

The Silver Lining

A scenic autumn garden with a stone path over a stream, surrounded by vibrant orange and red trees and green foliage.

*Wherefore lift up the hands which
hang down, and the feeble knees;
And make straight paths for your feet,
lest that which is lame be turned
out of the way; but let it rather be healed.*

November 2009

Sermon by Bro. Larry Wenninger, Latty, OH
Exodus 31:12-18 and St. John 17

If you bear with me just a moment, I couldn't help but contrast the sound of the children in your assembly here this morning, during the singing and during our moment of prayer. That is not a reprimand, don't take it that way. But I wonder sometimes if we get so used to things in life, we maybe fail to appreciate some of the blessings that we enjoy. My wife and I assembled a week ago with one of our churches where the entire congregation, including those of us visiting, numbered nine people. Joyce and I were the youngest ones there. So it is obvious there was not the sound of small children.

I had to think, as I just reflected upon that as we were singing this morning, I can go back very, very easily in my mind when I was the age of some of the youngest that are seated here in our benches this morning. Sitting with my Dad on the east side of our Latty congregation, we would usually go up about a third of the way. It is not that we have assigned seats. But that is just where we always ended up. I can still, in my mind, see brothers who stood in this spot, long gone to their reward. I can still hear the hymns being sung, some of which we sang together just a few minutes ago. Even though our lives have changed in so many ways, the way we communicate, the way we travel, our occupations, in many ways would not resemble that era hardly at all, yet we are singing the same hymns. We are reading from the same precious book. We are serving the same heavenly Father. Our prayers are ascending to that Being who will never change. He is eternal. Yesterday, today and forever. No change. I don't know what that does for you loved ones. But to me it is greatly encouraging. So again, let's appreciate our heritage.

Again, I don't want to be out of place, but it just comes to me. Someone made a comment recently, 'I really get tired of hearing someone refer or use the phrase, *our precious faith*. What they are really doing is glorifying the church and not God'. I don't agree with that statement. Again, maybe this is not the place to start that discussion and we won't. But when you hear that phrase, to me it is everything rolled into one. If we are a true New Testament church - and I believe we are - then what the Word has to say; the whole marvelous plan of salvation, the shed blood of Jesus Christ on the cross, our call to repentance and conversion and living a godly life as we serve Him, based on the teachings of not only the Old Testament but the Apostles, is all one package. It is precious and it is our faith. So as we gather together today to worship God, again, dear ones, we just plead for your prayers.

Exodus 31 has words that are pretty direct and pretty harsh. I believe dear ones, as we read this together, which gives us insight into the mind of the Being we call our Heavenly Father. We would also have to take this Scripture, along with some of the passages that the Lord Jesus Christ Himself taught. When the Pharisees were making an issue of some of His behavior on the Sabbath day, He said, if you have one of your animals fall into a ditch, you are going to assist them even though it is the Sabbath day (St. Matthew 12:11).

So I think there are times we have to, should we say, use some common sense. Take the Word in its entirety. There would be those that would say, this is part of the old law. We are no longer there. Yet, this is the mind of God. So as we come into God's house today, as we look into His Word, what is the

feeling of our heart?

If I don't have it wrong, one of

Sermon continued on page 40

Cover Verses

Front: Hebrews 12:12-13

Back: James 3:17

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SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO:

cleman@mtco.com
(e-mail is preferred)

The Silver Lining
 1389 County Road 1600 N
 Roanoke, IL, 61561
 309-923-7192 (phone)
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*"Be still, and know
that I am God"
(Psalm 46:10)*

Light From The Word



Writings based
on God's Word

November 2009

Personal Devotions

Two important parts of a Christian's spiritual life are worshipping together with other believers, called corporate worship, and taking the time for personal devotions. You may or may not use the word "devotions," but by the phrase "personal devotions" we mean reading God's Word, meditating (thinking through what we have read), and spending time in prayer alone with God. The act of devotions is a form of communion with a very personal God. As the Holy Spirit guides and moves us, God speaks to us through His Word, and we speak to Him in prayer.

What is your reason for having devotions? The purpose is not to puff up spiritually, it is not "because I have to," and it is not "because I want to look good." It must be done out of a pure heart's desire to know and to love our God more fully, to humbly desire to learn from Him, to seek to become more like Him and to worship and adore Him.

One of the first encouragements converts may receive is to start and maintain devotions, that is, to read the Bible and to pray every day. This time is important for the growth of a Christian. Converts may struggle with finding the right way to accomplish this. Even mature believers may find it difficult at times to maintain a consistent time of devotions every day. Without understanding the importance of this quiet time (Ps. 46:10), it may end up being low on our priority list, and the cares and desires of this world may crowd out the time that should be spent communing with God.

Devotions is a time during which we can be reshaped and further molded into the likeness of our Lord. Through regular communion with God, our hearts are kept tender and soft. Quality devotional times will have a positive impact on our spiritual walk. However, it is not always easy to maintain consistency, or be in the right frame of mind for devotions. The quality of our personal devotional time can significantly shape the rest of our day. This requires much self-discipline, but the rewards are great. When we start and end our day communing with our Creator, as Moses spent time on Mt. Sinai with God (Ex. 34:30), it will impact

our everyday lives in many ways. Our joy and peace will become richer, and our priorities will be more clearly defined and established (Prov. 4:26-27).

Our Lord Jesus Christ, though the Son of God, still found it necessary to spend much time in communion with the Father when He walked on this earth. Often He would spend long evenings alone with God (Mark 6:46; Luke 6:12). While we cannot usually get away to mountains like Jesus did, we should try to find a place that is quiet and with few interruptions and distractions (Matt. 6:6). We should endeavor to find time every morning and evening to talk with God (Josh. 1:8). *"But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night"* (Ps. 1:2), *"...to shew forth thy lovingkindness in the morning and thy faithfulness every night"* (Ps. 92:2).

While it does sometimes suffice to randomly open a portion of Scripture for reading and meditation, there is also benefit in taking a whole book in the Bible or a topic and carefully reading and studying it over a period of time. There are guides available for reading through the whole Bible in one year, but care must be taken that such an endeavor does not simply constrain us toward reaching the goal of having read the whole Bible, but rather it should serve as an assistant in disciplined reading of the whole counsel of God. Generally time spent in the New Testament should exceed the time spent in the Old Testament.

As we read the Scriptures, God's Spirit will speak to our hearts, teach us His principles, correct our faults, show us how to live a life of holiness (2 Tim. 3:16) and strengthen our faith (Rom. 10:17). When Bible reading is properly done, it should have a reflective side to it that is called meditation. This is carefully taking what we have read, thinking through the meaning of each verse and biblical principle, and honestly considering how we can apply it to our lives. The more quality time we give the Holy Spirit, the more He will teach us the deep truths of the Word. Jesus said, *"...the Spirit...will guide you into all truth"* (John 16:13). When the Spirit convicts us of areas of deficiency or sin, we should pray for the grace to respond with appropriate confession, repentance, and

correction—restoring our peace with God and man.

Our prayers in devotional time should reflect our response to what the Spirit has taught us. In addition, we are commanded to pray for the saints and the ministers of God's Word (1 Thes. 5:25; 2 Thes. 3:1) and to pray for each other (Jam. 5:16). Paul stated several times that he remembered the churches in his daily prayers (Rom. 1:9; Eph. 1:16; 1 Thes. 1:2; Philem. 4; Phil. 1:4). We are told to include thanksgiving (Col. 4:2; 1 Tim. 2:1) and prayers of petition for our leaders (1 Tim. 2:2). There can be benefit in maintaining a list of items to pray for every day. Prayer is two-way communion with God, and as we are sensitive to His Spirit, He will continue to guide our thoughts as we pray. Do not let your prayers become a ritual, but may they always be fresh and personal in expressing your heart's petition and praise to a loving and gracious God.

A hymn that aptly describes our time of devotions and what it should mean to us is found in *Tabernacle Hymns #130*

"In The Garden"

*"I come to the garden alone
While the dew is still on the roses
And the voice I hear falling on my ear
The Son of God discloses.*

*He speaks, and the sound of His voice,
Is so sweet the birds hush their singing,
And the melody that He gave to me
Within my heart is ringing.*

*And He walks with me, and He talks
with me,
And He tells me I am His own;
And the joy we share as we tarry there,
None other has ever known."*

Let us delight daily in our devotions so that we can be as trees planted by the living water of God (Ps. 1:3). *"Thy testimonies also are my delight and my counsellors"* (Ps. 119:24). Make this a priority, and consistently spend ample quiet time with God. He will richly bless you.

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

Serving our Brethren in Eastern Europe

In the late 1980's, when communism was still in force, the Mission Committee helped the congregation in Budapest, Hungary build a new church. Since that time there have been numerous opportunities to serve our Nazarene brethren throughout Eastern Europe.

During communist times they were forced to assemble in secret, the depth of oppression varying from nation to nation. In Ukraine the only time our brethren were allowed to have public worship services was at the time of a funeral. Therefore, people came from near and far and stood for hours in the cemetery, regardless of weather, just to hear the word of God.

During those difficult years the flame of faith sometimes grew dim, but it did not go out, by the grace of God. At this time it seems to be flourishing, although the same problems and struggles with our adversary exist there as everywhere on earth.

Nearly all the Hungarian congregations are now worshipping in new or remodeled facilities, by God's grace and the support of many brethren.

At this time the greatest need for church buildings is in Ukraine, which also has the most children and the greatest hope for future growth. However, there is still considerable difficulty in coping with inflation, government regulations, and all sorts of other challenging circumstances.

Four churches have asked for help to build new or improve old facilities. Needs in this troubled land are now approaching \$1,000,000 for

this purpose. The Mission Committee has drafted and sent a letter that is being read to our American churches to try to gain financial support to help these dear souls have a place to worship God.

Teams of brethren regularly visit Eastern Europe in our quest to do due diligence to God and our American brethren. This year is no exception.

A number of Romanian churches have been sent funds for repairs this year, and a new one is presently under construction in the village of Caransebes. It has been several years since this request first came to our attention, and today, after much research and planning, the work is underway.



Brethren recently visited Caransebes and were satisfied that at last it appears this rural congregation will have a place of comfortable worship. The old building simply became so dilapidated that it was beyond repair, and we decided this was the best option.

In Serbia, a remnant of the former Yugoslavian republic, there are hundreds of churches. Over the years, by the grace of God, we have helped build many church buildings. As this is being written, two elders from the Mission Committee and their wives are in this country to

evaluate ongoing situations. Each year we try to make these trips in order that we can do the best to serve both God and man.

Churches have also been built in Croatia and Slovakia, where the membership is small, but nonetheless they are our brethren, and we wish to continue to assist them in their spiritual needs. In addition to churches, we also provide vehicles for the use of the leadership of the congregations as they travel to serve needs of their members.

Over the years, dozens of autos have been financed for this purpose, the costs shared equally by the Mission and World Relief Committees. We are thankful that a new model has appeared on the scene, a car built in Romania by the French firm Renault, who bought an old car factory in that country.

These amazing little vehicles cost around \$9,000 for a five passenger and \$14,000 for a seven passenger, and seem to suit the needs very well. Teams that were there this year were able to see and ride in these cars, and were quite satisfied.

Without the blessings of God and the tireless support of our faithful brethren none of this would be possible. Looking back over the years, our American and European brethren who serve to do this work express appreciation, first of all to almighty God, and then to all of our supporters for this wonderful assistance. *"Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father."* 1 THESS 1:3

May God continue to lead and guide these endeavors, that our brethren can continue to receive spiritual blessings.



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

Little Gems

I am just a little bag filled with a toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, washcloth, comb, nail clippers and a lot of love. I can travel far or near but I have a purpose to fulfill. Perhaps I am placed in the hand of a grandmother, parent or a little child lacking necessities. But each time I am given away, I am hugged and loved. I have traveled to Jamaica, Haiti, and Mexico.

The joy is ours who pass on this small token of love. What big smiles we often receive. To those back home shopping for supplies, supervising a World Relief work night, putting things together, or packing the finished goods for shipping, each job has its benefits. You are enabling us to go on these work teams and hand out smiles. We love you for your dedication and sacrifice to the ministry of spreading the gospel of God's love. We would like to take you along with us, so He could bless you too.

Working Together

A big thanks to the World Relief Activities Committees for their support in working together to make this process easier.

1. To learn which and where products are needed: Contact Tom/Kathy Schifferer 847-695-7510 tomandkathy@schifferer.com
2. Order labels from Bro. Stan Virkler 219-261-3200 or email at information@acwr.org
3. On the label, write the name of the kit, country, the Distribution Center it is to go to, number of kits in each box, what each kit contains (indicate "No China" for Mexico), a list of each item, the name of your church, and the date made.

4. It is helpful if they are packed in boxes of the same size with the label on them.

5. After labeling, you may send kits, comforters, and clothing to your closest distribution center, as they will forward them to their correct destination.

6. Along with each shipment to a distribution center, send a cover letter stating the total products you are sending. If you have items for different countries, each country could be on an individual sheet and all your sheets stapled together, so they can send it along as it goes to its final destination.

7. When you send your projects to a distribution center, please send a copy of the total shipment to Tom/Kathy Schifferer (for the ongoing tally of where the kits are).

Many times there are questions about what kits are being made, for whom, what supplies are in them, and what distribution center they are being sent to. Often too many of one kind of kit was made and not enough of another. Sometimes the supplies varied and were sent to the distribution center unlabeled.

As a result, the brethren working at the distribution center would have to look in the boxes, determine which kits were inside, for who, and try to put extras in to fit a specific country's needs. Sometimes this is still happening, but it is getting much better. In 2009, we are making 30,000 kits and many comforters. For the most part, by labeling them correctly, there is no guesswork. With the packing list for the shipment, the packing night is much easier. Many thanks for the extra help.

We try to keep current with those working one on one with the various countries to find out if there are any changes, needs, or something new. Keep us informed especially if the contact person has changed, you have any questions, or if you want to do the same project every year.

Destinations

Mexico work teams especially enjoy giving kits in the Reynosa, Juarez, Magdalena areas, and further in the interior. Medical and dental teams read Bible stories and give the children their own coloring kit and Bible story book. It is a joy to see the hunger for the Word as they receive their own Bible.

In Haiti, kits go to the Childcare Department which manages the funds and needs of the students who are being sponsored to attend the church schools. Kits go to MEBSH in LesCayes, Haiti, hospitals and medical clinics at the Dumay Life Line Orphanage, King's Hospital, the orphanage at Port-au-Prince and with small teams that go to rural areas to set up mobile clinics. The children use everything in their kits or give them to a sibling. When emptied, even the bags are used.

In the Dominion Republic, the school kits are distributed by the Bethel Misson, and through the Good Samaritan Foundation General Hospital in LaRomona, which sends medical teams to rural areas.

To God we give the glory. These gifts are given in the name of Jesus. Everyone receiving kits are so very thankful that God provides these gifts for them. You are His hands here on earth. For questions contact Tom and Kathy Schifferer. tomandkathy@schifferer.com or 847-695-7510

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

This summer we had the privilege of hosting a sister from Hungary for five weeks. Helena Sos had learned about the home and its services by visiting our website at www.achh.org. She is from the church in Hodmezovashrheley, Hungary. Helena was completing her degree in Special Education at a University in Hungary, and has an interest in individuals with disabilities. She wondered if it would be possible to have a volunteer internship at our home. After coordinating some details, it became possible for her to do this.

Helena began her five week volunteer Case Manager internship at ACHH on July 2. We weren't sure how to offer experiences to Helena that would give her full exposure to the range of challenged people we serve. We decided that Helena could "track" a resident from Timber Ridge, one person from Oakwood Estate, and another from our Idlewood house. That way she could get involved in the lives of a resident from our large facility, someone from a 16 person home, and someone who lives in a house in the community with just four others. Helena would follow each person where they live, work and recreate in the community. She would have the opportunity to attend church in Morton and Washington with our residents. Helena also had specific assignments which would teach her the system of service providing for our residents.

Five weeks went by very quickly. She brought to us a unique way of expressing God's love to all those with whom she came in contact. All who

met her expressed what a blessing it had been for our residents and staff to have her here. She left us with the following thank you note:

"I am very thankful that I could spend five weeks in this wonderful home. I was amazed to see the reality of the principles of what I read and heard about during my years of college in Hungary. Each day was a blessing to experience the agency's vision "CARES". If I had a sister or brother with a disability, no doubt I would want them to live at ACHH. Here they could go to church, attend Bible studies or read the Bible with other residents. Attending a Bible study here had a great impact on my life. I pray for God's strengthening for both staff and residents in order for these precious pure souls to continue to have a joyous life. I hope I can come back and visit someday. Helena Sos"

**GATEWAY WOODS
APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
CHILDREN'S HOME
Ryan Donaghy**

"I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

Philippians 3:14

As I consider what the Lord is teaching me at this moment in my life, I can clearly recognize His desire for me to live with intention. We as people, collect our thoughts, form beliefs, attitudes, opinions, and act according to our experiences, cognitions, and emotions. This may sound like a mouthful, but is rather a simple concept. We are like sponges, taking in external stimuli and making decisions based upon information we have received. I will therefore state that much of how we

are "living" is representative of what is going on around us. God has called us to much more than haphazard living. Do not solely consider our environmental and situational awareness to form our daily living, but also from within. God is speaking to us right now, are we listening?

It causes me to cringe as I think of the opportunities wasted because I was not living for which is to come but rather living for what is next. I am sure you can all relate in one way or another to the distractions this world has set before us. I will not go into listing them, but I am confident you can ramble a few off the top of your head. I have recently been distracted with what is next in my life. As a laborer in a local mission field, I often envision what will come after Gateway Woods. What will life be like when I have a normal job? What is it that God will call me to in the future? Where will we live? ...and so on. I do not feel these thoughts alone are foolish. However, when left unchecked they can lead to a life lacking diligence and ultimately a life full of discontentment. Do not become as I, often letting the events of the day come to me as I have become distracted by my earthly future, but rather seek that which you can do for God today, for eternity.

Let us not form our daily living solely based on what happens around us, but that, which is happening within us. Until we realize the potential God has placed in each one of us, for today, for this moment, right where we are, we will miss many opportunities to increase the Kingdom and ultimately glorify God. Live with intention!

NEWS:

-We are thankful to announce the hiring of Bro. Chad and Sis. Kristy

Kaeb (Roanoke, IL) as Alternate Houseparents. Bro. Chad and Sis. Kristy have three children: Kelsey, Josiah, and Abbi. The Kaeb's will be working at the Pine House with Bro. Shane and Sis. Stefanie Beer. Please pray for the Kaeb's as they adjust to this new opportunity.

- We rejoiced with Bro. Darren and Sis. Britni Eisenmann as they became first-time parents to Talise Joy on August 20. Bro. Darren and Sis. Britni are Alternate Houseparents in the Oak House. Praise God for the blessing of life!

- We are grateful that God allows us to continue to minister to children and families in need. A resident recently shared "Ever since I was a little girl I always seemed to have a bad attitude. As I grew older, a dark shadow seemed to creep over my heart and I wanted to kill myself whenever I didn't get what I wanted. I needed help bad. That's why I came to Gateway Woods at the age of 13 years old. During my time here, I think more about God and Jesus now than I ever have in my life. I hope God will turn more teens that come here to Him and that they too can worship and experience Him in their lives!"

- We are very thankful that God continues to provide us with the right Staff. We currently have one career position open at Gateway Woods for IL Adoption Manager. Please see the notice 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, AL
Sarah Hodel**

Fall is finally here! The cool weather comes later down here than it does up north and there are days when it feels like it will never get here. It has though, and we have been blessed with some beautiful weather for the kids to be outside in. We've also had plenty of rain which we thought might stop us from going on our field trip to the pumpkin patch. It rained for about a week straight until the night before the outing. Then it held off while we went and started up again that afternoon after we got back. We were so happy and thankful we were able to go. It's something the kids look forward to and ask about all year long, so we would have had a lot of sad faces if it would have fell through! All the children enjoyed playing in the corn, the petting zoo, picking out their very own pumpkin and a picnic before we headed back.

This month we had our preschool board meeting. We are so thankful for the brothers that make an effort to come twice a year for this meeting. We know they are very busy and we really appreciate them coming down.

October also brings our annual trike-a-thon and our fall party. The kids love to bring their bikes from home to ride around a little track we

set up. They also love party days when rather than cereal and milk for morning snack, they get to have cupcakes and cheetos! It makes for some pretty wound up kids but they have a good time doing something out of the normal routine. As for the teachers, we just remind ourselves that it's only once in awhile!

We really have been blessed with a great group of kids. We love each one of them. Every day there seems to be something to bring a smile to our faces with them!

**ALABAMA, ATHENS
Louise Hall**

Every October we are blessed to have the ministers on our preschool board visit us: our Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville), and Elder Bros. Mark Masters (Mansfield) and Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia), as well as Bros. Duane Reutter (Rockville) and Tim Gerber (Mansfield). It was so nice to have these brothers here along with some of their wives. We appreciate their efforts and their fellowship.

Thanks to Bro. Zach Bertsch for teaching our adult Sunday School.

Liona Kornegay (Bro. David and Sis. Barbara Coulter) has been sick for awhile now. We are thankful to see that she is getting better.

Our hearts go out to Bro. Tim and Sis. Joan Reinhard, serving in Haiti. We ache for them and our prayers are with them as we have heard about the loss of their little boy, Gabriel. Tim and Joan lived in Athens for many years and we still consider them part of our Athens family. We pray that the Lord will carry them through this time.

It is also with sad hearts that we say farewell to Bro. Ryan and Sis. Hope Stoller and their two children, Braeden and Kiera. They have been

living in our Tennessee Fellowship Center and assembling with us for a little over two years. They have felt led to move back to central Illinois at this time. They will be sorely missed.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX
Heather Hinrichsen

We are grateful to Elder Bro. Steve Ringger (Bluffton North) for his visit and his willingness to share the Gospel of salvation.

Sis. Kathie Labudde (Bro. Larry) and Evelyn Howley were hospitalized for testing and treatment. They are both home and coveting the church's prayers for healing.

Sis. Carissa Klopfenstein (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Carol) has moved here from Peoria, IL. We welcome her to our congregation.

The annual Sunday School picnic was held October 18 at the Fellowship Hall. The children sang praises to the Lord and everyone enjoyed the food and fellowship. We thank Bro. Doug and Sis. Jill Huette and the teachers for their love and hard work instructing our children in the ways of God.

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT
Denise Steidinger

Our visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern), Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich (Sis. Nancy, Phoenix), Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke), Bro. Ron Palitto (Sis. Lynell, Akron) and Bro. Don Manz (Sis. Connie, Junction). We thank them and their wives for their willingness to be used in the Lord's service. Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich gave Communion exhortation the Sunday he was here, as we are planning Communion in

November.

