



The Silver Lining

*And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude,
and as the voice of many waters,
and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying,
Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.*

August 2010

Sermon by Bro. Mark Bahr, Detroit, MI

Ezekiel 33:1-9 and Acts 22:1-16

Greetings to each one on this beautiful new Sunday morning. There's something that is deep within each of us that we experience whenever we come into church. We have the opportunity to begin a new Sunday morning together, to worship God. We certainly entreat your prayers as we begin our worship today. We will also trust that the Holy Spirit will actually be our teacher. It is a blessing to be here. It is a blessing to greet you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

We have opened to a very profound Scripture; Ezekiel 33. When we read Ezekiel 33, we would encourage you to take time to sit down in the near future. Read Ezekiel 33 and then read Ezekiel 34. We need to look at that Scripture together. It is worthy of additional reading and meditation on the part of all of us. Both give us a beautiful insight into the real heart of God. We see a lot of Father love and care in both Scriptures.

We've opened to the beautiful Book of Acts 22. Undoubtedly a Scripture that will be very familiar to us, as Scripture should be. And yet, as Scripture is, it never is something that is old. It is very much quick and alive.

What a beautiful place to begin and to stop, "...calling on the name of the Lord." Acts 22:16. The Lord knows so perfectly each one of us that is here today. Knows exactly what we walked into church with. Knows exactly what is in front of us. We trust, I believe, that Ezekiel 33 and Acts 22 are particularly intended for us this morning. Let's consider how Saul/Paul was able to begin to call upon the name of the Lord and let's consider, what does it actually mean to you and me to have these nine verses in Ezekiel 33 as a reminder for us?

We see so much of the heart of God. Perhaps, if we consider just for a moment, a very special couple of verses in Hebrews 13, it begins with a very short sentence. It is a chapter that is filled with a fair amount of what we would say is very sobering, important instruction for the believer. And it begins with this little sentence. "Let brotherly love continue." Then the

whole chapter goes about giving us very real, practical church structure. Heavenly Father prescribed instruction for how to prosper that love. Verse 17 says, "Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls..." Think of this verse, if it had just been verse 1 in Ezekiel 33. It makes the words in Ezekiel 33 so uniquely different than what they might be if we just read them cold. "...for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you."

So when we think about the watchman, this is Ezekiel the Prophet, inspired of God, giving exhortation. He says, the Word of the Lord came unto him and this is that special instruction. Speak to the children of God and he has been charged to be a watchman. (Ezekiel 33:2). Let's think, initially, you could all describe this and we would all be very close, but when we begin to think of a watchman, do our hearts and thoughts maybe go back to a little Proverb verse? People without a vision perish but happy are they that know and love and walk in the law of the Lord. (Proverbs 29:18) So there is great need for vision. We need to have Biblical vision. People without that vision perish. We would know that to be true in our own lives. But that is God our Father, our Creator, laying out a thought pattern for us to be a part of. So He has a very real need and desire to create vision for us.

Furthermore, He is speaking from a heart of a Father. He loves us. He created us. He understands us. So the little exhortation in Hebrews 13:17 that we read, begins with that first part of the verse that maybe we are all so familiar with and we have a tendency then to forget or to pass by the last half of the verse. The first part says, obey them that have the rule over you and submit yourself. That is the beginning context of Ezekiel 33, isn't it? But then the verse doesn't stop there. It says, for they watch for your souls, as they who must give an

Cover Verses

Front: Revelation 19:6

Back: Hymns of Zion #134 vs.4

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Sermon continued on page 40

*"Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand."
(Phil. 4:5)*

Light From The Word



Writings based on God's Word

August 2010

Modesty and Moderation

Although the terms "modesty" and "moderation" each appear only once in the New Testament, they represent important principles endorsed by numerous Scriptures, and they should be manifested in many aspects of the life of a child of God. Both of these principles reflect a temperance and reasonableness of heart, which restrains the believer from boldness and indulgence in various aspects of life. Applications of these principles may vary somewhat by different individuals and groups over periods of time. However, faithful adherence to the many relevant Scriptures will shape our lives in the manner which God desires, and will strengthen the unity and peace of our Brotherhood.

Modesty is defined as attitudes and behaviors which reflect a sense of propriety in speech, dress and conduct; as well as decency, chastity and purity. It represents freedom from conceit and vanity. It is the opposite of boldness, arrogance, presumption and sensuality in deportment and appearance.

Modesty in its many expressions is taught in the Word in the context of holy living, and it should be manifested as a result of a new nature in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17). The Apostle Paul used the term "modesty" in addressing the topic of the chaste appearance of godly women. *"In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array"* (1 Tim. 2:9). The old nature is fraught with areas of vulnerability in both men and women which are described in many scriptural teachings. Proverbs 31:30 states: *"Favor is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised."* The *"lust of the eyes"* is easily enticed by that which is sensual (Prov. 27:20; 1 John 2:16). The new nature is represented by choices of apparel and behavior which reflect decency and purity of heart. It is also manifested by vigilance and self-discipline in maintaining a clean heart and mind by avoiding or quickly turning away from that which is sensual (Job. 31:1; Ps. 101:3). We have been blessed with many sound, biblically-based and reasonable examples of modesty in our Brotherhood, which we should respect and exemplify in

our personal lives—all to the honor of God.

The principle of modesty is also represented by a humble self-awareness. *"For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith"* (Rom. 12:3). We run great risk of error when we become unduly confident and forward in any endeavor. *"The words of wise men are heard in quiet more than the cry of him that ruleth among fools"* (Ecc. 9:17). The Apostle John warned the church about a man named Diotrephes, *"who loveth to have the preeminence among them"* (3 John 9). Such behavior does not reflect modesty, and it creates discord among the brethren, which God hates (Prov. 6:19).

One of the most telling aspects of a man's heart is his speech: *"...for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh"* (Luke 6:45). If we honestly examine ourselves in the light of God's Word, we get a clearer picture of the condition of our inner man and how this is portrayed to others. Are we motivated by temperance and reasonableness in our hearts to a walk of modesty in speech, conduct and appearance?

Moderation is defined as sweet reasonableness, implying gentleness, forbearance and restraint. It is the opposite of indulgence, wantonness and unseemly behavior.

Moderation in its many applications is also taught in the Word in the context of holy living. The Apostle Paul exhorted the Philippians: *"Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand"* (Phil. 4:5). This attribute of a child of God should be evident to others and motivated by awareness of the watchful eye and guiding hand of the Lord in our lives. The scribes and Pharisees were well known for carrying certain behaviors beyond moderation to the extreme. Jesus chastised the scribes when He said, *"...for a show (you) make long prayers..."* (Luke 20:47). The Pharisees sought attention and exclusiveness by *"enlarge(ing) the border of their garments"* (Matt. 23:5). These individuals demonstrated the hypocrisy of self-righteousness and reliance upon an outward form of holiness, while inwardly they fell prey to pride. They no longer had the humility to receive counsel or to esteem oth-

ers. The old nature of man is subject to vanity, and our society is caught up in a frenzy of eye-appealing fashion trends which represent a significant departure from moderation. Both Paul and Peter warned against being adorned with *"gold, or pearls, or costly array,"* but rather with *"the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit"* (1 Tim. 2:9; 1 Pet. 3:3-4).

Jesus told a parable of a foolish rich man who said, *"I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink and be merry"* (Luke 12:19). James chided those caught up with riches: *"Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton..."* (Jam. 5:5). We may ask ourselves, *"How much is enough?"* Is our primary influence the Word of God or the excesses of our society? The author of Proverbs asked to be *"removed far from vanity."* He pleaded *"give me neither poverty nor riches...lest I be full, and deny thee, and say, Who is the Lord? Or lest I be poor, and steal and take the name of my God in vain"* (Prov. 30: 8-9). Perhaps it would be wise for us to pray for a *"moderate ambition."*

Many Scriptures encourage zeal in expressing love for God and others, sharing the Gospel, feeding on the Word, preserving sound doctrine, offering humble deeds of service and producing fruit of the Spirit. It is also noteworthy that the Apostle Paul was deeply disappointed with the behavior of certain zealous brethren when he wrote: *"I bear them record, that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge"* (Rom. 10:2-4). Thus, both zeal and moderation involve good judgment. Moderation is not simply aiming for something in the middle or being less extreme than someone else. Our behavior should be guided by wise application of scriptural principles and the influence of good counsel and examples from seasoned brethren. The Holy Spirit will help us discern and make sound judgments.

Two of the simplest, most profound teachings on how to live by the principles of modesty and moderation are found in the example of the mind of Christ (Phil. 2:5) and Paul's beautiful description of Christ-like love in action: *"Charity...doth not behave itself unseemly...(and it) never faileth"* (1 Cor. 13:5, 8).

An editorial committee of elder brothers is preparing articles for this section of the Silver Lining to address some of the special needs of our times.

Suggestions for subjects are welcome and can be sent to:

Silver Lining Editorials, 1377 County Rd 1600 N, Roanoke, IL 61561 or by e-mail to cleman@mtco.com



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN Mission Committee

...The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest. Matthew 9:37-38

Rural Gospel Medical Mission of India

The Rural Gospel and Medical Mission of India (RGMMI) was founded in 1938 by Mr. B.B. Bhagwat, who had been raised in a Hindu family but was convicted by God's word and became a converted believer in the saving power of the shed blood of Jesus Christ. Since his death in 1980, the work of his mission has been under the direction of the Apostolic Christian Church.

Mr. Bhagwat spent many hours laboring in the rural areas of India spreading the gospel and establishing pockets of believers. Today that work is still carried on by faithful Indian RGMMI evangelists who are men of God devoted in their calling to share God's word.

A day in the life of a servant of God in India

To help us understand their role in the mission, we might review a typical day in the life of an RGMMI servant of God. He arises around 5:00 AM spends time in prayer with God, praying for the work of the mission, as well as for the church members and others in the various villages he serves. He is very devoted in reading God's word and spends time memorizing scriptures to share as he proclaims the good news of Jesus Christ.

If he has a family, he will help the children get ready for school and then have a simple breakfast of hot tea and chapattis (wheat bread). After dropping off the children at a local school, he will take his motorcycle and travel to the furthest village in his particular area. This could be 20 miles away. In some cases believers may be in the fields

doing hand labor but will stop for a break. In numerous instances, the evangelist will share a scripture of encouragement, short meditation and a prayer. He might do this for three such families that would be in a particular workplace.

Of course the evangelist will be traveling through areas of many non believers. He will make contact with some and invite them to a village worship service that he will be conducting in a private dwelling. There are numerous elderly that he will visit. Before returning home for lunch, he will stop and purchase some vegetables and other provisions. The noon lunch with his wife will consist of rice and lentil stew served with pickled mango and lime slices sprinkled with chili pepper.

The early part of the afternoon is spent preparing for a village Bible gathering where he will visit in the near future. Another duty of the evangelist is to have ongoing counseling with converts before bringing their testimonies at one of the RGMMI congregations.

Later he will again take his motorcycle, visit another village, and have devotions in the home of believers returning from the fields. Several families may meet and a worship service will be conducted.

Upon returning home in the evening, he will assist children with studies and homework. Dinner is served around 8:30 PM and consists of millet bread with lentil stew and a side dish of fried fish powdered with salt and chili powder.

The missionary and his wife will conduct adult literacy classes on some evenings. Many church members are illiterate and have a desire to read and write. Some non-Christians will join in these sessions

and are slowly introduced to our Lord Jesus Christ.

Other nights are spent in a village with believers, conducting a short worship service singing bhajans (Indian style group singing of hymns) and closing with a prayer. The day closes around 10:30 PM with family devotions and a closing prayer before seeking a much needed rest, praying that the seed has again been sown and the Lord will add the increase.

Overall work of the mission

The RGMMI mission consists of several churches, many village prayer halls, two boarding homes, vocational training schools, an English Medium school, a small hospital and numerous medical clinics. The boarding homes are located on two RGMMI campuses and are for young boys who are orphans, from broken families or children of rural families living near RGMMI prayer halls that do not have access to schools. More details of these services have been described in previous publications and can also be viewed on the Apostolic Christian website @ www.apostolicchristian.org

Thank you

Thank you for your continued prayers for the RGMMI work. The USA Board of directors are longing for the day when our brethren might be able to go and assist in this mission. If you feel moved to support the work of RGMMI in India, please contact:

John Lehman
RGMMI Board President
606 N 13th St
Sabetha, KS 66534



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

The Privilege of Serving in Bastrop

In our human weakness, we are not able to understand why God allows a natural disaster to afflict the lives of those caught in its path. The Wilderness Ridge Fire that destroyed the homes and businesses of rural Bastrop County, Texas was no exception. A downed power line, the result of a falling branch, sparked the dry grass and pine needles into a raging fury of destruction. Strong winds sent the flames racing through the ravines and over the hilltops of the heavily wooded community consuming nearly everything in its path. Helpless residents were forced to flee with little more than the "shirt on their back." It took several days of intense fire-fighting to bring the fire under control leaving a charred path of loss and despair. Many of the victims had no insurance to help them rebuild.

With hearts of compassion, local brethren saw this disaster as an opportunity to show God's love in extending a helping hand to these struggling families. Though few in number, they offered themselves in service, helping in any way they could to alleviate the suffering. It soon became apparent that this effort was beyond the capacity of the small Austin church, and a request was brought to the USA Committee of World Relief to consider making this project a national effort.

A group of brothers from the committee were sent to Bastrop to evaluate the need and search out possibilities for a winter work project in Bastrop. As a result, three families emerged as possible candidates to receive World Relief as-

sistance with the rebuilding of their homes. Preparations went forward in faith that other fire victims would be identified as the work began.

Plans were formulated for the housing and feeding of up to forty volunteers each week. Existing buildings on the site of the Austin church were prepared as dormitories. Water, electricity and sewer hookups were installed to facilitate a small RV park. A few minor modifications and additions to the church kitchen made it suitable to accomplish the necessary meal preparations. A plea for volunteers was sent out and God moved many hearts to come and serve in this effort.

Expanding the scope

On January 4th, 2010 work began on building three new homes, one two bedroom and two three bedroom modest homes. Work progressed rapidly and it soon became apparent that without finding more fire victims to help, the project could not last for the intended three month period.

Numerous needy families had been identified who were not victims of the fire but for various other reasons, health issues, financial struggles or old age, were in desperate need of help to repair or remodel their homes. Since the funding of this project was designated as "disaster," these hardship cases did not meet the criteria established by World Relief and approval was requested to expand the work to include these non-disaster cases. Unanimous support was given by the National Board to expand the scope of work to include these hardship cases and the work continued.

More blessed to give...

The opportunity to work inside homes occupied by their owners was a great blessing. With regular contact between resident and volunteers, there was an opportunity to share God's love with people hurting from debilitating circumstances. Close personal ties were formed and hearts were touched by the love of Christ being shown in deed and truth. One of the residents, a bedridden quadriplegic, asked a Brother to pray with him before leaving the house at the end of the work week. God's love had truly softened his heart! This change was reflected in his countenance.

Each volunteer, as well as those who supported through prayer and financial contributions, is promised the blessings of God. *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

What is next?

We can never know where the Lord would have us to be used in His service in the future. It is our desire to follow wherever He leads us as we seek to be His servants in this work. At this time, the USA Committee is considering a project in the Nashville area where flooding has driven many families from their homes. Most of the clean-up work is completed, but there will be opportunities to aid in rebuilding of homes damaged in the flood. There is no definite plan yet but a decision will be made in the near future. Please pray for the Lord's direction in this matter.

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

Right Sizing Project Completed

As of Monday, July 19, the last resident moved from Timber Ridge to the Detroit CILA. This was our last move in the right sizing project. We had been waiting for an award letter from the Department of Human Services and it finally arrived. Each of the five new homes has their funding in place and each of the 24 new people in CILAs has their funding in place. The process took about two years. A total of 44 people moved. Twenty people moved from Oakwood and Linden to group homes (CILAs). Twenty moved from Timber Ridge to Oakwood and Linden. Four moved from Timber Ridge to CILAs. In addition 11 people were admitted to Timber Ridge and two to Oakwood and Linden as a part of the right sizing.

First we must recognize that God has been very good to us during this process. We were spared any major harm and most of the adjustments went very well. There are some who still need to adjust. Next we want to thank the many who gave monetarily towards this project. It has been a faith building process to pray to the Lord for provision and have so many respond through the prompting of the Holy Spirit. What a great God we have!

There is probably not a person in the agency that has not contributed to the success of this project. Nurses and aides learned to care for new people and train others to care for those who were moving; program people have transferred programs and written new ones to reflect new settings. Maintenance has done multiple moves of resident belongings, and supervisors have worked out new staff schedules and hired new people. Also office and support staff have secured

funding and changed bookkeeping, dietary has adjusted to new needs while other support staff are adjusting to new work schedules based on different numbers of residents.

Our residents and families (including those who did not move) have all adjusted to new settings, new people, gain and loss of friendships, etc. Each staff member gave their best to make this process of change as smooth and effective as possible. We praise the Father of Lights for His grace and provision.

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

Where have the past 22 years gone? John and I came to Gateway Woods in June of 1988 with our three teenage children, Candi, Sandi and Kevin. There was the excitement of making new friends at church and school, the challenge of becoming Houseparents to seven additional teenagers, as well as just the plain busyness of life. Many were the memories made, the trials weathered and the victories claimed as each day unfolded. Days turned into months, and months into years. Now, 22 years later, I have semi-retired and am enjoying the time 'as I smell the roses' and capture moments with my grandchildren.

I was touched at the reality of the scriptures in Psalm 37:25 when I sat at my desk one morning and opened our Gateway Woods mail. There was a newsletter from the Apostolic Christian Resthaven in Elgin, IL. As I thumbed through the newsletter, I stopped and saw several pictures of their residents. Some were in wheel chairs, others were working diligently on craft projects and still others were enjoying an antique classic car show. As I looked a little closer,

there was a picture of my dear mother! I stopped and continued to study the pictures as tears filled my eyes. I needed to close my door as I wiped away the tears and pondered the very words, 'I have been young and now am old, yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken.' Where does time go so swiftly? Only one life and will soon be past, only what is done for Christ will last.

Even though the lives we touch here at Gateway Woods are much younger than my mother's or my own, we continue to sow seeds of truth. We are confident in the power of the Word that it will not return unto the Lord void. But rather, that after these young folks leave to go out and live their lives that they will be able to look back on the time that has flown by and say:

"I have been young, and now am old; Yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken."

Psalm 37:25

NEWS:

- We are thankful that the Lord has provided us with four new staff members. Sis. Jan Beer (Bloomington) as our new Secretary, Bro. Ross Feller (Valparaiso) as the new Communications Coordinator to join our Advancement Team, Bro. Adam McAfee (Bluffton Country) as the new Director of Education and Sis. Nicole Wiegand (Gridley) as the new Assistant Houseparent at the Oak House. Please be prayerful for these four as they step into their new roles at Gateway Woods!

- We are blessed to have Bro. Ryan Donaghy step into a new role as well here at Gateway Woods. Bro. Ryan has transitioned from a Houseparent to the new Math Teacher at Gateway Woods School. We are so thankful that the Lord provides!

