

The Silver Lining

*... Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water
and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.*

*That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that
which is born of the Spirit is spirit.*

Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

*The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof,
but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth:*

so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

John 3:5-8



September 2009

Sermon by Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall, Oakville, IA
Jeremiah 6:16-19 and St. John 4:1-42

In this morning, as we are here, the focal point will be God's Holy Word. But let's just for a moment, before we open the Word, ask a question or two. Will this Word be fruitful in my life?

This past Wednesday night, the sermon was on St. Luke chapter 8. Where it talked about the Word coming forth and then it expressed four types of hearts. It is not just the Word coming forth that will determine if it is fruitful. It is the type of heart that the Word lands in. In those four types of hearts, there was a wayside, there were stony hearts, there were thorny and weedy hearts. But there was a type of heart that the Word was fruitful and the Word grew out of that heart. It said it was an honest and good heart.

Now what ingredients make for an honest and good heart? I don't think you can think of the word 'honest' without using the word 'humility'. Honest about who we really are. Humility brings the grace of God into our heart and allows God's Word to start to take root. What makes a heart good? There is only one thing. It is faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ. Humility and faith.

So we can hear the Word. But if we have stones or it is a wayside and there are thorns and it chokes out humility and faith, it is not going to take root. I believe it is so important when we come to church, I'll have to admit there are times there are stones or thorns or things that have to come out of the heart and if we don't do it the Word won't be effective. So may it be that as we come to church, and I know that you have and I so much appreciate it, many of you, many, many, almost everyone I met, said, "We will pray for the Word". That is what we need and we depend on those prayers. May God help us that we can speak and hear the Word of God.

God was so good to the children of Israel. He gave them so many good things. But somewhere along the line, they let them slip. He went to

the people. He pleaded with them. God always wanted a people that He could love and call His own peculiar people. What set His people apart is when they would obey His Word.

Jeremiah came to Israel, speaking the words of the Lord. It says, "Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where *is* the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, we will not walk *therein*." Jeremiah 6:16. I think of those words, when He speaks of the old paths and what is the good way. I want to speak on this in behalf of the old covenant people and the new covenant people. I believe when He was speaking of the old paths and the good way, He was speaking about what He established in His Word. That if you follow those things which I have directed, you will find rest for your souls. I don't believe that principle has changed any from the old covenant people to the new covenant people. The words that still come forth are, follow the old paths that were good and you will find rest for your soul. "Also I set watchmen over you, *saying*, Hearken to the sound of the trumpet..." v.17.

I want to go back to the old ways and the old paths that we have come to know from generations. Go back about one hundred fifty years ago, when there was in Switzerland, the state church. Brother Froehlich was raised as his parents wanted him - to be a minister. So they sent him to seminary school and he went. He didn't really believe the Word. He became very sick and almost to the point of death. There, for the first time in his life, he was exposed and led through a true repentance and a true conversion and he found his peace with God. That was nothing new. It was right out of the Bible. Yet the state church was not teaching that.

When he was inspired of God to go take that message to the people, it spread like wildfire. They hadn't heard the message of a true rebirth

experience. We know that that became then the beginning of what we know as the Apostolic Christian Church. We know that, when the time comes that we get to heaven, there won't be different names of churches. It will be those who have

Sermon continued on page 40

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“Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He would send forth labourers into his harvest” (Luke 10:2)

Light From The Word



Writings based on God's Word

September 2009

Sharing The Gospel

“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear” (1 Pet. 3:15). Do you have the hope of eternal life in you? Has Jesus transformed your life? Have you been washed in the blood of the Lamb, and by faith and the Holy Spirit been born again (John 3: 3-7)? Have all things been made new by God's grace through repentance and conversion, and are you enjoying the peace of God that results from a sanctified life of obedience? If you have, is it possible to keep it to yourself and not share this great hope?

Jesus teaches us that we have freely received the gift of life and freely we should give. (Matt. 10:8) Jesus sent His disciples to preach the good news of the Kingdom of God. He sent them by two's and told them to take nothing extra for their journey. He gave them authority over unclean spirits and diseases and commanded them to heal the sick. (Luke 9:1-6) While He was on earth, Jesus limited His preaching to the lost sheep of the house of Israel with just a few notable exceptions. However, just before He ascended to heaven, He gave His disciples their final instructions. Beginning at Jerusalem (Luke 24:47), they were commanded to teach all nations, preaching repentance and remission of sins. They were also commanded to baptize them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, teaching them to observe all His commandments. (Matt. 28:18-20) Jesus clearly instructs that salvation is for all people.

“...For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom: But we preach Christ crucified...” (1 Cor. 1:21-25). In those early years, it seems that preaching, or telling men about the Kingdom of Heaven, was not limited to just a few. Apparently many of the be-

lievers were so grateful for their salvation and so moved by the Holy Spirit, that they preached wherever they went. (Acts 11:18-20) When the Spirit separated Saul and Barnabas to go to the gentiles, they went preaching. First in the synagogue and then in private homes and schools, they preached the Gospel of salvation. It was not a matter of eloquence or great convincing arguments. In fact, Paul writes of the struggle that it was for him to preach. *“And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God” (1 Cor. 2:3-5).*

We ought not to say that we are incapable of sharing the gospel, but rather be willing to demonstrate the power of the Spirit as Paul did – recognizing that Paul's preaching was based on a solid foundation of understanding. (He knew the Scriptures well.) However, we also need to be aware that knowledge by itself “puffeth up,” and is fruitless if not mixed with love and the wisdom of God. In this spirit of meekness, we are exhorted to be always ready and willing to preach the Word—not our own word, or even our own opinions about the Word of God, but the pure, simple, truth from God. *“Preach the word. Be instant, in season, out of season...” (2 Tim. 4:2).*

“Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity” (1 Tim. 4:12). In addition to preaching, we are exhorted to be examples, even as Jesus is an example to us. Paul was so bold as to tell the believers in Corinth to follow his example, even as Paul followed Christ's. If we are walking in the Spirit and not in the flesh, we will be an example to all men – both in the church and to those who are yet without faith. However, if our deeds do not bear witness to the truth, our words will be empty hypocrisy. *“Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him*

twofold more the child of hell than yourselves” (Matt. 23:15). On the other hand, if we are unwilling to use our mouth to bear witness to the reason for our deeds (Jesus), we risk taking credit to ourselves for the good that we do.

Have you ever thought that you aren't “called” to speak of your faith? Or that it should only be the duty of ministers to preach? It's easy to find reasons to be silent. By nature we prefer to blend in with the world around us. Paul told the Romans, *“So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also. For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth” (Rom. 1:15-16).* Jesus told His disciples that their life in Him should be obvious to all men. *“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven” (Matt. 5:16).* Jesus warned: *“Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed...” (Mark 8:38).*

Therefore said he unto them, “The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest” (Luke 10:2). While the Bible is clear that we are all to be witnesses of hope to a lost world, it is also clear that at times the Holy Spirit separated men for the specific task of carrying the Gospel to the uttermost parts of the earth. (Acts 13:2) Responding to such a call from the Holy Spirit may be difficult and requires much prayer and counsel. Leaving family and “roots” behind to share the Gospel may seem nearly unthinkable, but isn't the thought of souls spending eternity in Hell even more unthinkable? Although we should never run ahead of the Lord and go on our own thinking, being sent with the blessing of the church, in the name of the Lord, can bring good fruit. (Rom. 10:14-15)

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@mtco.com



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

Direction and Purpose for the Future

While outreach begins at home with the individual, it also extends to the local and national church with World Relief and the Mission Committee working together to spread the message of salvation. The church also has the commission to take the gospel across language and cultural borders into other parts of the world.

A Bible Distribution Committee, established in 1958, later became the Mission Committee, the arm of the church with the responsibility of supporting the purposes of spreading the Gospel. The Mission Committee solicits the prayers of the brotherhood as it prayerfully seeks God's direction to fulfill its' Biblical charge. The committee's purpose is "to present the Gospel message of salvation to the lost in harmony with guiding, training and preparing the Church body to serve all men, to nurture one another in the true faith, and to preserve sound biblical doctrine."

As the committee seeks God's direction in planning for the future it strives to embrace and respond to Jesus' vision: "*Behold! Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest... pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers...*" (Matt. 9:38; John 4:35), to make disciples of Christ wherever God opens doors, so that Jesus may receive His harvest of sanctified believers (Matt. 28:19-20; Luke 10:2).

Guiding Principles

The following are biblically-based principles that provide the framework for all mission efforts to present the Gospel.

Biblical Truth: Teach and practice the whole counsel of God (the perfect and universally applicable Word) under the direction of the Holy Spirit. "*All scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable.*" (2 Tim. 3:16-17); "*Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you*" (Matt. 28:20).

Repentance and Sanctification: Teach that salvation is by grace through faith in Jesus Christ (Eph. 2: 8-10), calling mankind to a Holy Spirit-led repentance, born-again experience (Matt. 3:6; John 3:3; Acts 2:38; 3:19) and walk of sanctification (Tit. 2:11-14).

Church: Establish and support viable Apostolic Christian Churches as the nucleus of our mission work. The church of the living God is the pillar and ground of the truth. "*Ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit*" (Eph. 2:19-22). This will occur in concert with the four pillars of the established mission of our church.

Preparation: Prepare brethren who are called of the Lord and are being sent by the Church to share the Gospel message of salvation. "*be ready always to give an answer to every man*" (1 Pet. 3:15); "*sanctified and meet for the master's use and prepared unto every good work*" (2 Tim. 2:21).

Doctrinal Integrity: Avoid ecumenical intermingling (2 Pet. 2:1-2) and other forms of spiritual deception (Rev. 2:14) in our efforts to preserve sound doctrine. "*Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught*" (Tit. 1:9).

Biblical Accountability: Provide mission environments that enable effective support and oversight,

fulfilling our accountability to God for the welfare of those being sent and those being served.

"*For they watch for your souls, as they that must give account*" (Heb. 13:17).

"*Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof*" (1 Pet. 5:1-2).

Love of Christ: Let the love of Christ be the prime motivation for all mission endeavors and the inspiration for loving and respectful relationships among all who serve. "*This is my commandment, That ye love one another as I have loved you*" (John 15:12 & 13:34-35); "*in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves*" (Phil. 2:3).

The Mission Committee has engaged the help of a number of interested and experienced brethren to develop a manual to provide guidance in facilitating outreach in a manner that is consistent for the Apostolic Christian Church and its sending organizations.

Safeguards and accountability, along with opportunity for the work of the Holy Spirit are employed to ensure confident support, doctrinal purity, genuine conversions, and the pursuit of holiness. As these materials are finalized they will be made available through various means both hard copy and electronic.

Answer to prayers

God has answered the prayers of many faithful brethren for the work at the Rural Gospel Medical Mission (RGMMI) in India. In recent elections the Hindu political party was defeated which will minimize the threats that believers all over India have lived with this past year. Believers can once again assemble for public worship services.



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
World Relief

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

Informational Meetings to Inspire

Matthew 25:35-36 are key verses of the World Relief organization. *"I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me."*

Our many congregations have been so generous with their time and monetary support toward all the projects that have been sponsored and organized by World Relief. One way to hear about these is to attend one of three presentations held throughout the year.

Meeting dates

The Eastern meeting is held on the second Saturday of November. The Eastern 2009 meeting will be held in Bluffton, Indiana on November 14. The Western meeting is held on the second Saturday of March. The next meeting will be held in Kansas City on March 13, 2010. Also, Thursday before the conference in August, there are presentations scheduled by the church holding the conference. These meeting places and agendas are announced through the churches via the pulpit, bulletin boards, the Silver Lining and the website.

The presentations are an open invitation to every brother, sister and friend from any state and any country. Anyone who takes time from their busy schedule comes away blessed to know they are a part of sending ambassadors and humanitarian aid to the needy world. You will hear about six hours worth of the many projects and ways to help in this important work. Also,

this year, there is a program on Saturday evening of the March and November presentations held for the youth of the region. Our youth are so important to the future of our church and they are so willing to help when there is a need. The youth presentation focuses on what they can do as a servant for World Relief with examples from brothers and sisters who have been called.



2009 Western Meeting

The 2009 Western March meeting was held in Princeville. Attendees heard about the Child Sponsorship program, Loving Shepherd Ministries, His Ranch, the Oakville flood rebuilding projects, the Servant Fund and work in India, Indonesia and Mexico. Many of these topics touched on the children of this world. We heard facts like these: 10 million children under the age of 5 die in a year. Also, there are 143 million orphaned children in the world. You are helping these children through the World Relief organization.

2009 Eastern Meeting

The Eastern November meeting will be held in Bluffton on November 14, 2009. You will hear of Haiti and the Seed project, the eyeglasses project, local projects, work through many international organizations,

a financial report of World Relief, Mexico, USA projects and a surprise benefit of being on a work team. Tom and Kathy Schifferer will give the representatives information about kits, uniforms and any other project their churches are doing for World Relief.

Besides hearing presentations at these meetings, there will be a place where you can sign up for a child to sponsor through the Child Sponsorship Program. The goal of this program is to provide an education to help these children learn life skills to improve their standard of living, and also to provide spiritual training to address the true need, a knowledge of and a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

You will also be able to see what the various sewing groups are doing. Best of all, old friendships can be renewed and new ones formed. More information on the meetings is on the World Relief website at www.acworldrelief.org.

Most of these presentations are Powerpoint presentations. Please make use of these by ordering them from Stan Virkler on the World Relief Web site or at the National office in Remington. These presentations are very informative and can be sent to you for an informational presentation at your home church.

World Relief helps mankind to serve as Christ's mission to the world. In Luke 4:18 we read, *"he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised."* May we all be good ambassadors for Christ in our journey to heaven.

**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
HOME FOR THE
HANDICAPPED**
www.achh.org

Now another day is ended
And the sun did disappear;
God's true love, to us extended;
Has this day been ever near.

Yea, His goodness, grace and favor
Have protected us with care;
Joy and peace, life's sweetest savor,
He with childlike hearts does share.

He this day with grace has blest us,
Praise be to His holy name;
Lifted burdens that oppressed us,
And in love unto us came.

Where the Lord withholds His blessing
There all labor is in vain;
When our trust in Him is anchored,
Then His good will we will gain.

Therefore, thank we Thee, dear Father,
That Thou art with us each day;
For Thy good and blessed counsel,
And Thy help upon our way.

Zion's Harp #49 - Evening Hymn

How beautiful when we take the time to notice and appreciate the presence of the Holy Spirit with us in our work, leisure and anything that happens during the day or night. We certainly are blessed to have our Lord who cares about us so immensely and doesn't get tired of or annoyed with our dependence on Him.

God continues to bless the work of transitioning residents into smaller settings. It is wondrous to witness the excitement and joy of each one that moves into a new home.

This has been a fun summer for those living at each of our facilities. At Timber Ridge, activities have ranged from hymn sings to a campfire night, and swimming at Easter Seals to an end of summer luau. People from

Oakwood Estate have also enjoyed swimming and have been miniature golfing. Linden Estate has kept busy with a garden this summer. They've also had good times shopping and going out to eat. Many that live in the CILA homes have taken advantage of the summer months to go on mini-vacations and enjoy Arts in the Park performances right here in Morton.

We were thankful to once again host a day for church representatives to come and learn more about our services and the way our residents are impacted by the generosity of those who support us. If any of you would like to learn more and have a chance to tour our facilities, please feel free to contact us at (309) 266-9781. It would be a pleasure to have you visit.

**GATEWAY WOODS
APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
CHILDREN'S HOME**
Jeff Schumacher

Do we thank God for all things? It is easy to be thankful when life is going well, but it seems we often have questions for God about situations in our lives that don't seem to make sense to us. But when situations confront us, either a temptation or trial, do we take time to thank God for it? Do we trust God to bring about good from seemingly terrible situations? Romans 8:28,29 records the promise that we often forget at these times, or it can get so over used that we bristle at the words when we are struggling.

In verse 28 we read, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose". The beautiful thing in this verse is that the scripture says ALL things, not just those that make sense to us, or the good things, but even the difficult things (if we allow God the opportunity) can bring about good. God's ability is not limited by our humanness, only we are.

The purpose is found in the first half of verse 29 where it says, "For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son..." Since God has called us and He knows us, He has intended us to be conformed to the image of His Son. The goal of all the situations in our life is to teach us how to be conformed to the image of Jesus Christ. Jesus certainly gave us examples of honoring God in both good and bad situations.

So...do we thank Him for all situations? Do we recognize each situation (good or bad) as an opportunity to glorify God by our response and obedience to His Word?

As difficult of an issue as this is for Christians to understand and even harder to practice, imagine trying to teach this to a group of children who do not know the Lord. This is a daily occurrence for the Houseparents in each home on our campus, and in our foster homes. They daily have an opportunity to witness to the greatness of our Father in heaven. Please pray that as they face each situation with a child that they are able to look to the Father for their strength through the Holy Spirit.

NEWS:

- We would like to again express our sincere thanks to everyone who supported our 33rd Annual Auction. God blessed us with \$345,000. We are very thankful for His provision! Next year's Auction is scheduled for Saturday, August 7, 2010.

- It was a blessing to have Bro. Dustin Huber as our 2009 Summer Volunteer Coordinator. Bro. Dustin shares part of his experience by saying: "Gateway Woods Family, Wow...I can't believe that my summer with you all is already over. These last three months have gone faster than I would have ever imagined.

I want to thank each of you again for such an amazing summer. You

have all blessed me in so many different ways. Your commitment and sacrifice to Gateway Woods, your patience and flexibility, and the love that you have shown me. I have enjoyed getting to spend time with each of your families and running around with all your kids. I am going to miss the tight family bond that is shared throughout campus.

Thanks for each of your examples. You have taught me to love like Christ loved, to sacrifice like Christ sacrificed, and live like Christ lived. Your dedication and commitment to the residents has left a stronger desire in my heart to seek out the hurting. Thanks for pointing me upward!

Thanks so much for giving me the opportunity to serve along side of each of you at Gateway Woods. I feel that a little piece of my heart was left there. God is using you all in such a powerful way and I am honored to have been able to catch a glimpse of His ministry. You all have a special place in my heart and I will keep you in my prayers! I love you all."

- We are very thankful that God continues to provide us with the right Staff. We currently have two career positions open at Gateway Woods. The first is a position for an Alternate Houseparent couple. The second open position is for 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!

- You are an important advocate to help us spread the word about God's work at Gateway Woods. Please continue to lift us up in prayer, check our website www.gatewaywoods.org often for updates, and make sure that you're on our mailing list. In an effort to be as efficient as possible we are gathering as many email addresses as

we can for our E-Post. Please send a message to mail@gatewaywoods.org.

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

"All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."

Romans 3:23

When we hear that verse being quoted, we know a new school year has begun and it's back to the beginning with ABC and 123. The kids are excited to switch classes and see what a new room with a new teacher has in store for them. We have seen a lot of new faces around here. We've been enrolling quite a few new students and we also have a new teacher! We praise God for answering our prayers that, to us, seemed like it was just in the nick of time! We want to welcome Sis. Cassie Bertsch from Bluffton, IN. We are happy to have her here and pray she adjusts well. On the flip side, that means our Sis. Jena Runion has left us. She has decided to return back to school at Purdue. We all will miss her, teachers and kids both, but we wish her well in this next step. Thank you, Miss Jena, for all your hard work this past year!

**ALABAMA, ATHENS
Louise Hall**

Greetings of love from Athens! We want to take this opportunity to thank all the visitors we've had the past month, especially our ministering brothers. Bro. Jeff Grimm (Sis. Ruth, Goodfield, IL), Bro. Mark Zimmerman (Sis. Cheryl, Eureka, IL) and Bro. Brad Gudeman (Sis. Teresa, Bradford, IL) were all here to share the Word with us.

We have been keeping Bro. Don Ross in our prayers as he has not been doing so well in the nursing home. We

also want to lift up the family of Carl Hagggenmaker. Carl passed away after he had heart surgery earlier this month. He was a brother to our Bro. Ed Hagggenmaker, Sis. Joyce Ray and Sis. Clarann Lynn. We also pray for our Sis. Naomi Hall as her daughter, Brenda, passed away after a long battle with cancer. Also grieving is Lisa Moore (daughter-in-law of Sis. Doris) after her sister died. We lift her up as well.

Never far from our hearts and minds are those who are serving our country over on the other side of the world. We continue to think of Eric Coulter (Bro. David and Sis. Barbra) who is over there and also the stepfather of Joey and Anna Hall (Bro. Tim) Our prayers are with both of them and their families.

Anthony Goar
168 Ewg. Co.
Task Force Hammer
Fob Shank East
Apo-AE 09364

We bid farewell to our Sis. Jena Runion who has worked in the preschool the past year. We will miss her and wish her God's blessings as she returns to school. We also want to welcome Sis. Cassie Bertsch from Bluffton, IN (Bro. Mike and Sis. Carmon). She has taken the teaching position at the preschool and we are thankful to have her here.

**ARIZONA, PHOENIX
Heather Hinrichsen**

God's Word was brought to us by Bro. Art Mueller (Belvidere). We thank Bro. Art and his family for their visit in the summer heat.

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

Eccles. 3:1

The season has passed as has the summer internship for Bro. Blair and

Sis. Natalie Neihouser. They are returning to college in Indiana and we pray God opens a way for them to return. Bro. Rod and Sis. Ann Anliker felt the Lord leading them to move to Phoenix from the Belvidere area. We pray they will feel at home in this new time of their lives.

Ruby Barna and Deanna De Vlieger have found peace with God and man and have expressed a desire to be baptized. Lord willing, they will have an opportunity to share their testimonies with the church on September 19.

Note of Thanks:

We wish to express our sincere thanks for all the deeds of kindness shown to us since my stroke. God bless you.

Sis. Katherine and Bro. Jim Laukhuf

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT
Denise Steidinger

We are so grateful to our visiting ministers who came this past month. They included Bros. Jay Knapp (Sis. Lisa, Tucson), Brad Bauer (Sis. Sandy, Tucson), Chuck Kellenberger (Elgin, IL) and Keith Hinrichsen (Sis. Tammy, Phoenix).

ARIZONA, TUCSON
Lisa Knapp

We have two groups totaling 25 people participating in a Crown Financial Bible Study and we are all learning quite a bit in the first few weeks. It's proving beneficial to all of us, regardless of our age, marital status, or parenting situation. The fellowship is a wonderful added blessing.

We are still on summer vacation from Sunday School, Fellowship Suppers and Wednesday evening services, although our Crown Study groups meet on Wednesday evenings.

Our children are heading back to school. School started Monday for our

grade school, middle school and high schoolers. Our college students start this coming Monday, August 24. Our prayers are with them as they face the academic and social challenges we know they will encounter in public school. Hopefully it will serve as useful experience later in life.

Even though school has started, fall is a ways off for us in Tucson. Our temperatures are consistently in the 100's, but it's a dry heat!

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA
Daniel Luthi

For those of you who have children or friends who are seeking a place to go to college, we invite you to consider the following schools which are within one hour, or less, driving time of the Altadena church.

*Colleges Partially Supported
By the State of California*

University of California – Los Angeles (UCLA)
University of California – Irvine (UCI)
California State University – Los Angeles
California State University – Northridge
California State University – Long Beach
California Polytechnic – Pomona

Partial List of Private Colleges

University of Southern California (USC)
Pepperdine University
Pomona College
Harvey Mudd College
Claremont McKenna College
California Institute of Technology (CALTECH)
Occidental College
Loyola Marymount University

There are also numerous Community Colleges.

This month we bid farewell to Sis. Stephany Moser as she headed back to China to return to her English teaching position after a furlough. We welcome Bro. Jonathan Sauder

(Roanoke, IL) who will begin his studies at USC. Our congregation also welcomed home from Illinois, Sis. Alyson Luthi who will begin her studies at Biola, and welcomed back Sis. Breana Wagenbach (San Diego, CA) who will continue her studies at Cypress.

