

The Silver Lining



*The Lord on high is mightier than the noise of many waters,
yea, than the mighty waves of the sea.*

June 2010

Sermon by Elder Bro. John Laukhuf, Latty, OH

Ezra 6:1-12 and Galatians 5

What a blessing it is to be able to come into God's house. It is a beautiful morning out. Absolutely beautiful to see the sun glistening off the snow. As Brother Earl welcomed you back from Jamaica, those of you that were there, I am sure there is quite a big difference between Jamaica's weather and here. But as we come into God's house and we feel the love of Almighty God and His people, we have His Word before us, isn't it a blessing when we can come into this place? We will feel warmth today simply because of the love and the light of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. No better place that we could be. Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God, we read (Romans 10:17). So loved ones, we are dependant upon your prayers this morning hour, that we can be blessed and filled with that light and that love.

A few thoughts on Ezra. We know how they had gone to the king after God's chosen people, Jerusalem, had been plundered. They had been carried away as had been predicted by the prophets of old. God now was bringing them back to rebuild the temple. It talked about the decree that was being made. "And that which they have need of, both young bullocks, and rams, and lambs, for the burnt offerings of the God of heaven..." Ezra 6:9. Whatever their needs would be, the decree had gone out that that would be supplied. It made me think, we don't have a situation like this, where we are going back to a homeland and rebuilding a temple of honor to Almighty God. Yet He wants us to build that temple in our heart every day of our life, doesn't He? Especially after we have been converted.

We were so privileged last night to hear the testimony of four young men, four dear souls that Jesus Christ went to the cross for. He bled and died on the cross for you and for me and He had on His mind the very names of those four young men. Today we are going to witness their

baptisms, Lord willing. They will be buried in the watery grave and arise to a newness of life. They will be erecting a covenant to Almighty God that that temple will be built within their heart. That's what He wants for every one of us. It is God's desire that all would come to the knowledge of the truth and be saved. No one would perish. He wants that for each brother and sister and friend of the truth. He wants us to understand that in His storehouses are all the things that we need. Even as the decree went out that they could go back and rebuild the temple. There were various stations of occupations provided for. All the materials and resources that they needed. Loved ones, it is no different in our spiritual walk. That is how God provides for us today. Spiritual resources and spiritual wealth. When we become discouraged, we have so many avenues to help us fight the enemy. In the book of Romans, Paul reminded them, he was very careful as he talked about grace in the early chapters. That grace is the power to overcome sin. We heard that last night. It is an undeserved gift. He tells us there, if we have grace, should we continue in sin? He says, God forbid. (Romans 6:1,2) But he reminded them that there are going to be temptations where we need to pray more earnestly for grace. Paul tells us, but where sin did abound, grace did the more abound (Romans 5:20) Oh, it is an encouragement to me!

When the enemy comes and he buffets us, when the enemy comes and he wants to lie to us and tell us, you know, the storehouses of God really aren't as full as you think they are - look at you struggling. Does he ever tell you that? Does he ever come to you and try to put you down and make you feel really bad about your spiritual walk? He is a liar. He tempts us. God's resources and God's unlimited power is able to give

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"If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me." (Matthew 16:24)

Light From The Word



Writings based
on God's Word

June 2010

Self-Denial

"If any man will come after me, let him deny himself..." (Matt. 16:24). This teaching of Jesus does not sit well with our "Be yourself" culture that perceives any judgment of one's personal conduct as an imposition. Man says, "Accept me for who I am." God says, "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John. 3:3). Man says, "If it feels good, it must be right." God says, "If ye live after the flesh, ye shall die" (Rom. 8:13). Man says, "Let me do it my way." God says, "I am the way...no man cometh unto the Father but by me" (John. 14:6). This represents the conflict between the spiritual mind and the carnal mind.

At the heart of this conflict is the question of who decides what is right and wrong. The truth, of course, is that God decides. "It is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves" (Ps. 100:3). He is, always has been, and always will be our Sovereign God (Rev. 1:8). Who are we to question Him? "Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus?" (Rom. 9:20).

Unfortunately the carnal mind has bought the lie that says, "I decide what is right and wrong." Satan fathered this lie (John. 8:44) when he chose to put his own will before God's will (Isa. 14:12-15). Cast out of heaven, he recruited Adam and Eve to his side. "Hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?" (Gen. 3:1), he asked Eve. Indeed, God had forbidden one tree (Gen. 2:17), but the deceiver successfully turned Eve's focus from God's perspective to her own. "In the day ye eat thereof," he said, "your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods" (Gen. 3:5). In other words, you can decide what is right and wrong.

Eve believed Satan, and the rest is history. We are all born with sinful natures, and every sin is rooted in the lie: "I decide what is right and wrong." Today's moral relativism is nothing new; it's just the modern manifestation of man's innate desire to be his own god.

Paul had a word for this self-focus: "carnal," which is defined as, "fleshly; of or pertaining to the body as the seat

of desires and appetites." Paul writes, "For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh, but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. The carnal mind is enmity against God, for it is not subject to the law of God..." (Rom. 8:5, 7).

Carnality and spirituality are mutually exclusive, and the consequences of each could not be clearer: "To be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace" (Rom. 8:6). The inescapable conclusion is that in everything we do, we either serve self or we serve God. "No man can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one, and love the other, or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other" (Matt. 6:24). To follow God's will, we must deny our own.

From the moment of the fall, God has been calling us back to the side of truth. It began with a simple call to Adam (Gen. 3:9) and a promise of redemption (Gen. 3:15). It continues throughout His Word and even today. "O that there were such an heart in them," He cries, "that they would fear me, and keep all my commandments always, that it might be well with them, and with their children forever!" (Deut. 5:29). Jesus pleads, "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me..." (Matt. 11:28-29). We learn that giving up our independence and being "yoked" with Jesus brings us back to His side of truth, and we find rest for our souls.

Christ reiterated this call to deny self in the Sermon on the Mount by establishing standards for human thought and behavior which exemplify His new commandment to love one another as He has loved us (John 13:34). God is blessed (Ps. 119:12, 1 Tim. 6:15), and we are promised an opportunity to be "partakers of His divine nature" (2 Pet. 1:4) – to be blessed ourselves. The Beatitudes (Matt. 5:3-12) show us how.

Yet there is something perplexing about these Beatitudes: blessed are the poor in spirit, the mourners, the meek, the pure, those who hunger for righteousness, ...the persecuted. Man's list would

likely say: blessed are the rich, the happy, the strong, the righteous (in their own eyes), and the victorious. Christ's idea of blessedness certainly shocked the Jews who were more concerned about Roman oppression than slavery to sin.

However, it is not our will, but God's will that must reign in our hearts. Each Beatitude centers on self-denial as key to happiness. Do you want to follow Christ? "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself..." (Matt. 16:24). This is not just a message for the unconverted; it is directed to all of us.

So what shall we do? We can always look to Christ for the perfect example. As He agonized over His imminent crucifixion, He prayed, "Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me; nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done" (Luke 22:42). He acknowledged His own will, but deferred to the Father's. God decides what is right. That is perfect self-denial.

Then Christ obeyed. He took up His cross and paid the penalty for sin that each of us rightfully owed. We must do the same in our hearts. It is not enough to simply acknowledge God's will; we must act. We must put to death our carnal desires and "put on the new man which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him" (Col. 3:5-10). "They that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts" (Gal. 5:24).

Paul entreats us to present our bodies as "a living sacrifice" (Rom. 12:1). "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me..." (Gal. 2:20). The imagery is vivid. Christ paid the ultimate penalty, but as we are conformed to His image, we, too, must die to self and live unto Him. "And be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God" (Rom. 12:2).

Not our will. God's will. He decides what is right and wrong. Let us by grace deny self and obey—with love and joy.

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 clemam@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

Casa Vida y Esperanza in Mexico

The Challenge

Who are the poor, and how are we to respond to their cries? This is a question we are faced with daily here in Magdalena and at CVE. *Whoso stoppeth his ears at the cry of the poor, he also shall cry himself, but shall not be heard.* Proverbs 21:13

We certainly need to hear the cries of those whom have been cast aside by their families, their security, and by society. There are those who cry out to know the truth, and yet don't know where to turn or to whom to trust. There are others who thought they were loved, only to be used, abused and neglected.

How do we love others as we have been loved by the Lord, with unconditional love? This is much easier to say than to do. How do we love the unlovable? We have other questions that require discernment:

- Current events can fill our minds and steal our time. How can we refocus and set right priorities to help those who are afraid to go to sleep at night because of the awful things that they have experienced in the past?
- How do we make church not just an activity, but also a thirst for those who have been deceived and let down?
- How do we appreciate our uniqueness as we have been created, and also maintain unity and respect among God's children?
- How do we do all that we can, and yet let go, knowing it is God's work and we are only His servants?

Such is the battle we face here in Magdalena. Pray that we may have wisdom. *And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.* John 17:26

The Church

We are thankful for a regular place of worship, and most of all, for those who have surrendered their lives to Jesus. We praise God for those who have been baptized and for those that are awaiting baptism. We rejoice that we have been privileged to see God works in the heart of men yet today in Mexico. Please pray for those who have begun their walk with Christ and those who are still searching for the truth.



The children

CVE is home to 28 children who range in age from babies to 16 years. Many of these children have lived here for over 5 years, and our desire is they will grow to know Christ and become faithful Christian men and women. Please pray for the children that they can know their Father through His Son, Jesus Christ.

We are thankful the children we have the privilege of caring for have grown in their love and respect for each other, for others, and above all for their love and respect for their creator. Glory be to God

We also had the privilege of caring for a 5 day old newborn preemie. Though he spent a month in the hospital, he taught us much about our reliance on the Father, the giver of life. During his time in the hospital, the family of his mother was found and they were reunited with them. The family thought the mother had been dead for 10 years. What a reunion that must have been! *But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ.* Eph 4:15

The school

CVE School has been a great blessing to the children and to the staff as it continues to grow. If it is the Lord's will, we hope it can be a Christian school not only for CVE, but for the community of Magdalena also. Please be prayerful this would happen as the Lord opens the doors to offer a Godly option to the children from this area. *"God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord."* 1 Cor. 1:9

The blessing

We have been blessed to have many volunteers and work teams in the last year. We are thankful for their hard work and for all that has been completed, but above this we are thankful for the relationships made with our children and the staff here at CVE. The Christian fellowship has been a blessing. Thank you for your love, support, and prayers.



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

Hope for the Deaf Children in Mexico

In developing nations, the neediest people on the fringes of society are often neglected. This is the case for the Deaf in Mexico, a country with a minimum wage of less than five dollars a day. A deaf child in Mexico often has little opportunity to communicate and learn.

Most deaf children are sent to school, but it is rare that the teacher knows sign language. They end up being passed through school as a formality, but few receive an education. A deaf child is not expected to get an education, have a job or live a "normal" life, so subsequently little investment is made in their lives. God, however, is showing us that these children have a bright future.

School for the Deaf

In 2006, Isaiah 55 Deaf Ministries started the first school for the Deaf, Instituto Isaias 55, in Reynosa, Mexico, a city of roughly one million. Instituto Isaias 55 has three main goals for the students that come through its doors: communication, education and the Gospel. The majority of the students start with little or no language.

The Deaf, unlike the hearing, don't learn language spontaneously from birth. They have to be taught to communicate because they don't have the phonetic instruments that the hearing employ. This lack of language leads to incredible isolation and frustration. Imagine not being able to understand what goes on around you or express how you are feeling. Imagine not even knowing that a language even exists by which you can be understood.

Some students who have joined the school don't even know they have a name. Step one is to teach the students their names. Then little-by-little, the teachers start to show that the hands can be used to represent certain concrete objects like people, or things visible in the surrounding area. At some point a light goes on in the child's mind and a door is opened for language learning. One big obstacle to overcome is that humans have the most language acquisition in the first five years of life, and the deaf students are getting a late start.



Once the child has a basic grasp of sign language, the teachers can begin to teach them all the normal subjects of school: math, science, history, reading and writing. Another challenge for the Deaf is that the written language is a second language for them, which in this case is Spanish. They have to start memorizing sequences of letters that represent "words." Reading and writing is key for them to be able to communicate with the hearing world.

Responding in faith

Finally, when a deaf child has a base of language and education, he or she starts to venture into abstract concepts, like love, faith, sin, respect, God, etc. These are hard concepts

for the Deaf to undertake, but once they can conceive of the abstract, they can start to grapple with questions of faith. Instituto Isaias 55 has classes for the children each week so they can learn the story of the Bible which ties into the story of their lives. These students, because of their isolation from society and language, have never heard the Gospel story. Now, they have the chance to learn about the God who created them, who loves them and is calling them to be reconciled to Him. Students are responding in faith and wanting to learn more about repentance and cleansing through the blood of Jesus Christ.

You can help through Child Sponsorship

The Apostolic Christian Church has been a big part in helping to build Instituto Isaias 55 and get the program off the ground. There have been innumerable donations made in the way of school supplies, equipment, money and volunteer labor to bring the school to the place it is today, for which Isaiah 55 Deaf Ministries is so thankful.

The Child Sponsorship Program has made it possible for the school to have the income necessary to pay the teachers, buy the books and uniforms, pay utilities and continue to expand the facility to accommodate growth. In the scriptures, we are told that one sign that God is at work is when the Deaf begin to hear. That is being evidenced in Reynosa, Mexico, through His almighty hand. Please consider supporting the school through student sponsorship and pray that Deaf of Mexico can continue to "hear" the Gospel and become an integral part of their families and society.

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

The residents and staff of the Apostolic Christian Home for the Handicapped have been experiencing many changes over the past couple of years. Some changes include new people joining our agency family while at the same time we have experienced loss as a few of our loved ones have passed from this life. We've had many residents move from one home within the agency to another. We've had residents begin new jobs or day programs while others have reached a point in their life when they make the decision to retire. Such is life, mostly dynamic, seldom static.

For the most part, our residents appreciate and need life to stay "routine"; to stay structured. We as staff strive to support them with this need and not change their lives too much or too quickly. If we were to make a sudden and surprise shift to one of our residents' every day schedule, it's more than probable that he or she may become quite anxious and show outward signs of frustration and perhaps even anger. Therein lies an interesting thought ... even though, generally speaking, our residents exhibit a greater need for the status quo, how is it that they have coped so wonderfully with the changes we've presented their way over these past many months? Can it be said that it's not the change that's inherently hard; it's the process of being changed?

Is it true to form some kind of similarity between our residents accepting change to how we as Christians become changed? And if so, how can we successfully cope with change when we find ourselves fighting it? Our Christian lives undergo a transformation that can only be accomplished through the shed blood of Christ. We know that it is Christ who changes, who has power to transform a life and redeem the soul. However, we must relinquish our hearts to Christ in order for Him to free us of our sin. And in so doing, we trust Him. We must trust Him - there is just simply no other way to describe it. We believe that He will never leave us nor will He forsake us. We believe that our earthly life, in His hands, is more beautiful than our life under our

own control. And further, we believe we are safe in Him. Our residents, to a degree, have a similar trust in our staff. They look to each staff person to keep them safe from harm; they look to us to keep their environment structured in such a way as to not cause them to become confused or to worry or to become anxious or even angry.

So, what makes changing harder for some than others? Does the answer have something to do with the level of trust our residents place in those who care for them? And what about we, as Christians, why is the changing process less difficult for some than for others if indeed there is truth to this statement? Is there a direct correlation with the degree of trust that we place in the One who is in control? When we take our eyes off our heavenly Father, who cared enough to allow His only Son to die on a cruel and lonely cross, our conversion may become more of a struggle and we may find ourselves frustrated or anxious. Our hope and desire as an agency is that our residents can live in a peaceful state, free from any additional stressors or pain. In the same vein, we desire that peaceful and trusting life for those who have begun a life of serving Christ. Our desire for a new life in Christ, as well as for each of us who have begun our journey with Christ years ago, is to trust the One who guides and directs. Isn't it comforting to know that He will never lead us down a path in which He doesn't accompany us? He will never leave us to deal with change or loss by ourselves. He will never allow us to be presented with challenges that are not for our own benefit, hard as though they may be at times.

Our residents indeed have shown strength and trust during these times of change in their lives. May we as children of the King rejoice in knowing that our Savior, Redeemer and Friend will never lead us to any place where He does not also sojourn. "For the cloud of the LORD was upon the tabernacle by day, and fire was on it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel, throughout all their journeys" - Exodus 40:38

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

Lisa Zaagman

The other day, I was making a dessert with one of the residents in the Maple House kitchen. The recipe we chose required the chocolate chips to be melted. So I busily gathered the ingredients while she willingly took on the job of being in charge of the melting process. When the timer on the microwave went off, she pulled the bowl of chocolate chips out and exclaimed, "Oh! no! Lisa, I burnt the chocolate. I am just going to throw this away." Growing up with a Dutch/Swiss background, I couldn't justify just throwing the chocolate away. So I attempted to salvage it. "Just add a little bit of milk and see if the chips soften up," I suggested. Taking my advice, she added the milk and put the bowl back into the microwave. When the timer went off again, she pulled them out and began to stir them. The mixture had now turned into what looked like a chocolate drink. Out of curiosity, we poured the new substance into a mug to take a test drink. It was delicious! It turned out to be a fabulous rich hot chocolate drink! What a treat came out of our mistake.

So often we are quick to throw things out that don't work or are broken or have a crack in them, simply because we don't have any use for them. But God doesn't work like that. He sees value in the things we see as "trash". The resident was able to learn firsthand, how none of us like the burnt chocolate are irreplaceable. God has a great value in us even though we have been broken by sin. I fall more and more in love with God knowing that He cannot only love me despite my sin, but also use my faults for His glory.

"God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?"

Numbers 23:19

"The LORD is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works"

Psalms 145:17

My prayer while I have been at Gateway Woods has been that God would provide opportunities for the Houseparents to teach the residents more about Him in the routine of life here. Thank you for your prayers.

NEWS:

- Our summer volunteer program began as Bro. Joel Stickling, Volunteer Coordinator, arrived at the end of May. If you are over 18 years old and have a desire to serve with other believers, please visit the volunteer page on our website at: www.gatewaywoods.org/supporters/volunteer where you can electronically submit a volunteer application and obtain a volunteer reference form. Thank you in advance for your willingness to serve!

- We are grateful for the number of summer interns we will have this year. Sis. Kaitlyn Isaia (Roanoke), Ashley Plummer (Latty), and Sis. Amanda Winn (Gridley) will learn/assist in our Counseling Program. Bro. Aaron Roecker (Peoria) will be working with our Public Relations department. We are thankful that our many Brothers and Sisters in Christ view Gateway Woods as a potential career opportunity.

- We praise God that He continues to provide us with the right Staff. We currently have three career positions open at Gateway Woods: Assistant Houseparent, Alternate Houseparents, and IL Adoption Manager. Please see the notices in this month's edition of The Silver Lining for more information. We trust that God will continue to provide us with qualified, mature Brothers and Sisters who will be able to serve Him in a ministry that is 'Turning Lives Around'. Perhaps this includes you!

- 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.

- Please mark your calendar for our 2010 Annual Benefit Auction on Saturday, August 7.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL Athens, AL Sarah Hodel

Each May we wind our school year down by spending the month practicing for our graduation. Practice always causes the teachers a little extra frustration as we try to get the kids to stand in the right spot and say their piece all while refraining from poking, hitting, jumping off risers, etc... etc... Each year we also are able to report that the night of graduation runs smoothly and everything goes as planned. That was not the case this year! Ten minutes before people started showing up, a storm rolled through and knocked the power out. With everyone huddled in a dark preschool, it was finally decided that we should cancel and reschedule for the next week. No sooner had we made that announcement to all the family and friends waiting outside, then the lights came back on. Quickly we called back the few kids who had already left and we were able to go on with our program. The children then set out to prove that they are most definitely not shy. We got through the program with giggle fits, loud talking, obnoxious off key singing, face making and lots of crooked graduation caps. Even though they didn't act like the little angelic choir we had envisioned, they were cute and funny and the audience loved them!

Cute kid quote of the month: One of our little boys noticed another girl's freckles. He told us, "She has polka dots on her face"!

We are in need of two new preschool teachers. It does not matter if you are married or single. Please consider taking this opportunity. It is more than a blessing! For more information you can contact Bro. Mike Moore. (256)729-0620, (256)777-3390 or ALM38@aol.com.

ALABAMA, ATHENS Louise Hall

There is coming a day when no heart-aches shall come,
No more clouds in the sky, no more
tears to dim the eye;

All is peace forever more on the happy
golden shore,
What a day, glorious day that will be.

There'll be no sorrow there, no more
burdens to bear,
No more sickness, no pain, no more
parting over there
And forever I will be with the One
who died for me
What a day, glorious day that will be.

What a day that will be when my Je-
sus I shall see
When I look upon His face, the One
who saved me by His grace
When He takes me by the hand and
leads me through the promised
land
What a day, glorious day that will be.

That really will be a glorious day, won't it? We are prayerful for our loved ones whose sickness has been getting them down a little bit. Bro. David Coulter's father, Bill, had heart surgery. Bro. JR Hall (Sis. Louise) had surgery as well. We pray for a speedy recovery for both of these men.

We were sad to say farewell to our Bro. Tyler and Sis. Whitney Huber as they moved out to Denver. They have assembled with us the last couple years and we have loved having them here.

As always, we are thankful for visiting ministers. Bro. Fred Funk (Morton, IL) and Bro. Ron Kipfer (Bluffton, IN) blessed us by sharing the Word. We ask that God would bless them in return.

It is always exciting to hear about a new little bundle of joy. Bro. Mike and Sis. Pam Moore are grateful to welcome little Addison Marie into their family. Demond and Amber Garth, along with big sister, Alayna, are thrilled as well.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX Heather Hinrichsen

We thank Elder Bro. Steve Ringger (Bluffton North) and Bro. Bob Dotterer (Sardis) for preaching the Gospel of Salvation to us this past month.

Sis. Clara Banwart obtained her heavenly reward as she left her earthly body here on Mother's Day, May 9. She is survived by her husband, Bro. Floyd, and

three children: Bro. Bob and Sis. Betty Lemons (Ft. Scott, KS), Steve and Betty Lemons (Virginia) and Marcia Banks (Goodyear, AZ). Bro. Floyd and Sis. Clara were married for 58 years and were the first couple married in the Phoenix church.

Brent Emch (Bro. James and Sis. Gina) was announced as having found peace with God and man. Testimonies for him and Philip Huette are scheduled for July 17.

Our annual business meeting was held May 12 and the following brothers were elected to offices: Trustee chairman - Bro. Jerry Tooley; Assistant Sunday School Superintendent - Bro. Marshal Witzig; Lunch Fund - Bro. Randy Wuethrich; Ushers - Bro. Rod Anliker and Bro. Joe Greenbank; Song Leaders - Bro. Doug Huette and Bro. Jeff Steffen; Congregational/fellowship Hall Coordinators - Bro. Adam Ebert and Bro. Bill Hamilton; and World Relief Assistant Coordinator - Sis. Johanna Knochel.

May finds us acknowledging the accomplishments of our graduates. We pray for them God's blessings in their future schooling or career pathways. The graduates are: 8th grade - Jenna Freed, Hannah Steffen and Kailey Wuethrich. High School - Brent Emch, Sis. Emily Freed, Leigh Anne Hand, Sis. Amanda Knochel and Sally Lindenbaum. College - Katie Greenbank, Franz Hoerr and Luke Lindenbaum.

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT Denise Steidinger

We are so thankful for the willingness of ministering brothers to come share God's Word with our small congregation. This past month, we were visited by Bro. Bob Dotterer (Sis. Laura, Sardis), Bro. Seth Gerber (Magdalena), Bro. Jerry Bauman (Sis. Martha, Rittman) and Bro. Gary Maibach (Sis. Mary Ann, Smithville).

Our congregation had the privilege of hosting the Phoenix Choir on May 22 for an evening of singing and fellowship.

ARIZONA, TUCSON Lisa Knapp

Our winter visitors are all gone, our

numbers are small and summer is just around the corner, but God is ever faithful and we move forward knowing that He has always blessed our little church.

We have managed to avoid the 100 degree mark as we enter the middle of May for which we are always grateful! Our mornings and evenings are still cool and the days warm and sunny, if not a little too warm sometimes.

We held our annual business meeting last night, a reminder of all the different ways we each contribute to our congregation. Our election results were as follows: Bro. Chris Hattan will replace Bro. Doug Bauer as the Sunday School Superintendent; Bro. Doug Bauer will replace Bro. Don Bauer as the Trustee/Treasurer. We thank everyone for their willingness to serve and ask God to richly bless those whose jobs have ended and be with those who are beginning in their new roles.

We are so happy to report that Bee Schmidt has been able to gather with us again and take her usual spot on the bench. We missed her so much and are thankful to have her back with us and looking so well.

KITCHENER, ONTARIO CANADA

Johanna Fortenbacher

We're very thankful for the ministers that came this month: Bro. Arlyn Leman (Sis. Denise, Forrest) and Bro. Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi, Alto). Bro. Fred Domka (Sis. Connie) came with a big group of people from Mansfield who were in the area for a wedding on Saturday.

While they were here, Bro. Arlyn and Sis. Denise Leman's son, Chase, had a bicycle collision with his sister. He was taken by ambulance to the hospital with a head concussion. In talking with his mother recently, I was told he is now doing just fine. What a great relief!

We're looking forward to a baptism on June 13 for Michelle Davidson. Her mother, Carol Davidson, has been diagnosed with terminal cancer. We hope she is well enough to be here for the baptism. Her address is: 130 Price St., London, ON N5Z 2J3 Canada, if you want to write her an encouragement card.

Our brothers did the dishes for us ladies on Mother's Day. Since we have no

automatic dishwasher, this was a nice break.

No church in Kitchener on September 12—Lord willing, we'll all be in Detroit.

"And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins. Use hospitality one to another without grudging."

1 Peter 4:8-9

REGINA, SK CANADA

Greetings from Regina! Have you been here before? All visitors are welcome. We have a house that our church has used for many years that serves as our gathering place. A sincere thanks to all of you that have come in the past.

Here is our minister rotation schedule for this summer. We don't get a chance to see many people so we're looking forward to seeing you then.

May 23 - West Bend

June 20 - Rittman

July 18 - Forrest

August 22- Francesville

September 26- Sabetha

Presently we have approximately 15 attendees on a regular scheduled Sunday which includes 3 members and 4 converts.

Bro. Keith, Sis. Myrna and their son, Bro. Kelly Shipley, have been the caretakers of the house for many years. The house has 3 bedrooms and a washer and dryer for company use. One of the bedrooms has two single beds and the other rooms each have a double bed. If you wish to stay, contact Sis. Myrna for the house key (306) 545-3025.

The Kaiser families live 2 1/2 hours east of Regina near the boarder of Manitoba. Thank the Lord, Herman, Hilda and their sons, Benjamin and Uli Kaiser, have started seeking the Lord. We wish them much grace and mercy and the joy that comes with serving Him.

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own under-

standing. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.”

Psalm 3:56

COLORADO, DENVER

Ann Gonglach

The Denver congregation was blessed to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of Bro. Tucker Huber (Bro. Eric and Sis. Marcel), and Sis. Brianna Huber (Bro. Gordon and Sis. Sharlyn).