- Our 34th Annual Sale will have

come and gone when you read this. We are very thankful for all the great donations and wonderful support we receive from all who attended and contributed to this great event for our on-going work with at-risk children. Look for more news in the next issue of The Silver Lining and The Gate Post.

- We are thankful to the MidOhio Chamber Players and other volunteers for the "Let Your Heart Be Moved" themed benefit program that took place in Van Wert, OH, on Saturday, August 14. This program benefited Eastern European World Relief, Gateway Woods and Loving Shepherd Ministries. Also thank you to all of those who attended the event and provided their support.

- We were blessed to have Bro. Ben Gerber as our Top Quality Coordinator this summer. Bro. Ben stated "It really is a joy to see these teens ready to work each day and to see them pick up some great life skills along the way."

- We are very thankful that God continues to provide us with the right Staff. We currently have an IL Adoption Manager career position open at Gateway Woods. Please see the notice in this month's edition of The Silver Lining for more information. We trust that God will continue to provide us with qualified, mature Brothers and Sisters who will be able to serve Him in a ministry that is 'Turning Lives Around'. Perhaps this includes you!

- We want to express our sincere thanks to all of the volunteers who came out here this summer. Their attitudes and hearts amazed us as God used them to help out with the various projects around our campus. Thank you for your time and efforts!

- 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 are on our mailing list. In an effort to be as efficient as possible we are gathering as many email addresses as we can for our E-Post. Please send a message to mail@gatewaywoods.org.

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

July has been busy! The first part of the month was spent packing up the preschool in order to get ready for the huge project of redoing the whole place from floor to ceiling. Lots of packing, sorting, organizing and throwing away took up our time but in the end it was so worth it. We were so blessed and excited to have a group of brothers and sisters from Rockville come for a week to do this project. We cannot say thank you enough for all the work you did and all the love you showed us. We appreciate it so much more than words could ever say!

During the course of that week, we had preschool over in the fellowship hall. We weren't able to use the playground so we decided to take a day and go to a local park to run off some energy and have a picnic. We managed to pick the hottest day of the week but it was still a good time.

This is the last Silver Lining I will be writing for the preschool. I hope nobody minds, but I'd like to take the liberty to share a little bit. When I knew God was calling me down here, I didn't see how I could ever really like it. I came because I knew I was supposed to but I didn't come joyfully. Four years later, I feel Him leading me back to Illinois and it hurts worse than I ever thought it would. Of course not every day has been great and perfect, but I have loved working here at the preschool. I just want to say thank you to the Athens church

for being my family the last four years. You have touched me and blessed me in a way that I will never forget.

On that note, we are still looking for two teachers. Just know that if you feel God directing you and if you come, you will probably not regret it. This is a special place to work and a special church to be a part of. It doesn't matter if you are married or single. If you think you might be interested, or if you have any questions, please contact Bro. Mike Moore (256)729-0620 - home, (256)777-3390 - cell, or ALM38@aol.com.

**ALABAMA, ATHENS
Louise Hall**

We have been blessed to have many visitors this month. Several have stopped by while passing through on vacation and we have also had several visiting ministers. Many thanks go to our Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis), Bro. Duane Reutter (Rockville) and Bro. Ron Heiniger (Bloomington) for being willing to come and preach the Word.

There are always people that we think of and keep in our prayers who have been sick. Our thoughts and prayers have been with Sis. Kat King as well as the Ray family. Bro. Milton, Sis. Joyce and Bro. Mark have all been under the weather. It's good to see their faces around church again and know they are all feeling better.

We had our second annual VBS retreat with the Atlanta congregation. We meet up at a camp for the weekend. It was such a blessing to fellowship with each other. To make some new friends and to renew some of the friendships that were started last year. This year our theme was The Good Samaritan. We heard many good thoughts about what it means to be a good neighbor and were encouraged to see the opportunities around

us and to reach out to those who are in need, even if it might make us a little uncomfortable. The whole weekend was such a blessing and we hope to continue it in years to come. Thank you so much to the Atlanta congregation for your part and all the work you did for it. Also, thanks to Bro. Darren and Sis. Sue Plattner and their family (Champaign) for sharing the weekend with us and teaching us.

I wrote this last month but must have forgotten to send it in. My apologies for the late news, but this is for the month of May:

Memorial Day weekend brought many visitors for our annual Tennessee Fellowship weekend. We are so thankful for all who made the effort to come for fellowship and singing. We had several visiting ministers that weekend and were blessed by them sharing the Word. Our Elder Bro. Andy Stoller was here, along with Bros. Troy Leyse (Bluffton), Roger Sauder (Ft. Lauderdale), Dean Steffen (Belvidere), Paul Gasser (Akron) and Virgil Kaeb (Sarasota). Later on that month we also had Bro. Ted Luginbuhl (Smithville) join us for worship.

We are keeping those who have been sick and hospitalized in our prayers. We think of Eric Coulter (Bro. David and Sis. Barbara), Janice Flanagan (Bro. JR and Sis. Louise Hall), Sis. Joyce Ray (Bro. Milton) and Bro. Mark Ray (Bro. Milton and Sis. Joyce). We pray God's healing hand would be upon them.

We had some rare but exciting news this month, too! Several from our congregation were able to travel to Denver, CO, to witness the wedding of our Bro. Matthew Moore to Sis. Kristy Schmidt (Bro. Mike and Sis. Pam Moore and Bro. Rod and Sis. Cindy Schmidt, Denver). We rejoice with Matthew and Kristy and pray that God would be in the center of their marriage. They will be living in

Denver while Kristy finishes up school. We will miss having Matthew here but know they will be a blessing to the Denver church while they are there.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX **Heather Hinrichsen**

Roy Gerst has followed the Spirit's leading and has begun walking the path of salvation. We pray for an earnest hunger and thirst for the Word of God.

William (Liam) John Hamilton was born on June 19 to Bro. Bill and Sis. Jen Hamilton. He is welcomed home by his sisters, Delaney, Taryn and Gwen, as well as his grandparents, Bro. Tom and Sis. Diane Ebert and Bill and Linda Hamilton (Phoenix).

"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose in heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die;...a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;"

Eccles. 3:1-2,4

With joy and sadness we welcomed Adam Elmer Labudde into our family on July 14. Joyfully welcoming his safe arrival are Brandon, Jodi, Josie and Nate. His grandparents are Bro. Sam and Sis. Cindy Hohulin and Bro. Larry and the late Sis. Kathie Labudde. With sadness we know that Sis. Kathie missed holding Adam by 5 weeks, but we rejoice that she is watching over him from her heavenly home.

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 Elder Bro. Ted Steffen (Sis.

Sandra, Alto), Bro. Curt Kaufman (Sis. Caroline, Tucson), Bro. James Emch (Sis. Gina, Phoenix), Bro. Mike Lemman (Sis. Lisa, Portland) and Bro. Jay Knapp (Sis. Lisa, Tucson).

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

ARIZONA, TUCSON **Lisa Knapp**

Many in our church were present to witness the wedding vows of Daniel Bauer (Bro. Brad and Sis. Sandy) and Amy Biesemeyer. They are now one in Christ as we heard in their wedding ceremony, joined together in a three fold cord with Christ heading their home. It was a blessed day and we offer our prayers to Daniel and Amy for a happy, healthy future.

We were blessed with three days of VBS activities as we pondered the subject "In Times Like These". It was certainly a subject with a lot of relevance to the troubling times we live in. Each age group had topics of concern to them that we could explore and come up with the same solution: In times like these we need a Saviour, we need an anchor and we need the Bible, just like the hymn says. Many thanks to everyone who worked hard to provide an enlightening three days to spend together.

We are having our typical July weather – hot, dry days with the hope of some relief from monsoon storms. Today's high is projected to be 94 and somewhere in Tucson rain is in the forecast; you just have to hope it's where you live!

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA **Daniel Luthi**

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

Eccles. 3:1

At our church on July 25, our congregation witnessed the marriage of Bro. John Cox (Washington, IL) and our Sis. Shirley Luthi. It was a very emotional day, but a blessed one of rejoicing in God's provision for the Cox and Luthi families. Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington, IL) was present for the occasion, as were visiting ministers, Bro. Greg Lehman (Wolcott, IN) and Bro. Bill Schick (Magdalena, Mexico). We thank them for their willingness to bring forth God's Holy Word to us.

With this marriage, our congregation is bidding farewell to my family (the Luthi's) as we relocate to the Midwest. I will be attending Minneapolis, MN, while going to school, and my family will be relocating to the Washington, IL, area. As hard as it is to leave a church family that has seen my family go through so much of life, God's ways are far above ours. Leaving is bittersweet with many emotions. What a blessing it is to put our trust in our God who takes care of the future and provides many times in ways often unseen. On behalf of my family, I extend appreciation to the many people who have offered prayers for my new combined family's transition that will be occurring over the next few months.

Our visiting ministers this month also included Elder Bro. Ted Steffen (Alto, MI). It is always a blessing to have visitors out here and we thank Bro. Ted for his willingness to serve us.

Our prayers continue to be with Bro. Bob Crockett as he continues to face health concerns. May God grant his doctors wisdom and discernment going forward.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO Yasmin Koehl

"Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep." "Be of the same mind one toward another."

Romans 12:15,16

As a congregation we have wept and rejoiced together. Bro. Steve Varga (Sis. Joanne Varga) was called unto his heavenly home. We rejoice that he has made this final, triumphant journey, yet our hearts feel the loss that his family is experiencing. We were thankful ministering Bro. Don Manz (Junction, OH) with his family was able to attend and also for his labors in sharing the Word with us.

We rejoiced to hear that our two converts, Anne-Marie Yen, along with her daughter, Kassandra Yen, were announced to have found peace and are awaiting baptism. We are abundantly thankful God has done such a wondrous work in their lives. We uplift each in prayers of love, that throughout their lives this peace they have found may never be lost and that they would always cling to God's precious Word in its entirety as their map for a holy and sanctified life straight into the portals of heaven.

KITCHENER, ONTARIO CANADA

Johanna Fortenbacher

We are so thankful for all our visitors this month. Each of you add encouragement to our fellowship. The ministers we had were Bro. Jim and Sis. Linda Vierling (Eureka), Bro. Glen and Sis. Audrey Braker (Princeville) and Bro. Frank and Sis. Kathy Sauder (Roanoke). Thank you for coming and God bless you.

A delightful thing is happening here in our church! We have been using Rockville's old, short, balcony

benches for quite a few years and now we have Akron's old long church benches which have been in storage for years. We have started the process of finishing the benches off and reupholstering them. This job requires a lot of effort and thankfully we've already had a team of brothers here to do some of the work. Possibly by the end of the summer we'll be able to seat many more people with the longer benches.

Sis. Melanie Tomic's grandmother, Sis. Hermine Kaeb, has gone to her blessed reward. She was from Alto but has been living in Bay City for the last couple of years. "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord." (I Corinthians 15:58).

Note: Kitchener Church is invited to Detroit on September 12.

REGINA, SK CANADA Myrna Shipley

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

Prov. 22:6

We're thankful that our grandson, Austin, 5, likes to come to our church and work on his Sunday school book. His parents, Scott and Magdalena, come occasionally or they drop him off for part of the day on Sunday. He is quite the singer and likes to sing "Jesus Loves Me".

We appreciate the ministers that came this month. Elder Bro. Merle and Sis. Bonnie Hartzler and Bro. Vince and Sis. Jane Hartzler came from Rittman, OH. Then we had ministering Bro. Dennis and Sis. Diane Rassi from Austin, TX, as well as

their son, Bro. Denver and Sis. Sharon Rassi, from Fairbury, IL.

Our area has been very wet and rainy and flooding in some areas. Thankfully the Kaiser's farms have not been affected much. Benjamin, Uli and Christoph Kaiser as well as Bernhard and Angelika Kaiser had a nice trip to Morris for the 4th of July weekend.

Visiting minister schedule is:

August - Francesville

September - Sabetha

October - Silverton

November - Morris

COLORADO, DENVER

Lily Zarkovacki

Take time to be holy, Speak oft with thy Lord;

Abide in Him always, And feed on His Word:

Make friends of God's children;

Help those who are weak;

Forgetting in nothing His blessing to seek.

Hymns of Zion #112, vs. 1

Summer time in Colorado brings visitors and we are thankful for each one that comes to worship with us!

We were blessed to have on the pulpit: Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign, IL), Bro. Jeff Neihouser (Sis. Sue, Morton, IL), and Bro. Gary Endress (Sis. Evelyn, Bradford, IL) sharing God's Living Word.

We are happy to welcome Bro. Tyler and Sis. Whitney Huber back to Colorado.

We held our annual Sunday School Picnic on June 26 at Castlewood Canyon State Park. It was nice to see the children having a great time.

Our prayers are with Sis. Ruth Pfeiffer as she continues to recover at home. We look forward to her being able to worship with us again.

CONNECTICUT ROCKVILLE

**Laura Virkler
Bonnie Bahler**

Greetings be to you, our brethren,
to our sisters in the Lord,
Here from far and near assembled,
Gathered here in one accord.

Welcome, welcome, all ye loved ones:
Greetings in the Saviour's name.

Zion's Harp #255

Our congregation has been especially blessed this summer with visitors from far and near. Family reunions brought large groups of us together on more than one occasion, including many from congregations across the country.

How thankful we are that our fellowship goes beyond family relations and unites us as brethren in Christ. It was a blessing to have visiting ministers with us on several occasions. Elder Bro. Tom Klotzle (Sis. Jody, Altadena, CA), Bro. Fred Funk (Sis. Diane, Morton, IL) and Bro. Frank Sauder (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL) were with us for one weekend. Bro. Pat Zaugg (Sis. Julie, West Bend, IA) and Bro. Shawn Metzger (Sis. Sandra, Philadelphia, PA) spent time with us also. May God bless each of these brothers for the time they spent laboring in His vineyard while they were with us.

The engagement of Bro. Louis Lipton and Sis. Deborah Hoffman was announced to the congregation and we rejoice with them as they approach this step in life in faith and in light of God's Word. Their parents are Jeff and Joanne Lipton and Bro. Mark and Sis. Luella Hoffman. May these family circles be blessed as they are brought together.

Our thoughts and prayers remain with those that have been in sickness or suffering. Sis. Hannah Schneider

is recuperating at home after a fall and we hope to see her again soon assembling with us. Many prayers and kind deeds have been offered for our friend, Lauren Skinner, and her dear family as she continues to battle cancer and endure its uncertainties and setbacks. May God heal where it is His will and give strength in these difficult situations that in all things, His name could be praised.

Heal Thou me In my illness;
Heal Thou me!

When in times of sore affliction
send Thy love and pure affection
to my poor and wounded heart;
Heal Thou ev'ry painful smart.

Zion's Harp #152 v.6

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA WASHINGTON

Henrietta Meyer

Our caretakers for July were Bro. Ed and Sis. Bobby Roecker from Morton, IL. We are all booked for 2010, but we still have some good availability for 2011. It's a wonderful opportunity to spend a month in the DC area and support a small congregation. If interested in serving as caretaker of our church and house, please contact Sis. Doreen Steffen at bdsteff@yahoo.com or 302-540-6574.

We have been blessed with many visiting ministers this month. Visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Rick Plattner (Sis. Mary, Fairbury, IL), Bro. Shawn Metzger (Sis. Sandy, Philadelphia, PA), Bro. Jon Zeller (Sis. Christine, Morton, IL), Bro. Tim Roecker (Sis. Diane, Peoria, IL), Bro. Willis Ehnle (Sis. Lois, Peoria, IL), Bro. Jesse Bedolla (Sis. Bonnie, Detroit, MI), Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Sis. Michelle, Philadelphia, PA), Bro. Dale Moore (Sis. Cheryl, Elgin, IA) and Bro. Don Manz (Sis. Connie, Junction, OH). Other visitors were from Rockville, CT; Sardis and Akron, OH; Congerville,

Fairbury and Forrest, IL; LaCrosse, IN; and Philadelphia, PA.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Ken and Roberta Belsley as they have had hospital visits this last month.

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.

**FLORIDA
FORT LAUDERDALE
Renee Mangold**

We were blessed to have visiting ministers, Bro. Jeff Bahler (Sis. Heidi, Wolcott, IN), Bro. Lucas Frank (Sis. Crystal, Detroit, MI) and Bro. Erik Givens (Sis. Debbie, Princeville, IL). We pray that God would bless them for their service to Him and for sharing His Word with the Ft. Lauderdale congregation.

Summer is upon us and even our year round families are taking vacations. We pray for safe journeys for all those that travel.

“Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh:”

Matthew 24:32

**FLORIDA
NORTH FORT MYERS
Victor Beer**

While summertime is upon us with a vengeance, we are really enjoying and welcome our summertime visitors from the North. Our own folks are returning back from up North, satisfied, however, to enjoy whatever weather is our lot. Even though activity of the large farming industry is in limbo, nothing seems to

slow down tourist activity, so it keeps our roads and beaches busy.

We were truly blessed this last month by ministering brothers that visited us from “cooler climate”. They were our Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Sis. Jeni, Bluffton, IN) and Bro. Todd Stoller (Sis. Pam, Latty, OH). We pray God’s rich blessings on them for their services to us.

Our congregation will miss Bro. Glenn Price, whose funeral was this week. He was always full of encouragement as he visited us in North Fort Myers. Our deep sympathy goes out to Sis. Sandy and her family. His going Home to be with the Lord has touched many, many friends and family. He is remembered so far back as a leader even in Sunday School, helping with the choir and other activities, before he moved to Sarasota.

**FLORIDA, SARASOTA
Kim Ott**

“For I the Lord thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee.”

Is. 41:13

On July 15, our dear Bro. Glenn Price went Home to be with our Lord. Bro. Glenn touched many lives during his walk on this earth, and he will be sadly missed. However, we do rejoice together with Bro. Glenn’s family in the faith that he now resides in his heavenly home with our Saviour. We trust in the Lord that He will give strength and comfort to Bro. Glenn’s beloved wife, Sis. Sandee, and their daughters, Kristine Krieger (Kevin, Detroit, MI), Krista Campbell (John, Pell City, AL), and Sis. Kelly Hebert (Bro. Todd).

As one dear brother is called from our earthly home into eternity, a new little baby joins our church family. With joy and thankfulness for the

miracle of life, Bro. Frank and Sis. Angie Kiefer welcome the arrival of Elizabeth Hannah. Excited siblings are Gideon, Olivia, John, James, and Joanna.

We appreciate our visiting ministers traveling to our congregation to share God’s Word with us. We pray a special blessing on Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Sis. Judy, Chicago, IL), Bro. Ted Luginbuhl (Sis. Stephanie, Smithville, OH), Bro. Todd Stoller (Sis. Pam, Latty, OH), Bro. Chris Huber (Sis. Sharon, Francesville, IN), Bro. Daron Price (Milford, IN) and Bro. Erik Givens (Sis. Debbie, Princeville, IL).

While visiting us, Bro. Erik Givens shared with us a Bible study on Patience. Bro. Erik opened with Luke 21:19, “In your patience possess ye your souls.” He shared with us some very thought provoking insights on the importance of remaining patient. We were reminded that even though the world around us is fast paced and demanding, we as Christians need to continue to diligently wait on the Lord to meet our needs in His time.