We also would like to thank Bro. Dean Steffen (Sis. Carol, Belvidere, IL) for visiting us and for serving us from the pulpit.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO
Yasmin Koehl

This month brought much rejoicing in our church as Danica Good, daughter of Vince and Olga (Petrovic) Good, felt convicted to repent from her sins and live a sanctified life for Christ. Our prayers are with her as she begins her walk with the Lord.

We were thankful for visiting ministering Bro. Dean Steffen (Sis. Carol, Belvidere, IL) and his willingness to allow the Spirit to use Him in bringing forth the Word of God. We wish him and his family God's richest blessings.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our visitors for coming and worshiping our Lord and Savior with us. We deeply appreciate the time spent with our congregation and the prayers upon our behalves.

KITCHENER, ONTARIO
CANADA

Johanna Fortenbacher

A baptism date is set for October 18, Lord willing, for Jesse Ursu (Bro. Mike and Sis. Barb) and John and Liz Kralt. We welcome all who want to come to support this blessed event. Please phone anyone from Kitchener or Johanna at (519) 662-6700 and I will find a home for you. *See page 46 on details for Americans traveling to Canada.*

Thank you to Elder Bro. Mark Bahr who came and presented a Bible study topic on "integrity of the heart". This is something we all need constant

reminders of.

“Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.”

Ephesians 4:29

Special thanks to our ministers this month: Bro. Dan Beer (Sis. Deb, Milford), Bro. Arlyn Leman (Sis. Denise, Forrest) and Bro. Duane Farney (Sis. Karen, Croghan).

We're thankful to see God's grace working beautifully in Michelle Davidson's life and that she is now at peace. We would kindly ask for your additional prayers and encouragement for Michelle and her son, Nick, who has made a beginning in repentance. “Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfil all the good pleasures of his goodness and the works of faith with power...” (II Thessalonians 1:11)

COLORADO, DENVER **Ann Gonglach**

Students are heading back to another year of school, leaves are starting to turn their autumn colors, the seasons change and time goes on. Let us not grow complacent in the fight we are called to, but continue on, battling sin and self and laying hold on eternal life.

“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

We appreciate visiting ministers: Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Sis. Leonda, Leo, IN); Bro. David Marquart (Sis. Lori, Taylor, MO); Bro. Ed Sauder (Sis. Bonnie, Roanoke, IL); and Bro. Clint Schmidt (Sis.

Magdalena, Winthrop, MN). Bro. Clint plans on working in the Denver area for the next several months. We welcome him and his family as well as Kayla Braun from Belvidere, IL, and Brianna Huber from Sabetha, KS, who have recently moved here.

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE **Amber Roche** **Laura Virkler**

Oh, I rejoice to praise Thee singing,
Thou mighty ruler of Zion,
Thee, Holy One, all honor bringing
To Thee, the Father's only Son!
Thy lips are brimming with compassion,
With love and favor and with grace;
Shines, Lord of All, in love's sweet passion,
Thy gentle, kind and loving face.
Zion's Harp #158

Greetings loved ones! Most of us can relate to feeling that gentle touch of our Lord! Though never exempt from hardship, we certainly felt blessed with a special month here in Rockville.

We rejoice with Bro. Toby Fehr (Bro. Ken and Sis. Sandy, Eureka) and Sis. Holly Virkler as they were united in marriage this past weekend. Holly's parents are Owen Virkler (Kim) and SueEllen Machuga (Tom). It was a blessing to be able to host many visitors from many places for this special occasion. We especially want to thank ministering Bro. Mark Schmidgall (Sis. Lisa; Eureka, IL) for preaching God's Word to us throughout the day. May the Lord richly bless this dear couple, and provide for them through the many joys, and even struggles, that may lie ahead of them. Sis. Holly, we will certainly miss you, but have full confidence that the Eureka congregation will take good care of you!

We also rejoice with Rebecca Moser (Bro. Steve and Sis. Janis) as she has made a beginning in serving the Lord. We pray that she will feel our love and

prayers throughout her repentance. Our prayer is that many more will open their hearts to the loving call of the Savior.

Bro. John and Sis. Erin Hoffman was blessed with another child, Tucker Micheal. Samantha, Elsa, Lois, Owen, and Madison are his older siblings. May the Lord provide for this family, and provide health and strength to both mother and child. Grandparents are Bro. Mark and Sis. Luella Hoffman (Vermont) and John and Gail Doyle.

It was a blessing for our congregation to have Julie Lanz (Bro. Vern and Sis. Deanna; Rittman, OH) with us throughout the last few months as she completed an internship in our area. We pray that she felt welcome in our midst, and can take back special memories of fellowship with both friends and family.

Our prayers are with Sis. Elsa Champ at the loss of her sister, Louise Mack, who lived in CO. Many of us can relate to the loss of a loved one, and can feel the pain of that void it creates. May she feel our prayers through this time of sorrow.

Our congregation would like to take the time to thank the Tremont congregation for opening their hearts and home to the many who were able to attend the Annual Conference. May God richly bless their efforts. The presence of the “mighty ruler of Zion” was certainly felt by all. We also want to thank our Elders for their continual service on our behalf. We trust that God will be their rich Rewarder.

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

During the summer we have been blessed with many visitors,

Our visitors the first part of August were Bro. Ernie, Sis. Lucy and Amy Isch of Bluffton, IN.

Our visiting ministers this month were Bro. Steve Sauder (Sis. Mary,

Tremont, IL), Bro. Gary Tonner (Sis. Dianne, Bluffton, IN), Bro. Jerry Isch (Philadelphia, PA), Bro. Don Manz (Sis. Connie, Junction, OH), Bro. Lenny Meyer (Sis. Charlotte, Chicago, IL) and Bro. Ken Hoerr (Sis. Darlene, Peoria, IL).

Other visitors this month were from Morris, MN; Rittman and Columbus, OH; Gridley, Bradford, and Princeville, IL.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with Bob Welk as he has been in and out of the hospital several times. Also, Ken and Roberta Belsley have been dealing with several pain issues.

We have an opening for caretakers in December. You would not need to be here the entire month; just a couple of weeks would be a blessing to the congregation and would allow you to partake in this area's Christmas activities. Please contact Sis. Doreen Steffen at bdsteff@yahoo.com.

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 grateful to have Bro. Marvin Steffen (Sis. Rhea) from North

Fort Myers, FL, share the gospel message with us. Bro. Marvin has been good to visit us annually and we appreciate his labors for our spiritual edification. Many of our year round residents are taking their summer trips and so our numbers are smaller, yet we feel God's presence and His encouragement to continue to be faithful in our prayers and stewardship of our congregation.

Our remodeling project is coming along very nicely, and we hope to be back in our church by the end of the year, and look forward to seeing our winter residents return. We have enjoyed meeting in the fellowship hall during the construction and are grateful for everything we have.

Several of us have long ties to the Roanoke congregation and extend our sympathies to the entire church family there with the loss of several dear ones who were such an important part of our lives when we lived there and we will miss seeing and greeting each one.

We also send our prayers to the ministers and Elder body as they attend this year's Conference.

**FLORIDA
NORTH FORT MYERS
Victor and Dorothy Beer**

This last month our church has been blessed with numerous visitors, young and old. A few have noticed the heat, which was about the same as usual, but it seems to just hold on a little longer, and stronger, than is normal, 1200 miles north of us. A few tropical storms that have just missed us, which we appreciate, have just dumped a few heavy rains on us.

Our church was blessed in the ministry this last month by Bro. Jeff Streitmatter (Sis. Lynne, Sarasota, FL).

Our dear Lindsay Steffen (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Rhea) has blessed our lives this summer between her school work at the University of Florida and her summer job. She recently returned

from Spain where she studied for a semester. Her plans to teach under-privileged children are progressing well, and her desire to go to those in special need never waivers. We are privileged to have seen her grow up from her birth.

Good news comes from some of our northern brethren, as Bro. Don Kaufmann (Sis. Gladys) has recovered from his hospitalization. Also, Bro. Mel Baum has recovered from a major heart operation, now being cared for by his wife, Sis. Linda. Our prayers and best wishes have been made continually in their behalf.

We're always thankful for everyone that shows up for church services, but we also are looking forward anxiously to the coming weeks when a few at a time of our winter folks start coming back. Our God blesses us every Sunday, so we praise Him for it all.

**FLORIDA, SARASOTA
DiAnne Brown**

If your home is anything like ours, August is a busy time of back-to-school preparations and registrations, shopping trips, orchestrating drop-off and pick-up plans, and orthodontist and medical visits around the school calendar fill up the fleeting days of summer vacation fast. Add in attempts for one last weekend get-away trip or family outing and it gets very challenging.

This year our family added to the August rush with an 11-day cross-country trip from southern Florida through Indiana, Illinois and Ohio. Our first stop was the Gateway Woods sale in Leo, IN, and we were thrilled at the crowd gathered to support this critical ministry.

Next, we spent time with our daughter in Chicago and had the opportunity to visit our Elder Bro. Dale and Sis. Judy Eisenmann and worship with the Chicago church. The Chicago museums were simply astounding. We saw historical artifacts and trea-

asures from centuries past, evidence of dinosaurs, items from civilizations long dead and works of art by every great master of the world.

At the Art Institute, we began in the Impressionist galleries, where amazing works depicting the beauty of nature and history of mankind took our breath away. As we made our way to the modern and contemporary galleries, we noticed the subject matter changing dramatically from the beauty and joy of creation to the more obscure and fractured parts of the world. Many of the works seemed to have been created with the sole purpose of having the viewer ask "Why?" We were reminded of the importance of thinking on those things which are true, lovely and of good report and how thoughts affect our outlook.

Sis. Lindsay Brown and Bro. Schuyler Brown had the opportunity to join over 40 others from the Smithville, Rittman and Columbus Young Groups for a day of enjoyment and fellowship together. This was a great blessing of encouragement and we thank the Smithville church for the invitation.

On Sunday we attended services at the Smithville, OH, church. We were greeted by Bro. Vic and Sis. Brenda Bauman and learned of the tragic death of Taylor Gasser. The Sarasota church extends our deepest sympathies to Taylor's family, especially his uncle, Bro. Ron (Sis. Carol) Koehl and their family. We trust the Lord will use young Taylor's life to impact the future of many others.

With great joy we welcomed two dear members back to services recently. Sis. Betty (Bro. George) Siladie has recovered from her hip replacement and was able to worship with us again. She has been missed and we are thankful for her healing. Bro. Glenn (Sis. Sandee) Price has also returned to services after a severe and extended illness. His bright smile and hearty laugh were so nice to share and we are

so thankful our merciful God has returned our dear brother to us. May God continue to bless them both with further healing.

Another blessing for our Sarasota church is that Bro. Todd and Sis. Kelly Price have decided to remain in Sarasota following a temporary work re-location. We are so happy they will continue to be with us and pray God will bless them richly.

GEORGIA, ATLANTA

"To comfort all that mourn; to appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified."

Isaiah 61: 2-3

Our hearts go out to Bro. Ken and Sis. Sharon Lawson as Bro. Ken's mother, Helen Lawson, went to receive her eternal prize! She lived in Herman, MN.

Sis. Sylvia Knapp has also been in our prayers as her sister, Sis. Arlene Knapp (Princeville), met the Lord Jesus this month.

It is very hard to say goodbye to those we love, but it provides great comfort to imagine the joy that they are experiencing in heaven! Bro. Rich Aberle lead an ongoing Bible Study on the book of Revelation which gave us a small glimpse of the joy we shall one day enjoy. What a day it will be when the Lord will, "wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away." (Revelation 21:4) Thank you, Bro. Rich, for sharing your time and talents with us as we journeyed through the incredible book of Revelation!

Bro. Darren Price (Milford) and Bro. David Zehr (Gridley) blessed our congregation by allowing God to minister through them this month. May God be with you and your wives as He continues to use you for His glory!

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE

**Jenn Johnson
Doreen Moser**

It is so human to want sight when we step out on the promises of God, but our Savior said to Thomas, and to the long roll of doubters who have ever since followed him: "Blessed are they who have not seen, and yet have believed."

~ Mrs. Rounds— *Streams in the Desert*

The summer months always seem to fill up and pass so quickly. Our congregation in Belvidere has been no exception. We've had a full calendar in the past month.

On July 27, many from our congregation supported our Bro. Jordan Steffen (Bro. Dean and Sis. Carol) as he was united in marriage to Sis. Shayla Messner (Bro. Dean and Sis. Wanda) in Winthrop, MN. We certainly wish them the Lord's richest blessings and welcome Sis. Shayla to Belvidere. We're thankful to Bros. Dale Banwart (Sis. Missy, Congerville, IL) and Dave Steffen (Sis. Linda, Elgin, IL) for sharing God's Word that same Sunday as all three of our ministers were at the wedding. May the Lord bless them for their willingness to serve.

Our friend, Kayla Braun (Karl and Mitzi), has moved to Denver, CO, and we had a farewell singing for her on August 12. We wish her the best in her move and pray the Lord will watch over her.

Our ministering brothers were privileged to attend the Brotherhood Conference on August 13-14. We are

looking forward to hearing the concluding thoughts as we plan to listen to tapes in September.

We were thankful to hear that Grant Anliker (Bro. Brian and Sis. Peg) has a desire to give his life to God. May the Lord grant him much grace in his new walk of life.

Finally, many from our congregation enjoyed a slideshow of the pictures from the Bible Class work trip to Magdalena, MX, on August 16. It was wonderful to see the work that was done down there, and pictures of the kids at the orphanage.

ILLINOIS BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

**Jacki Masters
Alissa Kieser**

How quickly the warm summer flies by. As we will soon begin to see the leaves change on the trees, we are reminded of how creative our God is and how beautiful is His creation.

We were blessed to have Bro. Marshall and Sis. Jan Heinold visit from Ixtlan, Mexico. We continue to keep our missionaries in our prayers as they spread the Gospel around the world.

We rejoice at the wedding of Tiffany Virgil to Denver Nord on August 8. Tiffany is the daughter of Bro. Steve and Sis. Bev Virgil. We wish Tiffany and Denver God's blessings as they begin their new life together.

There has been lots of celebration this month at the arrival of several new babies.

Bro. Andy and Sis. Marla Hodel along with big sisters, Kaitlyn, Abigail and Nicole, welcomed home Jocelyn Olivia on July 27. Happy grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Maxine Hodel.

Bro. Kevin and Sis. Dixie Knapp became first-time grandparents on August 2 when Tehya Danielle, daughter of Lucas and Angie Knapp, was born.

Bro. Randy and Sis. Marj

Schmidgall are grandparents again. Drew Kendall, son of Bro. Kevin and Sis. Jolynn Hodel (Washington), was born July 21.

Bro. Dave and Sis. Wilma Kieser welcomed another grandbaby. Tyler Merritt was born to Bro. Marc and Sis. Diann Grim (Leo, IN) on July 17. Tyler is much loved by big brothers, Isaac, Micah and Wesley.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD Philip and Donna Nenadov

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

Matthew 14:2-3

When I think of these verses, I imagine the Lord in heaven next to a lot of empty mansions that have no owner. When a person repents, I can imagine the Lord putting a name on the mansions door and getting it ready for the new owner. May we choose to be Holy each day that by God's grace we can take ownership of that heavenly mansion one day.

It is never easy to see a little child suffer, but it is always comforting to know that each little one is in the care of the Lord, their Maker. Little Jared Kieser had open heart surgery and as of this writing, is under the care of the Lord's hand during recovery. We can glorify the Lord that He shows us who really is in charge. Jared's parents are Bro. Matt and Sis. Tracy. Jared's siblings look forward to when their brother can come home.

Bro. Ken Eisenmann (Sis. Sharon, Cissna Park) spent the day with us and fed us from the Living Word. We appreciate his willingness to be used of the Lord in serving us. May the Lord bless him.

We welcome Sis. Kay Kellenberger to our Bradford congregation as she has made our church her home. May she feel comfortable and welcomed here. Sis. Kay is the daughter of Bro. Keith and Sis. Ida, originally from Elgin, IL.

God be with you 'til we meet again.

ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN Jackie Eisenmann

"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

Phil. 4:13

Once again, we want to thank our visiting ministers who came this month to Champaign-Urbana. What a blessing we have in our church of travel, fellowship, and opportunities to listen to God's Word through brothers from other congregations. Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO) was with us on July 19, and Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington, IL) was here the next Sunday, July 26.

Our congregation was blessed the weekend of August 8-9, as we had opportunity to hear the testimonies of three souls. It was so encouraging to hear of the enormous joy that they are experiencing as new believers in Christ and the unexplainable peace they each have within. The next day we witnessed their baptisms. We welcome Bro. Aaron Walder (Bro. Art and Kim), and Bro. Corbin and Sis. Stephanie Kupferschmid as our new Brothers and Sister in Christ. We also want to thank Elder Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL) who came to the share the weekend with us. We appreciated his duties that weekend.

We have been prayerful for the recent Elder Brother meetings and General Conference held in Tremont this year. May God bless each one for their tireless efforts on our behalf. We appreciate each one of them.

We had a young couple move away

this summer. We always regret to see couples leave from our small congregation, but we hope they will come visit us. We miss Bro. Brent and Sis. Janelle Sauder who have now made their home back in Tremont, IL. We know they will feel "at home" there since that is where they both grew up.

Some of our congregation have experienced loss this past month and had to say "good-bye" to loved ones. Bro. David and Sis. Ethel Wiegand said good-bye to his sister-in-law, Sis. Ruth Wiegand (Forrest, IL). Bro. Sam and Sis. Pam Furrer and their son, Joel, lost Sam's grandmother, Sis. Anna Steffen (Fairbury, IL). May God comfort them in their time of sorrow.

Our congregation was blessed in studying the book of Philippians together the month of July. Some key verses come from that book in the Bible and such strong themes come from Philippians. Rejoicing, despite trials at hand is something Paul taught the Philippians. Paul also encouraged them in so many ways; it is good for us to read it, study it, and apply the encouragements and teachings to ourselves.

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

Phil 4:8

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Julie Eisenmann

As the summer comes to an end, students look forward to the excitement of a new school year. The children are especially eager to start Sunday School, and we are thankful Sis. Heather Knapp has agreed to serve another term as Sunday School teacher. No doubt her love will con-

tinue to touch the children. We are continuing to hold up all our wonderful teachers in prayer for this new school year.

We are rejoicing with Sis. Tanya Wulf and her parents, Bro. Arnie and Sis. Myra Wulf (Lester), with her engagement to Bro. Taylor Gramm (Morris), whose parents are Bro. Tim and Sis. Gwen. It has been such a blessing to have Sis. Tanya as a part of our church family this summer.

It was also very special for our church to celebrate Bro. John and Sis. Pauline Schrenk's 70th wedding anniversary. They have been a blessing to Chicago all these years.

Even though we failed to mention this earlier, we are rejoicing with Bro. Kim and Sis. Diane Steffen and their children, Jade, Brock, Sierra, Alexa, and Asher, as they welcomed Elena Jolie into their family on December 2. Elena's grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Helen Brown (Roanoke) and Bro. Jerry and Sis. Allene Steffen (Goodfield). It is always a blessing to see our church and Sunday school grow.

Our prayers go out for Sis. LaVirra Lehman as she was admitted into the hospital, but thankfully is back home again recovering. We are also lifting up Sis. Lois Metzger in prayer as she mourns the death of her dear brother, Fred Witzig.

As it has always been difficult when precious members of our church move away, we are saddened to bid farewell to Bro. Brandon and Sis. Mindy Rinkenberger and their family as they relocate in Bloomington. Although we are sad to see them go, we are thankful our Bloomington church will get to experience the blessings of this special family.

Lastly, our church wants to extend our gratitude to our Elder Body for their efforts and gentle leading during the Conference and all year long.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

Vickie Maul Janie Waldbeser

Our prayers are with Bro. Vernon (Joanne) Clauss as he has spent some time in the hospital, and is now at home again. We are thankful he could be home in time to celebrate their 50th anniversary!

Peace! Peace! Wonderful peace,
Coming down from the Father above;
Sweep over my spirit forever, I pray,
In fathomless billows of love.

Tabernacle Hymns #149

This is the thought we have as we are thankful our convert, Mindy Stock (Elder Bro. Tom and Sis. Karol), has found that wonderful peace and is looking forward to baptism in the near future.

We were blessed with a number of visiting ministers this month, and we want to thank these Brothers for allowing the Spirit to work through them to bring forth the true Word of God: Bro. Wes Moser (Lester, IA), Bro. Steve Pamer and Bro. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH), Bro. Don Sinn (Silverton, OR), Bro. Duane Reutter (Rockville, CT), and Bro. Darren Plattner (Champaign, IL). May God bless them for their efforts on our behalf.

Note of Thanks:

We want to thank all who remembered us with cards, prayers, food, and well wishes since my stroke. We are now residing at the Creekside apartments in Cissna park, and visitors are welcome. Our address is: 501 E. Prairie Lane, Cissna Park, IL 60924. May God bless you all.

Bro. Elmer and Sis. Mary Lou Kaeb

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

Holly Zobrist

We are thankful that on August 2 our dear friends Mary Virkler (Bro. Denny and Sis. Gayle), Marlise

Walder (Elder Bro. Ben and Sis. Juanita) and Nathaniel Craig (Bro. Kim and Sis. Carol) were baptized. Elder Bros. Rick Plattner (Sis. Mary, Fairbury) and Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, LaCrosse) were both with us for the provings. We were blessed to have an abundance of visiting ministers this past month. We were blessed to have Bro. Craig Stickling (Sis. Jackie, Peoria), Bro. Chris Wuethrich (Sis. Carla, St. Louis), Bro. Glen Braker (Sis. Audrey, Princeville), Bro. Randy Mogler (Sis. Evie, Washington), Bro. Tom Leman (Sis. Marlene, Denver), Bro. Mike Ursu (Sis. Barb, Kitchener), Bro. Dale Zeltwanger (Sis. Rachel, Morris), Bro. Paul Eisenmann (Sis. Elaine, Burlington) and Bro. Paul Gasser (Sis. Joyce, Akron).

Our congregation was blessed with two new babies this past month. Mahlon Paul was born to first-time parents, Bro. Ben and Sis. Rachel Currier. Also, thankful for his safe arrival are grandparents, Art and Sis. Mary Currier and Bob and Sis. Janice Stoller (Lamar). Amber Elise was born to Bro. Brad and Sis. Anna Knapp. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Jake and Sis. Glenna Rinkenberger, Bruce Knapp and Sis. Mary Knapp.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Gerri Schrock (Bro. Steve) in the passing of her father, Bob Schierer (Lillian). May his family feel God's nearness during this time.

We were also saddened to hear the passing of Sis. Pauline Roth (Bro. Keith, dec.). Her presence will truly be missed in Congerville but we are thankful for her sake that her earthly race is finished. Our hearts go out to her children, Sis. Ann Zobrist (Bro. Dave, Goodfield), Sis. Sue Wiegand (Bro. Rick), Bro. Alan (Sis. Joanne), Sis. Kay Stoller (Bro. Brent), Bro. Mark (Sis. Tammy), and Bro. Jim (Sis. Deb, Silverton). May the Lord be near them during this time.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN

**Amy Gasser
Miriam Gasser**

A special week for the Sunday School began July 26 with the annual picnic. Vacation Bible School was scheduled between Monday and Friday, and visitors came from a distance to teach the Bible Class. We appreciate the efforts of ministering Bros. Richard Gramm (South Bend, IN), Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL), Mark Zimmerman (Eureka, IL), and Paul Zimmerman (Forrest, IL) who came and spoke to our students.

On the weekend of August 1-2, many visitors came to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of Jill Kellenberger (Bro. Ken and Sis. Vicki), Greg Schambach (Bro. Les and Sis. Alison), Alex and Heather Steffen (Bro. Gary and Sis. Lois), and Maria Steffen (Bro. Dave and Sis. Linda). We thank Elder Bros. Tim Funk (Peoria, IL) and Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO) for assisting Bros. Ron and Dave in their special duties and also Bros. Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA), Ed Strahm (Bern, KS), Neil Ramseyer (Bay City, MI), and Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN) for their services on Sunday.