The Lord has also blessed us with additional growth through several “transplants”. We welcome Bro. Fred Leman back after a period of schooling in Oregon. Bro. Max Knobloch is here for a summer internship, and newlyweds, Bro. Kyle and Sis. Tricia Fiechter, have felt the Lord leading them to move to Denver. We trust the Lord will bless each of them and guide them in a faithful and fruitful life here in Denver.

We were encouraged by the ministry of Bro. Jeff and Sis. Janice Bahr (Kiowa) who were here visiting their daughter. We hope they come back often!

Bro. Rod and Sis. Cindy Schmidt and their family bid their final farewell to Sis. Cindy’s father, Bro. Alf Streitmatter. Bro. Alf visited Denver often and always brought a warm cheerfulness that brightened our day. We will miss him. We pray for the comfort of faith to strengthen Bro. Alf’s family.

Sis. Ruth Pfeiffer has returned home after a brief hospital stay. We continue to pray for a complete recovery, and miss her presence in church.

As a reminder to all who have plans to visit during the peak vacation period at the end of July, we plan to hold services in several mountain locations in addition to our regular services in Aurora. Please see the information at the back of this issue of the Silver Lining for details.

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE

Laura Virkler Bonnie Bahler

“Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised.”

Proverbs 31:30

This month we remembered our Mothers, honoring them for the place they have in the lives of their families and in the faith. What a blessing it is to have so many examples of love and service! Many of us can name those who have been mothers to us in faith. It is good to set aside time to thank them and recognize the special place there is in the heart of God for a virtuous woman.

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

Ps. 133

The Rockville young group enjoyed a blessed weekend with many visitors from several congregations over Memorial Day weekend. We hope each soul was encouraged from the time spent with us in sweet fellowship and friendship. It certainly was a blessing for us!

We also enjoyed a visit from ministering Bro. Shawn Metzger, his wife, Sis. Sandy, and their family of Philadelphia, PA. We trust God will bless the efforts of those who come and preach the Word while they are visiting our congregation.

Many thoughts and prayers have been with those who have been recently ill or hospitalized. Our friend Lauren Skinner (Everett and Sis. Sherri) had extensive surgery and we are thankful that she is making a rapid recovery. Sis. Elsa Champ was also hospitalized and we are grateful that she can assemble with us once again. How easy it is as human beings to become frustrated with these setbacks of health and wellbeing, and hopefully those of us enjoying the fullness of life will remember those who are suffering. May the Lord grant all who are in need of it the strength and patience to carry on in spite of these difficulties.

Oh may young men devote in truth
To Thee the flower of their youth;
Be maiden’s beauty holiness,
The fear of God their glorious dress!

Zion’s Harp #188 v.8.

This time of year, we think of our graduates, and lift them up in prayer as they make this significant transition in life. The Class of 2010 includes Amanda

Bahler, JaNae Bahler, Derek Crohan, Aaron Galat, Tom Gerber, Sarah Hunt, Scott Kloter, Curt Luginbuhl, Meagan Luginbuhl, Courtney Luginbuhl, David Moser, Katie Trinke, and Sis. Sarah Virkler. May they seek God’s direction in their lives and stay close to Him as they make new experiences and choices that will shape their futures.

Our sympathy and prayers go out to Bro. Scott Hills, his wife, Sis. Luann, and their family for the passing of Bro. Scott’s mother, Joyce Hills. May they feel the love and support of the brethren and friends during this time.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA WASHINGTON

Henrietta Meyer

Our caretakers for May were Bro. Joel and Sis. Sonia Banwart from Eureka, IL. We also have openings for November and December, 2010. There is good availability so far for 2011. If interested in serving as caretaker of our church and house, please contact Doreen Steffen at bdsteff@yahoo.com or 302-540-6574.

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Gary Brown (Sis. Jane, Forrest, IL), Bro. Scott Wegman (Sis. Dawn, Taylor, MO), Elder Bro. Duane Farney (Sis. Karen, Croghan-Naumburg, NY), Bro. Ron Palitto (Sis. Lynell, Akron, OH), Bro. Brent Kellenberger (Sis. Beth, Kansas City, MO) and Bro. Tom Bahler (Sis. LaNae, Rockville, CT). Other visitors were from Rockville, CT, Smithville and Akron, OH.

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

FLORIDA FORT LAUDERDALE

Renee Mangold

We were thankful to have visiting ministers, Bro. Mark Gerber (Sis. Barb,

Bluffton, IN) and Bro. Jeff Grimm (Sis. Ruth, Goodfield, IL). We pray that God will bless them for their service to Him and the friends and brethren that benefit from hearing His Word.

Our prayers are with Bro. Joe and Sis. Shirley Braker, that they will feel God's comfort and His healing hands as Sis. Shirley recovers from her surgery and His continuing presence in their lives every day.

**FLORIDA
NORTH FORT MYERS
Victor Beer**

A person might be inclined to believe that the big news about Florida was the oil spill on the Gulf. However, that really isn't so, as no oil has come on our beaches down here to date. But it was time for our wonderful wintertime brethren to go back north, and even though we miss them, we almost know that they will be returning next fall. We look forward to that sweet fellowship at that time. Looking farther forward, we are assured that it will be like this:

When we've been there ten thousand
years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days, to sing His praise
Than when we first begun.

Our church was blessed this last month by Bro. Rusty Meister (Sis. Amanda, West Lafayette, IN) and Bro. Chris Huber (Sis. Sharon, Francesville, IN). Bro. Chris and Sis. Sharon are still here with us as they are healing from their medical problems. We are sure going to miss them as they leave for home soon.

It was so good to have Bro. Rusty with us as he reminded us of his grandfather, the late Bro. Les Meister. Bro. Les was one of the founders of our North Ft. Myers church, and served us so faithfully for many years. Those love ties that bind us together last and last and should keep on until time is no more for us.

**FLORIDA, SARASOTA
Kim Ott**

"In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

Proverbs 3:6

We are thankful for God's direction and safekeeping through each chapter of our lives. This spring season brings much change for three young adults in our Sarasota congregation. High school graduates this year are Bro. Schuyler Brown (Bro. Larry and Sis. DiAnne) and Stephen Roscher (Bro. Bill and Sis. Beth). Also, Sis. Lindsay Brown (Bro. Larry and Sis. DiAnne) has graduated from State College of Florida with her AA degree. Our prayers for God's sustaining guidance go forth for these graduates, as all three plan to continue their education.

We also pray for an extra measure of God's strength and nearness for Todd Hebert Jr. and his family as he has moved this month to the Morton Apostolic Christian Home for the Handicapped. We know this has been a tremendous time of transition for his family, especially his parents, Bro. Todd and Sis. Kelly. We are so grateful for God's deep love for each of His children and His desire for their very best care.

"Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted."

Matthew 5:4

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of Timm Frank as he has ended his battle with cancer. Timm was the son-in-law of Bro. Rich and Sis. Aldine Martin and husband of their daughter, Jeanise.

It is with sadness that we bid farewell to Bro. Andy Hunyady, as he has moved to the Rittman, OH, area. We have truly enjoyed Bro. Andy's presence in our congregation and we will surely miss him. We wish Bro. Andy many blessings as he makes his new home in Ohio.

GEORGIA, ATLANTA

May is the month for graduates and we are happy to wish blessings on two in our congregation. David Camp (Chris and Sis. Peggy) is graduating from high

school. Will Olar is graduating from Life Chiropractic College. He has been such a blessing to our small congregation and we will miss him, but know God will use him as he practices in Ohio. On Sunday, May 30, we had a breakfast at church commemorating this milestone for each of them. Our desire for them is to "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." (Proverbs 3: 5-6)

We were thankful to have Bro. Brace Wieland (Leo, IN) to refresh us with the words of life. May God richly bless him and his family for his efforts to be in Atlanta.

**ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE
Doreen Moser
Jenn Johnson**

Have Thine own way, Lord, Have
Thine own way;
Thou art the potter, I am the clay.

Teaching from the Word and expounding on the potter's way, Bro. Dean Messner and his family (Winthrop, MN) and Bro. Mark Wettstein and their family (Lacrosse, IN) were in our midst in Belvidere this month.

Mold me and make me After Thine
will

Gathering together to celebrate a new little one that the Lord is molding, we shared a Saturday morning brunch with Sis. Shayla Steffen, her family and her church family. We shared some Motherly advice and gifts to welcome the new baby when that time comes.

While I am waiting, Yielded and still.

As we celebrated Mother's Day this month, how many times as a Mother have we had to wait and may still be waiting on our children to come to know the Lord. I am not sure I can say I have patiently waited but we can be assured the Lord is patient with His children. We know if we wait upon the Lord and be still, we can be assured that our prayers will be answered in the Lord's own timetable!

Have Thine own way, Lord, Have
Thine own way;
Search me and try me, Master, today.

After much searching and prayer, Bro. Daniel Martin and his precious wife, Megan, and their little son, Abraham, have moved from our congregation to Morton, IL, where Daniel will be continuing his education. We will surely miss them but rejoice with them as they move closer to family and feel it is the Lord's direction. We held a farewell supper for them and wish them the best in their new home. We hope they get some week-ends to come back and visit.

Whiter than snow, Lord, Wash me just
now,
As in Thy presence Humbly I bow.

We are thankful for new Sunday School teachers, Sis Sandy Darlington and Bro. Trent Steffen. Our thanks to the outgoing Sunday school teachers that have been willing to serve. Being a Sunday school teacher surely is humbling as we get a chance to mold the clay of young lives. Most of the time our lives end up being molded even more as what we teach many times comes back in our daily lives. Bro. Karl Braun was also asked to serve as a new trustee.

Have Thine own way, Lord, Have
Thine own way;
Hold o'er my being Absolute sway.
Fill with Thy Spirit Till all shall see
Christ only, always, Living in me.

Being molded and shaped, staying in the center of the Lord's will and letting our light shine for the Lord should be a daily goal. Not only individually but as a church that others can see without being told that Christ lives in us and is the center of our world.

**ILLINOIS
BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL
Heidi Rinkenberger
Jacki Masters**

"And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which

made them at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?

Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."

Matthew 19: 4-6

We rejoice with Sis. Rebecca Maurer and Bro. Joe Marquart, as we shared in their wedding on April 18. Their parents are Bro. John and Sis. Emily Maurer and Bro. David and Sis. Lori Marquart (Taylor, MO). Bro. David also graciously shared the Gospel message with us Sunday morning.

On April 24, we were blessed as a congregation to share in the symbol of God's covenant through Holy Communion.

Our Bible Class students enjoyed ACYF day in Roanoke sharing a day of fun and fellowship together.

**ILLINOIS, BRADFORD
Philip and Donna Nenadov**

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

Ecclesiastes 3:1

The season of learning has become a time of transition for quite a few of our young people. Those graduating from 8th grade include: Luke Ehnle, (Bro. John and Sis. Sara), Erica Kieser (Bro. Matt. and Sis. Tracy), Clayton Kieser (Bro. Robb and Sis. Kelly), Clint Kupferschmid (Bro. Brad and Sis. Cheryl), Candace Stahl (Bro. Weston and Sis. Jill) and Allisa Stoller (Bro. Nate and Sis. Sherrill). Our high school graduates are: Renae Baer (Sis. Janna), Nathan Dietz (Bro. Barry and Sis. Rachel), Bro. Tyler Endress (Bro. Bill and Sis. Renee), Bro. Cory Joos (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Jenny), Andrew Kieser (Bro. Robb and Sis. Kelly), Jolene Kieser (Joe and Geri), Josh Knobloch (Bro. Daryl and Sis. Deb), Allaina Stoller (Bro. Nate and Sis. Sherrill) and Kent Wagenbach (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Sara). May the Lord bless each one of these students and give them

guidance throughout their lives.

We are so thankful to hear that our friend Shannon Gudeman has started repenting. He is the son of Bro. Brad and Sis. Teresa. May the Lord give him grace during this time of conversion.

We were blessed to have several visiting ministers on the pulpit this month. Serving us were Bro. Greg Braker (Sis. Wendy) and Bro. Bill Dotterer (Sis. Sharon) from Lamar, MO, as well as Bro. Ron Joos (Sis. Christy, Bloomfield, IA). May the Lord bless these brothers for their labors.

God be with you 'til we meet again.

**ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN
Jackie Eisenmann**

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ."

Ephesians 1:3

Greetings from Champaign-Urbana! May 2010 has been a month of blessings for the church in Champaign. The weekend of May 8-9, we experienced the testimony and baptism of our new Sister in Christ, Hannah Waibel (Bro. Brian and Sis. Wendy). It was a weekend full of many blessings, including many visitors. We want to thank our visitors who were willingly used to preach God's precious Word to us: Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus, Bro. Alan Schambach (both of Remington, IN) and Bro. Dewayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN). May God bless these Brothers.

Wednesday evening, May 12, our congregation remembered Christ's suffering on the cross for us, as we took Communion together. Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL) was there to assist our Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart in serving us. It was an evening of blessings as we pondered the hope of salvation given to us by our Heavenly Father in Heaven through His willingness to send Jesus to this Earth to be the sacrifice for us.

"Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins."

I John 4:10

Sunday, May 16, Bro. Calvin Schneider (LaCrosse, IN) blest us by his willingness to be used in God's service as he spoke God's Word to us. We thank Bro. Calvin for his labor of love to us. May God continue to bless his ministry.

Last but not least, we rejoiced in the marriage of our Bro. Aaron Walder to our Sis. Heather Messner on May 23! Their parents are Elder Bro. Ron and Sis. Pam Messner (Washington, IL) and Bro. Art and Sis. Kim Walder (Champaign, IL). We wish Aaron and Heather many blessings as they walk the path of life serving the Lord together now. Again we had several visitors with us that weekend to share in the joy, including ministering Brothers and we want to thank them for their part in the services. Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Jeff Waibel (Leo, IN), Bro. Randy Mogler (Washington, IL), and Heather's dad, Elder Bro. Ron, all blest us by their willingness to be used in the ministry. May God continue to bless them all!

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Rachel Meyer

Greetings from Chicago! We were very blessed to have many visiting ministers. We wish to thank Elder Bros. Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT), Curt Frank (LaCrosse), Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN), Ron Messner (Washington, IL), and Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL). Also sharing the pulpit were ministering Bros. Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington-Normal, IL), Bob Pflederer (Morton, IL), Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City), Allen Stoller (Bluffton, IN) and John Grimm (Columbus, OH). Words cannot express our appreciation for your kindness and service to our Chicago congregation. Thank you.

On April 18 the Covenant Chamber Choir blended their voices in praise to God and blessed us with their singing. Thank you for using your talent to praise God.

We appreciated Bro. Dennis Kaufmann's willingness to present a Topical Bible Study entitled, "Worship". Thank you for taking the time to prepare, travel, and present this thought-provoking study. May God bless.

The dates of April 24-25 found our church hosting the Apostolic Christian Medical Fellowship Meeting and enjoying the fellowship. It was a joy to host and we thank everyone who has this special part in God's work of helping others.

May 1 was our annual church cleaning. Thank you to all who helped as well as those who coordinated.

We wish our Sis. Kaitlyn Isaia joy as she spends her summer at Gateway Woods in an internship position. May God use her and teach her as He sees fit...we look forward to hearing about her experiences.

Saturday evening, May 16, was a special occasion as we shared Holy Communion as a united body of believers. We felt the presence of the Spirit and are thankful for these opportunities to share in the body and blood of Christ.

"When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son! Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home."

John 19:26-27

As a nation, we celebrated Mother's Day on May 9. I wonder how many people know that Jesus set the standard for how we should care for our mothers? As He hung on the cross, He took the time to show love for His mother and arrange for her care before His death. Can any mother reading this imagine the grief Mary felt? Her son...on a cross...suffering horrifically, yet innocent of all charges...and she could not save Him. Jesus gave us the example of how to love our mothers. How do you think Mary, the mother of Jesus, felt when He spoke to John and her directly from the cross? None of us knows, but I think we would be accurate to guess that Mary felt loved beyond measure by her son.

Thank you, Godly mothers, for caring for your children. I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge that Mother's Day is not always a joyful occasion for everyone. Perhaps you fall into that category. Praise God He gives us opportunities to break past cycles...and chances to create new memories. Memories of which we

can look back upon with joy. Pray for this...God is faithful.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

Vickie Maul

Marilyn Maul

Ministering Bros. Les Kaeb (Francesville, IN) and Dan Moser (Elgin, IL) visited us this month. We thank these brothers for sharing God's Word with us and pray that He will richly bless them.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Elaine (Bro. Curt) Sauder as she has been in the hospital again this month.

Grandchildren are a special blessing. Bro. Eric and Sis. LouAnn Kaeb welcomed a new granddaughter. Addie Larae was born to Bro. John and Sis. Teresa Hartter of Sabetha, KS. Also welcoming a new grandson are Bro. Arlyn and Sis. LaNae Rudin. Nathan David was born to Bro. Brent and Sis. Erica Blume of Wolcott, IN. We pray a blessing on these families and their precious little ones.

Congratulations to our high school graduates, Micah Knapp (Curt and Sis. Bev) and Andy Kaufmann (Arlan and Clem). May each one seek God's will for guidance and direction on their life's journey.

The young Sunday school students were delighted to deliver flowers to the residents at Heartland Health Care on Sunday, April 25. The children also enjoyed sharing their hearts by singing their joyful songs to the residents. It was a blessing to see the smiles of the residents.

Our prayers are with Sis. Marilyn (Les) Maul in the loss of her sister-in-law, Sue (Bob) Greene.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

Holly Zobrist

Seth Daniel recently joined the home of Bro. Dave and Sis. Sandy Steiner. His siblings are Samuel, Aaron, Silas, Marie, Mindy, and Abram. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Dick and Sis. Ann Steiner (Tremont) and Bro. Melvin and Sis. Irma Walder (Eureka).

We were blessed to have a number of visiting ministers with us this past month. They include Bro. John Bradle (Sis. Jill, Roanoke), Bro. Mark Schmidgall (Sis. Sally, Oakville), Bro.

Trent Meiss (Sis. Lucy, Eureka), Bro. Ken Schneider (Sis. Bernice, Remington), Bro. Rex Frieden (Sis. Vera, Lamar), Bro. Brent Kellenberger (Sis. Beth, Kansas City), Bro. Mark Rufener (Sis. Julie, Mansfield), Bro. Don Gudeman (Sis. Mary, LaCrosse), Bro. Wayne Wiegand (Sis. Rosemary, Goodfield), Bro. Greg Stoller (Sis. Jill, Forrest), Bro. Greg Lehman (Sis. Mary Beth, Wolcott), Bro. Art Mueller (Sis. Marlene, Belvidere), and Bro. Ron Isch (Sis. Jane, Lamont-Gridley).

We wish the best to our graduates. May God continue to lead and direct their paths. They include Sis. Dawn Knepp (Bro. Doug and Sis. Lynette), Sis. Rachel Hoerr (Bro. Max and Sis. Suzanne), Bro. Daniel Craig (Bro. Kim and Sis. Carol), Bro. Sam Virkler (Bro. John and Sis. Maureen), Sis. Molly Hartman (Bro. Bob and Sis. Lisa), Jesse Knapp (Bro. James and Sis. Lisa), Charlotte Rinkenberger (Bro. Jake and Sis. Glenna), Sis. Marissa Schieber (Bro. Mike and Sis. Mary), Sis. Julie Roth (Bro. Mark and Sis. Tammy), Sis. Marlise Walder (Bro. Ben and Sis. Juanita), Derek Stoller (Bro. Brent and Sis. Kay), Tyler Dietrich (Bro. Tim and Sis. Sandy), Shelby Payne (Hal and Rhonda), Brett Roth (Bro. Alan and Sis. Joanne), Sis. Jennifer Luthi (Bro. Troy and Sis. Vannessa), Bryce Wieland (Bro. Nate and Sis. Suzanne), Russell Knobloch (Jerry and Sis. Linda), Clint McClure (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Marilyn), Brook Remmert (Kent and Sis. Crystal), Joel Wettstein (Bro. Denny and Sis. Emily), and Ross Wettstein (Bro. Larry and Sis. Marilyn).

ILLINOIS, ELGIN

**Amy Gasser
Miriam Gasser**

May God bless Bros. Earl Beery (Rittman, OH) and Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO) for lending themselves in the ministry of the Word, during their week-end visits. We also thank Bro. Brad Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) for presenting a midweek topical Bible study on "In but Not of the World".

On May 12, Bro. Lynwood and Sis. Jamie Schambach announced the birth of their son, Hudson Drake. Braedon and Keegan are excited to have a new brother,

and Bro. Roger and Sis. Karen Weiss and Sis. Leann Schambach are enthused to have another grandson.

Sis. Hilde Schumacher has had a good recovery from cataract surgery. Up until recently, Bro. Matt Steffen (Natalie) demonstrated his earnest desire to be among the brethren by coming to church, in spite of his pain. His presence inspired and amazed us. We are keeping Matt and his family in our prayers.

In sorrow and pain thy trust do retain
in Jesus the merciful Saviour.

He'll shield and defend His child to
the end;
no suffering or death shall appall thee.
Zion's Harp #46 (verses 1 and 5)

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

**Dee Baer
Jodi Blunier**

Faith has prompted the hearts of Bro. Jonathan Sanders (Bro. Bill and Sis. Sue) and Sis. Sheila Blunier (Bro. Ted and Sis. Donna) to believe they are to become one in the Lord.

Bro. Duane and Sis. Eileen Blunier welcomed a new grandson in March. Finn William Hoffman is the third child of Caleb and Becky Hoffman. He has a sister, Elle, and a brother, Sam.

We have been edified by the visits and labors of Bro. Kent Getz (Elgin, IA), Bro. Tony Manz (Junction, OH), Bro. Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO), Bro. Arlen Lemman (Forrest), Bro. Bruce Frank (Cissna Park), Elder Bro. Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA) and Elder Bro. Dave Graf (Akron, OH).

Our prayers are with Bro. Earl Zimmerman (Sis. Elsie) and others who are enduring or recovering from illness.

High School graduates were honored at a dinner to recognize their milestone: Trent Banwart (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Lisa), convert Andrew Blunier (Bro. Kurt and Sis. Livy), Sis. Kyla Edelman (Bro. Keith and Sis. Nadine), Sis. Jennifer Getz (Bro. Gary and Sis. Gail), Bro. Tracy Lemman (Bro. Scott and Sis. Phyllis), Sis. Angela Martin (Bro. Craig and Sis. Marilyn), Sis. Lily Schmidgall (Bro. Mark and Sis. Lisa), Sis. Kristin Stoller (Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Sherry), Sam Stoller (Bro. Tom

and Sis. Edie), Sis. Kaylene Wiegand (Bro. Brian and Sis. Tina) and Andrew Zimmerman (Bro. Mark and Sis. Cheryl).

Note of Thanks:

The family of Bro. Bob Wiegand would like to thank our neighbors, friends and family for their loving expressions of sympathy shown in the form of cards, memorials, food and many kind deeds after the passing of our loved one. Thank you and may God bless each and every one of you.

Sis. Helen Wiegand

Bro. Ed and Joanne Wiegand and family

Bro. Don and Sis. Jane Wiegand and family

Bro. Bob and Sis. Marlene Prather and family

Bro. Alan and Sis. Janet Streitmatter and family

Bro. Gary and Sis. Linda Folkerts and family

Bob and Ellen Wiegand and family

Bro. Andy and Sis. Vicky Wiegand and family

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

**Angela Herr
Anna Schmidgall**

"In days of youth seek ye the Lord..." We are thankful for several new converts. Toby Steidinger (Bro. Martin and Sis. Trish), Lexi Knapp (Bro. Matt and Sis. Dana), and Derek Stoller (Bro. Bryan and Sis. Kara) have answered God's call and made a beginning in repentance. We pray that they may build a firm foundation as they begin their walk with the Lord.

On May 2, our Bible Class hosted Bible Classes from the Forrest, Goodfield, and Washington congregations for ACYF Day. We were blessed to have Bro. Chuck Kellenberger (Elgin, IL), Bro. Jon Zeller (Morton, IL), Bro. Matthew Rassi (Chicago, IL), Bro. Mark Zimmerman (Eureka, IL), and Bro. Erik Givens (Princeville, IL) with us for the day.

Other visiting ministers serving our congregation this month were Bro. Gary Brown (Forrest, IL), Bro. Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL), Bro. Al Schambach (Remington, IN), Bro. Darren Plattner

(Champaign, IL), Bro. Dewayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN), and Bro. Paul Schmidgall (Morris, MN). We thank each of these brothers for sharing God's Word with us and pray that He will richly bless them.

"Love, of all gifts, is the greatest which the Spirit does bestow." We rejoice with Bro. Blake Zehr and Sis. Kristin Schmidgall as they were joined in Holy Matrimony on May 16. Their parents are Bro. Quinn and Sis. Joan Zehr and Bro. Bill and Sis. Anna Schmidgall. We wish them God's blessings as they begin their life together.

Little Caleb Knapp (Bro. Matt and Sis. Dana) was involved in a mower accident and we are thankful he is home and doing well. Bro. Quinn Zehr (Sis. Joan) was injured in a farming accident. After spending several days in the hospital, we are thankful he is also home and recovering. Delores Nussbaum also spent time in the hospital this month.

Our prayers are with Sis. Thelma Slagel and Sis. Anna Lou VanAntwerp as they mourn the loss of their sister-in-law, Sherrill Zimmerman (Donald), who passed away on May 10.

We extend our sincere congratulations to those who have graduated this spring. Our high school graduates are: Mark Bahler (Bro. Neil and Sis. Tami), Hannah Fehr (Bro. Nathan and Sis. Marsha), Sis. Sarah Fehr (Bro. Randall and Sis. Janis), Loren Kaeb (Sis. LeAnn and Leon), Rachel McCasky (Bro. Dale and Sis. Natalie), Chase Mowery (Sis. Elaine and late Bro. Dale), Mandy Payne (John and Sharon), Clem Steidinger (Bro. Ted and Sis. Sara), Karla Steidinger (Bro. Martin and Sis. Trish), Lynette Waldbeser (Jim and Sis. Renae), Eli Walter (Bro. Alan and Sis. Linda), and Micah Zehr (Bro. Nelson and Sis. Amy). Bro. Tyrel Steidinger (Bro. Ted and Sis. Sara), Sis. Bethann Kafer (Bro. Ben and Sis. Carol), Sis. Kim Steidinger (Bro. Rick), and Bro. Derek Chang have finished their college studies and also graduated this month. May each graduate seek God's guidance and direction as they look to the future.

ILLINOIS, FORREST

**Lisa Aberle
Lynn Dotterer**

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

Acts 2:38

We rejoice with Pete Zimmerman (Bro. Kent and Sis. Paulette) and Ben Kuntz (Bro. Rollyn and Sis. Brenda) as they have turned to the Lord in repentance! We wish Pete and Ben God's grace and guidance as they begin this walk of faith.

Bro. Ben, Sis. Melissa, Rebekah, Leah, Caleb and Brooke Zimmerman welcomed William Jonathan into their family circle. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Sally Rinkenberger and Bro. Paul and Sis. Loretta Zimmerman.

Our prayers are with Bro. Elmer Ifft as he recovers from surgery. We also keep Bro. Brian Ricketts and his family in our prayers as he continues his battle with cancer.

We are always thankful for visiting ministers. Bro. Ron Koehl (Sarasota, FL), Bro. Dale Banwart (Congerville, IL), and Bro. Wayne Wiegand (Goodfield, IL) shared the Word with us this month. May God richly bless these brothers for their service!