Our congregation gathered on a Friday evening for a World Relief project, assembling school kits for a Navajo reservation in New Mexico. There is a World Relief trip being planned to this Navajo reservation in March 2010. Bro. Stan and Sis. Norma Schambach had visited it previously with four other Brothers from Bluffton and Elgin, IL, so they presented a picture slideshow, so that we could connect what we are doing here with these families and children there. It was a great experience for all of us, including our children.

ARIZONA, TUCSON
Lisa Knapp

Our two Crown Financial Groups have completed their 10 week study. It proved beneficial for all who participated and also provided a chance for some fellowship and strengthened relationships. Learning what the Bible says about our financial responsibilities as Christian stewards, bosses, employees and parents was truly a blessing to us all. Many thanks to the participants, leaders, hosts and also to the babysitters who helped make it all possible.

We enjoyed a beautiful day in the park on October 11 as we gathered for our annual Sunday School picnic. We had so much fun watching the kids break the piZata, relay race and just enjoying being outside. The bake sale/auction to benefit the Sunday School is always a wonderful end to one of our favorite days of the year. We raised around \$2,000 buying each other's delicious food!

Our long awaited fall weather is here. Our mornings are wonderfully crisp, our days sunny and warm and our evenings cool and clear. October is what we wait for all summer long

and God never disappoints; He provides a beautiful conclusion to our summers!

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO
Yasmin Koehl

With much thankfulness, we welcomed Elder Bro. Peter and Sis. Marian Petrovic home from their Mission/World Relief trip to Eastern Europe. What a blessing and an answer to prayer to have them home safely amongst us again. They wish to extend their heartfelt thanks for the many prayers on their behalf.

Visiting ministering brothers were Bro. Justin Moser (Sis. Robin, Altadena, CA), Bro. Mike Rieker (Sis. Carol, Peoria, IL), and Bro. Bill Schick (Sis. Joan, Magdalena, Mexico). May the Lord bless these brothers and their families for their labors of love.

COLORADO, DENVER
Ann Gonglach

Our hearts and prayers go out to those in our congregation who are mourning the loss of loved ones. Bro. Tom and Sis. Marlene Leman are bereft of their daughter, Sis. Kathy Kellenberger (Bro. Art, Sabetha, KS). On September 24, her body succumbed to illness. She will be missed, as will Sis. Sharolyn Hohulin's (Bro. Doug) father, Bro. Arnold Metzger (West Bend, IA), who left this life on October 10. Bro. Jeff Reinhard's nephew, Gabriel (Bro. Tim and Sis. Joan Reinhard), was killed on October 18, in an accident in Haiti. May they be comforted with the knowledge "that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens" (II Corinthians 5:1).

The engagement of Bro. Dan Lemam (Elder Bro. Mike and Sis. Deb) to Sis. Tess Gutwein (Bro. Jan and Sis. Val, Francesville, IN) was announced. They plan to be married in December.

“Joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth” (Luke 15:7) and we rejoice with Brianna Huber (Bro. Gordon and Sis. Sharlyn, Sabetha, KS) and Tucker Huber (Bro. Eric and Sis. Marcel, Austin, TX) as they seek the Lord.

Several of our brothers and young men spent a weekend together in the mountains enjoying fellowship and spiritual instruction.

We're thankful to Bro. Nick Gutwein (West Lafayette, IN) for ministering to us.

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE
Amber Roche
Laura Virkler

“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to usward,...”

II Peter 3:9

Aren't we so thankful we serve such a merciful God! Through the business of this past month we can all attest to the longsuffering of the Lord. We thank each visitor who has made the effort to assemble with us. We especially would like to extend our appreciation for Bro. Mike Wagenbach (Sis. Erica; Wolcott, IN), Bro. Justin Koch (Sis. Marcia; Washington, IL), Bro. Virgil Metzger (Sis. Mary; Chicago, IL), and Bro. Ken Schneider (Sis. Bernice; Remington, IN) for preaching God's Word to us this past month. We trust all enjoyed the beautiful fall foliage, but more importantly we hope they enjoyed our

love and fellowship.

It was a privilege to be able to hear the Conference CDs throughout the last few weeks. It was certainly encouraging, yet also a reminder how diligent we must be in our spiritual walk of life. We thank you Elder Brothers for your continued efforts on our behalf.

The wedding of Steve Gerber and Cecilia Doyle took place the end of September. We are happy for them and wish them God's blessings in their new life together. Their parents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Bev Gerber and Darcy Doyle.

We rejoice with Jon Boynton (Kenneth and Sis. Jan) and Jennifer Roberts (Jon and Jody) as they were united in marriage this past month. Our prayers are with this couple as they embark on a new journey in life, and trust they will confide in our Almighty God for guidance and direction.

We also rejoice with our new convert, Debra Galat (Bro. Dave and Sis. Ellen). We are so thankful that she has chosen to seek her Lord in her adolescence. Our prayers will continue to be with her as she battles the trials and temptations that may come her way. It is a blessing to see such a happiness radiate from her face! This is such an example to her fellow peers.

Bro. Dan and Sis. Dorothy Virkler and Bro. Ron and Sis. Liz Wagenbach (Tremont, IL) are thankful grandparents of Sophia Beth, born on October 13 to Bro. Paul and Sis. Beth Wagenbach (Tremont, IL). Her siblings are Jesse and Olivia. May they feel our love and prayers as they welcome home another child!

Within the last few weeks we bid farewell to a dear couple, Bro. Wilbur and Sis. Marjorie Schneider.

They will now reside in the Rittman, OH, area. We pray that the Lord will provide for this couple much grace and comfort through such a significant transition in their lives. We also pray for their children, spouses, and grandchildren that they will leave behind here, as they will no doubt feel the absence of their loved ones. We have appreciated the faithful example of both these loved ones in our congregation and trust that God will be their rich Rewarder.

May God bless you through another month.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
WASHINGTON
Henrietta Meyer

Our caretakers for October are Bro. Kurt and Sis. Patti Bahler from Remington, IN. Sis. Doreen Steffen reports were have almost all of 2010 booked. Thanks to all who feel the Spirit moving you to volunteer. We as a congregation are so blessed to have loved ones come.

Visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North), Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Sis. Michelle, Philadelphia, PA), Bro. Ken Banwart (Sis. Sandy, West Bend, IA), Elder Bro. Rick Plattner (Sis. Mary, Fairbury, IL) and Bro. Sid Kaufman (Sis. Sandy, Cissna Park, IL). Other visitors this month were from Philadelphia, PA; Rockville, CT; Eureka and Roanoke, IL; and Bluffton North.

The Sunday that Bro. Phil and Bro. Ben were here, we were blessed to partake of Holy Communion. What a special time, remembering the Lord's suffering and also feeling the love and closeness of our congregation.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Ken Belsley as he has recently

had shoulder surgery and will have his arm in a sling for six weeks.

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 are thankful for ministering Bros. Chuck Kellenberger (Elgin, IL) and Joe Braker (Sis. Shirley, Morton, IL). They were here to assist with our remodeling and we appreciated the contribution.

The announcement of Sis. Tara Hohulin's engagement to Bro. David Prevo (Bloomington, IL) has made us thankful for God working in their lives. Parents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Faye Hohulin and Bro. Mike and Sis. Barb Prevo (Gridley, IL). May God bless them.

We are nearing completion of the remodeling of our church. We want to thank all who contributed with funding, labor, material and prayers. We could not have done this project without the help of our

brotherhood and the Lord's guidance.

**FLORIDA
NORTH FORT MYERS
Victor Beer**

October is one of our favorite months in our North Fort Myers Church. Our wintertime brethren of the northern states seem to know it's time to join us down south. We know the warm weather has most to do with it, but our eagerness to welcome them must surely show. One thing we recognize, though, is that each year there are one or two that have gone on to be with the Lord. No one would deny that blessed hope to them, we all agree.

We were blessed this last month when our Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz and Sis. Jenny were with us. Bro. Ed and our local brothers read the Memorandum from the annual Brotherhood Conference for our edification and uplifting. This must be what a "brotherhood" is all about.

With two new churches just across the field from our church, we hope our visitors will not have too much trouble finding ours. Our church directory has directions that should make it easy to find, if one does not get confused with so many churches just next to us. Our church sign is just across the road from the Deltura Mobile Home development.

**FLORIDA, SARASOTA
DiAnne Brown**

Happy Autumn Greetings! Harvest is a time when many of our brethren see their labors of the past year come to fruition. We pray the Lord will bless them each with a bountiful harvest, as well as safety and protection in the gathering. It will soon be time to prepare the soil and make ready for the next harvest,

something we might consider doing in our "spiritual gardens", pulling a few "weeds" of discontent and tilling the hardened surface to allow a better planting of Scripture to ensure a bountiful harvest.

Sarasota sends our deepest prayers for comfort and condolences to the dear Reinhard family at this challenging time. We are trusting God for the safe arrival of Gabriel to heaven's gate and a complete healing for Bro. Tim and Sis. Joan. May God hold you all closely in His hand and soothe your tender hearts.

Sis. Lorene (Bro. Ben) Maibach has been diagnosed with an inoperable tumor of the brain. She and Bro. Ben are now residing in their Michigan home, to be close to their children and grandchildren. Oh, that we might convey the depth of our fervent prayers for this most beloved of sisters, for her comfort, for relief from pain; and that she might feel the kindred love from her Sarasota "family" lifting her and her dear husband in prayer constantly.

Sis. Marie (Bro. Art) Keller had hip replacement surgery recently and is recovering well. We have missed her sweet presence and pray she enjoys a rapid recovery and returns to worship soon.

Elder Bro. Dale (Sis. Judy) Eisenmann and Bro. Jeff (Sis. Lynne) Streitmatter, III, led our recent Communion service, giving us the opportunity to reset our "spiritual clocks", repenting of our failings and transgressions and striving anew to live a more Christ-like life. Thank you, dear brothers, for allowing yourselves to be vessels of the Lord.

Our Annual Lakewood Retreat was held October 9 - 11. Bro. Ted Witzig, Jr. (Sis. Donna, Morton, IL) gave presentations on developing

healthy family relationships and enhancing our perception of God. It is such a joy to gather with brethren and friends to enjoy fellowship and recreation in God's out-of-doors and also to worship together around His Word. We thank Bro. Tom Waldbeser (Sis. Sue, Atlanta, GA) for leading our worship service. The hayrack rides, kettle corn campfire and special activities for the children are always exciting.

This month we were blessed with a visit from Bro. Vic Bauman (Sis. Brenda, Smithville, OH). It is always a pleasure to worship with you and we thank you for your willingness to serve.

October was minister appreciation month and Sarasota is thankful for our ministering brothers, Elder Bro. Dale (Sis. Judy) Eisenmann, Bro. Jeff (Sis. Lynne) Streitmatter, Bro. Ron (Sis. Carol) Koehl, and Bro. Virgil (Sis. Suellen) Kaeb for the blessing they each are to our congregation and so many others. We also thank our ministers' wives for their faithful support of these dear brothers.

GEORGIA, ATLANTA

We were truly blessed to have Bro. Jon Zeller (Morton, IL) minister to us this month. May God bless you as you continue to serve Him!

Some may have heard about the horrible flooding in the Atlanta area. Thankfully, no one in our church family was affected. Sadly, there were some who suffered devastating effects. May we continue to pray that the Lord will surround them and be their solid rock during this heartbreaking time.

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE

**Jenn Johnson
Doreen Moser**

I saw a wayworn traveler in tattered
garments clad,
And struggling up the mountain, it
seemed that he was sad.
His back was laden heavy, his
strength was almost gone,
Yet he shouted as he journeyed "De-
liverance will come!"

The weekend of October 10-11, we were blessed to hear the testimonies of Daniel Martin (Megan) and Darcy Steffen (Bro. Dean and Sis. Carol) and witness their baptisms. We are so excited to greet them as our Brother and Sister in Christ. We are thankful to Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern, KS), Elder Bro. Duane Rocke (Sis. Bonnie, Minneapolis, MN), Elder Bro. Ron Schambach (Sis. Nancy, Elgin, IL), Bro. Dave Steffen (Sis. Linda, Elgin, IL), Bro. Steve Martin (Sis. Vicki, Eureka, IL), and Bro. Chuck Kellenberger (Sis. Debbie, Elgin, IL) who served during this special weekend.

I saw him in the evening, the sun was
bending low,
He'd over-topped the mountain and
reached the vale below.
He saw the golden city, his everlasting
home,
And shouted loud, "Hosanna, deliver-
ance has come!"

As another harvest rolls around, we were able to enjoy the Annual Harvest Party at Gary and Sis. Doreen Moser's home on October 17. We are thankful to be able to gather together and fellowship to celebrate such a significant part of our spiritual journey: harvest time!

I heard the song of triumph they sang
upon that shore,

Saying, "Jesus has redeemed us to
suffer nevermore."

Then casting his eyes back-ward on
the race that he had run,
He shouted loud, "Hosanna, deliver-
ance has come!"

Gospel Hymns #225

Several members of our congregation have recently experienced the loss of a loved one in their family. Dave McCoy (Sis. Sheila) bid goodbye to his father, Charles McCoy. Sis. Michelle Knobloch (Bro. Brent) also endured the passing of her aunt Anne Mikez. And, our Sis. Shayla Steffen (Bro. Jordan) said a final farewell to her grandfather, Bro. Arnold Metzger. Many prayers have been said for these dear ones.

ILLINOIS BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL Alissa Kieser Jacki Masters

We have been blessed with several new births this past month. Bro. Will and Sis. Lexi Nussbaum are first-time parents to Kayla Ann born on August 31. Grandparents are Bro. Rick and Sis. Carol Hany, and Bro. Jay and Sis. Ann Nussbaum, all of Bloomington.

Lily Mae was born on October 11, to Bro. Duane and Sis. Alissa Kieser. Lily was welcomed by big sisters, Jenna and Amy. Grandparents are Bro. Randy and Sis. Marj Schmidgall, and Bro. Dave and Sis. Wilma Kieser.

Bro. Dave and Sis. Maxine Hodel are happy grandparents to Maxwell Isaiah, born to first-time parents, Bart and Misty Hodel of West Virginia.

Bro. Ben and Sis. Mary Daily are proud grandparents of twins, Jude Augustine and Elsa Rose Marie, born to Clayton and Natalie Daily of Los Angeles, CA.

Bro. Harvey and Sis. Margaret Walter are also excited grandparents to Olivia Grace born on October 6 to Susan and Andrew Walter of Bloomington.

We are also excited to announce two engagements within our congregation:

Sis. Amanda Wenger (Marvin and Rita, Fairbury, IL) to Bro. Nic Rassi (Bro. Curt and Sis. Kathy, Tremont, IL); and Sis. Tara Hohulin (Bro. Mike and Sis. Faye, Ft. Lauderdale, FL) to Bro. David Prevo (Bro. Mike and Sis. Barb Prevo, Gridley, IL). May God bless these couples as they begin planning their upcoming weddings.

We were thankful to have ministering Bro. Mike Hohulin (Sis. Faye) teach and bless us with the Word as they visited our congregation for the engagement announcement of their daughter.

We want to extend a warm welcome to Bro. Brandon and Sis. Mindy Rinkenberger and family, as well as Bro. John and Sis. Tresa Maul and family, as they begin worshipping with us.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD **Philip and Donna Nenadov**

“The Lord is high above all nations, and His glory above the heavens.”

Psalm 113:4

We were thankful to have several visiting ministers this past month. Elder Bro. Ben Walder (Sis. Juanita, Congerville), Bro. Dan Moser (Sis. Anne, Elgin, IL) and Bro. Scott Schambach (Sis. Hope, Columbus) brought forth the Word from the pulpit giving us encouragement to press on to our heavenly goal.

On October 25, our church held a

farewell reception for Bro. Marvin and Sis. Jane Leman to express our appreciation for their years of service. It was also a time to wish them well in Princeville where they now attend.

November is the time for Bradford to collect the Silver Lining dues.

God be with you ‘til we meet again.

ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN **Jackie Eisenmann**

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

Eccles. 3:1

Some months are quieter than others, with not much happening. Sometimes the course of one month brings many changes and news to report. We, as humans, tend to not like change. We like for things to remain the same, as they always have been. Sometimes changes are “good things” and other times changes are more difficult to accept. But we should be thankful to know that we serve an unchanging God. He has always been, is now, and always will be there for us throughout the changes that we may face in life.

“Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.”

Psalm 90:2

One change we are dealing with is that our Bro. Melvin and Sis. Erma Walder have moved to Eureka. We will greatly miss them in the Champaign church, which they have called home for over 20 years. We wish them God’s blessings on their

move and know they will bless the congregation they now attend with their gentle spirits and evident commitment to the Lord.

Our Sis. Lorna Clauss is dealing with change in her life, as she has lost her brother, Bro. Vernon Clauss (Cissna Park, IL). We are praying for Sis. Lorna; and his wife, Joanne, and the rest of his family in this time of loss.

I failed to mention last month that we have a new couple now living in Champaign. We welcome Bro. Justin and Sis. Kirsten Wiegand to Champaign! Justin is in Graduate school at the university and we hope they feel God’s nearness and our love in this time that they call Champaign home.

As the seasons change, we celebrate autumn with an annual tradition in Champaign-Urbana. October 10 was the 30th annual Hayrack Ride and Wiener Roast at our Bro. Dennis and Sis. Cheryl Mangers’ home. This year’s attendance was larger due to the fact several former C-U residents came back for the weekend. It truly was “homecoming” and “C-U reunion”. It was good to make new acquaintances and rekindle old friendships from the past. We want to ask God to bless Dennis and Cheryl for their hospitality!

That Sunday, October 13, we had an abundance of visiting ministers that we were blessed with. We want to thank Bros. Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO), Dewayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN), Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL), and John Steiner (Oakville, IA) for their willingness to be used in preaching God’s Word to us! May God bless each of them in their ministries.

We had several other visiting ministers this past month who we

want to acknowledge and thank for their willing service given to us. Bro. Jed Rocke (Goodfield, IL) was with us and spoke God's Word on Sunday, September 20. Bro. Brad Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) was here and encouraged us on Wednesday, September 23, about being sent by God to do His service. And Bro. Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL) was with us Wednesday, October 7, and also blessed us. May God be with each one of them and bless them for blessing us!

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO
Julie Eisenmann

"Glory ye in His holy name: Let the heart of them rejoice that seek the Lord."

I Chronicles 16:10

This month we have had the exciting and joyful arrival of two new babies. We are rejoicing with Bro. Matthew and Sis. Bridget Rassi and their children, Carl, Manna, Emmaus, Quartus, Philemon, and Jerusalem, as they welcomed Theophilus Jamin into their family on October 5. His grandparents are Bro. Gary and Sis. Terry Zollinger (Sardis), and Bro. Greg and Sis. Carla Rassi.

Bro. Dan and Sis. Deanne Plattner also welcomed Olivia Rose on October 11. Her grandparents are Dean Stahl and Sis. Charlotte Stahl (Bradford) and Bro. Russ and Sis. Marge Plattner (Roanoke). It is such a blessing to watch our church family grow!

As we have just finished listening to the Conference CD's, we are thankful for the wonderful messages and exhortation to a closer walk with our Lord.

We also enjoyed some special fellowship during our World Relief ac-

tivity night and potluck.

It has been a blessing to begin another Learning Together Bible Study on the topic, "In But Not Of The World", given by Bro. Brad Eisenmann. We are excited to spend more time discussing this topic when we break into smaller groups later this month.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK
Vickie Maul
Janie Waldbeser

"Love of all gifts is the greatest..." We have several engagements to report this month. Our Sis. Donna Yergler was engaged to Bro. Marvin Frank from Tremont; Julie Rudin (Bro. Gerald and Sis. Joan) and Mark Sidarous (John and Rebecca) of Roselle, IL, are planning a February wedding; and Katrina Kaeb (Bro. Eric and Sis. LouAnn) and Anthony (AJ) Nowaczyk (Ron and Kathy) of Cissna Park have announced their engagement. May God be the unseen Guest and bless them as they make plans for their future together.

"Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord..." (Psalm 127:3) Bro. Rod and Sis. Beth Steffen are thrilled with the arrival of another grandson. Crew Mark was born to Bro. Jeff and Sis. Gretchen Moser. Also, Bro. Bruce and Sis. Bonita Frank are thankful for a new little granddaughter. Larae Marie was born to Bro. Monte and Sis. Bethany Van Wyhe (Lester, IA).

We rejoice to have two new Sisters-in-Christ. They are Sis. Mindy Stock (Elder Bro. Tom and Sis. Karol) and Sis. Amber Kaeb (Bro. Todd and Sis. Val). We pray God will keep these new lambs safe in His tender care. We were thankful to have Brothers here for this special weekend, Elder Bro. Marvin

Dotterer (Forrest), Bro. Les Kaeb (Francesville), and Bro. Dan Moser (Elgin, IL). We thank them for their labors on our behalf.

"Blessed are they that mourn for they shall be comforted..." (Matt. 5:4) We were saddened to lay to rest our Bro. Vernon Clauss. He leaves his dear wife, Joann, and his children, Jill and Scott Newcomer of Goshen, IN; Jim and Lorraine Clauss of Tigard, OR; and Jeff Clauss of Oldsmar, FL. Also surviving are three grandsons, Nathan and Nicholas Newcomer, and Noah Clauss. Lester Knapp of LeRoy, IL, passed away. He was the brother-in-law of Sis. Gladys Knapp and Sis. Jean Knapp of our congregation. May their loved ones feel God's nearness in the days ahead.

Our hospital patient this month was Bro. Gerry Farney. We pray God will heal and strengthen as only He can.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE
Holly Zobrist

We were blessed to have an abundance of visiting ministers this past month. They included Bro. Trent Meiss (Sis. Lucille, Eureka), Bro. Ron Isch (Sis. Jane, Lamont-Gridley), Bro. Wayne Wiegand (Sis. Rosemary, Goodfield), Bro. Brian Waibel (Sis. Wendy, Champaign), Bro. Pat Zaugg (Sis. Julie, West Bend), Bro. Gary Endress (Sis. Evelyn, Bradford), and Bro. Brent Kellenberger (Sis. Beth, Kansas City). May the Lord richly bless these brothers for their willingness to be used for the Lord.

David Roth (Bro. Alan and Sis. Joanne) and Kasey VanScyoc (Loren and Lori, Eureka) were married October 10. We wish them God's blessings in their life together.

Our hearts go out to those who've lost loved ones this past month. We were saddened to hear the passing of our Bro. Jake Miller (Sis. Marion). His presence is already missed in our congregation. Our prayers are with his wife, Sis. Marion, and his children, Sandy, Bro. Ed, Barbara, Joe, Warren, Linda, and Marie.

