people that something special was going on. So it was laid on the heart of each one that was there to find out what that was or to simply go on and reject it.

So He comes to the children of men today. In the nation we live in and many other nations, the knowledge of the Savior that has come, abounds. We just wonder how many of us, like the people of Bethlehem, heard the news and were not too stirred or inspired by it and went about our lives

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Sermon continued from page 43

as it was before. We wonder about those who were stirred in heart, to think deeply upon it and ponder, what is this marvelous thing that is come to pass? Why should these shepherds be up and about in the middle of the night, leaving their flocks and proclaiming this message? So we believe that the Lord has freed Himself in revealing His good Word to us. Some of us, not just once but many times. So we'll be accountable for that.

They brought Jesus, after the time of her purification according to the law of Moses were accomplished, they brought Him to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord in the temple. (v. 22) We think, they brought Jesus to that

holy place. They brought Him to that place where He was to come in later years and cast out those who bought and sold. Where He would come and instruct and the children would praise Him and sing Hosanna. (St. Matthew 21:12-15). They brought Him to that place that would not stand many years after He departed this earth. He prophesied that. (St. Matthew 24:2) But He had respect unto this place in His life and called it a house of prayer (St. Matthew 21:13). He came and fulfilled the law and the prophesies of Moses. He raised up a new temple. In three days His body was resurrected after His crucifixion.

He raised us up to sit on high and heavenly places. He caused us to

speak with a new song, a new tongue. To sing aloud unto God in our strength and to make a joyful noise unto the God of Jacob. He caused us to become the temples of the Holy God. Let us find, dear ones, the strength and the desire and the willingness to keep this temple as God would have us to keep it. To keep it a holy place. To keep it as a place that He would be pleased to be worshipped. To keep out those things that displeased the Lord so much when He came into the temple of old.

May God bless the wonderful Word of Life unto our ears and hearts that we may ponder upon it and we may be strengthened for our journey from this day forward.

A Need For Volunteers... as seen from a caring heart

As I sit here and look over a town that was devastated by the flood of 2008, so many thoughts run through my mind. If I can take a moment and share them with you, I would thank you for that opportunity.

First, we have to share with you our deepest gratitude for your valiant effort in helping us try to save our church families homes, crops, and our small community. From the church, words will not ever begin to explain what it has meant to us. From the community, you have shared an example of God's unfailing love.

Our church families are in most part back in their homes and some semblance of normalcy is trying to take shape. Normal as we know it will never be the same, but God has been graciously faithful in teaching us a 'new normal' and to be content with that.

The community is not yet to the stage of even trying to begin a 'new normal'. And this is where, if I may, I would like to share with you the need that we have.

How does one explain a town that has been torn apart by a 'power' that many just don't understand? A town that respects us who are known as 'The Church'. A town that has not had the opportunity that you and I take for granted, one that understands the women at the well, and her way of life, where your neighbor is family because that is all there is, where you work hard from paycheck to paycheck because that is the way you have lived for generations or your children are your only ticket to more money.

It is so easy to stand back and say this house or this town isn't worth saving, but what if that is all that you have or all that you know. They have never had the luxury of knowing what you know. They look at their home as the only thing that they can hold on to. It is their life, be that right or wrong. They don't know that these things are fleeting, that there is a Savior that is willing to carry them through. They only know how to survive in ways that you and I could never imagine. Working with them, there are pieces of their hearts that long for what is right. They are watching and waiting for what they know... to be let down, again.

We go to Haiti, Jamaica; we went to Biloxi and numerous other places, for that, we are thankful. So can you take a moment and search your heart. There is a small community who needs your help. Not only in physical needs, but a need for seeing the unconditional love of the One who loves us no matter what. No, the climate will not be wonderful, but I know the heart of this community. It will be warmth that you seek. They will welcome you, watch you and be touched by the unconditional love. We may never know the impact that we may have, but that is ok. If just one life can someday see the Light of the Savior, your job was well done.

Once again, thank you. You have already given us so much. Maybe there is room for giving just a little bit more. May God bless you now and always.