Graduating from High School this year are: Sis. Carmen Edelman (Bro. Ken and Sis. Carol), Sis. Heidi Edelman (Warren and Sis. Cindy), Beth Ann Ifft (Bro. Duane and Sis. Mary), Sis. Kaylee Kaeb (Bro. Eldon and Sis. Stephanie), Reuben Kaeb (Morris Kaeb and Brenda Kaeb), Mark Kuntz (Bro. Rollyn and Sis. Brenda), Ashton Lanz (Bro. Troy and Sis. Kathleen), Jamie Ricketts (Bro. Alan and Sis. Alisa), Sis. Tami Schmidgall (Bro. John and Sis. Janet), Carlyn Seeman (Doug and Carol), Sis. Abby Steidinger (Bro. Roger and Sis. Sheila), Sis. Shannon Stork (Bro. Reuben and Sis. Devra), Nicole Wenger (Sam and Teri), Joel Zimmerman (Bro. Paul and Sis. Loretta), and Jordan Zimmerman (Bro. Kent and Sis. Paulette). May all these graduates seek God's will and direction for their lives!

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

**Donna Wyss
Kayla Wiegand**

His Call we obey As Abram of old,
Not knowing our way,
But faith makes us bold;
Where'er He shall lead us,
The way He doth guide;
He knows best who rules us;
The Lord will provide!

Zion's Harp #86, vs. 3

On April 21, we were thankful to have our counseling Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley) and Elder Bro. Mark Streitmatter (Sis. Sara, Bloomington, IL) assist our congregation in placing another brother into the ministry. We truly felt God's presence and direction and we pray that God will bless Bro. Jeff Wiegand (Sis. Janel) and their little family with this calling and new responsibility.

"There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth."

Luke 15:10

Our hearts rejoice with our friend, Katie Wood (Doug and Lori Wood), as she has turned to the Lord in repentance. May she feel God's abundant grace at this important time in her life.

Our thoughts and prayers were with Bro. Larry Wiegand (Sis. Lori) and Sis. Vermeda Freidinger (Bro. Duane) as they spent time in the hospital. We pray God will provide healing in His time.

We rejoice with Bro. Tadd and Sis. Jill Gerst as their family grew with the adoption of Finn Isaiah on May 2. Big sister Selah welcomed him home. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Bonnie Gerst and Bro. Terry and Sis. Shirley Leman (Eureka, IL).

First-time parents, Bro. Nathan and Sis. Brittany Zeltwanger, are excited of the arrival of Brett Nathan on May 6. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Loren and Sis. Rhonda Zeltwanger and Joe and Sis. Karen Baker (Washington, IL).

"I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever

liveth and believeth in meshall never die.
St. John 11:25,26

Our prayers and sympathy go out to the family and friends of Bro. Joe Rinkenberger (Sis. Irene) who went to his heavenly reward on May 10. He is survived by his wife, Sis. Irene; and children, Bro. Jim (Sis. Jeanne, Bluffton, IN), Larry (Sharon, Cissna Park, IL), Bro. Jaye (Sis. Peg), Leon (Chicago), Byron (Joyce, Brimfield), Sis. Joan Hanson (Bro. Keith, Urbana), and Lori (Peoria). Bro. Joe will be fondly remembered by our congregation.

Bro. Dale and Sis. Susie Wyss mourn the loss of a grandchild, Atlee Wyss. Parents are Josh and Jen Wyss of Phoenix, AZ. We continue to lift them up in prayer to our heavenly Father during this difficult time.

We also remember our Sis. Sarah Melton in the passing away of her great-granddaughter, Haley Danielle from Kentucky. May God provide comfort.

We have been blessed with visiting ministers this month: Bro. Tim Hohulin (Sis. Cathy, Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Virgil Kaeb (Sis. Susie, Sarasota, FL). We want to thank them for their labors. We truly enjoy their willingness to serve and bring forth God's Word.

Note of Thanks:

I would like to thank everyone for the prayers, cards, and phone calls that were shown to me during the loss of my great-granddaughter.
Sis. Sarah Melton

**ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY
Perry A. Klopfenstein**

The words we speak, and the phrases we utter, very likely have more influence than we realize. A few weeks ago, we had our family together, along with relatives from Iowa as well. The adults ate at one table in the dining room, and the children ate in the kitchen. After the meal we asked all the children to come into the dining room for the Bible reading and prayer. I told the children to listen and be very quiet because "God is going to talk to us" (as the Bible was read).

The next morning at the breakfast ta-

ble, the children who stayed overnight were present. After eating, I got the Bible out, and gave it to someone to read. Again, I asked the children to be silent. To my surprise, a little two-year-old said, "God is going to talk to us." That caught my attention, I can assure you! This illustrates that little eyes and ears are observing our Christian example and habits, likely a lot more than we realize. Her comment still echoes in my heart, and has underscored the concept that as we read the Bible on a daily basis "God is talking to us."

Jack and Gerry Sievers observed their 60th wedding anniversary on June 11. We are happy for them, and appreciate their presence with us each Sunday. Our former minister, Bro. Harold Schmidgall (Eureka) and wife, Sis. Ethel, observed their 25th anniversary on June 9. We share their joy as well.

Elder Bro. Bruce Endress (Bradford, IL) was a visiting minister this month.

For the farmers in our church community, one year has made quite a difference. Planting went a lot smoother compared to a year ago, and by late May corn and soybean crops were blooming and off to a good start, thanks to God. It's all in His hands!

Micah Jeffery Stoller was born on May 2. He is the son of Bro. Jeff and Sis. Cyndee Stoller. Micah's siblings are Jeremiah, 11, Faith, 10, Patience, 8, Matthew, 4, and Mercy, 1. Grandparents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Karen Stoller, Gridley, and Bro. Gary and Sis. Elna Wettstein (Roanoke). Great-grandparents are Sis. Donna Wettstein (Eureka) and Sis. Mildred Bauman (Goodfield).

Cassandra Rose Freed was born on May 22 to Bro. Jeremiah and Sis. Natalie Freed. She is their fourth child. Other children are Kyle, 10, Tyler, 9, and Mylan, 2. Grandparents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Anna Marie Stoller (LaCrosse, IN) and Bro. Tom and Sis. Kathy Freed (Indianapolis, IN). Great-grandparents are Bro. Chuck and Sis. Doris Neuenchwander (Bluffton, IN), Bro. Allen and Sis. Edith Freed (Phoenix, AZ), and Sis. Eleanor Baer and Sis. Clara Huber (Eureka).

Gene and Michelle (Krug) Compton had their first child, a boy named Drake Alan Compton, born on April 29. Grand-

parents are Sis. Linda Krug, Lexington, and Duane Krug, Panola. Great-grandparents are Bro. Harold and Sis. Ethel Schmidgall (Eureka) and Darlene Compton, Lexington.

May God provide for these dear children as time unfolds, both in body and soul.

**ILLINOIS, MORTON
Annette Tanner
Julie Bahr**

This past month our Morton congregation was privileged to host the Apostolic Christian Youth Fellowship (ACYF) Day. We are thankful for the ministers who visited us: Bro. Steve Baner (Sis. Donnalou, Gridley), Bro. Darren Plattner (Sis. Sue, Champaign), and Elder Bro. Ben Walder (Sis. Juanita, Congerville).

Last month, our Morton congregation completed a seven week study on the New Testament Book of Titus. The study filled us with a revived Spirit and reminded the believer to teach, exhort, and encourage one another with a fervent love.

The evening of May 5, Bro. Jeff Neihauser shared important spiritual wisdom with our Graduating Seniors. Congratulations to graduates: Bro. Adam Funk, Bro. Cory West, Sis. Melissa Heinold, Troy Hirstein, Joe Ritthaler, Sis. Kelly Schick, Madeline Sollberger, Will Butler, Elizabeth Terrell, and Sis. Maria Sauder. Our seniors face real spiritual battles as they enter higher learning. Two quotes I heard worth re-quoting: "Make sure Satan has to climb over a lot of scripture to get to you!" and "If you are suffering from Truth Decay - brush up on the Word of God!"

We bid a sad farewell to Bro. John and Sis. Peg Sauder as they have made their new home in Indianapolis.

Congratulations to Bro. Bruce and Sis. Becky Sauder and Bro. Ken and Sis. Kathy Hodel who warmly welcome a new granddaughter. On May 21, little Joelle Shalome entered the home of Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Tammy Hodel (Washington).

Bro. Don and Sis. Lorna Schrock and Del and Beckie Dickerson are thankful grandparents to Simon Edward born February 5 to Steve and Sarah Schrock who reside in Oxfordshire, England.

On May 20, baby boy, Milo Tate entered the family of Bro. Tate and Sis. Melissa, Lola, and Tillie Kaiser. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Fred and Sis. Chelly Kaiser.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Mary Lou Grimm (Bro. Hank) whose brother, Bro. Gaylord "Bud" Blunier, passed away.

Our sympathy also to Richard Bundy, whose mother, Dorothy Bundy, passed away.

On April 30, Irvin Schoenbein passed away. He is survived by two daughters, Beverly Schoenbein and Michelle Walker.

We extend our love and sympathy to Lydia Schoenbein and Sis. Elsa Schuon (Bro. Karl) in the loss of their brother, Ewald Weigelmann, of Bloomington. May the love of our Savior be a comfort to each one.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA Pam Fritzenmeier

Our church was privileged to host ACYF on two Sunday evenings, April 18 and 25. Sunday, May 5, our Bible Class attended an ACYF day in Roanoke. We are thankful for these opportunities for fellowship for our youth.

Sunday, April 25, was the wedding day for Bro. Jonathan Aupperle and Sis. Bere Navarro in Ixtlan. They are both from Magdalena, as are Sis. Bere's parents, Alfonso and Sis. Teresa Navarro. Bro. Dennis and Sis. Cindy Aupperle, Peoria, are Bro. Jonathan's parents.

Bro. Bob and Sis. Ilene Haefli celebrated 60 years of marriage on April 16. May God bless these two dear couples; one starting their life together; the other setting the example of God's desire for marriage.

The annual choir benefit dinner was held May 1. We enjoyed delicious food and beautiful singing, to benefit those less fortunate and bring glory to God. Sunday evening, May 2, was our monthly hymn sing. The 6th, 7th, and 8th grade Sunday School classes and the Goodfield choir sang with and for us. The church building was open May 7, the National Day of Prayer, for some of the actual church to pray for our nation. "I will praise the Lord according to his righteousness; and will

sing praise to the name of the Lord most high." (Psalm 7:17).

We are delighted to report five new babies. Asher John was born April 23 to Bro. Gabe and Sis. Molly Stickling. His big brother and sister are Josiah and Eden. Grandparents include Bro. Spark and Sis. Rhonda Meister and Ben Stickling and Sharon Stickling. Irelyn Drew was born April 24 to Bro. Drew and Sis. Rachel Honegger. She is welcomed home by her big sister, Ella, and grandparents, Bro. Mike and Sis. Diane Honegger and Dan and Karen Waibel. Henry David was born April 26 to Bro. Dave and Sis. Jan Roberts. His big sister is Grace and grandparents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Cheryl Stratton (Taylor, MO) and Sis. Caroline Roberts (Bluffton North, IN). Jasper Renee was born May 11 to Bro. Benj and Sis. Kristen Hodel. Her grandparents are Bro. Marvin and Sis. Gail Hodel and Bro. Dana and Sis. Martha Kay Regier (Princeville). Tobias Alexander was born May 12 to Bro. Luke and Sis. Angie Luginbuhl. His big brother, Elijah, and grandparents, Bro. Steve and Sis. Deb Sutter (Taylor, MO) and Bro. Rob and Sis. Gina Luginbuhl (Roanoke), welcome him home.

Our thanks to Bro. Dennis Kaufmann (Sis. Bonnie, Bloomington) for speaking the Word on a Wednesday evening.

We wish to welcome to Peoria Bro. Lee and Sis. Patsy Esslinger, who have moved from Burlington, and pray they will soon feel at home here.

Several of our loved ones have been faced with bodily afflictions this past month. Sis. Karen Dunbar, Sis. Joanna Kummer, Sis. Hazel Geyer, Fred (Sis. Norma) Rieker and Sis. Kathy (Bro. Dave) Obergfel all need our prayers for recovery from broken bones and/or surgery.

Thomas I. Sauder passed away April 6 in Monomonee Falls, WI. He is survived by three children and their families, and one brother, our Bro. Dave (Sis. Rita) Sauder. We extend our sympathy to his family.

Eighteen students are graduating from high school this year. They and their parents were honored at the Senior Breakfast on Sunday morning, May 16. The students are Sis. Rebekah Davidovics (Bro. Fedi and Sis. Ruth), Sis.

Rebecca Dingedine (Bro. Ed and Sis. Sarah), Jacob Getz (Bro. Robbie), Sis. Janelle Grassi (Bro. John and Sis. Cheryl), Calen Gutwein (Bro. Frank and Sis. Jill), Bro. Caleb Hoerr (Bro. Don and Sis. Jackie), Jaclyn Hoerr (Mike and Lisa), Sis. Katie Hofstetter (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Karen), Bro. Tate Hohulin (Bro. Mark and Sis. Jan), Dane Kempf and Paige Kempf (Bro. Gary and Sis. Gina), Sis. Carmen Klopfenstein (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Carol), Rosie Nelson (Bro. Breck and Sis. Janie), Sis. Leah Ramseyer (Bro. Dean and Sis. Holly), Sis. Sarah Reinhard (Bro. Tim and Sis. Joan), Sis. Whitney Stickling (Bro. Craig and Sis. Jacki), Adam Thomas (Bro. Dean and Sis. Teresa), and Charlie Waibel (Dan and Karen).

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE Linda Joos Connie Christ

"My Lord, an offering do I bring; My heart I give to thee." (Zion's Harp #163). On May 15 and 16, we were thankful to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of three young souls who have surrendered their hearts to the Lord. They are Sis. Lindsey Kieser (Bro. Tim and Sis. Denise), Bro. Austin Knobloch (Bro. Keith and Sis. Lisa) and Bro. Drew Martin (Bro. Alan and Sis. Janice). We are thankful that Elder Bro. Bruce Endress (Bradford) willingly assisted our Elder Bro. Jim in this work.

Other visiting ministers this month included Bros. Ken Schneider (Remington, IN) and Tim Hohulin (Roanoke, IL). May God bless the submission of all ministering brothers who are willing to be used as a mouthpiece for the Holy Spirit.

We are thankful for God's mercy and grace that continues to call and draw souls unto Him. Amber Ehnle (Bro. Phil and Sis. Barb) has recently answered this call to repentance and our prayers are with her and all of our converts as they continue to submit to God's work in their lives.

"I wish to die in my dear Jesus, In peace and with great joy consoled." (Zion's Harp #247). It is with great thankfulness that we report that Sis. Doreen Meyer has been granted this wish

and is now at rest with her dear Jesus. We rejoice that Sis. Doreen has been relieved of her earthly suffering and has won the victory. She leaves her six sisters, Sis. Mary Lou (Bro. Don, dec.) Streitmatter of Princeville, Carolyn (Bob) Banwart, Margaret (Eli) Grimm, Irene (Dean, dec.) Banwart, and Sis. Polly (Bro. Norman) Zaugg, all of West Bend, IA, Sis. Lila (Bro. Mike) Wirtz of Goodfield, IL, and her three brothers, Bro. George (Sis. Charlyn, dec.) Meyer and Bro. Pat (Sis. Twyla) Meyer, both of Lester, IA, and Earl (Barb) Meyer of Brandon, SD. We wish to thank the visiting ministering brothers who assisted in the funeral service. They were Bros. Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL), Randy Mogler (Washington, IL), and Gene Metzger (Lester, IA).

There are several more in our congregation mourning the loss of a loved one. Bro. Al (Sis. Vicki) Hartzler's mother, Sis. Clara Hartzler of Smithville, OH, has recently ended her earthly pilgrimage. Also, Bro. Herb (Sis. Diana) Rumbold's mother, Johann Rumbold, of Princeton, IL, has recently passed away. Our prayers are with all those in bereavement that God may comfort and sustain them in their hour of need.

Bro. Jerry (Sis. Luann) Endress was recently hospitalized and we are thankful for God's healing powers. We surely need the prayers of those we love.

Our prayers are with all of our high school graduates as they begin a new chapter in their young lives. They are Emmy Graham (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Pam), Sis. Brittany Martin (Bro. Larry and Sis. Tiffany), Sis. Katie Schick (Bro. Stan and Sis. Margie), Kristi Stahl (Bro. Rod and Sis. Cathy), Aaron DeClerq (John and Becky), Ethan Rumbold (Bro. Rick and Sis. Joyce), Josh Stahl (Bro. Doug and Sis. Ann) and Bro. Quinn Steffen (Bro. Matt and Sis. Deanna). "But seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." (Matthew 6:33). This is our prayer for our graduates and all of our young people.

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Jamie Hodel

Judy Sauder

Deuteronomy 1:8: "This book of the

law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success." This was the verse read to our graduating seniors Sunday morning, May 16. We again mark the end of another school year and offer our congratulations and best wishes to the high school graduating class of 2010. Our seniors are: Jake Braker (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Janice), Jay Hinrichsen (Bro. Mark and Sis. Sue), Dalton Hodel (Bro. Jim and Sis. Connie), Sis. Rebecca Hoffman (Bro. Mike and Sis. Nancy), Derek Isaia (Bro. Richard Isaiah and Deanna Harrell), Sis. Heidi Leman (Bro. Don and Sis. Colleen), Hannah Knepp (Bro. Rich and Sis. Janet), Sara Luginbuhl (Bro. Andy and Sis. Kim), Erin Martin (Bro. Tim and Sis. Linda), Josh Moser (Bro. Greg and Sis. Shar), Shelby Ott (Bro. Jim and Lorna), Wade Sauder (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Jodi), and Sis. Ellie Wettstein (Bro. Gary and Sis. Elna).

On April 25, Loving Shepherd Ministries came to present "Hope rising: A Night in Haiti" to our congregation. We certainly had reason to reflect on how blessed we are.

On May 30, we had an informational presentation from Gateway Woods. Many from our congregation who are currently serving at Gateway came to testify of the work and mission of the Home.

We were thankful to have visiting ministers with us this past month. On April 28, Bro. Byron Stoller (Gridley) was with us for our April family worship. He spoke on the topic, "The Armor of God." On Wednesday evening, May 5, Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North), and Bro. Virgil Kaeb (Sarasota) were with us.

We were blessed on Sunday, May 2, to be able to host ACYF and be able to hear the students bring forth hymns of praise. Visiting churches included Belvidere, Bloomington, Chicago, Elgin, and Peoria.

Philippians 4:6: "Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." We were able to reflect on the power of prayer on the evening of May 6. The Prairie Choristers held an evening of prayer and worship. What a blessing it is to rest in the

power of prayer. As a congregation we have been holding up those who have been experiencing infirmities of the flesh. Prayers are being offered for: Bro. Steve (Sis. Diane) Bates, Bro. John (Sis. Linda) Hodel, Bro. Tim (Sis. Linda) Martin, and Sis. Carol Schwab.

We rejoice with many in our congregation welcoming new babies this month. On May 1, Bro. Mike and Sis. Nancy Hoffman became first-time grandparents in the birth of Alison Ellyn Hoffman. Parents are Andrew and Elizabeth Hoffman of Normal. Maternal grandparents are Don and Andrea Pantaleone (Sarasota, FL). Bro. Rich and Sis. Janet Knepp became grandparents again on May 7 with the birth of their twin grandsons, Chase Robert and Max Richard Knepp. Parents are Bro. Marc and Sis. Stacie Knepp (Detroit, MI). Maternal grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Marge Rumbold (Peoria). We also rejoice with Bro. Rob and Sis. Gina Luginbuhl in the birth of their grandson, Tobias Alexander. Parents are Bro. Luke and Sis. Angie Luginbuhl (Peoria). Tobias is also being welcomed by older brother Elijah, and maternal grandparents, Bro. Steve and Sis. Deb Sutter (Taylor).

On Sunday, May 16, we welcomed Bro. Zack and Sis. Penny Maher and son, Oliver, to our Roanoke congregation as they have recently moved to the area and now plan to worship with us.

Bro. Gaylord Blunier went Home to be with the Lord on Monday, May 17. Our prayers are with his children: Michael (Kam) Blunier (Roanoke), Rebecca Duffield (Eureka), and Jennifer (Phil) Schupbach (Dunlap); his brothers, Bro. Wilmer Blunier, Robert Blunier (Florida); and sisters, Sis. Erma Moser, Sis. Mardell Bowald, Sis. Rachel (Bro. Rich) Leman, all of Roanoke, Sis. Mary Lou (Bro. Hank) Grimm (Morton), Sis. Melba (Bro. Jerry) Hangartner (Tremont), Sis. Gladys (Bro. Dick) Haefli (Peoria); and Sis. Dorothy (Bro. Charles) Leman (Detroit).

Note of Thanks:

The family of Bro. Alvin Farney would like to thank everyone for their deeds of kindness, prayers, and love shown to us during his illness and passing. May God bless you all.

Sis. Mary Farney, Sis. Ann Hoffman & Matt, Jim & Sis. Cheryl Wacker and family, Bro. Eric & Sis. Jodi Hoffman and family, and Bro. Chad & Sis. Kristy Kaeb and family

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

**Teresa Rowell
Janice Sauder**

Sunday, May 2, our Sunday School hosted ACYF Day, which included Bradford, Eureka, Princeville and Tremont Bible Classes. The afternoon exhortation and song service were held in our church assembly and was enjoyed by all, including many visitors. Thank you, Bible Class students, teachers, and visiting ministers, Bros. Greg Lehman (Wolcott, IN), Rich Gramm (South Bend, IN) and Dennis Rassi (Austin, TX), for making this special day possible.

We were also blessed with other visiting ministers this past month: Bros. Nelson Beer (Milford, IN), Don Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN), Tim Hohulin (Roanoke, IL), Virgil Kaeb (Sarasota, FL), John Steiner (Oakville, IA) and Elder Bros. Gary Hertzler (Sabetha, KS) and Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL). We wish to thank them for their part in sharing the Word to our Tremont congregation. God bless each one.

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

Ephesians 4:32

The last Sunday evening of April many attended the “Retirement Singing” given for Bro. Charles Sauder. We were not surprised when Bro. Chuck encouraged us to remember this verse, one of his favorites, which will help us in every relationship and circumstance of life!

We have several dear ones who are experiencing illness, treatments, or surgeries. We continue to pray for Bro. Cleo and Sis. Nancy Koch, Bro. Fred Beutel, Sis. Lila Moser, Sis. Josephine Schaefer and Bro. Charles Sauder, that God will truly be nigh to them in each individual’s time of need, and grant healing where it is His will.

Always welcome visitors are Bro.

Bruce and Sis. Becky Sauder. They are at home now in our Morton congregation, but we hope now and then there will continue to be reasons for them to worship with us in Tremont. We also wish two dear families our fond “farewell”: Bro. Brett, Sis. Laura, Bryce and Joni Herrmann have moved to Olathe, KS, and will make the Kansas City, MO, church their home. Bro. Mike and Sis. Ivy Steiner, along with their children, Bro. Mahlon, Joseph, Daniel, Hannah, Titus, Courage, Blessing and Providence, have moved to the Mediapolis, IA, area and will attend church in Burlington, IA. May God bless them each one as they become a part of these congregations He has led them to relocate to!

We extend sympathy to Bill and Maize Hopkins at the death of her brother, Timm (Jeanese) Frank of rural Carlock, IL. We pray that God will send His Spirit to comfort their hearts as they grieve his passing.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

**Linda Folkerts
Nancy Leman**

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

Proverbs 3:5,6

As Bro. Steve Stieglitz shared with us on Mother’s Day, this was his earliest memory of his mother’s instruction. We are thankful for our Christian mothers who have given us so much in our lives, but most importantly for their direction in helping us to trust in the Lord.

In addition to Bro. Steve Stieglitz (Sis. Jane, Leo), we also appreciated our other visiting ministers this past month. They were Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Sis. Jeni, Bluffton), Bro. Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha), and Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen, Kansas City) on May 9, and Bro. Clark Stoller (Sis. Cindy, Gridley, IL) on May 16. We thank them for their loving service.

On May 9, Sis. Trisha Plattner and Bro. Kyle Fiechter were united in holy matrimony. We rejoice with them and their parents, Bro. Russ and Sis. Sally

Plattner and Bro. Kevin and Sis. Brenda Fiechter (Leo, IN). We also rejoice with Elder Bro. Ron and Sis. Pam Messner, as their daughter, Sis. Heather (Champaign, IL), was married on May 23 to Bro. Aaron Walder (Bro. Art and Sis. Kim) of Champaign. We wish both of these couples God’s blessings as they now live their lives together as one in the Lord.

Our congregation has been prayerful for Bro. Ed Teubel and Sis. Sue Ruppert who have been battling serious health issues. May they feel our love and prayers on their behalf.

We also want to congratulate our 2010 high school graduates. They are Bro. Philip Dreeste (Bro. Mike and Sis. Kathy), Bro. Caleb Jones (Bro. Steve and Sis. Susie), Sis. Emily Knepp (Bro. Keith and Sis. Michelle), Sis. Jenna Cox (Bro. John), Ben Koch (Bro. Justin and Sis. Marcia), Wendi Pfaffman (Bro. Max and Sis. Mary), Sis. Tess Plattner (Bro. Russ and Sis. Sally), Bryce Ricketts (Bro. Jon and Sis. Cheryl), Morgan Rocke (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Janine), Jenna Schick (Bro. Scott and Sis. Dawn), Emily Stoller (Bro. Richard and Sis. Kathy), Seth Teubel (Bro. Mark and Sis. Marti), and Katie Aberle (Steve and Leann).

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

**Grace Gerber
Kim Meyer**

Bluffton had yet another busy month as I am sure many find themselves with spring and planting season in full swing. For the month of May I am going to work backwards through the month because I feel the last event recorded truly sums up what happened throughout May in the Bluffton congregation.

The seniors had their graduate breakfast followed by the first service being directed more towards them. But as always, the living message from the Word applied all across the board. The seniors were asked where they see themselves in six months and in twelve years. This question led into the parable of the sower and the seed. As I listened to the analogies and explanations of the soil, the answer to where my life will be in the future kept ringing in my ears. Sure, we all have hopes and dreams for the future, but if our hopes and dreams are not preceded

with "Serving Jesus Christ", then we are at risk of having bad soil. I am guilty of assuming too often that because Jesus is in my heart, I have good, rich soil. No farmer will tell you that the only time they plow a field is right after they purchase the land. If so, he is probably not a farmer any more. For the past eighteen years these seniors have been 'working their ground'. Now, they will be sent out and plant their seeds. It's a new beginning for the seniors, and we pray they seek Jesus first in all that they do.