Our hearts also go out to Bro. Ed and Sis. Gail Leman in the loss of Ed's sister, Sis. Kathy Kellenberger (Bro. Art). May the Lord be near her family during their loss.

Note of Thanks:

We want to express our sincere thanks and appreciation for the many prayers and kind deeds that were extended to our family. May God bless you all.

The Jake Miller Family

ILLINOIS, ELGIN

**Amy Gasser
Miriam Gasser**

"Lord, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is; that I may know how frail I am. Behold, thou hast made my days as an handbreadth; and mine age is as nothing before thee: verily every man at his best state is altogether vanity."

Psalms 39:4-5

Sis. Deb Sauder's earthly struggles ended on September 26, when she went to be with the Lord. Her cousins, Bros. Mark Zimmerman (Eureka, IL) and Tom Schambach, conducted the funeral service on October 1. May God comfort all who mourn Deb's loss, especially Sis. Gert, Wayne (Jennifer), and her nieces and nephews.

On October 4, Sandy Yarnell passed away after battling ALS. She

was the sister of Larry Hintz (Sis. Jeanne). We pray that the Lord will console him during this time of grief and provide for Sandy's husband, young children, and parents.

Bro. Arnold Metzger, the father of Sis. Lois Steffen (Bro. Gary), died on October 10 at the West Bend Care Center. He had been a resident there for the past nine years and lived to the age of 94. Bro. Arnold is survived by eleven children and their descendants, as well as one sister.

Dorothy Jones passed away October 16 at Resthaven. She was the mother of Sis. Sandy Kinsinger (Bro. Bill) and will be dearly missed by Sandy and her brother, Dennis; their children, grandchildren, and Dorothy's sister.

From September 9 through October 1, our usual midweek services were replaced by the playing of the Conference recordings. We received many beneficial exhortations and instructions from the Elders who spoke at the brotherhood meeting in Tremont. May we earnestly contend for the faith.

More recently, we were uplifted by the ministry of Elder Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL), Bro. Don Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN), and Bro. Scott Schambach (Columbus, OH) and thank them for their willingness to preach God's Word.

We pray for God's blessings in the lives of two couples engaged to be married. Craig Weiss (Bro. Roger and Sis. Karen) and Amy Zwingelberg of Elgin have made preparations for an October 31 wedding; and Ashley Leman (Bro. Keith and Sis. Libby) plans to marry Andrew Pelcof Oelwein, IA, next June.

Note of Thanks:

Our family feels very humbled and unworthy of your deeds of love and kindness during our beloved Deb's lingering illness and passing. Your fervent prayers, cards, gifts of love, and food were very much appreciated! May God richly bless each of you now and in eternity.

In His Love and Ours,
The Sauder Family

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

**Dee Baer
Jodi Blunier**

"Thus united and in concord..." Bro. Wes Banwart (Bro. Ken and Sis. Marlene, West Bend, IA) and Sis. Kary Bradle (Bro. Roger and Sis. Ila) made their vows of faithfulness to each other. May God bless their union as they establish their home in West Bend.

"Let us walk the path of life..." Bro. Doug Banwart (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Lisa) and Sis. Tricia Hodel (Bro. Daryl and Sis. Deb, Gridley) were announced for marriage. May each strive for the other's welfare.

New birth was experienced by Bro. Abram Frank (Bro. Scott and Sis. Elaine) and Sis. Kyla Edelman (Bro. Keith and Sis. Nadine) as they made a vow of faithfulness to God and were baptized. "What glorious state, to be a lamb of Jesus."

Jolene Wiegand (Bro. Andy and Sis. Vicki) made haste and sought her soul's salvation.

The angels in heaven are rejoicing, and so are we. New births to tend and teach have blessed three families. Bro. Tim, Sis. Dianna, Nathan, Justin, and Trenton Currier welcome Brianna Joy to their family. Grandparents are Art and Sis. Mary Currier (Congerville) and Bro. Brian and Sis. Teresa Schieler

(Goodfield).

Bro. Brad and Sis. Amanda Stoller added Emerson Michael to their home. Grandparents are Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Sherry Stoller and Bro. Norman and Sis. Connie Hoerr. Bro. Jared and Sis. Sarah Fehr brought home Audrey Nicole. Grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Sandy Fehr and Bro. Tom and Sis. Edie Stoller.

Bro. Harlan Metzger (Sis. Shirley) said farewell to his dear father, Bro. Arnold (West Bend, IA). Bro. Joel Banwart (Sis. Sonia) grieves the loss of his sister, Sis. Doris Banwart (West Bend, IA). Sis. Sonia Banwart (Bro. Joel) was saddened in the death of her sister, Mary Wilson, of Phoenix, AZ.

Sis. Norma Hangartner (Bro. Roy) and Chase Wiegand (Bro. Andy and Sis. Vicki) are healing from surgeries.

We thank the many visiting ministers who have labored in our behalf: Bros. Joe Dotterer (Bloomfield, IA), Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN), Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville), John Bradle (Roanoke), Michael Wagenbach (Wolcott, IN), Dale Banwart (Congerville), Lucas Frank (Detroit, MI), Dan Stoller (Remington, IN), and Elder Bros. Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA), Doug Schock (Bloomfield, IA), Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA), Charles Sauder (Tremont) and Curt Frank (Lacrosse, IN).

Note of Thanks:

We would like to thank everyone for their support and prayers that were sent on our behalf during Brent's double lung transplant. We give God the glory for this miracle in our lives.

Love in Him,

Bro. Brent and Sis. Trudy Blunier

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

Angela Herr

Anna Schmidgall

We rejoice with Bro. Mclane Steidinger (Bro. Ted and Sis. Sara) and Sis. Leah Stoller (Bro. Clark and Sis. Cindy, Gridley, IL) as they were married on September 20. We pray for God's guidance and blessings in their lives.

Tim and Dawn Huber along with big sister Addison, welcome Riley Ray to their family. Her grandparents are Bro. Rich and Sis. Dawn Huber and Ralph and Martha Fehr.

Bro. Ralph Bahler and Sis. Juanita Walter spent time in the hospital. We lift them up in prayer to God for His continued healing.

Several brothers served on our pulpit this past month. They include Bros. Dennis Rassi (Austin, TX), Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL), Ted Schock (Belvidere, IL), Gary Brown (Forrest, IL), and Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Lamont-Gridley, KS). May God bless them for their labors among us.

Sis. Darlene Steidinger (Bro. Eldon) and Deann Steidinger (Dave) lost their brother, Dean Lovell. They have our sympathy and prayers.

ILLINOIS, FORREST

Jill Wenger

Lisa Aberle

We appreciate visiting ministers this month who were willing to preach the Gospel. They were Bro. Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL), Bro. Mark Wettstein (LaCrosse, IN), Bro. Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL), Bro. Dan Koch (Tremont, IL), Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Lamont-Gridley, KS), Bro. Paul Kilgus (Fairbury, IL), Bro. Sid Kaufmann (Cissna Park, IL), and Bro. Trent Meiss (Eureka,

IL). We thank them for their labors.

For many years, Bro. Homer and Sis. Virginia Blunier were part of the Forrest congregation. Now that they've moved to the Eureka Retirement Home complex, we'll miss their presence in our assembly as we treasure the many years of Christian fellowship we shared.

Isaiah Stork (Bro. Paul and Sis. Dawn) and Brooke Studebaker (Dale and Joni, Fairbury, IL) were united in marriage on September 26. Bro. Trent and Sis. Tiffany Schmidgall were married on October 11. Their parents are Bro. John and Sis. Janet Schmidgall and Bro. Wayne and Sis. Nancy Zimmerman. Also, on October 18, Bro. Joe Rudin and Sis. Rhonda Teubel were united in Holy Matrimony. Parents of this couple are Bro. Craig and Sis. Trudy Rudin and Bro. John and Sis. Lavonne Teubel. May each of these couples feel God's nearness as they start new family units.

On September 30, we rejoiced to hear the testimonies of fellow pilgrims, Bro. Lynn and Sis. Kathy Slagel. Elder Bro. Rick Plattner (Fairbury, IL) was here to assist our Bro. Marvin.

Evan John was born on September 24 to Bro. Ben and Sis. Lori Leman. Kyle and Justin are excited for another brother. Evan's grandparents are Elder Bro. Marvin and Sis. Nancy Dotterer and Sis. Donna Leman (late Bro. Robert).

Sis. Sally Schaffer (Bro. John) is recovering from hip replacement surgery. Sis. Loida Mueller (Bro. Ron) and Jeannie Sanders (Rich) also underwent surgery. We hope each one will be feeling well soon. We also welcome Bro. Larry Bachman back home after major surgery and an extended stay in Rochester, MN.

Sis. Lavonne Lanz passed away

on October 14 after a long battle with health concerns. We lift up in prayer her entire family, including her faithful husband, Bro. Elmer, and her children: Bro. Mike Lanz (Sis. Marsha); Bro. Troy Lanz (Sis. Kathleen); Lori Patton, Gibson City, IL; Kristi Slagel (David), Fairbury, IL; Shelly Lanz, Hoffman Estates, IL; Dana Kafer (Josh), Fairbury, IL; Damon Lanz (Lorri), Fairbury, IL; and Sis. Lana Brown (Bro. Joel).

Note of Thanks:

I want to thank everyone for the prayers, gifts, sympathy cards and love shown throughout Alma Jean's illness and passing. I would also like to thank everyone who sent cards for my 80th birthday. Your kindness is greatly appreciated. God bless you all.

Dave Schmidgall

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

**Rita Bauman
Donna Wyss**

We welcome Bro. Sam, Sis. Ruth, Wyatt and Ethan Moser to our congregation. May they feel at home. They moved from Minneapolis, MN, since Sis. Ruth accepted the position as dietary manager at our Home in Eureka.

Sam Rokey (Kristin), Cameron Steffen (Bro. Dirk and Sis. Deb) and Jill Wagner (Bro. Greg) have been given peace from our Heavenly Father. We rejoice with them and their families.

Peace, perfect peace, in this dark
world of sin?

The blood of Jesus whispers peace
within.

Hymns of Zion #26

We are very thankful as two more
souls have been awakened to the

Truth of the Gospel and have answered the call to repentance. Cassie Knepp (Alex) and Jake Rokey (Bro. Ben and Sis. Shelley) need the prayers of those they love as God converts them. Also, Jake was our only hospital patient this month. Prayers have been answered as his surgery went well. Thanks be to God.

The weekend of October 10-11 will always be a special one for Sarah Melton and Abbie Wiegand (Bro. Roy and Sis. Jan) as they became sisters in the Lord. "We are buried with Him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life." (Romans 6:4)

We appreciate the many labors of our counseling Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL). Also, thanks to Bro. Tom Bolliger (Sis. Jane, Tremont, IL) for sharing the Word with us.

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above..."

James 1:17

Two first-time parents were blessed with precious daughters. Bro. Caleb and Sis. Bethany Wyss named their daughter Alea Grace. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Wilfred and Sis. Verona Strahm (Bern, KS) and Bro. Bruce and Sis. Donna Wyss. Zoe Aaliyah joined Justin and Sis. Christy Bauman. Grateful grandparents of Zoe are Bro. Dave and Sis. Pat Kuntz and Glen and Sis. Becky Bauman (Eureka).

Note of Thanks:

Bro. Joe and Sis. Irene Rinckenberger wish to thank each one who remembered them with a card or

phone call. They celebrated their 70th anniversary on October 29. We pray that God will continue to bless them.

**ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY
Perry A. Klopfenstein**

We are saddened to report the death of Bro. Barry Ehresman, who died of cancer on October 17. At age 57, it seemed premature, but it is God who numbers our days and we must accept His will. At any rate, we can rejoice with the hope that Barry had for his soul, and that he made preparation for his soul many years ago. Surely we extend our deepest sympathies to his young family.

He is survived by his wife of 16 years, Sis. Beth; and three children. They are Brian, Rebekah, and Jennifer, all at home. Also, he is survived by his mother, Gladys Ehresman of Gridley; one sister, Regina Yordy, West Palm Beach, Florida; one brother, Brent Ehresman, Fairborn, Ohio; and his mother-in-law, Sis. Pat Landes, Morton. He had four nieces and four nephews.

Bro. Barry was a farmer, and worked at the local feed mill. He had an easy going manner, and we will miss his friendliness during fellowship at church on Sunday.

A daughter was born to Dan and TeAnn Herr on September 9. Her name is KayTe Sue and she has a brother, Zachery, 7. Grandparents are Bro. Harry and Sis. Til Johnson (Forrest) and Sis. Cindy Herr (Fairbury). Great-grandparents are Margaret Johnson (Chatsworth) and Sis. Eleanor Baer (Eureka).

Sis. Trish Hodel was announced to marry Bro. Doug Banwart of Eureka. She is the daughter of Bro. Daryl and Sis. Deb Hodel, and his parents are Bro. Jeff and Sis. Lisa

Banwart (Eureka). Lord willing, they plan to be married on March 7, 2010.

Sis. Mary Stoller had quite an ordeal while traveling in Spain. She had a mild stroke and had to return home. She is at the Roanoke Home taking therapy. Truly, we wish for her recovery.

Sis. Betty Klopfenstein is at the Meadows Home and in a weak condition due to a heart condition. We pray God will be near to her.

Sis. Lucille Wagner is at home recuperating from surgery. Bro. Larry Kiefer fell, but is recovering.

We offer our sympathies to Sis. Linda Wettstein (and her husband, Bro. Lyle) over the passing of her sister, Mary Wilson, from Phoenix, AZ.

It has been a most unusual fall for our farmers. The month of October was very wet with very little harvesting done, and the field moisture of the corn remained very wet which inhibited harvesting. It was a time of waiting, which as we sing, "is to be our earthly schooling". As time unfolded, however, progress was made and grain was hauled to the elevators or to on-the-farm storage.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

**Annette Tanner
Julie Bahr**

Visiting ministers are welcome and appreciated! Our thanks to Bro. Tom Schambach (Sis. Connie) and Bro. Chuck Kellenberger (Sis. Debbie), both of Elgin, IA; Bro. John Rassi (Sis. Heather, Tremont) gave our Wednesday evening Family Worship topic of "Speak, Lord, for Thy Servant Heareth." We are deeply grateful for those who labor in God's service.

We have had much to rejoice about and participate in. Our Morton church enjoyed an all church

wiener roast and singing on October 9. On October 4, all enjoyed the 1st through 3rd grades and the Youth choir at the Family Hymn Sing evening. Then on October 18, Morton was host to the churches of Illinois Potluck Day. Many visited all day for church services prior to attending the fellowship evening for the potluck meal. God granted us a blessed day together.

On September 27, Sis. Larissa Witzig and Bro. Justin Steffen committed to serving the Lord together. Sis. Larissa is the daughter of Bro. Phil and Sis. Cindi Witzig. Bro. Justin is the son of Bro. Duane and Sis. Karen Steffen (Bluffton).

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Pat Landes in the loss of her son-in-law, Bro. Barry Ehresman (Sis. Beth) from Gridley.

Bro. Zach and Sis. Penny Maher became parents to a sweet baby boy, Oliver Chase, on September 30. Grandparents are Bro. Norm and Sis. Polly Zaugg (West Bend, IA) and Bro. Dan and Sis. Kim Maher (Roanoke).

On August 13, Bro. John and Sis. Cheryl Knobloch became grandparents to a baby boy, Owen Joseph. Parents are Sis. Heidi and Bro. Joe Gerber (Champaign). Paternal grandparents are Bro. Doug and Sis. Ruby Gerber (Bluffton).

On August 31, Bro. Bart and Sis. Janell Rinkenberger became grateful parents to a sweet little girl, Jada Eyerusalem, from Ethiopia. Four big brothers, Carson, Quinn, Kade and Cole, are very excited to be blessed with a new little sister. Bro. Jaye and Sis. Peg Rinkenberger (Goodfield) and Bro. Wendell and Sis. Karel Anliker (Francesville, IN) are the thankful grandparents.

On August 31, little Elyse, Talia and Gavin became the adopted chil-

dren of Bro. Clint and Sis. Stephanie Heinold. What delightful little children we have grown to know and love as all three have been in the Heinold's foster care for some time. Big brothers, Stephen and Jeremiah, welcome them as well, into their family to love.

Paul and Elise Grimm became first-time parents to a son, Judah Michael, born on October 5. Bro. Mark and Sis. Becky Grimm and Bro. Tim and Sis. Betty Kaupp (Gridley) are little Judah's thankful grandparents.

Note of Thanks:

Thank you so much for your cards, flowers and visits while in the hospital and at Restmor recuperating. Most of all, I appreciate your prayers. They meant so much to me. God bless each one of you.

Sis. Millie Zimmerman

ILLINOIS, PEORIA Pam Fritzenmeier

We are thankful to report a new convert, Suzi Martinez. She is a student at Bradley University here in Peoria and a friend of Bro. Justin and Sis. Katie Herman.

"Having therefore obtained help of God, I continue unto this day, witnessing both to small and great, saying none other things than those which the prophets and Moses did say should come: That Christ should suffer, and that he should be the first that should rise from the dead, and should show light unto the people, and to the Gentiles."

Acts 26:22-23

On selected Wednesday evenings, our church has been listening by CD to the various topics presented at the August Elder Confer-

ence. Elder Bro. Rick Plattner (Sis. Mary Ann, Fairbury, IL) spent Wednesday, October 14, with us, expounding on the topic "Things Which Accompany Salvation", from Ephesians 4:22-32. We are always happy to welcome the Plattners "back home" for a visit! Sunday, October 18, Bro. Brad Bauer (Sis. Sandy, Tucson, AZ) brought us the Word. May God bless these brothers for their service of ministering God's Word to us.

Our monthly hymn sing was held Sunday, October 4, with the Washington Choir blessing us in song. "I will be glad and rejoice in thee: I will sing praise to thy name, O thou most High." (Psalm 9:2).

Two homes have been brightened by new babies this month. Bro. Josh and Sis. Bethany Hoerr, along with big sister, Layla, welcomed Santana Renae September 23. Grandparents include Bro. Bob and Sis. Myrna Hoerr and Bro. Chris and Sis. Patty Kummer. Bro. Dustin and Sis. Erin Funk are thankful for their first-born, a son, named Oliver Judah, born October 11. Grandparents are Elder Bro. Tim and Sis. Debi Funk, and Sis. Jeanne Metzger (Champaign).

Congratulations and God's blessings to Bro. Grant and Sis. Mabelle Rauhaus who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary September 30.

Several in our congregation have experienced the death of a loved one this past month. Bro. Bob (Sis. Jill) Gangloff's mother, Beatrice Gangloff, passed away September 22. Bro. Merlyn (Sis. Judy) Metzger's father, Bro. Arnold Metzger (West Bend, IA), passed away October 10. Sis. Clara (Schneider) Huber passed away October 13. Please pray for these families.

Remember in your prayers those

who are suffering health issues: Bro. Bob (Sis. Betty) Miller, Sis. Maria Graham, Sis. Ilene (Bro. Bob) Haefli and Chad Blumenshine (Ron and Sis. Janet). Bro. Dan (Sis. Miriam) Messerli and Bro. Verle (Sis. Vonnie) Kieser have undergone surgery and are recovering.

Bro. Tim and Sis. Joan Reinhard and family report that it is very expensive for Haitian children to attend school. Many children are not going at all, others will start and not finish because of the cost. "It is truly a huge burden lifted from the whole family when a child gets a sponsor to carry them through their school years." Bro. Jonathan Aupperle is serving in Magdalena; please keep these dear ones and those they serve in your prayers.

Our hearts are heavy with sorrow as we report the tragic death of little Gabriel Reinhard. He passed away in Haiti on October 18 as a result of a motorcycle accident which has also injured his father, Bro. Tim, and sister, Sis. Sarah. More details are unknown at this time. Yet we know God cares! He provided for our stunned congregation with the reading from Psalm 136 – 26 verses, 26 times it is repeated, "for his mercy endureth for ever".

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

**Linda Joos
Connie Christ**

We warmly welcome Barb Smith, Jenna and Madison who are attending our church. They reside in Elmwood, IL. May God bless you.

Ministering brothers this month have been Bro. Ken Hoerr (Peoria, IL) and Bro. Willis Ehnle (Peoria, IL). We appreciate their visit and for bringing God's Word to us.

Emmy Graham (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Pam) is our new convert. May

God be near her during this time of repentance and conversion.

We extend our sympathy to Louise Martin (Gerald) as her brother, Donald Michel, recently passed away in Morton, IL.

Hospital patients have been Sis. Doreen Elsasser (Bro. Duane), Ethan Steffen (Bro. Matt and Sis. Deanna), Sis. Mary Lou Streitmatter (late Bro. Don), Sis. Emily Stoller (Bro. Joe), and Bro. Herb Rumbold (Sis. Diane). May God be near each of these dear ones.

Bro. Marvin and Sis. Lavonne Herrmann have a new granddaughter. Joni Lanae arrived September 26 to bless the home of Bro. Brett and Sis. Laura Herrmann (Tremont, IL). A new baby is such a miracle and gift from God.

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

**Jamie Hodel
Judy Sauder**

Daniel 1:8: "But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank." On September 23, Bro. Ken Hoerr (Peoria) led our monthly topical Bible study on Daniel. We thank him for his exhortations to us.

Bro. Larry and Sis. Sharon Neukomm became grandparents again on September 9 when Vivian Mae was born to Phil and Erin Neukomm of Secor. Older sister Grace and maternal grandparents, Dave and Nanci Hill of Peoria, also welcome Vivian home. Then on September 30, Oliver Chase was born to Bro. Zach and Sis. Penny Maher (Morton). Bro. Norm and Sis. Polly Zaugg (West Bend) and Bro. Dan and Sis. Kim Maher are Oliver's excited grandparents. We are so thankful for these new arrivals and

pray for God's blessings upon these dear families.

I Cor. 15:54: "... Death is swallowed up in victory." Bro. Barry (Sis. Beth) Ehresman (Gridley) went to be with the Lord on October 17. He was a brother-in-law to our Sis. Barb (Bro. Dave) Schwind. We extend our love and deepest sympathy to his dear family and pray for God's peace and comfort upon them.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT
Teresa Rowell
Janice Sauder

O, how lovely is the morning,
 When it is begun with God;
 Joy and thanks our hearts adorning,
 As behooves a child of God,
 Waking after night so fair
 In the Maker's gentle care,
 Rising without grief or sorrow
 To a new and joyful morrow.

Zion's Harp #166

Such beautiful words to start each day. It can really help a sagging spirit and a poor attitude if we take the time to read some of the verses in our Zion's Harp. The messages there can really lift us up to a higher plain and keep us from getting discouraged and bogged down in this world of sorrow and tears. It seems that as the world becomes more wicked, it is more important that we seek those things that are above and look to the Author and Finisher of our faith.