We are thankful to see Bro. Gordon Bryant (Sis. Marilyn) assembling with us once again after his recent surgery and hospitalization. We continue to pray that God would provide His healing strength to Bro. Gordon for a full and healthy recovery.

GEORGIA, ATLANTA

What a wonderful time we shared with the Athens congregation at our annual Shocco Springs Family Weekend! Our theme this year was “The Good Samaritan.” We were so blessed to have Bro. Darren Plattner and his family with us; Bro. Darren’s message challenged us to look past prejudice and see our everyday “neighbors”. We all came home ask-

ing ourselves, "Who is my neighbor?"

We rejoice with new grandparents, Bro. Linn and Sis. Brenda Stoller! Their precious grandson, Malachi Kadin Rocke, was born to Bro. Brent and Sis. Staci Rocke. Malachi's paternal grandparents are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Eva Rocke (Roanoke).

Bro. Matthew and Sis. Renae Lindberg have felt led to relocate to Joliet, IL. We are very sad to see them and their handsome little boy, Emmet, leave; yet we know that God has great plans for them in Chicago!

We were blessed to have Elder Bro. Mark Masters and Bro. Curt Walter minister to us this month. The Lord bless you both as you continue to serve Him!

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE

Doreen Moser

Jenn Johnson

~With a grateful heart for our church...

Many times when I sit down to read or write the Silver Lining, I think I should include a note of thanks to all who contribute each month. I appreciate the Silver Lining in my mailbox each month. Many times when I read it, it is just what I needed or it gives me something to think about or enlightens me.

I would also like to express my gratitude for some of the many things I sometimes take for granted each Sunday in our Apostolic Christian Churches across the land. I am very grateful for the established order of our Apostolic Churches and the Love of the brethren.

~The Word that gets preached every Sunday no matter what Apostolic Christian Church you are in...

We were blessed in Belvidere to have visiting ministers this month: Bro. Jim Butikofer (Iowa City, IA) and his family and Bro. Mike

Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL) and his family. We appreciate you all coming to visit our church and hope some blessings went home with you. It is wonderful to be able to hear the Word preached every Sunday and Wednesday evening. It is certainly something that is constant and the Word does not change.

~The Sunday School classes that happen every Sunday wherever you are and the Brothers and Sisters that teach...

Vacation Bible School took place this month for the children. The younger students were busy doing World Relief projects and the older children spent a night camping. Many spiritual lessons were learned, and the children enjoyed the fellowship of each other. We appreciate the teachers and all who put forth the effort to help out, the parents who bring the children and the children for participating.

~The fellowship...

We gathered for a wedding shower for Adam and Tina Sauder on a Sunday afternoon. We are grateful to meet Adam's family and look forward to them coming to visit and fellowship often.

We also have had the opportunity to gather and fellowship with the high school graduates at their homes. Ryan Jepson (Bro. Jim and Sis. Carlene) and Aubrey Schock (Bro. Ted and Sis. Heidi) have graduated from high school. We apologize for being late with reporting our graduates, as soon they will be starting college. May they allow the Lord to direct their footsteps in this next chapter of their lives.

~The singing...

What a wonderful way to worship the Lord by singing praises unto His Holy name, and so many times they are a sermon in themselves. We use singing in Sunday School many times to help the children learn, and it re-

ally is no different for adults. Our monthly hymn sings at the rest home always bring joy to the singer and the listener.

As the world changes daily around us and life is always at a fast pace, may we remember the Lord and the Word of the Lord changes not. While we are on earth, may we be about our Father's business, and may we appreciate the things that are constant in our faith.

ILLINOIS BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL Heidi Rinkenberger Jacki Masters

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

Ecclesiastes 3:1

Through times of joy and sadness two things must remain constant: our faith, and continuous praise of our Almighty Creator.

We want to extend our love and sympathy to our dear Sis. Joy Blunier in the loss of her father, Bro. Homer Blunier (Sis. Virginia, Forrest, IL).

We rejoice with two couples who expanded their families through adoption this month.

Charis Leigh was born in South Korea, May 19, 2009, and was adopted by Bro. Ben and Sis. Kristy Luginbuhl on June 11. Big brothers are Cade and Cole. Grandparents are Bro. Ray and Sis. Carol Luginbuhl (Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Bill and Sis. Kathy Stoller (Princeville, IL).

On June 28, Bro. Kory and Sis. Megan Kaeb brought home daughter, Sunn Mikayla Rui Kaeb, born January 4, 2008, in China. She was welcomed home by her new siblings, Mya, Simon, Jonah and Sean. Grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Patsy Kaeb (Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Gary and Sis. Marla Ringger (Gridley, IL).

We also rejoice at the birth of Alexander James who arrived July 2. First-time parents are Bro. Jimmy and Sis. Abi Huber. Grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Jean Huber (Peoria, IL) and Bro. Phil and Sis. Cindy Witzig (Morton, IL).

Paisley Joy Kieser was welcomed into the world by Bro. Tater and Sis. Haley Kieser on July 9. Grandparents are Bro. David and Sis. Wilma Kieser and Bro. Doug and Sis. Gerry Kruse (Morton, IL).

Sis. Casey Nussbaum and Bro. Tyler Zimmerman united their lives together in one with Christ on June 27. Loving parents are Bro. Wayne and Sis. Nancy Zimmerman (Forrest, IL) and Bro. Jay and Sis. Ann Nussbaum. Ministers visiting us that day were Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Sis. Jane, Lamont-Gridley, KS) and Bro. Paul Zimmerman (Sis. Loretta, Forrest, IL).

Retired Elder Bro. Everett and Sis. Bev Hari celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on July 3. We are so thankful for their many years of love and service to our congregation.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD **Phil and Donna Nenadov**

“Teach me to do thy will; for thou art my God: thy spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness.”

Psalms 143:10

Bro. Steve and Sis. Betsy Endress welcomed their firstborn child. Lexi Rae was born on July 28 and is the new granddaughter of Bro. Larry and Sis. Becky Endress and Bro. Roger and Sis. June Schultz (Oakville). Trent William was born to Thomas and Crystal Joos. Grandparents are Bro. Robert and Sis. Becky Joos and Stan and Jean Ogden of Morton, IL. May the Lord be the center part of the

lives of these dear couples as they raise their children in the fear of Him.

July 4 was the wedding day for Bro. Phil Endress (Bro. Larry and Sis. Becky) and Sis. Beth Christ (Bro. Kurt and Sis. Connie, Princeville). May the Lord bless this dear couple as they begin their walk together in Him.

Our visiting ministers this month were Bros. Clark Stoller (Sis. Cindy, Gridley) and Greg Rassi (Sis. Carla, Chicago). We are thankful for the Word of Life and the brothers who exhort us in it each Sunday and Wednesday evening.

We will miss our dear Bro. Andrew Klumpp (Bro. Dave and Sis. Barb) as he relocates to Iowa with his job. May the Lord continue to guide and keep him in his new place in life. We welcome Sis. Chelli Stoller (Gridley) who is working and staying in our area for a while.

Kurt Wagenbach (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Sara) suffered an accident and had to be hospitalized. We pray that he can make a full recovery very soon.

God be with you 'til we meet again.

ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN **Jackie Eisenmann**

During the month of July, our congregation spent our Wednesday evenings studying the book of I Thessalonians. It was such a blessing to study an entire book together with our Brothers and Sisters. Paul's words are still so applicable to us today, as the “Living Word” always is. “Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.” (I Thess. 5:21).

“Rejoice evermore.” (I Thess. 5:16). We are truly rejoicing with our Sis. Natalie Martin as her engagement to Bro. Alan Zimmerman (Morton, IL) was announced! Sis. Natalie is the daughter of Bro. Dave and Sis. Jean Martin (Elgin, IL) and Bro. Alan is the son of Bro. Doug and Sis. Jane

Zimmerman (Morton). We look forward to their October 10 wedding.

“Pray without ceasing.” (I Thess. 5:17). Along with rejoicing comes a need for prayer. We rejoice with Bro. Tom and Sis. Sarah Fehr on the birth of their first child, Trace Thomas. Trace was born with some heart complications which required surgery and he is still currently in the hospital. We have been so prayerful for this family and baby Trace during the difficult times they have faced, but we are thankful he is doing well, and hopefully they will get to bring Trace home soon.

“In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.” (I Thess 5:18). We are so thankful for two new converts we have here in Champaign: Leah Waibel (Bro. Brian and Sis. Wendy) and Chris Aranda. We are so thankful they have given their lives to God and are trusting in the shed blood of Jesus Christ. We will continue to lift them up in prayer with thankful hearts!

“And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.”

I Thess. 5:23-24

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO **Rachel Meyer**

Greetings from Chicago. We were blessed with many visiting ministers this past month. We thank the following Brothers for sharing God's Word with us during our Vacation Bible School week: Scott Wegman (Taylor, MO), Matthew Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL), Wayne Leman (Roanoke, IL), and Garry Bucher (Valparaiso, IN). Also visiting during the month were Bro. Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL), and Elder Bros.

John Jackson (Bay City, MI), and Ron Messner (Washington, IL).

We extend our love and sympathy to Bro. Ben Funk upon the loss of his father, Bro. Virgil (Bud) Funk, from Congerville, IL. We pray Bro. Ben will feel our prayers.

Our friends, Jay and Mallory Nicholas, are awaiting baptism. Tentative plans are for testimonies and baptisms at Bluffton North Church on August 28-29. We give our love and support to this dear couple. We are blessed to have them assembling with us.

June 21-24 was our Vacation Bible School week. The theme was, "Steps in Service - Lessons from Nehemiah". The ministering brothers listed above blessed us through taking the time to teach many valuable lessons. They included, "Seeking God's Will Through Prayer" (Nehemiah 1:1-2:5); "Doing God's Will/Executing the Plan" (Nehemiah 2:6 - 3:32); "Experiencing Opposition" (Nehemiah 4 and 6); "Completing the Task/Rededicating Our Lives to God" (Nehemiah 5:7-13).

We thank the VBS committee for their dedication and time put into the planning of the week along with everyone else involved in any way. God is good.

When I was growing up, there was a saying posted in my home - "Seven Days Without Prayer Makes One Weak." How true this is. Satan has used the busyness of my life this summer to weaken my prayer life. Maybe you, too, have experienced this. Praise God we can take care of the situation right now. Kneel in prayer. God will meet us there.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

Vickie Maul

Marilyn Maul

Our prayers are with Bro. Nathan and Sis. Denise Walder as he has been

given the responsibility of ministering the Word of God. May God always be near to them and bless them and their family in the labor that lies ahead. We thank Elder Bros. Rick Plattner (Fairbury) and Dan Kilgus (Remington) who were with us to assist in this work.

Our hospital patients this month were Sis. Vi Greiner and Sis. Gladys Knapp. We are thankful they are both home and recovering well.

Our annual all church picnic was held on a beautiful Sunday afternoon at the park. It is always a blessing for young and old to gather together for each can be an inspiration to the other.

"...The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel."

Mark 1:15

We are thankful for new converts. Heidi Waldbeser (Bro. Mark and Sis. Janie), Joel Kaeb (Bro. Max and Sis. Beth), Tyler Eisenmann (Bro. Steve and Sis. Cheryl), Walter and Matthew Laubscher (Bro. Walt and Sis. Sylvia) 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.

Bro. Wayne and Sis. Gloria Laubscher welcomed a new grandson. Trace Thomas was born to Bro. Tom and Sis. Sarah Fehr (Champaign).

We are thankful to have Bro. Josh and Sis. Tina Walder and their family back to our congregation from Congerville. We pray God will bless them as they establish a new home here.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

Holly Zobrist

On the weekend of July 10, our

congregation was blessed to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of Evan Zimmerman (Bro. Ben and Sis. Kathy) and Bryce Wieland (Bro. Nate and Sis. Suzanne). It is such a blessing to hear the testimony of a soul that is truly converted.

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

II Corinthians 5:17

Bro. Virgil Funk (Sis. Shirley) passed from this earthly life this month. Our prayers are with his wife and children which include, Sis. Susan, Ruth, Bro. Roger (Sis. Bonnie), Connie Hasty, Bro. Mark, Sis. Miriam Kath (Doug), Sis. Sarah Gerber (Bro. Larry), Bro. James, and Bro. Ben.

Also finishing this earthly race was Bro. Ed Steffen Jr. (Sis. Mary). Once again, our hearts go out to his wife and children which include Lonnie (Susan), Yvonne Kamp (Mike), Bro. Mark (Sis. Joan), Kent (Sis. Beth), and Jane Studebaker (Ken). May the Lord be near to these families and strengthen them during this time of loss.

We were blessed with a number of visiting ministers. They include Bro. Mark Rufener (Sis. Julie, Mansfield), Bro. Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha), Elder Bro. Steve Martin (Sis. Vicki, Eureka), Bro. Mark Schmidgall (Sis. Lisa, Eureka), Bro. Dale Stoller (Sis. Sandy, Fairbury), Bro. Tim Zimmerman (Sis. Barb, Lamont-Gridley), Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi (Sis. Becky, Lamar), and Bro. John Baumgartner (Sis. Lori, Bern).

Note of Thanks:

We want to thank everyone for all the prayers, cards, gifts, flowers and kind words extended to us and Sis.

Wendy due to our dear son Bro. Henry's illness and passing. The Lord has and will help us through this life on earth without him.

Those who love the Lord never see each other for the last time.

We also rejoice that his son, Tanner Henry Wettstein, was born on June 14. Praying that the Lord will shield and keep us all under His wing.

Bro. Dennis, Sis. Emily, Sis. Wendy, Reuben, Sis. Amber, Joel, Dale, Carmen, Kara, Breanna, Stuart, and Sis. Donna Wettstein

ILLINOIS, ELGIN

Amy Gasser

Miriam Gasser

While in Elgin for a family reunion, Bro. Mark Zimmerman (Eureka, IL) ministered both Sunday morning and afternoon. We appreciated the servant heart with which he brought forth the truth of the Gospel.

On July 11, Sis. Natalie Martin's engagement to Bro. Alan Zimmerman (Morton, IL) was announced. Natalie's parents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Jean Martin and Alan's are Bro. Doug and Sis. Janie. May God's blessings be on this couple as they plan for a future together.

Three new Sunday School teachers were selected to begin their terms in August: Bro. Morris Young (Sis. Pat), Bro. Roger Weiss (Sis. Karen), and Sis. Leann Schambach. We thank Bro. Dave Stieglitz (Sis. Paige) and Sis. Karen Weiss for their years of service.

Two families recently lost a dear brother-in-law and uncle. On June 20, retired Elder Bro. Charles Sauder (Tremont, IL) went to his heavenly rest. His wife, Sis. Miriam, was a sister of Sis. Mary Gasser. Retired ministering Bro. Willis Wiegand (Goodfield, IL) passed away on July 10. His wife, Sis. Betty, is a sister of

Bro. John Steffen (Sis. Wava) and Sis. Judy Klopfenstein (Bro. Dick). May the Comforter provide for each saddened heart.

Bro. Dick and Sis. Judy were unable to attend Bro. Willis' funeral, because Bro. Dick had a splenectomy a few days before. Though the surgery went well, some complications were cause for much prayer. Bro. Dick rapidly improved and is looking forward to completing his recovery at home.

May compassionate care and the Lord's healing hand be felt by others who have met with accident and injury. Sis. Jeanne Schambach (Bro. Bob) broke her arm during a fall, and Bro. Mo Young (Sis. Pat) broke two vertebrae and hurt his heel in a fall from a building. He is hospitalized in Rockford.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

Dee Baer

Jodi Blunier

Bro. Art and Sis. Carol Anliker welcomed a grandson, David Ray, born to Aaron and Angie Anliker.

Bro. Jonathan Stoller (Bro. Bill and Sis. Sue) and Sis. Sheila Blunier (Bro. Ted and Sis. Donna) made solemn wedding vows. Rachel Wiegand (Dale and Sis. Freidora) and Kaiser Milo (Romy and Emma) of Cypress, CA, also promised lifelong faithfulness to each other. What God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.

Bro. Todd Fehr (Bro. Ken and Sis. Sandy) and Sis. Kandi Carr (Glen and Sis. Becky Bauman) have felt God's leading in announcing their engagement. God best knows the way as He blends hearts and lives together.

Prayers for those hospitalized have included Bro. Merle Rocke (Sis. Bev), Sis. Clara Lou Blunier, and Bro. Lester Martin (Sis. Ruth).

Sis. Phyllis Leman (Bro. Scott) was saddened in the death of her fa-

ther, Bro. Willis Wiegand (Sis. Betty), of Goodfield. He leaves a brother, Bro. Elton (Sis. Loretta), and three sisters, Sis. Elizabeth Blunier, Sis. Norma Hangartner (Bro. Roy) and Sis. Charlene Schumacher (Bro. Bob), from our Eureka congregation. Sis. Ida Mae Rocke (Bro. Eldon) said a sad farewell to her brother, Bro. Ed Steffen (Sis. Mary), of Congerville.

A song was ceased when scarce begun when Tyler Jonathan Stoller was laid to rest. Bro. Jonathan and Sis. Jena grieve their loss as well as grandparents, Bro. Jim and Sis. Janet Stoller and Bro. Dan and Sis. Diane Fehr. "God is ne'er mistaken."

We appreciate the labors of visiting ministers, Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi (Lamar, MO), Bro. Paul Kilgus (Fairbury), Bro. Craig Martin (Princeville) and Bro. Don Manz (Junction, OH).

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

Angela Herr

Kay Steffen

Send, Lord, Thy holy teaching to us in humble preaching, yet in the Spirit's power...

Zion's Harp #207, vs. 4

Our congregation has recently felt directed to place another brother into the ministry. We extend our prayerful support to Bro. Ned Bahler (Sis. Anna) who has been called to serve as a minister in our congregation. We are thankful for God's presence and direction and we continue to lift Bro. Ned and Sis. Anna up in prayer as he preaches God's Word. Elder Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL) was with us on June 30 to assist our Elder Bro. Rick Plattner in this work.

June 27 was our annual Sunday School Picnic which marks the end of the Sunday School term. We would like to thank Bro. Mark Hartman (Sis. Judy), Bro. Ned Bahler (Sis.

Anna), Sis. Anna Schmidgall (Bro. Bill), and Sis. Anna Bahler (Bro. Ned) for their years of service in our Sunday School and pray that God will bless them for their labors of love. We give our support to Bro. Clint Steffen (Sis. Jenny), Bro. Matthew Kaisner (Sis. Jodi), Sis. Cinda Fehr (Bro. Ivan), Sis. Tami Bahler (Bro. Neil), and Sis. Angela Herr who have been called to teach our children in Sunday School.