New beginnings are taking place not only for seniors, but also for eight babies born in the last month! Bro. Adam and Sis. April McAfee gladly awaited the arrival of their baby boy, Grant, along with the grandparents who would be Bro. Lynn and Sis. Ronda Fiechter and Bro. Jeff and Sis. Linda McAfee. Wes and Dixie Gerber had a little girl, Tenley, and her grandma and grandpa are Bro. Larry and Sis. Pauline Gerber. Adalynn Fiechter joined her two brothers in Bro. Nick and Sis. Jessica's family. Dave Fiechter would be her grandpa. Cale Frauhiger was born to Bro. Krent and Sis. Elizabeth a week ago. His grandparents would be Bro. Dean and Sis. Holly Frauhiger and Bro. Derryl and Sis. Peggy Aschliman. Matt and Andrea Pfister are thrilled to have little Nora in their family as well. Nora would be the granddaughter of Bro. Ted and Sis. Rose Pfister and Bro. Bill and Sis. Lou Rager. Bro. Aaron and Sis. Rachel Isch had another little girl, Aubri, and she is the granddaughter of Bro. Barry and Sis. Imogene Isch and Bro. Rick and Sis. Beth Fiechter. Bro. Bryce and Sis. April Isch now have a girl, Macy, to balance out their family. The proud grandparents of Macy would be Bro. Ron and Sis. Linda Kipfer and Bro. Les and Sis. Ann Isch. Eva Sprunger was welcomed into Ben and Lana Sprunger's household with Bro. Alan and Sis. Sheryl Ringger being her grandparents. And last but not least, little Braxton Gerber was born to Bro. Jason and Sis. Ashley. His excited grandparents would be Bro. Gene and Sis. Becky Gerber and Bro. Brian and Sis. Deb Fiechter. Whew! What a month to be a doctor!

So often we associate babies with new beginnings and old with dying. But we recently heard in a sermon the anticipation

that possibly takes place in heaven as they await the "new arrival" of a saint. Just as we anticipate the arrival of a baby with a name, crib, bedding, and accessories, God awaits His new arrival with a white robe, new name, and home, too. In May we welcomed with open arms eight little babies, but God also welcomed home two of His children. Bro. Jim and Sis. Jeanne Rinkenberger said goodbye to his father, Bro. Joe (Sis. Irene). Bro. Mark Moser (Sis. Wanda) was also ushered into his heavenly home after a long battle of cancer. Whether young or old, it's never easy to say goodbye. However, God is always there. His ways and thoughts are so far above ours, that when He takes the time to answer our feeble prayers, like He did with a rainbow during Bro. Mark's viewing, it humbles us. God affirms His unconditional love and care for us and we praise Him. What a Father we serve!

We had four converts open their hearts to Jesus and begin their new journey with Him. Rinae Grube (Bro. Jay and Sis. Ronda), Seth Fiechter (Bro. Jim and Sis. Jenny), Olivia Moser (Bro. Dave and Sis. Sheri), and Mike Kelly are our babes in Christ. Just as the seed that is planted in good soil, may these four first die to themselves, and then grow in Christ to bear much fruit for the kingdom of God.

Bro. Truman and Sis. Marcella Yergler had the right beginning years ago as they celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary! We are so thankful for their example and faithfulness over the years and pray their example will continue into the marriages of four young couples who announced their engagements. Bro. Dee and Sis. Laura Neuenschwander are delighted to announce their son Bro. Adam's engagement to Sis. Ashley Troxel (Bro. Kim and Sis. Lisa). Sis. Sarah Towle (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Jodi) is engaged to Bro. Jason Grube (Bro. Jay and Sis. Ronda). Sis. Alicia Steffen (Bro. Craig and Sis. Jean) from Taylor, MO, and Bro. Matthew Schrenk (Bro. Loren and Sis. Betsy) from St. Louis, MO, would like to announce their engagement as well. Bro. Zach Reinhard (Bro. Gene and Sis. Darlene) and Sis. Julie Beer (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Robin) from Mansfield will begin their new journey together, too. What living testimonies these engagements are of how God works and prepares hearts to

work as one laborer in the Lord's harvest.

New beginnings are doors to so many life experiences. Some are joyous, some are sad, and some are uncertain. But whatever the journey, God is there. For little Stella Butcher (granddaughter of Bro. Ked and Sis. Shelley Ringger) it's scary. She's a little girl facing a big girl's surgery. She has no idea what to expect with her open heart surgery May 20, and neither do we. But God is near. We pray for her successful surgery and recovery. We lift Jean Detmon (daughter of Bro. Dick Clark) up in prayer as she now faces a brain tumor along with her cancer. Convert Heidi Carter has asked us to lift her father, Dennis, up in prayer as he has stage four cancer and went into cardiac arrest. Linda Oswalt is also in need of our prayers as she developed an infection in her blood from a recent surgery. She would be the mother of JeNae and Andy Schmit. We are so blessed to be able to kneel at Jesus' feet and lay down all our cares and concerns. And then to have brothers and sisters praying for one another...what a comfort.

Bluffton has had a full month, but praise the Lord for all these new beginnings taking place. May we find ourselves in six months, or whenever, serving Jesus Christ and seeing the growth that started in May of 2010.

"But exhort one another daily, while it is called Today; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end..."

Hebrews 3:13, 14

**INDIANA
BLUFFTON NORTH
Jessie Longenberger
Amy Moser**

"Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me."

Matthew 11:29

A Virtuous Woman evening was held on April 30. All women were invited to an evening of encouragement and fellowship. Topics for the evening included, falling in love with Jesus,

crossbearing/denying self, and women need good friends.

Bro. Dan and Sis. Jacki Kershner became grandparents again with the birth of Jackson Earl on April 4. His parents are Kelby and Julie Kershner. Bro. Jarod and Sis. Carissa Studababaker are the parents of a daughter. Keyilah Jo was born on April 8. She joins brother Shauncey. Grandparents are Bro. Stan and Sis. Cindy Geisel and great-grandparents are Bro. Jerome and Sis. Virginia Rauch and Sis. Ellen Geisel.

Sis. Carolyn Roberts (late Bro. David L.) became the grandmother of Henry David on April 26. He is the son of Bro. Dave and Sis. Jan Roberts of Peoria, IL. Henry joins sister Grace Elise at home. Grandparents are also Bro. Michael and Sis. Cheryl Stratton of Taylor, MO.

Bro. Jeff and Sis. Jodi Towle announced the engagement of their daughter, Sis. Sarah, to Bro. Jayson Grube (Bluffton). He is the son of Bro. Jay and Sis. Ronda Grube (Bluffton). We wish them God's richest blessings as they begin their life together.

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE Mildred Clauss Jacki Huber

Graduation is an important milestone in life! It denotes the completion of a course of study and the ceremony connected with this is Commencement. So, essentially when we graduate from one "course" we begin another. And this process continues on throughout our lifetime; when one stage is completed we move on to another! The "course of study" should continue also; in every stage of life there are many things to learn. II Timothy 2:15 instructs us to "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth". Studying equips us to serve better in whatever career we are pursuing; and studying the Word enables us to serve our God in the way that He has outlined for us! So, as we rejoice with our graduates, let's all strive to be "teachable" so we can benefit from the valuable lessons we learn from life's journey!

Our high school graduates were recog-

nized at our Graduation Program on Wednesday evening, May 19. They are Kayla Garbison (Nicole and Robert Schwartz); Samantha Gutwein (Gordon and Judy); Sis. Jenna Putt (Bro. Brian and Sis. Tami); Kaitlyn Wuethrich (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Connie); Bro. Eric Huber (Bro. Gene and Sis. Sherri); and Bro. Ryan Kaeb (Bro. Les and Sis. Christine).

Graduating from Purdue this spring is Erin Pelsy (Bro. Dale and Sis. Terri).

Sis. Joan Gutwein has returned home from Haiti where she spent time with Bro. Jan and Sis. Val Gutwein and their family. We are indeed thankful for her safe travel.

The Annual Parkview Haven Meeting was held at the Fellowship Center on April 25. It was interesting and informative as the changing needs of the Home were discussed.

The Crown Financial Overview was presented recently at the Fellowship Center. Six couples from our congregation have completed the course and more study groups are being formed. We surely desire to be good stewards of that which the Lord has entrusted to us.

Erica Putt (Bro. Mike and Sis. Donna); Felicia Nuest (Bro. Dan and Sis. Kathy) and Chloe Huber (Bro. Bob and Sis. Joy) have been announced for peace with God and we look forward to their testimonies and baptisms in the near future.

Our Young Group hosted guests from several other congregations on the weekend of May 1-2. It is always encouraging to see them enjoying the fellowship of one another!

Bro. Chris Huber (Sis. Sharon) recently underwent surgery. Sis. Carol Gutwein (Bro. Phil) and Sis. Eldora Bonges have recently been hospitalized. Former resident, Elmer Bucher, now of Sarasota, FL, recently spent time here with his family and had back surgery. We are thankful to say each of these loved ones is having a good recovery.

We extend sympathy to Bro. Leon Wuethrich at the death of his son-in-law, Tom Koebecke (Susan). Surely "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." (Psalm 46:1)

INDIANA INDIANAPOLIS Gail Bradford Penny Schroder

It was a blessing to share in Holy Communion with our church family on May 1. Special thanks to Elder Bros. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) and Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN) for sharing the message and serving us that night.

As a part of our ground breaking ceremony on May 2, several families who have worshiped in Indianapolis since the 1960's were with us to share their memories of how God has been faithful throughout the years. We are thankful for the blessings He has provided in the past and seek His blessings again as we move forward on our remodeling project.

The marriage of Michael Zeller and Hannah Nesmith took place on May 16. Their parents are Bro. Eric (dec.) and Sis. Ginny Zeller and Rick and Sue Nesmit, of Joplin, MO. We wish them God's blessings on their marriage.

Special Note: Due to the church renovations, we are temporarily displaced from our actual church building. If you plan to be in the Indianapolis area, please contact one of our ministers for details on our assembly location.

INDIANA, LACROSSE Bethany Johnson Julie Roche

We rejoice with the angels in heaven that two new souls have given their lives to the Lord! Reid Schneider (Bro. Calvin and Sis. Jeannie) and Brandon Wettstein (Bro. Mark and Sis. Karen) have realized their sin and turned their backs on the world. We wish them God's grace as they begin this new walk of faith.

The Annual Spring Luncheon was held this month. This is a "ladies only" event and the topic was on birds. It is a special time of getting together for good food, fellowship and sharing.

Karla Martin was in the hospital this month and is now home and recovered. We are thankful that God placed His healing hand on her. Sis. Ruth Heinold also spent some time in the hospital this month.

Bro. John and Sis. Melinda Sawyer

and Jodie are the proud parents and big sister of little Gena Kay. Happy grandparents are Bro. Glen and Sis. Sandy Heinold and John and Thelma Sawyer of Kouts.

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Lucas Frank (Sis. Crystal, Detroit, MI), Bro. Ken Eisenmann (Sis. Sharon, Cissna Park, IL), Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Ruth Ann, Wolcott, IN) and Bro. Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi, Alto, MI). It is always a blessing when we have visitors to share the Word with us.

INDIANA, LEO
Elizabeth Schrenk
Abigail Schrenk

“Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised.”

Proverbs 31:30

Mother's Day is always celebrated on the second Sunday of May. We want to extend a special thanks to all of our mothers and grandmothers for setting godly examples.

This year Mother's Day was a special Sunday for two families as Bro. Kyle Fiechter (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Brenda) and Sis. Trisha Plattner (Bro. Russ and Sis. Sally) were married in Washington, IL. We pray God will bless this young couple as they begin their lives together serving the LORD.

We recently elected new Sunday School teachers. The church has asked Sis. Janice Anliker, Sis. Lorelei Gutwein, Sis. Jenny Sauder, Sis. Heidi Schrock, Bro. Ryan Donaghy, and Bro. Mark Maibach to serve as teachers. We thank those who have served us in the past and pray God will give abundant wisdom and grace to those who will be teaching our children this next year.

Sis. Carla Fritz (Bro. Jeff) and Sis. Nancy Klopfenstein have spent some time in the hospital recently. We know God has been near to them as they are recuperating.

Our visiting ministers this month were Bro. Brian Huber (Sis. Jackie, Francesville) and Bro. Gary Maibach (Sis. Mary Ann, Smithville).

It is always a joy to have visitors share God's Word. We thank them for their willingness to be used as servants of a Living God.

If anyone is interested in purchasing head coverings made by Sisters in Ixtlan, Mexico, please contact Sis. Areli Reutter at 260-220-3267 or areutter@hotmail.com. Inventory is available upon request.

INDIANA, MILFORD

Pam Beer
Paula Haab

As I write today, it is raining again. How can anyone say there is no God who is in complete control of our universe? We would not have had it rain today, but it does make our lawns extra green and pretty. God doesn't make a mistake.

There have been babies born this past month that have made happy and thankful grandparents in our congregation. Levi Frederic was born to Rustin and Appy Mikel (Rockford, IL) on April 22. Joey and Kysa are the excited helpers with their baby brother. On April 26, Trevor Raymond was born to Ryan and Nicole Mikel (Detroit, MI). He has a sister, Cecila. Levi and Trevor's grandparents are Russ and Sis. Pat Mikel (Milford). Rick and Carla Bowerman (West Lafayette) became first-time parents when Sadie Ann was born on April 27. Her arrival made Bro. Bob and Sis. Sue Bowerman grandparents. We know these grandparents will help the parents to fulfill Proverbs 22:6, "Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it." May God add continued joy and blessings to these families.

After being in church on April 25, later in the day, our oldest sister, Sis. Ruth Beer (late Bro. Don), fell and broke her hip. She is in a Rehab Center now and hopes to return to her home. We are happy that Sis. Sue (Bro. Bob) Cockburn is able to be back in church even though she is receiving her second series of treatments. Sis. Mary Ann (Bro. Cap) Beer is also coming to church again while still being very weak. Sis. Maydene Lehman needed to be hospitalized a few days and is now back in the nursing home. Bro. Glenn and Sis. Kate Price remain in the

nursing home but Sis. Kate plans to return home soon. We hope these sisters and brother feel the prayers of their church family as we bring them before God for His healing and comfort.

Jake Bowerman (Bro. Bob and Sis. Sue) and Matt Longcor (Bro. Bill and Sis. Judy) will graduate from high school on June 4. It has been such a delight and blessing to watch these boys mature from babies to fine young men. We pray they will seek God's wisdom for their lives. Jake will go to Purdue in the fall and Matt will go to school in Lima, OH. We surely hope they will be back in church many weekends and we will pray for God to keep them safe.

Bro. Matt Gerber (Bluffton) will be a summer resident. We welcome him. It is always good to have an extra person worship with us, especially mid-week.

On June 6, Bro. Walter (one of our retired ministers) and Sis. Dorothy Steffen will reach the milestone of being married 60 years. Their family was able to spend a weekend in May together to celebrate. We pray that God will give them strength to continue to go about doing good and bless them always.

INDIANA, REMINGTON

Jenni Honegger
Marcella Tyler

Elijah Andrew was born April 22 to blessed first-time parents, Bro. Andy and Sis. Gina Getz. Eli's delighted grandparents are Kent and Janell Kloter of Goodfield, IL, and Bro. Eldon and Sis. Charlene Getz of Remington. We are grateful for his safe arrival and look forward to getting to know this new little lamb that has been added to God's flock.

Elder Bros. John Laukhuf (Sis. Marcia, Latty, OH) and Ted Witzig (Sis. Cindy, Morton, IL) assisted our Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus in sharing Holy Communion with us this past month. The word "commune" means "to talk together intimately" or "to be in close rapport" according to the dictionary. What a privilege that the Lord Jesus Christ invites us to enter into this wonderful conversation with Him through His holy body and blood! As always, we were refreshed and renewed in spirit, and we thank these Elder Bros. for their efforts to facilitate our

communion with Christ.

Our surgery patients this past month were Sis. Lori Scheitlin (Bro. Rolyce) and Sis. Cheri Frantz (Joe). We ask you to pray for them and their continued recovery.

Bro. Stuart Kilgus (Elder Bro. Dan and Sis. Jenna) will graduate from high school this month, and Sis. Valerie Bahler (Bro. Mark and Sis. Benita) will graduate from college. It is an exciting time in a young person's life – full of wonderful possibilities and adventures, just waiting to see what the Lord has in store for them. We pray that Bro. Stuart and Sis. Valerie will continue to seek the Holy Spirit's direction as they contemplate their futures. No matter what direction He takes them on their life's journey, they will be blessed and sustained if they walk with Him.

As we recently celebrated Mother's Day, we were reminded of how fortunate so many of us are that we had God-fearing mothers who raised us in a Christian home. So many children in the world today do not have the blessing of that example to follow. We pray that the current generation as well as those to come can create the same loving haven from the world in their homes. As Proverbs 22:6 says, "Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

**Rachel Langhofer
Joshua Martinez**

"Thy father and thy mother shall be glad, and she that bare thee shall rejoice."
Proverbs 23:25

There is joy in heaven over the birth of Bro. Craig and Sis. Rachel Langhofer's sweet baby girl, June Susannah, on May 20. We celebrate with big sister Christy, big brother Patrick and grandparents, Bro. Marty and Sis. Lavilla Langhofer and Bro. Stan and Sis. Beth Virkler (Remington, IN).

"The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore."
Psalms 121:8

We are thankful for Bro. Bob Beebe's (Sis. Sue) safe return from a medical evaluation team trip to Haiti. We continue to pray for all those involved in relief efforts in that impoverished and suffering island nation.

"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."

Mark 16:15

We appreciate Bro. Daron Price's (Sis. Monica, Milford) recent visit to share the Good News with us. May the Lord bless him and his family for their service on our behalf.

"Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding."

Proverbs 3:5

Our dear special friend, Arlene (Rinkenberger) Kaehr, was recently hospitalized. Our thoughts and prayers are with her husband, Bob, and their family. We pray for the Lord's healing mercies and that His will be done in their lives.

"Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice."

Philippians 4:4

God's blessings to you!

INDIANA, VALPARAISO

Marguerite Hoerr

When we moved to Michigan in 2001, I saw one poppy blooming in our back yard. We used to have them when I was a little girl in Milford on the farm and I was excited about it. When trees were planted in that area I put a yellow flag by it and hoped it wouldn't be disturbed. It wasn't disturbed, and now in 2010 we have a bed of them which grows bigger each year with flaming red/orange poppies under our big white pine trees; all because of that one little plant that was saved. It reminds me of what one saved soul can do for the Lord as faith grows and love multiplies year after year.

Sincere congratulations are offered to our friend in Christ, John Pratt. He graduated from Valparaiso University and

has passed his bar exams and can now look for a job, which we sincerely hope will be in our area. He has been a real blessing to our little church, and is waiting on baptism.

We have two graduating seniors in high school this year. The graduates are Rachel and Hannah, the twin daughters of Bro. Joe and Sis. Jackie Feller. They have put important things first in their lives and are waiting on baptism, also. We offer them our sincere congratulations, also. To all three of these young folks, John, Rachel and Hannah, we ask that God will guide you in your future plans.

Ben Bucher and Tracy Zimmerman were engaged last March. Tracy is the daughter of Bro. Joe and Sis. Barb Zimmerman (Morton, IL) and Ben is the son of Bro. Tim and Sis. Julie Bucher of Valparaiso. They are planning on a September wedding and we wish them blessings from God and showers of happiness as they plan their lives together.

Bro. Garry Bucher had outpatient surgery on a knee and seems to have made a rapid recovery. We're grateful.

Bro. Merle Bucher is anticipating surgery later this month, having spent some time in the hospital for tests. Our prayers go with him and Sis. Leona. They are both bulwarks of our Valpo church and we love them dearly.

Bro. Rollie and Sis. Jo Meiss are at home being cared for by their loving son and daughter-in-law, Dale and Sherry, who live two doors down from them; plus their two grandchildren, Anthony and Stacia. We're overjoyed that they have been able to continue coming to church with the help of their family. Rollie and Jo are two more bulwarks of our church and we hope they feel the love we have for them.

Our church has been spring cleaned and seems to sparkle from it. Bob and I want to thank everyone who made this possible because we haven't been able to help with it the past two years. Perhaps we'll be given the opportunity to help another year; we sincerely hope so. We've known for years the blessings that are felt from doing this for the house of the Lord.

Brothers and Sisters who were elected to carry out the duties of the church for 2010 are as follows: Trustees – Brothers Joe Feller and Lyle Zeltwanger; Treas-

surer – Bro. Ken Bucher; Dinner Committee – Sis. Jackie Feller; Silver Lining - Sis. Marguerite Hoerr; World Relief Representative – Bro. Bob Hoerr; Gateway Woods – Bro. Lyle Zeltwanger; Home for the Handicapped – Bro. Ross Feller.

Our Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus attended our Bible Study this past Wednesday night, and we were happy he could be here. He blesses our Valpo church each time he attends along with Sis. Jenna. They bring joy with them.

Summer vacation time is approaching and for those of you who might enjoy camping and visiting along the beaches and towns around Lake Michigan, we'd like to remind you we are very close by. We're just 2 ¾ miles South of U.S 30 on State Road 49. We love visitors.

INDIANA WEST LAFAYETTE

**Beth Tonner
Katie Widmer**

The past month has been a busy and blessed one. On May 2 we celebrated the dedication of our new facility. It was a blessing to have so many alumni visit as well as retired Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman and wife, Sis. Marcella, and our Elder Bro. Curt and Sis. Lyla Frank. The journey of West Lafayette's formative years up to the present day was recounted by Bro. Wendell Gudeman and Bro. Neal Widmer. The ministering Bros. Nick Gutwein and Rustin Meister reflected on the purpose and calling of our church and expressed appreciation for God's faithfulness. Elder Bro. Curt Frank dedicated the facility to His purpose. "Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it; except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain." (Psalms 127:1).

We are so thankful for the national and local support that has made this building project possible. If you have not had an opportunity to visit, please feel welcome to join us for Thursday evening or Sunday services. Our new church address is: 6101 N CR 75 E, West Lafayette, IN 47906, phone 765-463-1500.

We were soon reassembled for Communion May 5. Elder Bro. Curt Frank and Sis. Lyla were joined by Elder Bro. Marvin Dotterer and his wife, Sis. Nancy.

We celebrate with Rick and Carla Bowerman on the birth of their daughter, Sadie Ann. Congratulations to the high school graduates: Andre Gutwein, Victor Gutwein and Sis. Katie Widmer, as well as our college graduates: Bro. Joe Darlington, Bro. Kyle Fiechter, Bro. Blair and Sis. Natalie Neihouser, Sis. Laura Ridge, Bro. Brett Schwab, and Bro. Matt Widmer. May they feel God's guidance as they start the next step of their lives. "Cause me to hear thy lovingkindness in the morning; for in thee do I trust: cause me to know the way wherein I should walk; for I lift up my soul unto thee." (Psalms 143:8).

With joy four converts have been announced for peace: Clayton Walder (Bro. Russ and Sis. Darlene), Luke Wahl (Bro. Fred and Sis. Libby), Andre Gutwein (Bro. Nick and Sis. Suzanne), and Andrea Furrer (Bro. Brian and Sis. Lorene). We look forward to their baptisms.

As always, we are grateful for the visiting ministers who have taken time to travel and share God's Word with us.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

**Lynell Blume
Donita Edelman**

Bro. Dale Banwart (Sis. Missy, Congerville, IL) so kindly shared God's Word with us on Mother's Day. We are thankful for visiting ministers who teach us from the Word of Life.

Nathan David arrived to bless the hearts and home of Bro. Brent and Sis. Erica Blume on May 7. Siblings, Dustin, Rachel, and Adam, are excited for a new little brother to hold and to watch grow. Grandparents, Bro. Arlyn and Sis. LaNae Rudin (Cissna Park, IL) and Bro. Larry and Sis. Lynell Blume, are rejoicing over the miracle of a new birth.

We offer our congratulations and best wishes to Sis. Michelle Furrer (Bro. Troy and Sis. Lisa) as she graduates from high school. May she look to the Lord for guidance and direction as she plans her future.

We have enjoyed having two foreign exchange students assemble and worship with us this past school year. We will certainly miss Choi Jung Won (American name: Jenny – from South Korea) and Melanie Rein (from Germany) as

they go back to their respective families and countries, and we send them with our prayers for God to bless and guide all of their future paths.

Father's Day is a special day set aside to honor our earthly fathers. May we be thankful for their love, sacrifices, Godly example, guidance and care for our undying souls as we grew into adulthood. Most of all, we want to honor and thank our Heavenly Father who loved and cared for us enough to send His Son, Jesus, as a sacrifice for our sins. May we strive to show our appreciation by being obedient and Christ-like in our daily walk of life.

IOWA, BLOOMFIELD Christy Wiegand

God's almighty arms are round me,
Peace, peace is mine;
Judgment scenes need not confound
me,
Peace, peace is mine.
Jesus came Himself and sought me!
Sold to Death, He found and bought
me!

Then my blessed freedom taught me,
Peace, peace is mine.

Gospel Hymns #342

We are rejoicing with Nathan Schock as he is at peace with God and man. We pray that he can cling to that peace throughout the trials life will bring!

We thank Bro. Brad Funk (Sis. Laura, Garden Grove) for being with us and preaching the Gospel message to us on Mother's Day.

We congratulate our high school seniors as they complete this stage of their lives: Amy Teubel (Bro. Paul and Sis. Charlotte), Heidi Wettstein (Bro. Jon and Sis. Rita), and Philip Maibach (Bro. Tim and Sis. Mary). Our prayers are with these three that they may seek the Lord's direction for their futures.

IOWA, BURLINGTON Marilyn Anderson Karla Gerst

May is the month set aside to remember our Mothers, even though they are loved and appreciated all year long. Bro. Ken Massner (Rose) passed from this

life on April 30 to be with the Lord. He is survived by his wife, Rose; son and daughter-in-law, Kirk and Caroline; grandsons, Kyler, Kody and Kace. May his family find comfort from the love of God.

We were grateful for the opportunity of Holy Communion on May 1. Elder Bro. Duane Rocke (Sis. Bonnie, Minneapolis) assisted Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Sis. Julie, Oakville) in reminding us of the shed blood on the cross by the Lord for our sins. May we always be thankful for His sacrifice on our behalf.

Bro. Marvin Woodward (Sis. Verna) spent some time in the hospital. We are thankful he is again with us in worship.

We were blessed with visitors this past month. Among them were visiting ministers: Elder Bros. Duane Rocke (Minneapolis) and Jon Schmidgall, as well as Bros. John Steiner (Sis. Carol) and Dale Frank (Sis. Tina), all of the Oakville congregation. May the Lord bless them and their families.

IOWA, ELGIN Maria Rocke

Layna Kathrena Schupbach is the newest granddaughter of Bro. John and Sis. Janet Schupbach. Bro. Greg and Sis. Gwen (West Bend, IA) are Layna's parents.

We wish Brenda Schneider and Luke Squiers the Lord's blessings as they were united in marriage on May 8. Their parents are Bro. Charles and Sis. Sue Schneider and Brian and Vickii Squiers of Tama, IA.

We thank Bro. Jim Butikofer (Sis. Diana, Iowa City, IA) and Bro. Kevin Banwart (Sis. Sandy, West Bend, IA) for sharing God's Word with us this month.

Our prayers are with Bro. Brent Strahm as he is recovering from a surgery.

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE Rhoda Plattner

We are thankful to report visitors from many churches recently. We have appreciated ministering brothers from Burlington, IA; Lamont-Gridley, KS; Congerville, IL; Lester, IA; West Bend, IA; and Francesville, IN. Elder Bro. Steve Sauder (Sis. Mary, Tremont, IL) was here

to share the Memorandum along with our Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Sis. Clara, Bloomfield IA). Also we appreciated Elder Bro. Wayne Grimm (Sis. Rose, West Bend, IA) being with us recently to help Bro. Doug serve us Holy Communion. We sincerely appreciate each one who took the time to visit our small congregation.

We are sad to see Bro. Austin Esslinger leave us, as he is moving back to Bern, KS, for employment. We want to thank Bro. Austin for assembling with us for the past few years and certainly wish him God's blessings.