On a Wednesday evening, Bro. Neal Widmer (West Lafayette, IN) gave a topical presentation on "Infinity" and on a recent Sunday, Bro. Earl Beery (Rittman, OH) served through the Spirit's inspiration.

Walter and Natalie Miller announced the birth of their son, Mason Matthew, on August 3. Bro. Jeff and Sis. Sara Dietz are excited to have a grandson on whom to bestow their love and care.

Sis. Rose Reber passed away August 5 at the age of 101. She is survived by her sister, Sis. Carolyn Levy of Francesville, IN. Sis. Rose will be remembered for her cheerful disposition and many labors of love over the years.

August seemed to be a month of

transitions. May the Holy Spirit be a faithful guide to Bro. Greg Schambach and Sis. Maria Steffen, who recently moved to Bloomington to attend college at ISU. We will also miss Sis. Kay Kellenberger (Bro. Keith and Sis. Ida), who began a teaching job in the Princeville area, and Sis. Jenean Schambach (Bro. Tom and Sis. Connie), who accepted employment near Roanoke. Sis. Heidi Krueger graduated from a nursing program, and Sis. Amanda Kellenberger will begin student teaching in the Elgin area, after having worked most of the summer at the Magdalena orphanage.

We continue to pray for Sis. Jeannette Moser, Bro. Don Schambach (Sis. Leann), Sis. Deb Sauder, Carolyn Feucht (Chuck), and Matt Steffen (Natalie). Sis. Jeannette is temporarily at Sherman West Court, while recovering from upper back surgery; Bro. Don is being treated for an infection; Sis. Deb is dependent on home health care; and Carolyn and Matt are receiving various cancer treatments.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

**Dee Baer
Jodi Blunier**

We are thankful when the Lord leads two lives to become one. Bro. Wes Banwart (Bro. Ken and Sis. Marlene, West Bend, IA) was announced to Sis. Kary Bradle (Bro. Roger and Sis. Ila).

We rejoice with two couples who exchanged wedding vows: Bro. Michael Hartter (Bro. Ron and Sis. Janet) to Sis. Melinda Sanders (Bro. Bill and Sis. Sue); and Bro. Toby Fehr (Bro. Ken and Sis. Sandy) to Sis. Holly Virkler of Rockville, CT (Owen [Kim] Virkler, Sue Ellen [Tom] Machuga, New York). We welcome Sis. Holly to Eureka.

There is joy as Brant Martin (Bro. Tim and Sis. Becky) has heeded the Saviour's call. And yet there is room.

Blade Tyler Zimmerman arrived in

the home of Bro. Chad and Sis. Angie. Grandparents are Bro. Tom and Sis. Janet Zimmerman and Bro. Roger and Sis. DeAnn Wuthrich (Bloomfield, IA). Rylee Rae Huber joined Bro. Randy, Sis. Lindsey and Kaiya. Grandparents are Bro. Gary Huber and Karen Huber and Bro. Mark and Sis. Carolyn Hoerr.

Sis. Jeanne Dotterer (Bro. John) said farewell to her mother, Sis. Dolly Schick (Washington). She had the privilege of caring for her in their home the last few weeks of her life.

Those recovering from hospitalizations are Sis. Evelyn Gudeman (Bro. Don), Sis. Connie Hoerr (Bro. Norm) and Jared Braker (Bro. Phil and Sis. Rebecca).

We have enjoyed many visiting ministers: Bro. Rex Frieden (Lamar, MO), Bro. Randy Mogler (Washington), Bro. Ron Jones (Portland, OR), Bro. Tom Bahler (Rockville, CT), Bro. Bob Dotterer (Sardis, OH), Bro. Craig Stickling (Peoria), Bro. Roy Koehl (Morris, MN), Bro. Gene Metzger (Lester, IA), and Bro. Duane Rocke (Minneapolis, MN).

We were privileged to host the World Relief Financial Committee Meeting at the Roanoke Fellowship Hall.

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

Elizabeth Fehr Anna Schmidgall

Our congregation is rejoicing with our new brother in faith, Wayne Davis (Verla). When a soul answers God's call to repentance and can be added to the fold at age 79, we are reminded that God's mercy, love, and grace is greater than we can comprehend. May He richly bless Bro. Wayne as he takes his place in our Brotherhood. Elder Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL) assisted Elder Bro. Rick in this work.

We have been prayerful for our Elder brothers as they met in Tremont, IL, this month. May God always guide and direct them as they seek out His

will. May He also be their rich Rewarder and bless them for all that they do for His body here on earth.

Ministers who served us this month were: Bros. Dennis Rassi (Austin, TX), Tom Bahler (Rockville, CT), John Grimm (Columbus, OH), and Mike Ursu (Kitchener, ON). We thank them for bringing us the Word of Life.

Our two oldest sisters passed away this month, Sis. Ida Hari, 97, and Sis. Anna Steffen, 101. We lift Sis. Ida's niece, Sis. Lucille Sohn, up in prayer and ask that God would bless her for taking such loving care of her aunt. Also surviving is one nephew, LeRoy (Elaine) Sohn (Lombard). Sis. Ida walked with her Lord for 81 years. Sis. Anna Steffen's surviving family is one daughter, Sis. Louise (Bro. Lester) Furrer-Zimmerman (Forrest); one son, Bro. Richard (Sis. Lou Ida) Steffen (Forrest); and one daughter-in-law, Sis. Betty Steffen (Bloomington). She also left behind several nieces and nephews in our congregation. Sis. Anna walked with her Lord for 85 years. Many memories flood our minds when we think of the blessed examples of these two dear sisters.

We wish to remember Bro. Merle and Sis. Marge Kaisner in the loss of their sister, Sis. Alma Jean (Dave) Schmidgall (Forrest). We also had the funeral for Bruce Marler, son of Ruth Steidinger (Maurice), who had been living in Las Vegas. We pray God would comfort all of these families.

ILLINOIS, FORREST

Jill Wenger Lisa Aberle

Bro. Dick Rieger and Sisters Katie Wenger (Bro. Ed and Sis. Renee), Tami Schmidgall (Bro. John and Sis. Janet), and Sharon Kaeb (Maurice and Brenda) experienced the blessing of baptism during the weekend of August 1-2. Here to help our Elder Bro. Marvin Dotterer was Elder Bro. Jim

Plattner (Princeville, IL).

We are thankful for the many visiting ministers we had this month: Elder Bros. Art Metz (Silverton, OR) and Dennis Warner (Lester, IA) and ministering Bros. Mike Ursu (Kitchener, ON), Mark Schmidgall (Eureka, IL), Steve Pamer (Akron, OH), Beirne Messner (Morris, MN), Tim Gerber (Mansfield, OH), Dale Stoller (Fairbury, IL), Dan Koch (Tremont, IL), Don Manz (Junction, OH), Kerwin Edelman (Athens, AL), and Dennis Rassi (Austin, TX).

On July 26, our Bro. Ben Stoller and Sis. Valerie Schaffer were united in Holy Matrimony. Their parents are Bro. Greg and Sis. Jill Stoller and Bro. Kevin and Sis. Martha Schaffer. Then, on August 16, Bro. David Zimmerman and Sis. Janella Gerst were married in Oakville, IA. We pray that Sis. Janella will feel welcome here as they make their home in our congregation. Bro. Paul and Sis. Loretta Zimmerman and Bro. Charles and Sis. Charlene Gerst are their parents. Looking forward, Lord willing, to be united in Holy Matrimony are Bro. Trent Schmidgall (Bro. John and Sis. Janet) and Sis. Tiffany Zimmerman (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Nancy) whose engagement was recently announced. Bro. Joe Rudin (Bro. Craig and Sis. Trudy) and Sis. Rhonda Teubel (Bro. John and Sis. Lavonne) have also recently been announced to be married.

We are thankful to report that two more people have made the decision, in their youth, to serve the Lord. They are Allison Mueller (Bro. Stan and Sis. Kristen) and Jessica Wenger (Bro. Rich and Sis. Jill).

We observe the miracle of another new life. Marissa Jo was born on August 1 to Bro. Matthew and Sis. Kayla Shaffer. First-time grandparents are Bro. Kevin and Sis. Martha Schaffer and Bro. Curt and Sis. Martha Kellenberger (Lamar, MO).

Our prayers and thoughts are with those who spent time in the hospital.

Bro. Les Zimmerman (Sis. Louise) underwent surgery. Bro. Elmer Stoller (Sis. Rosetta) had a hip replacement and is doing well. Bro. Larry Bachman (Sis. Donna) also has spent more time in the hospital. As he is facing more surgery with an extensive recovery away from home, please pray for him and his family that they can willingly endure.

Many times this month we were reminded of the brevity of life. Whether old or young, none of us has a promise for tomorrow. We extend loving sympathy to Bro. Richard Steffen (Sis. Lou Ida) and Sis. Louise Zimmerman (Bro. Les) as they bade farewell to their mother, Sis. Anna Steffen of Fairbury, IL. Also, Sis. Alma Jean Schmidgall (Dave) passed away on August 6. While our congregation will all miss her, we think especially of her husband and family. Their children are Sam Schmidgall (Sherrie) of Forrest, IL, Bro. Dan Schmidgall (Sis. Mary), James Schmidgall (Lisa) of Fairbury, IL, Bro. John Schmidgall (Sis. Janet), Bro. David Schmidgall (Sis. Janet) of Morris, MN, and Mary Ross (Andre) of Urbana, IL. Sis. Alma Jean's siblings are Bro. Hartzell Kaisner (Sis. Mary, Detroit, MI), Larry Kaisner (Cynthia, Forrest, IL), Bro. Merle Kaisner (Sis. Marge, Fairbury, IL), Bro. Leon Kaisner (Sis. Eunice, Peoria, IL), Helen Follmer (Newbury Park, CA), Sis. Lou Ida Steffen (Bro. Richard) and Sis. Janet Farney (Bro. Roger, Bloomington, IL). Also, we bade farewell to Sis. Ruth Wiegand (Bro. Wilbur). She is also survived by five brothers, Harry Butikofer, Bro. Paul Butikofer (Sis. Mildred), Bro. Bert Butikofer (Sis. Beulah) and Bro. Albert Butikofer (Sis. Laverne), all of Elgin, IA; and Bro. Bill Butikofer (Sis. Norma, Gridley, IL); and her sister, Sis. Shirley Nester (Bro. Gene, Lester, IA). In addition, Sis. Shirley Ifft (Bro. Larry) lost her mother, Sis. Emma Gerber (West Bend, IA). Our hearts go out to Bro. Leroy and Sis. Janita Koehl

as their grandson, Taylor Gasser (Smithville, OH), was killed in a tragic accident. May we all remember these families in our prayers.

Note of Thanks:

I wish to express my heartfelt thanks for the many prayers, cards, and deeds of kindness throughout the illness and passing of my Ruth. May God bless you all.

Bro. Wilbur Wiegand

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD
Rita Bauman
Donna Wyss

"Feed the flock of God which is among you..."

I Peter 5:2

Many thanks to Bro. Mark Wettstein (Sis. Karen, Lacrosse, IN), Bro. Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata, TX), and Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL) for preaching the truth.

"Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart..."

Psalms 27:14

Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with Bro. Larry and Sis. Betty Bauman as they both spent time in the hospital.

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

Psalms 127:3

On August 8, Bro. Robert and Sis. Melissa Rokey were blessed with their first child, Meredith Rose. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Phyllis Rokey and Bro. Jim and Sis. Barb Kuenzi (Silverton, OR).

Big brothers, Wyatt and Dylan, are happy to have a new baby brother, Logan Henry, born on August 13, to

Jeremy and Joni Zacha. His grandparents are Bro. Gary and Sis. Connie Allen and Bro. Steve and Sis. Vicki Martin (Eureka, IL)

"Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me..."

Psalms 23:4

Our sympathy goes out to Bro. Dave and Sis. Ann Zobrist and their family in the loss of two of their dear loved ones. Sis. Dolly Schick (Washington, IL) and Sis. Pauline Roth (Congerville, IL) passed away about a week apart. May God comfort their hearts.

"Haste and seek your soul's salvation; heed the Word of God today!" (Zion's Harp #52) We rejoice with Bro. Ben and Sis. Marge Bauman as their daughter, Abby, started repenting. It's encouraging to our church family when a soul answers God's call and turns their back on the world, sin and Satan. Our dear friend, Abbie Wiegand (Bro. Roy and Sis. Jan) has peace with God and man. Let's continue to pray for both of these converts.

"Marriage is honorable in all..."

Hebrews 13:4

Our friend Warren Blunier is engaged to Heather Ludwig (Eureka). Parents of the couple are Bro. Daryl and Sis. Lucy Blunier and Alan Ludwig and Dione Hunziker. On August 1, Jennica Joos married Ryan Voorhees. Their parents are Loren and Elise Joos and Martin and Carol Voorhees (Washington, IL). May God be with each one of these couples.

Let's be prayerful for each child and young adult as they begin another school year.

"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the

word of truth.”

II Timothy 2:15

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY
Perry A. Klopfenstein

In a society that seemingly wants to pull further and further away from the strong foundations of the past, the believer in Christ Jesus can still rejoice in the words of the Psalmist, “The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name’s sake.” (Psalm 23: 1-3). Surely, there is much to rejoice about when one serves the Lord is these times. God is only a prayer away, and His Spirit resides in our hearts, if we are submissive and sincere.

Three souls were added to the fold: Sis. Taylor Steidinger, Sis. Kelsey Zehr and Bro. Joe Lavallier. Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL) was here for their proving. May God be with them in their new walk.

Bro. John Hill was announced to marry Sis. Marissa Witzig. She is the daughter of Bro. Curt and Sis. Norma Witzig. He is the son of Larry and Stephanie Hill of Minonk. We rejoice that, through prayer and the sincere seeking of God’s will, His will leading was made clear to these two dear souls. We wish them God’s richest blessings as they prepare for marriage.

Bro. Larry Kiefer was seriously injured in a farm accident. In a fall he received head injuries requiring hospitalization, and is now in the Roanoke home to recuperate. May God hear the many prayers offered in his behalf, for healing.

Bro. Joel Gramm broke his ankle while trying to mount a horse and was hospitalized. We pray for his healing as well.

Bro. Jerry Christensen experienced a second hip surgery, and is now home and improving, thanks be to

God.

Bro. Steve Ringger had a pace-maker inserted, and is now recovering. Truly, we can thank God for the many advances in medicine.

Derek Stoller (Bro. Mike and Sis. Peggy) was hit by a car while roller blading on August 30, and received a broken leg and broken arm. He had surgery on his broken leg. We are thankful God spared his life.

Sis. Becky Romersberger is confined to bed rest during her pregnancy.

We offer our sympathies to Sis. Wilma Zehr over the passing of her sister, Sis. Pauline Roth of Congerville.

Also we share in the sorrow of the passing of Sis. Vicki Hodel of Washington, daughter of Bro. Roy and Sis. Helen Hodel, and the late Sis. Jean. May God comfort this family and loved ones.

Bro. Ron Bollier (Indianapolis, IN) was a visiting minister on August 30. He was here for a family gathering to observe the 91st birthday of former ministering Bro. Elmer Witzig. On August 23, Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle (Peoria, IL) was a visiting minister; and we were thankful his energies allowed him to preach both in the morning and in the afternoon.

One of our converts, Samantha Brown, left for Shawnee, OK, to attend college.

July 26 was the wedding day of Bro. Justin Wiegand and Sis. Kirsten Sauder held at Leo, IN. She is the daughter of Bro. Tim and Sis. Jenny Sauder of Leo. His parents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Kathy Wiegand. We surely wish this couple much joy in their married life together. Bro. Justin and Sis. Kirsten will reside in Champaign. Their address is 511 S. Elm Street, Apt. # 8, Champaign, IL 61820

ILLINOIS, MORTON
Annette Tanner
Julie Bahr

Bro. Mike Rieker (Sis. Carol, Peoria) graciously accepted the invitation to give our Family Worship Service. Bro. Mike’s topic was “Overview of the Book of Daniel”. The story of Daniel reveals that God is in control and that He is a Sovereign God. We also appreciate the other visiting ministers who visited this past month. Our thanks to Bro. Daron Price (Sis. Monica, Milford), Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley), Bro. Keith Hinrichsen (Sis. Tammy, Phoenix), Bro. Ron Jones (Sis. Elizabeth, Portland), and Bro. Roger Sauder (Sis. Judy, Ft Lauderdale).

The first weekend of August brought a weekend of much joy to the angels in Heaven. Sis. Whitney Braker (Sis. Wendy and Bro. Todd), Bro. Gabe Meiss (Bro. Curt and Sis. Cassie), and Sis. Maria Sauder (Bro. Andy and Sis. Jane) shared with many witnesses their experiences of God’s rich mercy and His grace that has been given to them. We are thankful God is yet extending His compassion for mankind.

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Sis. Pauline (Dolly) Schick. Sis. Dolly and her late husband, Bro. John Schick, and their family had attended Morton church prior to the building of the church in Washington. Sis. Dolly is the sister to our Bro. John Feucht, Morton.

Our sympathy is with Bro. Harold (Sis. Dorothy) Witzig in the passing of his brother, Fred Witzig, of Duluth, MN.

A sincere welcome is extended from our Morton Church to Bro. Jeff and Sis. Sue Neihouser along with daughters, Sis. Kendra and Karissa. They are welcomed here from Francesville. We also treasure the opportunity to share our fellowship with Amit Parkhe of India who is here in the States attending the University of Illinois.

We rejoiced to hear of several new births and adoptions this past month. Baby girl, Sylvia Ann, entered the home of Bro. Tom and Sis. Tasha Steffen on July 28. Siblings to welcome little Sylvia are Noah, Oliver, Naomi, and Silas. Grandparents are Bro. Fred and Sis. Chelly Kaiser, Morton; and Bro. Keith and Sis. Cathy Steffen, Washington.

On July 31, baby boy, Austin William, entered the home of first-time parents, CJ and Steph Randall. Congratulations to first-time grandparents as well, Bro. Stan and Sis. Carol Schick. Gale and Diane Randall, paternal grandparents, are from Peoria.

Bro. Roger and Sis. Margie Ackerman welcome a new granddaughter. On August 17, Audrey Grace entered the home of Adam and Lindsey Ackerman of Nashville. Stan and Jill Froelich are the maternal grandparents.

Bro. Terry and Sis. Diana Rassi welcome a new little grandson into their family. Congratulations on the July 6 arrival of baby boy, Caden Michael, who entered the home of Chad, Stacy and Kylie Rassi.

Huge blessings have been bestowed on Bro. Brian and Sis. Cherise Blume as they received a sweet little girl, Ellyana Chernet, into their family from Ethiopia. Big brothers, B.J. and Zach, are excited to call Ellyana their little sister. Bro. John and Sis. Cheryl Knobloch and Bro. Larry and Sis. Lynell Blume are the grateful grandparents.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA Pam Fritzenmeier

"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints."

Psalms 116:15

Just 17 short years ago, our dear Bro. B.J. Elsasser was born with a severe heart condition and ever so pre-

ciuous in his parent's eyes. He spent much time in the care of skilled medical professionals and survived four heart surgeries. On Friday, July 24, Bro. B.J.'s earthly walk ended and he is safe in the arms of Jesus. Please remember in prayer his family and friends, including his parents, Bro. Brian and Mary Beth Elsasser, and siblings, Jeremy Gray, Jamie (Matt) Gray-Palmer, Bro. Michel, Sis. Alexandra, and Paige.

We are thankful for three new sisters in Christ, Sis. Bethany Reinhard (Bro. Tim and Sis. Joan), Sis. Shelby Waibel (Bro. Matt and Sis. Lisa), and Sis. Jessica Sauder (Bro. David and Sis. Rachel). We heard their testimony of faith on Saturday, July 25, and witnessed their baptism on Sunday, July 26.

Two families have been blessed with baby boys. July 6 is the birthday of Camden John Gangloff, firstborn of Luke and Amanda. His grandparents include Bro. Bob and Sis. Jill Gangloff and David and Julie Harris, Germantown Hills. Bro. Ryan and Sis. Alyssa Funk welcomed their first child on July 28. Abram Timothy's grandparents are Elder Bro. Tim and Sis. Debi Funk, and Bro. Steve and Sis. Lois Leuthold.

Thank you, Bro. Bill (Sis. Joan) Schick (Magdalena, MX) for ministering to us on a Wednesday evening.

Sis. Clara Huber, Bro. Bob (Sis. Betty) Miller, Bro. Bob (Sis. Lorene) Joos, Bro. Dan (Sis. Miriam) Messerli, who had open heart surgery August 3, Mary Leigh Funk and Sis. Mazie Thomas all desire prayer as they suffer from health issues.

Bro. Tim and Sis. Joan Reinhard and family traveled back to Haiti August 11, starting their third year of service there. They request prayers for health and safety for their family; for wisdom to discern between the urgent and the important; for peace and no hurricanes for the country of Haiti; for an ongoing spiritual revival for the

Haitian people; and for the continued building of the new Apostolic Christian House. They wish to say thank you to all who have been so faithful sharing the resources God has given to help Haiti.

Also, remember in prayer Bro. Jonathan Aupperle as he serves in Magdalena.

Note of Thanks:

We want to thank you for all the prayers, gifts, sympathy cards and memorial contributions to Skylines after Mother's (Sis. Eldora Hoerr) passing away in June. Your kindness and condolences are truly appreciated. We miss Mom and think of her often. It is a comfort to know Mom is "safe in the arms of Jesus" and we will see her again!

The family of Sis. Eldora Hoerr, Bro. Wilbur Hoerr, Bro. Dave and Sis. Kathy Obergfel, Bro. Todd and Sis. Sallie Hoerr, Bro. Paul and Sis. Susan Plattner, Brian and Diane Hoerr and families

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE Connie Christ Linda Joos

We rejoice that souls are still answering God's loving call to repentance and salvation. Our friend, Ethan Martin (Bro. Ed and Sis. Gladys), has responded to that call, and we pray for him during this time of repentance and conversion.

Bro. John Grimm (Columbus, OH) was our visiting minister on a Wednesday evening. We always appreciate his willingness to share God's Word with us.

Sis. Beulah Ehnle (Bro. Dave) and Bro. Walt Herrmann (Sis. Betty Lou) have been hospital patients. Our prayers are with them during this time. Marvin Eberle injured his knee and had to have surgery but is doing well.

Our dear Sis. Arlene Knapp was

called to her Eternal Home on August 18. Her joy and delight was to be able to come to church, even when her failing health made it an effort. Our sympathy is extended to her family: Marguriete Beckman (Payson, AZ), Sis. Sylvia (Bro. Lynn) Knapp (Murphy, N.C.), Sis. Lucille and Sis. Marilyn Knapp (Cissna Park, IL), Norman Knapp (Tucson, AZ), Wesley (Judith) Knapp (Cissna Park, IL) and Aaron (Charlene) Knapp (Rankin, IL). Even though her home was Cissna Park, she spent many years here in Princeville, and we will miss her.

Our sympathy is also extended to our Sis. Lillian Elsasser in the loss of a dear grandson, Bro. B.J. Elsasser (Bro. Brian and Mary Beth) of our Peoria congregation. May God comfort each sorrowing heart.

Jill Wagenbach (Curt and Marybeth) married Luke Hoerr (Sis. Shelley Hoerr) from Taylor, MO, on July 24. They will reside near Taylor, MO. Sarah Baer (Bro. Larry and Sis. Vera) married Joe Malone from Charleston, IL, on August 1. They are now living in Mattoon, IL. May God bless these two couples as they establish new homes.

We warmly welcome Bro. Marvin and Sis. Jane Leman and Bro. Fred and Sis. Nancy Witzig and family to our congregation. Where God guides, He provides.