What glorious state, to be a lamb of
Jesus,
to feel the faithful Shepherd's loving
grace.
In all the earth there is no higher
standing
than this - to follow in the Saviour's
ways...
Zion's Harp #16, vs. 1

We rejoice with Sis. Abby Rinkenberger (Bro. Doug and Sis. Beth), Sis. Candice Steidinger (Bro. Randy and Sis. Dawn), Sis. Heidi Fehr (Bro. Randall and Sis. Janis) and Sis. Karla Steidinger (Bro. Martin and Sis. Trish) and welcome them as our new sisters-in-faith! We heard their testimonies and witnessed their baptisms the weekend of July 17-18. Our prayers are with them as they continue their walk with the Lord. We thank Elder Bro. Ben Walder (Congerville, IL) and Elder Bro. Tom Stock (Cissna Park, IL) for assisting our Elder Bro. Rick Plattner throughout the weekend.

Other visiting ministers serving our congregation this month were Bro. Jerry Wagenbach (Oakville, IA), Bro. Paul Schmidgall (Morris, MN), Bro. Dan Moser (Elgin, IL), Bro. Nathan Walder (Cissna Park, IL), Bro. Arlen Leman (Forrest, IL), and Bro. John Grimm (Columbus, OH). We thank each of these brothers for sharing God's Word with us and pray that He will richly bless them.

Our prayers are with Sis. Laura

Knapp in the loss of her brother, Bro. Victor Knochel (Sis. Elinor) of Bay City, MI, who passed away on June 19. We also extend our sympathy to Sis. Lucille Steffen as her sister, Anna Marie Gudeman of Cissna Park, passed away on July 22.

Several in our congregation have recently undergone surgery, including Sis. Lucille Steffen, Sis. Martha Fehr, Ron Slagel (Sis. June), and Bro. Ray Slagel (Sis. Gladys). Bro. Ralph Bahler (Sis. Jeannette) and Sis. Amy Hartman (Bro. Grant) also spent time in the hospital. May God heal and provide for each one.

ILLINOIS, FORREST
Lynn Dotterer
Lisa Aberle

On July 9, Bro. Brian Ricketts passed from life to eternity. We want to remember his family in this time of mourning as they make the adjustments to live without their loved one. He leaves behind his wife, Sis. Marie, and their children, Sis. Emily, Sis. Laura, Philip, Matthew, Megan, Justin and Timothy. Also mourning are his parents, Bro. Nick and Sis. Jean Ricketts, and his siblings: Bro. Allen Ricketts (Sis. Alisa); Amy Shackley (Mark, Navarre, FL); Sis. Julie Blunier (Bro. Greg, Roanoke, IL); Sarah Steffen (Aaron, Cropsey, IL); and Kevin Ricketts (Forrest, IL).

Bro. Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL) ministered to us this month. We appreciate his willingness to serve us again.

Stuart Kilgus (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Denise) has begun his repentance. We wish him God's grace and nearness.

Bro. Leland Kuntz (Sis. Marge), Rollie Mueller (Bro. Ron and Sis. Vicki), Sis. Sally Schaffer (Bro. John) and Sis. Edna Wiegand were all under the care of physicians this month.

On July 13, Judaea Rose joined the

family of Bro. Buck and Sis. Taunia Henry. Samaria, Josiah, Isaiah and Nehemiah also welcome her home. Her grandparents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Elaine Witzig (Eureka, IL) and Reginald and Edith Henry (Hudson, IL).

Note of Thanks:

Our precious and loving husband, father and grandfather, Bro. Homer Blunier, has gone to be with the Lord. We want to express our heartfelt gratitude and thanks to every one for your prayers, love, kindness, visits, cards, memorial gifts and thoughtfulness. We cherish and thank you all and wish you God's blessings.

Sis. Virginia Blunier and family

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD
Kayla Wiegand
Donna Wyss

“Haste and seek your soul's salvation...”

Zion's Harp #52

We had very blessed Father's Day weekend as three dear souls gave their testimonies of how God has worked in their lives and then were able to witness their baptisms. We rejoice and are thankful for Bro. Jake Rokey (Bro. Ben and Sis. Shelley), Bro. Nathan Bauman (Bro. Andy and Sis. Rita), and Sis. Abby Bauman (Bro. Ben and Sis. Marge).

Thanks be to God for our counseling Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley), Elder Bro. Ben Walder (Sis. Juanita, Congerville), Bros. Tom Leman (Sis. Marlene, Denver, CO), and Mark Wettstein (Sis. Karen, Lacrosse, IN) for being a part of our special weekend.

Keith Grimm (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Ruth) and Perri Hartman (Bro. Jim and Sis. Ree, Congerville) have announced their engagement. Their

wedding date is June 5, 2011. May God be with them as they plan for their future together.

Sunday, June 28, was an all church picnic and the last day of Sunday School until September. Many thanks be to all the teachers for teaching our precious youth God's truths. May you all be blessed for your time and effort.

Sis. Wilma Knapp lost her sister, Sis. Viola M. Kybertz from Wolcott, IN; and Bro. Delton Whitaker's (Sis. Nancy) brother, Maurice (Nancy) Whitaker, passed away. Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to all of them.

The birth of a new baby is such a miracle! Nadia Renee became the sister of Katherine and the daughter of Bro. Randy and Sis. Roxy Blunier. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Art and Sis. Pam Wiegand and Bro. Roger and Sis. Wendy Blunier (Eureka).

May God bless you, Bro. Tim Drayer (Sis. Gwen, Bluffton North, IN), for ministering unto us.

On July 13, "Precious Memories" was one of the songs sung at the funeral of our dear retired minister, Bro. Willis Wiegand. Our prayers and sympathy are with his precious wife, Sis. Betty; and their children, Bros. and Sisters Roy and Jan, Wayne and Rosemary, Art and Pam, Joe and Myra, Dwight and Deb, Scott and Phyllis Leman (Eureka, IL), Jeff and Ruth Grimm; 27 grandchildren, and 41 great-grandchildren. Thanks be to God for retired Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Sis. Sandy, Eureka) who had the service. Proverbs 4:1-9 was shared with us and it was a gentle reminder of a father's wisdom. Also, Phil. 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

Notes of Thanks:

I would like thank everyone that visited me in the hospital and the nursing home, while I was recovering from my accident. Thank you for the

many cards that I received and for the prayers that were sent up to Heaven on my behalf. May God bless you all.

Bro. Wilbur Heinold

I wish to thank our Church family for their prayers, cards, and food following my surgery. May our God richly bless you for acts of kindness.

Sis. Vermeda Freidinger

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY Perry A. Klopfenstein

As I grow older I am more prone to reading obituaries. I read about the memory of a deceased person that "she had an enormous capacity to forgive." I thought that was a wonderful epitaph — and something very special for which to be remembered.

It is sad to report the death of Bro. Richard L. Kiefer, Sr., 77, who passed away on July 10 from Parkinson's Disease. He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Sis. Louise Mae. Also surviving are Bros. Richard Kiefer, Jr., Jay Kiefer, and Phil Kiefer, all of Gridley; one daughter, Julie Kohlhase, Green Bay, WI; ten grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Bro. "Dick" was a kindly presence among the brethren, and his cordial demeanor will be missed. May God comfort his widow, and other survivors.

We enjoyed the preaching of several visiting ministers: Bro. Glen Funk (Wichita, KS), Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Alan Schambach (Remington, IN), Bro. Jeff Waibel (Leo, IN), and Elder Bro. Tim Funk (Peoria). Bro. Bill Schick (Magdalena, Mexico) spoke here on a Wednesday evening.

We are thankful for recent baptisms: Bro. Jacob Schlipf, and Sisters Kaleigh Schlipf and Samantha Brown. We wish them God's grace during their lifetime in living for God.

Darci Poppins is recovering from surgery.

We offer our sympathies to the Funk family over the passing of their father, Virgil "Bud" Funk, of the Congerville congregation; also to Bro. Bill and Sis. Val Funk over the death of Marion Funk, his sister.

Several were either voted in or assigned to new jobs: Sunday school teachers, Bros. Alan Miller, Paul Gramm, Jaron Schlipf, McLane Steidinger, Seth Campbell, and Sis. Beth Steidinger. Trustee, Bro. Mike Stoller. Song leaders, Bro. Roger Wiegand and Bro. John Hill. Fellowship Hall Trustees, Bro. Mike and Sis. Candace Dohman; and for Sunrise Manor Board, Bro. Sean Cornell.

ILLINOIS, MORTON Annette Tanner Julie Bahr

We were richly blessed by messages brought to us by visiting ministers: Bro. Daron Price (Sis. Monica, Milford); Bro. John Rowell (Sis. Nelda, Burlington, IA); Bro. Scott Schafer (Sis. Gigi, South Bend); Bro. Wayne Leman (Sis. Julie, Roanoke); and Bro. Daren Metz (Sis. Rita, Gridley) who gave our Family Worship topic "Spiritual Maturity".

The Lord worked in the lives of Bro. Alan Zimmerman and Sis. Natalie Martin (Champaign), drawing them together. The announcement of their engagement was made known July 11. Bro. Alan is the son of Bro. Doug and Sis. Jane Zimmerman. Sis. Natalie is the daughter of Bro. Dave and Sis. Jean Martin (Elgin, IL).

Our Morton church family wishes to extend a warm welcome to Bro. Daniel and Megan Martin, along with son Abram, as they are making Morton their new church home.

We rejoice with and welcome Sis. Jessa Stoller (Bro. Todd and Sis.

Marcy) and Courtney Kaiser (Bro. Allen and Sis. Brenda) as our Sisters in Christ, as they testified to do the will of the Father in Heaven.

Congratulations to first-time grandparents, Bro. Phil and Sis. Cindi Witzig, who are thankful for baby boy, Alexander James, born to Bro. Jimmy and Sis. Abi Huber on July 1. Bro. Jim and Sis. Jean Huber (Peoria) are paternal grandparents.

On June 29, baby Abraham "Abe" John entered the home of Bro. Lee and Sis. Shalome, Mycah, Sariah, and Sydni Hoffman. Bro. John and Sis. Cheryl Knobloch and Bro. Merle and Sis. Elsie Eisenmann (Bloomington) are the thankful grandparents.

Tim and Jodi Wagenbach welcomed baby girl, Piper Julianna, on July 7. Big sister Lola, along with grandparents, Bro. Randy and Sis. Jane Schick and Bro. Si and Sis. LaVonne Wagenbach (Tremont), also welcome baby girl Piper.

Nick and Sara Armstrong along with Aspen and Morgan welcomed baby boy Mason Robert on July 16. Grandparents are Todd and Sis. Kathryn Grimm and Brad and Sandy Armstrong.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to the family of Sis. Marian Funk who passed away July 24. The mother of Sis. Marian is our dear Sis. Violette Funk. Surviving siblings are her brothers, Bro. William and Bro. Glen Funk, and sisters, Sherrill Smith, Gail Williams and Jane Atuk.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA **Pam Fritzenmeier**

Our church family enjoyed the annual Sunday School picnic at the Fellowship Hall June 27. It is a blessing to fellowship and to see the youth enjoy the games.

We thank Bro. Matt Feucht for giving us a report on Skylines and are prompted to remember the residents

and staff in our daily prayers.

A new family to serve Christ was established on July 11, when Bro. Jimmy Sutter and Sis. Rachel Streitmatter were united in holy marriage. Their parents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Kris Sutter (Taylor) and Bro. Doug and Sis. Cindy Streitmatter. Elder Bro. Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan) and Bro. Kim Sutter (Sis. Vonette), both from Taylor, preached the Word on their special day. God's blessings to Bro. Jimmy and Sis. Rachel and Presley as they serve the Lord in Taylor.

We welcomed three precious souls into the Body of Christ on July 18, after hearing their testimonies of faith the evening before. They include Aubrey and Andrea Leuthold (Bro. Steve and Sis. Lois), and Brett Hoerr (Bro. Carle and Sis. Debby). Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke) and Bro. Dewayne Dill (Sis. LaRae, Minneapolis) proclaimed the Word on this special day.

Our thanks to the other ministers who visited us this last month, for their labors on behalf of the Gospel. They are Bro. Mike Thomas (Sis. Claudia, Valparaiso) and Bro. Bill Schick (Sis. Joan, Magdalena).

It is always a joy to hear of an engagement! Sis. Jodi Kieser (Bro. Mark and Sis. Cathy) was announced to Bro. Fred Leman of Denver (Dennis and Sis. Karen, Roanoke) on July 18.

Our sympathy is extended to two families in our congregation who recently saw their loved ones end their earthly journey and attain their heavenly goal. Bro. Homer (Sis. Virginia) Blunier, Forrest, passed away June 23. He is the father of Sis. Gail (Bro. Marv) Hodel.

On July 8, Hazel Logsdon, passed away. She is the mother of Sis. Tina (Bro. Fred) Christ.

Bro. Tim and Sis. Joan Reinhard and family are here on furlough from Haiti, and Bro. Jonathan and Sis.

Bere Aupperle are serving in Magdalena. Please pray for Haiti and Mexico, for the people and the Lord's servants.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE **Linda Joos** **Connie Christ**

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

Ecclesiastes 3:1

"Love, of all gifts, is the greatest which the Spirit does bestow." (Zion's Harp #37) We rejoice with Sis. Beth Christ and Bro. Phil Endress (Bradford, IL) as they were united in Holy Matrimony on July 4. Their parents are Bro. Kurt and Sis. Connie Christ and Bro. Larry and Sis. Becky Endress (Bradford, IL). We wish them God's blessings as they begin their life as one in the Lord.

We are thankful for our visiting ministers this month. They are Bros. John Steiner (Oakville, IA), Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL), John Hartman, (Fairbury, IL), Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL), Gary Endress (Bradford, IL), Greg Stoller (Forrest, IL), and Ken Schneider (Remington, IN). May God richly bless each brother who is a willing servant.

We have also had loss of loved ones and a time of grieving for our congregation. Sis. Tina Christ's (Bro. Fred) mother, Hazel Logsdon, passed from this life into eternity on July 8. We are so thankful for God's mercy that Hazel could confess her need of a Savior and find grace to repent and find peace in her last days on this earth. May God be with this dear family as Hazel made her home with Bro. Fred and Sis. Tina, and there will be an empty place in their home.

Harry King (late Sis. Virginia

King) passed away on July 15. Our prayers are with his loved ones as they feel this pain of parting on this earth. They include his daughter, Sandra (Greg) Martin of Chillicothe, and a daughter-in-law, Marla Woertz of Altona, as well as numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

We are so thankful when God grants grace for loved ones, old and young, to express their need to repent and begin their walk with the Lord. We rejoice that Richard Stahl has confessed this need as well as Brianna Streitmatter (Bro. David and Sis. Crystal). May God grant much grace to these dear souls as well as all of our converts as they seek Him with all their heart.

There have been several of our congregation who have been hospitalized for surgery and are in need of our prayers for recovery. They include Bro. Ray (Sis. Betty) Wagenbach, Sis. Mary (Bro. Bruce) Stoller, Lee Streitmatter, and Mary (Ron) Satzler. Also, Richard Stahl has moved from the hospital to the Peoria Skylines Home.

We also have several families rejoicing over the addition of a beloved little one in their families. Bro. Bob and Sis. Mary Herrmann welcomed Shiloh Daniel on June 27. Robert Michael and Gabe are thrilled to be big brothers. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Howard and Sis. Mary Ann Herrmann and Dennis and Sis. Karen Lemman (Roanoke, IL). Bro. Rod and Sis. Cathy Stahl added Kenna Grace to their family on July 4. Little Kenna was born prematurely, and is doing well but remains hospitalized. Anxiously awaiting her arrival home from the hospital are her siblings, Kelsie, Kendall, Kristi, Kaylie, Kourtney, Kami, Kassie, and Kenzie. Kenna's grandparents are Bro. Lyle and Sis. Betty Stahl and Jan Cable of Arizona. Bro. Jared and Sis. Julie Hanson welcomed little Wyatt Alan

into their hearts and home on July 7. Emily is an excited big sister. Bro. Bill and Sis. Karen Ringger (Bradford, IL) and Steve and Miriam Hanson are happy grandparents.

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

**Jamie Hodel
Judith Sauder**

Matthew 9:13: "...for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." Our congregation rejoices with Abby Moser (Bro. Greg and Sis. Sharlene), Bradley Moser (Bro. Todd and Sis. Kathy), and Emma Fischer (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Debbie) who have begun seeking the Lord in repentance.

On Sunday, June 20, our senior breakfast was held. Then, on Sunday, June 27, our annual Sunday School Picnic was held, bringing another year of Sunday school to an end. We are thankful to our teachers who are so diligent in bringing forth the Word to our students.

We rejoice with Dennis and Sis. Karen Lemman in the birth of another grandchild. Shiloh Daniel Herrmann was born to Bro. Robert and Sis. Mary Herrmann (Princeville) on June 27. He is welcomed home by older brothers, Michael and Gabriel. His paternal grandparents are Bro. Howard and Sis. Mary Ann Herrmann (Princeville).

Onward, Christian soldiers,
marching as to war,
with the cross of Jesus
going on before...

Gospel Hymns # 365

Our Roanoke congregation hosted the Fort Sam Reunion the weekend of July 10. We are thankful for each of these brothers who gave service to our country. On Sunday, July 11, Bro. Jed Rocke (Goodfield) shared the Word with us, and reflected on the

importance of being a Christian soldier.

Our sympathy is extended to those in our congregation who have lost loved ones in the recent months. On July 14, Earl Steffen died. He is a father-in-law to MaryJane (Dan) Steffen. Sis. Pearl Lemman bid farewell to her brother, Bro. Homer Blunier (Sis. Virginia), of Forrest on June 23.

Sunday, July 4, was the wedding day of Bro. Tyler Schick (Peoria) (Bro. Bill and Sis. Joan Schick, Magdalena) and Sis. Sara Maher (Bro. Dan and Sis. Kim). Our visiting ministers this day were Bro. Erik Givens (Princeville) and Bro. Bill Schick (Magdalena).

Genesis 2:18: "And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him." On Sunday, July 18, the engagement of Bro. Frederick Lemman (Denver) (Dennis and Sis. Karen) and Sis. Jodi Kieser (Bro. Mark and Sis. Cathy Kieser) of Peoria was announced.

Our congregation continues to lift up Sis. Margaret (Bro. Gene) Fehr. We pray she can feel the peace of God amidst her earthly struggles.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

**Teresa Rowell
Janice Sauder**

We were blessed with many visitors this past month, and would like to again thank the Brothers who were willing to minister the Word of Life. They are: Bros. Ken Dietz (Bradford, IL), Akihiro Ito (Shioda, Japan), Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO), Jeff Bahler (Wolcott, IN), and Glen Steiner (Winthrop, MN). Also retired Elder Bros. Marvin Lemman (Bradford, IL), Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN) and Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL), and Bro. Ed. Fritz (Washington, IL) who came and

participated in the funeral service for our dear retired Elder Bro. Charles Sauder. May God bless each one.

“Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.”

II Corinthians 1:3-4

Our whole church body has keenly felt the loss of Bro. Charles (the late Sis. Miriam), but we were encouraged to look to “the God of all comfort” in this time of sorrow. We want to extend sympathy to Bro. Chuck’s family: Two sons, Bro. John (Sis. Misty) Sauder and Bro. Jim (Sis. Rachel) Sauder, of Tremont; one daughter, Sis. Carrie (Bro. Akihiro) Ito, of Tokyo, Japan; fourteen grandchildren; and two siblings from our Tremont congregation, Sis. June (Bro. David T.) Koch and Bro. Howard (Sis. Janice) Sauder.