Finally we are thankful to report that Bro. Brad Funk (Sis. Laura) has recently been given the additional responsibilities of a deacon here in Garden Grove. We are thankful that Bro. Brad and Sis. Laura are willing to serve in this capacity and certainly they have our prayerful support for this work.

IOWA, IOWA CITY Diana Butikofer

We were blessed to have Elder Bro. Bruce and Sis. Elizabeth Endress (Bradford, IL) and their family with us recently. We appreciate Bro. Bruce serving us during the Sunday church services and then also serving us during our Communion service.

Our convert, Jesse Snodgrass (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Becky), has found peace with God and man and is looking forward to baptism scheduled for July 11.

We rejoice with Chris and Megan Powell and big brothers Wyatt and Garrett as they welcome Hannah Jane, born May 17, into their family.

Our prayers continue for Sis. Lana Fehr (Bro. Bob and Sis. Barb) and her family as she recovers from May 18 surgery to remove a tumor around her carotid artery and optic nerve.

We pray that our Lord will bless, guide and heal each of these loved ones according to His will!

IOWA, LESTER Polly Metzger Gloria Moser

On April 18, we witnessed the marriage vows of Bro. Paul Messner (Bro.

Henry and Sis. Charlene) and Sis. Stacey DeSmet (Bro. Bob and Sis. Shirley). May God be the head of their home and may they daily look to Him for guidance as they begin their lives together.

"If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God: if any man minister, let him do it as the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever."

1 Peter 4:11

We are thankful that two brothers have been raised up from our congregation as ministers of the Gospel of salvation. Our prayerful support is given to Bro. Merlin Meyer (Sis. Marilyn) and Bro. Brian Metzger (Sis. Angie) as they assume these new responsibilities. We trust that the Holy Spirit will inspire them to preach with humility and meekness.

Little Rowyn Edward arrived on April 28 to bless the home of Bro. Marti and Sis. Martha Knoblock. Riley, Kary Ann, Kendon, Kortlin and Kyra are excited for a new baby brother. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Nick and Sis. Mary Kuenzi (Silverton, OR) and Bro. Glen and Sis. Joyce Metzger.

"Wait on the Lord: wait, I say on the Lord."

Psalms 27:14

Hospital patients this past month have been Sis. Betty Popkes (Bro. Jeff), Bro. Paul Leuthold, Sis. Barb Ruetter (Bro. Alfred) and Kelli Bajema (Bro. Rod and Sis. Twyla). What a comfort to know that if we wait on the Lord and trust in Him, He will provide for all of our needs.

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

Proverbs 3:5-6

We want to remember our graduates as they embark on further education or various careers. Our prayer is that they will allow the Lord to direct their paths. High School graduates include: Grant DeSmet (Bro. Bob and Sis. Shirley),

Chalsea Knobloch (Bro. Vern and Sis. Chalea), Josie Knobloch (Bro. Dan and Sis. ReJean), Wyatt Knobloch (Bro. Denis and Sis. Jackie), Deena Larson (Jerry and Deb), Adam Leuthold (Bro. Doug and Char), Andrew Metzger (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Dawn), Vance Metzger (Bro. Rodney and Sis. Polly), Lanna Meyer (Bro. Dean and Sis. Linda), Tad Meyer (Bro. Denis and Sis. Jill), Tory Mogler (Bro. Rodney and Sis. Lois), and Abigail Warner (Bro. Stan and Sis. Sue). Our college graduates are: Sis. Amanda Gerber (Bro. Dave and Sis. Diane, West Bend, IA), Sis. Anita Knobloch (Bro. Terry and Sis. Elaine), Bro. Matt Warner (Bro. Stan and Sis. Sue), Sis. Emma Metzger (Bro. Rodney and Sis. Polly), Sis. Tasha Metzger (Bro. Tom and Sis. Deb), Sis. Alice Meyer (Bro. Alvie), Bro. Ross Mogler (Bro. Rodney and Sis. Lois), Deann Popkes (Bro. Greg and Sis. Lori), Aric Leuthold (Carl and Deb), Caley Moser (Bro. Rick and Sis. Lori), Amanda Metzger (Stan) and Tonya Metzger (Morris).

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Jim and Sis. Betty Leuthold and Jerry and Mary Ter Wee as they bid farewell to a dear sister-in-law, Minerva Ter Wee.

IOWA, OAKVILLE Sharla Wiegand

We are thankful for visiting ministers this month including Bro. Michael Wagenbach (Wolcott, IN), Elder Bro. Ben Walder (Congerville, IL), Bro. Joe Gerst (Iowa City, IA) and Bro. Phil Schulz (Burlington, IA).

Bro. Ben Lanz and Sis. Kasha Kraft became husband and wife on April 25 in Lamont/Gridley, KS. Parents of the couple are Bro. Keith and Sis. Tonya Lanz and Bro. Doug and Sis. Judy Kraft. A reception was held here in their honor on May 2. We welcome Sis. Kasha to our congregation.

Bro. Trent and Sis. Laura Kuntz welcomed a new bundle from heaven, Abe Thomas, on April 2. Abe's siblings are Allison, Orrin and Emily. His grandparents are Bro. Tom and Sis. JoAnn Steiner and Bob and Edra Kuntz.

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY Ames, IA Brett Wulf

Those graduating this year included Bros. Matt Schulz (Burlington), Matt Warner (Lester), Jason Banwart (West Bend) and Converts Joel Steiner (Oakville), and Orrin and Christa Lanz (Oakville). We wish them God's blessings and guidance in their future endeavors.

Anyone living in central Iowa or traveling through the area is welcome to join us for Wednesday evening services held each Wednesday night or for Sunday services held twice a month throughout the school year. For more information you can contact Bro. Brett Wulf at 319-759-4015 or brettwulf@gmail.com.

IOWA, WEST BEND Janet Fehr Leona Fehr

The time of graduation celebration has come and gone already this year - how swiftly time does fly! We had seven graduating high school seniors in West Bend. They are Erica Fehr (Bro. Mark and Sis. Janet), Ethan Fehr (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Judy), Callie Gerber (Bro. David and Sis. Diane), Hailey Metzger (Jerry and Joy), Tanya Schmidt (Jamie and Linda), Colton Zaugg (Bro. David and Sis. Melissa), and Jackilyn Zaugg (Darrell and Sis. Julie). "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." (Matthew 6:33). This verse was mentioned several times during our Sunday morning "graduation service". We also think of those that have graduated from college this spring and wish them God speed in the future. Our prayer would be that each of these students would take to heart all they have been taught by their parents and Sunday school teachers in the days of their youth. On graduation weekend, visiting ministers were Bro. Dale Moore (Sis. Cheryl, Elgin, IA) and Bro. Tom Lanz (Sis. Mary, Oakville, IA).

As Father's Day approaches, we think of the hymn "Faith of our Fathers".

Faith of our fathers, living still
In spite of dungeon, fire and sword,
O how our hearts beat high with joy
Whene'er we hear that glorious word!

Faith of our fathers! Holy faith!
We will be true to thee till death!
Hymns of Zion #85

We were privileged to have Bro. Tom Lanz (Sis. Mary, Oakville, IA) here on April 18 to share the Word with us.

Joining hand and heart on April 24 were Brittany Banwart and Marshall Koethe. Parents of the couple are Brad and Julie Banwart and Terry and Cathy Koethe. We wish Brittany and Marshall God's rich blessings.

May 2 brought sorrow to the heart of Bro. Larry (Sis. Marvella) Wickman as his brother, Darrell, passed away. May the Lord fill the void left by his passing.

JAPAN, SHIODA Carrie Ito

I forgot to mention last time that the Sunday school children put on an Easter program for us. It had been many years (I think) since we had had an Easter program due to lack of students. A special thanks to Bro. John Kinsinger, who "directed", and to those who took part. The Sunday school children also made paper flower and snack bouquets for all the ladies in church on Mother's Day. The children's enthusiasm to serve others is a wonderful blessing. As usual, we also visited the hospital to give towels and a card to the women residents for Mother's Day.

As of this writing we are enjoying a visit from Elder Bro. Mark and Sis. Bev Bahr (Detroit). We appreciate their ministry and shepherding of our flock.

JAPAN, TOKYO Jana Klaus

Greetings from Tokyo. We had our annual business meeting in May and are thankful for every helping hand that lovingly works for the Lord in our small congregation here.

Elder Bro. Mark Bahr, and his wife, Sis. Bev (Detroit, MI), were visiting our Shioda church for two weeks, but Bro. Mark kindly gave of himself to lead a Bible study for the monthly ladies meeting held in our Tokyo church. There was a large turnout and many discussions as several ladies freely asked questions. We pray God will continue to work in all of the

hearts of those present, and thank Bro. Mark and Sis. Bev for their loving support.

We also enjoyed a visit from four sisters traveling together throughout Japan for a couple weeks: Sis. Roseann Stahl (Bradford, IL), Sis. Linda Hodel (Roanoke, IL), Sis. Lori Banwart (Congerville, IL) and Sis. Emily Fehr (Eureka, IL). One more, Sis. Cyrena Baer (Bradford, IL), was out in the country church visiting her sister, Sis. Wanda Kinsinger and family, and plans to join the group in Tokyo when they stop in to worship with us again at the end of their trip. We so enjoyed their fellowship and singing power and appreciate that they took the time to visit the churches of Japan.

Our Bro. Teruo Sanada, who suffered a heart attack early this year, was able to have successful follow-up heart surgery. He is again recovering in the hospital and we thank you for your continued prayers on his behalf. Also, for our dear Sis. Shizuko Urushino who is still hospitalized, but lights up and warmly visits when any of the church folks take the time to go see her.

KANSAS, BERN
Sheri Edelman
Jill Meyer

"In the day of my trouble I will call upon thee: thou wilt answer me."

Psalms 86:7

Bro. Paul Kilgus (Sis. Carmen, Fairbury, IL) joined us for the weekend of our Sunday school youth fellowship weekend for sixth through eighth grades. He spoke Saturday evening to the students and preached to all of us on Sunday. We thank him for the message and hope everyone, young and old, will answer the Lord's call that is still going out today.

Our prayers are pouring out for our graduates this year. Graduating from high school are Marcus Baumgartner (Bro. John and Sis. Lori), Jody Goodman (Mike and Sis. Luci), Keithen Meyer (Bro. Duane and Sis. Holly), Travis Meyer (Bro. Jim and Sis. Kristin) and Sis. Sheila Strahm (Bro. Kyle and Sis. Peggy). Those seeking employment and receiving their

college degrees are Bro. Mathew Kaeb, Bro. Michael Kaeb, Sis. Monica Strahm and Bro. Almanzo Strahm. May they look to the Lord and allow Him to be each of their guides as they continue this journey through life.

Mother's Day was especially enjoyable for the mothers as the single's group made, served and cleaned up lunch that day. We thank you for this act of kindness!

Thadd Reist (Dave and Marci) and Valarie Lamoreaux were married in May. We pray for them as they establish a new home in Manhattan, KS, and hope they visit us often!

There were five surgery patients this month! Sis. Katie Grimm, Bro. Waymer Esslinger, Kathy Baumgartner, Grant Meyer (Bro. Alan and Sis. Colleen) and Sis. Connie Lehman (Elder Bro. John). May each of you feel the Lord's healing hand as you recover.

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT
Martin Hohulin Sr.

Spring! How beautiful art thou? After a long, cold, dreary winter, the earth has awakened to a new splendor. Green grass and flowers are everywhere. Asparagus is growing in abundance in the gardens and along the roadsides. As for myself, I could make a meal on this wonderful plant.

Spring also brings graduations, a time when we honor our precious young people for their academic accomplishments. These bright individuals are the future generation and, hopefully, the Church of tomorrow.

Our Fort Scott graduates are Melanie Banwart, 8th grade from Liberal, MO, and Mary Fischer, 8th grade from Fort Scott Christian School. Our grandson, Steven Hohulin, graduated from Lamar High School. He will attend Missouri State University at Springfield in the Fall. Ryan Kellenberger graduated from Kansas State University in Manhattan. Melanie Banwart comes from a very unusual background. A native of India, she was found wandering in the streets of a large city there when she was less than four years old. She was truly a homeless person with no known parents or knowledge of her birthday. I'm not certain at

what point of time that Bro. Gene and Sis. Linda Banwart had applied for their fifth adopted child, but God knew this precious child and she was in His plan. When she met them she could not speak English, but she immediately bonded with Bro. Gene. She joined a family with two other adopted Indian sisters who are also Sisters in Christ and two adopted American brothers. What a touching story! God took a hopeless situation and turned it into a most beautiful account. Both Melanie Banwart and Mary Fischer are awaiting baptism. To God be the Glory! Melanie's grandmother, Sis. Juanita Sinn, underwent foot surgery. She is recovering at home with the aid of her children and grandchildren.

We are anticipating the visit of Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS) and Elder Bro. Don Braker (Kansas City, MO) for the Lord's Supper. To me this is a sobering occasion when we unworthy ones gather to celebrate this event and be reminded of the great sacrifice that Jesus made on our behalf.

KANSAS
LAMONT-GRIDLEY
Ester Knobloch

The engagement of Bro. Kurt Kraft (Bro. Doug and Sis. Judy) to Sis. Alex Lanz (Bro. Ron and Sis. Timna) of Oakville was made known to our congregation. We wish God's blessings on this couple as they plan for their marriage.

Sis. Kara Kraft (Bro. Doug and Sis. Judy) and Bro. Thad Sinn (Bro. Todd and Sis. Janet) of Latty were united in marriage on May 23. May God be with them as they walk this path of life together. We will miss Sis. Kara and wish her and Bro. Thad God's blessings as they establish their home in Latty.

The visiting ministers with us for the wedding were Bro. Gary Sinn (Sis. Paulette, Latty), Bro. Warren Schlatter (Sis. Cindy, Junction), Bro. David Hartter (Sis. Beth, Sabetha), Bro. Brandon Emch (Sis. Maria, Kansas City) and Bro. Brent Kellenberger (Sis. Beth, Kansas City). We thank them for preaching the Word of Life unto us.

KANSAS, SABETHA
Carrie Grimm
Sally Strahm

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

Psalm 127:3

We rejoice with two couples that are first-time parents in our congregation. Bro. John and Sis. Teresa Hartter welcome little Addie Larae. Grandparents are Bro. Tim and Sis. Charleen Hartter and Bro. Eric and Sis. Luann Kaeb (Cissna Park, IL). We likewise rejoice with Bro. John and Sis. Betsy Strahm as they welcome little Marlys Rose. Grandparents are Bro. Curt and Sis. Ellen Strahm and Bro. Butch and Sis. Kathy Doorneweerd (Lester, IA).

Bro. Rod and Sis. Arlene Grimm are thankful grandparents as they welcome a grandson, Drake Lee, into their family circle. Drake’s parents are Bro. Lyle and Sis. Amanda Grimm of Morris, MN.

We are thankful and appreciative that Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Betty, Silverton, OR) and Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern, KS) were here to help with our Holy Communion on May 1. Bro. Art was with us on Sunday and we appreciate him ministering the Word.

The Sunday of Mother’s Day brought three visiting ministers to our congregation. We appreciate Bro. Ron Isch (Sis. Jane, Lamont-Gridley, KS), Bro. Dale Wulf (Sis. Becky, Lester, IA) and Bro. Greg Braker (Sis. Wendy, Lamar, MO) being servants in God’s vineyard.

Our high school graduates this year are Loren Grimm (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Nita), Will Eisenbise (Bro. Dave and Sis. Shari), Daniel Strahm (Bro. Curt and Sis. Ellen) and Ted Grimm (Bro. Doug and Sis. Jeryl). Our college graduate is Sis. Lena Hartter (Bro. David and Sis. Beth). May the Lord direct the paths of these dear ones as they step into the next chapter of their lives.

The Junior Bible Sunday School class enjoyed a Youth Fellowship weekend on April 24-25 as they spent time with the Kansas Churches with Bern, KS, hosting.

Our Single Group had an invite-a-guest weekend. The weekend pro-

vided a blessing to all of us.

We have a number who spent time in the hospital. Our prayers have been with Jacob Kaster (Eldon and Lana), Sis. Carol Kaufman (Bro. Keith), Bro. Gene Kellenberger (Sis. Marian), Sis. Kelly Edelman (Bro. Steven) and Austin Hertzell (Bro. Erik and Sis. Shelli). May God grant each one healing and strength.

“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.”

Psalm 119:105

KANSAS, WICHITA
Emma Miller

Prayers are needed on behalf of our dear Bro. Philip Bowers. His immobile body is plagued with problems, yet he always has a smile for those he meets. Much effort is required of his caregivers so he can participate in our fellowship.

The theme of our May first Mother-Daughter Banquet was “The Bread of Life”. The oldest bread maker in our congregation demonstrated her method of mixing the dough and preparing it for the oven. Another sister whose bread making skill includes making sweet rolls and braided treats demonstrated her techniques. Their audience showed much interest in the process and some vied for the chance to buy the finished products.

Sis. Rose Ann Reeves was a surgical patient in early May. She is undergoing therapy and we hope to see her back in church as her body heals.

Bro. Dwight and Sis. Lori Stoller (Latty, OH) were in the Wichita area and assembled with us the first Sunday in May. We treasure their fellowship when their business brings them to our part of Kansas.

A friend sent me a list of Christian one liners, one of them being, “The Lord didn’t create anything without a purpose.”

MEXICO, IXTLAN
Regg Beer

“Good morning, teacher!” Juan Diego smiles out the classroom door as I walk by. Sure, they’re common words for anyone working in a school. They are basic and friendly, but they will always bring a

smile. The soft Spanish accent only adds to the enjoyment of hearing the words. You see, it isn’t the words that bring the joy, it’s the kid.

El Colegio de las Américas de Ixtlán is an outreach of the Apostolic Christian Church in Mexico. The school began in August 2009 with eight students in first grade. El Colegio de las Américas is a Christian Private school that is focused on teaching Biblical values to student while providing a strong education which is often difficult to find in Mexico. Part of the school curriculum is quality English learning from a native speaker. For this, El Colegio de las Américas is looking for brothers or sisters to commit to at least two years of English language teaching in Ixtlán, Mexico. While specific teaching qualification are not necessary, the following are some basic qualifications for those interested in teaching English in El Colegio de las Américas:

Native English Speaker

Demonstrates correct use of the English Language

University degrees in education or TESOL (Teaching English to Speaker of Other Languages) are not necessary, but will be taken into consideration and will be helpful in the classroom.

Any person interested in teaching in El Colegio de las Américas should also be willing to do the following:

Learn to control a classroom

Research and learn about the English language to better understand how to teach it

Learn and practice Spanish

Adapt to Mexican culture both inside and outside the classroom.

As a representative of the Apostolic Christian Church, it is also important that those interested be in good standing with the church and commit to practicing the teachings of the Bible while being in submission to the authorities in Ixtlán as well as practicing daily prayer and study of the Scripture.

At the present moment, due to current housing situations, we are only able to accept couples or single brothers. However, we ask that all those interested still contact us for more information.

If interested, first speak with your family and Elder regarding your desire and, when granted their support, please contact one of the following brothers for more information:

Bro. Matt Gerber

magerbe@gmail.com

Bro. Regg Beer

Reggie46542@yahoo.com

Other news: On Sunday, April 25, Bro. Jonathan Aupperle and Sis. Berenice Navarro Cervantes were united in holy matrimony before God and witnesses in Ixtlan. In addition to visitors from both families, present were Elder Bro. Mike Leman (Denver), Elder Bro. Jose Cervantes (Sister church in Tecate), ministering Bro. Bill Schick (Magdalena), and a number of staff and residents from Casa Viday Esperanza (CVE).

MEXICO, MAGDALENA **Jarrin Rabe**

"Su diestra lo ha salvado, y Su santo brazo."

Colosenses 2:2 Salmo 98:1

"...his right hand, and his holy arm, hath gotten him the victory!"

Psalms 98:1

April brought quite the busy month to México this year! On April 25, Bro. Jonathan Aupperle and Sis. Bere Navarrrrravo were happily married in Ixtlán, Michoacán. Thankfully, a few of the staff and the Junior High kids were able to make the trip down to the wedding. It was a blessed weekend to be able to witness Bro. Jonathan and Sis. Bere married in Christ. Some of the kids had never seen a wedding, so it was a great experience for them as well. The wedding was conducted in English and in Spanish so that both sides of the family could understand the service. What a blessing it was! On May 16, the Magdalena church hosted a reception for the couple as well.

We are thankful as the Lord continues to mold and shape the staffus here in Magdalena, the staff, as well as our kids. It's only by His grace and mercy that we are here. Please continue to pray for

those who have started a walk with Christ in our church here. We know that the battle is more than "against flesh and blood", but we have faith that God will overcome for "greater is He that is in us than he that is in the world".

"Whosoever shall do and teach them [His commandments], the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven."

Matthew 5:19

MICHIGAN, ALTO **Listyn Oesch** **Melissa Blough**

As Spring blooms, we can see change all around us. Not only the physical warmth and color, but the daily changes in the heart of a surrendered child of God.

The warmer weather and Christian friendship brought travelers our way. We were blessed with visits from ministering brothers. Bro. Fred Domka (Sis. Connie, Mansfield, OH) and Bro. Don Manz (Sis. Connie, Junction, OH) shared and humbly served on the pulpit. We thank them for their efforts and labor of love.

More travelers came this month for a Single Group invite-a-friend weekend. All who were involved reaped a blessing in the time of fellowship and encouragement.

Sofia Hoesksma became a proud big sister this month with the birth of Cecilia. We rejoice with her parents, Martin and Ronnie; grandparents, Jeff and Brenda Oesch; and great-grand parents, Bro. Joe and Sis. Melva Oesch.

Bro. Ron and Penny Erismann welcomed another grandchild into their family, Jed Stephen. Ryan and Summer are experiencing great joy in the addition as well as siblings, Mercedes, Cade, and Walker.

We also celebrate with Ken Zaagman and Nicole Praniewicz as they were joined in marriage on May 16. Our prayers are with them as they start their lives in a blessed three fold cord. We think of their families as well in this time of new beginnings; parents, Ed and Joy Zaagman, and many siblings.

"Who can find a virtuous woman? For her price is far above rubies... She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in

her tongue is the law of kindness. She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness. Her children arise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her."

Proverbs 31:10, 26-28

The "hats that women wear" was the theme at our annual Ladies Spring Banquet. A Saturday afternoon was spent honoring all the God given mothers in our lives. A special thanks is extended to all those who attended and prepared for this day. Your efforts do not go unnoticed.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY **Sarah Knochel** **Janelle Ramseyer**

The weekend of May 1-2 was set aside to commemorate Holy Communion. We appreciate Elder Bro. Tim Funk (Sis. Debra, Peoria, IL) traveling to Bay City to assist our Elder Bro. John Jackson in this work.

"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:"

Romans 5:1

Our hearts rejoice with Laura and Kathy Knochel (Bro. Jim and Sis. Kay) as they have professed peace with God and man. We look forward to the time of their baptism.

Our prayers are with those who have spent time in the hospital recently. We pray that God's healing touch will be with Bro. Robert Knochel, Sis. Marilyn Munsel, Sis. Marlene Mosher, Bro. Fred Ruegsegger (Sis. Marilyn), Sis. Vinnie Wackerle, Sis. Kathy Waibel, and Bro. Merle Wieland.

We want to remember Michelle Knochel (Jerry) in the passing of her mother, Alice Rivard.

Our high school graduates are Mallory Arbour (Bill and Lori), Erin Munsel (Bro. Greg and Sis. Lynette), and Helen Szabo (Frank and Sis. Gail). Our college graduates are Bro. Chet and Stan Schlatter (Bro. Ken and Sis. Pam). We pray for each of these young people that God's perfect will would be accomplished in their lives.

We are thankful to have Bro. Dean

and Sis. Connie Pashak back in our congregation as they returned from spending four months in Haiti.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

**Kay Rauhe
Manuela Denes**

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

Psalm 127:3

What a special blessing it was for Sis. Stacie and Bro. Marc Knepp to welcome twin boys into the world just before Mother’s Day! Older brother Chase Robert arrived just a few minutes before Max Richard. We are all so thankful to the Lord that everything went well for them all. Grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Marge Rumbold (Peoria, IL) and Bro. Richard and Sis. Janet Knepp (Roanoke, IL).

Our prayers and sympathy are with Sis. Crystal (Bro. Lucas) Frank in the passing of her grandmother, Sis. Clara Hartzler from Rittman, OH. May the Lord bless them and their families in this loss with the assurance that Sis. Clara is at home!

May prayers also be extended to Sis. Kathryn Losiewicz who is in the hospital after a fall. Haley Knochel (Bro. Dana and Sis. Beth) injured her leg and will be on crutches for several weeks. We pray that the Lord will restore them both back to health.

We’d like to extend our congratulations to Bro. Brice Gasser on his graduation from the University of Michigan with a degree in mechanical engineering. May the Lord guide and direct him as he continues in his professional life.

“For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord’s death till he come.”

I Corinthians 11:26

It was a blessed evening for all who were gathered together for Communion services. Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Sis. Clara, Bloomfield, IA) was here to assist Elder Bro. Mark Bahr in this solemn occasion. I know that for myself personally, taking part in this service always leaves me feeling renewed and uplifted! May we

never lose that feeling.

“Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.”

Luke 6:38

I believe that sometimes we get so wrapped up in the business of our lives that we forget there are many in our communities who do not have the blessings we have. It is so inspiring and uplifting to hear about some of the good work that gets done. We are grateful to those brothers and sisters who recently gave some of their time to help out at a local soup kitchen. Over seven hundred sandwiches were made! Let’s all try a little harder to make some time for activities like this, for in giving, “...it shall be given unto you.”

We would like to extend an invitation and warm welcome to one and all that can, to join us at Detroit for the 22nd Annual Choir Benefit. For the first time, the program and meal will be on a Saturday rather than a Sunday. Keep July 17 open in your calendar for the 5:00 p.m. meal and the Choir program at 7:00 p.m., both of which will be held at the church. We’d love to have you all stay over and worship with us on Sunday! Please contact Bro. Phil Bahr if you require overnight accommodations at (248)477-0495 and pdahr@yahoo.com

“Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing.”

Psalm 100:1-2

MINNESOTA MINNEAPOLIS

“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.”

Jeremiah 29:11-13

We think of those that will be graduating and moving to a different phase of life. May God direct each of their paths.

Lanae Wagenbach returned to Kiowa for the summer and will be attending Kansas State in the fall. We wish her God’s blessing.

Rochester Services are held the third Wednesday night of every month at Sis. Anne Wagenbach’s. Contacts: Bro. Jim and Sis. Deb Tilbury 507-281-2875 or Sis. Anne Wagenbach 507-993-6916. Address 310 16th Ave, SW, Rochester, MN.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS

Susie Wulf

Kim Feuchtenberger

We were thankful for Bro. Pat Zaugg’s visit as he ministered God’s Word to us. Also visiting this month were counseling Elders: Bro. Bill Schlatter, Bro. Andy Stoller and Bro. Paul Messner.

This month we had lots of new babies entering God’s house for their first time. May God grant the parents grace and discernment as they raise their children in the fear of the Lord.

April 19 brought the arrival of Damon Jon, son of Bro. Quinn and Sis. Kristi Messner. Siblings of Damon are Dawn, Brandi, Trent, Troy and Issac.