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

**Jamie Hodel
Judy Sauder**

Hebrews 6:10: "For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labor of love, which ye have showed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister." We have been blessed with a number of visiting ministers this month. On July 19, Elder Bro. Bruce Endress (Bradford) and Bro. Bill Schick (Magdalena) served us on the pulpit. Then on July 26, Elder Bro. Kent

Heimer (Taylor) exhorted us from the Word. On August 16, Bro. Virgil Kaeb (Sarasota), Bro. Dale Wulf (Lester) and Bro. Erik Givens (Princeville) were our guest ministers. We thank these Brothers for their willing service to us and ask God's blessing upon them.

Ecclesiastes 7:2: "It is better to go to the house of mourning, than to go to the house of feasting: for that is the end of all men;" Our congregation has once again had reason to mourn as we laid a dear sister, Martha Bowald, to rest on July 24. Her survivors include a daughter, Kathy Funk of Bloomington, three grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, a sister, Sis. Lydia Hauter (Morton), and three sisters-in-law, Sis. Eleanor Baer (Eureka), and Sis. Doris Bowald and Sis. Mabel Bowald, both of Roanoke. Sis. Pauline (Dolly) Schick (Washington) passed away July 30. She was a sister-in-law to our Sis. Madelyn (Bro. Rich) Fehr. We extend our love and deepest sympathy to these beloved families and pray for God's peace and comfort upon them.

Psalms 128:6: "Yea, thou shalt see thy children's children," Several in our congregation have become grandparents again recently. Bro. Tim and Sis. Cathy Hohulin are thankful for the birth of their twin grandchildren, Gavin Arthur and Riley Faith, born on July 7 to Bro. Brett and Sis. Jen Heiniger (Bloomington). Their sisters, Ethne and Catie, and grandparents, Bro. Ron and Sis. Kaylene Heiniger (Bloomington), also welcome them home. Then on July 31, Gracie Kale was born to Ross and Jamie Ahrens of East Peoria. Her older sister and brother are Elise and Jackson and her grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Kathy Hodel and Mike and Janet Ahrens of Roanoke. Also rejoicing over the birth of twin grandchildren are Bro. Bob and Sis. Marilyn Ott. Aubrey Elizabeth and Charles William were born to Dave

and Joelle Ott of Aurora, CO, on August 1. Their older sister and brother are Annika and Sam and their maternal grandparents are Doug and Karen Conradt of Pt. Washington, WI. May God bless each of these dear families as they seek to raise their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

We rejoice with Bro. Kevin and Sis. Janice Braker and their family. Their son Jonathan has returned home safely after serving in Afghanistan.

James 5:15: "And the prayer of faith shall save the sick," We lift up Bro. Jordan (Sis. Katelyn) Schroeder (Washington) who is facing serious health issues, in fervent prayer.

Our church kitchen and dining room are currently being remodeled. We thank all those who have been involved in the planning and those who are now working on the project. God bless you for your willing service to us.

On August 9, we bade farewell to Bro. Jonathan Sauder who will be moving to the Altadena, CA, area to further his schooling. We will miss Bro. Jonathan but realize he will be a blessing to those in his new surroundings.

Isaiah 55:6: "Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:" We are so thankful that Laura Fehr (John and Jane) has called upon the Lord for her salvation.. We pray that God would bless Laura as she begins her walk of Faith.

Note of Thanks:

A special thank you to my family and Church family and dear friends for the many beautiful cards, flowers and gifts received for my 95th birthday. It will forever be remembered. May God's blessings be upon each of you.

Sis. Mabel Bowald

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

**Teresa Rowell
Janice Sauder**

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

Psalm 133:1

That seemed to be the theme of our Tremont congregation as we held the 2009 Conference. With everyone working together and all following the directions of those in charge, the week flowed very smoothly. How blessed we were with the presence of our God and Father as His Holy Spirit was present in each and every aspect of the entire Conference.

"And the apostles and elders came together for to consider of this matter."

Acts 15:6

We wish to thank our dear Elder brothers for continuing to follow the ancient precedent set up by the apostles of old to confer one with another to keep our church on the straight and narrow path that leads to heaven. Bro. Merle Hartzler (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman, OH), Bro. Steve Ringger (Sis. Myra, Bluffton North, IN) and Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzler (Sis. Ellen, Sabetha, KS) were with us for church services Tuesday evening. We wish to thank these brothers for lending themselves in the service of God. Bro. Dewayne Dill (Sis. LaRae, Minneapolis, MN) preached the Word to us on Sunday, August 16. We are grateful to him and always welcome him "home".

We wish to congratulate three couples on their marriages. Tim Beutel (Bro. Dean and Sis. Karen) and Melissa Withers (Greg and Verloyn); Daniel Menold (Bro. Ron and Sis. Lynnette) and Jessica Spinder; and Inga Simms (Bro. John and Sis. Ingrid Buster, Burlington, IA) and David Lelm (Deer Creek, IL) were joined in

holy matrimony this past month. We wish these couples God's blessings as they begin their married lives together.

We wish to welcome Bro. Mahlon Steiner (Bro. Mike and Sis. Ivy) into the brotherhood of Christ. Mahlon gave his testimony and was baptized into the faith on July 11 and 12. We pray that he will uphold the Holy Word and be a light to those around him as he walks the path of life.

Bro. Mike and Sis. Dorothy Meister welcome a new grandson. Isaiah Michael was born to Michael and Elizabeth Meister. He is their first born child. May they seek God's teachings as they raise this little one that has been given to them.

Sis. Marcella (Bro. Joe) Steiner's mother, Sis. Emma Gerber (West Bend, IA), passed away. Our sympathy is extended to her and her family.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

**Nancy Leman
Linda Folkerts**

"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away."

Revelation 21:4

Sis. Dolly Schick passed away peacefully into the arms of Jesus on July 30. We rejoice in her victory but will sorely miss her presence as a pillar of faith and love in our church. We extend our deepest sympathies to her family; especially her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren that worship with us.

On August 8, just over a week later, we bid a tearful goodbye to our dear Sis. Vicki Hodel. She, too, passed peacefully from this life after an intense battle with cancer. Vicki was instrumental in the development and

formation of our Washington church. She acted as "Mother", "Grandmother" and witness to many in our community and church.

Our hearts ache with loss and yet we long for a glad reunion with both of these precious Sisters.

"He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust."

Psalm 91:1-2

We recently learned of Bro. Jordan (Sis. Katelyn) Schroeder's diagnosis of cancer. He has begun a rigorous series of chemotherapy. We implore your prayers for this young family as they begin this difficult journey. Also facing health concerns and hospitalizations are Bro. Ron Kellenberger, Bro. Elliot Yudenfriend and Sis. Frieda Mogler. May they all feel our support, God's peace, hope and strength to face each difficult moment.

We have been blessed with the presence of Bro. Steve Stieglitz (Sis. Jane, Leo, IN) on August 12 for our monthly Bible study, and Bro. Dale Zeltwanger (Sis. Rachel, Morris, MN) and Bro. Doug Wagenbach (Sis. Lillian, San Diego, CA) on August 16.

We are celebrating the arrival of a darling baby boy, Drew Kendall to Bro. Kevin and Sis. Jolynn Hodel. Drew's grandparents are Kent and Janet Hodel and Bro. Randy and Sis. Marg Schmidgall (Bloomington, IL).

We also extend congratulations to Bro. Caleb and Sis. Heidi Pfaffmann. They were united in holy matrimony on August 9 in Morris, MN. Their parents are Bro. Robert and Sis. Lily Pfaffmann and Bro. Stan and Sis. Pam Wulf (Morris, MN). We pray a special blessing upon their lives as they begin their marriage and seek to honor God.

Josh Schick and Wendy Stoller were delightfully united in marriage on August 22. We extend blessings

and the warmest of welcomes to this couple as they begin their union as husband and wife. Their parents are Bro. Tom and Sis. Carol Schick and Bro. Lynn and Sis. Elaine Stoller (Gridley, IL).

INDIANA, BLUFFTON
Stefanie Kipfer
Grace Gerber

I am always struck around this time of year how incredibly fast the days go by. Here we are already in mid-August and facing yet another set of joys, challenges, and events that God would set before our time and generation. Yet, in the face of constant change and turbulent waters, we find that God is ready and willing to grant us the grace to take these obstacles head on for His glory and purposes.

Here at Bluffton Country, God has indeed been present and we continue to pray for His presence as we see the hurting and needy within our congregation. We've been on our knees for Delmy Clark (wife of Rick and daughter-in-law of Bro. Dick) who recently had her pancreas removed. Bro. Steve Reinhard (Sis. Renee) has spent time in the hospital lately, and Bro. Mark Moser (Sis. Wanda) is suffering from cancer. Sis. Jessie Longenberger will be having surgery, and we pray and hope that all goes well.

Bro. Krent Reinhard (Bro. Roger and Sis. Maureen) and Sis. Amber Dehoff (Scott and Sis. Rita) were joined in marriage on August 16, and we rejoice with them.

Praise God for a new convert! Tommy Wolf (Bro. Kent and Sis. Viola) gave his heart to the Lord. We praise our Savior for His love and faithfulness!

We also rejoiced with Bro. Ted and Sis. Rose Pfister as they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary! All glory to the Lord in that marriage!

God has also blessed us with some new little bundles! Bro. Jeremy and

Sis. Sarah Ringger are the parents of a daughter, Lila Grace, born on July 23. Grace's Bluffton grandparents are Bro. Kendall and Sis. Sandy. Adalee Carol Steffen was born on August 3 and is the new daughter of Bro. Brian and Sis. Jessie. Her grandparents are Bro. Duane and Sis. Karen, and Bro. Allen and Sis. Arlene. Clint and Melissa Kaehr are the parents of a son, Finn Allen, born August 5. The happy grandparents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Jan Kaehr. Bro. Doug and Sis. Ruby Gerber welcomed their new grandson, Owen Joseph Gerber, into the world on August 15. Bro. Joe and Sis. Heidi Gerber of the Champaign, IL, church are the excited parents.

We've also been praying for our Bro. Ked and Sis. Joanne Gerber as they seek to adopt a baby in the near future. We hope and pray that all goes according to God's will.

Elder Bro. John Laukhuf (Sis. Marcia, Latty) visited our congregation this month, and we were very thankful for his willingness and fellowship. May our Lord bless and protect all our Elders and ministers as they travel to bring the Word to other churches.

As God brings us through yet another month, we are so thankful for His goodness and greatness! May we live every moment of our lives through Him and for Him.

INDIANA
BLUFFTON NORTH
Jesse Longenberger
Sherry Pfister

"Let not your heart be troubled,
 neither let it be afraid."

John 14:27

Fear not, little flock — from the cross
 to the throne,
 From death into life, He went for His
 own;
 All power in earth, all power above,
 Is given to Him for the flock of His
 love.

Only believe, only believe;
 All things are possible, only believe,
 Only believe, only believe;
 All things are possible,
 Only believe.

This month the entire congregation was encouraged to fast and pray for our National Brotherhood Conference. We were reminded that fasting is an expected discipline in both the Old and New Testament for believers to seek God in prayer and Scripture.

Bro. Jerry and Sis. Lois Drayer are grandparents of a new granddaughter, Kylie Rose. Kylie was born July 1 to parents, Bro. Bruce and Sis. Heather Drayer of Leo.

Loved ones who requested prayer this month for medical reasons were Bro. Bob (Sis. Mary Jo) Troxel as they traveled to M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, TX, for further evaluation of Bob's cancer, and Sis. Jessie Longenberger (Bro. Steve and Sis. Kathy) who had outpatient surgery.

August 16 was the wedding date for Bro. Krent Reinhard (Bro. Roger and Sis. Maureen) and Sis. Amber DeHoff (Scott and Sis. Rita Gerber) of Bluffton East. May they be blessed with many years together serving the Lord.

INDIANA
FRANCESVILLE
Jacki Huber
Mildred Clauss

Our congregation has been blessed with many visitors this past month. Among them were ministering Bro. Tom Waldbeser (Sis. Susan) and family from Atlanta, GA, as well as around 120 High School students plus Sunday School teachers, who came for Christian Endeavor on another Sunday. Christian Endeavor is held annually, and is hosted by different churches in Indiana. This year we were blessed to host it in Francesville. We were en-

couraged by our visitors, and thank every one who came!

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

Psalm 127:3

Bro. Phil and Sis. Amber Leman are the happy parents of a little boy, Tate Emmett, who was born on August 14. Ethan, Camille and Brie also welcome Tate into their home, and Tate’s grandparents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Sandi Ward and Bro. Doug and Sis. Margaret Leman, all of Francesville.

Bro. Chad and Sis. Pam Huber rejoice in the birth of a precious little girl, Elyse Joy, along with brothers and sisters, Paul, Anna, Timothy, Emma, Dylan and Lucas. Elyse was born on August 18. Her grandparents are Algrid and Erika Gudas of Winamac, IN, and Bro. Gene and Sis. Barb Huber of Francesville.

Hospital patients this month have been Ron Osburn, Bro. Earl Anliker and Sis. Eldora Bonges. We pray that each of these loved ones feel the nearness of the Lord and experience the miracle of healing, according to His will.

At our monthly hymn sing this month, we also say goodbye to our ministering Bro. Jeff and Sis. Sue Neihofer and their family. We will miss them, and pray the Lord’s continued blessings upon them as they assemble in Morton, IL.

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS

**Gail Bradford
Sandy Lichtle**

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Justin Koch (Sis. Marcia, Washington, IL), Bro. Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue, Detroit, MI), Bro. Steve Stieglitz (Sis. Jane, Leo, IN) and Bro. Scott Schafer (Sis. Gigi, South Bend, IN). We thank them for serving on the pulpit and bringing forth God’s Word

with confidence.

Being in a city with a mobile population, our congregation may experience more partings than we’d like. However, we also may have more newcomers to welcome! This month, we are glad to greet Bro. Jason and Sis. Laurie Whitman and daughters, Lindsey and Elise, who have moved to Terre Haute from Latty, OH. We hope they already feel at home!

We said goodbye to a dear family, ministering Bro. Fred and Sis. Nancy Witzig and two of their daughters, Sis. Erica and Sis. Rachel. Daughter Marta will remain here. Bro. Fred has served as minister here for ten years. We wish them God’s rich blessings as Bro. Fred begins a teaching assignment at Monmouth College in western Illinois.

On a sunny August Sunday afternoon, Sunday school pupils, parents and teachers enjoyed a picnic and other activities at a local park. These events provide opportunities to become more closely united in friendship and faith.

We are happy that Bro. Bill Witzig (Sis. Conni) is recovering well from a recent medical procedure. We are holding him up in prayer as he continues his return to good health.

Note of Thanks:

The family of Jane Bradford Czerwinski thank you for the love, prayers and support shown to our dear daughter, wife, sister and mother throughout her illness. Your acts of love encouraged and sustained us and continue to do so. We especially appreciate your kindness to Jane and Tom’s son, Guinness, who likes attending Sunday school, relishes church lunches and sings enthusiastically whenever he visits.

“But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they

shall walk, and not faint.”

Isaiah 40:31

INDIANA, LACROSSE

**Bethany Johnson
Julie Rocke**

“In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

Matthew 3:1, 2

We have recently had three new converts that have given up their old lives to walk the straight and narrow way! Philip Nuest (Bro. Dan and Sis. Cathy) started repenting during Vacation Bible School and we failed to mention him in the Silver Lining. We apologize for the oversight. Also walking this path is Felicia Nuest (Bro. Dan and Sis. Cathy) and Shane Moser (Sis. Becky). We rejoice with them and their families as they make this journey. May God grant them the grace and strength that they need to gain victory over the devil.

Another form of new life is the new baby that we have in our congregation. Lindsey Schneider and Philip Nuest became the parents of a beautiful new baby girl. Aleiya Rae Schneider is the granddaughter of Bro. Calvin and Sis. Jeannie Schneider and Bro. Dan and Sis. Cathy Nuest. We welcome this new bundle of joy to our congregation!

Just as there is new life, there is also death. Sis. Carolyn Levy’s sister, Sis. Rose Reber (Elgin, IL), passed away recently. We would like to remember their family in our prayers.

Our two visiting ministers this month were Bro. Brad Gudeman (Sis. Teresa, Bradford, IL) and Bro. Ron Palitto (Sis. Lynell, Akron, OH). Thank you for your services.

We had several from our congregation in the hospital this month for various reasons. They were Bro. Gene Heinold (Sis. Evie), Gene Stoller, Sis.

Mary Ann Feller and Sis. Dorothy Stewart. We pray that God will continue to heal them according to His will.

Many prayers were uttered as our Elder brothers gathered in Tremont, IL, for the 2009 Elder Conference. We trust that God will continue to answer those prayers and that our under-shepherds will continue to be given grace and wisdom as they perform their duties. Many thanks to the Tremont congregation for hosting the Elder Conference as well as the General Brotherhood Conference. It was a very blessed day, and we thank God for His Spirit which was ever present throughout the day.

As the summer comes to an end and the children are returning to school, we want to pray for each child so they can be good lights and examples to those around them. We also pray that they will be strong and yield not to the temptations that are around them.

INDIANA, LEO
Elizabeth Schrenk
Abigail Schrenk

“O magnify the LORD with me,
and let us exalt his name together.”

Psalm 34:3

As a congregation, we have been extremely blessed by the goodness of the Lord. We have many reasons to exalt His name together.

On July 26, Bro. Justin Wiegand and Sis. Kirsten Sauder became husband and wife. Rejoicing with them are parents, Bro. Roger and Sis. Kathy Wiegand (Gridley), and Bro. Tim and Sis. Jenny Sauder. We ask God to richly bless their lives together as they seek to serve Him. Bro. Justin and Sis. Kirsten will be worshipping with the Champaign, IL, congregation as he continues his schooling.

Among the guests at the wedding were several ministering brothers.

We thank Bros. Ed Sauder (Sis. Bonnie, Roanoke), Wayne Leman (Sis. Julie, Roanoke), David Zehr (Sis. Vicki, Gridley), and John Lehman (Sis. Ruth Ann, Wolcott). Bro. Paul Gasser (Sis. Joyce, Akron) also visited us this month. Truly we were blessed as these brothers shared with us God's Word.

We were privileged to have many visitors with us the weekend of the Gateway Woods Children's Home Auction. We received greetings that Sunday from over 25 different churches. We want to take this opportunity to thank all of our summer volunteers who gave of their talents and energy to serve us. We also want to thank all who volunteered at the sale. It is a blessing for us to experience true fellowship with brethren from far and near.

Our prayers have gone to our Heavenly Father for the Elder Brothers as they met this month in Tremont, IL. We pray God will give them His wisdom and understanding as these men faithfully continue to shepherd their congregations.

We recently had the privilege of having Bro. Jeff Waibel share the pulpit with us. Bro. Jeff and Sis. Margo Waibel were given unanimous support as we asked them to step into the ministry. Our prayers are with Bro. Jeff as he shares with us from God's Word on a regular basis. We thank Bro. Jeff and Sis. Margo for serving us in this way.

On August 19, Kara Elizabeth arrived into the home of Bro. Kurt and Sis. Kristen Slagel. Delighted siblings are Michaela, Josiah, and Nathan. We rejoice with them and pray for Bro. Kurt and Sis. Kristen as they continue to raise their children in the love and admonition of the Lord.

INDIANA, MILFORD
Carol Hurd
Pam Beer

We rejoice with Bro. Tom and Becky Price as their son and daughter-in-law, Jim and Angie Price, had a new daughter join their family on June 29. They named her Lillian Rebecca. We wish them much grace and guidance as they raise their precious family.

Our Milford congregation appreciates the visits of ministering brothers. This past month Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Bro. Ron Kipfer (Bluffton, IN) shared God's message to us. We wish to thank them both for taking time to visit us in Milford.

Many prayers have been prayed for loved ones in our church family who have experienced sickness, surgery, and hospitalizations. Those we have lifted up in prayer are: Bro. Don and Sis. Ruth Beer, Kenny Brooks, and Bro. Carlton "Cap" Beer (Sis. Mary Ann). May they feel God's healing hand upon them.

Our prayers and best wishes go with our graduating senior, Darcy Price, as she has headed to Iowa for college. We will miss her smiling face and positive attitude here at our Milford church, but know that the congregation of Bloomfield, IA, will enjoy having her assemble with them.

INDIANA, REMINGTON
Jenni Honegger
Marcella Tyler

Greetings from Remington! We are thankful for the visiting ministers and their wives who have graciously given of their time and energy for our benefit. Retired Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle (Sis. Lois, Peoria, IL) spoke with us at a Topical Bible Presentation about the interesting subject "The Pilot Is Smiling". We were very blessed by his encouragement not to fear because the pilot of our ship, the Lord Jesus Christ, has all the storms

that might threaten our peace under the control of His almighty hand. Bro. Paul Gasser (Sis. Joyce, Akron, OH) was also with us for a Wednesday night service, and we are thankful for his fellowship and his labors to preach the truth to all who would come to hear.

We wish to express our sincere sorrow to Dave and Charity (Isabell) Pratt on the recent passing of Dave's mother. We pray that he and his family can find comfort and solace in the arms of the Lord during this difficult time, and we covet your prayers for them as well.

Bro. Mark Waibel and Timothy Virkler will both be beginning their studies at college this fall. We ask you to remember them in your prayers, that they may "apply their hearts to know wisdom" in the coming months (to paraphrase King Solomon in Ecclesiastes 3:16). Education is a wonderful thing, but we must always remember the Source from whence all truth comes.

We have also been prayerful recently for our dear Elder Brothers as they met this week at the Conference in Tremont, IL. Our church and indeed all of God's people throughout the world will continue to face many challenges and trials in the months and years ahead as we wait for the coming of Jesus. We must be diligent in prayer for those who have been given authority over us so that they truly can discern God's will and direction for us during these perilous times.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

Joshua Martinez
Rachel Langhofer

We were blessed this month to have two visiting ministers. Bro. Ron Palitto (Sis. Lynell, Akron, OH) and Bro. Bill Brake (Sis. Miriam, Sardis, OH) fellowshipped with us on a Wednesday evening as they were traveling through for the Conference.

Both Bro. Ron and Bro. Bill, with their wives, make it a point to visit a small congregation on their way to the Conference every year. As a small congregation we greatly appreciate visitors and would like to thank them for thinking of us.

On August 16 we had our annual Sunday School picnic. Despite an afternoon thunderstorm, a wonderful time was had by young and old alike. Starting in September we will have two new Sunday School teachers. Replacing Sis. Lavilla Langhofer in the nursery class will be Sis. Becky Langhofer, while Sis. Gigi Schafer will be replaced by Sis. Trisha Lester. A huge thank you to Sis. Lavilla and Sis. Gigi for their service and our prayerful support to Sisters Becky and Trisha as they both serve a two year term.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO

Marguerite Hoerr

On the last Wednesday of July, Elder Bro. Lynn Fiechter (Sis. Ronda) was in Valpo to conduct an evening of Vacation Bible School. His topic was "Learning to Discern". Lynn is the youngest son of my sister Mary. He's always meant a lot to me and he was a special blessing to the Valpo church with his lesson; also because he and Ronda brought their family along with them. May God bless them for their visit to our Valpo congregation. They were able to combine the trip with a visit to Ronda's sister and family.

Sis. Caroline (Bro. Ed Sr.) Lester has been undergoing tests and we supported her in prayer during this time. Sis. Caroline is one of the "Martha's" of our Valpo congregation. She does work cheerfully and is always where she is needed. We ask God to bless her for these works and for the love she shows while she does them. A phone call last evening told us that she will not be undergoing surgery, and we're thankful to God for that news.

Our Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Sis.

Jennie) spent Sunday, August 9, with us. His words of inspiration were a blessing to all of us. He also always gives us words of encouragement, which means so much. Before leaving the pulpit in the afternoon, he reminded us to offer special prayers for the upcoming Elder Conference.

During a reunion of my siblings in July, at Bro. Carl and Sis. Mary Fiechter's lake cottage, we were talking about poems taught to us by our Dad, Bro. Theo Beer, and we sat around the table remembering them. We could all recite the following one in unison. It always brought tears to my Dad's eyes each time he'd recite "Thanatopsis". I admit it now brings tears to my eyes, also. The last verse of the poem reminds us of how death should be for a Christian. It also says so clearly how we should live our lives.