Volunteers Needed

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For more information, contact Bro. Stan Heimer.
Cell : 319-572-7452

*Email : stanh65@aol.com
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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

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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

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This project is sponsored by the Elder Body under the guidance of an Elder History Committee. The computer disks from the first edition (1984) were obsolete so *Marching to Zion* was completely re-typeset. It represents a thorough Apostolic Christian Church history in America, from 1847-2007.

CARIBBEAN BOARD PROJECTS - 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 December 15th, 2008 -www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-caribbean/

Project	Year 2009	Coordinator	Capacity				
Les Cayes MEBSH School Roof	Jan 2-9	Ron Palitto 330-336-5373 Ronp@palittoconsulting.com	12	Croix De Bouquets Lifeline Medical	Feb 10-17	Glen Steidinger 815-693-3473	8
Les Cayes FRW Simone Orphanage	Jan 9-16	Rick Wuethrich 219-567-9488 topnotch@home.ffni.com	12	Les Cayes MEBSH School Roof	Feb 13-20	Randy Kieser 309-695-6340 kieser84@geckoct.com	12
La Higuera - D/R Lifeline Construction	Jan 20-27	Jim Koehl 309-377-3201 jmkoehl@yahoo.com	8	Les Cayes MEBSH Haiti Support	Feb 20-23	Rich Bertschi 309-467-2351 lemangm@mtco.com	Invitation
Les Cayes AWA Water Aid	Jan 23-30	Troy Stuber 309-925-2603 troystuber@verizon.net	4	Les Cayes SEED Agriculture Aid	Mar 13-20	Dale Frank 319-766-3661 frankfarms@iowatelecom.net	12
La Higuera - D/R Lifeline Construction	Jan 27-Feb 3	Ted Steidinger 815-867-6452 tsteid@route24.net	8	Les Cayes MEBSH School Roof	Mar 20-27	Rich Bertschi 309-467-6110 lemangm@mtco.com	12
Puits Sales Palm Grove Construction	Jan 30-Feb 7	John Aberle 785-459-2423 jraberle@hotmail.com	10	Les Cayes MEBSH Maintenance	Mar 27-Apr 3	Jon Zeller 309-266-9009 jzeller@mtco.com	12
Les Cayes MEBSH School Roof	Jan 30-Feb 6	Dean Pashak 989-662-7685 dwpashak@charter.net	12	Les Cayes AWA Water Aid	Apr 24-May 1	Troy Stuber 309-925-2603 troystuber@verizon.net	4
La Higuera - D/R Lifeline Construction	Feb 3-10	Eldon Steidinger 815-848-8988 eldonsteid@yahoo.com	8	Les Cayes MEBSH Medical	May 1-8	Keith Knepp 309-467-4691 kknepp@mchsi.com	8
Les Cayes SEED Agriculture Aid	Feb 6-13	Dale Frank 319-766-3661 frankfarms@iowatelecom.net	12	Haiti MEBSH Caribbean Eval.	May 15-23	Tom Hitz 734-454-9229 tchitz@sbcglobal.net	Invitation
Les Cayes FRW Vocational School	Feb 6-13	Rick Wuethrich 219-567-9488 topnotch@home.ffni.com	4	Les Cayes FRW Vocational School	Jun 5-12	Rick Wuethrich 219-567-9488 topnotch@home.ffni.com	4

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 December 15th, 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 Goodfield SS	Jun 6 - 13	Andy Bauman arbauman@mchsi.com	40
Montego Bay School CCCD Bluffton SS	Mar 21 - 28	Gene Gerber 260-824-4601 ggerber@meyerbuilding.com	40 (Full)	Jamaica Deaf Village CCCD Akron, Rittman, Smithville SS	Jun 20 - 27	Jay Maibach jmmaibach@embarqmail.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 December 15th, 2008 -www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-mexico/