On April 23, two babies were born. Kyra Jo Koehl was born to Bro. Mitch and Sis. Janell, and her siblings are Clark, Kendra and Karlee. Clara Joy Messner is the new daughter of Bro. Alex and Sis. Myra. Welcoming her home is sister Emma.

On April 26, Bro. Greg and Sis. Sheila Reuter along with son Emmerson welcomed the arrival of Kailee Jo.

Drake Lee Grimm, son of Bro. Lyle and Sis. Amanda, arrived April 28. Big sister Haley welcomes him home.

May 3 brought the arrival of Laura Ann Kellenberger, daughter of Bro. Ryan and Sis. Joan. Siblings are John, Brandon, Levi and Nathan.

Eli Mark Mattson arrived May 5. Parents, Bro. Mark and Sis. Lori, along with sisters, Sabrina, Ashlyn, Haley, Lindsey, Rylie and Mishayla, are excited to have a boy in the family.

On May 11, Samuel Eugene was born to Bro. Joshua and Sis. Heidi Schmidgall. Welcoming him home are sisters, Sonia

and Susan.

On May 12, Bro. Scott and Sis. Emily, along with son Levi, welcomed Stephanie Ann Strahm to the family.

We congratulate grandparents, Bro. Dale and Sis. Rachel Zeltwanger, on the birth of granddaughter Tenley Rose on May 7. Tenley is the daughter of Wes and Dixie Gerber (Bluffton, IN).

Congratulations to Bro. David and Sis. June Schmidgall on the birth of their grandson, Trayton David. Trayton is the son of Tonya Judkins

**MINNESOTA, MORRIS
NORTH**
Lois Schmidgall
Wanda Gramm

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

John 3:16

This verse we need to keep in remembrance through our daily walk. What a powerful verse!

Sunday, May 9, Elder Bros. Paul Messner and Earl Ringger gathered with our congregation for our first Holy Communion at Morris North. As we broke bread and drank of the cup, the Lord blessed us with the remembrance of His last supper in reminding us, “This do in remembrance of Me.”

This month we have been blessed with visiting ministers: Elder Bro. Paul Messner (Sis. Jan, Winthrop MN), Bro. Dewayne Dill (Sis. LaRae, Minneapolis, MN), Bro. Clint Schmidt (Sis. Magdalena, Winthrop, MN), Bro. Gene Metzger (Sis. Dolores, Lester, IA), Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL), Bro. Glenn Steiner (Sis. Rachel, Winthrop, MN). We are so grateful for their love and support.

We also enjoyed hearing the exhortation at the Morris congregation which Elder Bros. Paul Messner, Andy Stoller and Bill Schlatter brought to us on a Wednesday evening. Thank you, Brothers, for being so willing to share the Word with us.

Also visiting us were brethren from the Bern, KS; Tremont, IL; Winthrop, MN; Morris, MN; and Lester, IA; congre-

gations. We love having visitors and thank you for spending time worshipping with us.

Our Mothers were treated with love from our Sunday School and Bible Class children with the song “Tell Mother I’ll be there”, which they sang following our morning service on Mother’s Day. They also treated the Mothers by serving lunch that day. We are so thankful for our group of young people who are so willing to give of themselves.

The following students of the Morris North Church will graduate from High School this month: Jeffrey Knobloch (Mark and Sis. Brenda), Austin Schieler (Bro. Keith and Sis. Jody), and Preston Moser (Bro. Doug and Sis. Dawn). We wish God’s guidance and blessings in their life’s journey. May God bless each one and their families.

We welcome Bro. Rueben and Sis. Crystol Luthi back to Minnesota, after spending their winter in California.

We extend a warm welcome to those who may be in our area to come and worship with us.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP
Julie Schmidt
Lindsay Schmidt

“For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord’s death till he come.”

I Corinthians 12:26

We are thankful for the labor of love from Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Sis. Cheryl, Rockville, CT) in helping serve Holy Communion to our congregation with our local Elder Bro. Paul Messner.

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

Hymns of Zion #55

We rejoice with our convert, Stephanie Stoll, and her parents, Bro. Ed and Sis. Ginny, to hear that she feels the peace of God and professes to be at peace with God and mankind. We pray for continued

grace as she awaits her baptismal day.

Anywhere with Jesus I can safely go;
Anywhere He leads me in this world below;
Anywhere without Him dearest joys would fade;
Anywhere with Jesus I am not afraid.
Anywhere! Anywhere! Fear I can not know;
Anywhere with Jesus I can safely go.
Hymns of Zion #179

Our congregation is saddened that Bro. Chris and Sis. Nancy Williams are moving to the Chicago, IL, area for employment. They will be missed in our small church. We pray that God will always be with them and that He will ever be the One that leads their lives.

But I prize the friendship highest
Of the one whose heart is true,
Friends who live by truth and goodness

And who live in Him anew,
Friends whose hearts are up in heaven
Though their feet traverse this sod,
Find a place of highest merit
In our fellowship with God.

Hymns of Zion #91

Winthrop was privileged to host the annual Winthrop/Minneapolis Picnic. It is such a blessing to be able to spend the day with those that are of like mind and faith and renew our friendships. May God bless their church with grace and growth. We were also thankful that Elder Bro. Duane Rocke (Sis. Bonnie) spent Sunday here and shared God’s Word with us over the pulpit. May God richly bless him for his deeds of service.

Be not dismayed whate’er betide, God will take care of you;
Beneath His wings of love abide, God will take care of you.
God will take care of you, Thru every day, O’er all the way;
He will take care of you, God will take care of you.

Hymns of Zion #138

Our thoughts and prayers were with Marvin Bruns (Sis. Verna) as he spent time in the hospital. May God continue to

strengthen and heal him as He sees fit.

MISSOURI, LAMAR

Rebecca Dotterer

Dana Kellenberger

We rejoiced this month to hear of the engagement of our Sis. Nicole Marti (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Kathy) to our Bro. Darin Braker (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Carol). Our prayers will be with them during this time of change in their lives and we wish them God's grace and blessings.

This year we have two high school graduates: Jared Luthi (Bro. Calvin and Sis. Jodi) and our convert, Brent Luthi (Elder Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Becky). May they seek God's direction for the future.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

Kary Mangers

Our church was blessed with many special occasions this month. One of them was bittersweet. On May 23, Sis. Meagan Wuethrich (Bro. Chris and Sis. Carla) married Bro. Brad Frank (Elder Bro. Curt and Sis. Lyla). We wish them God's richest blessing as they make their home in LaCrosse. Sis. Meagan's presence will be missed by our congregation.

On a sweet note, our congratulations go to Bro. Matthew Schrenk (Bro. Loren and Sis. Betsy) and Sis. Alicia Steffen (Bro. Craig and Sis. Jean, Bluffton) from Taylor as they announced their engagement. May God bless them as they together plan for their future.

We also had Communion and the reading of the Memorandum this month. Our Elder Bro. Kent and Sis. Jan Heimer (Taylor) and Elder Bro. Steve and Sis. Linda Gutwein (Francesville) joined us for the weekend. It was a special time coming together to remember our Savior's gift to us.

We thank the many families from Eureka for joining us in worship along with Bro. Jim and Sis. Linda Vierling for their service.

As the summer begins, we would like to extend an invitation to those who might be traveling to join us any time for our worship services. Please contact Bro. Loren Schrenk for Wednesday night worship locations or for our lunch count for

Sunday. May the Lord watch over those on the roads enjoying family times together.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Kathy Eberhardt

We wish God's blessing on all our high school graduates this year. Among our graduates are Stephanie Grimm (Bro. Don and Sis. Tricia), Bro. Tyler Haerr (Bro. Shon and Sis. Peg), Aubrey Hoerr (Bro. Scott and Sis. Anna), Rick Lutener (Bonnie and the late Gary), and Shelby Sutter (Bro. Roger and Sis. Dianne).

College graduates were Bro. Adam Adrian, Rita Yackley, and Sis. Kara Eberhardt. May God guide them on their next step of life. "Trust in the Lord with all thy heart and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him and he shall direct thy paths." (Proverbs 3:5-6)

Visiting our church this month was Bro. Jeff Fischer (Sis. Gloria, Fort Scott, KS). Bro. Jeff started our services with a question, "What is for dinner?", as the pages of the Bible were parted. Thanks so much for being God's messenger at our Taylor church. May God bless you always.

We are rejoicing with Bro. Dave and Sis. Jan Roberts (Peoria) on the birth of their second child. Henry David was born on April 26. He joins sister Grace as part of the family. Grandparents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Cheryl Stratton and Sis. Carolyn and the late Bro. David L. Roberts (Bluffton North).

We welcome Sis. Carrie Blunier (Bro. Bill and Sis. Sherry, Leo, IN) to work at His Ranch this summer.

Are we safe in the arms of Jesus? We rejoiced with Sis. Nikki Haerr and her family (Bro. Norman and Sis. Sally) for her testimony and baptism on May 10. Elder Bro. Kent Heimer, along with his wife, Sis. Jan, went to Bro. Norman and Sis. Sally's home on Monday, May 10, for the baptismal ceremony. Also present were Bro. Norman and Sis. Sally's four children, along with their grandchildren.

On May 14, Sis. Nikki went home to be with Jesus. After a prolonged illness, we are thankful that Sis. Nikki was able to discard her earthly garment and put on that white heavenly garment that shall

last forever. Below is a letter from the Bro. Norman and Sis. Sally Haerr family.

"It's been quite a journey - when I think of the countless prayers so many of you have prayed for Nikki (Haerr) through the years, I see lines as if drawn on a board, from you to the Father to Nikki - a network of God's own weaving. Forgive me if I sound poetic, but it's a picture I've clung to, knowing one day in His own timing, each of those prayers would be answered.

As Nikki lay in her bed, she was able to whisper a testimony of faith in Jesus Christ as a personal Savior before she was baptized, embracing her Sister name... a status she for many years had longed for. Just 4 days later (May 14) she took her last breath and went HOME to be forever with that Savior - a victory won!

"We, as Nikki's family, want to THANK YOU for sharing in her life. Yes...it's been quite a journey."

Bro. Norman and Sis. Sally Haerr and family

NEW YORK CROGHAN-NAUMBURG Hope Graves

Take the Bible in the morning, But a moment if no more;
It is better than an hour, When the trying day is o'er;
It is better than an hour, When the trying day is o'er.
'Tis the gentle dew from heaven. The manna for the day.
If you fail to gather early, Alas, it melts away.
If you fail to gather early, Alas, it melts away.
So in the blush of morning, Take the offered hand of love.
And walk in heaven's pathway, And the peacefulness thereof.
And walk in heaven's pathway, And the peacefulness thereof.
Hymns of Zion #62

We experienced a blessing working together at our church cleaning on May 17. Our prayers go out for Bro. Clyde Virkler and Geneva Rivers who were hospitalized this past month.

OHIO, AKRON**Erika Gal**

Several of our brethren have spent time in the hospital this month. Our dear Sisters Audrey Graf (the late Bro. Art), Mary Ann Weigele (Bro. Al), and Joanne Henico (Bro. Ben) each underwent surgery. We are so thankful that each one is home and improving. Sis. Eleanor Pamer (Bro. Gene) and Bro. Bob Graf (Sis. Alma) were also hospitalized and are back home again. Our Bro. Micah Gherian (Sis. Marcy) is in the hospital, and our prayers are certainly with him and his family.

We appreciate the faithful service of Bro. Ted Luginbuhl (Sis. Stephanie, Smithville) who visited us this month.

We are rejoicing with first-time grandparents, Bro. Les and Sis. Judi Steidl. Their son and daughter-in-law, Kurt and Kerrie Steidl, were blessed with a healthy baby boy, Carson Anthony, on May 14.

On May 23, many of our Akron brethren enjoyed the hospitality of the Mansfield congregation. We were thankful to share in the joy of our Bro. Jacob Rufener and Sis. Bethany Miller as they were united as one. Their parents are Bro. John and Sis. Janice Rufener (Smithville) and Bro. Roger and Sis. Dorina Miller (Mansfield).

We are also rejoicing with our Sis. Esther Steidl (Bro. Don and Sis. Nan) as her engagement to Bro. Jeran Stoller (Bro. Eric and Sis. Melanie, Rittman) was made known. We wish them the Lord's blessings and peace throughout this special time of engagement.

We are sending our love and prayers with Sis. Rachael Indermuhle as she leaves to spend a couple of months with our brethren in Szeged, Hungary. We trust this will be a special time of making lifelong memories, and we look forward to her safe return home.

We also wish to congratulate our high school graduates. They are Meredith Klotzle (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Jane), Tony Craiu (Bro. Virgil and Sis. Veronica) and our convert Steven Greenbank (Bro. Glen and Sis. Joan). We pray that each one will look to God for direction for their lives.

"Trust in the Lord with all thine

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

Proverbs 3:5-6

OHIO, COLUMBUS**Esther Saurer**

This month Bro. Bill Brake and his wife came from Sardis, OH, to minister to us. We are always thankful to have visitors to share God's Word with us.

We also had the engagement announcement of Bro. Kyle Germann and Sis. Christine Ramsey (Mansfield). May God continue to bless them during this time of engagement.

OHIO, JUNCTION**Vicki Boroff**

We were blessed to have the Kitchener congregation join us for a weekend this month. We would like to thank Bro. Mike Ursu (Sis. Barb, Kitchener) for bringing the Word to us. We appreciate the efforts of our home and visiting ministers.

Bro. Les Manz was a recent hospital patient. We pray for His healing hand upon him as he recovers.

I failed to report that Annabelle Grace was born on Valentine's Day to Cheryl and Nate Ametewee. Grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Connie Manz.

Congratulations to our high school graduates: Staci Manz (Bro. Les and Sis. Karen); Derek Schlatter (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Laurie); Sis. Angie Manz (Bro. Don and Sis. Connie); and Clark Schlatter (Bro. Ray and Sis. Corrine).

We recently heard of the engagement of John Manz and Diane Breese. We wish them God's blessings.

OHIO, LATTY**Amanda Wenninger
Carmen Eisenmann**

We rejoice with Marla Sinn (Bro. Todd and Sis. Janet) as she has found peace with God and man. She is anticipating a June 19-20 baptism date.

Bro. Jason and Sis. Crystal Pelfrey became parents on May 7, weeks before they were expecting it to happen. Little Sage Ray and Sawyer Dale Pelfrey are currently in a NICU in Akron. Maternal

grandparents are Bro. Ray and Sis. Carol Stoller of Latty. We continue to lift this new family up in prayer and pray that God's will be done.

This year's high school graduates are: Brenna Dunham (Bro. Byron and Sis. Jody), Kelsey Gerber (Bro. Dave and Sis. Patty), Evan Klopfenstein (Bro. Roy and Deb), Jenna Stoller (Bro. Dale and Sis. Jodi), and Martin Stoller (Bro. Craig and Sis. Ruth). God be with them as they continue on life's journey, be it school or work.

OHIO, MANSFIELD**Tami Griffey**

Grant (Wayne Gerber), and Dongmei (Mujin and Xiaozhen Jiang; China) Gerber solemnized their marriage vows before God and man on April 17. May God's blessings be upon them as they walk this path of life together.

Elder Bro. Ron Messner gave a presentation about the Apostolic Home for the Handicapped on April 17. We thank him for his travelling efforts and labors of love.

Hospitalized loved ones include Sis. Lucy Baumann, Sis. Dorothy Durkin, and Sis. Sarah Rice. Please continue to keep these dear sisters and their families in your prayers as they recover at home.

"In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths."

Proverbs 3:6

A breakfast to show our love and support to our graduating seniors was held May 16. Graduates include: Mitchel Beer (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Robin), Wesley Beer (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Tammy), Katlyn Pfeiffer (Andy and Tamara), April Eriksson (Randy and Pamela Sauder), Bro. Paul Ramsey (Bro. John and Sis. Dawn), Jedidiah Sauder (Mark and Diane), Makenzie Sauder (Brian and Danyelle), Allison Sauder (Bro. Dave and Sis. Joy), and Hailey Stricker (Karla). May God bless, guide, and direct their lives.

Thankful for the Holy Spirit's leading, we joyfully share the engagements of two sisters from our congregation: Sis. Julie Beer (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Robin) to Bro. Zach Reinhard (Bro. Gene and Sis.

Darlene; Bluffton North, IN). Their wedding is planned for June 27. Also, Sis. Christine Ramsey (Bro. John and Sis. Dawn) to Bro. Kyle Germann (Bro. Doug and Sis. Rebecca; Columbus, OH). Their wedding is scheduled for August 1. May God continue to bless and guide these couples as they prepare for sharing their lives together in marriage.

OHIO, RITTMAN

Heidi Rufener Marge Stoller

The weekend of April 17-18 was a special blessing to us. On Saturday evening, April 17, we partook of Holy Communion. In peace and quietness we reflected on Christ's suffering, shed blood and death which paid the price for our sins. Assisting our Elder Bro. Merle in this important work was Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis), Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville) and retired Elder Bro. Henry Dotterer (Rittman).

Then on Sunday, April 18, we had Dedication for our extensive remodeling work done in our Rittman church. We were reminded that "Except the Lord build the house they labour in vain that build it." (Psalm 127:1). On the pulpit with Elder Bro. Merle on this special occasion was Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis), Elder Bro. Dave Graf (Akron), and Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville).

On May 1, we hosted the Eastern Regional Elder Conference. Our Elder Brothers do much labor in our behalf. May we always keep them in our prayers.

In the evening we heard the testimonies of three dear souls. They were Nathan Gasser (Bro. Virgil and Sis. Lois), Nathanael Steiner (Bro. Dave and Sis. Lynn) and Kyle Keiper (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Carolyn). Assisting Elder Bro. Merle in this work was Elder Bros. Andy Stoller (Smithville), Ken Indermuhle (Sardis) and Mark Masters (Mansfield). On Sunday, May 2, we welcomed the three new lambs into the fold.

Our hearts rejoice when we hear that another loved one has turned his heart to the Lord. May God grant Eric Zollinger (Bro. Norman and Sis. Betty) much grace as he works out his soul's salvation.

The engagement of Bro. Troy Stoller (Bro. Rob and Sis. Joanne) and Sis.

Tennille Kuenzi (Bro. Robert and Sis. Linda, Silverton, OR) was made known to our congregation. We wish God's rich blessings on this couple as they plan for their marriage.

Arriving on May 7 were tiny newborn twin boys born to first-time parents, Bro. Jason and Sis. Crystal Pelfrey. They named their sons Sage Ray and Sawyer Dale. Loving grandparents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Beth Pelfrey and Bro. Ray and Sis. Carol Stoller (Latty). Let us keep them all in our prayers in the weeks to come.

Spending time in the hospital recently was Klæ Stoller (Stacey), Ariel Hartzler (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Sue) and Tim Manzie (Sis. Kim). May God's healing touch be upon them.

Our heartfelt prayers and sympathy are extended to the family of Bro. Joe Hartzler (Sis. Marian) as Bro. Joe passed from this life on May 10. Left to mourn with Sis. Marian are sons, Bro. Tom (Sis. Diane) Hartzler, Ron (Candy) Hartzler, Dennis (Kristina) Hartzler and David (Linda) Hartzler and their families.

Serving in the ministry recently were Bro. Dana Indermuhle (Sis. Joy, Sardis), Bro. Bill Brake (Sis. Miriam, Sardis), Bro. Curtis Kaufman (Sis. Caroline, Tucson, AZ), Bro. Don Steidel (Sis. Nan, Akron) and Bro. Ron Palitto (Sis. Lynell, Akron). It is a blessing to have those near and far come to minister to us.

OHIO, SARDIS

Faith Beard

"A faithful man shall abound with blessings..."

Proverbs 28:20

May 3 was a day of added blessings for Bro. Jeb and Sis. Kristy Joos at the birth of Colson Emil. Colson is also blessed by an older brother and sister, Wyatt and Regan, and grandparents, Bro. Denny and Sis. Doris Miller and Bro. Ralph and Sis. Jenny Joos (Bradford, IL).

We remember Stephanie Alrutz (Bro. Allen and Sis. Janet Indermuhle) in thought and prayer as she has seen some hospitalization and may be experiencing further surgery in the near future.

We were given much spiritual and necessary "food for thought" concerning "Keys of Effective Family Relationships" and "Understanding Each Other" - especially in the marriage relationship - the weekend of May 15 - 16 with the visit of Bro. Ted Jr. and Sis. Donna Witzig (Morton, IL). We are very thankful for the efforts of Bro. Ted for being willing to use his God-given talents in this area on Saturday and also on Sunday when he served us from the pulpit.

May we in perfect love be found when we Thy table, Lord, surround;
Keep soul and body purified;
Thy blessings, Lord, be multiplied upon this feast.

Then come into our midst today;
impart Thyself to us, we pray.
This cup and loaf are proof and sign of this, Thy covenant divine in Jesus' blood.

Zion's Harp, #200, vs. 3,4

Of the countless earthly blessings given to us by our Maker, the love of the brethren and subsequent fellowship is among the greatest. We combined that with heavenly commandment and blessing when we received Holy Communion as a church family. Elder Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Sis. Nancy, Forrest, IL) was here to help serve us the bread and the wine that weekend, and he also led our worship service on Sunday. We remember in prayer and thankfulness all the Elders as they spend much time and travel to shepherd the flock.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE

Gina Brake Lydia Stoller

It's always so encouraging to remember that despite the events we report, whether joyous or sorrowful, we can still report that God is faithful!

Several families have lost loved ones recently. We want to remember the families in our prayers. Ron and Candy Hartzler's father, our dear Bro. Joe Hartzler, passed away. Also, Sis. Clara Hartzler passed from this life to eternity, finally winning her long-awaited, heavenly reward. Her children are Sis. Lorene

Blough, Sis. Florence Hartzler, Annabel Zieker, Sis. Janette Blough, Bro. Alpha and Sis. Vicki Hartzler, Bro. Stan and Sis. Gloria Hartzler, and Bro. Dave and Sis. Dottie Ramsier. Sometimes the aged aren't always the ones who are called to go. We think of Kaitlyn Marks' father, Robert, who quite suddenly passed away, and especially wish to pray for the family in this time of bereavement.

Jim Gasser and Sis. Luella Stoller were hospitalized this month. May God grant His healing power as He sees fit.

Bro. Jacob Rufener (Bro. John and Sis. Janice) and Sis. Beth Miller (Bro. Roger and Sis. Doreena) were united in Holy Matrimony on May 23 in Mansfield. We are also thankful to hear of the engagement of Bro. Javan Stoller (Bro. Eric and Sis. Melanie, Rittman) to Sis. Josie Rufener (Bro. John and Sis. Janice).

Our graduates this year are Amanda Colvin (Bro. Dave and Sis. Shelly), Ian Maibach (Bro. Steve and Sis. Dawn), Sis. Jill Marty (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Marie), Rodrigo Ramos (Miguel Ramos), Sis. Lynn Stoller (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Millie), Sis. Liz Weber (Bro. Myron and Sis. Darlene) and Sis. Sarah Stoller (Bro. Ed and Sis. Verla).

OHIO, TOLEDO

Teresa Rywalski
Rebecca Beard

Now it is accomplished! I'm no longer mine;
Lord, I will forever and always be Thine,
For Thou hast created and purchased me too,
Baptized with Thy Spirit, Thou makest me new.
Zion's Harp #209, v. 1

Our church was filled to capacity the weekend of May 1 for the testimonies and baptisms of our new Bro. Doug and Sis. Shari Harmon (Bro. Doug and Sis. Lanna). Joining us for this special occasion were Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH), Elder Bro. Lynn Fiechter (Sis. Ronda, Bluffton, IN), Bro. Mark Ramsier (Sis. Alice, Sardis, OH), and Bro. Vic Bauman (Sis. Brenda, Smithville, OH). It was a blessed time to

hear how the Lord is working in these young hearts.

OREGON, PORTLAND

Renee Angstrom

Our visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzler (Sis. Ellen, Sabetha, KS) and Elder Bro. Peter Petrovic (Sis. Marian, San Diego, CA). Visiting from Silverton was Bro. Harvey Kuenzi (Sis. Jennifer). We were richly blessed from their sermons.

Elder Bros. Gerry Hertzler (Sabetha, KS) and Peter Petrovic (San Diego, CA) were here to seek out the Lord's leading for a new Elder for the Silverton and Portland Churches. The Oregon Churches were exhorted Saturday evening, April 17, followed by interviews and evaluation of surveys beginning on April 20. The Oregon Churches were informed Saturday evening, April 24, that Bro. John Wiegand (Sis. Jane) had received support to become the next Elder for the Silverton Church pending confirmation by the Elder Body. We appreciate very much the time and effort contributed by Bro. Gerry and Bro. Peter. We will keep Bro. John and Sis. Jane and their girls (Tiera, Jenna, Kendra and Kyla) in our prayers and wish them the Lord's grace and strength in the coming months.

OREGON, SILVERTON

Kris Luthi

Deb Roth

We have four new babies to welcome into our congregation! Rayna Lee Dettwyler was born to Bro. Travis and Sis. Tammy. Siblings Kylie and Talyn are enjoying their new little sister. Grandparents are Bro. Loren and Sis. Marlene Dettwyler and Bro. Dale and Sis. Becky Wulf (Lester, IA). Gage David came to bless the home of Bro. Sam and Sis. Tyrene Moser. He is welcomed by big brother Nash. Also welcoming Gage are grandparents, Bro. Ben and Sis. Glenna Moser (Rockville, CT) and Bro. Bob and Sis. Linda Kuenzi. Bro. Chad and Sis. Megan Walter have a baby boy, Jonathan Michael. His excited sisters are Andrea, Lorena, Kathryn, Lillian and Rachel. Grandparents are Bro. Chuck and Sis.

Karen Walter and Mike and Anita Massey. Hudson Jeffrey is the second son of Bruce and Stacy Kuenzi and little brother to Dalton. His grandparents are Bro. Rich and Sis. RosaLee Kuenzi and Bro. William and Sis. Charlotte Metzger (Lester, IA). We wish these families the Lord's grace and blessings as they raise their children.

Mother's Day weekend we welcomed three new brothers into the family of God. Bros. Brent and Darren Sinn (Bro. Don and Sis. Linda) and Luke Zollinger made their vows to serve the Lord until death and we wish His abundant grace on them as they strive to live out this promise. We thank Elder Bro. Mike Leman (Denver, CO) who was here to help our Elder Bro. Art Metz with this occasion.

"...For this cause shall a man leave father and mother and cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh."

Matthew 19:5

The following weekend we witnessed the wedding of Bro. Jesse Rufener (Rittman, OH) and Sis. Laura Sinn. Their parents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Pat Rufener (Rittman, OH) and Bro. Tom and Sis. Edith Sinn. We thank Bro. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI) for preaching the Word to us and wish Bro. Jesse and Sis. Laura the Lord's richest blessings as they begin their lives as one in the Lord. We will miss Sis. Laura as she moves to Ohio, but look forward to her visits in the future!

We joyfully anticipate another wedding as the announcement of Sis. Tennille Kuenzi and Bro. Troy Stoller (Rittman, OH) was made. Their parents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Linda Kuenzi and Bro. Rob and Sis. Joanne Stoller (Rittman, OH). May the Lord bless them in the upcoming months as they plan for their life together.

We have had several in our congregation with health concerns: Sis. Marilyn Kuenzi (Bro. Lynn), Sis. Peggy Young (Bro. Terry) and Sis. Judie Knecht (Bro. Ed). Also, Sis. RosaLee Kuenzi (Bro. Richard) had surgery. May the Lord grant healing and renewed health to all.