So live, that when thy summons comes to join
The innumerable caravan which moves
To that mysterious realm where each shall take
His chamber in the silent halls of death,
Thou go not, like the quarry-slave at night,
Scourged by his dungeon; but, sustain'd and soothed
By an unfaltering trust, approach thy grave,
Like one who wraps the drapery of his couch
About him, and lies down to pleasant dreams.
—William Cullen Bryant

On August 16 we were pleased to have a group of college age young people attend our services, most of them attending Purdue. They were hosted by Bro. Ross Feller, son of Bro. Joe and Sis. Jackie. It was so wonderful to hear the young voices in song, and the offering of prayers. Those who lead the songs and the harmony that supported them certainly enhanced our worship in singing. Before the after-

noon services they joined our young people up front during the song service. They closed the program by singing the songs they include each time they get together during the school year. They were inspirational to all of us and we hope they felt the welcome that was in our hearts.

Bro. Randy (Sis. Becky) Gudeman was with us for the final Wednesday night of Vacation Bible School, on August 19. He brought with him a group of songsters from Francesville to add to the blessings of the evening. How often we have had Brothers and Sisters from Francesville to brighten our Sundays and worship time. For sure our song service is always enhanced as well as the messages and fellowship they bring with them. We hope they know how they are loved and appreciated.

We've been fortunate to have visiting young sisters from Central Illinois and a Brother and Sister and their family from Smithville, OH, stop by to worship with us as they planned to visit the Indiana Dunes. Please remember that we are very close to the National Dunes Lakeshore.

We're just 2 3/4 miles South of U. S. 30 on State Rd. 49. We love visitors to our Valparaiso church, and we think you will find a warm welcome with us.

**INDIANA
WEST LAFAYETTE
Darlene Walder
Hollie Meister**

I would venture to say that no one would disagree that followers of Christ should think and live in a positive way. But do you ever find yourself depending too much on your own abilities rather than on the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit? Wow, I sure find myself doing that. My family was blessed to be a part of a welcome to college students this past month and all the students were encouraged and challenged to memorize scripture

along with all the knowledge they will acquire while attending schools of higher learning. The first verse they were given was in 2 Corinthians 12 where Jesus says "My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."

"God gives to His servants this promise: You'll not have to face life alone; and when you grow weak in your struggle, His strength will prevail - not your own."

We want to congratulate Bro. Morgan and Sis. Kyra Langhofer on their recent marriage. Bro. Morgan is a grad student at Purdue University and has been assembling with us for a while. They will now be making W. Lafayette their home church as a married couple and we welcome them with open arms.

We wish the Lord's blessings on Clayton Walder as he has started repenting. He is the son of Bro. Russ and Sis. Darlene Walder and it is one of life's greatest gifts; to hear your child say they want to walk with the Lord.

We want to welcome all the students back to Lafayette and pray that they will have a good year in their studies. Our church is standing with open arms for anyone to come and worship with us as often as possible.

We continue to pray for Bro. Kevin and Sis. Laura Gutwein and their son, Taye, as he has undergone some testing and surgery to get better answers on his hearing loss. Our prayer is that God will open doors as He sees best in this situation. We have all grown to really love little Taye and are blessed to have him as a part of our church family.

We always appreciate those that come and serve in the ministry and we never want to go without saying thanks.

**INDIANA, WOLCOTT
Donita Edelman
Lynell Blume**

Our congregation has been blessed with many visiting brethren this past month. Those brothers who willingly shared the Word with us were: Bros. John Hartman (Sis. Rosemary, Fairbury, IL), Mike Ursu (Sis. Barb, Kitchener, Canada), Marshall Heinold (Sis. Jan, Ixtlan, Mexico), Paul Gasser (Sis. Joyce, Akron, OH), and Neal Widmer (Sis. Kris, West Lafayette, IN). We were also blessed to have Retired Elder Bro. Willis Ehle (Sis. Lois, Peoria, IL) with us for our monthly Bible Study. Bro. Willis' topic was "I Saw My Pilot Smile." We were left with many thoughts to consider and were blessed by our evening together.

Bro. Allen and Sis. Connie Furrer are the happy grandparents of a new granddaughter. Corinne Mae McDermott was born on July 13 to Scott and Havilah. We wish God's blessings and guidance as they raise this precious little bundle.

We extend our sincere sympathy to Russ and Marty Winger on the passing of Marty's father, Dean Foulks. May God grant healing to this family in their loss.

Jake Bahler (Bro. Alfred and Sis. Frances) has our prayers as he suffers from afflictions of the flesh. May he feel God's nearness as he begins his treatments.

Sis. Emily Bahler (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Heidi) has moved to Bloomfield, IA, to continue her studies. May God be with her while she is away from our congregation.

Our church family extends a warm welcome to Choi Jung Won (American name: Jenny). She is living with Bro. Troy and Sis. Lisa Furrer. Jenny is an exchange student from South Korea. May she feel the warmth and love of our church family as she assembles with us for the next year. What a wonderful opportunity we each have to be

an example of the Lord to her and all those we are around on a daily basis.

We are currently listening to the Conference Tapes on Wednesday evenings. We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all the Elder Brothers for the time and work they willingly put in for our church. May God be the rich Rewarder for all their time and love given.

IOWA, BLOOMFIELD Christy Wiegand

Greetings from Bloomfield. Summer is coming to an end, and it seems spring just arrived. As each season passes, we are reminded how swiftly life passes.

The time flies on and death draws
nigh;

Unite us, Lord, with Thee on high!
Prepare us now to live with Thee
Forever in eternity!

Zion's Harp #188

We rejoice with Bro. Roger and Sis. Deann Wuthrich at the arrival of their third grandson. Blade Tyler was born to Bro. Chad and Sis. Angie Zimmerman (Eureka) on August 4. We look forward to meeting little Blade next time they come to visit.

We thank the Elder brothers for taking time out of their schedules to meet for the summer Conference. May the Lord bless them for their efforts.

IOWA, BURLINGTON Dixie Messner Karla Gerst

"Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away."

James 4:13-14

Reflecting on where the time has gone this month, these verses from James came to mind. It has truly passed like a vapor.

During this past month, Sis. Maye Heiniger spent time in the hospital. We pray that she has felt the Lord's presence with her through this time.

Also, ministering Bro. Matthew Steffen (Princeville, IL) was with us for a Wednesday evening. May the Lord reward him for his willingness to serve.

Live thou as thy wish will be
To have lived when thou expirest.
Treasures which have come to thee,
Fame and wealth which thou desirest,
Will not make thy death more sweet,
For they are not thine to keep.

Zion's Harp #253 vs. 2

IOWA, ELGIN Maria Rocke

We would like to thank ministering brethren, Bro. John Rowell (Sis. Nelda, Burlington) and Bro. Joe Dotterer (Sis. Rose, Bloomfield), for sharing God's Word with us this month.

Jared Timothy was born to Bro. Tim and Sis. Melisa Gerst (Iowa City) on August 18. He was welcomed home by his four siblings, Anelyse, Joseph, Jenna and Anthony. Jared's grandparents are Bro. Lon and Sis. Sandy Butikofer and Bro. Joe and Sis. Connie Gerst (Iowa City).

We held our annual Sunday School election this month. Replacing Bro. Wade Halverson (Jr. Bible class) is Bro. Phillip Wyss. Replacing Sis. Sandy Butikofer (secondary class) is Sis. Sue Schneider. We also have a new substitute teacher position which was filled by Sis. Tammy Mayhall. We thank those who have fulfilled their terms and wish God's grace to those who have been chosen to fill their positions. Also at our meeting, Bro. Lon

Butikofer was reelected as an usher and Bro. Doug Rocke was elected as our new representative for the National Church Building Fund and the National Goodwill Fund. Bro. Paul Butikofer has represented these two funds for many years. We thank him for his service.

"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain; for the former things are passed away."

Revelation 21:4

We extend our sympathy to those who have recently lost loved ones. Bro. Albert and Sis. LaVerne Butikofer, Bro. Paul and Sis. Mildred Butikofer, and Bro. Bert and Sis. Beulah Butikofer laid to rest their sister, Sis. Ruth Wiegand (Bro. Wilbur, Forrest, IL). Bro. Dale and Sis. Cheryl Moore and their family bid their last farewell to Sis. Cheryl's mother, Sis. Emma Gerber (West Bend). Bro. Phillip and Sis. Kristin Wyss laid to rest Sis. Kristin's grandmother, Sis. Pauline Roth (Congerville, IL).

Gene Butikofer (Lampe, MO) and Jocelyn Sirmin (Haiti, currently in Davenport, IA) were united in marriage on August 15. Gene's parents are Bro. Al and Sis. LaVerne Butikofer. We wish Gene and Jocelyn God's blessings.

IOWA, IOWA CITY Diana Butikofer

Bro. Dale and Sis. Tina Frank (Oakville, IA) and Bro. Gary and Sis. Edie Anliker (Elgin, IL) visited our congregation recently. We thank Bros. Dale and Gary for being willing to preach God's Word to us and we trust God will bless them.

We congratulate Chris Landherr and Kelly Murphy on their wedding which took place August 8. Their par-

ents are Ron and Audrey Landherr and Bob and Jane Murphy (Manchester, IA). May the Lord bless their marriage.

Jim and Dawn Malone (Maquoketa, IA) welcomed a little boy, Austin James, into their family on August 5. Grandparents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Connie Gerst. On August 18, Jared Timothy was born to Bro. Tim and Sis. Melisa Gerst. Grandparents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Connie Gerst and Bro. Lon and Sis. Sandy Butikofer (Elgin, IA). We wish these parents God's wisdom and strength to raise their children to know Him.

We thank the Tremont congregation for all the effort they put into hosting the Brotherhood Conference this year! We also extend our appreciation to the Elder Brothers for the messages they brought to us in love—may God bless them for their labors in Christ!

IOWA, LESTER
Gloria Moser
Polly Metzger

A little sister has been blessed to Breyona Bosch. Brooklyn Joy was born August 3 to Bro. Brent and Sis. Priscilla Bosch. Her grandparents are Bro. Tony and Sis. Pam Bosch. May God continue to guide and bless these dear parents as they raise their children.

Be present, blessed Jesus, to join their
loving hands,
As Thou didst bind two natures in
Thine eternal bands.
Hymns of Zion #196

July 19 was the wedding day of Sis. Katie Metzger (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Harriet) and Bro. Colin Moser (Bro. Rick and Sis. Lori). May God bless them as they establish their home and build a life together.

These souls betrothed before Thee
stand;

Thy blessing we implore;
Unite Thou them in heart and hand,
And guide them evermore.

This past month we have had two engagements shared with us. Mark Mogler (Bro. Rodney and Sis. Lois) and Laura Kaniewski; and Sis. Tanya Wulf (Bro. Arnie and Sis. Myra) and Bro. Taylor Gramm (Bro. Tim and Sis. Gwen, Morris, MN). May God bless these dear ones as they plan their weddings and enjoy their time of engagement.

Bro. Alfred Reutter (Sis. Barb) has spent some time in the hospital. We continue to pray for all our loved ones who suffer bodily afflictions and are undergoing treatment of one kind or another. May God's healing strength be with them all.

We bid "farewell" to Bro. Chad DeSmet (Bro. Bob and Sis. Shirley) as he will be making his home in Sabetha. He begins his employment at the Prairie Meadow School. May God's blessings and guidance be with him.

Visiting ministers this past month were Bros. Rex Frieden (Lamar, MO), Bernie Messner (Morris, MN), Ken Schneider (Remington, IN), Jim Butikofer (Iowa City, IA), and Ron Jones (Portland, OR). We thank these brothers for their efforts, and pray that God will continue to direct and bless them.

There have been many in our congregation that have experienced the loss of loved ones in this past month. On July 30, Sis. Dolly Schick of Washington, IL, passed away at the age of 85. She leaves her sisters and brother-in-law, Sis. Martha Feucht, Josie Feucht, Bro. Phil and Sis. Donna Mogler, and a host of nieces and nephews, here in Lester. Sis. Dolly was a wonderful example to our faith. On August 7, Mike Moser passed away at the age of 48. He leaves his son, Keith and Julie Moser and their family, his daughter, Tonya and Morris Metzger, his mom, Tina Moser, and his sisters,

Sis. Audrey and Bro. Mark Metzger and Sis. Polly and Bro. Rodney Metzger, and their families. Mike was a wonderful husband, dad, grandpa, son, brother and friend. On August 9, a loving sister and aunt, Sis. Ruth Wiegand (Forrest, IL), passed away at the age of 82. She leaves behind her sister, Sis. Shirley and Bro. Gene Nester and their family. On August 11, Sis. Emma Gerber (West Bend, IA) passed away at the age of 91. She leaves behind her daughter, Sis. Delores and Bro. Paul Metzger, and a host of relatives. Sis. Emma's example will be cherished. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to all these dear families, and pray that God will lift them up in their times of need and comfort them as only He can.

IOWA, OAKVILLE
Sharla Wiegand

We have been blessed with visiting ministers this month. Bro. Bruce Frank (Cissna Park, IL), Bro. Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL) and Bro. Gary Endress (Bradford, IL) came on different Sundays to preach the Word.

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

Colossians 3:16

IOWA, WEST BEND
Sue Schneider
Janet Fehr

Bro. Matt and Sis. Rachel Fehr have moved with their family to the Denver, CO, area. We miss them but wish them God's blessings and know they will be a nice addition to the Denver church.

Two couples were united in marriage during the past month. On July 25, Brian Schneider (David) and Amy Karstens were married in Howard,

SD; and they now are at home in Brookings, SD. The following day, July 26, Bro. Kurt Zaugg (Bro. Pat and Sis. Julie) and Sis. Ruth Feuchtenberger (Bro. Gerald and Sis. Karen) were joined in holy matrimony in Morris, MN. We trust Sis. Ruth feels welcome and "at home" as she and Bro. Kurt make their home in the West Bend area. May both couples take their commitments seriously and feel God's nearness as they establish two new family units.

How joyful is the hope that lingers,
when loved ones cross death's sea,
That we, when all earth's toils are
ended,
with them shall ever be!
We'll never say good-bye in heav'n,
We'll never say good-bye,
For in that land of joy and song,
We'll never say good-bye.

Hymns of Zion #122, vs. 2

With sad hearts and yet with an inner peace, our congregation and community said good-bye to Bro. Eugene George Bruellman. Funeral services for Bro. Gene were held at the West Bend church on August 10. He reached the age of 77 years. His survivors include his wife, Sis. Evelyn "Evie"; three sons, Steven and John (Cindy), both of Ottosen, IA, and Brent (Tracey) of Aurora, CO; two daughters, Marla (Bill) Berg of Rochester, MN, and Kandy Imlay of Des Moines, IA; brothers, Bro. Harley (Sis. Adele) and Bro. Donald (Sis. Verda); a sister, Elaine Wichtendahl, all of the West Bend area; seven grandchildren and one great-granddaughter. Despite his declining health, Bro. Gene remained an interested, caring, and giving brother. His absence will be felt.

"And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you."

1 Thess. 4:11

These words were read by Bro. Duane Metzger as he took part in the funeral services held for Sis. Emma Lou Gerber. Sis. Emma passed away on August 11. She was the faithful helpmate of Bro. Noah and supported him in his ministry for many years. She was loved and appreciated both by her family and her church family. Surviving are her eight children: Sis. Carolyn (Bro. Alfred) Banwart, Lamar, MO; Sis. Marcella (Bro. Joe) Steiner, Tremont, IL; Sis. Delores (Bro. Paul) Metzger, Lester, IA; Sis. Ilene (Bro. Roger) Hartter, Sabetha, KS; Sis. Shirley (Bro. Larry) Ifft, Fairbury, IL; Sis. Cheryl (Bro. Dale) Moore, Elgin, IA; Bro. Manuel (Sis. Mary) Gerber and Bro. David (Sis. Diane) Gerber of West Bend; two brothers, Bro. Chris and Bro. William Moser, and one sister, Sis. Minnie Kussatz, all of Morris, MN.

Our sympathy goes out to Bro. Ken and Sis. Ellen Dahlhauser at the loss of their sister-in-law, Mavis Dahlhauser. Ervin (Nettie) Banwart also lost a sister-in-law, Sis. Dolly Schick from Washington, IL.

Bro. Barry (Sis. Molly) Fehr and Sis. Wendy (Bro. John) Fehr both spent a night in the hospital. May God be near each one and provide His healing touch in their lives.

We have been blessed with many visiting ministers throughout the past month. On July 19, Bro. Kent Mogler (Sis. Mary, Minneapolis, MN) spent the day with us. Then on August 2, Bro. Dewayne Dill (Sis. LaRae, Minneapolis, MN) was here as well as Bro. Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy, Portland, OR). On August 9, we had Bro. Michael Wagenbach (Sis. Erica, Wolcott, IN) in our presence along with Bro. Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy, Portland, OR). Finally, on August 16, Bro. Bill Dotterer (Sis. Sharon, Lamar, MO), Bro. Dale Moore (Sis. Cheryl, Elgin, IA) and Bro. Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy, Portland, OR) ministered the precious

Word unto our hearts. We pray for each one that God will continue to bless them with His Holy Spirit.

We are happy to report a newborn baby in our congregation. Myah Marie was born to Daniel and Missy Wise. We are thankful for her safe arrival, and pray the Lord will also bless her sister, Shaylee, and grandparents, Bro. Dale and Sis. Lezlee Leman and Mike and Bernie Wise, as they welcome Myah into their family.

As many may write, the annual Brotherhood Conference was held in Tremont, IL, this year on August 14.

"And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves."

1 Thess. 5:12-13

JAPAN, SHIODA Carrie Ito

We had a blessed summer fellowship meeting in August near the base of Mt. Fuji. The main topic for the gathering was True Peace. There were lots of interesting discussions and a nice time for fellowship and singing. We are thankful that through Jesus and His suffering and sacrifice, we can have true peace. We are thankful that even though life has its ups and downs, if we have Jesus, we can have a true and abiding peace, no matter what our emotions are. In the evening we had a discussion on our interactions with unbelievers. It was commented that in Japan, many people are indifferent to God—perhaps not even believing that there is a God. We are so thankful for each of the believers and friends who have been given the grace to believe this wonderful truth and pray that many more can find it!

JAPAN, TOKYO

Jana Klaus

A few months back, I reported about an elderly man, Shizuo Hashimoto, who had a birthday putting him in his mid 90's. Mr. Hashimoto, who is very well in spirit, body and mind, has been attending our church for around 20 years. His wife, Teruko, also attended for a number of years until health issues kept her more at home. After a year or so about with cancer, his dear wife, Teruko, passed away on the morning of August 3 in her mid 80's. The family asked to have the visitation/funeral services at our church. They only desired a simple and Christian funeral, which was so peaceful. We thank God for the opportunity we had to open our church to over 70 people as they came to show their love and support of Teruko and her family. A Christian funeral, sad as it is to say good bye to loved ones, is one of the best ways to present the salvation message of love, peace and hope in Jesus Christ to those who have never heard it, or have had just limited exposure. May God touch hearts! The Hashimoto's have been blessed with two sons, one daughter, two daughter-in-laws, three grandchildren (one married) and one great-grandchild. They are such a friendly and easy going family and desire to come back to church to support their father. Please keep this family in your prayers.

The Sunday School children once again enjoyed their annual summer overnight stay at the church after a day out in the mountains. We thank the teachers for their labors of love for the children and for the bonds of friendship in the Lord that are strengthened by experiences like these. We felt sad with the Suzurikawa family whose children were to attend but could not as Mrs. Suzurikawa's grandmother passed away that same time. We extend our love and sympathy to Yoko and ask for

prayers for her family also.

Our annual summer Shuyokai (fellowship meeting) was held in early August out near Mt. Fuji. We enjoyed the beautiful scenery and cooler weather. It was Shioda's turn to host and we thank the brothers from there for their time and efforts in Bible studies and organizing. The topics studied were "True peace" and "Reaching out to the lost".

We enjoyed having Kie and Sami Hirata from Osaka (about 9 hours by car from Tokyo) worship with us one Sunday this summer as they were staying with the Klaus family. They are the daughters of Takehiko and Kate, who lived with their family of 5 children, in the Gridley, IL, area for one year a few years back. Please also keep this family in your prayers as they strive to build a Christian home where they are in the vast minority. We stand on the promises that the Lord's faithfulness and grace is new and abundant every morning wherever His children are living on this earth.

KANSAS, BERN

Sheri Edelman

Jill Meyer

We extend our appreciation to Bro. Dale Banwart (Sis. Missy; Congerville) for sharing the Word with us on August 16. May we strive to be receptive hearers whenever God's Word is brought forth.

After seeking God's will in their lives, two souls have felt led to become one. The engagement of Bro. Mathew Kaeb (Bro. Paul and Sis. Joan) to Sis. Kaitlyn Hoerr (Bro. Scott and Sis. Anna; Taylor) was announced on August 9. We wish them God's nearness as they plan for their wedding.

Our prayers continue to be with Bro. Bill Berg and also Bro. Waymer Esslinger, who had recent surgery. May they feel God's healing hand upon them.

Beautiful weather added to the blessing of fellowship as we enjoyed our Sunday School Picnic on July 19. We thank all of our Sunday School teachers for their efforts throughout the last year and pray that the seeds planted in young hearts will someday bring forth fruit.

As we bid farewell to summer and prepare for autumn, our "heart's wish" remains the same for all:

May each one then in his own place
on Him, the Rock, be grounded;
By His good Spirit, Word and grace
at all times be surrounded;
May all be hallowed by God's might;
He is our star and shining light.

Zion's Harp #173

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT

Martin Hohulin Sr.

In the month of August, we enjoyed the blessings of two visiting ministers. On August 2, Bro. Myron Knobloch (Sis. Beth, Lester, IA) and their two children visited us. One week later, Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen, Kansas City, MO) and their son, Bro. Scott, came to share in our blessings. Tom Byler (Jan Kraft) had a successful knee operation and is back to normal health. We are glad to have him again assembling with us.

Bro. David Sinn (Sis. Jolene) who ministered a number of years here, came to visit his ailing father, Wayne (Buzz) Sinn.

We sang "God Be With You Till We Meet Again" for our dear friend, Megan Byler. Megan is starting college in Arkansas. Bro. Ryan Kellenberger will return to college at Manhattan, KS. We look forward to both of them coming back home often to visit.

Our ministers spoke of the truth that is found in the Word of God. In the world, truth is becoming more scarce as time goes on. We appreciate our ministers reminding us truth can always be found in God's Word.

KANSAS, KIOWA
Janice Bahr
Jennifer Stewart

O, Lord my God, When I in awesome wonder
 Consider all the works Thy hands
 have made,
 I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
 Thy pow'r throughout the universe
 displayed.
 Then sings my soul, my Saviour God
 to Thee,
 How great Thou art, how great Thou
 art!
Hymns of Zion (insert)

How these words filled our hearts and souls when our family recently had the pleasure of visiting Niagara Falls. The beauty and majesty of that gorgeous water cascading over the falls thrilled our hearts with awesome praise for our God who created such beauty for us to enjoy. One evening there was even a thunderstorm with vivid lightening over the falls, and I couldn't help but wonder how anyone can look at the works of God's hands and doubt that He exists! It is totally unfathomable to me!

The summer has gone by so fast, and it is time for our children to return to nursery, kindergarten, grade, junior high, high school, and college. Therefore, parents, grandparents, family and friends, it is time for us to hold them up in prayer for this coming year. Satan may well be strong in his deceit, but he cannot compete with the prayers of the saints to our God on behalf of our loved ones! So as I Thessalonians 5:17 states, "Pray without ceasing", and keep our children out of the enemies hands!

Safe in the arms of Jesus,
 Safe on His gentle breast,
 There by His love o'ershaded,
 Sweetly my soul shall rest.
Hymns of Zion #218 (chorus)

We extend our thoughts and prayers to the family of Bro. Frank Kisling (89) who fell asleep in the arms of His loving Saviour this past month. His place at the church will be sadly empty, but we know that the place he occupies is so much nicer, and hope to join him there one day!