Bro. Nic Rassi (Bro. Curt and Sis. Kathy) and Sis. Amanda Wenger (Bloomington) have sought the guidance and answers of that very Author and Finisher as they announced their engagement. We want to pray that God's richest blessings be bestowed on them in this new life ahead.

Elder Bro. Jim Plattner (Sis.

Marlene, Princeville) and Elder Bro. Ted Witzig (Sis. Cindy, Morton) were here to preach the Word to us and to exhort our congregation on the qualifications of an elder. Our Elder Bro. Charles Sauder is retiring due to his health issues. Our congregation has been asked to be prayerful during this important transition.

We are excited to announce three new babies in our church. Joni Lanae was born to Bro. Brett and Sis. Laura Herrmann. Bryce is her big brother and Bro. Howard and Sis. Janice Sauder are her grandparents. Bro. Paul and Sis. Beth Wagenbach, Jesse and Olivia are happy to have baby Sophia Beth join their family. Grandparents are Bro. Ron and Sis. Liz Wagenbach and Bro. Dan and Sis. Dorothy Virkler (Rockville, CT). Bro. Akihiro and Sis. Carrie Ito are very excited to have Tomoki Charles join their family. Tomoki's grandparent is Elder Bro. Charles Sauder (the late Sis. Miriam).

And as always in this world we have those who suffer afflictions of the flesh. Sis. Marilyn Huette (Bro. Bill) and Bro. Alvin Beutel (Sis. Carol) have spent some time in the hospital. We pray a speedy recovery for them and any who we have not heard about.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON
Nancy Leman
Linda Folkerts

"For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith. For as we have many members in one body, and all

members have not the same office: So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another."

Romans 12:3-5

God has created and fearfully formed each one in our family of Christ. We are all so uniquely different and bring with us a wide array of talent and spiritual gifts. We were eager to hold our first annual Appreciation Potluck. It was truly a joy to spend a potluck evening of praise and fellowship while also formally extending an outward appreciation to the ministering brothers, their wives and families.

The weekend of October 10-11 we welcomed the Detroit Choir. It was a weekend filled with God's praise and presence as they shared with us their musical talents.

The visiting ministers that shared the Word with us this month included: Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Sis. Bev, Detroit, MI), Bro. Tom Bolliger (Sis. Jane, Tremont, IL), Bro. Jesse Bedolla (Sis. Bonnie) and Bro. Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue), both of Detroit, MI.

We continually lift up the members in our body of Christ that are suffering from physical hardships: Bro. Ed Teubel as he continues with rehabilitation following his back surgery and Sis. Sue Ruppert as she was recently hospitalized.

"Delight thyself also in the LORD: and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass."

Psalms 37:4-5

Bro. Russ and Sis. Sally Plattner are delighted to announce the engagement of their daughter, Sis.

Trisha, to Bro. Kyle Fiechter. He is the son of Bro. Kevin and Sis. Brenda Fiechter of Leo, IN.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

Grace Gerber

Kim Meyer

Greetings to all of you in the name of Christ Jesus our King and Lord. It's really a bit of a cliché here in Bluffton to begin a sermon with, "Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ..." No offense meant to our wonderful ministers, of course. As it turns out, the Greek root for "greet" means "full of cheer" or "be well off". So when we hear, "Greetings in the name of Jesus..." what we could say is, "Be full of cheer because of Jesus!" Now for some, "greetings" is just another way of saying "hello", but isn't it marvelous to encourage one another with a hearty, "Be full of cheer! Jesus is King!" What a fantastic way to say "hello" to one another—face to face and through writing. We certainly can be full of cheer in Jesus our Lord.

Here in Bluffton, we pray that those who are suffering and hurting can be full of cheer as well as those of us who are in good health. We've been lifting up our Sis. Vergene Reinhard in prayer as she had a small tumor removed. God has also put Katelyn Pfister (daughter of Bro. Rich and Sis. Amber) on our hearts as she broke her arm while in Les Cayes, Haiti. We certainly do pray for Katelyn and the entire Pfister family as they serve the Lord in Haiti away from family, friends and the Bluffton congregation. We pray for all those who are going through trials at this time, for their healing and that God would bless them with peace, joy, and endurance.

We certainly rejoice with those

who are rejoicing right now (Romans 12:15). We praise our Lord for two engagements this month. He has definitely been working in the lives of four young Christians. Bro. Lance Fiechter (Bro. Rick and Sis. Beth) and Sis. Sara Reinhard (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Shelly) were announced for engagement this last month as well as Bro. Ryan Steffen (Bro. Keith and Sis. Kay, Bluffton North) and Sis. Jamy Fiechter (Bro. Jim and Sis. Jenny). We are very happy for them.

Two couples were also married this month. Bro. Matt Freed (Bro. Tom and Sis. Kathy, Indianapolis) and Sis. Julie Reinhard (Bro. Larry and Sis. Deb) were joined in marriage as well as Bro. Justin Steffen (Bro. Duane and Sis. Karen) and Sis. Larissa Witzig (Morton, IL).

This month has also been a big month for travelling ministers. Thanks to all who came. We were blessed to have Bro. John Bradle (Sis. Jill, Roanoke), Bro. Ron Bollier (Sis. Edie, Indianapolis), Bro. Seth Gerber (Magdalena, MX), and Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Sis. Leonda, Leo) come and share the Word of God with us.

There is more! We were blessed with two newborns this month. On September 17, Bro. Jeff and Sis. Gretchen Moser welcomed little Crew Mark Moser. The excited grandparents are Bro. Mark and Sis. Wanda Moser. We were also happy to say a big "hello" to Marley Marie Johnson on September 22, daughter of Adam and Megan Johnson. Bro. Tim and Sis. Angela Pfister are the grandparents! Thanks be to the Lord for His goodness.

Truly the Lord has been faithful this month as He is in every month. Let us praise Him every day!

INDIANA BLUFFTON NORTH Jessie Longenberger Sherry Pfister

"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

Greetings from Bluffton North!

We rejoice that Barb Brando has made a beginning in the Lord this past month.

Our thoughts have been with Sis. Maureen Reinhard (Bro. Roger) as she has undergone back surgery this past week. Sis. Fern Leman had surgery on her neck earlier this month. Thankfully, their surgeries went well and we lift them up in our prayers that they can be granted speedy recoveries.

We have an engagement announcement to report. Sis. Jamy Fiechter (Bro. Jim and Sis. Jenny, Bluffton) was announced to Bro. Ryan Steffen (Bro. Keith and Sis. Kay). We pray for God's blessings as this dear couple prepares for this special time in their lives.

We were thankful to have visiting ministers this past month. Sharing God's Word with us were Bro. Allen Stoller (Sis. Susan, Bluffton) and Bro. Troy Leyse (Sis. Kelly, Bluffton).

Bro. Jesse and Sis. Janel Frauhiger are the parents of a new baby girl, Tess Elizabeth, born October 5. Tess joins brother Drew and sisters Kylie and Emma. Grandparents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Irene Frauhiger and Bro. Keith and Sis. Kay Steffen. Great-grandparents are Bro. Ted Kaehr, Bro. Bill and Sis.

Betty Frauhiger, Bro. Harry and Sis. Betty Steffen, and Bro. Alvin and Sis. Bernice Fiechter.

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

Psalm 100

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE
Jacki Huber
Mildred Clauss

Recently I have heard the following words in a song, and they seem to express the battle we face as Christians, every day.

“I die to my ambitions,
I die to selfish pride,
I take up my cross and cast my will
aside.
My life upon the altar of sacrifice I
lay—
What joy to live and die another day.”

I ask myself if I consider it a joy each day to take up my cross, and die to self? I must admit I don't always feel joyful as I struggle by God's grace to die to self, but when He gives the grace to surrender, the peace that comes brings great joy!

The Francesville congregation was blessed to host College Weekend the weekend of October 17-18. The inspirational messages and songs supported “taking up our crosses daily to follow Christ”. Ministers who shared with the group on Satur-

day were our Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein, Bro. Fred Witzig (Sis. Nancy, formerly of Indianapolis, IN), and Bro. John Reinhard (Sis. Pam, Bluffton, IN). We wish to thank each of them for the time they took to prepare, and also thank the students who came and blessed us with their presence and beautiful singing.

As was mentioned in last month's Silver Lining, four dear ones were announced for peace, and were baptized on the weekend of October 3-4. We welcome into God's family Sisters Keelin and Katie Isch (Bro. Burt and Sis. Karlene), Alisha Gutwein (Bro. Jan and Sis. Val) and Bro. Jonathan Pelsy (Bro. Roger and Sis. Lily).

Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Sis. Leonda, Leo, IN) assisted our Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein with their testimonies on Saturday evening, and ministering Bro. Mark Wettstein (Sis. Karen, LaCrosse, IN) shared with us on Sunday. We are grateful to both of them for coming, and pray the Lord's blessing on them for giving of themselves.

On Sunday evening, September 27, at our Monthly Hymn Sing, we were blessed to have several with us from Gateway Woods to share their experiences and give us information about the many ministries there. Our thanks to Bro. Tim Sauder (Sis. Jenny) who serves as Advancement Director, Bro. Jared and Sis. Molly Steffen who are full time houseparents, Sis. Rachel (Bro. Jason) Klopfenstein who is a Foster Care Case Manager, and Sis. Emily Gutwein who is currently an Intern in the Foster Care Department.

Bro. Jason and Sis. Joy Huber are parents to a precious baby girl, Jayla Jo, who was born to them on September 27. Bro. Jerry and Sis.

Janice Gutwein and Bro. John and Sis. Bev Huber are the happy grandparents.

We are rejoicing with Sis. Tess Gutwein (Bro. Jan and Sis. Val) as her engagement was recently announced to Bro. Dan Leman (Elder Bro. Mike and Sis. Deb) of Denver, CO. We pray the Lord's blessings on them as they make their plans together for the future. “A man's heart deviseth his way, but the Lord directeth his steps.” (Proverbs 16:9)

We pray God's continued nearness and healing hand on Bro. Jim Bogart (Sis. Eleanor) who was a hospital patient, and Sis. Eileen Boehning, who is recovering from a recent knee surgery.

INDIANA
INDIANAPOLIS
Gail Bradford
Sandy Lichtle

The weekend of September 19-20 was a time of rejoicing as we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of four precious souls: Bro. Zachary Baumgartner (Bro. Greg and Sis. Missy), Sis. Megan Gudeman (Bro. Tim and Sis. Mim), Sis. Kaylin Leuthold (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Doreen), and Sis. Stacey Lichtle (Bro. John and Sis. Sandy). We pray that God's grace and strength will be with them as they serve the Lord and trust in Him for their future plans. Elder Bros. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign, IL) and Lynn Fiechter (Sis. Ronda, Bluffton, IN) were with us for this joyous occasion. We appreciate their labors of love and servant hearts.

Additionally, we want to thank Bro. Tim Hohulin (Sis. Cathy, Roanoke, IL), Bro. Jeff Waibel (Sis. Margo, Leo, IN), and Bro. Matt Kaufmann (Sis. Rebekah, Bloomington, IL) for their willing-

ness to be used in the Lord's service.

We rejoice with Bro. Tom and Sis. Kathy Freed as their son, Bro. Matthew Freed (Bluffton, IN), and Sis. Julie Reinhard (Bro. Larry and Sis. Deb, Bluffton, IN) were united in marriage on October 4 in Bluffton, IN. We wish them God's richest blessings upon their new life together in the Lord.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy and prayers to Sis. Edey Mayer as her sister, Sis. Martha Oesch (Mansfield, OH), went to be with the Lord on October 4. We pray for God's peace and comfort to be with Sis. Edey in the days ahead.

INDIANA, LACROSSE

**Bethany Johnson
Julie Roche**

Greetings of love from LaCrosse! The weather has been kind of dreary here the past couple of weeks and it is hard for the farmers to get in the fields. Fall has set in though, with the beautiful colors of the leaves and the chill in the air. Another season has come and it is time to get out the sweaters, coats and hats. Let us remember that God's harvest is bountiful and His love will keep us warm in the months ahead.

We would like to thank Bro. Dean Messner (Sis. Wanda, Winthrop, MN) for bringing us God's Word this past month. Your labor of love is appreciated!

Sis. Nicole (Bro. Owen) Gudeman and Bro. Brendon Messner's grandfather passed away this month, Bro. Arnold Metzger, from West Bend, IA. Also, our Sis. Lorene Moser went on to her heavenly home. She had been living at Parkview Haven for the past few years. Our prayers are with the families as they mourn the loss of their loved ones.

We rejoice that another soul has

seen the need for a Saviour. Lindsay Schneider (Bro. Calvin and Sis. Jeannie) has begun the walk of repentance, and we pray that God will bless and guide her as she seeks to follow Him.

INDIANA, LEO

**Elizabeth Schrenk
Abigail Schrenk**

"Whoso stoppeth his ears at the cry of the poor, he also shall cry himself, but shall not be heard."

Proverbs 21:13

What a challenging verse. Last Sunday, one of our ministers addressed the issue of materialism. How would our influence on the world be different if we were whole-heartedly generous?

The first weekend of October, we all got together for our annual All Church Picnic. It was nice to spend an afternoon together in fellowship.

Our prayers and sympathies are with Sis. Elaine (Norr) Stoller. Her husband, Bro. Willis Stoller, went home to be with our Lord. We pray God will be near her and comfort her in the coming months.

On October 18, the engagement of Bro. Kyle Fiechter to Sis. Trisha Plattner was announced. We rejoice with parents, Bro. Kevin and Sis. Brenda Fiechter and Bro. Russ and Sis. Sally Plattner (Washington).

Looking ahead, October 31, will be the testimony of Sam Kaufman. We are looking forward to hearing how the Lord has worked and shaped his heart.

INDIANA, MILFORD

**Carol Hurd
Pam Beer**

My sin, oh the bliss of this glorious thought

My sin, not in part but the whole,
Is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more.

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, oh my soul!

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

Our Milford congregation is rejoicing with the angels in heaven that our dear friends, Jesus and Norma Terrazas, have found peace and look forward to their approaching testimony and baptism in the near future.

Bro. Troy Wuthrich (Sis. Briana) had surgery and Sis. Carol Hurd (Bro. John) spent some time in the hospital. We are thankful that they are both home recovering and look forward to having them back worshipping with us.

INDIANA, REMINGTON

**Jenni Honegger
Marcella Tyler**

Fall is now officially here, and watching the trees lose their leaves reminds us that colder temperatures are on the way. The chill in the air makes me think of those who are always cold, regardless of the weather, simply because their hearts seem to be frozen with bitterness and sin. Sometimes I wonder how the Lord could ever get through to such a person. But the Word reminds me not to despair – that the powerful warmth of the Father's love can melt even the coldest of hearts!

We are thankful for the visiting Elders who joined us one Wednesday

night along with the Wolcott congregation: Elder Bros. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, LaCrosse, IN), Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH), and Lynn Stieglitz (Sis. Leonda, Leo, IN). We want to thank these brothers for the great love they show for us in giving of their time and effort for our benefit.

On September 27, Amanda Price wed Narendra Kashiram Tankasali. Amanda is the daughter of Sis. Jayne Price and Mike Price. We wish them God's blessings as they start their live together.

Note of Thanks:

I would like to thank all those who have and continue to send get well cards as well as birthday wishes. Also for the food, telephone calls, and especially the many prayers on my behalf. May God bless our church family.

Sis. Arlene (Bro. Earl) Kilgus

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

**Joshua Martinez
Rachel Langhofer**

With the changing seasons we are reminded of the different seasons in our lives. This month we are excited to announce the birth of two new souls. Hunter was born to Josh and Jessica Clyde. Older sisters, Hailee and Hanna, welcome him home. Bro. Scott and Sis. Gigi Schafer became grandparents again when their son, Bro. Caleb, and his wife, Sis. Laura (San Marcos, TX), had their first child, Liliana Lee. We are very excited for them as they welcome this new life into their home!

We thank the Lord that our Sis. Pauline Laidig, who has not been doing well recently, is recovering. She's been able to get out of bed and into a wheelchair. Praise the Lord for His continuing faithfulness.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO

Marguerite Hoerr

The first Sunday of October brought us our Harvest program and dinner. Ministering Bro. Herb Knochel and Sis. Laurie (Phoenix) were visiting Laurie's parents, Bro. Lyle and Sis. Marilyn Zeltwanger, and they could be with us on this weekend. Bro. Lyle opened the program by depicting a bountiful harvest in a way that we will remember. He showed a full ear of corn with the husk pulled back. He noted that there were fourteen rows on this particular ear and there were 46 kernels in each row. He held up one small kernel to show what was planted to grow into this ear of corn which produced 644 kernels. When one thinks of a field of corn producing in this way, we truly can be amazed how bountiful harvests occur, with God's blessings and help.

This was exemplified over and over during the program, by poems read, by songs sung and by Bro. Herb's inspirational talk at the close of the program. It was soul enriching. Following this we all congregated in the dining room where the men of our church treated us to a bountiful harvest meal, prepared by them and served by them.

We have another kind of bountiful harvest in our little Valpo church. Four girls, college age through high school, have made known that they are turning their lives over to their Lord and Savior. When we speak of this harvest of souls, we see the truest blessings of God. They are Tasia Weiss (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Marsha), Hannah and Rachel Zeller (twin daughters of Bro. Joe and Sis. Jackie), and LaToya Thomas (ministering Bro. Mike and Sis. Claudia).

Bob recently found an old "Songs and Hymns of Zion" that was given to him by his grandmother, Sis. Sophia Weisser, in the year 1944. There were 140 songs in this book, which we think was one of the original published by my uncle, Bro. Henry Beer of the Milford, IN, congregation. Uncle Henry had long felt the need to save hymns from the "Heft" (the long book), so later on these were incorporated into this hymnal. Particularly of interest to us were the singing lessons at the back of the book. He showed the tenor and bass clefs, what voices sing in those clefs, how to beat time, using the correct patterns, and what the different time signatures mean. On the last page of the lessons he showed the signs of movements, and what they meant; i.e. largo (slow & solemn) and andante (moving gracefully) and the different terms of expression, such as Pianissimo (very soft), Forte (strong and loud). Bro. Henry taught these things to his Sunday school students. (I was fortunate to be one of those students.) When showing this book to Sis. Gwen Bucher, she said that her husband's father, Bro. Bert Bucher (LaCrosse, IN), also gave those kinds of lessons in Sunday school. Bro. Lyle Zeltwanger said he was taught with lessons like these when he was in Sunday school. One marvels at our leaders in song, who do these things correctly Sunday after Sunday, and lead us in worshipful singing.

Bro. Tim and Sis. Julie Bucher will be attending a wedding in Canada this next week. On October 24, their son Casey and Ginelle Bakker will be joined in marriage. The wedding will take place in Fenwick, Canada. Ginelle's parents are Sydney and Patti Bakker. Casey and Ginelle will visit his parents in December

and we will have an opportunity to honor them at a reception while they're here. We ask God to bless their marriage, and we'll look forward to seeing them soon.

Don't forget our location just 2 1/2 miles South of U. S. 30 on IN 49 S. The harvest is ongoing and the leaves on the trees have taken on their fall splendor. God has been using His paintbrush to bring out the awe of nature for our souls' replenishment.

**INDIANA
WEST LAFAYETTE
Darlene Walder
Hollie Meister**

We thank God for His continued provision in supplying our every need and we have discovered over and over again that His blessings rest upon so many decisions. We were thankful to report our groundbreaking ceremony for our new church last month and this month we are thankful to report that we had the closing on our existing church and are so grateful God provided another church family to purchase it and can call it their own. For the next six months we will be sharing the building with them for our Sunday services and midweek activities also. Please be aware that our morning worship service will begin at 11:15 am instead of 10:00 am, these next six months. The Lord willing, we hope to be in our new facility on Easter Sunday, April 4, 2010.

On October 4, we had a special sending service for our Bro. Blake Widmer as he has committed to moving to Jamaica to be the World Relief Work Team coordinator at the Deaf Villages. He will also have the role of mentor for all the deaf children, especially the boys, as they have never

had a consistent male role model in their lives. We wish him the Lord's blessing and nearness as he takes this important step of faith in his life. He appreciates all your prayer support. Worshipping with us and giving very inspiring words to Blake and all of us, were Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke) and Bro. Ted Hirstein (Morton). Thanks for serving our congregation.

We also want to thank some other visiting ministers that came throughout this past month for our midweek services. They are Bros. Al Schambach (Remington), Nile Bucher (Bluffton North) and Ron Bollier (Indianapolis). Thanks, Brothers.

We are thankful to hear that Andre Gutwein was able to recover from his surgery and he is up and around again after a lot of struggle with the infection in his leg.

May God be with us all as we enter into the fall and winter months of the year. May we all stay warm and safe.

**INDIANA, WOLCOTT
Donita Edelman
Lynell Blume**

Bro. Larry and Sis. Lynell Blume have a precious little granddaughter to love. Bro. Brian and Sis. Cherise Blume (Detroit, MI) have adopted Ellyana Chernet from Ethiopia. Her brothers, B.J and Zach, are happy for a new sister and playmate. Also sharing the grandparenting role are Bro. John and Sis. Cheryl Knobloch (Morton, IL). May God grant these parents strength and wisdom as they raise their family.

Our congregation was truly blessed the weekend of September 26-27 as we welcomed four souls into the fold. We welcome Sis. Adrienne Lehman (Bro. Greg and Sis. Mary

Beth), Sis. Samantha Edelman (Bro. Kip and Sis. Donita), Bro. Joshua Furrer and Sis. Michelle Furrer (Bro. Troy and Sis. Lisa). We pray these four dear souls will continue to look to the Lord for guidance throughout their lives. With us for this blessed weekend were Elder Bros. Ted Steffen (Sis. Sandy, Alto, MI), Rick Plattner (Sis. Mary, Fairbury, IL), and Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Remington, IN); Bro. Garry Bucher (Sis. Lois, Valparaiso, IN) also shared the weekend with us. We thank these brothers for being so willing to share with us.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Bro. Mike and Sis. Glenna Minniear and their family in the passing of Bro. Mike's mother, Gladys Minniear. May God be their Comforter.

On a recent Wednesday evening we were blessed with visiting Elder Bros. Lynn Stieglitz (Sis. Leonda, Leo, IN), Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, La-Crosse, IN), Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH) and Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Remington, IN). May God be their rich Rewarder for lending themselves for us.

We had our annual wiener roast and singing at Bro. John and Sis. RuthAnn Lehman's woods. This was an evening that was enjoyed by young and old alike. We thank Bro. John and Sis. RuthAnn for all their efforts and their kind invitation.