Location	Year 2009	Coordinator					
Magdalena Construction	Jan 3-10	Denver Rassi 815-867-2195 mr.rassi@gmail.com		Reynosa Construction	Mar 21-28	Mark Sauder/U of I University of Illinois 309-202-3279 markus_329@yahoo.com	
Magdalena Construction	Jan 10-17	Steve Kaeb 217-379-4707 kaebbs@illicom.net		Magdalena Construction	Mar 21-28	Pete Aberle Tremont Bible Class 309-925-5969 dpabfrms@hotmail.com	
Magdalena Construction	Jan 17-24	John Teubel 815-657-8721 jteubel@maxwire.net		Agua Prieta Construction	Mar 21-28	Aaron Beery 330-927-6926 beeryaaron@embarqmail.com	
Magdalena Construction	Feb 14-21	Steve Veins 860-871-8329 veins1@earthlink.net		Reynosa Medical	Apr 1-8	Cheryl Herrmann cherrmann@verizon.net	
Agua Prieta Construction	Mar 7-14	Kevin Gerber 260-565-3313 kevgerber@yahoo.com		Magdalena Construction	May 30-Jun 6	Seth Beer Phoenix Bible Class 602-918-1722 sethbeer@gmail.com	
Magdalena Construction	Mar 7-14	Dustin Huber/ISU Illinois State University 309-825-0864 dustin.huber@verizon.net		Magdalena Construction	Jun 13-20	Brent Knobloch 815-923-4736 bmknob@mc.net	
Agua Prieta Construction	Mar 14-21	Steven Sauder/ICC-Bradley Illinois Central College/Bradley 309-657-2067 stevensau@gmail.com		Agua Prieta Construction	Jun 20-27	Brad Leman 260-273-1953 crazyhorsebrad@gmail.com	
Magdalena Construction	Mar 14-21	Joe Darlington/Purdue Purdue University 815-245-7913 joedarlington@gmail.com		Magdalena Construction	Jun 20-27	Aaron Klopfenstein Indianapolis Bible Class 317-596-8739 aaronklop@sbcglobal.net	
				Magdalena Construction	Jun 27-Jul 4	Kent Mogler 651-452-8586 kent.mogler@comcast.net	

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



REMEMBERING

Our Spiritual Heritage

The following consists of excerpts from the booklet "For Where Your Treasure Is, There Will Be Your Heart Also." This was put together by the Gridley, Illinois, and Roanoke, Illinois, Young Groups in 1978, and consists of interviews with the more elderly brothers and sisters in those congregations.

Roanoke Brothers and Sisters

Josephine Musselman listed her favorite Bible verses: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthened me" (Philippians 4:13), and "Be still and know that I am God" (Psalms 46:10).

The favorite Bible verse of Edna Stoller: "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me." (John 14:1)

Mary Leman gave her favorite Bible verse: "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want" (Psalm 23:1). She also liked a hymn that included the phrase, "come angel band". And she commented that it was such a beautiful picture when she heard that song, and the chorus brought her to tears to think of the end of her life — that she would actually be carried on "angel wings" to her eternal home, if found true and faithful to the end.

Art and Mabel Bowald gave their favorite Bible verse: "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." (II Chronicles 7:14)

Elizabeth Schlupp's favorite song

was "Before The Meeting" (page 214 in the *Zion's Harp*). When asked what her favorite verse was she said, "The entire Bible." Her best advice was "Pray a lot." The favorite song of Barbara Schlupp was "The Morning Hymn" (page 166 in the *Zion's Harp*). She too, when asked about her favorite verse said, "The whole Bible."

The favorite hymns (from the *Zion's Harp*) of Clarence and Mildred Aeschleman were "Receptive Hearers" (page 144) and "Our Love Shall Not Diminish" (page 137). They also mentioned some advice given by one of their parents: "Always remember — whatever you do or wherever you go, at your end time you must answer for it, each deed, good or otherwise, to the Lord."

Gridley Brothers and Sisters

Under a section entitled "Food For thought", the following comments were offered:

Ollie Gramm: "Pray a lot. Be patient. Keep close to God and His teachings."

Matilda Witzig: "If you can't have the best of everything, make the best of everything you have."

Laura Martin: "Help lighten the burdens that those around you might have." (She said many times she has felt the help and encouragement of others.)

Minnie Stortz: "The church preaches the same message, if not stronger, over the years."

A favorite poem of Marie Stoller:

"I walked a mile with pleasure,

She chatted all the way.
But left me none the wiser
For all she had to say."

"I walked a mile with sorrow,
And never a word said she.
But, oh, the things I learned from her,
When sorrow walked with me."

A favorite Poem of Ed Stoller (husband of Marie Stoller):

"He placed me in a little cage
Away from gardens fair;
But I must sing the sweetest songs
Because He placed me there."