Elder Bros. Gerry Hertzler (Sabetha, KS) and Peter Petrovic (San Diego, CA) were here to seek out the Lord's leading for a new Elder for the Silverton Church.

The Oregon Churches were exhorted Saturday evening, April 17, followed by interviews and evaluation of surveys beginning on April 20. The Oregon Churches were informed Saturday evening, April 24, that Bro. John Wiegand (Sis. Jane) had received support to become the next Elder for the Silverton Church pending confirmation by the Elder Body. We appreciate very much the time and effort contributed by Bro. Gerry and Bro. Peter. We will keep Bro. John and Sis. Jane and their girls (Tiera, Jenna, Kendra and Kyla) in our prayers and wish them the Lord's grace and strength in the coming months.

We also thank Bro. Dale Wulf (Lester, IA) for ministering to us this month.

PENNSYLVANIA PHILADELPHIA

"Peace be with you all that are in Christ Jesus."

I Peter 5:14

There was much rejoicing this month as we witnessed the baptism and testimony of our new Sister in faith, Brittany Lanz (Bro. John and Sis. Kay). We wish her much grace and Godly wisdom as she takes her place in the Body of Christ. Sharing the special weekend with us was Elder Bro. Mark and Sis. Jeannine Masters (Mansfield, OH), as well as many other brethren and friends from Arizona to Ohio to Connecticut. It is always so encouraging to see family come together for these special occasions, and then to be reminded that each of us can be part of God's family. We trust that there will be many more who will answer the call while we yet have the opportunity of the day of grace.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE Mike and Monica Fritz

Most of you have probably already heard that during the weekend of May 1 and 2 the Nashville area had a severe storm which caused record flooding throughout the area. Many of you have already communicated your support and offered prayers on behalf of the church and the community. For this we are truly

thankful.

There were numerous deaths and injuries resulting from the flood. Also, we have heard estimates of personal property damage approaching \$2 billion on 11,000 homes in Nashville alone. Some neighboring communities have also been heavily impacted. Because of the terrain and the numerous flooded waterways, the damage is not isolated to one specific area, but is scattered in various areas all around Nashville. We are thankful that, as far as our church is concerned, all of the brethren and friends are safe. There was very minimal personal property damage among the brotherhood, as a result of rain and run-off, not from flood waters. The church building did have some wet carpet, but that is already dried out and caused no real problems.

The flood waters have receded, and the clean up and repair work has begun, but it will be a long process. We will appreciate your continued prayers and support for our community.

We have been richly blessed to have God's Word brought to us by visiting ministering brothers. This past month, our visitors have included Bros. Shawn Metzger (Philadelphia, PA), Dennis Kaufmann (Sis. Bonnie, Bloomington-Normal, IL), and Mark Schmidgall (Sis. Lisa; Eureka, IL). We also want to thank Bro. David Eisenmann (Sis. Jackie; Champaign, IL), who traveled to Nashville with his family with plans to minister to us, but our church services were canceled that Sunday because of the flood. We are thankful they made it home safely even though they had to spend an extra unplanned night in Nashville. We have also been strengthened by the fellowship of brethren and friends visiting from Bloomington-Normal, Bradford, Congerville, Eureka, and Forrest, IL; Oakville, IA; and Mansfield, 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: Chicago, IL (6/20); Kansas City, MO (6/27); Lamar, MO (7/4); Gridley, IL (7/11); Bay City, MI (7/18); Mansfield, OH (7/25). If you are planning to worship with us, please call ahead to confirm our schedule. Often we gather on Saturday evenings for fellowship, and all are heartily

welcome. We also usually meet on Wednesday evenings at 7:15 p.m. for singing or Bible study and would welcome any midweek visitors. Contacts are Bro. Don and Sis. Faye Sauder, (615) 373-8928; Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica Fritz, (615) 866-5543; and Sis. Gwen Leuthold, (615) 356-5755.

TEXAS, AUSTIN

Serenity and Jasmine Ringger

We appreciated having convert Cassandra Yen here for a month, as she just returned home to San Diego.

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."

I Cor. 15:58

New friends attending here are Steven and Karen Chambers and daughter Carol from Austin, and also Matt Chappalonis. It is a blessing to have the Chambers family assemble with us, and also to have another young man in Sunday School.

Our visiting ministers were Bros. Les Kaeb (Sis. Christine, Francesville), Jed Rocke (Sis. Marsha, Goodfield), Dale Stoller (Sis. Sandra, Fairbury), Bob Knochel (Sis. Rhonda, Bay City), and Ordained Deacon Leland Plattner (Zapata). Other visitors were from Columbus.

The following is the minister schedule for July: (4) Lester, (11) Alto, (18) Bradford, (25) Gridley. 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. Directions to our church and contacts are now in the 2010 minister book.

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

like to use the bedrooms during the time you are here.

TEXAS, McALLEN

Joyce Nohl

Our visiting minister this month was Elder Bro. Ronald Schambach (Sis. Nancy, Elgin, IL). We thank them for traveling so many miles to serve us.

We have many Brothers from different congregations that come to serve us and it is always such a blessing and joy to spend time with them and get to know each other. I think about how it will be when we get to our heavenly home and meet and greet those who we have never met and yet will feel a common bond with each one we will meet. It is an exciting event that we look forward to, don't we?

The following churches are scheduled for services: (June 6, Silvertown, OR), (June 13, San Diego, CA), (June 20, Lester, IA), (July 18, Morris, MN) (August 8, Princeville, IL).

Our address is: Holiday Inn Express, 1921 South 10th Street. 1½ blocks off the

Expressway on 10th Street. Services will be held at 10:30 and 12:30. Please see ministers' directory for local contact information.

VERMONT NORTH CLAREN- DON/NORWICH

Nathan and Miriam Reutter

"But hath in due times manifested his word through preaching."

Titus 1:3

We wish to give thanks to our faithful visiting ministers this month and wish them God's blessings on their continued support of our small congregation. They have been willing to follow the direction of the Holy Spirit in fulfilling the obligation of the Scripture mentioned above. They are Bro. Dan (Sis. Mary Lou) Goric, Bro. Duane (Sis. Kay) Reutter, Bro. Warren (Sis. Bonnie) Zahner, and Bro. Tom (Sis. LaNae) Bahler. All of these brethren and their wives are from Rockville, CT.

We appreciate the special attention the Rockville pulpit has given us over the time of our existence as a group of believers in northern New England. God bless them for their dedication!

Now that spring is here and summer is right around the corner, it's a wonderful opportunity to come and visit beautiful Vermont. We look forward to fellowship with you. Please contact Bro. Chad and Sis. Jenny Virkler (802-293-2724) so you can find out information about service locations and dates. 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.



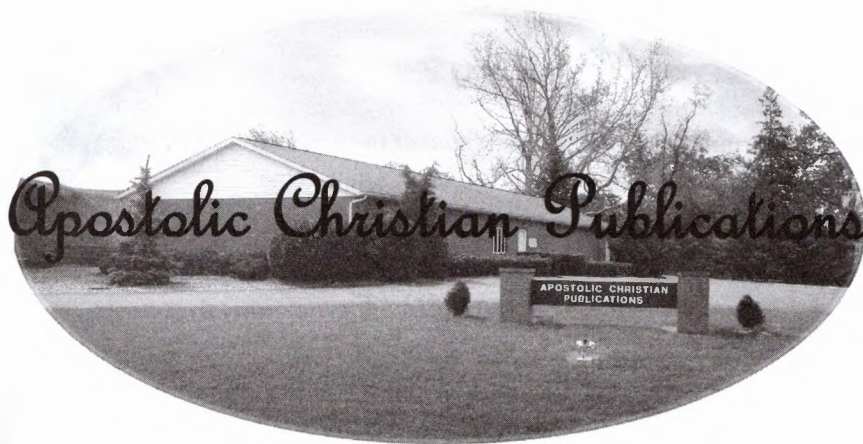
Assistant Houseparent Needed



Gateway Woods has appreciated the Lord's blessing of being fully staffed with Assistant Houseparents for some time now. We currently have an opening for a single sister to work in a full-time ministry with troubled children. The Assistant Houseparent position offers competitive wages and generous benefits and a close relationship with brothers and sisters whose hearts and lives are dedicated to a mission with an eternal reward. If you feel the call to explore the possibilities, please call one of the brothers listed below:

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

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



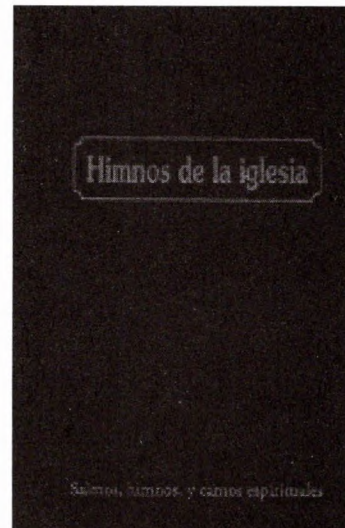
805 W. Cruger Street, Box 52
Eureka, IL 61530
Ph. 309-467-3611
Hours: Mon.—Fri. 8:30 to
11:30 CST/CDT

**Online ordering available at
www.acpublications.org**

Spanish Language Items

We now have available a number of Spanish language items to be used in outreach to Spanish speakers and assist those in our congregations in Mexico.

Hymnos de la iglesia—a collection of 500 hymns and spiritual songs including songs and selections for special occasions. It includes both new songs and old familiar hymns.



The following booklets and tracts are now available in Spanish.

God's Perfect Plan of Salvation Tract

Apostolic Christian Church Statement of Faith

Apostolic Christian Welcome Booklet

How to Order:

Online at www.acpublications.org During Business Hours: call 309-467-3611

After Hours: Call 309-467-3611 leave a message, or fax to the same number.

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

Interested in Houseparenting?



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

Ed Graf
Residential Program Director
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Lynn Stieglitz
Counseling Elder
15417 Doty Rd.
New Haven, IN 46774
260-657-1033

"We have always considered our position a ministry for our entire family not just a job for us. Relationships built during this time can last for a lifetime."

- Bro. Jason & Sis. Joy Kilgus, Houseparents

Pre-School Teacher Needed

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

Bro. Mike Moore
(256) 729-0620
(256) 777-3390
Email: ALM38@aol.com

Summer Worship Services in Colorado

In addition to our regular worship schedule in Aurora, if the Lord is willing, we plan to hold services at the following locations:

July 18 - Best Western Alpenglo Lodge - Conference Center

Located downtown Winter Park (78665 U.S. Highway 40)
Office: 888-726-8088 (Toll free)
www.wplodging.com

August 1 - Best Western Alpenglo Lodge - Conference Center

Located downtown Winter Park (78665 U.S. Highway 40)
Office: 888-726-8088 (Toll free)
www.wplodging.com

July 25 - Ponderosa Conference Center (Fox Run Room)

Located near Colorado Springs at Larkspur
15235 Furrow Road
Larkspur, CO 80118
(719) 481-2482
www.visitponderosa.com

Morning song service will begin at 10:15 A.M.; worship service at 10:30; followed by lunch and afternoon service. Ministering Brothers from the Denver congregation will be responsible for the services, however we welcome and encourage visiting ministers to support this effort if your travel plans bring you out west this summer. The intent of these services is to alleviate some of the crowding that we tend to experience during the busy summer travel season. (We don't want all our visitors to avoid Aurora!) We welcome all our visitors and deeply appreciate the fellowship that we share in Christ, whether in Aurora, or at the optional locations. For more information, and to help us plan more effectively, please notify Bro. Tom Leman if you will be attending services on any of these dates.

Home telephone: (303) 696-1540 E-mail: lemantom@comcast.net

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us exactly what we need. Where sin abounds and when the enemy comes and he tempts us with shortcomings and failings, grace does more abound.

Our long departed Elder Brother Loren Stoller back in Latty, Ohio, used to tell us, if we worry, it is a sin. Because worry is a lack of faith! So when we begin to worry just a little bit, the enemy will come and he will tell us you are not going to make it. You are not holy enough. When those kinds of thoughts come, grace can abound. It can abound greater than our sin, as we sing in that one hymn, grace greater than my sin (Grace Greater Than Our Sins, Gospel Hymns #752). Loved ones, we need to be up and doing and be reminded that God's storehouses are always full. He provided for the children, that they could go back and rebuild the temple. He provided for those men that they could work shoulder to shoulder in the rebuilding of the temple. He provided the various occupations and all the resources. He is able to build the temple in our hearts.

We have to remove self. We have to remove the world. We have to remove the things that we want to do. Even as Christ prayed there in the garden when He said, not my will but thy will. When we are able to do that, oh how God can pick us up. In the midst of discouragement, in the midst of financial ruin, emotional ruin, spiritual problems, God is able to help us and He is able to encourage us. When we read history, these people weren't any different than you and I. They faced the same trials, the same troubles. They faced the same enemy that we face. But they also served the same God. The God of unlimited power. The God who tells us, with Him, all things are possible. When things look the darkest and the bleakest, God is able to shine His light and open the way for each one of us.

I don't know if I have told this story but I don't think sometimes we really realize how much God really

cares about us. In some of the smallest ways. We were privileged in Latty, Ohio, last February, to host the midwinter Elder Conference. I think it was about Thursday, the second day of that conference, we were to go to supper at five o'clock. We had a long discussion that got started about five till five. We went over and it lasted until about five twenty. The brothers in charge of the meeting, after they noticed it was getting late, were very sympathetic toward our sisters in Latty. They thought, we've got to get to our meal because I am sure it is prepared. We went over and we had a beautiful meal of turkey and dressing and mashed potatoes. It was like a Thanksgiving meal.

It wasn't until the next day at lunch, I had one of my Latty sisters come up to me and she said, John, you don't know how we were sweating on Thursday evening. At five till five I was cooking the dressing. I went to the oven and I looked in the oven and the dressing was completely runny. I was mortified! What was I going to do? I could not serve this to the Elders. She said, I turned the oven up as high as I could turn it. I was afraid I would burn it all up. I walked into the walk in cooler in the kitchen and I shut the door and I got on my knees and prayed, Lord, let the dressing get done. And we were late. God kept us in a discussion. You already know the rest of the story. Five twenty we had turkey and dressing and mashed potatoes and it was wonderful.

We think that is humorous but that is the kind of God that we serve. That is the God that hears the prayer. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much (James 5:16). He hears your prayers and He hears my prayers. He heard the prayers of the children of Israel when they wanted to go back to the things that were precious to them. Loved ones, in our minds and in our hearts and our lives everyday, when we want to go back to God's Word, to the things that are so precious to us,

the very reason why we are here today, the things that have drawn us and called us, the goodness of Almighty God, the beloved brothers and sisters that we have that have prayed for us since we were little children, we want to come home and we want to come back. Isn't that wonderful!

Can we think about that in the sense that we look forward to when we will go home for the last time? We are all going to be together. No more tears! No more temptations! No more discouragement! We are going to be going home. Because God cares that much. He cares that much about the dressing for the Elder Body.

I told that story in Smithville, Ohio. At noon a sister came up to me and said, do you really think God cared that much about the dressing for you brothers? Or did He care about the poor sister on her knees in the cooler? I said, that is a very good thought. He heard that prayer.

Loved ones, if the enemy is discouraging you today, He hears your prayer. He cares. He wants to help you. All He wants us to do is submit our heart. Give it unto Him. He can take care of all those little things because nothing is too small for the God that we serve.

When we consider that Ezra and Nehemiah and the patriarchs of old stood before the king and they made their plea, we have gone before Almighty God and we have asked Him to bless us and keep us. He has promised to do that. As Paul writes to this church of Galatia, he reminds them how important it is for us to stand fast in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free (Galatians 5:1). This is a very familiar chapter. I know this chapter has been read in your homes and across this pulpit countless times, from when you were a little child until now when you are older. The wonderful story that Paul wrote to this church that began upon the way and they had some struggles.

If you back up a couple chapters, chapter three starts out, "O foolish

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Galatians..." Because they were called and they were understanding God's Word and they were changed from their heritage and from their old ways. Then they wanted to continue to drift back into the ways of their forefathers before they were converted. Back into the ways of the world that they didn't understand. It tells us here that they began to look at one another and they began to backbite. They began to devour one another and find fault with one another because they were losing their first love.

Paul has to remind them and he has to remind us today, in Gridley, Illinois, that we have the same potential because we are flesh and blood and that could happen to us if we don't continue to walk in the Spirit. If we don't continue to hunger and thirst after righteousness, as Jesus told us in the Beatitudes (St. Matthew 5:6). Because we are human and we are fleshly.

These four young men that we listened to their testimonies, we believe with all their heart they testified to us that they are converted. That is a wonderful thing! God has changed their heart. He has molded their heart. He has totally turned it around. Brother Earl asked them last night, do you have the same desires, do you want to go to the same places? No! That is conversion. That is a change! But God, in changing our hearts and our desires and our minds, we still carry the flesh, don't we? Our flesh isn't changed so He has to change our heart and our mind. We allow God's grace and His Word to sink deeply in our heart. We wait upon Him for the power that we need to overcome this flesh.

This church at Galatia had begun to succumb to some fleshly temptations. They'd actually taken their eye off of Jesus Christ and began to look around at one another and find fault. The issue of circumcision, an outward sign that they were a changed person. Aren't we thankful that God works within the heart?

That our hearts need to be circumcised. That is where the cutting away needs to be. The cutting away needs to be in our lives and in our lifestyles. That we deny ourselves the things of this life and the things of this world and we follow after Jesus Christ and Him crucified. That He can take a heart of stone and can write His Word upon it.

He begins, "Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free..." Galatians 5:1. We live in a day and time when we are so busy! We go to so many places. That is quite alright. That is part of the life in which we live. Christ talked about that in St. John 17, didn't He? He went to the garden there and He prayed for us. He said, Lord, I am praying that you don't remove them from the world. Because we need to be the salt and the light in the world, don't we brothers and sisters? This morning, as we are here in this place, dear friends of the truth, those of you that are with us, Jesus Christ is calling you at this very moment, that you too would be salt and light of the earth. He wants to give that to you. He wants to give you His Spirit and His goodness to carry in your heart, in your circumcised heart, that you could be an example to those in your workplace, those wherever you go, in your schooling, wherever you are. We have to carry the banner of Jesus Christ high.

But he says, we need to stand forth in the liberty that we have, because we have been cut away from the bondage of the enemy. The chains of bondage of sin have been broken free and they were broken free by that shed blood on the cross. Loved ones, that needs to be in our mind each and every day. We can't forget that Jesus went to the cross and He shed His precious blood. He gave His life so that we might live. So that we might have liberty. That we might be set free. It is almost a paradigm that we cannot grasp the enormity of it all.

But in the day and time in which we live, the devil wants to move us

along in our occupations, in our schooling, in the busyness of life and he wants us to forget this for just a little bit. When we begin to forget the cost of our salvation, the enemy is making inroads and is able to slow us down and slog us down and he is able to come into our life. That is why Paul begins here about standing fast.

He goes on and he is talking about the lust of the flesh and walking in the Spirit, because it all ties together. Many times, when we talk about the lusts of the flesh, our minds immediately goes to physical attributes, sensual attributes. But it doesn't have to be that way at all. If we look at the glitter of the world, if we look at something that we want that is tangible that becomes more important to us than our spiritual walk, we are working too many hours or we are ignoring our family because we are trying to make the extra money it takes to buy this thing that we want so badly, where is our focus and where is our desire? The enemy has succeeded in getting our eye off of the cross and putting it on something tangible that is going to burn and pass away. It is a deception that he uses in America today. I don't want to get off on a tangent here but we could just go in a whole other direction with the American debt and credit card debt and that is another sermon.

Stand in the liberty wherewith you were made free. Dear friend, He is calling you. He wants to make you free. Freedom from the bondage of sin. Freedom from the yoke that he puts around your neck, from the stone that you have for a pillow. Loved ones, I think it is good for us, God gave the human being a wonderful attribute in giving us a memory. Sometimes we think it is painful to think of some of those things back in our life. We know that Jesus told us, he that is upon the way, if he puts his shoulder to the plow, once we are on the way, it is absolutely wrong, we are lost if we look back (St. Luke 9:62). But when he said that, he meant that we are

looking back with a desire to go back. What I am trying to describe is something different. That we don't have a desire to go back. But we look back and we see where He brought us from. Just how lost we were and it causes us to fall upon our face with appreciation and gratitude. We need to do that daily. The memory of knowing that we were lost in sin and what it felt like when we couldn't sleep at night, when we tossed and turned, sometimes is so healthy to help us be reminded of the great price that was paid, and as David said, the miry pit that we were in that He pulled us out of (Psalm 40:2).

Now Paul is reminding this Galatian church, reminding the Gridley church, we are to stand fast in this liberty. We are to stand fast in the things that Jesus purchased for us with His blood on Calvary's hill. He talks about circumcision. If we think we are going to work or earn our salvation by the things that we do, the money that we give to charity, if we are trying to buy our salvation or think we are saved by being circumcised - in this day and age we can say, we can be a good person, we can be a good citizen. we can take care of ourselves and our families and be good stewards - Christ has become of no effect unto you. We are missing the boat.

Dear friend of the truth, if you think, because you can obey the laws of the land, that you can work hard, you can love your wife and serve your children but walk after yourself and not look to the cross and not understand that everything that we own and everything that we have is because of Jesus Christ and Him crucified, should we gain the whole world, it is not ours at all. It is borrowed for a time. It all belongs to God. The devil wants us to think that we have accomplished something of our self and by our works we can find eternal rest. The devil is deceiving so many people. But when we can understand that what we have been given is a gift from Almighty God, and the faith that we

have in Him, the faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ is what enables us to walk through that narrow door on the straight path. Then we understand that our works are because we love Him. They will follow the faith in Him.

Loved ones, when we think about faith and works, sometimes it is a little difficult to understand, because there are so many arguments on both sides. You know what? It is not really that difficult. Man has made it difficult. It is fairly simple.

I think of back home. I work on the farm. We raise crops and we have a beautiful corn plant come up. Our faith, as we know that we depend upon Almighty God, faith is that stalk. Our works is what comes from our faith. It is the ear on the stalk. It is the fruit that we bear. The works of a faith in Almighty God. Of a changed heart. A converted mind. A mind that is living by grace and changed. If it is any other way, loved ones, Paul goes on to say, Galatians, you have been deceived. "Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace." Galatians 5:4. If we are depending on tangible things, if we are depending upon our own power and our own strength, we are going to fall on our face and we are going to fail. It is not going to work. We have to understand that Jesus Christ is the reason that we have this hope of eternal life.

Paul looks at them and says, "Ye did run well; who did hinder you..." v.7. You were off to a good start. Loved ones, we have an enemy that wants to hinder us. Every day we need to be up and doing and on our face before God, that we pray for the grace to overcome the onslaught of the enemy.

James tells us that we should be joyful when we enter into various temptations. We wonder about that. Why is that? Well if we are here being tempted, you must be doing something right. If you are being tempted, you must have the Lord in your life and the enemy is trying to

pull that from you. So James reminds us to rejoice in that. But we go further and we give that temptation to Almighty God and He makes that way of escape. He promises us.

"For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh..." v.13. When we understand the freedom that we have, when we understand that God has been so good to us, the devil wants to come and he wants to remind us, God is merciful. He is compassionate! Go ahead and take a liberty here and do this. It really won't matter. He is a liar, loved ones!

He goes on to this long discussion of the works of the flesh and the fruit of the Spirit. It is a very common Scripture and I know you know it well. I look at this list of the works of the flesh and it always makes us shrink. We can go to Romans 1 and we can read a list very similar there. It has always kind of troubled me, when we look at that list in Romans 1, because it is very much a lot of the same things. But there are a couple others that God reminds us as human beings we could fall into.

In Romans 1:30 he says, we are "Backbiters, haters of God, spiteful..." The next word is proud. Loved ones, that just really shakes me to the core. One of the works of the flesh is pride. God resists the proud. Gives grace to the humble. We have to be so careful that when we understand that we are allowing self and self lifting up, a haughty spirit, to come into our life - and we as human beings are going to fight this, we are always going to fight this - we are setting our self up for very, very difficult waters to tread. We are setting ourselves up for the opportunity to lose our salvation.

"For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would." Galatians 5:17. We cannot do what the flesh wants us to do.

Many years ago, there was an
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Sermon continued from page 41

older brother in one of our churches who repented late in life. I am sure his family and church family had been praying for him and finally, late in life, he came to his Elder brother in repentance and he was baptized. He was upon the way late in life. One day his Elder came and visited him and asked him, how does it go for you in your spiritual walk? He said, well, I have come to find that within my very being I have a big black dog and a little white dog and they are fighting all the time. The Elder looked at him and said, which dog is winning? He said, whichever dog I feed the most.

Loved ones, we've all got the big black dog of the flesh of self within us. If we feed that, that dog is going to win and the enemy is going to deceive us. He is going to gain in our spiritual walk. But that meek and quiet spirit, that small, still voice of that little white dog within us is the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit that we are going to seal in the hearts of these four young men today. It is always there, isn't it? Are we listening? Are we in tune? We can't have the noise of the world rocking around us and be able to hear that still, small voice when He warns us, this isn't the right place for you. Sometimes He says to us, you need to speak. You need to encourage someone. Sometimes He tells us, you need to be quiet. You need to be a candle burning in a totally dark room. That you can be the light and love of Jesus Christ without making a sound. Loved ones, are we so in tune with the Spirit that we know?

I had a young man come to me just Wednesday night, back home in Latty. He had a lot of difficulties in his spiritual walk. He has been fully restored as a brother and he is a tremendous attribute to our church now. Because of the spiritual difficulties that he had, he humbled himself and he was able to, by God's grace, right his spiritual walk and his spiritual ship. He came to me and he said, I had a ministering

brother tell me one time - before he had confessed any type of difficulty - he met him and they visited and he said, this spiritual brother, this minister told him, you know, I really appreciate you. But there is just something about you that troubles me. That young man told me, I just shrunk. Because there was sin in my life. That man was so in tune to the Holy Spirit that he could see it. He could tell. Loved ones, are we that in tune to the Spirit? Do we have the peace of God that passes understanding? The devil is going to try to steal our peace. He is a master at it. But Paul reminds us to stand fast therefore in the liberty. We don't have to let him take it. Because where sin did abound, grace did the more abound.

Loved ones, we have to understand that this big black dog and little white dog are going to be in us until the day we draw our last breath. But with God all things are possible. His grace is sufficient. The resources are there. The workmen are there. All the tools that we need are there. It is contained within this living Word. It is contained within this body of believers. Isn't that encouraging that that is how badly we need one another. We love and esteem one another and we read this Word and we need one another to help ourselves to walk hand in hand. Clinging to one another. Clinging to the cross. Holding on to the peace that passes understanding. The peace that God can give to tell you, keep walking my child. There will be times that I will carry you. There will be times when you need to carry your brother or your sister.

I read an account that was a true story. It brought home the real definition of peace to me. Many years ago, in the early 1920's, there was a great sailing vessel sailing from London to New York City. On that vessel was a believing lady who had grown older in her years. As they were half way across the Atlantic Ocean, the great storms came up. The ship was rocked to and fro. Peo-

ple were frantic. People were scared. This older believing lady was so calm and she took many of the children and she sat with them and told them Bible stories and she comforted them. Whenever people would visit with her, she just had a sense of peace, a sense of calm. She kept everybody somewhat at ease until they passed through the storm.