The funeral of Judy Heinzelman was held on October 10. We extend our sympathy to her dear husband, Frank, and their children. We will miss Judy's smiling face on Sunday mornings. We wish God's comfort upon Frank and family at this very difficult time in their lives.

Bro. Gene Lehman (Sis. Verna) has spent some time in the hospital. We pray for healing and a speedy re-

covery. At the time of this writing, Bro. Gene is scheduled for surgery and we pray all goes well and he will soon be assembling with us again.

IOWA, BLOOMFIELD
Christy Wiegand

The road in front of our church has been torn up all summer but now we are going week to week not knowing if we will be able to gather at our church building or not. We will be very thankful for our new road when it is complete. Thanks to all the visitors that have found their way to church despite the winding around town and rough gravel road to our church building. It reminds us of how use we get to conveniences in our lives and how thankful we should be that our "inconvenience" is trying to get to our church building instead of trying to have church in secret so we don't get arrested.

We rejoice with Bro. Dan and Sis. Barbara Rokey at the arrival of their daughter, Faith Ann, on October 14. Excited and thankful grandparents are Elder Bro. Doug and Sis. Clara Schock and Bro. Ken and Sis. Phyllis Rokey (Goodfield).

We thank Bro. Galen Rokey (Sis. Nancy, Bern) and Bro. Gerald Wagenbach (Sis. Bonnie, Oakville) for coming and ministering to us. We also thank ministering Bro. Craig Martin (Sis. Terri, Princeville) for coming to talk to our Bible class on Sunday, October 12. Bloomfield hosted the annual gathering of Taylor, Burlington, Oakville, Iowa City, Garden Grove, and Bloomfield Bible classes.

IOWA, BURLINGTON
Dixie Messner
Karla Gerst

Oh, my Lord Jesus, Thee I pray,
My heart for Thee make useful;
And for Thy seed prepare the way.
Grant that it may be fruitful!
Yea, fruits of virtue, grace and love,
That follow me to heav'n above –
For this, O Lord, I pray Thee!
Zion's Harp #108, vs. 10

We appreciated having ministering Bro. Dale Frank (Oakville) with us this month. May the Lord reward him for his willingness to sow the seed from the Word. There is always a blessing, if our hearts are prepared to receive the seed that is cast.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Ray and Alice Defenbaugh as Alice's mother, Ardith Norris, has passed from this earthly life. Times like these give us much to reflect on – past memories, present blessings though through trial, and preparation for a future blessed hope.

Bro. Paul Eisenmann had extra medical care this month. We trust that God has provided once again for the "earthly tabernacle".

IOWA, ELGIN
Maria Rocke

Our Elder Bro. Wayne Grimm and his wife, Sis. Rose (West Bend, IA), were here the last weekend in September. We appreciate all their labors done on the behalf of our congregation. Also visiting this month was ministering Bro. Paul Eisenmann (Sis. Elaine, Burlington, IA), and we thank him for sharing God's Word with us.

Kent and Katie Schupbach, along with their children, Ava, Ella and Brody, welcomed a new little girl into their family. Brynly Kayt was born on October 2. Thankful grand-

parents are Bro. John and Sis. Janet Schupbach and Brad and Peggy Rekow.

As a little child relies
On a care beyond its own,
Being neither strong nor wise,
Fears to take a step alone.
Let me thus with Thee abide,
As my Father, Friend and Guide.
Hymns of Zion #15

IOWA, IOWA CITY
Diana Butikofer

We welcome our college students to the area. We also wish Jacob Snodgrass and Sis. Rachel Snodgrass (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Becky) well as they leave us to start college this fall at Dordt College and assemble with the brethren in Lester.

Our newly elected trustee is Bro. Larry Peterson (Sis. Emily) and Sis. Joyce Eland (Bro. Brad) was elected to the Women's Committee. We thank Bro. Wayne Snodgrass (Sis. Becky) and Sis. Sharon Gerst for their service in these positions!

We thank Bro. Bruce and Sis. Bonita Frank (Cissna Park, IL) and Bro. Phil and Sis. Kelli Schulz (Burlington, IA) for their visit and willingness to preach God's Word to us.

IOWA, LESTER
Gloria Moser
Polly Metzger

Levi, Lydia and Loren Van Wyhe welcomed their new sister, Larae Marie. She was born on October 2 to Bro. Monty and Sis. Bethany, and her grandparents are Bro. Pete and Sis. Susan and Bro. Bruce and Sis. Bonita Frank (Cissna Park, IL). May they feel God's blessings as they raise their family.

We have many dear souls in our

community who suffer from afflictions and those who are taking treatments. We continue to pray for them and our hospital patients, Glen Alderson (Char), Amy Knobloch (Dallas), and David Warner (Bro. Stan and Sis. Sue). May they feel God's nearness as they endure their cross.

September 5 was the date Josh (Jim and Ronda Thielen) and Jessica TeSlaa chose for their wedding day. Ashley Metzger (Bro. Bill and Sis. Charlotte) and Tobin Hartzler (Latty - son of Bro. Tom and Sis. Diane, Rittman, OH) were married on October 10. Sarah DeHaan (Bro. Tim and Lois) and Ron Schultz were united in marriage on October 17. We wish all of these dear couples God's nearness and guidance as they establish their homes.

My sin - oh, the bliss of this glorious thought

My sin - not in part but the whole,

Is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more.

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, oh, my soul!

Gospel Hymns #573

On September 27, Ross Mogler (Bro. Rodney and Sis. Lois) was announced for peace. We wish him God's nearness as he awaits his proving and baptism.

We thank our visiting ministers, Bro. Bruce Frank (Cissna Park, IL) and Bro. Todd Stoller (Latty, OH). We appreciate their efforts and sharing the Word with us.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Bro. Chuck and Sis. Coralee Knobloch and their family in the loss of her brother, Ken Gerritsen. Bro. Arnold Metzger

(West Bend, IA) passed away on October 10. We give our sympathy to his brother and sisters-in-law, Bro. Art and Sis. Elgeva Knobloch and Sis. Viola Kellenberger, and his many nieces and nephews. May God comfort all these dear souls.

IOWA, OAKVILLE Sharla Wiegand

"My Lord, an offering do I bring, my heart I give to thee." (Zion's Harp #163). The weekend of September 26-27, we were privileged to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of Whitney Wagenbach (Bro. Colin and Sis. Barb), Karrie Wagenbach (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Bonnie, Jr.) and Stephanie Massner (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Lois). With us on this special occasion were Elder Bro. Ben Walder (Congerville, IL), Bro. Matt Steffen (Princeville, IL) and Bro. Phil Schulz (Burlington, IA).

Our Elder Bro. Jon and Sis. Julie Schmidgall recently spent a week in Eastern Europe along with Elder Bro. Peter and Sis. Miriam Petrovic of San Diego, CA, to oversee the self-help projects in Serbia. Although they had some sickness toward the end of the trip, it was a profitable journey and we are very thankful for their safe travels.

IOWA, WEST BEND Sue Schneider Janet Fehr

What a special blessing it was to enjoy the fellowship and messages of Bro. Dale Wulf (Sis. Becky, Lester, IA), Bro. Ron Joos (Sis. Christy, Bloomfield, IA), Bro. Ken Schneider (Sis. Bernice, Remington, IN), and Bro. Gary Anliker (Sis. Edith, Elgin, IL). These ministering brothers and their wives recently spent a week-

end in West Bend. We thank them for their labors.

Russell Mark Fehr is the newly adopted precious son of Bro. Barry and Sis. Molly Fehr. He was born on September 28 and his older brothers, Calvin and Troy, helped welcome him into their home. Russell's loving grandparents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Eunice Fehr and Mark and Lori Skoglund. May God provide much grace to all parents as they raise their children to know and love Him.

October 4 was the wedding date for Bro. Alan Banwart (Irene) and Sis. Holly Wales (Donald Wales and Sis. Carol Wales). They were married in Kansas City. May this young couple continue to feel God's presence in their hearts and newly established home.

On Saturday, October 10, a dear brother in faith, Bro. Arnold Metzger, passed from this life. Left to cherish his memory are his eleven children, Bro. Duane (Sis. Ruth) Metzger and Sis. Karen (Bro. Eldon) Banwart of West Bend, IA; Galen (Mary Jo) Metzger of Mediapolis, IA; Sis. Jane (Bro. Carlos) Meiss of Fairbury, IL; Bro. Harlan (Sis. Shirley) Metzger of Eureka, IL; Bro. Merlyn (Sis. Judy) of Dunlap, IL; Ione (Linden) Venhuizen of Algona, IA; Sis. Ellen (Bro. Kenneth) Dahlhauser of Whittemore, IA; Sis. Sharolyn (Bro. Doug) Hohulin of Aurora, CO; Sis. Wanda (Bro. Dean) Messner of Gaylord, MN; and Sis. Lois (Bro. Gary) Steffen of Elgin, IL. Also sharing his memory are 37 grandchildren and 49 great-grandchildren, and one sister, Sis. Darlene Metzger, and one sister-in-law, Sis. Della Metzger, both of West Bend. May God comfort this large family.

Our sympathy is also extended to Sis. Ella Schneider at the loss of her

sister-in-law, Frances Thomsen, Ellendale, ND.

Bro. Albert Banwart, Sis. Doris Banwart, and Sis. Wendy (Bro. John) Fehr were all hospitalized during the past month. May the blessing of good health be restored to each ailing individual.

As Thanksgiving time approaches, may we all take time to be thankful for all that God has done for us as David did ... "Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name." (Psalm 100:4)

JAPAN, SHIODA

Carrie Ito

We are thankful to announce the safe arrival of Tomoki Charles Ito, born to Bro. Akihiro and Sis. Carrie! The grandparents are Elder Bro. Charles (late Sis. Miriam) of Tremont and Nobuyuki and Kazuyo Ito of Tokyo. In Japan, Chinese characters (kanji) are chosen to make the baby's name. In this case, the first kanji is the symbol for wisdom and the second symbol is for hope. We hope and pray that this little baby can grow in the wisdom of the Lord and serve Him faithfully some day. We pray for wisdom to parent him and are thankful for the great hope that he has and continues to provide for us. Indeed children are a blessing from the Lord!

We were also blessed and encouraged by a visit from Sis. Vicki Ramseyer from Bay City.

JAPAN, TOKYO

Jana Klaus

September 23, a national holiday (fall equinox), was our annual church cleaning day—it was so good to all work together and fellowship

over a pizza lunch.

Then, in early October we enjoyed worship and fellowship with Bro. Tom and Sis. Jill Furrer and sons, Bro. Ben and Daniel (Morris, MN). We thank Bro. Tom for his afternoon Bible study on Proverbs 3, especially focusing on verses 5 and 6: "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct thy paths." He spoke of how these verses reminded him of his mother, who had recently passed away, and how this is advice she would want him to follow.

At the end of October, we appreciated another visit from Sis. Vicki Ramseyer (Bay City, MI) and also Sis. Eiko Nozawa (Shioda) with whom Vicki would be staying.

Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to our Sis. Haruyo Onoda at the passing of her dear elderly mother. Thank you for prayers for those in mourning.

We extend our hearty congratulations to Bro. Akihiro and Sis. Carrie Ito (Shioda) on the birth of their first child, Tomoki Charles, on October 17. What joy and blessings a newborn brings! We are so thankful for the addition to our church family.

KANSAS, BERN

Sheri Edelman

Jill Meyer

Our Sunday School Bible Class enjoyed the annual Youth Fellowship Weekend, held this year in Kiowa. We thank the Kiowa church for their efforts and hospitality!

Serving us by preaching the Word this last month were Bros. Ron Isch (Sis. Jane; Lamont-Gridley), David Hartter (Sis. Beth; Sabetha), Kevin Banwart (Sis. Sandy; West Bend)

and Jeff Bahler (Sis. Heidi; Wolcott). May God bless each of them for their willingness to be used by the Spirit.

Our prayers and sympathy are with Bro. Galen and Sis. Nancy Rokey on the sudden passing of his brother, Bro. Garry Rokey (Sis. Marty; Kansas City). We pray the Rokey family can feel a peace amidst the heartache and receive God's grace to adapt to these difficult changes.

Even though the weather brought early frigid temperatures, we were blessed as we gathered indoors for our Fall picnic. Our appreciation is extended to all who helped with this annual event.

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT

Martin Hohulin Sr.

The month of September and early October have been eventful with much rain. On the 8th, we had a downpour of 7 inches. The crops have plenty of moisture, but the late soybeans could use some drying weather. God has blessed our area as yields have been good.

Sis. Lillian Fischer has had further knee surgery, but is back in church. Sis. Betty Lemons will have hip surgery October 14. She has endured a lot of pain. Sis. Janelle Wuthrich was hospitalized in September, but is recovering. Bro. Bill Boge and Sis. Lucille Schutter are in the hospital as of this writing. We are always thankful for the healing and recovery of our dear ones. Our Loving Master does the healing, but the doctor gets the money!

Bro. Lonnie and Sis. Debbie Banwart hosted a wiener roast at Bro. Jeff and Sis. Gloria Fischer's home in the country. The entire church congregation was invited.

My wife, Sis. Edith, and our daughter, Bonnie Beutel, hosted an

annual get-together of the female descendants of Bro. Carl and Sis. Lillian Kaiser. Bro. Carl and Sis. Lillian made their home in Morton, IL, for many years. Our son, Bubs Hohulin, drove us to Indianapolis where the event was held. While there, we were happy to see two of our grandsons and a future granddaughter-in-law.

Several in our fellowship lost loved ones. Sis. Wilma (Bahr) Farney, who was over 90 years old, was relieved of her earthly cross. She was a sister to Bro. Jim (Sis. Ruth) Bahr and Sis. Anna Lou Aberle. Levi Arnold, husband of Alyssa (Banwart) Arnold, lost his grandmother, Erma Jean Hazelwood Davis, on October 7 in Arizona. The funeral was October 17 in Fort Scott. Parting is sad, but there is comfort when we witness the death of a believer in Christ.

We enjoyed a blessed weekend on October 10-11 when Bro. Craig and Sis. Jackie Stickling, along with their converted daughters, visited us from Peoria, IL. The entire church congregation was invited to Bro. Jeff and Sis. Gloria Fischer's home for supper and singing on Saturday evening. Bro. Craig had the services on Sunday. The Spirit was evident as he poured out his heart for the spiritual message to us. We certainly appreciate our Brothers on the pulpit.

KANSAS, KIOWA
Jenny Stewart
Janice Bahr

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

Luke 15:7

There is also great joy in the Ki-

owa congregation, as Matt and Courtney Schupbach have chosen to walk with their Lord and give their lives to serving Him. They have found peace and we are looking forward to hearing their testimonies in the very near future. May God richly bless them as He leads them in His precious ways!

"I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day; and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."

II Timothy 4:7-8

We extend our deepest love and sympathy to the family of Sis. Matilda (Tillie) Diel, who fell asleep this past month in the arms of her Lord and Saviour at the age of 87 years. She was such a dear sister in faith, and though she had been in the rest home for a long time, we will greatly miss her as she always loved having us come to sing and pray with her.

I recently had the blessed privilege of visiting our daughter, Sis. Stephanie Bahr, and the CVE in Magdalena De Kino, Mexico. There are many challenges for those who have given of their time and lives to work on or near the campus, but the love and joy I experience from the children every time I go there, makes me see how much need there is in this world for someone (besides God) to care and do something to help. God bless all who care and help and pray.

We had the privilege of hosting the area high school Sunday School get-together weekend in September, and truly enjoyed the exceptional young people who attended

the gathering. Ministering Bro. Chris Wuethrich (Sis. Carla, St. Louis, MO) joined us for the weekend, and we were very grateful to Bro. Chris for lending himself with words of biblical truth, not only to the adults, but also to these precious young minds and hearts!

With Thanksgiving just around the corner, this poem reminded me of how very much we have to be thankful for:

A Thanksgiving Prayer
(Samuel F. Pugh)

Oh, God, when I have food
 help me to remember the hungry;
 When I have work, help me
 to remember the jobless;
 When I have a warm home,
 help me to remember the homeless;
 When I am without pain,
 help me to remember those who suffer;
 And remembering, help me
 to destroy my complacency
 and bestir my compassion.
 Make me concerned enough
 to help, by word and deed,
 those who cry out
 for what we take for granted.

KANSAS
LAMONT-GRIDLEY
Ester Knobloch

Thy word, O Lord, draws us together
 In mutual fellowship to stand;
 It kindles in our hearts forever
 The flames of faith and love's sweet
 band.

Zion's Harp #63, vs. 1

We are thankful for the times that we can gather around God's Holy Word with those from near and far. We enjoyed the fellowship of our precious faith when several were with us for our fall invite-a-guest weekend and for a single group weekend.

Our visiting minister was Bro.

Paul Kilgus (Sis. Carmen, Fairbury, IL). We thank him for sharing the Word in truth and sincerity.

KANSAS, SABETHA

Carrie Grimm

Rebekah Beyer

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

Hymns of Zion #172 vs. 2

On September 24, our dear Sis. Kathy Kellenberger (Bro. Art) went to her eternal reward after spending several weeks in the hospital. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with Bro. Art. May he feel God's nearness each and every day. Also, we continue to pray for Sis. Kathy's parents, Bro. Tom and Sis. Marlene Leman (Denver, CO) and her family, Elder Bro. Mike and Sis. Deb Leman (Denver, CO), Doug Leman (Vero Beach, FL) Bro. Ed and Sis. Gail Leman (Congerville, IL) Bro. Ben Bauman (Sis. Marge and the late Sis. Kris, Goodfield, IL) and Sis. Carol and Bro. Keith Kaufman from our home congregation. Sis. Kathy will be remembered for her compassionate and loving heart along with many other of her Godly attributes. What an inspiration Sis. Kathy and Bro. Art have been to us all!

We rejoice with Bro. Trent and Sis. Rosie Strahm as they welcome a new son, Malachi Dane, into their home and hearts. Malachi is also welcomed home by his big sister, Nyah, and grandparents, Bro. Dale and Sis. Rachel Zeltwanger (Morris, MN) and Bro. Carl Strahm and the late Sis. Sharon. May the Lord guide Bro. Trent and Sis. Rosie as they raise their dear family in the fear of

the Lord.

We rejoice with Bro. Doug Strahm (Bro. Curt and Sis. Ellen) and Sis. Amanda Schmidgall (Bro. Larry and Sis. Marcy, Lamar, MO) as they were joined as one in the Lord on September 27. Bro. Doug and Sis. Amanda make their home in Lamar. We also rejoice with Mark Hertzell (Elder Bro. Gerry and Sis. Ellen) and Kari Meyer (Bro. Steve and Sis. Kaye, Bern, KS) as they were joined in marriage on October 3. Mark and Kari make their home in Sabetha. We pray the Lord will continue to bless and guide these two couples as they travel life's journey as one.

Sis. Jodi Grimm (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Nita) was announced to Bro. Michael Nohl (Bro. Dwayne and Sis. Janice, Morris, MN) on September 27. We pray this dear couple continues to seek His guidance as they plan their upcoming marriage and life together as one. They are planning a December 20 wedding.

Our Sis. Sheila Moser has returned to Haiti after two months of vacation from her duties there. We will miss her but look forward to her updates and correspondence via e-mail. We pray the Lord will protect Sis. Sheila and lead her in her mission in Haiti. May she always feel the comfort of the Lord and feel His nearness. Once again we look forward to her return!

We are thankful for Bro. Dale Zeltwanger (Sis. Rachel, Morris, MN) as a visiting minister this month. May the Lord bless Bro. Dale and Sis. Rachel for their efforts.

We have now discontinued our Sunday evening singings and will enjoy Wednesday night church services rotating between Sabetha and Bern. At our final Sunday evening church singing we sang:

Trust and obey,
For there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus,
But to trust and obey.

Hymns of Zion #186 (chorus)

How simple these words are but oh how crucial to our inner peace and our spiritual walk! May each of us dedicate our heart, body, soul, and mind to trusting and obeying our Lord!

Note of Thanks:

The family of Sis. Kathy Kellenberger would like to thank all the brethren of our precious faith who held us up in prayer, encouraged us often with e-mails and CaringBridge notes, and visited us at the hospital during Kathy's illness and then after her death. It gives us great comfort knowing that God's will is best and that Sis. Kathy lived a life for the Lord and is now with Him. May we all continue to strive intensely for Heaven as well.

Bro. Art and the family of Sis. Kathy Kellenberger

KANSAS, WICHITA

Emma Miller

Our part of Kansas has had a spell of cold, cloudy, rainy weather which is unusual for the Sunflower State. There is a saying that if you don't like the weather in Kansas, just wait fifteen minutes and it will change. That was not the way it happened this year. Starting with a two and a half inch rain, we didn't see much of the sun again for nine days. How we longed for a change. We have had two days of heavenly sunshine to warm our bodies and our souls.

Our church is on the small church schedule for a visiting minister the second weekend of the month. Our

visiting minister for October was Bro. Ron Joos (Bloomfield, IA). He and Sis. Christy drove to Wichita on Saturday and left to return home after delivering two sermons on Sunday. Do we appreciate enough how much our visiting ministers give of their personal family time for our benefit? I need to remember a quote from Bro. Howard Plattner. "The will of God will never take you where the grace of God can't reach you."

MEXICO, IXTLAN
Matt Gerber

"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted; A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance..."

Eccles. 3:1-4

Several months ago I failed to mention the birth of a new baby boy—Esteban—born to Bro. Efrain and Sis. Ana Cabrera. It's encouraging to see families in the church, and to think of their children growing up to know the Lord when they're older.

Elder Bro. Mike Leman (Denver) and his wife, Sis. Deb, visited Barra Vieja and Ixtlan this month. We were thankful for the instruction and guidance he shared with the young group and the church.

Meet Bro. Bartolo Ramirez Rosario (Bartolo is the husband of Sis. Kike, whose testimony was shared in last month's Silver Lining):

When my son, Ricardo, got cancer, I started to really pray to the Lord. My wife Kike encouraged me to have faith in God. He heard our prayers, and the miracle He did (in saving Ricardo's life) gave me faith in His power and love. I started to read the Bible. I started to understand about how Christ had died for me, and that my life needed to change. At first it seemed hard to me to obey, but over time God began to convert my heart and help me to obey. My life began to change, sometimes slowly, but sometimes in big ways. I used to have vices, but by God's grace I was able to repent of those sins and leave them behind. Thanks to Christ and His work in me, I'm a new creature now. I'm so thankful to God for helping me to change and for His blessings in my life.