"Not beat my wings against the cage
If it is my Maker's will.
But raise my voice to heaven's gate
And sing the louder still."

Eighteen brothers and sisters listed Psalm 23 as their favorite Bible chapter. They were: Rudy Miller, Julia Schieler, Ella Cargill, Esther Miller, Anna Klopfenstein, Rose Schlipf, Lillian Fenton, Ollie Witzig, Reuben Stoller, Ed Witzig, Anna K. Miller, Will and Ollie Gramm, Henry and Ruth Gramm, Albert Grusy, Laura Martin and Setta Klopfenstein. (Sis. Ruth Gramm, 98, is still living in the Eureka home, the sole survivor of those interviewed at Gridley in 1978).

By Perry Klopfenstein

Next Issue:

Final article of current series

The Light Of Hope

“Repent For, Or Just Repent”

Retired Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

I have something to share with you, something with which I have struggled for some time. In spite of diligently searching the scriptures, I have not been able to find anywhere in the Bible where it is written that we should repent FOR our sins. If any of you can find where this terminology is used in the Bible, please inform me and I shall repent and correct myself in a later article.

In the Old Testament in Jeremiah 18 verse 8, God says, “I will repent of the evil that I thought to do unto them.” Here God is saying that He will not punish the people if they turn from their evil ways. In Revelation 2:21 in the New Testament we read, “And I gave her space to repent of her fornication, and she repented not.” In the Bible, the word “repent” is usually used by itself but when the word is followed by a preposition, the preposition is “of”, not “for”.

Many of you may think, “What’s the difference?” “Why quibble about details?” However, we must be careful not to add to or take away from what the Bible says. Revelation 22:19. None of us want to do that but we may do so unintentionally.

As a young person I thought that someday I must repent for my sins. Therefore I tried to be very careful because I thought that when I repent I will have to suffer terribly for anything I did wrong. This is good so far as preventing wrong doing is concerned, but the problem is that I may have subconsciously thought that my suffering plus Christ’s suffering redeems me from my lost condition.

This now becomes a very serious doctrinal question. Christ said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life.” John 14:6. He didn’t say, “You and I are the way, the truth, and the life.” When we repent, we suffer remorse for the things we have done which are wrong in God’s sight, but we cannot add anything to the atonement Christ made for us. Our remorse is good for us as it helps us to be more willing to follow Christ, that’s all. But I think we should all be more than willing to follow Christ with all our heart, soul, and spirit, just in appreciation for what He has done for us. Also, nowhere in the Bible does it say that we should live a wild and rebellious life so we have something to repent for. Sins leave scars, regardless of forgiveness. However, those who have committed great sins may be more appreciative of their salvation than others. In Luke 7:47 Jesus said, “To whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little.” However, I wouldn’t use that as an excuse for sinning.

During my repentance and conversion to Christ, I went to my Elder and said something like this, “Bro. Schupert, there is something wrong with me. I am much too happy to be in repentance.” He replied that the Ethiopian spoken of in Acts 8, when he believed with all his heart, was baptized and went on his way rejoicing. Bro. Schupert’s reply has always been a great encouragement to me.

In Matthew 3:2 we read the words of John the Baptist, “Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” In Matthew 4:17 we read, “From

that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” In Acts 3:19 Peter is quoted as saying, “Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out.” In all cases the terminology “Repent for” is not used. The word “for” indicates that you are doing something about a certain condition. For instance, “I’m going to take some medicine for my cold.” The expectation is that the medicine will have a beneficial effect on your cold.

The word “repent” basically means to change course or to turn back, in the case of conversion, to turn back to God and to Christ. Records show that Bro. Froehlich suffered a lot during his repentance, but I’m sure it did not add to the atonement which Christ made for him and for us. I have read that Luther was so concerned about his past sins that the priest taking his confession over and over again told him to stop bothering him with the same things. The records say that one day Luther read, “The just shall live by faith.” Romans 1:17. This is said to have wrought a big change in Luther who was steeped in the idea of doing penance, or suffering, for his sins. He then realized that his suffering was not helping any so far as receiving forgiveness is concerned. His business was to have faith, to believe enough to obey, to submit.

Many people wonder about certain things but hesitate to express themselves. If you have something you wonder about, I invite you to write to me about it and we will ponder it together.

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