As they arrived in New York City, when they disembarked the ship, the Captain met her and said, Ma'am, I want to thank you for calming the passengers. How was it that you could be so calm in such a tumultuous time? She said, dear sir, I have two daughters. One lives in New York City. One lives in heaven. I didn't care which one I'd visit.

That's the peace that passes understanding! That's what God wants us to stand forth in! That's what He wants us to hold on to, brothers and sisters, because we have been given so much! We have been given this Word and we have been given the grace and the tools and the resources that we can carry forth love and joy and peace and long suffering and meekness and temperance. He wants us to show Him that everyday. When we do that, we are going to feed that little white dog and that Holy Spirit that is dwelling within us is going to take us home.

To those of you that were in Jamaica, last night you landed in Chicago, got on the bus and I know it was a wonderful week. I know because I have been on work teams. It is inspiring! It is encouraging! You come home with new zeal! New desire to serve the Lord! You want to go back but it is still great to get home. This Word, loved ones, and what we have in God's precious gift of His Son can take us home. That is where we are all headed. That is where we want to be. Dear friend of the truth, please, come walk with us!

Silver Lining Now Available On-Line

Starting with the June 2010 issue, the Silver Lining will now be posted on-line at the Apostolic Christian Publications web site.

For more information go to www.acpublications.org

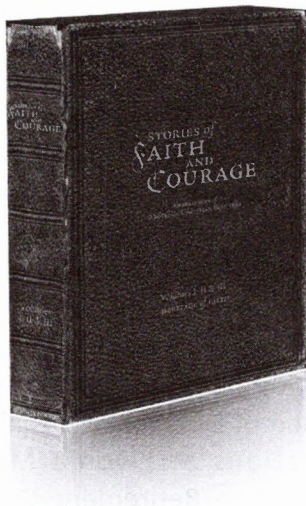
Froehlich Books Now Available in Searchable Database

Samuel H. Froehlich's writings are now available in Adobe Acrobat format. If desired, this PDF document allows the user to search the entire set of writings for a specific topic or phrase. Currently, the contents of the 'set of 10' books published by Apostolic Christian Publications are included:

Hebrews	Ephesians	Baptismal Truth
Two Mysteries	Matrimony	Philippians
Revelation	Meditations on the Epistles of John	
Old Testament Meditations	Evidence Demonstrating Truth of the Word of God	

In addition, a letter written by Bro. Froehlich concerning baptism and an article titled "**Introduction and a condensed outline of the life of S.H. Froehlich**" are included in this digitized collection.

The price for the CD is \$10.00 and can be purchased from:
www.melttheheart.com or Heritage Press (phone 309-249-6281)



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(phone 309-249-6281)
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Child Placement Manager Opening

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



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

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
 lynnstieg@lightningnet.net

Apostolic Christian Counseling and Family Services

515 East Highland St,
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- Recent college graduate?
- Eager to learn and grow?
- Have leadership experience?
- Willing to relocate to the Detroit area?

Contact Bro. Randy Gasser for the job description for the newly created position of Director of Business Office Operations at Livonia Michigan's Woodhaven Retirement Community. Applicant must be a member of the Apostolic Christian Church of America.

Phone 734.261.9000 or
 email randyg@woodhavenrc.org



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Workplace Relationships Part I

Luke 3:14 "...And he said unto them, Do violence to no man, neither accuse any falsely; and be content with your wages."

Romans 12:18 "If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men."

As we come in contact and rub shoulders with people at work, we find a great diversity of personalities, job expectations, and levels of interpersonal relationship skills. Are there some co-workers to whom you are drawn because they seem to have a magnetic personality? Are there others you would rather not encounter at all? Do you find that the attitudes of some co-workers rub off on you and can either help or hinder your productivity and effectiveness? How does your attitude affect those who work with you? Scripture teaches us that we are to live peaceably with all men as much as possible. How can we do that?

To begin, let's list some of the personalities we may find at our workplace. Without question, some people are more difficult to interact with than others. These relationships are sometimes called "high-maintenance" relationships¹.

The Critic: constantly complains and gives unwanted advice.

The Martyr: forever the victim and wracked with self-pity.

The Wet Blanket: pessimistic and automatically negative.

The Steamroller: blindly insensitive to others.

The Gossip: spreads rumors and leaks secrets.

The Control Freak: unable to let go and let be.

The Backstabber: irrepressibly two-faced.

The Cold Shoulder: disengages and avoids contact.

The Green-Eyed Monster: seethes with envy.

The Volcano: builds steam and threatens to erupt.

The Sponge: constantly in need but gives nothing back.

The Competitor: keeps track of tit for tat.

The Workhorse: always pushes and is never satisfied.

The Flirt: imparts innuendos, which may border on harassment.

The Chameleon: eager to please and avoids conflict.

In addition to these personalities, there are four basic behaviors often exhibited in the workplace²:

Passive Behavior: intent is to please.

Passive Aggressive Behavior: intent is "I'll get you."

Aggressive Behavior: intent is to dominate

or humiliate.

Assertive Behavior: intent is to communicate.

No doubt we can recognize these behaviors and personalities in others. However, it is often a challenge to recognize them in ourselves. Juggling these relationships and behaviors may seem a bit daunting and a difficult exercise in workplace interactions. We suggest seven key ideas to handling difficult workplace situations:

* Focusing on the goal of a conflict: Ensuring conflict generates light, not just heat.

* Understand the types of high-maintenance relationships

* Knowing who is responsible for what when there is conflict.

* Understanding levels of communication: Facts versus feelings.

* Understanding filters and barriers to effective communication.

* Being an assertive communicator.

* Having empathy, humility, and self-examination.

Let's explore these practical application ideas in more depth.

1. Focusing on the goal of a conflict: Ensuring conflict generates light, not just heat.

John 12:36 "While ye have light, believe in the light, that ye may be the children of light..."

Ephesians 5:21 "Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God."

The Word of God holds us to a high standard of conduct when interacting with others. We are encouraged to focus on improving workplace relationships and to strive for solutions through conflict that benefit all involved rather than just producing anger and strife. Goal-focused conflict is not a negative thing and is necessary for reaching and maintaining a productive and efficient workplace environment. For instance, a certain behavior may need to be confronted so that positive changes can be made. In any healthy discussion, some conflict is needed so that all ideas presented might be considered. In a conflict situation, we need to keep the contributions we may offer productive and "in the light." In the greatest conflict ever recorded, Jesus demonstrated the ultimate example of focusing on the goal, "Father if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done," *Luke 22:42*. Our motives should be pure and above reproach desiring only that outcome which is biblically sound and a benefit to everyone. Taking this stand may require us to receive less than what we feel we deserve. We may have to "take the short end." The Bible reminds us that we are to be in the fear of God and thus ready to submit to one another.

2. Understand the types of high-maintenance

relationships

Proverbs 14:29 "He that is slow to wrath is of great understanding: but he that is hasty of spirit exalteth folly."

James 1:19-20 "Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God."

We need to understand the personalities and behavior of others and learn how to work with them no matter how difficult that may seem. In a single day you may encounter many of the different personalities that we listed earlier and all four types of behaviors. However, leaving the company of others and secluding yourself just to avoid contact with others is not considered appropriate behavior and may not be a good example. It might be a good idea to write down the different personalities listed here and keep them in a place that is easily accessed for future reference. Remember, though, it is not our job to change the personalities of others but rather strive to work with and tolerate them in a godly way. The Apostle Paul, in *Galatians 5:15*, warns us what the consequences might be if we allow self to dictate our actions, "But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another." A good starting place is the biblical instruction to not be "hasty of spirit" and to be "slow to wrath." We may not know enough about a co-worker's life to make an informed judgment and we are better off to be "slow to speak."

3. Knowing who is responsible for what when there is conflict.

Proverbs 11:14 "Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety."

Proverbs 12:1 "Whoso loveth instruction loveth knowledge: but he that hateth reproof is brutish."

Misunderstandings can abound in the workplace when roles and responsibilities aren't clearly understood. We may need to get a clarification of the expectations of our position or an explanation of the chain of command. Management may not be aware that there are misunderstood roles and, in some cases, adequate job descriptions are lacking. We may not be in a position to correct the misunderstandings but we should still kindly make the situation known to whoever is in charge. In *Mark 14:68* we read that Peter, the disciple, clearly did not understand the mission and purpose of His Lord neither did he understand his own role and boldly proclaimed, "Although all shall be offended, yet will not I."

1. Parrott III, Les(1997). High-Maintenance Relationships.

Illinois:Tyndale House.

2. <http://serenityonlinetherapy.com/assertiveness.htm>

Next month, we will cover the remaining four practical applications in Workplace Relationships Part 2.

Important Notice to Americans Crossing the Canadian Border by Land.

All adults will need just one of the following documents:

1. Regular U.S. Passport
2. U.S. Passport Card
3. **Enhanced** Driver's License
4. any Trusted Traveler Program (*ex Nexus card*)

U.S. citizens under the age of 16, or under the age of 19 if travelling with a school, religious, or other youth group, may present a birth certificate, Consular Report of Birth Abroad, or a naturalization certificate. Birth certificates can be original, photocopy, or certified copy.

Anyone interested in receiving a printed sermon, please send info to:

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 the people perish:
 but he that keepeth the law,
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 Proverbs 29:18*

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 Sis. Anne Wagenbach
 (507)993- 6916
 Bro. Jim and Sis Deb Tilbury
 (507)281-2875.

Any that are in the area are welcome and encouraged to worship with us.

Long Term Service Opportunities in Haiti

Child Care Administrator & Clerical Support Needed

The Child Sponsorship and Caribbean Committees are seeking a couple to work full time in support and growth of the current programs in Les Cayes, Haiti.

Child Care Administrator Position Description

- Represent the Child Sponsorship Committee and provide Caribbean program support.
- Assist construction program coordinator with construction projects.
- Part time position (20-25 hrs/week) shared with the Caribbean Committee efforts in Les Cayes Haiti. Work in partnership with the MEBSH Child Care Director to ensure a Christ centered education is provided to the students within the ACWR Child Sponsorship program.
- Provide leadership in the overall operation of the program and act as a liason to the ACWR Child Sponsorship Committee through an assigned member. Assist with promotion of the program.
- Responsible for oversight and assignment of appropriate resources to the following primary activities of the program:

Quality Education

- Christ centered
- Regular church attendance of each sponsored student.
- Standards for teachers along with opportunities to enhance skills.
- Develop programs to recognize students who have high achievement and/or improvement.

Reconciliation of Accounts

- Monthly reporting to provide financial accountability to donor organizations. Bank to Quicken. Quicken to Program.

School Visits

- Verify student attendance.
- Track sponsored student count.

Correspondence

- Raise the quality and frequency of letters.
- Develop creative ways to enhance the relationship between sponsor and student.
- Develop and maintain an all digital picture update process to send pictures to sponsors annually.

Staff Management

- Develop and maintain written position descriptions for each staff member.
- Participate with MEBSH Director in bi-annual staff reviews.

Administration

- Eliminate duplicate systems and enhance processes for accomplishing key activities.

Key Qualifications

- Know or learn Creole or French.
- Administrative/supervision experience.
- Accounting background.
- Education background.
- Maturity to appreciate the cultural differences while taking the MEBSH program to a higher level of performance.
- Willing to do what is needed.

Clerical Support Position Description

- Clerical support for the Child Care office.
- Part time position (20-25 hrs/week) shared with the Caribbean Committee efforts in Les Cayes, Haiti.
- Work in partnership with the ACWR Child Sponsorship Haiti Administrator and MEBSH Child Care Director to provide clerical support to the MEBSH Child Care office in Simon, Haiti.
- Specific responsibilities will be determined in the field, but may include the following:

Reconciliation of Accounts

- Assist with the monthly reporting and problem solving to provide financial accountability to donor

organizations.

- Bank to Quicken.
- Quicken to Program.

Correspondence

- Raise the quality and frequency of letters.
- Support creative ways to enhance the relationship between sponsor and student.
- Assist the developing and maintaining an all digital picture update process to send pictures to sponsors annually.

Administration

- Provide administration support as needed.
- Conduct regular backup of computer systems.

Key Qualifications

- Know or learn Creole or French.
- Computer skills with Word, Excel, Access, Quicken, internet, email.
- Good communication skills.
- Organization skills important.
- Willing to do what is needed.

Terms of service for both positions

- Full time residing in Haiti
- Housing provided at Citi Lumiere adjacent to other brethren.
- Initial year of service requires a significant period of time studying Haitian Creole and assimilating into the Haitian culture.
- Training will be provided prior to placement in the field.

Contact information for those interested:

Tom Hitz
9090 Stone Hollow Ct
Plymouth, MI 48170
734-454-9229 Home
734-635-4112 Cell
tchitz@sbcglobal.net



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
World Relief

www.acworldrelief.org

CARIBBEAN BOARD PROJECTS - 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 June 14th, 2010 -www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-caribbean/

Project	Year 2010	Coordinator	Capacity
Les Cayes FRW Vocational School	Jun 4-11	Rick Wuethrich 219-567-9488 rick@wuethrichfarms.com	4

JAMAICA

Data updated from the Apostolic Christian World Relief web site as of June 14th, 2010 -www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-caribbean/

Project	Year 2010	Coordinator	Capacity
Knockpatrick Schl CCCD Mansfield SS	Jun 26 - Jul 3	Peter Webel 419-564-5691 wpw47@aol.com	40

Haiti and Jamaica Work Team Code Definitions

CCCD=Caribbean Christian Center for the Deaf
MEBSH= Missions of Evangelical Baptists of South Haiti
Palm Grove = Mission of Haiti
S.E.E.D. = An Agricultural School & Extension Service
TBA = To Be Announced
Palm Grove = Mission of Haiti

A.W.A. - B. = Apostolic Water Aid/Bluffton
A.W.A. - FRW = Apostolic Water Aid/Francesville, Remington, Wolcott
A.W.A. - T = Apostolic Water Aid/Tremont
(*) = Changes or additions since last issue
()** = Spring Break Timeframe

MEXICO

*If anyone is interested in leading a team to Mexico, contact Bro. Mike Fiechter at 260-597-7330 or mfeichter@onlyinternet.net
Data updated from the Apostolic Christian World Relief web site as of June 14th, 2010 -www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-mexico/*

Location	Year 2010	Coordinator			
Magdalena Construction	Jul 17-24	Blake Stahl 630-740-7461 bcstahl@aol.com	Reynosa Medical	Oct 6-13	Cheryl Herrmann cherrmann@verizon.net
Magdalena Construction	July 24-31	Scott Bahr Detroit Bible Class 248-924-7547 spbahr@yahoo.com			

USA World Relief Committee

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

* Bro. Kent Heimer	<i>Counseling Elder</i>	Taylor, MO	Cell# 573-248-5701
* Bro. Paul Kaeb	<i>Chairman</i>	Bern, KS	Cell# 785-547-5269
* Bro. Chuck Kellenberger	<i>Sec/Treasurer</i>	Elgin, IL	Cell# 224-629-6531
* Bro. Les Schambach	<i>Administrator</i>	Elgin, IL	Cell# 630-247-5271
* Bro. Bill Leman		Roanoke, IL	Cell# 309-241-0257
* Bro. Tom Neuenschwander		Bluffton, IN	Cell# 260-307-6026
* Bro. Ray Slagel		Fairbury, IL	Cell# 815-848-3714

Give a Child Hope

Child Sponsorships

Those in the child sponsorship program have several things in common. They are very poor, desire to learn and they have an undying soul.



The goal of this program is to provide an education to help these children

learn life skills to improve their standard of living, and also to provide spiritual training to address the true need...the need for a knowledge of and a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

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

To sponsor a child

To sponsor a student fill out this form and send to the office. A student will be assigned to you and you will be sent further information.

Name _____

Mr. Mrs. Miss

Spouse _____

Address _____

City _____ St _____ Zip _____

Home Ph _____

Cell Ph _____

Email _____

Please check preference:

- Haiti Guatemala
 Mexico Jamaica
 Wherever needed

If possible I would prefer:

Boy - Age _____

Girl - Age _____

No Preference

Cost: \$25.00/month

For details: www.acworldrelief.org

Send to:

ACWR Child Sponsorship

PO Box 36

Morton, IL 61550

Phone: 309-266-6080

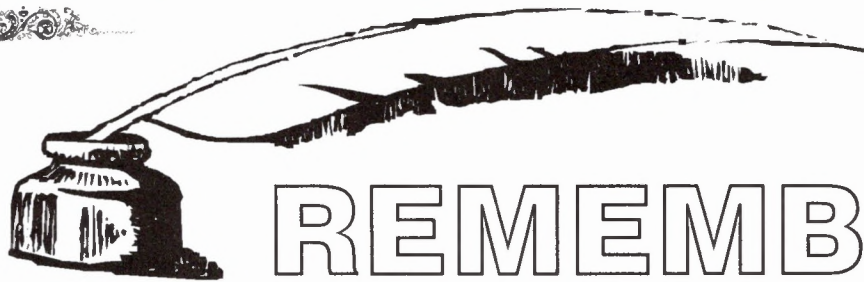
Fax: 309-266-5281

E-mail: childsponsorship@acwr.org



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REMEMBERING

Our Spiritual Heritage

The remarks at the funeral of Elder David Mangold, Roanoke, Illinois, continue. His funeral was held at Eureka, Illinois, due to the major fire at the Roanoke congregation. Comments from Elder John Bahler, Rockville, CT, continue from the last issue:

It occurs to me, beloved, that we can pay no finer tribute to our Brother Dave, nor could we erect a greater monument in honor of his memory, than to dedicate ourselves to the ideals for which he stood, based upon the Holy Scriptures; and, beloved, to be obedient to the kind advice that came over this pulpit and almost every pulpit throughout the length and breadth of our land.

Beloved, if we can do this, it coincides so beautifully with the words of the apostle that we have read together here, that we believe that even as he was aware of the dimness, the gloominess of the future, and, as we have heard here, even saw that there would be a very dangerous time for those that would serve God. We believe that Bro. Mangold was well aware of this, and his advice was always to remain humble.

If we stay in the fear of the Lord, be worthy of the blessing of God and His grace, and if we would do this, beloved, we would be able to face the future — that we would not have to shudder, nor that we would possibly tremble, but that with a new zeal and a new effort and a new grace and faith, we could face the future.

Beloved, as already mentioned, Brother Mangold is no longer here to further counsel with us. We may hear his voice, beloved, on recordings, but his face we shall no longer see. Beloved, we have the example of faith, the example of humility, and the example of hop-

ing to stand in peace, not only with God, but with all men as far as possible. This he strove for, this example remains, and for this we are deeply grateful.

Dear ones, in this record that we have read, we know that the Apostle Paul was not an old man. I believe historians point out that he only reached the age of 63 or 64 possibly. This farewell address that he gave to the Elders at Ephesus, I believe, came some six or seven years even before he died. Yet, he was aware that the future did not hold out too much for him.

In the intervening time, he wrote to Timothy, and reminded him that he was aware that the time of his departure was at hand, and he had a comfort in his heart that he had fought a good fight and that he had kept the faith; he had the assurance that there was laid up for him a crown of eternal life.

We believe, beloved, that even as the Apostle Paul had this premonition, and it was no doubt given to him clearly that he could not misunderstand it, that even so the Lord dealt with our beloved brother through his declining years when his health was failing. It was apparent that sooner or later his time was going to come. He would have to answer the summons, and we believe it had the same effect, as it had upon the Apostle Paul.

We can only call to mind too well, beloved, how that he would remind us of these very things of which we heard on the part of the Apostle Paul — that we shall then stand fast in this most wonderful faith that we have, and, beloved, that the holy church may be preserved. We often speak, beloved, of the faith of our fathers — our fathers that are no longer among us that have departed this life and have been laid into the

rows of our fathers.

Now Brother Dave is among them. He is among those who helped to preserve the faith of our fathers. Beloved, even as the Apostle Paul tried to prepare those people and condition them, as it were, to be able to accept that finally when the time would come that he would depart this life that they would not fall into over-much sorrow. We believe this is what the Lord did for us all — that through suffering and declining days we might somewhat be prepared, and we hope it will have this effect, especially upon the family. However, it comes all too soon!

But, beloved, God is able if we hold fast to His wonderful word and remember that He is going to be our Shepherd. He is going to watch over us. He is going to supply our needs. God has never failed us.

When Elias, the great prophet, was called out of this life, his mantle fell upon Elisha. When Moses, after fulfilling his task here upon earth, and did not see the entirety of it...did not see the completion of the mission that was laid upon him, yet we find when he had fulfilled his days, God called him out of this life and the rod, the staff, upon which he leaned, was handed to Joshua.

Next Issue:

A continuation of this funeral service.

Notice:

This is a request from the Remembering Column for historical artifacts, letters, diaries and important documents related to our church heritage.

Please mail to Post Office Box 404, Pontiac, IL 61764

The Light Of Hope

“The Positive Versus The Negative”

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

When I was growing up in our Princeville Church, I wondered what the “works” were which we are called to perform. I often heard the Apostle James quoted, “Faith without works is dead,” which was based on verse 2:26, “For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.”

I knew that our church taught that we shouldn’t go to movies, dances, drinking parties, and that we shouldn’t lie, cheat, steal, or gossip. Then the next thing to figure out is whether or not refraining from doing anything bad is the “works” that James refers to in his letter.

Over the years I have reasoned that all of the above are negative but that the word “works” seems to indicate activity, or doing something. I have concluded that the Bible does not teach us not to do anything, in order to be sure we don’t do anything bad, but that God wants us to keep busy with good things, spiritual good works. Romans 12:21 reads, “Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.” If our church-sponsored Home for the Handicapped, Gateway Woods, Midwest Food Bank, World Relief, Berean Prison Ministry, and efforts in Japan, Mexico, Haiti, etc., can be considered “works”, then we do have something positive to think

about.

However, there has always been many positive things for believers to do, for the Lord in the church. Jesus said in John 13:34, “As I have loved you, that ye also love one another.” Christ loved us enough to die for us so we are commanded to love each other enough to die for each other, even if that brother or sister gets on our nerves.

There are also other things which we can do which are positive. Paul writes in I Corinthians 1:10, “Now I beseech you, brethren,...that there be no divisions among you.” It is imperative that every one of us do what we can to help keep unity in our Brotherhood and in our respective churches. We must move in that direction.

I notice many things in which our churches are different, where the unity is not as good as it could be. Please forgive me for writing plainly but one area I would like to consider and bring to your attention, is the matter of the sisters wearing head coverings. It is written in I Corinthians 11:5, “But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head uncovered, dishonoureth her head.” Based on this scripture, our church has the practice of the sisters covering their heads with a veil in church, and with a small covering which symbolizes a head covering,

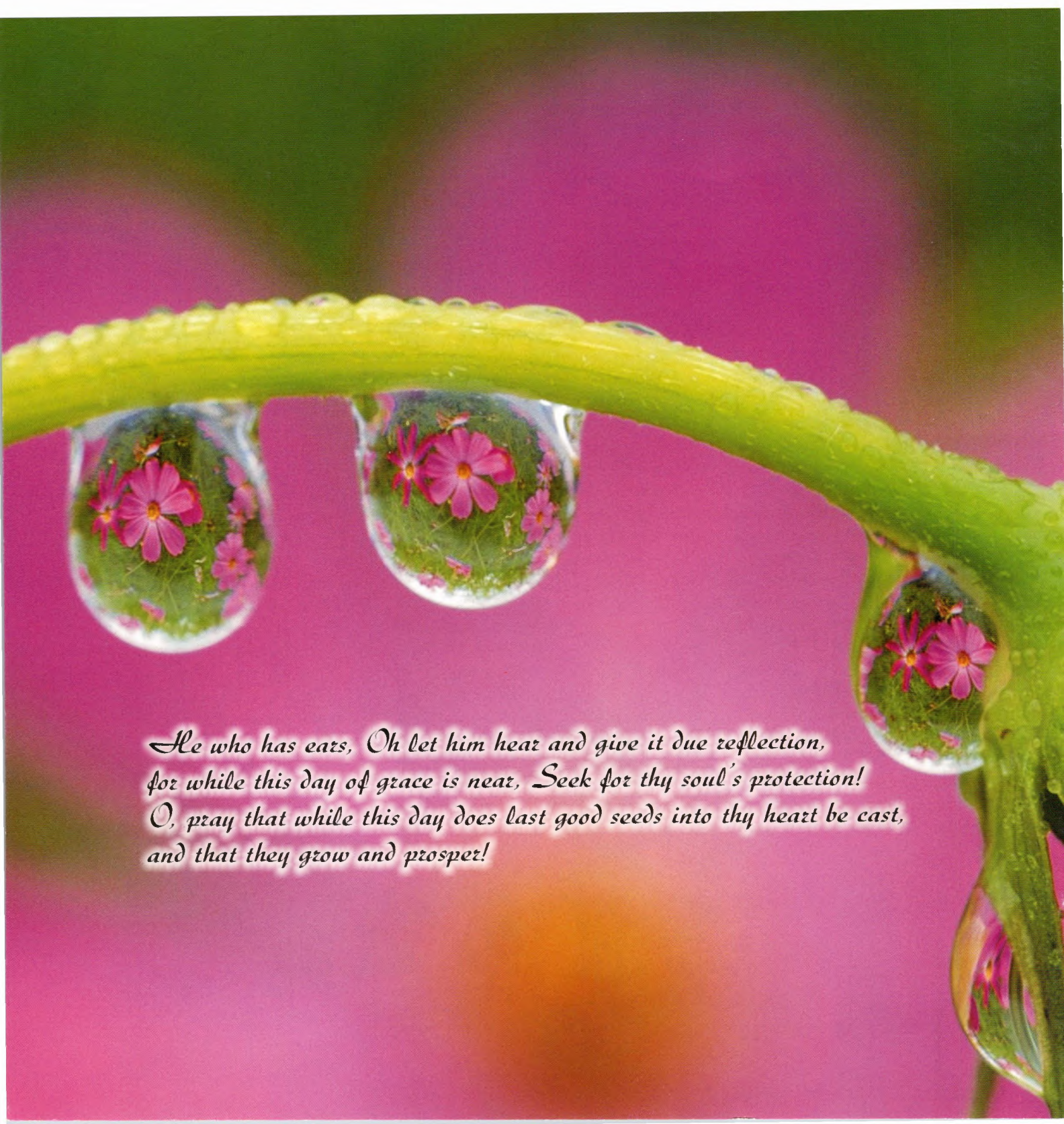
in the case of a singing, or by many sisters, it is worn all the time, as they may want to pray while they are working. Now, I do not want to tell anyone what to do but it seems to me that a head covering should be worn on the head. On the head I would define as meaning in the middle of the top of the head. But the trend by some is to wear the head coverings, either the veil or the smaller symbol of a head covering, to the rear of the top of the head, or sometimes, toward the back of the head, so it hangs down the back, not down beside the face. This tends to get it out of the way of the wearer of the head covering but the problem is, it is no longer a head covering, or even the symbol of a head covering. Please forgive me for expressing myself and if I am admonished for bringing it up, I accept the admonishment humbly, but if you dear and precious sisters help a little in this regard, it would increase my joy in the Lord.

Many sisters may not read this so we need to talk among ourselves as to what is the scriptural way to wear a head covering. Also, let’s consider whether some head coverings are not becoming a bit too thin. Where possible, let’s change the negative to the positive.

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*He who has ears, Oh let him hear and give it due reflection,
for while this day of grace is near, Seek for thy soul's protection!
O, pray that while this day does last good seeds into thy heart be cast,
and that they grow and prosper!*