There are others from our congregation who have also lost loved ones recently, and we pray that God will continue to comfort their hearts. Sis. Julie (Bro. Greg) Blunier, at the death of her brother, Bro. Brian (Sis. Marie) Ricketts of Forrest, IL; Sis. Jenni (Bro. Matt) Sauder, at the death of her grandpa, Bro. Willis Wiegand of Goodfield, IL; and many in the Wagenbach family, at the passing of their brother-in-law, Bro. Virgil (Sis. Shirley) Funk of Congerville, IL.

Always a joy to report are the birth of precious little babies. Bro. John and Sis. Heather Rassi have another son, Seth Arnold. Also welcoming him home are Jacob, Grace, Elisabeth, Silas and Hannah, along with grandparents, Bro. Todd and Sis. Beth Stuber and Bro. Curt and Sis.

Kathy Rassi. Bro. Elmon and Sis. Janice Koch are grandparents again with the birth of Naomi Rose, daughter of Andy and Marie Williams. Naomi’s big sister is Hannah. Bro. Si and Sis. LaVonne Wagenbach have another granddaughter, Piper Julianna, daughter of Tim and Jodi Wagenbach. Piper’s big sister is Lola. May the Lord give wisdom to all of these parents in the coming months and years, so these little ones can learn to live for Him someday!

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON
Linda Folkerts
Nancy Leman

“Love of all gifts is the greatest, which the Spirit does bestow...”
Zion’s Harp #37

On July 4, Bro. Tyler Schick and Sis. Sara Maher were united in holy matrimony. Their parents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Joan Schick (Magdalena) and Bro. Dan and Sis. Kim Maher (Roanoke). Also joining hearts and hands in marriage on July 18 were Bro. Kyle Hangartner and Sis. Melissa Kaeb, whose parents are Bro. Mark and Sis. Karen Hangartner and Bro. Harvey and Sis. Judy Kaeb (Gridley). We rejoice with these couples and wish them God’s blessings.

Our visiting ministers this past month include Bro. Bill Schick (Sis. Joan, Magdalena), Bro. Brian Huber (Sis. Jacki, Francesville), Bro. Jim Meiss (Sis. Candy, Phoenix), and Bro. Matt Gerber (Sis. Ruth, Ixtlan). We thank these brothers for their willingness to serve and share God’s Word with us.

Our entire church enjoyed a blessed day of food and fellowship as we had our annual Sunday School picnic on July 11.

We extend our sincere sympathy to Sis. Sophie Huber in the passing of her brother, John Jivan, and to Bro.

Rich Dreeste in the passing of his sister, Antoinette Petrov.

“...That ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.”

Romans 12:1

We are thankful that Bro. Grant Heinold of Morton (Bro. Dan and Sis. Carol) is doing well after following God’s direction in donating a kidney to Sis. Pat Rufener of Rittman. May both Bro. Grant and Sis. Pat feel the blessing of this special work of God in their lives.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON
Grace Gerber
Kim Meyer

“Is it time for you, O ye, to dwell in your cieled houses, and this house lie waste? Now therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways. Ye have sown much, and bring in little; ye eat, but ye have not enough; ye drink, but ye are not filled with drink; ye clothe you, but there is none warm; and he that earneth wages earneth wages to put it into a bag with holes. Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways. Go up to the mountain, and bring wood, and build the house; and I will take pleasure in it, and I will be glorified, saith the LORD. Ye looked for much, and, lo, it came to little; and when ye brought it home, I did blow upon it. Why? saith the LORD of hosts. Because of mine house that is waste, and ye run every man unto his own house.”

Haggai 1:4-9

Summer is in full swing and if your calendar looks anything like ours, it’s packed! What a sermon perfect for this time of year, “Consider your ways!” It’s way too easy to get caught

up in how to juggle all the events and not truly consider what or why we are doing what we are doing. Corinthians says it so plainly, "All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but all things edify not." Why do we (I) always find ourselves so busy, but yet rarely do anything about it? God clearly spoke to the Israelites and told them to take care of His house, not just their own. Does our calendar contribute to God's house or to our own? Is it time we did a little housecleaning to our calendars?

As I consider the ways of the Bluffton congregation over the past month, it's surprisingly calm! But what took place clearly points to a sovereign, loving God who is still working in men's hearts. We rejoice with the angels in heaven over the eight converts we had this month. Yes! Eight! Praise the Lord! Tiffani Tonner (Bro. Tim and Sis. Susie), Matt Kaehr (Bro. Sam and Sis. Connie), and Darin Fiechter (Elder Bro. Lynn and Sis. Ronda) started their walk with the Lord one Wednesday night. Taylor and Cordin Gerber (Bro. Ked and Sis. Joanne), two sisters, began their walk with Christ together along with Jeff Fiechter (Bro. Mike and Sis. Shari) and Autumn Gerber (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Rhonda). Aaron Steffen (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Jeanne) and Alyssa Bertsch (Bro. Tom and Sis. Brenda) also gave their hearts to the Lord. May they all be blessed with abundant grace.

God gave us little pieces of heaven in the births of three little ones. Ezra was born to Adam and April ElNaggar and would be the grandson of Bro. Dale and Sis. Joni Schwartz. Bro. Klint and Sis. Sarah Fiechter welcomed Otto into their family. His grandparents would be Bro. Mark and Sis. Barb Gerber and Bro. Jim and Sis. Jenny Fiechter. Jacob was born to Bro. Brent and Sis. Allison

Kaehr. His grandparents would be Bro. Lyle and Sis. Connie Kaehr and Bro. Alan and Sis. Sheryl Ringger.

The Lord gives and He also takes away as we had two deaths this past month. Bro. Melvin Fiechter (Sis. Doris) and Sis. Earlene Steffen went home to heaven. We prayerfully support their families in their loss, yet rejoice at their homecoming.

We were blessed to hear from Bro. Mike Hohulin (Sis. Faye) visiting from our Ft. Lauderdale congregation.

As far as marriages go, we experienced each exciting stage of the marriage journey. Bro. Eric and Sis. Marcia Steffen announced the engagement of their daughter, Sis. Haley, to Bro. Ryan Neuenchwander (Bro. Tom and Sis. Sue). Then we were able to witness the vows of Bro. Kevin Gerber (Bro. Greg and Sis. Joan) and Sis. Sadie Steffen (Bro. Duane and Sis. Karen). And what better way for these two young couples than to consider the ways of a faithful couple who have served the Lord and each other for 50 years! Bro. Harold and Sis. Violet Meyer celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

When we consider our ways, we must also consider our treasures. What concerns us? What do we fight for? I say this because sometimes prayer requests bring to light that I am focused more on my house rather than the Lord's house and that my treasures need to be put back in heaven. The battle against cancer is never easy; when we hear of a young family that faces cancer, it makes it even worse. Bro. Zach Bertsch (Sis. Jenny) has been diagnosed with stage IV cancer in his liver, lungs, and possibly other places. We lift this young family up in prayer as it makes each of us consider our own ways and what we so often and easily take for granted. God's ways are truly higher

than our ways and His thoughts than our thoughts. What a comfort to know that we walk every new journey hand in hand with our Savior.

Speaking of traveling, our prayers go with Victoria Wolf (Bro. Kent and Sis. Viola) as she visits Hungary until the beginning of October. And as a church body, we should all be prayerful for the Elders that will be traveling to Rittman, OH, in August for the Conference.

May our prayer be that we would consider our ways and be purposed in focusing on the treasures of heaven which would cause others to consider their ways and seek Him.

"Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

Matt. 6:19-21

**INDIANA
BLUFFTON NORTH
Jessie Longenberger
Amy Moser**

"If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away."

II Cor. 5:17

Bluffton North joined Bluffton in another blessed year of Bible School. This year's theme was "In His Hands". Both students and teachers enjoyed the two weeks spent together learning more about Jesus.

Bro. Ed and Sis. Rhonda Maller rejoice in the addition of another grandchild. Bro. Ben and Sis. Jaime Maller (Philadelphia, PA) are the parents of Savannah Grace. She was born on

June 2 and joins Brant, Luke, Ty, Breanna, and Kylie at home. Brother Taylor is resting in the arms of Jesus. We wish them God's richest blessings.

Jonathan Gerber has made a beginning in repentance. He is the son of Bro. Rod and Sis. Rochelle Gerber. We continue in prayer as he starts his new walk with the Lord.

Bro. Jeff and Sis. Val Leman have announced the engagement of their son, Bro. Brad, to Sis. Charla Zollinger of Leo. We wish them all God's blessings as they prepare for their special day and for their lives together.

We lift Sis. Ann (Bro. Brent) Gerber up in prayer as she mourns the loss of her mother, Mary Schulz. May the family feel God's grace during this time.

We were blessed to have had Bro. Ben Manz (Sis. Carolyn) in Bluffton on June 27. We are very thankful to them for visiting and sharing God's Word.

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE

**Mildred Clauss
Jacki Huber**

For many I think summer is a favorite season! The world around us is covered with flowers and foliage that have come alive and is flourishing. There are vacation opportunities when we see new places and do new things. Setting aside our daily routines for a time seems to revive our spirits and renew our enthusiasm for life and for our work. But we must never "set aside" the routine of spending time in God's Word and to bear the fruit of the Spirit is always "in season"!

It was a blessing to have Bro. Steve Stieglitz (Sis. Jane, Leo, IN) to share the Word with us on July 4.

Bro. Matthew Gerber and his wife, Sis. Ruth, were recently here visiting

relatives. Bro. Matthew gave an interesting report on the Lord's work being done in Ixtlan, Mexico. We thank these brothers and the Lord for their inspiring messages.

Bro. Luke Gudeman has been led of the Spirit to spend one year overseas doing mission work with LifeSong for Orphans in Zambia, Africa. He plans to leave for Africa in September. We pray "the Lord will bless him and keep him" (Nu. 6:24-26)

Recent hospital patients were Bro. Gene Huber, Sr., Bro. Otto Wuethrich (Sis. Donna) and Bro. Harvey Gutwein (Sis. Joan). We are grateful to say they are all at home and are making a good recovery.

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Sandra Price (Sarasota, FL) and to her family here in our congregation upon the death of her husband, Bro. Glenn Price Jr. Only the Lord can comfort and heal our grieving hearts and we pray He will be very near to this dear family.

INDIANA INDIANAPOLIS

**Gail Bradford
Penny Schroder**

Our Sunday worship services have been moved to Heritage Christian School, 6401 E. 75th St., Indianapolis 46250. The school is located a short distance from our church home, which is being remodeled. Singing begins at 9:10 a.m. with the first service scheduled from 9:20 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. Following this is a 45-minute fellowship and refreshment time, then a shortened second service, which ends at 11:45 a.m. Sunday school takes place during the first service. The children have noted that their classes are held in an actual school!

If you plan to visit Indianapolis church on a Sunday or a Wednesday night, please contact one of our ministers, who can provide more details.

Our temporary location has not prevented visitors from coming! We recently welcomed a large group of young men from Bluffton returning from a camping trip.

We said farewell to Jason and Lauren Aeschliman (Bro. Burt and Sis. Karen Aeschliman) who have relocated to New Jersey for Jason's work.

Lon and Sarah Vogt shared their experiences in India with us. Sarah is the daughter of Bro. Ron and Sis. Edie Bollier.

A reception was held for two recently married young couples: Mark and Grace Zeller and Michael and Hannah Zeller (Bro. Eric (dec'd) and Sis. Ginny Zeller).

Sis. Stephanie Standish (Bro. Ben) is recovering from a planned surgery. We pray she will soon be restored to good health. Lee Hege, father of Sis. Lisa Stieglitz (Bro. Greg), is undergoing treatment for pancreatic cancer. We pray for Lee and his family as they love and support him during this challenging time. These events help us realize how much we need our Savior, whether in joy or in pain.

We thank ministering Bro. Tony Manz (Sis. Denise, Junction, OH) who preached recently. We always appreciate hearing the Word of God spoken in a consistent, faithful manner.

INDIANA, LACROSSE

**Bethany Johnson
Julie Rocke**

The summer months certainly fly by, don't they? It reminds us that time is fleeting and that our lives are as a vapor. Let's remember to use our time wisely.

The end of June brought about changes as to who our Sunday School teachers are. A special thank you to those who have finished their term

and are leaving Sunday School, and a special prayer to those who are just coming in. Someone reminded me recently that Sunday School teachers may finish a term, but they are never truly done teaching. For many years down the road, those students will continue to see your example and how you handle situations and remember what you have taught. May God bless each of you and grant you wisdom to help teach our children the way of truth and salvation.

Our Sunday School takes a month of vacation each year and this year it was moved to July to accommodate the schedules of the older students as they have several Sunday School events in August and September.

A number of the congregation gathered July 8 to do some clean-up and landscape work around the church. They trimmed bushes and trees, edged and weeded flowerbeds and refreshed the mulch all around. It looks so nice! Thank you to everyone who was able to come help!

Our visiting ministers this month were Bros. Ron Palitto (Sis. Lynell, Akron, OH) and Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi, Alto, MI). Heartfelt thanks to both of them for sharing the Gospel with us.

Sis. Ruth Heinold and Sis. Carolyn Levy spent some time in the hospital or had testing this month. Our prayers are with both of them. We so enjoy seeing them when they are able to be with us at church.

May you each be blessed as the summer winds down and let us remember to pray that God would "teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom." (Ps. 90:12).

INDIANA, LEO Elizabeth Schrenk Abigail Schrenk

"And besides this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience, and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly love; and to brotherly love charity."

II Peter 1:5-7

Our past month has been jam packed with lots of activities. VBS was a highlight for the Sunday school kids. They learned about developing Godly character. It seems these are the lessons we continue to learn throughout life. Once one aspect is learned, God brings on a whole new level of lessons to perfect us.

God has led Bro. Marc and Sis. Diann Grim back to their home church in Bloomington. These five years they've spent with us while at Gateway have gone fast and we will miss them and their four boys, Isaac, Micah, Wesley, and Tyler. We pray that God will continue to work through them in their new home.

We praise God that two young men have decided to follow Jesus. Kendall Rager (Bro. Kent and Sis. Jill) and Cameron Stieglitz (Elder Bro. Lynn and Sis. Leonda) have acknowledged their need for a Saviour. We're praying God will strengthen their new faith and cause them to become more strongly rooted in Him.

We've enjoyed having several visiting ministers over the last couple Sundays. God bless Bros. Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North), Justin Koch (Sis. Marcia, Washington), and Greg Stieglitz (Sis. Lisa, Indianapolis) for sharing the Word with us.

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

So far this had been a real for sure mid-west summer with the weather being hot and wet and now hot and dry. We also had two powerful wind storms which caused us to have one night of Bible School by candle light. A few nights later, another storm hit just as our church picnic was coming to a close. Everyone arrived home safely with no major damage either night. How can anyone say there is no God or Creator? Surely He showed His might and power and then His love and mercy by protecting us. How true this is in our personal storms in life when He wraps His loving and merciful arms around us and carries us through the difficult times.

We are fortunate to live in an area of parks and lakes. This brings many summer visitors who find it worthwhile to worship and fellowship with us. Among them were two ministers, Bro. Ben and Sis. Carolyn Manz (Junction) and Bro. Dale and Sis. Rachel Zeltwanger (Morris). We appreciated their messages and have enjoyed all of our visiting brethren and friends. God bless all of you.

On July 4, Bro. Randy Beer told us of the engagement of his father, Bro. Nelson to Sis. Minnie Sinn (Latty). We welcome Sis. Minnie and pray that God will be near her and guide her as she takes on her responsibilities as a minister's wife, mother and grandmother. We wish them God's richest blessings.

We are so thankful our Sisters, Ruth Beer, Mayedean Lehman, and Kate Price, who haven't been able to be in church for some time, are now back in church with big smiles for us

even though they still have their health issues.

It brought sadness to our hearts when we heard Bro. Glenn Price Jr. (Sarasota) passed away. Even though he and Sis. Sandy lived in Sarasota most of their married life, Bro. Jr. was born and raised in Milford and was very active in our church as a young brother. Our deepest sympathy and love go out to his dear wife and daughters as well as to his parents, Bro. Glenn and Sis. Kate, his brother, Bro. Phil (Sis. Janie), his sister, Sis. Sue (Bro. Bob) Cockburn, along with nieces, nephews and cousins of our congregation. He is also survived by a brother Stan and a sister Kathy.

INDIANA, REMINGTON

**Jenni Honegger
Marcella Tyler**

We were thankful and excited to once again share a meal and fellowship together as a congregation at our annual Sunday School picnic this past month. We heard each class recite from the Scriptures and it was so comforting to know that each student is being encouraged to hide God's Word in their hearts! We thank each teacher for their efforts and sacrifices made for their classes throughout the year.

We ask for your prayers for Sis. Cheri Frantz, Sis. Jenna Kilgus (Elder Bro. Dan), Bro. Greg Schneider (Sis. Heidi), and Joe Frantz as they were all hospital patients this past month.

We also ask for your prayers for Bro. Rolyce Scheitlin (Sis. Lori) after the death of his brother, Clair Scheitlin, of West Burlington, IA. Our prayers will be with the whole Scheitlin family after this sudden and unexpected loss of a dear loved one.

We also want to be reminded to be prayerful for the upcoming Brotherhood Conference in Rittman, OH.

May each one who speaks be guided by the Spirit of Truth, and each one who hears (whether in person or later on via a recording) be strengthened and encouraged to persevere in our Christian walk.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

**Rachel Langhofer
Joshua Martinez**

Tell me the story of Jesus,
Write on my heart every word.
Tell me the story most precious,
Sweetest that ever was heard.

The Children's Harp #84

We're so thankful for the inspired messages shared by Bro. Herbie Knochel (Sis. Laurie, Phoenix) and Bro. Wayne Leman (Sis. Julie, Roanoke) this month. May the Lord bless the visiting brethren who willingly and lovingly lend themselves as servants from the pulpit.

"We took sweet counsel together,
and walked unto the house of God in company."

Psalm 55:14

We are so thankful for the many visitors we had this past month. We were especially blessed this month to have about 40 young people from the Princeville/Bradford Young Group with us. We shared a wonderful evening of fellowship at Bro. Marty and Sis. Lavilla's home and a blessed time of worship on Sunday.

On July 18, we were blessed to have Bro. Denny Mott give a short talk about the Crown Financial Seminars. His talk on wise stewardship brought to mind the fact that "the silver is mine, and the gold is mine saith the LORD of hosts." (Haggai 2:8)

We happily celebrated Independence Day throughout our blessed nation this month. We pray that all our loved ones may someday declare their

independence from sin and their dependence on our Heavenly Father and His only begotten Son. Our lives are sweeter and brighter because our Lord and Savior shed His blood on our behalf so we could all be free from spiritual tyranny.

"Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift."