"The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you."
I Thess. 5:28

KANSAS
LAMONT-GRIDLEY
Ester Knobloch

Baptized into Thy name most holy,
 O Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
 I claim a place, though weak and lowly
 Among Thy seed, Thy chosen host.
 Immersed with Christ, I'm dead to
 sin;
 Thy Spirit now shall live within.

The weekend of July 25-26, our congregation heard the proving and witnessed the baptism of a dear soul. We welcome Bro. Justin Isch (Sis. Liz) into the fold and pray that God will grant him the grace to remain true and faithful all the days of his life. Elder Bro. Rick Plattner (Sis. Mary Ann, Fairbury, IL) was here to help carry out this important work as well as ministering Bro. Dave Hartter (Sis. Beth, Sabetha, KS) and Bro. Brandon Emch (Sis. Maria, Kansas City, MO).

Sunday School has resumed with the new teachers installed. We pray that God will grant these brothers and sisters wisdom in teaching the way of the Lord, and that the students will be obedient and eager learners.

"And all thy children shall be taught of the Lord; and great shall be the peace of thy children."
Isaiah 54:13

KANSAS, SABETHA
Carrie Grimm
Rebekah Beyer

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."
Colossians 3:16

We can be so thankful that we have many opportunities to worship the Lord in song. We truly have a wonderful ministry in our "psalms and hymns and spiritual songs".

On July 18, Lafe Grimm (Bro. Rodney and Sis. Arlene) and Kristen Spohr (Merle and Jean, Hancock, MN) were united in marriage. We pray the Lord will bless this dear couple as they begin their life as one. Lafe and Kristen had a reception on August 16 in Sabetha.

We were thankful to have Bro. Howard Plattner (Sis. Kristen, Alto, MI) minister to us this month. We thank Bro. Howard and Sis. Kristen for their time and effort and pray that the Lord will richly bless them.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with Bro. Roger and Sis. Ilene Hartter as they mourn the loss of Ilene's dear mother, Sis. Emma Gerber (West Bend, IA). Our prayers are also with Sis. Emma's many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. May the Lord comfort their hearts.

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

We are so thankful to have Sis. Sheila Moser back home for a couple months as she takes a break from her duties in Haiti. We look forward to our fellowship with her. May the Lord continue to bless her for her efforts.

Our Sunday School is taking a summer break for the month of August and will resume on September 13. We pray the Lord will work through each Sunday School teacher as they bring forth the Truth to each of the young and tender hearts of our children. May the seeds they plant bring forth fruit.

“Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. Trust ye in the Lord for ever: for in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength.”

Isaiah 26:3-4

KANSAS, WICHITA

Emma Miller

Bro. Dwight Stoller and his wife, Sis. Lori, from Latty, OH, spent a recent weekend fellowshiping with the Wichita congregation. Bro. Dwight is no stranger to those who assemble for Wednesday night services. His business frequently brings him to Hillsboro, KS, a farming community about an hour from Wichita and he is willing to not “forsake assembling” with fellow believers even though it meant he would be expected to minister to those present. This weekend gave him the opportunity to meet the rest of us. We thank our visiting ministers for being willing to share the pulpit duties with our at home brothers. This present weekend, Bro. Philip Schultz (Burlington, IA) was our guest minister. He was accompanied by his wife, Sis. Kelli, his young children, and another couple. They helped fill our often empty benches.

Wednesday night services had been suspended during the summer but will resume as vacation time ceases and school begins.

Bro. Max Reimschisel teaches the pre-middle school boys Sunday School class. He has sparked their interest by having them use an acrostic type of poetry to summarize their lesson such as

in the following:

People praise the
Redeemer, thy God!
Every person is
A
Christian who
Has faith and is converted. They will
Enter
Righteous Heaven.

MEXICO, IXTLAN

Matt Gerber

“But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.”

I Thess 4:13-14

Bro. Roberto was dearly loved by everyone in church for his soft heart, his earnest prayers, his humble gratitude, and his simple devotion to Christ. Though he never preached a sermon from the pulpit, his eyes would fill with earnest tears when it was his turn to pray, and he would usually take a few moments to exhort the congregation at the same time. The children all knew him as the brother who cried when he prayed for them after they sang on Sunday mornings. Even though he didn't know how to read, not a Sunday went by that he didn't give off the number of one of his favorite songs that he knew by memory. He was always visibly moved as he sang about Christ's suffering and love for sinners. He never ceased to be amazed by the cross. Though he couldn't speak English, he always welcomed visitors with a hearty handshake, and of course, teary eyes. The love on his face made it easy for them to understand what he wanted to say. Bro. Roberto Sanchez Marron went to be with the Lord on Saturday, August 15, after a

hard battle with cancer. He will be greatly missed by the church in Ixtlan as we look forward to seeing him in heaven. Please pray for his widow, Sis. Rosa, as well as their daughter and grandson, that their sadness could be mixed with great hope.

On the weekend of July 25-26, two converts gave their testimonies and were baptized in Ixtlan—Sis. Guillermina (Guille) Manzo Mendoza and Sis. Rosa (Rosie) Maria Ruiz. Elder Bro. Mike and Sis. Deb Leman were present. The following three weeks we had VBS—first in Ixtlan, then in Morelia, and finally in Barra Vieja. Bro. Grant Herrmann (Princeville) returned home after volunteering here for the summer. We give God thanks for the many practical ways that he served and encouraged us here.

MEXICO MAGDALENA, SONORA

Kali Zobrist

This summer has been busy here in Magdalena. With the kids at Casa Vida y Esperanza out of school, we hosted our own summer school with the help of our summer staff volunteers. Then the first week in August we held our Escuelita Biblica de Vacaciones (Vacation Bible School) and everyone was kept busy with over 300 kids coming to hear about Jesucristo: El Todopoderoso (Jesus Christ: the All-Powerful).

“Y seré para vosotros por Padre, Y vosotros me seréis hijos e hijas, dice el SeZor Todopoderoso.”

II Corintios 6:18

“And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.”

II Corinthians 6:18

What an incredible God, powerful and mighty, and He still desires to be a

Father to us! Please join us in praying that the Spirit would continue to work in the hearts of those who came to VBS. Many new faces were in church the following Sunday. Praise God for His work!

We said good-bye to our summer staff as summer comes to a close and we get ready to jump back into fall again. This fall we have many changes at Casa Vida y Esperanza as we begin our school on campus. Bro. Todd Stoller (Leo, IN) has joined us here at CVE to lead the school project. We ask for many prayers as this work is begun.

We are looking forward to having baptisms next month and are thankful that the Lord continues to work in the lives of those that seek Him.

To God be the glory, great things He
has done
So loved He the world that He gave us
His Son

Who yielded His life an atonement for
sin
And opened the life gate that all may
go in.

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
Let the earth hear His voice

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
Let the people rejoice

O come to the Father through Jesus
the Son
And give Him the glory great things
He has done.

MICHIGAN, ALTO
Rose Watson
Terri Huber

We are so sad to say goodbye to Sis. Gretl Schlatter. Gretl has lived in Alto for ten years, but feels God's direction in her life to move "home" to Latty, OH. We hope that Gretl will always feel like Alto is her home, too. We will miss Gretl greatly and wish her God's blessing and great success in her

move.

The congregation voted on new Sunday School teachers this month. Special thanks for the devotion and effort put forth over the past three years by the departing teachers, Sis. Renee Steffen and Sis. Michelle Oesch. The new teachers are Bro. Jake Gerst and Sis. Terri Huber. The Sunday School Bible class was able to travel and participate in Ohio Youth Day.

As we approach the start of a new school year, join me in praying that each child will feel confident of his/her worth in God's eyes, regardless of the academic and peer pressures that may come.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY
Sarah Knochel
Janelle Ramseyer

We are thankful that Bro. Jesse Bedolla (Sis. Bonnie, Detroit, MI) was able to spend a Sunday ministering the Word unto our congregation. May the Lord be his rich reward!

Our prayers are with Bro. Merle Wieland (Sis. Elaine) as he recently spent time in the hospital. We trust that there will be healing all according to God's will.

We also want to remember Bro. Bob Knochel, Sis. Lois Wieland and Sis. Nina Wieland in the passing of their sister, June Schuerch.

Our congregation is rejoicing with two souls that have made known their desire to repent and serve the Lord. Our prayers are with Faleasha Knochel (Norm and Sis. Linda) and Janessia Henderson (Jeremy and Natalie) as they start on the way and submit their lives to Christ.

As summer moves into autumn, our prayers are with our students, from kindergarten through university, that they may be protected and safe throughout the next school year and that above all, God's wisdom will guide their thoughts and actions.

We especially want to remember

Sis. Caitlin Long (Rick and Sis. Joan) as she is moving to Hungary to do mission work, and to Kendra Schlatter (Bro. Ken and Sis. Pam) as she is moving to the Bloomfield, IA, area to attend college. They both will be greatly missed!

MICHIGAN, DETROIT
Manuela Denes
Kay Rauhe

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever."

Psalms 23:4,6

Our love, prayers, and sympathy to Sis. Arlene Belsley and to Sis. Ella Schlatter as they are grieving the loss of their sister, June Schurech, who lived in Santa Barbara, CA. We would also like to convey our sympathy to Bro. Dana Knochel (Sis. Beth) as he is missing his aunt. Our deepest sympathy, continued prayers, and love to Bro. Hartzell Kaisner (Sis. Mary) on the recent death of his sister, Sis. Alma Jean Schmidgall (Bro. David) from Forrest, IL. May they all find strength in His presence and comfort in His love.

"Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier."

II Timothy 2:3,4

Our thoughts and love go out to Jon Meyer (Sis. Kristie) as he has been recently deployed to Iraq. We will pray for his safety while there and will continue to pray until he is home and out

of harm's way.

Our love to Sis. Suzanne Sabados, Sis. Anna Sabados, and Pauline Sabados and to John and Sis. Linda Reardon as they have been unable to worship with us for a long time, and we really miss them! We need to remember to keep them all in our thoughts and prayers.

We are so thankful for answered prayers as Sis. Lorene Maibach (Bro. Ben) and Bro. Jim Barton (Sis. Vi) were recently hospitalized and are both struggling at home or in Woodhaven to regain their strength. We will continue to pray for them and for steady improvement.

Our thoughts, love, and earnest prayers are with Bro. Jesse Bedolla (Sis. Bonnie) as his father, Jesse Bedolla, Sr., is in the hospital and battling some very serious health issues. We will continue to pray for the entire family as they are going through a very difficult time.

What a joy and blessing it is to announce that on August 9 Bro. Hartzell and Sis. Mary Kaisner celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary. Their marriage is a beautiful example of what God intended a couple to share. What an inspiration a lasting love can be!

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights..."

James 1:17

On August 14, Rachel Germaine (Bro. Milan and Sis. Joyce) and Michael Nagher (Fred and Ruth Ann from Sunrise, FL) were united in marriage. We wish them God's richest blessings as they begin their life together, and may their love and happiness continue to grow.

Our middle and high school students enjoyed a weekend together as they recently traveled to Mansfield, OH, for Youth Day. It was a definite blessing for everyone... what a won-

derful way for our young people to get to know each other!

As our Elder body gathered this month, we were encouraged by our Elder Bro. Mark Bahr to pray because it's a "huge blessing knowing everyone at home is praying".

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

1 John 4:12

MINNESOTA MINNEAPOLIS Mary Mogler

Blessings were ours as many included a stop in Minneapolis in their vacation plans. Among the visitors were ministering Bros. Brian Huber (Francesville, IN) and John Baumgartner (Bern, KS). We appreciated the message of truth God inspired them to deliver, and the added fellowship of their families.

We extend a warm welcome to LaNae Wagenbach from Kiowa, KS, and to Bethany Jones from Morris. LaNae is living in Rochester while she attends college; Bethany is employed in the nursing field. We look forward to having them assemble with us and hope they will soon feel at home here.

Jamie and Jodi Pelzel are the happy parents of a newborn son, Samuel James. We know they, along with their children, Lucy, Jack, and Eleanor, are thankful for this precious gift. We wish them many blessings as they enjoy watching Samuel grow.

August 29 was a special and truly memorable day in the lives of Tammy Filzen and Cory Bergstrom (Bro. Doug and Sis. Connie), as they were united as husband and wife. We extend our congratulations to them and pray for God's blessed nearness and joy in their married life.

Our dear Sis. Katie Blunier recently celebrated her 90th birthday; what a milestone! God has blessed her

with many years of life, and we have been so blessed by the life she has lived. We pray that she will enjoy peace and contentment in the days God continues to give her.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS Susie Wulf Sheila Reuter

We are so thankful for the visiting ministers who did share the Word of God with us. They were Elder Bro. Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA), Elder Bro. Dennis Warner (Lester, IA), Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi (Lamar, MO), Bro. Ken Lawson (Atlanta, GA), Bro. Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA), Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA), Bro. Ed Fritz (Washington, IL), Bro. James Knapp (Congerville, IL), Bro. Jim Koehl (San Diego, CA), Bro. Mark Schmidgall (Oakville, IA) and Bro. Dale Wulf (Lester, IA). May God richly bless them.

The engagement of Bro. Taylor Gramm to Sis. Tanya Wulf was announced. Their parents are Bro. Tim and Sis. Gwen Gramm and Bro. Arnie and Sis. Myra Wulf (Lester, IA). May God bless them as they make plans to begin their life together as one in the Lord.

Bro. Kurt Zaugg (West Bend, IA) and Sis. Ruth Feuchtenberger were united in marriage. Their parents are Bro. Gerald and Sis. Karen Feuchtenberger and Bro. Pat and Sis. Julie Zaugg. Also united in marriage were Bro. Caleb Pfaffmann and Sis. Heidi Wulf. Their parents are Bro. Stan and Sis. Pam Wulf and Bro. Robert and Sis. Lily Pfaffmann (Washington, IL). May God bless these couples as they begin their life together.

Our sympathy and prayers go out to the family of Sis. Margery Koehl as she has gone to be with the Lord. She is survived by her sister, Sis. Thelma Dogotch, and many nieces and nephews.

Our prayers are with Bro. Mike

Schmidgall as he has spent time in the hospital. May the Lord provide and be with him.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP
Julie Schmidt
Lindsay Schmidt

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
 Praise Him, all creatures here below;
 Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
 Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Hymns of Zion #95

With two joyful occasions within a month, our small congregation has been blessed to observe God's guidance in the lives of His children. May we ever be willing to follow where He leads us.

"...For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."

Matthew 19:5-6

It was a privilege to witness the union of Sis. Shayla Messner (Bro. Dean and Sis. Wanda) and Bro. Jordan Steffen (Bro. Dean and Sis. Carol) from Belvidere, IL. May the Lord sustain them by His grace to obey His holy laws and live in joy and peace. We will miss Sis. Shayla's presence here and yet look forward to their visits back "home". Our visitors included a number of ministers. We certainly enjoyed their fellowship and messages of truth. Among them were Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern, KS), Bro. Dean Steffen (Sis. Carol, Belvidere, IL), Bro. Duane Metzger (Sis. Ruth, West Bend, IA), Bro. Chuck Kellenberger (Sis. Debbie, Elgin, IL), and Bro. Kent Mogler (Sis. Mary, Minneapolis, MN).

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

Our congregation rejoices that a new sister was brought into the fold. Sis. Emily Steiner (Bro. Glen and Sis. Rachel) made a covenant with God before many witnesses to remain true and faithful to life's end. Through God's grace, may Sis. Emily be earnest, watchful, and wise in her service for Him. We would like to thank Elder Bro. Steve Ringger (Sis. Myra, Bluffton North, IN) for his labors during this weekend. May God bless him for his willingness to serve.

We welcome all and extend a hearty invitation to share in fellowship and worship with us any time.

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY
Brittany Fehr

We would like to thank Bros. Brad Strahm (Sis. Michelle, Bern, KS) and Myron Knobloch (Sis. Beth, Lester, IA) for their labors in the ministry for our behalf. May God richly reward them.

MISSOURI, LAMAR
Dana Kellenberger
Rebecca Dotterer

Bro. David and Sis. Laura Braker are thankful for the arrival of little Russell Drew. He joins his big sister, Alyssa. Grandparents are Bro. Roy and Sis. Judy Braker of our congregation and Bro. Greg and Sis. Jill Stoller (Forrest, IL). Russell had surgery and spent some time in the hospital, but is at home doing better. Bro. Ben Braker (Bro. Roy and Sis. Judy) was also hospitalized and underwent surgery. May the Lord heal and bless each one as He

sees best.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Alfred and Sis. Carolyn Banwart on the passing away of her mother, Sis. Emma Gerber (West Bend, IA). Truly the Lord is our Comforter in such times of sorrow.

We have had many visitors this past month, including ministering Bros. Glen Braker (Princeville, IL), Neal Widmer (West Lafayette, IN), Tim Zimmerman (Lamont-Gridley, KS), Greg Stoller (Forrest, IL), and Bob Dotterer (Sardis, OH).

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS
Meagan Wuethrich

We are sad to announce that our dear friend, Bernice Stuber, has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. Please pray for her family as they adjust to this news and for Bernice as her health begins to fade.

We were immensely blessed with many visitors along with several visiting ministers this month. We appreciate everyone who made the effort to add to our fellowship, and those who continue to pray for our little church. Our visiting ministers who so willingly gave of themselves, with their families, are Bros. Greg Rassi (Sis. Carla, Chicago, IL), Dave Oberghel (Sis. Kathleen, Peoria, IL), Tom Waldbeser (Sis. Susan, Atlanta, GA), Bob Dotterer (Sis. Laura, Sardis, OH), Erik Givens (Sis. Debbie, Princeville, IL) and Elder Bros. Jay Luthi (Sis. Jane, Lamont-Gridley, KS), and Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan, Taylor, MO). Let us continue to hold our Elders and ministers up in prayer as they seek to shepherd us by the grace, example, and direction of our Lord and Savior. They give so much of their time and effort to the support and growth of our precious brotherhood, not only on Sundays, but each day of the week.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR**Kathy Eberhardt**

David had an attitude of praise and thanksgiving. Do we have the same attitude? Do we praise the Lord daily? We would like to thank God for His healing hand for Barbara Plank, Sis. Nerys Lightner (Peter), Sis. Emma Hoerr (Bro. Robert), and Sis. Heidi Snyder (Bro. Kenton). Our prayers are also with Tess Lehman (Bro. Tim and Sis. Amber) and Sis. Kathy Haab (Bro. Paul).

The following ministers shared the message of God at Taylor this month. Bro. Troy Leyse (Sis. Kelly, Bluffton, IN), Bro. Kenny Dietz (Sis. Mardell, Bradford, IL), and Bro. Steve Baner (Sis. Donna Lou, Gridley, IL), were visitors this month.

Thank you so much, Bro. Byron Gerber (Roanoke, IL), for your inspirational testimony of faith.

New Sunday School teachers serving this coming year are Bro. Neal Banwart, Bro. Kenton Snyder, Bro. Josh Steffen, Sis. Lisa Massner, and Sis. Carrie Rocke.

The engagement of Sis. Kaitlyn Hoerr (Bro. Scott and Sis. Anna) to Bro. Matt Kaeb (Bro. Paul and Sis. Joan, Bern, KS) was announced. May God bless Bro. Matt, Sis. Kaitlyn, and their families.

**NEW YORK
CROGHAN-NAUMBURG
Hope Graves**

Happy Hollow Campgrounds was the site of our Sunday School/Church picnic this year on Saturday, August 1. The weather was beautiful and many were able to come and enjoy the day of food and fellowship.

We pray for God's blessings upon Joe and Holly Aucter as they were married August 8. Their parents are Bro. Floyd Jr. and Sis. Linda Graves and Gene and Shirley Aucter.

Our prayers continue to be with the family of Bro. Donald Farney (72) who

passed away August 10. We appreciated his example to us in how he accepted all that came his way as he prepared for that eternity to come. He expressed his thankfulness in having the time to say good-bye to all his family and friends. He is survived by his wife, Sis. Alice; and children, Noreen, Leah, Norbert, Roger, Joseph, Edward, Charlie and their families.

No parting words shall e'er be spoken
In yonder home so fair,
But songs of joy, and peace, and glad-
ness,
We'll sing forever there.
We'll never say good-by in heaven,
We'll never say good-by,
For in that land of joy and song,
We'll never say good-by.

Hymns of Zion #122, vs. 2

Our hospital patient this month was Sis. Anna Mellnitz and we are thankful she is better and able to assemble with us again.

**OHIO, AKRON
Mara Henico
Rachel Pamer**

Our thoughts and prayers are with our Bro. Sandor Bako (Sis. Kathy) and his family as his sister, Sis. Rozalia Gerber (Hungary), recently passed on. We are also lifting up our Bro. Dave and Sis. Barb Graf and their family as their nephew, Taylor Gasser (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Deb, Smithville), was taken in a sudden accident.

We trust that God will bless our friend, Adrian Craiu (Bro. Virgil and Sis. Veronica), as he recently relocated with family in California.

We are thankful that our Sunday School has been blessed with a number of children and we needed to add two new teachers. We pray that God will bless and direct Bro. Emery Gal (Sis. Erika) and Sis. Laura Bako (Bro. Tom) as they allow themselves to be used of God.

Our thoughts and prayers were

with the Elder brothers as they recently met in Conference. May God help us each to be humble and able to be led in the way He would have us to go.

OHIO, COLUMBUS

Julie Grimm

We are thankful for God's faithfulness to feed His flock and the willing service of Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH), Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH), and Bro. Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH) this past month.

On August 2, the announcement of Sis. Katrina Baltic (Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty) and Bro. Brian Demrovsky (Bro. Andrew and Sis. Vera, Akron, OH) was shared with our congregation. May God grant them His nearness and guidance as they prepare for their future.

Bro. Todd Saurer and Sis. Esther Stoller were united in holy matrimony on August 9 in Latty, OH. Their parents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Sue Saurer of Smithville, OH, and Bro. Craig and Sis. Ruth Stoller of Latty, OH. We wish this new couple God's richest blessings and warmly welcome Sis. Esther to our congregation.

**OHIO, JUNCTION
Vicki Boroff**

We are thankful for the service of our outgoing Sunday School teachers who have completed their terms: Bro. Chris Manz and Sis. Sue Gasser. Sis. Sheila Schlatter and Bro. Scott Manz have begun their new terms, with Sis. Kari Spangler as a back-up teacher, and we wish them much grace.

We also would like to thank Bros. Dana Indermuhle (Sis. Joy, Sardis), Matthew Rassi (Sis. Bridget, Chicago), and Jesse Bedolla (Sis. Bonnie, Detroit) for bringing the Word to us. We appreciate their efforts.

OHIO, LATTY
Amanda Wenninger
Carmen Eisenmann

Greetings of love! We were blessed this month with several visiting ministers. They included Bro. Kent Getz (Sis. Betty, Elgin, IA), Elder Bro. John Jackson (Sis. Peggy, Bay City, MI), Bro. Don Gudeman (Sis. Mary, Lacsrose, IN), Bro. Bill Waibel (Sis. Carol, Bay City, MI), Bro. Warren Schlatter (Sis. Cindy, Junction, OH), Bro. John Grimm (Sis. Julie, Columbus, OH), Bro. Gary Maibach (Sis. Mary Ann, Smithville, OH), Bro. Vic Bauman (Sis. Brenda, Smithville, OH), Bro. Walt Rager (Sis. Sharon, Toledo, OH), and Elder Brother Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH). We thank these brothers for visiting and ministering the Gospel to us.

Two couples were united in holy matrimony this month. On August 1, Blake Sinn took Tiffany Schaefer to be his wife. Blake is the son of Bro. Tom and Sis. Kim Sinn. August 9 was the wedding day for Bro. Todd Saurer (Columbus, OH) and Sis. Esther Stoller. His parents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Sue Saurer (Smithville, OH) and her parents are Bro. Craig and Sis. Ruth Stoller. May God bless these two couples as they begin this new path together.