MICHIGAN, ALTO
Terri Huber
Rose Watson

With great joy I get to report the birth of Charlie Jacob to Bro. Jake and Sis. Meika Gerst. This precious little boy is a delight to his parents and also to local grandparents, Bro. Wally and Donna. In addition, Charlie is the first grandbaby on his mother's side, and has been eagerly welcomed by Bro. Tony, Sis. Deonne and the rest of the Monfre family. What a blessing and a delight!

Another exciting birth is that of Mitchell James to Bro. Brett and Sis. Laura Plattner of Detroit. "Big" sis Colette can't wait to show him off! All of Mitchell's grandparents are here in Alto: Bro. Jim and Sis. Julie Blough and Bro. Howard and Sis. Kristen Plattner. Uncle Spencer Plattner is quite proud to add to his collection of nieces and nephews.

Mitchell's great-grandparents are Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Ella Blough and the McCauls of Clarksville.

A third blessed announcement is the arrival of a healthy baby girl to first-time parents, A.J. and Brett Oesch. This adorable little girl is named Ayla Elizabeth and is the second grandchild of Jeff Oesch. Great-grandparents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Melva. We pray for God's blessings on this new little family.

Bro. Tom and Sis. Joan Schrenk celebrate 50 wonderful years together! They are an example for many of us in their love and devotion toward one another and toward Christ. This momentous event was commemorated with a lovely reception that was attended by many of their family and friends, some of whom traveled quite a distance to celebrate with the Schrenks. Thanks to God for the gift of marriage and the picture that it gives us of Christ's devotion to His church, and may God bless Tom and Joan with continued joy in their marriage.

Bro. Dennis Koehl is hospitalized for surgery that resulted in unexpected complications. Please keep him in your prayers. We would also like to continue to lift up Linda Koehl as she continues to mend after surgery, and Carl Steffen while he undergoes cancer treatments in Phoenix. Our prayers are with you.

In a unique and bold move, the Alto and Bay City World Relief committees have conspired together to effect an exchange that will benefit the unemployed and hungry in the economically beleaguered State of Michigan. Two vanloads from Bay City came down one weekend. Saturday evening was spent packing the ingredients for vegetable-barley soup in 5-serving bags to be trans-

ported back and delivered to food banks in the Bay City area. In exchange, several carloads of people from the Alto church will head up to Bay City for the weekend to pack 8,000 pounds of beans into family-sized bags, which we will bring back and distribute to our local soup kitchens and food banks here in Grand Rapids.

Thank you once again to visiting ministering Bro. Mike Baumann (Mansfield, OH). Bro. Mike is now working in the Lansing area and can join us for worship on Wednesday nights.

The annual Fall Harvest Sunday School Picnic was held at our fellowship center. A tremendous thanks to the Superintendent and teachers for pulling together relay races, hotdogs, a bonfire, and cider and donuts for the kids as well as a potluck dinner for the families. It was a wonderful time of fellowship!

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

**Sarah Knochel
Janelle Ramseyer**

We are thankful for the ministering brothers who visited our congregation in the past month. Bro. Dana Indermuhle (Sis. Joy, Sardis, OH) and Bro. Don Gudeman (Sis. Mary, LaCrosse, IN) each were travelling through the Bay City area and we appreciate their efforts on our behalf.

We continue to pray for our Sis. Marcie Cowan (Stacy) as she spent time in the hospital recently. We pray that the Lord's healing hand would be upon her.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Marlene McNally (Lyle) and her family as her sister, Dolores Bleck, passed away. We trust that our Heavenly Father will fill the void with love.

Several from our congregation traveled to Alto recently to package soup for World Relief. We are thankful for their hospitality and look forward to when they come to Bay City to assist with our World Relief activities.

It is hard to believe that we are in the final months of 2009. As the time approaches when families and friends gather together to remember Thanksgiving, may we ever be thankful to our Heavenly Father for the blessings He has given us.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

**Manuela Denes
Kay Rauhe**

"Sing praises to God, sing praises: sing praises unto our King, sing praises."

Psalms 47:6

The weekend of October 10-11, our choir traveled to Washington, IL, to worship, to fellowship, and to praise the Lord with song. Everyone had a wonderful time and look forward to being with our loved ones there in the near future.

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

James 1:17

We are excited to announce the birth of Mitchell James Plattner on October 10 to happy parents, Bro. Brett and Sis. Laura Plattner. Big sister Colette will be anxiously awaiting him at home. Happy appygrandparents are Bro. Howard and Sis. Kristen Plattner and Bro. Jim and Sis. Julie Blough, all from our Alto, MI, congregation. A child is such a joy and a blessing from God,

and we rejoice with this happy family as they add a new little bundle of joy to their lives.

"Pray without ceasing."

I Thessalonians 5:17

Let's remember to pray for Bro. Hartzell Kaisner (Sis. Mary) as he is recuperating at home after surgery. Sis. Lorene Maibach (Bro. Ben) seeks comfort and peace in prayer that only can come from God.

We are so thankful for answered prayers as Jon Meyer (Sis. Kristie) has returned safely from Iraq and is stationed in North Carolina until spring. We will continue to pray for him.

This month we were privileged to have visiting ministering Bro. Howard Plattner (Sis. Kristen, Alto, MI) with us. We certainly appreciated his willingness to share the Word and to "serve the Lord with gladness." (Psalms 100:2)

Our deepest sympathy, continued prayers, and love to Bro. Russ and Ginny Rambeau on the unexpected death of her dear brother, Greg Rogers. May they find strength in His presence and comfort in His love. "Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me." (Psalms 3:4). Our heartfelt sympathy, love, and continued prayers to Bro. Mike and Sis. Sherice Reinhard on the tragic and untimely death of his young 5-year old nephew, Gabriel, in Haiti. Our love and constant prayers are with his parents, Bro. Tim and Sis. Joan Reinhard, and their entire family as they are entrusting the Lord to ease their deepest burdens and hurts during this most difficult time...who better to put our faith and trust in...the only One who can really give comfort and healing!

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

I John 4:12

**MINNESOTA
MINNEAPOLIS**

Mary Mogler

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

Eph. 4:32

The annual Single Focus weekend was held in Minneapolis October 2-3, bringing brothers and sisters from various churches together to center their thoughts on the theme: Choosing Forgiveness. It was indeed a blessing to have a full house on Sunday and the many extra voices blending together in praise. Bro. Duane Metzger (Sis. Ruth, West Bend, IA) was with us for the weekend and his presence and messages were appreciated.

We were happy to have Bro. Art Mueller (Sis. Marlene, Belvidere, IL) join us for a Sunday of worship. It is a blessing to have brothers willing to travel and bring forth God's message of salvation.

After many years of employment in our area, God is opening new doors for Sis. Paula Bahr as He leads her to Kansas City, MO. Always willing to use the gifts God blessed her with, Paula has become a special part of our congregation and will be missed greatly. Our love and prayers go with you, Sis. Paula.

We welcome Don Katanic from Colorado Springs, CO, to our congregation as he begins employment in our area.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS

**Susie Wulf
Sheila Reuter**

We were thankful for Elder Bro. Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA) as he did willingly preach the Word of God with us and also assisted Bro. Art in the reading of the Memorandum. May the Lord bless him for his efforts.

We were blessed with the proving and baptism of Brent Schaefer (Bro. Stan and Sis. Bev). We welcome him into the fold.

The engagement of Bro. Michael Nohl to Sis. Jodi Grimm of Sabetha, KS, was announced. Their parents are Bro. DeWayne and Sis. Janice Nohl and Bro. Kevin and Sis. Nita Grimm (Sabetha, KS). May God bless them as they make plans to begin their life together as one in the Lord.

There are several families who have been blessed with babies this month. Asher Adam was welcomed into the family of Bro. Adam and Sis. Rachel Bjerketvedt. His siblings are Titus and Tabitha. Grandparents are Bro. Aldean and Sis. Charlotte Luthi. Derek Kurtis was welcomed into the home of Bro. Kurtis and Sis. Crystal Koehl. Thankful for his arrival are big brother Kyle and grandparents, Bro. Roy and Sis. Jenell Koehl. Bro. Tim and Sis. Kristen Schaefer welcomed Kate Elizabeth into their hearts and home. Excited for a new brother are Greta, Remington and Winston. Grandparents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Pam Schaefer and Bro. Roger and Sis. Illene Hartter (Sabetha, KS). Alexa Lee was welcomed into the family of Tommy and Amber Raths. Excited for her arrival were Kylie and grandparents, Bro. Shane and Sis. Ruth Jones.

Our prayers are with those who

have spent time in the hospital. May the Lord provide for Sis. Vi Wulf and Sis. Barbara Schmidgall.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

**Julie Schmidt
Lindsay Schmidt**

Meet today in social union, spend the hour in sweet communion
As in seasons past, Christian friendship is a treasure,
Pure in nature, rich in measure, filling us with heav'nly pleasure,
While the moments last, while the moments last.

Hymns of Zion #53, vs. 2

As a small church every visitor is a special blessing. This month we've been privileged to host several events including our annual Pork Chop Supper, single groups from various congregations, as well as 5-8 grade students and their teachers from Oakville and Burlington, IA, congregations. We pray that Christian friendships were made or strengthened and that all feel welcome to visit us again.

We appreciate when visitors can be used in the Lord's vineyard on the pulpit. This month ministering Bro. Duane Metzger (Sis. Ruth, West Bend, IA) was able to be with us. We are thankful for his willingness to be lent.

Jesus knows thy sorrow, knows thine ev'ry care;
Knows thy deep contrition, hears thy feeblest pray'rs;
Do not fear to trust Him, tell Him all thy grief;
Cast on Him thy burden, He will bring relief.

Hymns of Zion #74, vs. 1

Our prayers go out to souls who have lost family recently. Marlyn Braulick (Sis. Becky) lost a brother,

Jeff, unexpectedly. Sis. Wanda Messner (Bro. Dean) lost her dad, Bro. Arnold Metzger (West Bend, IA). Sis. Bernadine Messner and Eldwin "Sonny" Schmidt (Lois) lost their sister, Millie (Schmidt) Simonton. May the Lord heal and comfort as only He can.

Those recovering from surgery or other health concerns this month are Bro. Marvin Messner and Bro. Mike Messner (Sis. Joyce). May God grant strength and healing.

Notes of Thanks:

Thank you for the many prayers, food, visits and encouragements given at the time of my surgery and recovery. May God bless each of you.

Bro. Marvin Messner

We would like to thank everyone for giving flowers, cards, many prayers and hugs through the difficult time of my brother's death. It meant a lot to all of us.

With love to all,

Marlyn, Sis. Becky, Elliot and the whole Braulick family

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY
Brittany Fehr

October 4 was the wedding day of our Bro. Alan Banwart (Irene and the late Dean Banwart, West Bend, IA) and Sis. Holly Wales (Don Wales, Sis. Carol Wales). We pray God's richest blessings on this dear couple as they begin life together in the Lord. May God bless Elder Bro. Mark Streitmatter (Sis. Sara, Bloomington, IL) and Bro. Cory Metzger (Sis. Jodi, Wichita, KS), who were here for the wedding, as well as Bros. Erik Givens (Sis. Debbie, Princeville, IL) and Glen Braker (Sis. Audrey, Princeville, IL), who also ministered in our presence.

Our congregation has joyfully

welcomed Bro. Jeff and Sis. Julie Webel and their children, convert Hallie, Leanna, Dominic, and Victoria, into our midst. They recently moved to our area from Mansfield. We realize they must be greatly missed in Ohio, but they certainly have been a blessing to our small church!

Our congregation has also experienced a time of grief. Bro. Garry Rokey passed away suddenly last week, leaving behind his wife, Sis. Marty, their four daughters and four sons-in-law, several grandchildren, two brothers, and many other family members and friends. This news certainly came as a big shock to all of us, and we continue to remember Sis. Marty and her family in our prayers.

MISSOURI, LAMAR
Dana Kellenberger
Rebecca Dotterer

We were privileged to witness the marriage vows of two dear souls on September 27, Bro. Doug Strahm and Sis. Amanda Schmidgall. Parents are Bro. Curt and Sis. Ellen Strahm (Sabetha, KS) and Bro. Larry and Sis. Marcy Schmidgall of our congregation. May God's rich blessings be with them as they become one. Several visitors were here for the occasion, including ministering Bro. Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA), Bro. Larry Bahr (Ft. Scott, KS), Bro. Brad Strahm (Bern, KS) and Bro. Edwin Strahm (Bern, KS).

Our friend, Betty Thiebaud, has spent some time in the hospital. May the Lord restore health as He sees best.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS
Meagan Wuethrich

We have greatly enjoyed having

several large groups of visitors as well as four visiting ministers this past month. Bro. Don Gudeman (Sis. Mary, LaCrosse, IN), Bro. Byron Stoller (Sis. Carol, Gridley, IL), Bro. Arlen Lemman (Sis. Denise, Forrest, IL), and Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign, IL) willingly supported our faithful home brothers as instruments of the Holy Spirit. God's blessings to each of these brothers and their families, as well as the families that made St. Louis their vacation spot or a resting place in the midst of travel. The presence of babies, young children, and the extra faces of our neighboring brothers and sisters in Christ, give us spiritual strength and remind us of our Father's love and perfect knowledge of our needs.

We have also enjoyed simply gathering in our little group of home brothers and sisters to combine our efforts in cleaning our church building, and coming together during the midweek to listen to the Brotherhood Conference recordings.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR
Kathy Eberhardt

What if it were today? Are we ready for Christ's return, to be caught up in the air to meet Him in the skies? These questions were for us to consider in a recent sermon.

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Dave Steffen (Sis. Linda, Elgin, IL), Bro. Kenny Dietz (Sis. Mardell, Bradford, IL), Bro. Lenny Meyer (Sis. Charlotte, Chicago, IL), Bro. Loren Schrenk (Sis. Betsy, St. Louis, MO), and Bro. Curt Rassi (Sis. Kathy, Tremont, IL).

Bro. Loren had a Bible study on what is truth. His discussion included information on how our Bible was put together.

Bro. Curt's Bible study was enti-

tled "Trusting". His text included Proverbs 3:5-6, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not upon thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him and he shall direct thy path."

Hospital patients this month were Bro. Arnie Gerst (Sis. Marge) and Sis. Rosie Massner (Bro. Allen).

This month our church held the annual Taylor Invite. We had greetings from 26 different churches for this event. A special thank you to all the young brothers, sisters, and friends that were with us.

We wish God's blessings to Kip and Kelly Massner, as they were united in Holy Matrimony on September 12. Their new address is Kip and Kelly Massner, 490 Forby Rd., Eureka, MO 63025.

We are thankful that Brett Wegman (Bro. Scott and Sis. Dawn) has sought repentance. We rejoice with the angels in heaven. May God ever be by his side.

NEW YORK CROGHAN-NAUMBURG Hope Graves

We pray for blessings upon Cary and Travis Mullin who were married on September 19. Cary is the daughter of Robert and Diane Purvines.

Our church was blessed with a new arrival on September 29. Little Katelyn Grace was born to Bro. Jacob and Sis. Brooke Kuntz and joins siblings, Levi, Lucas, Aaron and Angelise at home. Happy grandparents are Bro. Roland and Sis. Brenda Kuntz and Bro. Jeff and Sis. Wendy Gutwein, all from Forrest, IL.

We enjoyed several visitors over the weekend of October 11. It was a pleasure to have retired Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker and his wife, Sis. Judy (Forrest, IL), also in our midst and we shared a potluck together

Sunday evening followed by a few hymns.

OHIO, AKRON Mara Henico Rachel Pamer

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Arliss Pamer (Bro. Steve) and Sis. Audrey Graf (late Bro. Art) as they recently have had surgery. May God continue to grant healing and relief from pain.

We were thankful to hear that Tessa Maria Demiter arrived safely. She is welcomed home by Bro. Doug and Sis. Maria, as well as Preston and Alexis. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Andy and Sis. Vera Demrovsky, and paternal grandparents are John and Erika Demiter.

Recently Bro. Brad Eisenmann (Sis. Cindy, Chicago) was able to be with us, and we are thankful that he was willing to be used by God in ministering to us. We hope he will feel God's rich blessings and direction in His service.

We rejoice that there is a new couple in our congregation, and trust that God will bless Bro. Brian and Sis. Katrina Demrovsky as they now walk the path of life as one in the Lord. May we all be willing to grow, serve, and live our lives as the Lord directs.

OHIO, COLUMBUS Julie Grimm

After several dreary weeks, it is refreshing to be experiencing the warmth of the sunshine and brilliant color of the fall leaves. As the Lord brings refreshment to the earth, we are mindful of those that need refreshing in body and soul. Sis. Betty Baltic continues to be in our prayers during her long period of recovery.

"Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord:"

Acts 3:19

Many of us were refreshed as we traveled to Mansfield for the testimony and baptism of Sis. Lauren Sauder. She has recently taken employment in Columbus and we warmly welcome her to our congregation.

Likewise, it is refreshing to see the Lord work in the lives of His children. Upon following His direction to become joined as husband and wife, Sis. Katrina Baltic (Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty) and Bro. Brian Demrovsky (Akron, OH) were married September 20, in Rittman, OH. May the Lord richly bless their union.

The past several Wednesday evening services have been spent listening to the General Conference tapes. We are thankful to be refreshed in our faith and the encouragement we receive to be drawn closer to our Lord and Savior.

We were blessed to be refreshed by the Word of God and thank the following brothers for serving our congregation: Bro. Steve Pamer (Akron, OH) and Bro. Mike Bauman, Jr. (Mansfield, OH). "For we have great joy and consolation in thy love, because the bowels of the saints are refreshed by thee, brother." (Philemon 1:7)

OHIO, JUNCTION Vicki Boroff

Bro. Dave and Sis. Kathy Manz are happy to have another grandchild; Aubrey was born to Bro. Trent

and Sis. Jodi Stoller (Latty).

We are so thankful that Brad and Amanda Gasser (Bro. Roger and Sis. Sue) have chosen to answer God's call. We wish them God's abundant grace.

We were happy to witness the marriage on October 4 of Sis. Mindy Gasser (Bro. Roger and Sis. Sue) to Bro. Caleb Stoller (Bro. Bill and Sis. Barb) of Latty. We wish them God's blessings as they begin their new life together.

We also would like to thank Elder Bros. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, La-Crosse) and John Laukhuf (Sis. Marcia, Latty), and Bros. Paul Gasser (Sis. Joyce, Akron), Lucas Frank (Sis. Crystal, Detroit), Dan Stoller (Sis. Debra, Remington), Larry Wenninger (Sis. Joyce, Latty), and Dale Zeltwanger (Sis. Rachel, Morris) for being with us that day. We appreciate their labors.

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

We enjoyed the baptisms of Sis. Tami Manz (Bro. Les and Sis. Karen) and Sis. Rachael Manz (Bro. Russ and Sis. Vera) on October 11. Helping our Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter on the pulpit was Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi (Sis. Becky, Lamar). Also joining us that weekend was Bro. Bruce Frank (Sis. Bonita, Cissna Park), and retired Elder Bro. Leroy Messner (Sis. JoAnn, Winthrop). As always, it was a very blessed weekend.

OHIO, LATTY

**Amanda Wenninger
Carmen Eisenmann**

There is a variety of news on which to report this month. As I type this, it is a beautiful, sunny day, and the farmers are hurriedly getting in

their harvests. How good of our God to give us the four seasons. Just as soon as one season ends, He makes us ready for the next!

We were blessed with three visiting ministers this past month. On September 19-20, Elder Bro. Jim Plattner (Sis. Marlene, Princeville, IL) was here to assist Bro. John with Holy Communion. We very much appreciated Bro. Jim laboring on our behalf. Bro. Lucas Frank (Sis. Crystal, Detroit, MI) and Bro. Curt Rassi (Sis. Kathy, Tremont, IL) were also here to preach God's Word to us this month.

Finley David Hostetler is the newest grandson of Bro. Dave and Sis. Deb Wenninger. He was born to first-time parents, Adam and Sarah Hostetler, of Van Wert on September 17. May God bless this family as they look to Him to guide their future.

Bro. Willis Stoller (Sis. Elaine) was laid to rest in his earthly grave on September 28. Many were here for his funeral, and beside his wife and grandchildren, he leaves behind three children: Monica (Ernie) Murphy of Levittown, NY, Brent (Angie) of Paulding, and Marlise Stoller of Bowling Green, OH. May God grant this family circle grace and strength in the days to come.

Bro. Caleb Stoller took Sis. Mindy Gasser as his bride in Junction, OH, on October 4. Parents of the couple are Bro. Bill and Sis. Barb Stoller and Bro. Roger and Sis. Sue Gasser of Junction. We heartily welcome Sis. Mindy to Latty and hope that she can feel at home here!

On October 10, Tobin Hartzler, formerly of Rittman, OH, married Ashley Metzger of Lester, IA. He has been attending Latty for some time, and they will be making it their home congregation, as well. The

couple's parents are Bro. Tom and Sis. Diane Hartzler (Rittman, OH) and Bro. Bill and Sis. Charlotte Metzger (Lester, IA). We pray God will bless this union, and we welcome Ashley to Latty.

Bro. Melvin Stoller (Sis. Irene) was a hospital and surgery patient this past month. We pray that God will continue to heal him, and we look forward to seeing him again in church soon!

OHIO, MANSFIELD Esther Baumann

"O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good: for his mercy endureth forever."

Psalms 107:1

In this Thanksgiving season, we are reminded that God's mercy continues to endure and be made known in our lives. We were humbly thankful to learn that Julie Beer (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Robin) has been granted God's perfect peace.

On the weekend of October 17-18, we were blessed to hear the testimonies of how God worked in the lives of Sis. Lauren Sauder (Bro. Dan and Sis. Pam) and Sis. Julie Beer (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Robin). We were thankful to witness their baptisms and welcome them as our sisters in Christ. Special thanks to Elder Bro. Rick Plattner (Sis. Mary Ann, Fairbury, IL) and Bro. John Grimm (Sis. Julie, Columbus, OH) for their assistance in the weekend.

Our sympathy and prayers are with the family of Mart Oesch who passed away. Her family includes: her sister, Sis. Emilie Went, her brother, Bro. Elmer Oesch, her sister-in-law, Sis. Kate Oesch, and her brother-in-law, Bro. Wally Ramsier.

Cliff Betz of our sister church also

passed away and our sympathy and prayers are with his family, including his sister, Sis. Linda Webel (Bro. Pete).

"The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore."

Psalms 121:8

Following God's leading, Bro. Mike, Sis. Lilly, Sis. Andrea and Sis. Becky Baumann are moving to the Alto, MI, congregation. We thank Bro. Mike for his service to us in the ministry these past several years. We pray that the Lord will continue to preserve all our paths wherever He may lead us.