II Corinthians 9:15

INDIANA, VALPARAISO

Marguerite Hoerr

Yesterday morning I was standing at my kitchen sink, drawing water for coffee when I noticed a half grown cardinal sitting on the railing outside. It acted uncertain of its surroundings. Suddenly the father cardinal appeared and went to our sunflower seed feeder; getting a seed in his mouth he flew to his youngster. He sat on the rail beside the fledgling and he fed the seed from his bill to its bill. I held very still and while I stood there I saw him do that fifteen times. It lasted long enough that I could call Bob to the window so he could see it, too. After receiving what was needed, the youngster spread his wings and flew away. I had to think if every father of each of the families in our world could be so responsible for his young ones, our young people would certainly have fewer problems. Instead they would grow up confident of their responsibility and would make the world a much better place. Jesus would have made a parable out of this sighting.

In Matthew 10:30-31, He reminds us that "the very hairs of your head are numbered, fear not therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows" and Psalm 84:3 "Yea the sparrow hath found a house and the swallow a nest for herself where she may lay her young." We marvel at the perfect world God created where even

the birds of the air are responsible enough to build nests, and to take care of their families.

On the last Sunday of June, Bro. Ross Feller invited many of his Purdue friends to worship with us. It was a very special time for Valpo church to have so many young voices raised in song during our services and with the young brothers offering prayers. Before afternoon services began there were more people singing up front than were in the pews and it lifted our hearts with thoughts of Heaven, and the blessings of young Christians.

Bro. Merle Bucher, after surgery and recuperation, has been able to attend church with Sis. Leona and worship with us again. How we thank God for his healing mercies!

Bro. Rollie Meiss is being taken care of in his home by his son Dale and wife, Sherry. Also helping with his care are Stacia and Anthony, his two grandchildren. Sis. Jo's health made it necessary for her to go to Valparaiso Care and Rehabilitation Center. Her address is 606 Wall St., Valparaiso, IN 46383. We wish her well and pray for her. Jo was the first person I met when we first worshipped in Valparaiso. She sat with me and welcomed me warmly. I'll never forget the warmth of that feeling as long as I live.

We are happy for Bro. Ross Feller, as he has left this area to work at Gateway Woods in Leo, IN. He's been such a light to our congregation and we know what an asset he'll be to them. We wish him happiness as he serves the Lord in that capacity.

We look forward to the last Saturday in July to hear the testimony of our dear friend, Jon Pratt. As we stated before, Jon has been a blessing to each of us in the Valpo church. We continue prayers of thanks for the fact that he found our church and wants to become a part of it.

Don't forget that we love visitors in Valpo. We are just 2 3/4 miles South of U.S. 30 on State Rd. 49. The welcome mat is out for you.

**INDIANA
WEST LAFAYETTE
Beth Tonner
Katie Widmer**

It has been a month of growth here in West Lafayette. We celebrate with Bro. Nathan and Sis. Kelli Pritts on the birth of their son, Austin Reece.

Our church continued to grow with the baptism of three souls; Bro. Luke Wahl, Sis. Serena Wahl, and Bro. Clayton Walder. Many thanks to Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus for assisting our Elder Bro. Curt Frank with the service.

Our congratulations to our Sis. Kim Furrer on her engagement to Bro. Ryan Schleman of Wolcott, IN.

We have many reasons to rejoice. "But let all those that put their trust in thee rejoice, because thou defendest them: let them also that love thy name be joyful in thee." (Psalm 5:11)

**INDIANA, WOLCOTT
Donita Edelman
Lynell Blume**

Our congregation enjoyed an afternoon of food and fellowship as we celebrated the Sunday School Children at our annual Sunday School Picnic. It is always a special blessing to gather together as a church family. As the children are promoted up to the next class it seems quite appropriate to extend a sincere thank you to the Brothers and Sisters who so willingly spend each Sunday teaching our youth about the truths in God's Word.

On June 27, we heard the engagement of Bro. Ryan Schleman and Sis. Kim Furrer of West Lafayette (Bro. Irv and Sis. Shirley, Wolcott). On

July 18, Sis. Michelle Furrer (Bro. Troy and Sis. Lisa) and Bro. Tyler Earney (Bro. Todd and Sis. Teresa), of Bluffton, IN, were announced for marriage. We wish both of these dear couples God's nearness and blessings as they prepare for their weddings and a lifetime of serving God together.

July 18 brought many visitors to our congregation as we witnessed the marriage vows of Sis. Maria Lehman (Bro. Greg and Sis. MaryBeth) and Bro. Jim McCormick of Alto, MI (Tim and Laurie). It is such a joy to witness a marriage in the Lord and know that when God is part of the threefold cord, it is not lightly broken. Our prayers are with Bro. Jim and Sis. Maria as they establish a Christian home with God as the head. We will miss Sis. Maria in Wolcott but know she will be welcomed in Alto.

We so appreciate the ministering brothers who stand before us each and every Sunday and preach the Word of God in its truth. We would like to thank all our ministers for lending of themselves in the service of the Lord. We especially want to thank the ministers that have visited us here in Wolcott this past month: Bro. Ron Isch (Sis. Jane, Lamont-Gridley, KS), our Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Remington) and Bro. Frank Sauder (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL).

**IOWA, BLOOMFIELD
Christy Wiegand**

Jesus took my heart, close in His embrace;
Made it strong and smiled upon me,
Saved me by His grace.
Zion's Harp #184

In the busyness of summer, may we take time out to reflect on our priorities in life and be joyful and thankful that we are saved by His grace.

On Father's Day, ministering Bro. Brad Funk (Sis. Laura, Garden Grove) was with us. We thank him for his service in preaching the Word of God to us.

The last Sunday of June is always our last day of Sunday school for the year. We then gathered that evening for our annual Sunday school picnic. We want to thank all the teachers for their time and efforts with the students. We especially want to thank the two teachers that have completed their Sunday school teaching terms: Bro. Paul Teubel and Sis. Mary Maibach. May you each be blessed for your efforts.

We are thankful for the safe arrival of Aaron Paul Helton. Baby Aaron's parents are Amy and Andy. Grandparents are Bro. Paul and Sis. Charlotte Teubel and great-grandma Sis. Wilma Teubel.

Jesus knows thy sorrow, Knows thine every care;
Knows thy deep contrition, hears thy feeblest prayers;
Do not fear to trust Him, tell him all thy grief;
Cast on Him thy burden, He will bring relief.
Hymns of Zion #74

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Lynn Townsend and her family in the passing of her brother, Clair Scheitlin, from the Burlington area.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

**Marilyn Anderson
Karla Gerst**

Christian greetings from our Burlington congregation!

We have been blessed with visiting ministers the past month. Bro. Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL) and Bro. Tom Lanz (Oakville) brought the inspired Word to us. We thank them for their labors.

We extend our love and sympathy to Sis. Charity Scheitlin in the sud-

den passing of her son, Clair, on June 26. May God comfort the family.

IOWA, ELGIN

Maria Roche

I failed to mention our graduating senior, Ashley Callahan (Jeff and Tammy). We congratulate Ashley on his milestone and pray that she will look to God to guide her along life's path.

"But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; and that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."

II Timothy 3:14-15

This month we held our annual Sunday School picnic. It was a blessed evening for all! We appreciate all of the children in our Sunday School, and it is our hope that, in God's time, each will seek out their soul's salvation.

Our Elder Bro. Wayne and Sis. Rose Grimm (West Bend, IA) were with us this month. We thank Bro. Wayne for his labors on Sunday and also for lovingly shepherding our small flock here in Elgin.

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE

Rhoda Plattner

We have once again enjoyed many visitors during the past month and we always appreciate those who take time to spend a Sunday worshipping with us. We extend a special thank you to those ministering brothers and their families who have visited during the last few weeks from Bern, KS; Bradford and Elgin, IL.

Corydon, IA, was the meeting place this month for the annual Bloomfield-Garden Grove picnic and

we are thankful that many from our congregation were able to travel to enjoy fellowship for the evening.

IOWA, IOWA CITY

Diana Butikofer

Bro. Bob and Sis. Barb Fehr were blessed with a new grandson on July 2 when Trace Thomas Fehr was born to Bro. Tom and Sis. Sarah Fehr (Champaign, IL). After undergoing heart surgery on July 14, Trace seems to be doing well and we pray for a swift and complete recovery.

We were blessed to hear the testimony and witness the vows and baptism of Bro. Jesse Snodgrass and Sis. Renae Snodgrass (son and daughter of Bro. Wayne and Sis. Becky) on July 10-11 and wish them God's grace on their journey ahead. We appreciate the efforts of Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Sis. Julie, Oakville, IA) with the provings, baptisms and sermons that weekend and the service of Bro. Dale Frank (Sis. Tina, Oakville, IA) a couple weeks earlier. We thank them and pray God's blessings on their willingness to serve the Lord by serving us.

IOWA, LESTER

**Polly Metzger
Gloria Moser**

"I am Jesus little lamb. Happy all day long I am.

He will keep me safe, I know. For I'm His little Lamb."

The Children's Harp #15

A precious baby boy, Kent Benjamin, was born on July 7 to Bro. Matt and Sis. Hana Hartter. He is a little brother to Dustin, Marissa, Elizabeth and Paul. Bro. Jerome and Sis. Gail Hartter and Tedd and Sis. Diane Larson are the happy grandparents. Perry and Jessica Mogler welcomed Leah Joy into their lives on June 22. She is receiving lots of love

and attention from her older siblings: Mallorie, Rier and Elise, and also her grandparents, Bro. Howard and Sis. Lolly Mogler. May God grant both of these families the wisdom to raise their precious little lambs.

Our hospital patients this past month included: Amy Martin (Durwin), Mitchell Bullerman (Lance and Janice), Dallas Knobloch (Amy) and Bro. Elmer Metzger (Sis. Mariann). We are thankful that all are home again and doing well.

Kelli Bajema (Bro. Rod and Sis. Twyla) and Bryce Kolander have announced their engagement. We wish them God's blessings and guidance as they prepare for a spring wedding.

Monica Wulf (Bro. Arnie and Sis. Myra) and Tomas` Romano were united in marriage on June 25. Our prayer is that God will bless them as they walk life's pathway together.

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

Philippians 4:7

Ethan and Trixie Metzger have found that precious peace and we certainly rejoice with them. May God continue to grant them the needed grace to live a sanctified life.

We are always appreciative when we have visiting ministers. They were: Bro. Clint Beyer (Sabetha, KS) and Bro. Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL). May God's blessings be upon them for their labors of love on our behalf.

IOWA, OAKVILLE **Sharla Wiegand**

We witnessed the wedding of Sis. Kelsey Lanz and Bro. Jason Banwart on June 20. Their parents are Bro. Tom and Sis. Mary Lanz and Bro. Kent and Sis. Beth Banwart (West

Bend, IA). We are thankful they will be living in this area as Bro. Jason has found employment here.

Along with many visitors, helping out on the pulpit were Elder Bro. Wayne Grimm and Bro. Kevin Banwart (West Bend, IA), Bro. Bruce Frank (Cissna Park, IL) and Bro. Phil Schulz (Burlington, IA).

We also want to thank visiting ministers, Bro. Darren Fehr (West Bend, IA) for coming on June 27 and Bro. Matt Steffen (Princeville, IL) on July 4.

IOWA, WEST BEND

Janet Fehr
Leona Fehr

June 20 was a blessed day with the marriage of Bro. Jason Banwart (Bro. Kent and Sis. Beth) and Sis. Kelsey Lanz (Bro. Tom and Sis. Mary) in Oakville, IA. We pray God's nearness in their lives as they live to serve Him together. On July 11, we were thankful to have Bro. Tom and Sis. Mary and family in West Bend for Bro. Jason and Sis. Kelsey's wedding reception here the evening before. We appreciated his willingness to share God's Word with us once again.

"Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him."

Proverbs 30:5

Bro. Dean Messner (Sis. Wanda, Winthrop, MN) spoke God's truth to us on July 4, and for this we were grateful.

Infirmities of the flesh extend to all ages. We had two little boys as surgical patients this month, Phillip Fehr (Bro. John and Sis. Wendy) and Benson Fehr (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Lonnie). Both boys have recovered quickly to the joy of their parents. Also spending time in the hospital were two dear elderly sisters-in-faith,

Sis. Joyce Banwart and Sis. Madeline Banwart. May God grant continued grace and strength for each daily need.

We are constantly reminded of the importance of preparing ourselves for the return of the Lord, whether it be the end of the world or the end of our life upon earth. Recently our Bro. Duane Schmidt bid farewell to a brother-in-law, Marvin Bruns (Winthrop, MN), and we extend our sympathy to the family.

JAPAN, SHIODA

Carrie Ito

We have been blessed with many visitors the last two months. For a small church, the fellowship is especially encouraging. A group of sisters from Central Illinois, Linda Hodel, Roseanne Stahl, Cyrena Baer, Emily Fehr, and Lori Banwart, came in May. Bro. Jason and Sis. Sue Kloter and their family visited in July on a return trip from Korea. Renae Baer is currently visiting Japan for about three months, spending time with the Kinsinger family. We pray God will bless her time here.

Thanks for the prayers and support through my father's (Bro. Charles Sauder) illness and passing. What a blessing we have to know the true and living God and have hope in Jesus name! My husband (Bro. Akihiro's) grandfather died recently and the Buddhist funeral was such a contrast to my father's funeral. The comforting message of hope and salvation contrasted with the unintelligible chanting, etc. We have much for which to be thankful, but also so much for which to pray...that more souls would come to know and serve the true and living God.

JAPAN, TOKYO **Marie Inoue**

Greetings of love from our church

to yours. As Sis. Jana mentioned, their family is spending the summer months in the U.S, and I will fill in the "news" for her. As you know, Sis. Jana's writing talents are special, so I have hard shoes to fill.

The first weekend in July was our yearly outing and overnight stay for our S.S. and youth. The two Furuya boys also came from Shioda church and made a wonderful addition. The students spent several hours playing in a mountain stream and later with water balloons, bubbles, and special ice cream cones. After that we all headed for the church in the Klaus' 15 seater van (with a few more packed in !!) singing S.S. songs all the way with "The Little Brown Church" being one of their favorites (sung in Japanese, of course)! After a curry rice supper, a special Bible lesson was held and futons were prepared.

On Sunday morning our Elder sat with the teenagers at the breakfast table. It was mentioned that two girls, Sis. Sarah and Sis. Hannah, had been baptized since last year's outing, and that one boy, Koutarou Furuya, has started repenting. When Koutarou was asked what was one thing that encouraged him to start this new life, he thought a bit, and said that last summer he was invited into the home of his very good friend, Caleb Klaus. After meals in the Klaus home there is prayer, devotions, and singing, and Koutarou enjoyed it so. This was very different from his home. For most of the children around this table these concepts of a Christian home are new and foreign, so it was a timely and impromptu message given by our Elder. We are still thanking God for the blessed weekend, and also thank the local brethren who gave effort and time to help with this event.

In the hospital for surgery and now at home is our Sis. Haruyo Onoda. She hopes to be able to come

to church soon again. Sisters Yoshiko and Urushino are both hospitalized at this time with Parkinson's related illnesses. They both appreciate our prayers.

We so enjoyed our visitors whom we were able to meet on a week day, Bro. Jason and Sis. Sue Kloter and four children from Rockville, CT. They stopped over in Japan after a visit to Korea, the birth place of their three adopted children. It was a blessing to meet and fellowship with them.

KANSAS, BERN
Sheri Edelman
Jill Meyer

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

Psalm 136

On July 11 we witnessed the uniting of Bro. Brian Edelman (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Linda) and Sis. Monica Strahm (Bro. Ed and Sis. Ramona) in holy matrimony. May God bless them as they now travel the path of life together!

We thank our visiting ministers this month. Bro. Tim Lehman (Sis. Amber, Taylor, MO), Bro. Jeff Bahr (Sis. Janice, Kiowa, KS) and Bro. Jerry Meeks (Sis. Christy, Sabetha, KS) all offered their labors on our behalf.

Our special friend, Fremond Meyer (Ruth), died on Friday, July 9. He and Ruth came to church every Sunday and always had a friendly smile and word to offer. We give our sincere sympathy to Ruth and all of their children and extended family.

Bro. Richard and Sis. Edie are happy to have another little baby girl in their family! Carla Jean was born on June 21. Big sister, Hannah, and grandma, Sis. Marilyn Fetter, are de-

lighted, too!

The annual Sunday School picnic was held on July 14. We thank our teachers for giving of their time to teach our children every week and for organizing the picnic! The children look forward to it every year!

July 16 was the special arrival of twins for Bro. Dominic and Sis. Jenny Meyer! Gideon and Gracyn are also welcomed home by Kenzie, Landon and Trinity. Grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Ada Plattner (Sabetha, KS) and Earl and Sis. Darlene Meyer. May God lead them with double the fun!

Bro. Trent and Sis. Rita Menold welcomed home Kami Rae on July 19. Big brothers, Braden and Cole, and big sister, Taylor, are happy to have another sibling to love! Grandparents are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Beth Hartter (Sabetha, KS) and Bro. Joe and Sis. Kathy Rokey.

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT
Martin Hohulin Sr.

While our Fort Scott church is relatively small, the town of Fort Scott has a population of about 10,000. The local high school is rather large as there is only one other school in the entire county. Fort Scott High School hosted its reunion in June. This event brought visitors from other churches to Fort Scott for the weekend. Among the guests was Nancy Kraft Sinn (Tom). She arrived in time to assist her mother, Sis. Wanda Kraft, who recently underwent a knee replacement. We wish Sis. Wanda a successful recovery.

Another visiting alumnus was Sis. Connie Miller Lehman, wife of Elder Bro. John Lehman from Bern, KS. Elder Bro. John is our Elder and we always welcome his visits. We did miss the opportunity to hear him preach because we had another visiting minister the same weekend. Bro. Ed

Sauder (Sis. Bonnie, Roanoke) blessed us with two encouraging sermons. We always look forward to their annual visit when they come to see Sis. Bonnie's nephew, Bro. Chris Wuthrich (Sis. Janelle), and their daughter, Abby. A potluck supper was held at the Wuthrich's house on Saturday evening so we all would have the opportunity to visit with Bro. Ed and Sis. Bonnie. After a delicious meal, we had a wonderful singing on their patio while the children had a great time flying kites.

We are in the torrid portion of our summer and have seen record high temperatures. Although it has been hot, we have been blessed with ten inches of rain which has kept the crops in very good condition. The Lord never ceases to provide for our needs.

On July 12, the tornado sirens sounded near our home. Four funnel clouds were observed, but only one touched down. When it was over, the only reported damage was a short swath of corn located less than a mile from where we live. We are grateful to the Lord for His protection. We received a call that evening from one of our ministers who was concerned about our safety. We are blessed to be in a congregation of such loving and caring people.

The heat wave broke for a short time, and Bro. Rick and Sis. Karen Kellenberger took advantage of the cooler weather to host a singing in their airplane hanger. Everyone enjoyed the fellowship and snacks afterward. In attendance were their children, Bro. Kent from Memphis, TN, and Sis. Robin Moser (Bro. Justin) from Altadena, CA, as well as their grandchildren. We always appreciate their love and generosity.

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

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

Psalms 119:105

The Sunday School held Bible School this month. The Wichita Sunday School joined us for a day of Bible learning, games, crafts, and a wiener roast!

We had the opportunity to share God's Word and praises at the rest home this month. What a great way to share God's message!