August 5 was the birthday for Brenan Ray Miller born to Derek and Sis. Kim Miller. His older siblings are Anna and Brady. His grandparents are Bro. Ray and Sis. Carol Stoller and Dennis and Janet Miller. May God be with this family as they make adjustments to a new little one in their family.

Our hospital and surgery patients this month were Claudia Sinn (Bro. Tim and Sis. Marlene), Sis. Delores Grant (Bro. Tom), and Bro. Dick Schlatter (Sis. Viola). We pray that the Holy Spirit will provide comfort and healing according to His will.

We would also like to welcome Bro. Jared Bauman (Rittman, OH) and

Bro. Luke Bahler (Remington, IN) as they have moved to our area and are worshipping with us.

OHIO, MANSFIELD
Esther Baumann

Our congregation rejoices with Lauren Sauder (Bro. Dan and Sis. Pam) as we learned she has been granted God's perfect peace. She remains in our prayers as she awaits baptism.

Please remember in prayer two dear ones who have recently been hospitalized: Sis. Betty Beer and Sis. Lydia Chant (Bro. Jake).

Our annual Youth Fellowship Weekend was held on July 25-26. We thank all who assisted in this weekend. Special thanks to Bro. Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi, Alto, MI) and Bro. Brent Kellenberger (Sis. Beth, Kansas City, MO) for ministering to us.

We are grateful to Bro. Eric and Sis. Elizabeth Boliantz for graciously hosting our annual Sunday School Picnic. We cherish the opportunity to fellowship with each other.

OHIO, RITTMAN
Heidi Rufener
Laurie Beery

"...choose you this day whom ye will serve ... but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

Joshua 24:15

We are so thankful to hear that Rachel Powell (Bro. Don and Sis. Carol) has turned her heart to our dear Saviour in repentance. We pray for God's grace and gentle nearness in her life.

The engagement of Sis. Katrina Baltic (Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty, Columbus) to Bro. Brian Demrovsky (Bro. Andy and Sis. Vera, Akron) was announced to us recently. May God draw their hearts together in His love as they plan for their future.

Dan Hilty (Frank and Ginny) and

Ashley Butler (Creston, OH) were united in marriage on June 27. On August 2, we witnessed the wedding of Bro. Ethan Steiner (Bro. Matt and Sis. Gail) and Sis. Lisa Hartzler (Elder Bro. Merle and Sis. Bonnie). We wish God's rich blessings on both of these couples.

Marty and Wendy Stoller were blessed with a little girl, Katie Rose, on July 16. Grandparents are Bro. Fred and Sis. Joyce Stoller and Dale and Jeannie Meade. A baby boy, Isaac Emerson, was born to Bro. Wayne and Sis. Camille Hartzler on August 10. Older siblings welcoming him are Anna, Caleb, Emily, Abigail and Leah. Isaac's grandparents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Carolyn Hartzler and Bro. Wayne and Sis. Claudia Strahm (Bern, KS).

Hospitalized recently were Bro. Chet Rufener (Sis. Roma) and Sis. Diana Raifsnider. May the Lord's healing hand be upon them as they recover.

Our prayers and sympathy go out to Walter and Betty Marquart on the passing of Walt's mother, Mildred Marquart.

Many ministering brothers have visited and shared the Word of God with us recently. Elder Bros. Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL), Dave Graf (Akron) and Ken Indermuhle (Sardis), and ministering Bros. Bill Dotterer (Lamar, MO), Tim Zimmerman (Lamont-Gridley, KS), Greg Stoller (Forrest, IL), Duane Reutter (Rockville, CT), Tom Schambach (Elgin, IL), Bill Brake (Sardis), Fred Domka (Mansfield), Mark Steiner (Smithville), Ted Luginbuhl (Smithville), Wayne Wiegand (Goodfield, IL), Nelson Beer (Milford, IN), Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI), Steve Pamer (Akron), Tom Leman (Denver, CO), Paul Eisenmann (Burlington, IA) and John Steiner (Oakville, IA) have been with our congregation in the past month. We thank these brothers for their willing service.

**OHIO, SARDIS
Faith Beard**

I am Jesus' little lamb,
Happy all day long I am.
He will keep me safe, I know,
For I'm His little lamb.

The Children's Harp, no. 15, vs. 1

Raelynn Denise entered the hearts and home of Bro. Joel and Sis. Heidi Beard on July 30. Her excited siblings are Loren, Katie, Luke and Leah. Also thankful for her arrival are grandparents, Bro. Ed and Sis. Dee Beard and Bro. Greg and Sis. Jill Stoller (Forrest, IL).

We were blessed this month to have Elder Bro. Merle Hartzler (Rittman, OH) and Bro. Todd Graf (Akron, OH) serving us from the pulpit. We were also thankful to hear the report from the Elders upon the return from the Conference that they felt the prayers of the congregation in helping them to make decisions according to God's will.

When a sinner desires to be converted from their sinful life to live an overcoming life in Christ Jesus, we as humans need a time to make restitution for our sins and by God's grace work past that sinful life. It was recently made known to our congregation that our friend, Alysha Figel, has felt that wonderful peace that working through that change brings, and she is looking forward to baptism in the near future.

"Seek ye the Lord while He may be found, call ye upon Him while He is near... For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands."

Isaiah 55:6,12

**OHIO, SMITHVILLE
Lydia Stoller
Ruth Gasser**

Word of Life, the fountain flowing
Purely from the throne above,
Life and strength to him imparting,
Who accepts the word in love.

Zion's Harp #176

Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Lucas Frank (Detroit, MI) and Bro. Bill Brake (Sardis, OH) have shared the Word of Life to us in recent weeks. In addition, we often share in the services of the Rittman ministers in mid-week. Their company has likewise been a blessing to us during certain phases of the renovation of the Rittman church. On the weekend when three souls were baptized, we appreciated the assistance and ministry of Elder Bros. Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA) and Merle Hartzler (Rittman, OH). Also, Bros. Don Manz and Tony Manz (Junction, OH), Dan Stoller (Remington, IN), Jerry Bauman (Rittman, OH) and Ron Palitto (Akron, OH) added to these services.

We welcomed three lambs to the fold, who are now our sisters in faith. They are Lynn Stoller (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Millie), Julie Rufener (Bro. John and Sis. Janice), and Jill Marty (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Marie). It gives us pleasure also to report that another soul has begun on the narrow path, as Wayne Stoller (Bro. Dan and Sis. Kim) is seeking the Lord in repentance. May each one lean on the Lord and find His abundant grace as they yield their lives to Him.

As we witness new births in the Spirit, we also have one birth in the natural sense to report. Peyttin Kay joined the family of Adam and Jessica and McKenna Brewster on August 7. Bro. Glenn Riegenbach (late Sis. Louise) is her grandfather. May she bring joy to this family and learn to love the Lord.

On August 1, Steven Steiner (Bro.

Mark and Sis. Sue) and Alyson Swartz became husband and wife. On August 9, Bro. Todd Saurer (Columbus, OH) and Sis. Esther Stoller (Toledo, OH) became one in the Lord at the Latty church, home of her parents, Bro. Craig and Sis. Ruth Stoller. Parents of Bro. Todd are Bro. Roger and Sis. Sue Saurer (Smithville). We pray that God will bless these unions.

Our congregation was deeply saddened by the sudden death of young Taylor Gasser, son of Bro. Jeff and Sis. Deb Gasser, brother of Brooke and Spencer, and grandson of Bro. Leroy and Sis. Janita Koehl (Forrest, IL). May God's Spirit be very near to them and to the extended family.

Sis. Shirley Klotzle (Bro. Bob) was hospitalized and submitted to surgery. May she be blessed and restored to good health.

**OHIO, TOLEDO
Teresa Rywalski
Rebecca Beard**

Once again the Lord has provided for us in the teaching of His Word. Bro. Tony Manz (Sis. Denise, Junction, OH) joined us on a Sunday when Bro. Walt was alone. We trust that God will provide for him and his family as only He is able.

We were glad to hear that our convert, Missy Benware, has found peace and is now awaiting her baptism. May she continue to grow in the wisdom of our Lord.

What a joy it was to know that the call of the Lord has gone out and three dear souls have answered. Sarah Nolan, Shari Harmon (Bro. Doug and Sis. Lanna), and Anita Schlatter (Elder Bro. Bill and Sis. Emily, Junction, OH) have found the grace to answer this wonderful call of salvation. We trust they will use this time to learn the Word of God and His plan for their lives. As a congregation, we will continue to pray for these young ladies.

OREGON, PORTLAND**Renee Angstrom**

Our visiting ministers this month were Bro. Fred Funk (Sis. Diane, Morton, IL) and Bro. Brian Waibel (Sis. Wendy, Champaign, IL). We were blessed and encouraged by the beautiful messages that were spoken. We appreciate their support and bringing forth the Word.

OREGON, SILVERTON**Kris Luthi
Deb Roth**

We congratulate Bro. Josh and Sis. Tresa Hansen on the birth of their first child, Ethan Joshua, born July 25. Grandparents are Bro. Tim and Carol Hansen, and Bro. Loren and Sis. Marlene Dettwyler. May the Lord grant them His grace and wisdom as they raise their little boy.

We experienced a blessed time of fellowship at our Bible Class Invite-A-Family Weekend the first weekend in August. We spent Friday evening at Silver Creek Falls, Saturday at the beach and had supper and singing at the Fellowship Center Sunday evening. Bro. Pete Aberle (Tremont, IL) also gave a presentation on our churches in Eastern Europe Sunday evening. Visiting ministers for the weekend included Bro. Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL) and Bro. Justin Koch (Washington, IL). We thank them for sharing God's Word with us.

We also thank Bro. Fred Funk (Morton, IL) and Bro. Ron Jones (Portland) for expounding the Gospel to us this month.

We were saddened to hear that Sis. Pauline Roth (Congerville, IL) lost her battle with cancer on August 12. She will be sorely missed by her son and daughter-in-law, Bro. Jim and Sis. Deb Roth, and her Silvertown grandchildren, Wendi, Jodi, Heidi and Andrew. We are thankful for the hope of heaven and the glad reunion there someday.

We pray for a speedy recovery for Sis. Trisha Walter (Bro. Kyle) as she was a surgical patient this month. Alex (Katie) Bolliger, son of Bro. Ben and Sis. Carolyn Bolliger, underwent open-heart surgery on August 3. We are thankful that his surgery went well and we continue to keep him in our prayers as he recovers at home.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Evelyn Hari and her family as she is recovering from surgery and faces even more serious health problems.

We are happy to report that Lance and Kathleen Ashburn (Sis. Verla Hari) have relocated here from South Carolina. We are so glad to have them here and hope they feel welcomed.

Sis. Emily Sinn (Bro. Mark and Sis. Elsie) is also warmly welcomed back as she has finished her schooling in Iowa.

Note of Thanks:

The family of Landon Kuenzi wishes to send many thanks to the countless people who have shown so much love and support during this difficult time as we grieve the tragic loss of Landon in a car accident. We have been overwhelmed by the prayers, phone calls, plants, flowers, cards, food etc. It is by this show of love and support that we are able to carry on. May our Heavenly Father continue to bless you for your kindness and generosity.

Bro. Art and Sis. Mary Beth Kuenzi and family

**PENNSYLVANIA
PHILADELPHIA**

We have enjoyed visitors this month from several congregations as various families vacationed in our vicinity. We thank each one for your visit. It is so important to us in the strengthening of our faith to fellowship with loved ones from other parts of the country. One of the blessings that we enjoy in our precious faith is the ability to enter one of our congregations where we may be acquainted with no one and find a common bond of fellowship and love.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE**Mike and Monica Fritz**

We have been blessed by God's Living Word, brought to us so faithfully by our visiting ministering brothers: Bros. Troy Leye (Sis. Kelly; Bluffton, IN), Jerry Wagenbach (Sis. Bonnie; Oakville, IA), Kim Sutter (Sis. Vonette; Taylor, MO), Ken Eisenmann (Sis. Sharon; Cissna Park, IL), and Larry Wenninger (Sis. Joyce; Latty, OH). We have also been blessed by the fellowship of brethren and friends visiting from Prescott, AZ; Cissna Park, Elgin, Eureka, and Forrest, IL; Bluffton, IN; Lester and Oakville, IA; Bern, KS; Morris, MN; St Louis and Taylor, MO; and Junction and Latty, OH.

If you are traveling in or through the Nashville area, please plan to worship with us. The following churches are scheduled for services in the near future: Forrest, IL (9/20); Morton, IL (9/27); Gridley, IL (10/4); Remington, IN (10/11); Latty, OH (10/18); and Rockville, CT (10/25). 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 usually meet on Wednesday evenings at 7:15 p.m. and would welcome any midweek visitors. Contacts are Bro. Don and Sis. Faye Sauder, (615) 373-8928; Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica Fritz, (615) 866-5543; and Sis. Gwen Leuthold, (615) 356-5755.

TEXAS, AUSTIN**Amy Ringger
Serenity Ringger**

"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly,"

Psalm 1:1

We're looking forward to hearing Godly counsel via the Conference recordings now that the Conference is over.

Our church bathrooms were expanded and remodeled this month. Thanks to the brethren and friends who worked on that project.

We appreciate our visiting ministers: Bros. Leland Plattner (Zapata), Jeff Bahler (Sis. Heidi, Remington), and Shawn Metzger (Philadelphia). Other visitors were from Forrest. Thanks for coming!

The following is the minister schedule for October: (4) Roanoke, (11) Francesville, (18) Rittman, (25) Indianapolis. We extend a warm welcome to anyone who may be in the area to worship with us, on Sundays or mid-week. 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. In addition to the contacts in the minister book, you may contact our local minister, Bro. Dennis (Sis. Diane) Rassi at 309-275-7775.

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 a limestone façade, 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 took them to the east side of town, rather than west. We advise following the directions herein 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.

**VERMONT
NORTH CLAREN-
DON/NORWICH
Nathan and Miriam Reutter**

This cup is the blood of my new covenant,
which for many sinners I have shed;
There-in lies the promise and the power
of each one who unto sin is dead.
So this blood, which flowed on Calvary's mountain,
Unto full salvation is the fountain;
And this cup reminds us of the blood,
which for sin was made a cleansing flood.
Zion's Harp # 26

This past weekend we partook of Holy Communion and were reminded of the great love and mercy of our Heavenly Father. Here for this blessed occasion were Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Sis. Cheryl) and Bro. Warren Zahner (Sis. Bonnie), both from Rockville, CT. Earlier in the month Bro. Kevin Ryan (Sis. Cheryl) came to exhort us on partaking of Communion. We would like to thank Bro. Dan Goric (Sis. Mary Lou, Rockville, CT) for their willingness to come and share the Word with us in this past month. May God richly bless these dear brothers and their wives for their continued work and labor on our behalf.

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

reward.”

Psalms 127:3

We, Bro. Nathan and Sis. Miriam Reutter, were blessed with a new little bundle of joy named Phoebe Rachel. Her happy siblings, Lucas, Gabrielle and Jason, were very excited to bring her home. Phoebe's grandparents are Bro. Duane and Sis. Kay Reutter (Rockville, CT) and Bro. Vladimir and Sis. Margaret Fortenbacher (Kitchener, ON).

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 (802-293-2724). 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:

Mid-week services (Contact local brethren)

Sunday Morning Service 10:10 AM

Sunday Afternoon Service 12:15

PM

Sunday school is held during the morning service.

If anyone is interested in purchasing beautiful head-coverings handmade from our dear Sisters in Ixtlan, Michoacan, Mexico, please contact Sis. Areli Reutter at Home: 802-862-0830 or Cell: 860-878-9346 or by email at areutter@hotmail.com. Inventory is available upon request. This is a wonderful opportunity to support those of the household of faith (Galatians 6:10).

**Official Apostolic Christian
Church Website**

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

www.apostolicchristian.org

Sermon continued from page 2

followed the Word of God. That is the true church.

Nevertheless, the old ways that we have come to know is the fact that there needs to be the Bible as truth. A true repentance, a true conversion. A shunning and a turning away from sin. To help us do that, part of the old path and the old way that our brothers have told us, to help us stay focused on a true rebirth and to help us stay focused on the way, we need to separate ourselves from the things of this world that would take our focus off of God. There are the various entertainments. There are those things that will consume our time. There are those things that will break down relationships in families of the world. For the sake of good, let's stay away and be not conformed to those things. The old paths and the old ways...

As I look at life and my fifty five years upon this earth, I have seen tremendous change. Tremendous change in the world. I know that when I graduated from a high school of one hundred students, we had one family that was divorced. When I graduated in 1972, families were close. There were relationships. There was a dad that worked and a mom that stayed at home. The children had a dad and a mom. I have seen such a big change. I think we all have. What is happening? Somewhere along the way, I believe there has been a failure for dads and moms to teach their children of these old ways, the ways of the Lord. When we stay with the ways of the Lord, as it says here, you *will* find rest for your soul. It works.

I think of the Apostolic Christian Church and I think of the doctrine that we have as is outlined in our Statement of Faith. I believe we can all say, if we look at the Word and we look at our doctrine, it is biblically based. It brings forth what I would call the application of doctrines, where we apply the Word to everyday living.

I will give you an example. It does not say in the Bible that we should

not have televisions in our homes. But we read the Bible and we see that Galatians chapter 5, the works of the flesh, these are things that we are asked to stay away from. How can we bring these devices into our home that would be portraying the works of the flesh? So the church has said that is part of the world. That is part of the old paths that we have been taught - the application of doctrine. I believe we should support them.

Then I know that in the church there are those things that we would call traditions, that bring good order; the noon lunch, the Zion's Harp, Sunday School. I could name a number. Brothers and sisters, could we just say this; to me when I read this Scripture about staying with the old ways, I feel there is danger on both sides. The old ways are the application of doctrine and the traditions we have been given. There is danger if we become like these people and say, **WE WILL NOT WALK THEREIN.** You will not find rest for your soul if we do that as a church or as a people.

There is another side to that over here, where we go beyond the doctrine of the Word and our church. If we have a conviction that we want to go beyond that, that is fine and we can do that. But to say that if somebody else doesn't do it, they are wrong, that creates division also. That's not the old path. The old paths that we have learned, that we have heard, that is what we have heard for years and we stay with it. Brothers and sisters, it works!

I marvel when a group of people who have a respect for the Word of God and are willing to do what the Word says, and as a church we have found a doctrine that is biblically based and we support it, how we can draw souls out of the world. I can almost weep after an experience like last night when we hear four souls that were lost in sin. You brothers and sisters had an effect upon their lives because of the way you lived and the way you spoke to them, the encouragement you gave, the example you lived by the Word. You followed the old paths. You helped some souls, *by the grace of God*, find rest for their

souls. All glory to God.

I think of this brotherhood. I spoke to the Sunday School not too long ago. I told them, as you are out in the world of sin, I want you to know that there is going to be a church that is going to stand for this Word that you are going to have to come back to when the time comes that you want to find rest for your soul. I spoke to a brother who repented almost seventy years ago. I told our Sunday School I spoke to him and he told me that the repentance and conversion experience of those that repent today, at least in our brotherhood there at home, he says, I don't see any difference. To me, that is so impressive, when there have been so many things that have changed in the past seventy years. There is a church that stands for the old ways of truth. There is that true rebirth experience coming out. There are people that believe that we must stay away from those things of the world. Stay away from sin. I just want to encourage all of you, stay with the old paths. They work.

We hear experiences of loved ones who have passed on, sometimes they get a little glimpse into the life to come. I know, I *know* that the doctrine that we embrace is a doctrine that will get people to heaven. We need to stay together.

Sometimes I just get overwhelmed when I think of the goodness of God. Sometimes when I am praying I say, why me Lord, was I able to become a part of this brotherhood? I have heard the truth! As we go through life, we begin to see something that is very, very important in life is relationships. Some of the most wonderful people that I have ever met, people that care about you, are my brothers and sisters in Christ.

As I look out on this congregation, I see faces that I saw that came over to Oakville when we were flooded out. I can't believe this brotherhood! I can't believe the kindness! I can't believe how Christ has worked and they would come all the way over. We were in a helpless situation! There was no way we could get out of it! Very few people had insurance.

Their livelihood and their lives were destroyed! Our brotherhood, those that follow the old ways, those who have gone through a true rebirth experience and saw the value, that was the best insurance we had. We didn't have all the flood insurance and things that money buys but we had the insurance of Jesus Christ and the brotherhood that follow the old ways. I give you thanks and I marvel at how these principles work and how we can find rest for our souls.

"Also I set watchmen over you, *saying*, Harken to the sound of the trumpet. But they said, We will not hearken." Jeremiah 6:17. I wish everyone here could be an elder for one month. If anyone ever thinks that we take this position because we want a feeling of power and authority, you are very, very far from right. We recognize that this is God's people. We recognize that this is God's Word. We recognize that the authority we are given is only from God to further His work, to speak for Him. We love you! We want your souls to go to heaven. For this reason we may say those things that might step on some toes. Not because we are trying to make life hard. But we want you to see your way to heaven. Just like a father who gives advice to his teenage son. He doesn't want him to get hurt. He doesn't want him to find his life in jeopardy or danger. So he is called a watchman. We call them elders. And we love you. We try to follow the Word. And we so much appreciate - I want you to know - when brothers and sisters are willing to follow these old ways as a group and stay together. How much we appreciate you being willing to do that. Not that it brings any glory to us. But it glorifies Christ and a witness to the world. May God bless you. I see a congregation here that *does* love the Lord. You have followed the old ways. You will find rest for your souls. Not just in this life but in the life to come. It works. God's Word is always right.

Here is what He had to say for those that wouldn't listen. "...behold, I will bring evil upon this people, *even* the fruit of their thoughts, because they have not hearkened

unto my words, nor to my law, but rejected it." v.19. If we want to reject this good Word, that is our option. But He will bring evil upon this people, the fruit of their thoughts. As a man soweth, so shall he reap. One of the most destructive fruits that I have seen as an elder, is when there are those that for some reason feel they have to oppose the old ways that have proven so good. The fruit of that is not good. Usually and so often it affects their family, their children. It puts confusion in their hearts. It does not bring the edification of Jesus Christ. It does not bring peace. It brings strife. It brings division. It brings devouring. That's the fruit of saying, I WILL NOT DO IT. I am thankful here, there are those that have found the value of the Word of God and the ways that we have found, our doctrine. God bless you.

We have here this matter of St. John 4. Such a touching account of Jesus Christ. Isn't it amazing how He went into different areas and He had a different effect upon the people that heard Him. Some people would listen to what He had to say and some people would totally reject Him. We have here an account that He came in here through Samaria.

I don't know if any of you have ever been to Haiti, but if you sit by a well in a hot climate, it will bring all types of people. They come to the well to get some water. It is what revives them. It is for their drinking, for their washing. It is their livelihood. Usually in Haiti, seldom did I ever see a man carrying a water pot on his head. It was the ladies that carried the water.

Here comes this lady to Jacob's well. No doubt, to some of the Jews there, that was quite a well. Because it was dug by Jacob. But Jesus was there. He was, no doubt, tired. Here comes this Samaritan lady. He asked this lady if she could give Him something to drink.

When it comes to serving Christ, it is not just the fact that He came and died for our sins that we can say automatically, now I am saved. There is a part that we have to play. There is a part that we have to do. This lady,

first she began to doubt and she said, you are a Jew and you don't have dealings with the Samaritans. But Jesus was testing her. He said, give me a drink. He said, "...If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water." St. John 4:10. The woman didn't have the faith. She was trying to figure it out. So many people stumble in that they think before they believe this Word, they have to understand it. But the fact is, until you put your faith in this Word, you *won't* understand it.

She was trying to comprehend. She said, "...Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: from whence then hast thou that living water?" v.11. She was trying to think in terms of earthly examples. Living water. How was He going to get living water out of this well? What does He really mean? Then she said, "Art thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well..." v.12. Jesus said, "...Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life." v.13,14.