OHIO, RITTMAN
Heidi Rufener
Laurie Winkler

Now thank we all our God,
 with heart and hands and voices
 Who wondrous things has done,
 in whom the world rejoices;
 Who from our mothers' arms
 has blessed us on our way
 With countless gifts of love,
 and still is ours today.

Zion's Harp #236

We have many reasons to rejoice and be thankful this month. The safe arrival of two new babies in our congregation is certainly a reason for thankfulness. Tyler William was born on October 8 to Bro. Dean and Sis. Julia Ramsier. Tyler's older siblings are Luke and Chloe; his grandparents are Bro. Marvin and Sis. Terry Ramsier and Bro. Bill and Sis. Miriam Brake (Sardis). Zoltan Michael made his appearance on October 9 into the family of Bro. Sandor and Sis. Rachel Davidovics. Big sister Evie welcomes a future playmate! Zoltan's grandparents are

Bro. Mike and Sis. Norene Miller and Sis. Irma Davidovics (Peoria, IL).

Another cause for joy are the weddings that have taken place recently. September 26 was the wedding date of Amy Steele (Bro. Ken and Sis. Martha) and Lamin Drammeh (Isha Drammeh). Sis. Laurie Beery (Bro. Walt and Sis. Lynda) and Bro. Darin Winkler (Bro. Andy and Sis. Mary Jane) were united in holy matrimony on September 27. We also witnessed the wedding of Sis. Katrina Baltic (Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty, Columbus) and Bro. Brian Demrovsky (Bro. Andy and Sis. Vera, Akron). May the Lord guide and bless each of these new unions.

Sharing God's Word with us this month were Bros. Curt Kaufman (Tucson, AZ), Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL), Daren Metz (Gridley, IL), Ron Palitto (Akron), Vic Bauman (Smithville), Steve Pamer (Akron), Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI), John Grimm (Columbus), Fred Domka (Mansfield), Ted Luginbuhl (Smithville) and retired Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN). May God richly bless them for their labor of love.

Our heartfelt prayers and sympathy are extended to the family of Sis. Martha Beery as she passed from this life on September 23. Sis. Martha's children are Bro. Gaylord Beery (Sis. Cheryl, Smithville), Sis. Elverna Zollinger, Sis. Carole Steiner, Sis. Norene Miller (Bro. Mike), and Sis. Roberta Stoller (Elder Bro. Andy, Smithville). We were also saddened to hear of the death of Earl Rupp. Our prayers are with Earl's brother, Bro. Ken Rupp, and his children, with whom Earl made his home for many years.

Hospitalized recently were Stephen Powell (Bro. Don and Sis.

Carol), Sis. Ruth Ingold, Sis. Brenda Saurer (Dan), Carrie Stoner, Bro. Chet Rufener (Sis. Roma) and Sis. Mary Ellen Saylor (Bro. Bill). May God grant relief and healing where it be His will.

OHIO, SARDIS
Faith Beard

We have been blessed this past month to have visiting ministers serving us. Those standing behind our pulpit for our Sunday services have been Bro. Robert Beebe (Sis. Sue, South Bend, IN) and Bro. Don Manz (Sis. Connie, Junction, OH). We also had Bro. Todd Graf (Akron, OH) minister to us for a couple mid-week services while he was in our area on business.

We appreciated the uplifting fellowship the last weekend of September during our bi-annual Invite-A-Guest weekend. And during our annual Fall Gathering we also enjoyed the outdoors and learned how to spin/weave wool and extract honey at our annual Fall Gathering.

We have had two grandsons born within our church family. Theophilus Jamin was born on October 5 and is the grandchild of Bro. Gary and Sis. Terry Zollinger. His parents are Bro. Matthew and Sis. Bridgett Rassi (Chicago, IL). Bro. Bill and Sis. Miriam Brake also acquired another grandson on October 8 with the birth of Tyler William, son of Bro. Dean and Sis. Julia Ramsier (Rittman, OH).

Those spending some time in the hospital were Stacy Indermuhle (Bro. Allen and Sis. Janet) and Colby Maibach (Bro. Garth and Sis. Hannah). We are thankful to the Great Physician that both are home now and back to their normal lifestyles.

Thy Holy Word does teachings give
 In faith, and hope, and love to live;
 For this, O, Lord, I thank Thee.
 Should I not seek within this time
 A foretaste of the joys divine
 And for Thy home prepare me?
 Salvation is the noblest part;
 Impress this deeply on my heart.
Zion's Harp, #102, vs. 4

OHIO, SMITHVILLE

**Lydia Stoller
 Ruth Gasser**

October 11 was a day of rejoicing as three souls made a covenant in baptism. Liz Weber (Bro. Myron and Sis. Darlene), Susan and Peter Fetzer (Bro. Andy and Sis. Elizabeth) are our new Sisters and Brother in faith. May they seek God's grace daily for overcoming self, and find their place in the fold. We wish to thank Elder Bros. Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT) and Merle Hartzler (Rittman, OH) for assisting Bro. Andy, and for their counsel in taking the testimonies. These are times of instruction and encouragement for all. And we appreciate the other brothers who came to minister and give their support: Bros. Doug Harmon (Toledo, OH), Don Steidl (Akron, OH), and Earl Beery (Rittman, OH).

We're happy also to welcome Bro. Wilbur and Sis. Marge Schneider from the Rockville congregation. They have moved into an apartment at the Apostolic Home Village to be near their family in this community. May their needs be met and they feel our love and support.

We extend our sympathy to those who have lost a loved one this month. Eileen (Arthur) Beery has suffered the loss of her mother, Mae Snyder, and Bros. Michael and Dwaine (Sis. Shelly) Beery have lost a grandmother. Sis. Martha Beery

(Rittman, OH), the mother of Bro. Gaylord (Sis. Cheryl) Beery and Sis. Roberta (Elder Bro. Andy) Stoller, was quietly called home at the age of 97. What a comfort it is to know that God has prepared a home for those who love and serve Him, a hope for the true and faithful.

To him that overcometh shall be given
 The fruit from trees of life in Paradise!

He who has served the Lord and well
 has striven

Shall rest from toil, and take from
 Him the prize!

God will refresh him With heavenly
 blessing!

Eternal rapture shall be his part!

Eternal rapture shall be his part!

Hymns of Zion #271

OHIO, TOLEDO

**Teresa Rywalski
 Rebecca Beard**

Greetings of love to each and every one of you.

Our college weekend was held on September 27, where we welcomed new and returning students and their families. We are truly blessed to have the college students assembling with us. As our college students pursue a higher education, may they be mindful of seeking the wisdom of our Heavenly Father.

Visiting us on the pulpit this month were our Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH), Bro. Warren Schlatter (Sis. Cindy, Junction, OH) and Bro. Jesse Bedolla (Sis. Bonnie, Detroit, MI). We thank them for their willingness to proclaim God's Word.

OREGON, PORTLAND

Renee Angstrom

Our visiting ministers this month from Silverton were Bro. Ed Knecht (Sis. Judie) and Bro. Todd Zollinger (Sis. Michele). We are al-

ways thankful for the support of the brethren from Silverton and always welcome the beautiful Word that is shared across the pulpit.

Our continued prayers are with Sis. Kathy Fehr (Bro. Wayne) as she is continuing her recuperation at home. We look forward to when she is able to worship with us again.

OREGON, SILVERTON

**Kris Luthi
 Deb Roth**

When peace, like a river,
 attendeth my way...
Hymns of Zion #55

We rejoice with Megan Kuenzi (Bro. Jason and Sis. Jo) and Rick and Laura Dietrich as they have been announced as having peace with God. We are so thankful that souls are answering the Lord's call and then receiving His bountiful blessings.

We thank Elder Bro. Mike Leman (Sis. Deb, Denver), Bro. Troy Leyse (Sis. Kelly, Bluffton) and Bro. Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy) for sharing God's Holy Word with us this past month. May they be blessed for their efforts on our behalf.

Brian and Sis. Amanda Dietrich welcomed Jocelyn Kay into their hearts and home on October 7. Big sisters Johanna and Jennifer and big brother Gabriel are excited to have a new little sister to play with. Grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Joan Dietrich and Bro. Don and Sis. Linda Sinn.

Surgical patients this month were Ron Lichty (Ginge) and Bro. Jim Zollinger (Sis. Tresa). Also spending some time in the hospital was Bro. Nick Kuenzi (Sis. Mary). We wish them all a speedy recovery.

PENNSYLVANIA PHILADELPHIA

We are happy to report that all members and friends in our congregation have enjoyed a month of reasonable health. How thankful we can be when such is the case among us. In 3 John 1:2 we read, "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth." We are thankful for His gracious providence.

We have enjoyed visitors this month from several congregations. We were blessed to have ministering Bro. Bob and Sis. Laura Dotterer and family from Sardis with us for a weekend. We thank each one for your visit. It is so important to us in the strengthening of our faith to fellowship with loved ones of like mind.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE Mike and Monica Fritz

We are thankful for our visiting ministering brothers, and God's Living Word which they have so ably brought to us. This past month our visitors have been Bros. Daron Price (Milford, IN), Tim Roecker (Sis. Diane; Peoria, IL), Darren Metz (Sis. Rita; Gridley, IL), John Lehman (Sis. Ruth; Wolcott, IN), and Byron Stoller (Sis. Carol; Gridley, IL), and Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna; Remington, IN). We have also been strengthened by the fellowship of brethren and friends visiting from Rockville, CT; Bradford, Eureka, Gridley, Peoria, Princeville, Tremont, IL; Francesville, Leo, Remington, Wolcott, IN; and Junction and Smithville, 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: Bay City, MI (11/22); Rockville, CT (11/29); Milford, IN (12/6); Washington, IL (12/13). We do not have visiting ministers scheduled for December 20 or December 27, but if local brethren are in the area we will gather for worship. 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. Mike and Sis. Monica Fritz, (615) 866-5543; and Sis. Gwen Leuthold, (615) 356-5755.

TEXAS, AUSTIN Amy Ringger Serenity Ringger

"Be thankful that you don't already have everything you desire.

If you did, what would there be to look forward to?"

We do enjoy our visitors and ministers and look forward to more. Our visiting ministers were Bros. Justin Koch (Sis. Marcia, Washington), Frank Sauder (Roanoke), Ron Steiner (Sis. Ruth, Rittman), and Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Char, Champaign). Other visitors were from Junction, Morton, Bluffton, and Smithville.

Lord willing, after the first of the year, we anticipate a large number of visitors to our congregation for a World Relief home-building project. The project is mainly focusing on needs resulting from a forest fire. We look forward to the extra company and encouragement in the Lord.

The following is the minister

schedule for December: (6) Fairbury, (13) Silvertown/Portland, (20) Gridley, and (27) To-Be-Determined. 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, so that we can accommodate you more readily in our weekend gatherings. In addition to the contacts in the minister book, you may also 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 east-bound frontage road about 4/10 mile. The church is on the right. It is located about 18 miles east of the Austin airport. The address is 1025 W. Highway 71, Bastrop, TX 78602. It is a one-story building with a limestone facade, 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.

TEXAS, McALLEN Joyce Nohl

We were thankful for the visiting ministers that shared God's Word

with us this month. They were Bro. Tom Bolliger (Sis. Jane, Tremont, IL), Bro. Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue, Detroit, MI) and Bro. Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata, TX). May God bless each one for their efforts.

We are happy to have Bro. Bob and Sis. Gloria Walder arrive for the winter season. They are such a blessing to our small congregation and we deeply appreciate all they do for us during their time spent in the Valley.

We also enjoyed Bro. Don Steffen (Latty, OH) who visited us this past Sunday as he was on business in Mexico. It's always a blessing when visitors come and worship with us.

The following churches are scheduled for services: (Nov. 1, Bluffton, IN); (Nov. 22, West Bend, IA); (Dec. 6, Forrest, IL); and (Dec. 20, Smithville, OH).

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

TEXAS, ZAPATA Mary Plattner

We are anticipating the return of our winter residents within the next few weeks as they come to spend their winter months in a warmer climate.

Our prayers and sympathy go to Sis. Elaine Stoller (Latty) in the passing of her husband, Bro. Willis. He will be missed this winter as they have spent many winters in Zapata.

This summer our brethren have traveled visiting their families in the Midwest. Those in Zapata have also traveled to McAllen to assemble and have enjoyed the visiting ministers who have participated in the rota-

tion of services. We certainly thank each one for their visit and to all those who traveled with them to South Texas. It is encouraging to feel their support and willingness to bring forth the Word.

We encourage and welcome any visitors to assemble with us in Zapata.

VERMONT NORTH CLARENDON/NORWICH Nathan and Miriam Reutter

"To every thing there is a season, and a purpose under the heaven: A time to be born and a time to die: a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted: A time to weep, and a time to laugh: a time to mourn, and a time to dance."

Ecclesiastes 3: 1, 2, 4

Our sympathies are extended to our dear friend, Claire Fellows (Emory), as they laid to rest her mother, Roselma Willey. We pray for her and her family and ask that God would comfort them in this time. We do not know what tomorrow will hold but we do know Who holds tomorrow!

Thanks to all those who have come to worship with us this past month. We are always encouraged by the fellowship we experience with believers near and far. We ask a special blessing on those who have come to serve us in the ministry this past month. They were: Bro. Tom Bahler (Sis. LaNae), Bro. Warren Zahner

(Sis. Bonnie), Bro. Dan Goric (Sis. Mary Lou), and Bro. Dan Stoller (Sis. Diane), all of Rockville, CT.

If you are interested in fellowship 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 hand-made 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 asreutter@gmail.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

the last hymns we sang this morning, it says, *Oh, how joyful is the hour When we, Lord, draw nigh to Thee (Thou Hast Words of Life, Zion's Harp #203)*. Is that our motivation this morning? Is that why we're here? Or do we sometimes fall into the trap, well, it is Sunday morning and we need to go to the house of God because that is expected of us? Patterns of behavior, dear ones, and even to use the word 'habit', can be good for us. But I think we also each need to ask ourselves the question, are we really here, can we really identify with the words that this hymn writer penned? *Oh, how joyful is the hour When we, Lord, draw nigh to Thee. And the words of life and power From Thy holy lips receive. May we not in vain assemble 'Round Thy word, O Lord, today; Into our hearts meek and humble Write the Word of Life, we pray!* These words were probably written some centuries ago. I don't personally remember the history behind hymn 203, but that same thought is just as fresh as the beauty of this new morning. Is that the feeling in our heart? I think that is how we can measure ourselves against the last few verses of Exodus 31. Is it our desire to truly set this day apart as holy, as worshipping God?

We all have situations in life that demand our attention. We probably all have plans of one type or another, not only for the hours that remain in this day, but for tomorrow. That's just life. But can we, as we gather about His Word, just put all of that aside and lean upon Him, asking for His blessing, for His understanding and for His Word? That is why we brothers who stand here plead for your prayers. We have nothing to offer. I have no idea what kind of a week you loved ones faced. Some of you undoubtedly had a wonderful week. Others perhaps, had a tremendous strug-

gle. Some of the rest of us are somewhere in the middle. Yet the God that we serve, who we have served for generations, who has provided for us the heritage that is ours, wants to bless us.

We'd probably do well, dear ones, to just end the service right now and ask each of you to just quietly reflect upon the words we just read together in St. John 17. Christ's intercessory prayer. Not only for His contemporaries at that time. But I am sure, if we were following at all, you could not miss the references to those of us gathered here in this place in this very morning. I find that so encouraging.

We could pick up a lot of pieces of literature and read accounts of history and words that were spoken. It would all pertain to the time in which it was spoken or written. That is pretty much the end of the story. I hope we can sense within our beings the difference when even the Lord Jesus Christ refers to the Word as having light and having truth and being a part of that which is eternal. This prayer, especially where the Lord Jesus Christ is praying for those which shall believe on Him through the word of the men that He was addressing, is that prayer that reaches down through all of the centuries that have passed and touches those of us gathered here this morning (St. John 17:20). Do we sense that? Can we feel that? Is it alive within us?

I think that is the difference. Because all of us can go back to a point in time, prior to our awakening, prior to our conversion. Use the terminology that you are most comfortable with. We just didn't have a spiritual understanding. I recall well, my father telling about being a young man and standing out in the parking lot of the Latty church at noon when it was still in the little town of Latty. So you know that goes back a few years, because our present building is the

same age that I am. He said, here was a young man who was standing in a group of young fellows. We have all been there. You can identify with the situation. They were discussing the fact that one of their peers had just in the previous week began his repentance. The young man that was doing the speaking said, 'Yeah, they say he has seen the light. What in the world is meant by that phrase? I sure have not seen any light'.

I think every one of us can go back to a time in our journey when we could identify concretely with that statement. What do they mean by 'sensing the presence of the Spirit' and 'feeling the call of God'? Understanding that there is more to life than meets the eye.

There is more than just the physical attributes by which we identify one another. That is all part of us. That is who we are. When we hear a name uttered, we get a mental picture of someone. We see what their frame is like and what their hair color is and so on and so forth. They have physical characteristics by which we identify one another. That is just part of life.

But when it comes to what we sense within our beings, loved ones, the part of us that the Lord makes reference to here that will live eternally, how are we doing in that dimension? Can we truly feel the prayer of the Lord Jesus Christ here uttered early in the first century A.D., where He says, "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me." v.20,21. I think that is a challenge to every one of us brothers and sisters as we journey from day to day.

Our departed shepherd Brother Loren Stoller used to often present

to us, he said, 'Dear ones, as you go about your business from day to day, what is the feeling of the people around you? Brothers, if you are walking into a business establishment to transact something, what is the feeling of the man behind the counter as he sees you open the door to his establishment? Is it a feeling of joy? Does he say, well, there is so and so? He is just a pleasure with which to do business. Or does he cringe a little bit, saying, here comes this fellow who will try to take me down to the last possible dime and really drive a hard bargain?' He would go on and ask the question, 'What type of an example are we presenting?' I think that is exactly what was part of the Lord Jesus Christ's prayer that we just read.

"Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word, that they all may be one, as Thou, Father, art in me and I in Thee, that they also may be one in us." Are we still there, loved ones? I think it is one of the questions that we have to ask and that only we can answer as we read a passage of Scripture such as this.

Referring to our earlier reading in Exodus, God was very, very clear. Don't work on the Sabbath day. Your life might even be required of you. Keep it holy. Dedicate it unto me. (Exodus 31:13-17) Is that our focus as we gather this morning?

Where the Lord Jesus began this prayer, "...Father, the hour is come..." St. John 17:1, we could continue to read in the next two chapters which go into graphic detail of the story of the trial, the crucifixion, our Lord and Savior being falsely accused, taking upon *Him* the sins that were those of each and every one of us, bearing them on the cross, that we might have in our hearts this understanding of peace.

But as He says, "...Father, the

hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee: As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him. And this is life eternal..." This is a textbook, dear ones. It is providing for us clear insight into the mind of God. "...that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent." v.1-3. So again, dear ones, how are we doing today? Do we identify with this?

Back to the earlier comments about appreciating our heritage, I am not here to elevate Apostolic Christians. That is not my point. But I believe if all of us can sense within our beings that we are still standing upon this Word, which is the pattern, which is truth, if we can understand what He is saying, even in verse five, "And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was," there is an expanding of the picture. It is eternal. It is a view in which our human minds can go only part way. We cannot understand time without end. We cannot wrap our minds around something that had no beginning and will have no ending. Everything else with which we deal in life has a beginning.

We view the birth of our children. Our grandchildren. We see them grow so quickly. So *quickly* those years pass. Everything in our world is finite, has a beginning and has an ending. I think it is so hard often for us to just put ourselves into this spiritual realm. Yet, I believe the Lord with words like we just read together this morning, is certainly attempting to assist us, when He says, and now oh, Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.

We could turn back to the earlier chapters of Genesis and read that story of Creation and know that

the Lord Jesus Christ was there with His Father as all things had their beginning. The command to 'Let there be light' and there was light (Genesis 1:3). Men of renown, of high education and many degrees will pass that off as rubbish today. Yet, if we can just accept in simple faith that this Word is eternal truth, then I believe we are following part of the object of the prayer that the Lord Jesus Christ prayed in these verses we have read. Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word. That they all may be one. I realize that we have read that a number of times. We cannot, loved ones though, escape that whole concept. Are we a part of His plan? Not only in name but in thought and in motive and devotion to the very depth of our being.

"While I was with them in the world..." He is praying here about His disciples, "...I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled." St. John 17:12. Here again is a powerful lesson for all of us, I believe, in our dealings with one another. The Scripture makes abundantly clear that the Lord Jesus Christ knew before He selected Judas to be one of that inner circle, what the future held. That is part of being God. That goes beyond our concept, our ability to understand. But the night that the Lord Jesus Christ, before He selected His twelve, the Word is clear that He spent the entire night in prayer (St. Luke 6:12-13). I have often had to wonder, was a lot of those hours not devoted to the fact that here He is selecting Judas and He knew Judas would betray Him to the high priest and his associates?

How do we deal with others who maybe, from time to time, would purposefully step on our toes? It is

Sermon continued on next page...

Sermon continued from page 41

so easy to react as humans react. To take things into our own hand. To seek vengeance. To get revenge. Yet again, if we are followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, as He is telling us in this prayer to God, I pray "...for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me..." v.20,21.

We sing in one of our Zion's Harp hymns, dear ones, that the Word is a mirror (*Obedience to the Word #142*). I speak only to myself. As I read these words and you are viewing, as you would, a reflection in a mirror, what are we seeing? Are we aligning? Do we have some work to do? Do we sense that His grace is still present? Do we appreciate the fact that again, as part of our heritage, we are here to assist one another?

It just comes to my mind, I don't want to be out of place, but my wife and I recently spent some time in the Smoky Mountains. If you have ever been there, there was a settlement called Cades Cove. A beautiful area. Mountains surrounding it but relatively flat. A very fertile land. Families lived there and prospered until the government of the United States decided to make their homeland into a national park. After some time they had to leave.

But we walked into a church building in that little area. Of course, long since the days that it was used for worship services. But a Park Ranger conducted a short program. It wasn't a worship service. But we really enjoyed it. It began with a playing of the hymn, *Precious Memories*. Then he talked about what this church was like. What it did for the community. He said, 'You know people, there are many historians which believe in the early days of our nation, small congregations like this had a far greater influence on the community than did any other thing.' He

said, 'The belief of this group of people was first of all, that the Word of God was truth. That any new thing that was to come along, whether they would adapt that or not, they got on their knees first of all. They'd see if it would align with the Word of God. Then they asked themselves the question; would this edify?' That is the word the man used. It is not a word we hear a lot in society today. In other words, would it build us up and draw us closer to the truth? He said, It was on that frame work that decisions were made as to how they went forward'. He said, 'They lived by what the Bible had to say'.