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

Elder Bro. Wayne Grimm (Sis. Rose, West Bend, IA) visited our congregation. We appreciate his willingness to bring forth the Word of Truth and pray that God will bless him for his labors.

Bro. Albert and Sis. Mara Jean Edelman are pleased with the addition of another granddaughter to their family circle. Chloe Marie was born to first-time parents, John and Tanya Mooney. May God grant them wisdom in raising their precious little one.

KANSAS, SABETHA **Carrie Grimm** **Sally Strahm**

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

Ecclesiastes 12:13

We are always thankful to have visiting ministers in our midst from Sunday to Sunday. Those visiting us this past month were Bro. Kent Getz

(Sis. Betty, Elgin, IA), Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen) and Bro. Brent Kellenberger (Sis. Beth) of Kansas City and Bro. Galen Rokey (Sis. Nancy, Bern, KS).

Our all church potluck picnic was held on July 2. It was a blessed evening of singing and fellowship.

We want to welcome Sis. Sheila Moser back home for a few weeks as she takes a break from her responsibilities in Haiti. We look forward in fellowshiping with her.

We welcome Sis. Joy, who is the bride of Bro. Art Kellenberger, to our Sabetha congregation. Their reception in Sabetha was on July 4.

Our sympathy goes to Bro. Velmer Meyer in the passing of his brother, Fremond Meyer (Ruth).

Our hospital patients this month were Bro. Carl Strahm and Sis. Marie Hartter (Bro. Virgil). May God grant each one of them healing and strength.

Maggie Rose arrived on July 14 to bless the home of Bro. Steven and Sis. Kelly Edelman. Siblings to welcome Maggie are Maddie, Ethan, Annie, Alpha and Emily. Grandparents are Eugene and Judy Edelman and Bro. Roger and Sis. Ilene Hartter.

Onward! Strive to reach the goal
Heaven's Fatherland!
Though the tempter grieves thy soul,
Jesus guides thy hand.
So, safely on:
After conflicts here shall end
We to glory will ascend
In this rejoice.

Christ Himself the pathway strode
With courageous tread,
Showing thee the heav'nly road.
Follow without dread!
O trust in Him!
He helps thee in all distress;
To be faithful unto death
Be thy sole aim!
Zion's Harp #92

KANSAS, WICHITA**Emma Miller**

Our Bro. Phil Bowers continues to battle health problems. With the help of many family members, he is able to be at home under the supervision of his twin, Sis. Ruth Long. Sis. Ruth works the night shift as a supervisor in one of the major Wichita hospitals. Please pray for her also to endure the path that she so willingly accepts.

We are happy to see Sis. Rose Reeves able to come to church again after being homebound following surgery. We missed her friendly smile but praise be to God, she is walking without pain. Also, Nicklaus Schrader is recovering from his surgery in early July.

The Kiowa Sunday School invited the Wichita Sunday School for a one day Bible School on a recent Saturday. This seems to be a good way for small churches to expand and form wholesome friendships.

After a short vacation, the Sunday School has resumed meeting during our morning worship time. Mid-week services have been held in the homes rather than at the church. The evening they came to my home, fourteen souls endured the hottest day of the year at that time and it is humbling to think how much they must have longed to stay home and cool off instead of driving 30 miles to give me an evening of fellowship. That has to be love.

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON**Barb Huber**

Greetings from Lexington, KY! We're humbled how each church takes their turn to travel many miles to come and share in the ministry of God's Holy Word here at Lexington. This past month we were blest to have the following ministers: Elder Bro. Ted Witzig (Sis. Cindy, Morton, IL), Elder Bro. Bruce Endress (Sis. Elizabeth, Bradford, IL), Bro. Randy

Beer (Sis. Deb, Milford, IN), and Bro. Erik Givens (Sis. Deb, Princeville, IL). May the Lord bless each of our dear Elders and ministers for their faithfulness to serve and share in the Lord's vineyard.

Jesus saith unto Him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." (John 14:6) We were reminded by Bro. Ted Witzig how everyone wants to go to heaven. But you must follow the directions. When trying to locate their motel the night before, they used the GPS to direct their way. It led them to the July 4th fireworks downtown Lexington. So they decided to look on a road map for the directions. They found their motel right away. We need to follow the right directions, the Bible, which is our road map to get to heaven.

Other churches which were represented and who blest our fellowship were: Elgin and Oakville, IA; Morton and Tremont, IL. We thank each of you who came and blest our Lord's day.

Summer vacation is coming to a close and teachers along with their students are returning to school. May we have a prayer upon our hearts to remember them as they face the challenges of the classroom and even peer pressures along the way. May the Lord bless, keep, and provide for each of their needs.

A hearty welcome is extended to anyone who may be in our area or traveling through to worship with us. You may contact Bro. Lester Huber (859) 745-2541. Church services are held at 3938 Becknerville Rd., Winchester, KY. Directions to the church are FROM LEXINGTON: I-75 exit #110(US 60), east about 6 miles to Road #1923 (Combs Ferry Road), right about 5 miles to Road #3371 (Becknerville Road), left approximately one block on the right. FROM WINCHESTER: Road #1958

(Bypass) south to Road #1927 (Colby Road), west about 3 miles to Road #3371 (Becknerville Road), left 2 miles on the left.

MEXICO, IXTLAN**Matt Gerber**

"Brethren, pray for us."

I Thess. 5:25

Paul's humble request to the Thessalonians was simple, yet profound. "Brethren, pray for us." Almost 2000 years later, we find ourselves needing to ask the same thing of you. This short verse reminds us of some very important truths. "Brethren"—reminds us we are brothers and sisters in Christ, knit together by a common faith in our Lord. "Pray"—reminds us we are not self-sufficient; we do not have within ourselves the strength or resources we need to accomplish God's will. "For us"—reminds us that one of the greatest ways we can serve and bless each other is to pray for each other. Thank you for the time you spend praying for us!

God has certainly been faithful as we finished our first school year. The children put on a special program with singing and a skit for their parents and invited guests from the community. The progress the children made this year helped establish credibility for the school, and we expect a larger enrollment this fall for first and second grade. Please pray that God would provide for our need for teachers and give us wisdom as we plan for the new school year (James 1:5-7). One of the teachers started a summer school for children from a poor neighborhood who are struggling in reading. About 20 kids of all ages have been coming!

We are very thankful for the brothers who came down this sum-

mer with a willing spirit to serve. Summer VBS is scheduled for the end of July in Ixtlan and for early August in Morelia and Barra Vieja. Please pray that God would prepare the hearts of the children and young teens, and enable us to faithfully “plant seeds” that could someday produce fruit (Is. 55:10-11).

Sis. Gloria Gonzalez has been serving for the past few months at an orphanage in Morelia. In her weeks off, she traveled to Barra Vieja along with a convert, Laura, to encourage a young woman named Angelica who recently started repenting. They also hope to organize activities that will encourage the youth there to follow Christ. Bro. Efrain and Bro. Mario, along with a convert, Alfredo, drove a van from Ixtlan to Barra Vieja that will be used for the work there.

God has given us a number of converts who need discipleship and nurture. Please pray that each of them could experience true repentance and faith, be genuinely converted by God’s grace, and humbly learn to die to self and follow Christ no matter what the cost (Matt. 16:23-27).

The new believers aren’t the only ones who need to grow. All of us do! Please pray for all the believers in Mexico that we could grow in our first love for our Savior, our brotherly love one for another, and our outreach love to all people (1 Thess. 3:12).

MEXICO, MAGDALENA **Jarrin Rabe**

“Así alumbre vuestra luz delante de los hombres, para que vean vuestras buenas obras, y glorifiquen a vuestro Padre que está en los cielos.”

Mateo 5:16

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good

works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”

Matthew 5:16

The kids are finally out of school and summer is in full swing down here in Mexico! We are enjoying the extra time we have with them by doing various activities; some of which include our summer school here on campus, swimming lessons, camp outs, the summer reading program, cooking classes, cook outs, the list goes on and on! We’re grateful for all the memories that we can make with the kids this summer.

We are also praising the Lord for the rain that He’s blessed us with in the last few days! We’ve been having quite a dry spell, so the rain has been welcomed by all – especially the kids when they get to play outside in it to cool down!

The third week of July we will have a group from Chicago, IL, join us here for a week of working in the summer heat. We know the Lord will bless them for their deeds of love.

On the 4th of July, Bro. Tyler Schick (Bro. Bill and Sis. Joan) was united in marriage to Sis. Sara Maher (Bro. Daniel and Sis. Kim) in Roanoke, IL. God provided in miraculous ways, and thankfully the whole Schick family – including the two children they are in the process of adopting – were able to cross the border and go to the wedding. When situations look the most impossible, they are perfect opportunities for God to show how big He is! What a Mighty God we serve!

We would ask that you please continue to pray for us in Magdalena. Please pray that as August approaches, the children and families from town would have a desire to come to our VBS and hear the good news of Jesus Christ, their Saviour.

“All nations whom thou hast

made shall come and worship before thee, O Lord; and shall glorify thy name.”

Psalms 86:9

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

Vacation Bible School was held the week of June 21-25. We were blessed with a time of spiritual growth for both the children and adults. The theme of the week was Joseph. Our guest speakers this year were Bro. Jesse Bedolla (Sis. Bonnie, Detroit, MI) and Bro. Gary Sinn (Sis. Paulette, Latty, OH). We thank them for their time and devotion in this work.

...like pilgrims we wonder
Until death takes our hand
And we start our journey
To God’s promised land,
A place where we’ll find
No suffering nor tears,
Where time is not counted
By days, months, or years...
And in this fair city
That God has prepared
Are unending joys
To be happily shared
With all of our loved ones
Who patiently wait
On death’s other side
To open “the gate”.

-Helen Steiner Rice

On July 8, God called dear Sis. Hermine Kaeb home to enter His eternal gate. In hope, we know Sis. Hermine’s faith and this gives us comfort “...having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better.” (Philippians 2:23). Yet our prayers are with her family, especial her children, Bro. Curt (Sis. Luanne) Kaeb and Mary (Bob) Singer. We have confidence in the comfort of the Holy Spirit through this time of adjustment in their lives.

Our congregation was blessed with the presence of ministering

brethren this month: Bro. Greg Lehman (Sis. MaryBeth, Wolcott, IN) and Bro. Craig Stickling (Sis. Jacqueline, Peoria, IL). We are grateful for their services.

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

Matthew 19:5

We are pleased to announce the marriage of Bro. Jim McCormick (Tim and Laurie) to Sis. Maria Lehman (Bro. Greg and Sis. MaryBeth) on July 18 in Wolcott, IN. We welcome Sis. Maria with open arms to our Alto congregation and wish them both God’s blessings and extend our prayers on their journey of marriage.

“Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.”

II Timothy 2:1-2

Through the leading of the Holy Spirit the congregation has sought out and proved the addition of a ministering brother. Bro. Nathan (Sis. Susan) Steffen and Bro. Matt (Sis. Shelli) Oesch have humbly accepted the call of service. As a body we lift these brothers and their families up in prayer. This responsibility is great and we trust God will supply their needs as well as our congregation.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY
Sarah Knochel
Janelle Ramseyer

Greetings of love in our Saviour’s name! We’ve been enjoying a beautiful summer here in mid-Michigan

and praise God for both the sunshine and rain we have received.

Vacation Bible School was held June 21-25. We were blessed to have Bro. Gary Maibach (Sis. Marianne, Smithville, OH) on Wednesday evening speak on “Serving God” and Bro. Herb Knochel (Sis. Laurie, Phoenix, AZ) speaking on “Serving Others”. Each day in Bible School the children learned of the importance of having a servant heart.

We’re also thankful that Bro. Jeff Waibel (Sis. Margo, Leo, IN) was able to minister to our congregation on June 27. May God richly reward Bro. Gary, Bro. Herb and Bro. Jeff for their willingness to be used for His service.

Sis. Marilyn Ruegsegger (Bro. Fred) spent time in the hospital recently and we’re thankful for healing on her behalf.

Our hearts were saddened to hear of the passing of Sis. Hermine Kaeb. Sis. Hermine spent the past several years living with her son, Bro. Curt (Sis. Luanne, Alto, MI), and daughter, May Singer (Bob, San Diego, CA). She had many relatives and close friends in our congregation and will be missed.

Our sympathy is also extended to Lyle and Sis. Marlene McNally in the passing of his brother-in-law, Ric Harbin.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT
Kay Rauhe
Manuela Denes

“Shew me thy ways, O Lord; teach me thy paths. Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day.”

Psalms 25:4-5

One of my special memories as a child was attending Vacation Bible

School. It was always a special week that made summers more memorable. This year’s theme in Detroit was about learning to prepare for our spiritual journey to Heaven. A special blessing was having Bro. Dan, Sis. Tami and baby Kaeb visiting from Magdalena, Mexico. They shared how they and others are helping the children there seek their spiritual journeys also! May God bless all who volunteered their time and took part during this week.

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Sis. Bonnie Popp’s only brother, Richard Popp (Carol). We celebrate our shared happy occasions but when the time for grieving comes, we find ourselves united in that grief. We pray that the Lord will give Sis. Bonnie and her family the strength and courage to deal with their loss.

Prayers for God’s healing strength go out to Sis. Vi (Bro. Jim) Barton, Sis. Krista (Bro. Andy) Wieland and Bro. Scott (Sis. Jamie) Bahr. Whether a hospital stay, illness, or surgery, we wish for them a speedy recovery and are thankful that they are all back home.

Congratulations and blessings for a successful future go to Laura Kujawa on her graduation from Wayne State University with a master’s degree in special education. Her parents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Darlene Kujawa.

“Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance.”

Matthew 3:8

What a joyful time to be able to announce the repentance of Autumn Gasser (Bro. Randy and Sis. Sue). We pray and hope that this time will be one of spiritual growth for her!

A warm welcome is extended to Bro. Ned Troxel (Bro. Tom and Sis. LuAnn) of LaCrosse, IN. He will be here with us for the summer as he

works in an internship through Chrysler.

It's always special to have visitors and we'd like to extend our thanks and appreciation to ministering brothers for coming and sharing the Word of God with us. Bro. Justin Koch (Sis. Marcia, Washington, IL), and Bro. Don Gudeman (Sis. Mary, LaCrosse, IN) worshipped with us on Sundays and Elder Bro. Ted Steffen was at Woodhaven for Tuesday night services.

This past weekend, many of us were gathered for an evening of praise and worship as the 22nd Annual Livonia Apostolic Christian Choir Benefit was held. We are so grateful for God's blessings and gifts to us and are continually amazed at His work in our Woodhaven Retirement Community. Thank you to all the volunteers and visitors who were here and helped make this day such a beautiful one!

A special prayer goes to those who will be attending the General Conference in Rittman, OH. May all who are there feel the Lord's presence as His work is done.

MINNESOTA MINNEAPOLIS

"The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;

To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn;

To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called

trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified."

Isaiah 61

On July 4, we celebrated Independence day and the freedoms that we have been blessed with in our country. Do we take this for granted? In the scripture we are reminded of the most important freedom. Freedom from sin and bondage that was paid by our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Are our hearts soft, and open to this freedom in Christ or is there something that keeps us in bondage. What holds one back from being free?

We are thankful for the brothers who shared the gospel over the last month: Bro. David Steffen (Sis. Linda, Elgin, IL) and Bro. Tom Troxel (Sis. LuAnn, LaCrosse).

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 Kim Feuchtenberger Susie Wulf

We were thankful to have the Word shared to us in truth and in power. Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi and Bro. Dan Moser willingly gave of themselves. May God be their rich Rewarder.

We are very thankful for the three new souls that stood in the waters of baptism and erected a covenant with our Lord and Savior. Namely they were Scott and his wife, Alyssa Wulf, and Kayla Feuchtenberger (Bro. Bob and Sis. Gwen).

"Suffer little children to come unto me and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of God." Our sympathy and prayers go out to Don-

ald Jr. and Tonia (Schmidgall) Judkins as they have laid their loving baby son, Trayton David Judkin, to rest. May the Lord grant them and their daughter, Nevaeh, strength and surety in the Lord's will.

Also experiencing a loss is Sis. Diane Kellenberger. Sis. Diane's mother, Genevieve Braun, passed away on June 29. May the Lord fill the void and be her guide and stay.

MINNESOTA MORRIS NORTH Lois Schmidgall Wanda Gramm

"On Christ the solid Rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand."

Seems that this hymn has become our "signature" hymn and what a joy it is to see and hear those little voices signing with praise in their hearts to the Lord. We have been reminded by so many of our ministering brethren to focus on that Rock, our Lord Jesus Christ, and He will provide. What a great heritage is ours.

We have been so blessed to have a number of Elder and ministering Brothers visit us. They are: Bro. Darren Fehr (Sis. Nora, West Bend, IA), Bro. Dale Zeltwanger (Sis. Rachel, Morris, MN), Bro. Craig Stickling (Sis. Jackie, Peoria, IL), Bro. Steve Baner (Sis. Donnalou, Gridley, IL), Bro. Brian Huber (Sis. Jackie, Francesville IN), Elder Bro. Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan, Taylor, MO), Elder Bro. Paul Messner (Sis. Jan, Winthrop, MN), Bro. Bill Schick (Sis. Joan, Magdalena, MX), and Bro. Ken Wuethrich (Sis. Lyn, Indianapolis, IN). Thank you, dear Brothers and wives, for giving yourselves in the service of our Lord. Our cups have been overflowing.

Our church has enjoyed having visitors from so many various congregations: West Bend, Peoria, Bloom-

ington, Francesville, Taylor, Tremont, Morris, Winthrop, Oakville, Sabetha, Minneapolis, Tucson, Indianapolis, Bastrop, Philadelphia, Roanoke, Gridley, Lester, and Magdalena. Thank you for fellowshiping with us.

“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.”

Ps. 46:1

We were saddened at the passing of little Trayton David Judkins. His parents are Tonia (Schmidgall) and Don Judkins. Trayton's grandparents are Bro. David and Sis. June Schmidgall. Trayton will be missed by our congregation as so many of us loved to hold him and love him. We look back now and realize that we were holding an angel. May God comfort this family, and may they feel our prayers and love for them.

The first Sunday of July, we went to sing to the residents of the nursing home, West Wing Village, in Morris. It is so heart warming to see faces of the elderly light up when the hymns that they knew were sung.

What a beautiful evening we enjoyed with our Elder Bro. Paul Messner (Sis. Jan) and Bro. Bill Schick (Sis. Joan) as we gathered at a local park for a potluck picnic. After the meal, the songbooks were passed out and we raised our voices in praise. As one Brother commented “I believe the angels were singing”. We have so much to look forward to! If this is a taste of heaven, why wouldn't we want to be there?

We pray for our Elder Brothers as they will be meeting at the annual Brotherhood Conference. Our love and prayers are with you.

Elder Bro. Kent Heimer encouraged us to “FINISH STRONG”.... and we pass that on to you. Let's bind up together, Brethren, and finish this race strong. There are greater joys

awaiting us, so let's keep encouraging each other to focus on Jesus and finish strong!

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP
Julie Schmidt
Lindsay Schmidt

My country 'tis of thee,
 Sweet land of liberty,
 Of thee I sing:
 Land where my fathers died,
 Land of the pilgrim's pride,
 From ev'ry mountain side
 Let freedom ring!