Let's talk about that living water. That living water is the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. St. John chapter 7 it says about the living water when He cried out to the people. It says, "In the last day, that great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet *given*; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)" St. John 7:37-39. So He is saying, if you want the living water, if you want something that will bubble up within you forever and forever, it is going to have to start by believing, as it says here, he that believeth on me, as the

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Scripture has said, *you can find* this living water. So it comes back down to the concept of faith. It says here in the last verse of St. John chapter 3, "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him." St. John 3:36.

There are two destinations. Everlasting life or the place where the wrath of God abideth forever and ever. Everlasting death. Why would anyone, when they have a choice, when they have an opportunity to choose everlasting life, why would anyone go to the grave not having this living water? Why would anyone?

Well, we were all there. I think all of us had a reason why we couldn't come to the foot of the cross. But is it a good reason to die with? Is it a good reason to face eternity forever lost?

I want to speak about faith. Because that is what He wanted this woman to have. I believe one of the greatest Scriptures that defines the simplicity of what faith really is, is found in Hebrews chapter 11, verse 6. It says, "But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." There are two ingredients to faith, for those who have not found this living water. First you have to believe the Bible is true and there is a God. You must totally trust that. You cannot doubt it. To be very honest, it is a lot harder to believe this Bible isn't true than to believe it is true. There is so much evidence that defies logic, how could you ever say that this Bible *is not true* and the things that are in here *will not happen*? I don't know how you could prove that.

The other ingredient of faith is to diligently seek Him. We have to ask Him. We have to go to Him in prayer. We have to go to Him in humility. We have to say, help me. Trust in asking. Trust in asking. That is the ingredient of faith.

This woman here, she began to question Him and finally, after He

looked into her heart and He saw how sinful she was - she had five husbands and the one she was living with, apparently not married, living with another man - Jesus said, that is not your husband. After He told her to go tell her husband to come, He looked right into her heart. He saw her sin. You cannot hide sin from Jesus. But He had compassion upon this woman. He told her, "For thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband...The woman saith unto him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet." St. John 4:18,19.

One of the concepts of a true repentance is confession of sin. Jesus already knows it. But when that lady could bring it out, now she had some accountability. She could start to unload. A true repentance will include; we find it in I John 1:9, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." That is a part of that repentance.

As Christ continued to work, He said, "...Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father. Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God *is* a Spirit..." St. John 4:21-24. He is going to say, that temple in Jerusalem that you go to, it is going to come down. All those things, the genealogies and all those things that you put as important, it is not important. There is one thing that is important; that is me, Jesus Christ. You are going to worship me in spirit. The Holy Spirit will come into your life when you put your faith in me. God is a Spirit. God dwells in your heart. I will make your heart the temple.

I would just say this for those who stand without. Yesterday we put to rest and buried a brother in the Lord. Repented at nineteen years old. It is a sobering thing when you go to a funeral service. It is a sobering thing

when you see that last breath taken. My mother passed away about two months ago. It does something to you. A heart that beat for eighty five years and all of a sudden it is quiet. And eternity is before them.

There were two great questions in I Corinthians 15 I want to pose this morning. Two great questions. Question number one is: oh, death where is thy sting? Question number two: Oh, grave where is thy victory? (v.55) The answer to number one, oh death where is thy sting is given where it says, the sting of death is sin (v.56). When a soul will get to the end of life, their sins have followed them all of the way, never to be removed, that is the most painful death we can ever have. Because the wrath of God abideth on him and they shall not see life. Oh grave where is thy victory? The Bible says, thanks be to God, who has given us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ (v.57). By faith in Him and what He accomplished on the cross, there is not one soul that has to feel the sting of death. But as far as the east is from the west, those sins can be removed from your heart! You can come to the grave.

This dear brother, I asked him two days before he died - I had a prayer with him - are you at peace with God? He said emphatically, yes I am. I had another prayer for him the day he died. He was looking forward to death because a long time ago he prepared himself. That sin had been removed. He took advantage of the living water when Christ came through the Word. Christ is here this morning. No you can't see Him. He is here in the Spirit. He is inviting those. Do you want the living water? Do you want to live eternally or do you want the wrath of God to abide upon you? The invitation has come out! We plead, have faith! Have humility and come and taste and see and find what life has to offer. Faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ and find this living water, a well of life bubbling up within you.

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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:



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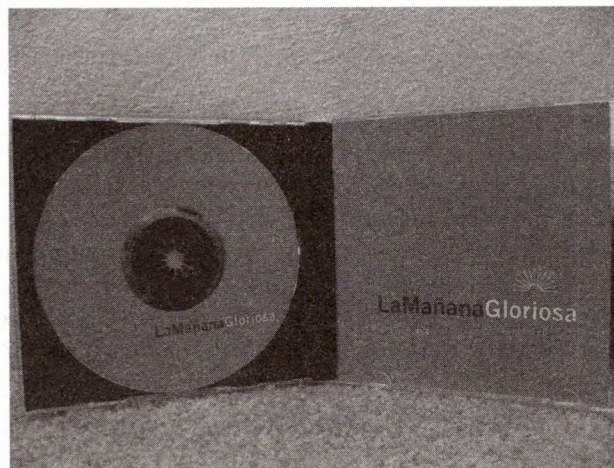
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Grief/Loss - Part 1

"When a Christian dies, precious is the prize." Hymns of Zion, #248.

We are grateful to our Heavenly Father when a soul passes from this life into the realms of heaven. Yet, for those of us on this side of the grave, the passing of a loved one brings a time of change in our life, an adjustment. We now need to learn to live without the physical presence of our loved one.

We typically pass through various stages in learning to adapt to this change. These stages are possibilities, and everyone may not go through all the stages. Also, the stages may not always be in the same order for everyone. Whether death was expected following a medical prognosis or whether it was a sudden tragic event, most individuals react to the death by going into some type or state of shock or denial. "Oh, no! This can't be happening!" or similar comments are often heard (or thought). However, a few people are so resigned to God's will for their lives that they can utter in the calmness of Job, "...the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord." Job 1:2. (Besides all his earthly possessions, Job lost seven sons and three daughters—all his children.) Either reaction, denial or acceptance, is ok.

When Lazarus passed away, Mary and Martha were sad. *"Then when Mary was come where Jesus was, and saw him, she fell down at his feet, saying unto him, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died. When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews also weeping which came with her, he groaned in the spirit, and was troubled. And said, Where have ye laid him? They said unto him, Lord, come and see. Jesus wept. Then said the Jews, Behold how he loved him! And some of them said, Could not this man, which opened the eyes of the blind, have caused that even this man should not have died? Jesus therefore again groaning in himself cometh to the grave". St. John 11:32-38.* Our Lord and Saviour "groaned within himself." He wept. It is ok to weep. It is ok to not

weep. Some people may cry at the "drop of a hat." Some may never shed a tear.

Grief takes on a variety of feelings. Another stage includes the feeling of anger. No two people react alike. It is ok to be angry with God—or just angry, period. It is ok to not be angry. It is ok to feel that your loss is unfair. You may be angry with yourself and others for not preventing the loss. Adolescents often have a difficult time talking about the death of a loved one and may develop irritable and explosive moments. It is wise to help them understand the intensity of their feelings and encourage them to find appropriate ways to express their angry feelings as well as working through your own anger.

You may experience guilt. It is not unusual to blame yourself for something you did or didn't do prior to your loss. There are situations you cannot control or change. You will learn to accept them.

Many times people sink into depression. It is difficult to think or plan. You feel drained and unable to perform routine tasks. You may feel like giving up. "Will the sun ever shine in my life again?" Yes, but your life will not be the same as before your loved one died. You will continue thinking of your loved one, especially on birthdays or special memories from the past, but, in time, you will also begin to reach out to others again. You will find a joy in "doing for others." During your "lows," continue taking care of your body. Exercise regularly, eat healthy foods, and try to sleep well.

You may also experience deep feelings of loneliness. Your responsibilities may increase, and you are fearful of how to handle them. This is the time to reach out to others. Mary and Martha were surrounded by comforters when Lazarus died. It is important also that we are surrounded by those who can comfort us—our support group, our church family. Do not try to "go it alone." Allow others the blessing of doing things for you. Some day you will be in a situation in which it will be your turn to be a comforter to others. Until then, take your time—it may be months, don't rush it. You will know when that hard lump has been removed from your heart, and you

are thinking of others again. Some grieving people said that it took a year of memories before the deep hurt started to ease. For others, it went more quickly.

Feelings of hope will come again. Talk of your loved one. Your thoughts may become, "This is what my loved one would have wanted me to do." You may become creative in ways to keep memories alive such as planting a tree, making a scrapbook, donating time or money to a worthy organization, or starting a good cause and keeping it going, etc. You will be in a position to comfort others. Everyone has a grief story—a fellow airline passenger, a cab driver, another parent at a school meeting. Learn to reach out to others and share your newly changed life—a life that entered the depths of grief and came out (or will come out), changed to be of service to your Jesus in a new way you could not have imagined before your loss.

Horatio Spafford penned these words to a familiar hymn after losing four daughters at sea:

*When peace like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well, with my soul.*

*Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
And hath shed His own blood for my soul.*

Refrain:

*It is well, with my soul,
It is well, with my soul,
It is well, it is well, with my soul.*

We do not know the length of our life span. Compared to eternity, God allows us a brief time to live in His beautiful creation. He knows us and all our emotions. He understands our "frame." He loves us more than we can ever imagine. Trust Him as you walk through valleys. Hold His hand tightly. *"Be not dismayed whate'er betide, God will take care of you."*

Thoughts were taken from the booklet, "About Grief," (South Deerfield, MA, Channing L. Bete Co., Inc., 2000 Edition)

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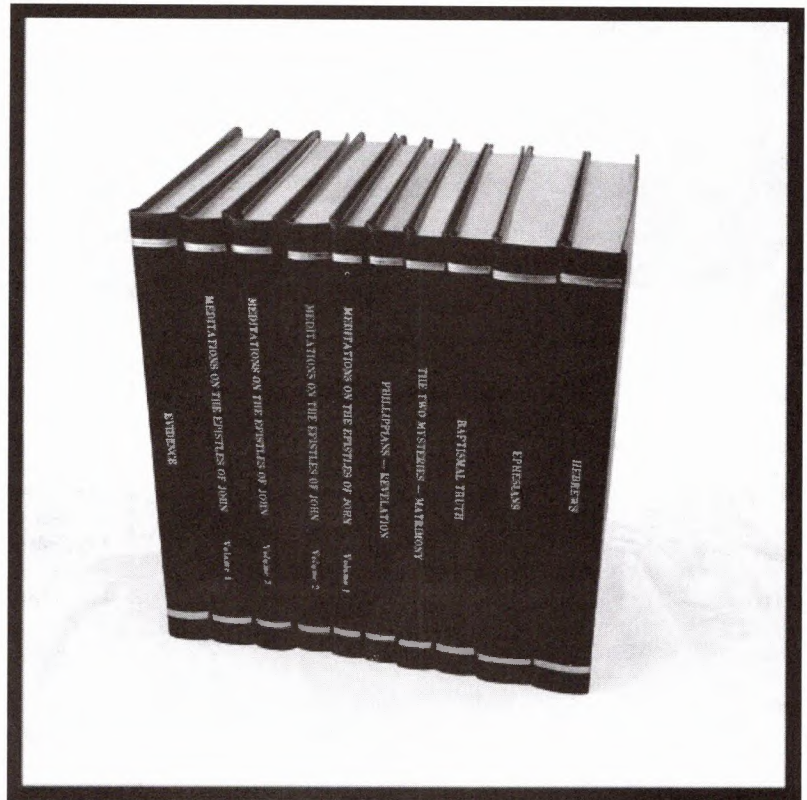
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All volunteers should contact the project coordinator. Should you not be able to contact the coordinator, for Haiti direct your inquiry to Bro. Rich Bertschi, Ph. 309-467-6110, E-mail lemangm@mtco.com.

HAITI

Data updated from the Apostolic Christian World Relief web site as of September 13th, 2009 - www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-caribbean/

Project	Year 2009	Coordinator	Capacity
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Les Cayes AWA Water Aid	Nov 17-24	Troy Stuber 309-925-2603 troystuber@verizon.net	4
Les Cayes MEBSH School Roof	Dec 4-11	Ted Habegger 260-694-6765 tjh@citiznet.com	12
Les Cayes FRW Vocational School	Dec 4-11	Rick Wuethrich 219-567-9488 rick@wuethrichfarms.com	4
Les Cayes MEBSH Haiti Support	Dec 11-14	Rich Bertschi 309-467-2351 lemangm@mtco.com	Invitation

Project	Year 2010	Coordinator	Capacity
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Les Cayes MEBSH School Roof	Jan 8-15	Ron Palitto 330-336-5373 Ronp@palittoconsulting.com	12
Haiti Palm Grove Construction	Jan 15-23	John Aberle 785-459-2423 jraberle@hotmail.com	12
Les Cayes AWA Water Aid	Jan 22-29	Troy Stuber 309-925-2603 troystuber@verizon.net	4
La Higuera - D/R Lifeline Construction	Jan 26-Feb 2	Jim Koehl 309-377-3201 jmkoehl@yahoo.com	12
Les Cayes MEBSH School Roof	Jan 29-Feb 5	Dean Pashak 989-662-7685 dwpashak@charter.net	12
La Romana - D/R Lifeline Construction	Feb 2-9	Ted Steidinger 815-867-6452 tsteid@route24.net	12
Les Cayes SEED Agriculture Aid	Feb 5-12	Dale Frank 319-766-3661 dtfrank@louisacomm.net	12

Croix De Bouquets Lifeline Constr/Medical	Feb 9-16	Neil Bahler 815-692-2370 nbahler@gmail.com	12
Haiti Palm Grove Construction	Feb 12-20	John Aberle 785-459-2423 jraberle@hotmail.com	
Les Cayes MEBSH School Roof	Feb 22-Mar 1	Randy Kieser 309-695-6340 kieser84@geckoct.com	12
Les Cayes FRW Vocational School	Mar 3-12	Rick Wuethrich 219-567-9488 rick@wuethrichfarms.com	4
Les Cayes FRW Simone Orphanage	Mar 12-19	Rick Wuethrich 219-567-9488 rick@wuethrichfarms.com	12
Les Cayes MEBSH School Roof	Mar 19-26	Rich Bertschi 309-467-2351 lemangm@mtco.com	12
Les Cayes MEBSH Haiti Support	Mar 26-29	Rich Bertschi 309-467-2351 lemangm@mtco.com	12
Les Cayes MEBSH Maintenance	Mar 26-Apr 2	Jon Zeller 309-266-9009 jzeller@mtco.com	12
Les Cayes AWA Water Aid	Apr 23-30	Troy Stuber 309-925-2603 troystuber@verizon.net	4
Les Cayes MEBSH Medical	May 7-14	Keith Knepp 309-467-4691 kknepp@mchsi.com	8
Les Cayes FRW Vocational School	Jun 4-11	Rick Wuethrich 219-567-9488 rick@wuethrichfarms.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 September 13th, 2009 -www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-caribbean/

Project	Year 2010	Coordinator	Capacity				
Kingston School CCCD	Jan 2-9	Roger Stoller 309-747-3228 rstoller@gridcom.net	40	Kingston School CCCD	Jun 5-12	Dean Thomas 309-243-2216 dathomas@mtco.com	Peoria Bible Class Only
Jamaica Deaf Villg CCCD	Mar 13-20	Brian Schwind 309-258-8355 guitar4glory@gmail.com	40	Jamaica Deaf Villg CCCD	Jun 11-19	Ted Hirstein 309-266-8769 hirstein@mtco.com	40
Kingston School CCCD	Mar 20-27	Roger Stoller 309-747-3228 rstoller@gridcom.net	40				

MEXICO

*If anyone is interested in leading a team to Mexico, contact Bro. Mike Fiechter at 260-597-7330 or mfiechter@onlyinternet.net
Data updated from the Apostolic Christian World Relief web site as of September 13th, 2009 -www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-mexico/*

Location	Year 2009	Coordinator					
Juarez Medical	Sep 16-23	Cheryl Herrmann cherrmann@verizon.net		Magdalena Construction	Mar 13-20	Sam Kaufman/Purdue Purdue University 260-494-8733 sjkaufma@purdue.edu	
Zacatecas, MX Medical	Oct 14-21	Cheryl Herrmann cherrmann@verizon.net		Reynosa Construction	Mar 20-27	Tristan Herrmann/U of I University of Illinois 309-712-6902 tristanherrmann@gmail.com	
Magdalena Construction	Nov 21-28	Rod Schmidt 303-774-7913 rschmidt@Acosta.com		Magdalena Construction	Mar 20-27	Linc Rinkenberger Bluffton Senior Class 260-565-4155 rinkfamily@adamswells.com	
Location	Year 2010	Coordinator					
Magdalena Construction	Jan 2-9	Denver Rassi 815-867-2196 drassi2@gmail.com		Agua Prieta Construction	Mar 20-27	Aaron Beery 330-927-6926 beeryaaron@embarqmail.com	
Magdalena Construction	Jan 9-16	John Teubel 815-657-8721 jteubel@maxwire.net		Magdalena Construction	Mar 27 - Apr 3	Curt Hodel Roanoke Bible Class 309-923-8091 cjhodel@juno.com	
Magdalena Construction	Jan 16-23	Steve Kaeb 217-379-4707 kaebbsb@illicom.net		Magdalena Construction	Jun 5-12	Stan Schick Princeville Sunday School 309-243-9281 schickfam@juno.com	
Agua Prieta Construction	Mar 6-13	Kevin Gerber 260-565-3313 kevgerber@yahoo.com		Magdalena Construction	Jun 19-26	Benj Knapp Washington Sunday School 309-467-5274 benjknapp@homewayhomes.com	
Magdalena Construction	Mar 6-13	Adam Adrian/ISU Illinois State University 573-231-6433 adam_adrian@hotmail.com		Magdalena Construction	Jul 17-24	Blake Stahl 630-740-7461 bcstahl@aol.com	

USA World Relief Committee

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

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



Notice

In last month's Remembering column it was indicated we would carry a newspaper article of the Akron, Ohio, church from many years ago. Due to a filing difficulty, this will not be included, but hopefully when the article is found, we will carry it. For this we are sorry.

In the August, 1964, issue of the Silver Lining, the Akron, Ohio, section carried some history of their early church. Entitled "The Early Church", it indicated how the church was begun in that area. Excerpts of that article follows:

Akron, Ohio

In the latter part of the 19th century, church services were held in the members' homes. It was common for these servants of God to walk many miles, carrying infants and small children through heat and cold to hear God's Word each Sabbath (Sunday).

After a number of the members from Ashtabula County moved here, it was decided to build a new church. A lot was purchased on Thornton Street in Akron for this purpose in the 1890's. The benches were made by Bro. Jacob Rupp to provide home seating, and then transferred to the new church.

To the rear were covered sheds with feed bins. At noon, the young boys fed the horses from sacks of feed the families carried beneath the buggy seats. Between the services held in the German and English languages could be heard the ticking of

the antique clock, and as noon approached one could smell the aroma of freshly steeped coffee. Bread was cut and stacked high to be served with butter and sometimes apple-butter.

From the pulpit, the message of salvation rang true and clear, even as it does today. I (the author) later was numbered among the friends who were listening, but not hearing (present but not receiving) the true Word of God. It was also in this church, though, that many of us, now middle-aged, heard and answered the call of the Lord. This property was later sold. We moved to our present (in 1964) Noble Avenue church in 1927.

Impressive to me as a friend was the out-flowing of friendliness of these people, and the reality of their worship. They were garbed in those graces of the Spirit so pleasing to God, though lightly esteemed by the world.

Economic conditions being different then, there was a great dependence on God, it seemed, for material as well as spiritual needs, and a gratefulness to Him in return for what sometimes today we take for granted.

In a nation where present prosperity would tend to make man self-sufficient, is not their contentment sometimes prone to evade us? Theirs was a more isolated life, faced with longer hours of work.

More History on Akron

In the February, 1963, issue of the Silver Lining, Bros. Rudy Graf and

Pete Dockus listed some of the early specifics of the Akron congregation.

In the beginning, there were several believers living here by the names of Schwing and Blumenstein. Bro. Schwing could not see much of a future here. More families began to come here. These isolated members were served once per month by the Rittman, Ohio, ministers.

Many members came from Ashtabula, Ohio. Among them were two single brothers, Samuel Baumgartner and Ernest Graf (Sr.). There must have been a deep and sincere love among these people, for when we asked them about our Akron beginnings, their fondest memories were of Ashtabula, and they told of traveling miles and miles on foot to see each other. Times were bad, and that was the reason these families move to Akron, in hope of better times.

Ernest Graf, Sr. worked in the cereal mill here for awhile, but had to return to farm work again. There was no Sunday School at this time. Baptism was held in the canal. Many walked to church unless they were fortunate enough to have a buggy or a friend with one.

Since 1900 (up to 1963), the following have served as ministers: Bros. Christ Von Gunten, Joe Hartzler, Ernest Graf, Sr., Louis Brenner, Will Ingold, Rudy Graf, Forrest Ritzman, and Ernest Graf, Jr. have served us in the ministry.

By Perry A. Klopfenstein

The Light Of Hope

“The Brotherhood”

Retired Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

Some denominations of churches have a brotherhood, of which the Apostolic Christian Church is one. In a brotherhood there is a group of churches which work closely together. No one church is an island unto itself. The autonomy of the individual church is sacrificed but there are many benefits. After the first church conference recorded in the Bible (see Acts 15:23), the guidelines resulting from the conference were sent to “The brethren which are of the Gentiles in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia.” In those days the churches were thought of as a brotherhood and it was thought that they should follow the same guidelines.

The benefits of a brotherhood is that you can visit many different churches within the brotherhood and have the assurance that you have much in common. All the members have had very similar spiritual experiences and all are trying to follow the same guidelines. Besides the closeness, the shared hospitality, etc., the young people in the brotherhood can marry someone from another church with the assurance that their adjustment to married life will be much easier because their backgrounds and lifestyles are similar, or nearly the same. This promotes good, stable, spiritual homes, which are the backbone of any

social group or society.

It is also good if a large church which has a lot of financial strength has the opportunity to help smaller churches which have little financial strength, when it comes to building a new church building or helping in some other way. If these large churches were not in a brotherhood, they might become too self-centered and self-sufficient in their thinking. Acts 20:35 reads, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” There is no joy in being selfish.

Another benefit of being a brotherhood is that you can have a brotherhood conference. It isn't just the deliberations of the church leaders that is important. It is also the messages at the general conference and the blending of over 1,000 voices in exhilarating four part harmony in praising the Lord. What a blessing, what a blessing!

When converts are baptized, they first of all are baptized into the body of our Lord Jesus Christ. I Corinthians 12:13, “For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body.” We must not forget that we also become a member of a church, in most cases. There may be some cases where you are just baptized and turned over to the Holy Spirit for guidance but that leaves a pretty big opening for Satan to get in. We need others to whom

we are accountable. We sometimes go off the deep end without knowing it.

In a brotherhood, converted souls are not only members of the local church but of the brotherhood, as well as of the family of God. There is safety and a great blessing in complying with the brotherhood as well as with the local church.

The brotherhood is composed of individuals and in this sense, individuals are very important. However, individuals come and go, that is, we die, but the brotherhood remains. Therefore, it behooves each of us to strengthen the brotherhood by whatever it takes, so long as it is in accordance with the Word of God. Revelation 3:2, “Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die.”

In I Corinthians 1:10 we read, “Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you.” In order to conform to Paul's exhortation to the Corinthian Church, we all need to speak what the Bible says instead of what we think, and we need to do something to move in the direction of no divisions. That's part of the meaning of a brotherhood.

希望の光

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*Who hath directed the Spirit of the Lord,
or being his counsellor hath taught him?*

*With whom took he counsel,
and who instructed him,
and taught him in the
path of judgment,
and taught him knowledge,
and shewed to him the
way of understanding?*



*Behold, the nations are as
a drop of a bucket,
and are counted as the
small dust of the balance:
behold, he taketh up the isles
as a very little thing.*

Isaiah 40:13-15