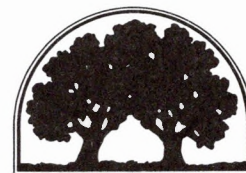
Down in front of the pulpit area was a little bench. He said, 'That is called a *mourning bench*'. I had heard the term before. If I had been asked to define what that was, I couldn't have done it. He said, 'The purpose of that was if one of the members of the congregation was involved in some type of activity that was not a blessing to the rest or against the Word of God, they had to come in front of the congregation, make a public apology, confess their sin, audibly, openly to everyone. Then for the next period of weeks, had to occupy that spot, facing the congregation as the worship services would continue. If the infraction was severe enough, they were also shunned for a time'. He said, 'Now in today's world, that may not mean much. You just go on about your business, deal with other people. Here there were no other people. Their neighbors in this valley in which they lived, they were surrounded, they had to deal with one another. They traded things. They used the barter system. So if someone was being shunned, the economic side of their life was also greatly affected. Conversely, everyone pulled together, had a common goal. They walked the pathway they were expected to walk to the praise and honor and glory of God'.

Again, I hope I am not out of place in reciting that. But I had to reflect back to God's Word. To the interpretation of our brotherhood. While some details would certainly be different in our lives today, and we probably are grateful for that, yet the concept, dear ones, comes right back to this prayer which the Lord Jesus Christ uttered in this chapter we've read together this morning. Where He utters these words, and let's read them once again. I know we've repeated them several times. But part of the prayer of the Son of God for you and I gathered here this morning is, "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me." v.20,21.

Let's appreciate, dear ones, what He has given us through the shed blood of His Son. Through the heritage that is ours. Through a faith and understanding that has allowed so many of us to approach His throne of grace on our knees humbly, pleading for forgiveness. Asking for strength and understanding, which He has so faithfully shared. Might that in itself encourage us, as we continue to walk, to continue to keep the Sabbath day holy. To count precious the opportunities that are ours from time to time. To enter the house of worship as we have done this morning and to once again, hear that prayer of our Lord and Savior echo down through the centuries. As He said in the last verse of the chapter that precedes this, "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." St. John 16:33.

Child Placement Manager Opening

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



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3. Have a dedicated interest, love and sensitivity for youth and families.
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6. Have treatment philosophy compatible with the mission of Gateway Woods - Apostolic Christian Children's Home.
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This position offers a competitive salary and generous benefits. For further information and a job description, please contact:

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

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

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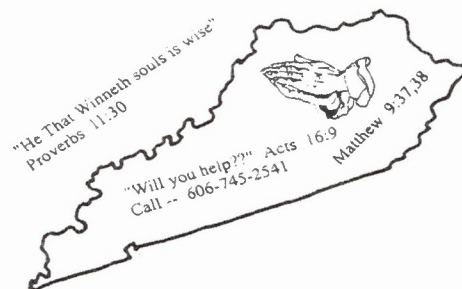
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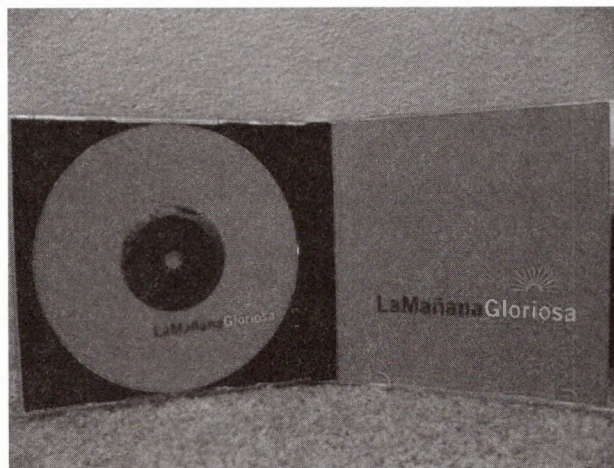
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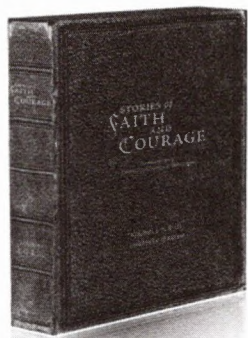
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Grief/Loss - Part 2

Grief/Loss, Part 1 was written for those who are grieving and was printed in the September, 2009, Silver Lining. Part 2 is focused on how to help grieving people soon after their loss. We want to follow the example of Jesus as he shared compassion. Mark 1:41: "And Jesus, moved with compassion, put forth his hand...." Jesus moved toward the people—reaching out to them. Matthew 20:34: "So Jesus had compassion on them, and touched....." Jesus physically touched them. Luke 7:13: "And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her, and said . . ." Jesus spoke to her.

Follow Jesus' example in your first encounter... Go to the family. Reach out and touch them—shake hands, touch their shoulder, or give them a hug—if it is appropriate. Speak in love. If you can't find the right words such as, "I know how special he/she was to you," or "I wish I could take the hurt away," you may simply say, "I'm sorry." Another way of saying, "I'm sorry," is, "You have my sympathy." Avoid clichés such as: "Everything happens for a reason," "It was meant to be," or "God would never give you more than you could handle." Clichés tend to minimize the loss. What may seem comforting to you may be very hurtful to the grieving person. If you are unaware of what to say, simply say, "I don't know what to say." Honesty can be more comforting than words with less meaning. Sometimes there is just nothing to say. Just be quiet, be with them, and hold their hands. If you do say something insensitive, acknowledge it and apologize. These comments can cause hurt and future resentment. Instead, be a source of comfort by listening, sharing a memory, and laughing or crying together.

If you are a close family member or friend, it may be helpful if you ask to help maintain laundry, basic housecleaning or cooking, or watch children at home. Other routine duties such as returning library books, buying groceries, picking up dry cleaning, transporting to appointments or activities, etc., may also be appreciated. Try to anticipate what your friend may need. Bereaved persons sometimes can't think of what is needed.

Some ideas for helping those going through grief and loss include: sending plants/flowers, giving to a charity in the loved one's name, sending sympathy cards (include money if you know there is a

need), writing special remembrances of the loved one, making short phone calls to them (don't worry about being a bother; let your friend tell you if he/she doesn't want to talk right now), and making and bringing dinner (try to use disposable containers, or clearly label containers you want returned, and be responsible for getting your container within a reasonable time).

In the first few weeks after a loss, continue your visits with them. Give your friend permission to grieve in front of you. Don't change the subject or tell them not to cry, and do not act uncomfortable when they do cry. Ask questions, but don't tell them how they should feel. Say sincerely, "Tell me how you are getting along," and be ready to listen. They may have a lot to say and may repeat their story many times. In order to be helpful to their grieving process, you must be willing to listen. Sometimes grieving people can verbalize what they need, so you know what you can do or say to comfort them. You can also add, "I've been thinking of you," or "I've been praying for you." Helpers need to be aware that people who are grieving also need times of NOT talking about grief.

Saying, "Call me if you need anything," or "Let me know how I can help," are generic statements for grieving families. Not all people are willing to ask for help. Instead, offer to take them out for dinner at a specific time that is convenient for them. Or state that you are getting your groceries Thursday morning. "May I have your grocery list to get your groceries at the same time?" Or "I'm putting through a load of laundry, do you have a basket or two that I can take home and do for you?" If the answers are "no," offer these again, or other suggestions, in a week or two.

Avoid giving advice. Everyone is an individual and grieves differently. There are no rules that define how a bereaved person should feel or how soon he/she will return to the routine of daily life. You may want the bereaved person to "get back to normal" in about a month, but depending on the type of loss, that may not be realistic thinking. Accept listening to stories patiently over and over; this is an important part of the grieving process.

After a few weeks, people generally stop coming by. Continue to call and check in with the grieving person or family. Make a call, leave a message, or write a note to let them know you care. Answering machines

and e-mail are great ways to keep in touch allowing the bereaved person to respond only when he/she feels up to it. Invite bereaved friends to attend events with you, as you normally would. Let them decide if they don't want to attend.

II Corinthians 1:3-4: "Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God." If you experienced death in your immediate family, you now have an opportunity to share your feelings and encouraging words of comfort. Now you may understand a purpose for the trial of grief you went through. Maybe there are several of you who have gone through similar situations. This would be a good time to visit the grieving person together. After listening to his/her words of loss, share your own and offer hope. Gently encourage grieving people to help them realize that they can adjust to a new way of living without their loved ones. Don't just do this one time. Invite the grieving person to do something with you away from his/her home—when he/she is ready. Until then, go for short visits (in small groups or alone) and share special songs, scripture, poems, and stories that may help. Grieving people often attach with others who have gone through grief.

The workplace can be a confusing and difficult place to grieve. The key to maintaining good working relations is to have open communication. Try to help grieving people maintain a normalcy at work. Ask them to lunch, or sincerely ask how they are doing. Employees and employers can try to alleviate feelings of being overwhelmed by either delegating or sharing job responsibilities. Crying, having difficult days, feeling confused, or having trouble concentrating is normal for grieving people. Providing a safe place to express their feelings at work will aid in their healing process.

Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide you as you endeavor to follow Jesus' pattern of demonstrating compassion to the grieving soon after their loss.

Many thoughts and ideas were taken from pamphlets printed by National SHARE Office, St. Joseph Health Center, 300 First Capitol Drive, St. Charles, MO, 62201-2893 and from the book, Tear Soup, by Schwiebert and DeKlyen.

Important Notice to Americans Crossing the Canadian Border by Land.

All adults will need just one of the following documents:

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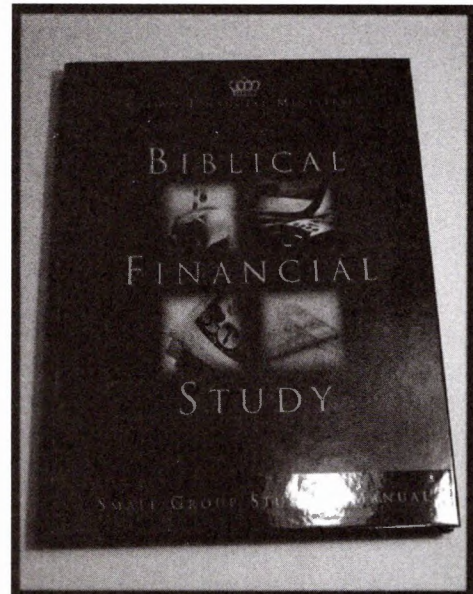
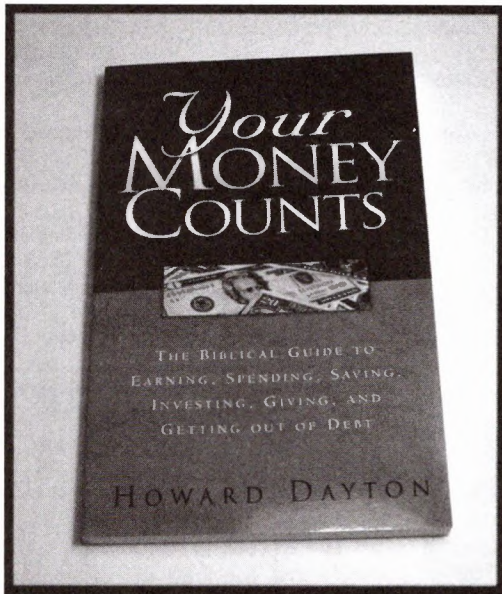
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CARIBBEAN BOARD PROJECTS - 2009/2010

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 November 11th, 2009 -www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-caribbean/

Project	Year 2009	Coordinator	Capacity	Project	Year 2009	Coordinator	Capacity
Les Cayes MEBSH School Roof	Dec 4-11	Ted Habegger 260-694-6765 tjh@citiznet.com	12	Croix De Bouquets Lifeline Constr/Medical	Feb 9-16	Neil Bahler 815-692-2370 nbahler@gmail.com	12
Les Cayes FRW Vocational School	Dec 4-11	Rick Wuethrich 219-567-9488 rick@wuethrichfarms.com	4	Haiti Palm Grove Construction	Feb 12-20	John Aberle 785-459-2423 jraberle@hotmail.com	
Les Cayes MEBSH Haiti Support	Dec 11-14	Rich Bertschi 309-467-2351 lemangm@mtco.com	Invitation	Les Cayes MEBSH School Roof	Feb 22-Mar 1	Randy Kieser 309-695-6340 kieser84@geckoct.com	12
Project	Year 2010	Coordinator	Capacity	Project	Year 2010	Coordinator	Capacity
Les Cayes MEBSH School Roof	Jan 8-15	Ron Palitto 330-336-5373 Ronp@palittoconsulting.com	12	Les Cayes FRW Vocational School	Mar 3-12	Rick Wuethrich 219-567-9488 rick@wuethrichfarms.com	4
Haiti Palm Grove Construction	Jan 15-23	John Aberle 785-459-2423 jraberle@hotmail.com	12	Les Cayes FRW Simone Orphanage	Mar 12-19	Rick Wuethrich 219-567-9488 rick@wuethrichfarms.com	12
Les Cayes AWA Water Aid	Jan 22-29	Troy Stuber 309-925-2603 troystuber@verizon.net	4	Les Cayes MEBSH School Roof	Mar 19-26	Rich Bertschi 309-467-2351 lemangm@mtco.com	12
La Higuera - D/R Lifeline Construction	Jan 26-Feb 2	Jim Koehl 309-377-3201 jmkoehl@yahoo.com	12	Les Cayes MEBSH Haiti Support	Mar 26-29	Rich Bertschi 309-467-2351 lemangm@mtco.com	12
Les Cayes MEBSH School Roof	Jan 29-Feb 5	Dean Pashak 989-662-7685 dwpashak@charter.net	12	Les Cayes MEBSH Maintenance	Mar 26-Apr 5	Jon Zeller 309-266-9009 jzeller@mtco.com	12
La Romana - D/R Lifeline Construction	Feb 2-9	Ted Steidinger 815-867-6452 tsteid@route24.net	12	Les Cayes AWA Water Aid	Apr 23-30	Troy Stuber 309-925-2603 troystuber@verizon.net	4
Les Cayes SEED Agriculture Aid	Feb 5-12	Dale Frank 319-766-3661 dtfrank@louisacomm.net	12	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 November 11th, 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	Feb 27 - Mar 6	Brian Huber 219-253-8304 bwhuber@urhere.net	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

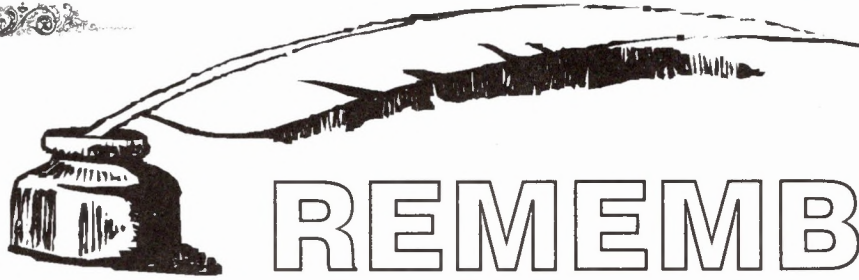
If anyone is interested in leading a team to Mexico, contact Bro. Mike Fiechter at 260-597-7330 or mfiechter@onlyinternet.net
Data updated from the Apostolic Christian World Relief web site as of November 11th, 2009 -www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-mexico/

Location	Year 2010	Coordinator					
Magdalena Construction	Jan 2-9	Denver Rassi 815-867-2196 drassi2@gmail.com		Reynosa Construction	Mar 20-27	Tristan Herrmann/U of I University of Illinois 309-712-6902 tristanherrmann@gmail.com	
Reynosa Construction	Jan 4-10	Steve Gerber 260-824-9561 srgerber@live.com		Magdalena Construction	Mar 20-27	Linc Rinkenberger Bluffton Senior Class 260-565-4155 rinkfamily@adamswells.com	
Magdalena Construction	Jan 9-16	John Teubel 815-657-8721 jteubel@maxwire.net		Agua Prieta Construction	Mar 20-27	Aaron Beery 330-927-6926 beeryaaron@embarqmail.com	
Magdalena Construction	Jan 16-23	Steve Kaeb 217-379-4707 kaebsb@illicom.net		Magdalena Construction	Mar 27 - Apr 3	Curt Hodel Roanoke Bible Class 309-923-8091 cjhodel@juno.com	
Magdalena Construction	Feb 6-13	Mike Zimmerman Congerville/Eureka 309-467-5464 mzimmerman004@gmail.com		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	
Magdalena Construction	Mar 13-20	Sam Kaufman/Purdue Purdue University 260-494-8733 sjkaufma@purdue.edu					

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. Bill Lemman		Roanoke, IL	Cell# 309-241-0257
* Bro. Tom Neuenschwander		Bluffton, IN	Cell# 260-307-6026
* Bro. Ray Slagel		Fairbury, IL	Cell# 815-848-3714



REMEMBERING

Our Spiritual Heritage

This is the concluding portion of a two-part series of an article appearing in an Akron, Ohio, newspaper in the 1920s. It dealt with a newspaper reporter's account of the Apostolic Christian Church in that city, and was written by reporter William Eagan. The concluding section is below:

There is no social activity in connection with the church. The Sunday dinner is its sole secular function. Members seek entertainment in meditation and in visits and conversation with other members.

Technically, the church members do not seek entertainment or pleasure. They are not hedonistic. And their mental reaction to something which pleases them is consolation, rather than entertainment.

In the World War the members of the Apostolic Christian Church declined to carry arms. They said they wouldn't fight against their fellow men, but they would go to the front as ambulance drivers or for other non-combatant service. On the war records of the United States, these people are listed as "conscientious objectors".

But no one ever said they were afraid of war. They wouldn't carry guns, to be sure, but they would and did endanger their lives caring for the wounded who had been shot by enemy guns.

Apostolic Christians refuse to have anything to do with politics, according to their elders. They never vote and take no voice in governmental affairs. There are other reasons

besides brotherly love, though. In the first place, elders say, the interests of the church and the state are widely divergent. Each should let the other alone. Government has to do with worldly things. The church with spiritual things.

"Of course," one elder explained, "We realize that government is necessary. But we believe it can get along without us. To our way of thinking, the church and state cannot mix their interests. History will corroborate what I say.

"But don't get the idea that we are not good citizens. We are. We pay our taxes and abide by the civil law, and we pretty much keep to ourselves. We are not bitter against anything civil. Of course, we believe there is much room for improvement in politics. We believe it is somewhat wicked and corrupt. Not all of it. But some of it. As I said before, though, it is a necessary evil."

The Apostolic Christian Church is ruled from within with steel-banded laws and customs. To become a member of the church a convert must prove to the elders that he is pure of heart. Public confession of guilt is not demanded. But a confession of sin to one of the elders is. The confession, naturally, is held in the utmost confidence.

Speedy ecclesiastical justice is dealt to members of the church who fail to live up to its idealistic principles. They are excommunicated, if necessary. But alternative punishments are resorted to first, provided the sin is not a sacrilegious one, the elder said.

The congregation of the Apostolic Christian Church is remarkably large, considering the stringent regulations to which members must subject themselves. It numbers more than 300 persons.

"We would rather have a small flock of devoted parishioners who attend church regularly and adhere to its beliefs, than a large congregation which only comes to services when it wants to," an elder said.

"Converts are always welcome to our church. But they must be sure they wish to be converted to our beliefs and they must be sure that they will live up to them."

Editors note:

As we read this article nearly 90 years after it appeared in an American newspaper, it is necessary to realize the church had been in America for only about 75 years, and their devotion to a life of separation from the world, and nonconformity to worldliness, were vivid ideals lived out in a practical sense. As today, the Bible was held in high esteem and recognized as the final arbiter of truth. They lived their lives in a serious way, and were diligent adherents of true brotherhood.

By Perry A. Klopfenstein
Next Issue: More history

(The Remembering column is still looking for more articles and historical data. Please mail historical data to Remembering, P. O. Box 404, Pontiac, Illinois 61764)

The Light Of Hope

“Hope and Assurance”

Retired Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, formerly of Shioda, Japan

What does the Bible teach about having a hope to go to heaven, or having the assurance of going to heaven? Either way, it is through Jesus Christ, for He is our Redeemer. In Acts 4:12 we read, “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”

In Romans 8:24 it is written, “For we are saved by hope.” This must mean that we have hope because of our faith in Christ, and that that faith activates the grace of God. In Ephesians 2:8 it says, “For by grace are ye saved through faith.”

By definition, hope includes an expectation of what you desire. That makes having hope close to having the assurance of going to heaven, through Christ. But Satan may say that we will never make it because we haven't done something right, or we haven't been good enough, or some other reason. The problem is that we may not know it is from Satan and be greatly disturbed by the thought of possibly not being ready to meet God.

We speak of having a living hope but I can't find it in the Bible. The closest I can come to it is in I Peter 1:3, “Unto a lively hope.”

What about “assurance”? In

Acts 17:31 it is written, “He hath given assurance unto all men in that he hath raised him from the dead.” In this passage of scripture, the Apostle Paul does not give the assurance of salvation to anyone, only the assurance that Christ is the Son of God, and qualified to be our Saviour.

However, Paul himself, speaks as if he had the assurance of salvation. In II Timothy 4:7-8 he writes, “I have kept the faith: henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness.” Paul also wrote in Philippians 1:23, “Having a desire to depart and be with Christ; which is far better.” He felt sure of his salvation.

When Paul says that he has kept the faith, does that mean that he never made any mistakes? I don't think so. Philippians 3:11-12 reads, “If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead. Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect.” It is interesting to note that Paul felt that he, himself, was not perfect but that because of his faith in Christ, a crown of righteousness was laid up for him, and that through Christ, he was perfect in God's sight.

We do need to keep the faith. Are we abiding in Christ, the true vine? Do we pray, read the

Bible, and try earnestly to do God's will as we understand it from what is written in His Word? Are we walking in the light? I John 1:7 tells us, “But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.”

The Apostle Peter in II Peter 1:14 wrote, “Knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath shewed me.” Peter writes as if he had complete assurance of salvation.


The Apostle Paul wrote in Romans 8:38,39, “For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life,shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

It is my hope and prayer that all of us who name the name of Christ can have both the lively hope and the assurance of salvation. I believe that that assurance must be based on the atonement Christ made for us and that we are presently trusting in Christ, abiding in Him, and walking in the light as He is in the light, to the best of our ability. May God give to each humble and trusting soul, the joy of His salvation.

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THE SILVER LINING
1389 County Road 1600 N, Roanoke, IL 61561

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*****CAR-RT LOT**C-003
LS SEQ:1460 P2 PK88
NICK KAEB
304 E HICKORY ST
FAIRBURY IL 61739-1233



*But the wisdom that is from above is first pure,
then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated,
full of mercy and good fruits,
without partiality, and without hypocrisy.*