Tabernacle Hymns #351

July 4th is the day our country celebrates Independence Day from the ruling by an oppressive country. As we celebrated our country's freedom, let us be thankful to our forefathers that fought for our freedom to worship our God. Let us also be thankful that through God we have a freedom and independence that only His children can understand. Freedom from our sins which we have obtained through the blood of our Lord and Savior and the independence we have from Satan and his oppression.

“And great multitudes came unto him, having with them those that were lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, and cast them down at Jesus' feet; and he healed them.”

Matthew 15:30

We pray for Jesus' healing power for all those who have had physical or spiritual needs. We hope that Bro. Verl Schmidt (Sis. Jamie) will continue to feel His healing as he recovers from back surgery.

“The stranger did not lodge in the street: but I opened my doors to the traveller.”

Job 31:32

Our little church has been very thankful for the visitors we have had that have been passing through our area or those that have made Winthrop their destination. Our doors are wide open and we always welcome any visitors.

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY
Brittany Fehr

We were thankful to hear that our friend, Nicholas Smith (Ron Smith and Sis. Diane Smith, Kansas City), from Leo, IN, recently began his repentance. May God grant him much grace as he takes this important step in life.

MISSOURI, LAMAR
Dana Kellenberger
Rebecca Dotterer

Children are a precious gift from the Lord, and we rejoice with Bro. Kyle and Sis. Dana Kellenberger as their daughter, Marlie Hope, was born on June 24. Grandparents of the new baby are the late Bro. Orlan and Sis. Mary Kellenberger and Bob and Sis. Janice Stoller of our congregation. May the Lord grant them much grace and wisdom to raise her in His ways.

We were thankful to have visitors in our midst, including ministering Bro. Kevin Banwart (West Bend, IA).

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS
Kary Mangers

As I thought over July events, I kept thinking of summer and sunshine and my mind continually went to the chorus of the hymn, Sunshine in My Soul.

O there's sunshine, blessed sunshine,
 When the peaceful, happy moments
 roll;
 When Jesus shows His smiling face,
 There is sunshine in the soul.

Isn't this just so true for believers! Just thinking of Jesus' shining face can bring such a peace to our souls. As I continued to read through one of the verses to this song that says: "There is sunshine in my soul today, more glorious and bright than glows in any earthly sky, for Jesus is my Light", I had another thought occur to me. Even on the darkest of days, Jesus is our Light. When the struggles of life try to cloud our view, may we be able to focus on the Sonshine. The Bible is very clear that there will be heartache in this life. May we all continue to pray for the families who have had to say goodbye here on earth and for the daily struggles against sin we all face while Satan roams. Whatever season you are in life, remember Jesus brings sunshine to our souls.

Special thanks to Bro. Rustin and Sis. Amanda Meister (West Lafayette) and Bro. Gene and Sis. Verna Lehman (Wolcott) for their service to the Lord and to our congregation and also to the many of you who visited this past month.

Our church will not be having services on September 12, 2010, as we celebrate the marriage of Bro. Matthew Schrenk and Sis. Alicia Steffen in Taylor. Technology can be such a blessing if you are traveling, as several of our churches have services available on their website and many by phone.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Kathy Eberhardt

As summer comes to an end and our children go back to school, we pray that they can be lights and examples by allowing Jesus to shine in their lives.

We wish God's blessings on Bro. Joe and Sis. Lindsey Knochel with the arrival of their first child. Little Adaline Jae was born on June 24. Grandparents are Bro. Eric and Sis.

Penny Knochel and Bro. Elwood and Sis. Trudie Yackley.

On July 11, in Peoria, IL, Bro. Jimmy and Sis. Rachel Sutter were united in marriage. May God ever be the center of their marriage.

Our Taylor July Bible Study is entitled "Protect, Direct, and Perfect your path through the power of wisdom." Our first week's topic was the value of wisdom which was brought to us from Bro. Fred Witzig (Sis. Nancy, Princeville, IL). His key verse was Proverbs 1:7, "the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction." Let us study the scripture, for wisdom adorns our life. Our memory verse, Proverbs 2:8, "He keepeth the paths of judgment, and preserveth the way of his saints."

The second week of our topics, Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign, IL) reminded us to protect our path, for our path leads to heaven.

Week number three was entitled, "Wisdom Directs your Path". "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 path." Bro. Rustin Meister (Sis. Amanda, West Lafayette, IN) stated that a journey of 1000 miles begins with a single step. He talked about different kinds of forks in the road and that we have to trust in the Lord and let Him direct us when we come to those big decisions we make.

We appreciate Bro. Greg and Sis. Kara Snyder and many others who have spent time in the Taylor area helping on His Ranch this summer.

NEW YORK CROGHAN-NAUMBURG Hope Graves

We are thankful for Aaliyah Marie Virkler's safe arrival on June 28. Her

parents are Joseph and Bernice Virkler and grandparents are Bro. Andy and Sis. Becky Virkler (West Bend, IA) and Brian and Rose Talbot.

As the school year has ended, we were able to enjoy a wonderful evening at our annual hot-dog roast, June 28. It is a blessed time of fellowship for the young and the old and each is so precious in His sight.

Our prayers have been with Bro. Fred Ebersol who recently had surgery. We are thankful he is able to assemble with us again. We continue to pray for Bro. Clyde Virkler as he remains hospitalized at this time.

OHIO, AKRON Erika Gal

We wish to thank Bro. Gary Brown (Sis. Jane, Forrest) and Bro. Jerry Bauman (Sis. Martha, Rittman) for their willingness to come and serve us on the pulpit this month.

We extend our sympathy to our convert, Amanda (Brad) Gasser, on the passing of her grandpa, Bro. Glenn Winkler, from Rittman. Our prayers also go out to Bro. Joe (Sis. Carla) Miller as he recovers from surgery this month.

We are thankful to have two new boys in our church family. Tyler Matthew has joined the family of Bro. George and Sis. Tina Gal. Tyler is 12 years old and joins Adam, Heidi, Bethany, Danyel and Yasmin. Bro. Emery and Sis. Erika Gal are thankful for the arrival of Blake Samuel on July 3. He is welcomed home by Tiffany, Mark and Breanna. His grandparents are Sis. Sherri Schlatter (Forrest, IL) and Eugene and Helen Gal from North Port, FL.

Note of Thanks:

We would like to express our thanks and appreciation for all the many thoughts, prayers, and acts of

love during Micah's hospitalization. May God richly bless you.

Love,

Bro. Micah and Sis. Marcy Gherian and family

OHIO, COLUMBUS

Esther Saurer

We were blessed with many visiting ministers this month. Bro. Curt and Sis. Elizabeth Walter (Mansfield) came for our midweek service along with their children. Then, the following ministers were with us for our Sunday services: Bro. Jim and Sis. Diana Butikofer (Iowa City), Elder Bro. Bill and Sis. Emily Schlatter (Junction), Bro. Warren and Sis. Cindy Schlatter (Junction), Bro. Tim and Sis. Jonell Ramsier (Rittman), and Bro. Ken and Sis. Bernice Schneider (Remington). We appreciate their service to our congregation in the last month.

OHIO, JUNCTION

Vicki Boroff

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

Eccles. 3:1-4

Our prayers go to Bro. Russ and Sis. Vera Manz in the loss of her father, Bro. Steve Varga (Sis. JoAnne, San Diego). Bro. Steve left behind quite a few children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren who will miss him in the coming days.

Bro. Russ and Sis. Vera Manz are also thankful grandparents again. Gavin Thomas was born to Bro. Tom and Sis. Trish Koehl (Morris, MN) on

July 23.

The weekend of July 18 was our annual invite-a-guest weekend. We enjoyed and appreciated the visiting ministers: Bros. Ken Eisenmann (Sis. Sharon, Cissna Park), Greg Stoller (Sis. Jill, Forrest), and Larry Wenninger (Sis. Joyce, Latty).

On July 27, Shawn Hurd and Katie Klopfenstein announced their marriage. Shawn's parents are Bro. Pete and Sis. Helen Hurd.

OHIO, LATTY Carmen Eisenmann Mindy Stoller

"The LORD liveth; and blessed be my rock; and let the God of my salvation be exalted."

Psalms 18:46

Our congregation is rejoicing as there are four souls that have turned to God in repentance. Kelsey Gerber (Bro. Dave and Sis. Patty), Brenna Dunham (Bro. Byron and Sis. Jody), Derek Plummer (Bro. Rick and Sis. Denise), and Adam Nuest (Bro. Lee and Sis. Paula) have announced their decision to begin repentance. God has answered many prayers and we pray He will continue to bless them in their repentance.

We are also rejoicing with the engagement of Sis. Minnie Sinn to Bro. Nelson Beer from Milford, IN. We wish them much peace and joy as they begin a new life together.

Blake and Tiffany Sinn welcomed a baby boy, Brayden Thomas, into their lives on July 14. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Tom and Sis. Kim Sinn. May God bless and lead them in this new phase of life. Also welcoming home a baby boy are Bro. Tim and Sis. Marlene Sinn. Jonah Lewis joined Zachary, Daniel, Sadie, Miriam, Claudia, Ezra, and Amos on July 8. Grandparents are Bro. Walt and Sis. Renee Sinn and Bro. Dan and

Sis. Delores Reinhard (Remington, IN).

We were blessed the weekend of June 19-20 to witness the testimonies and baptism of Sis. Marla Sinn (Bro. Todd and Sis. Janet) and Sis. Rachael Rosswurm (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Amy). We were thankful to be reminded of God's power and love.

We have enjoyed many visiting ministers this month. Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein (Sis. Linda, Francesville, IN), Bro. Walt Rager (Sis. Sharon, Toledo, OH), Bro. Nelson Beer (Milford, IN), and Bro. Darren Metz (Sis. Rita, Gridley, IL) have offered themselves in service to our Latty church. We wish to thank them for this and pray God will bless them for their work of love.

"The LORD is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth."

Psalms 145:18

We lift up those who have been hospitalized in the past month, including Charlotte Laukhuf (Larry), and Bro. Bill Stoller (Sis. Barb). Our hearts also go out to Bro. Jason and Sis. Crystal Pelfrey (Rittman, OH) as their son, Sage, was taken home to be with the Lord and his twin brother Sawyer on June 17. Grandparents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Beth Pelfrey (Rittman, OH) and Bro. Ray and Sis. Carol Stoller. We will continue to remember them in thought and prayer at this difficult time. May God be with you all through the upcoming month.

OHIO, MANSFIELD Tami Griffey

Bro. Zach Reinhard and Sis. Julie Beer were united in marriage on June 27. We are thankful for the Lord's work and wish them His blessings as they begin their life together. We had three visiting ministers with us for

the day: Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Sis. Jane; Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Dan Pfister (Sis. Sherry; Bluffton North, IN), and Bro. Jerry Isch (Sis. Linda; Philadelphia, PA).

Our Junior and Senior Sunday School classes traveled to Jamaica for a World Relief trip. We are thankful for their safe journey and pray God will bless each one who gave of their time and talents to serve the Jamaican people at the Knockpatrick deaf school.

Heartfelt thanks to the visiting ministers and their families who have traveled to Mansfield over the last month: Bro. Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi; Alto, MI), Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily; Junction), Bro. Steve Pamer (Sis. Arliss; Akron), and Bro. Gary Brown (Sis. Jane; Forrest, IL).

Our annual Sunday School picnic was hosted at the Fellowship Hall on July 11. It was a day of fellowship and blessings for all who attended.

We express our sympathy to Bro. Adam Baumann at the passing of his sister, Magdalena Baumann.

Sis. Miriam Bird was recently hospitalized and our prayers are with her as she recovers.

On the weekend of July 16-17 we were blessed to hear the testimony and witness the baptism of Bro. Aaron Masters. May God's blessings and nearness ever be with him. We thank the visiting brothers who shared the weekend and the Lord's work with us: Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla; LaCrosse, IN), Elder Bro. Dave Graf (Sis. Barbara; Akron), and Bro. Ron Palitto (Sis. Lynell; Akron).

OHIO, RITTMAN
Heidi Rufener
Marge Stoller

"Many are the afflictions of the righteous; but the Lord delivereth him out of them all."

Psalms 34:19

Friday, July 2, was a memorable day for Sis. Pat Rufener (Bro. Jim) and their family. After several years of being on dialysis, Pat received the special gift of a kidney. The donor of the kidney was Bro. Grant Heinold (Morton, IL). Many prayers were offered in their behalf. Then prayers of thanksgiving were offered again when the surgery was successful and both Sis. Pat and Bro. Grant were doing well. May the Lord richly reward Bro. Grant for the very special gift. We wish them both a speedy recovery.

Others spending time in the hospital this past month were Sis. Mabel Maibach, Sis. Vi Baltic (Bro. Mitch), Sis. Joyce Stoller (Bro. Fred), Sis. Bev Moore (Randy), Glenn Winkler (Mary Jane), and Wyatt Riggerbach (Bro. Ryan and Sis. Laura). Let us remember to keep them all in our prayers.

Sadly, on June 17, baby Sage Pelfrey (Bro. Jason and Sis. Crystal) passed away. He was laid to rest beside his twin brother, Sawyer, which preceded him in death four weeks earlier. These two little angels are safe in the arms of Jesus. Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to this dear family.

Beginning a new life together on July 2 was Tyson Hartzler (Bro. Tom and Sis. Diane) and Sara Prulhiere (Richard and Donna). July 10, Steven Baltic (Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty) and Grace Natale (David and Judy) became one. May these dear couples invite the Lord to be the center of their lives as they begin their married life.

We are happy to report the birth of three new babies. On June 24, Bro. Tony and Sis. Mary Beth Stoller welcomed Christopher John into their home. Excited for a new brother are Lauren, Kaitlyn and Caleb. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Rob and Sis. Joanne Stoller and Bro. John and Sis.

Emily Rufener.

Blessed with a little boy, Tucker Owen, was Bro. Eric and Sis. Ruth Maibach. Older brother Hudson is happy for a playmate. Happy grandparents are Bro. Alpha and Sis. Denise Maibach and Greg and Sis. Peggy Tieche.

July 8 was the birthday of Gabriel Amos, born to Bro. Amos and Sis. Sarah Maibach. Siblings are Andrea, Jack and Ava. Loving grandparents are Bro. Alpha and Sis. Denise Maibach and Bro. Eugene and Sis. Dianna Bako (Akron). Baby Gabriel was born with a complication. He has already had one surgery. Let us remember him in our prayers in the days ahead.

It is always a miracle when a soul can repent. Glenn and Mary Jane Winkler have made the decision to forsake the world and seek the Lord. Also, Patricia Bauman (Sis. Nancy) has answered the Lord's call. We are surely rejoicing with them and wish them much grace.

OHIO, SARDIS
Faith Beard

Far away in the depths of my spirit tonight
 Rolls a melody sweeter than psalm;
 In celestial-like strains it unceasingly falls
 O'er my soul like an infinite calm.

I am resting tonight in this wonderful peace,
 Resting sweetly in Jesus' control;
 For I'm kept from all danger by night and by day,
 And His glory is flooding my soul.
Tabernacle Hymns #149

We were uplifted to hear the announcement to our congregation that our convert, Anthony Amos, has found peace with God and man. We look forward to witnessing his testimony and baptism the weekend of

August 14-15.

A couple of Sundays in July brought us the blessing of three visiting ministers. Serving us along side our ministering brothers were Elder Bro. Merle Hartzler (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman, OH), Bro. Dale Moore (Sis. Cheryl, Elgin, IA), and Bro. Ron Steiner (Sis. Ruth, Rittman, OH). We appreciate the efforts of these brothers, and pray that they will be blessed here in their earthly home as well as in eternity.

We remember Staci Indermuhle (Bro. Allen and Sis. Janet) with thoughts and prayers as she has seen some hospitalization. It made us feel so happy and thankful to see her assembling back at church with us again.

By the time this is published our annual General Conference will be complete, Lord willing, but at the time of this writing we wish to remember our Elders as they assemble, and we pray that the Lord's will be revealed to them in His time as it is needed.

Thou art with us, where two or three
in holy union gather,
And pray in faith, from doubting free,
unto the heavenly Father.
For Thou Thyself art present, Lord,
where brethren meet in one accord,
And blessed hours are given, a fore-
taste of that heritage,
Beyond our earthly pilgrimage, await-
ing us in heaven.
Zion's Harp, #204

OHIO, SMITHVILLE

**Lydia Stoller
Gina Brake**

We welcome Bro. Dick and Sis. Marie Beery to the Smithville congregation, as they have recently moved from Phoenix. We hope they feel welcome, and that they will soon feel at home here.

July 10 was the wedding date of Emily Maibach (Bro. Rudy and Sis.

Barb) and Jesse Rose (Jeff and Jill). We pray for the Lord's guidance and blessing throughout their lives.

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Tim Ramsier (Rittman, OH) and Bro. Ron Kipfer (Bluffton, IN). May God bless them for their willingness to serve.

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Bro. Glenn Winkler who passed away on July 18. He is the brother of Sis. Janet (Bro. Darrell) Indermuhle, Sis. Marilyn (Dale) Uhler, Marge (Bill) Rhoads, and Sis. Brenda (Bro. Vic) Bauman. May they feel God's nearness and comfort in the days ahead.

"...Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven."

Matthew 18:3-4

We were so thankful to hear that Dana Riegenbach has begun repenting. We pray that he can continue to humble himself to receive God's grace as he works out his soul's salvation.

OREGON, PORTLAND

Renee Angstrom

We were very blessed to have visiting Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Sis. Cheryl, Rockville, CT) and Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Sis. Jeannine, Mansfield, OH) visiting with our congregation. We appreciate their service and bringing forth the Word. Our visiting ministers this month from Silverton were Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Betty), Bro. John Wiegand (Sis. Jane), and Bro. Chris Kuenzi (Sis. Mary). We appreciate the support from the Silverton Brethren.

Our prayers are with Sis. Nada

Gavrilovic (Bro. Ilijah) as she recuperates following surgery and a brief hospitalization. May she feel God's healing hand and the many prayers surrounding her.

OREGON, SILVERTON

**Deb Roth
Kris Luthi**

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

Eccles. 12:13

This month our high school students in Sunday School were blessed to be together for our annual Bible Class Weekend. Our visiting minister for the weekend was Bro. Greg Lehman, and his wife, Sis. Mary Beth, from our congregation in Wolcott, IN. We extend a special thank you to both of them for traveling the many miles and giving of their time and their love for our children. The weather was beautiful as we enjoyed the outdoors together and the Spirit of God was felt as Bro. Greg taught the Bible Class about the absolute truths of God and the consequences of not obeying them. The whole church was edified on Sunday as we heard the Word so clearly spoken. That evening we enjoyed an all-church potluck and singing. The freedom to gather together and worship and sing praises to God is a blessing we should not take for granted.

"How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?"

Romans 10:14

We want to thank each of our other visiting ministers also. Bro.

Ron Jones (Sis. Liz), Bro. Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy), and Bro. Mike Leman (Sis. Lisa) of our Portland congregation, Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Sis. Cheryl, Rockville, CT) and Bro. Darren Fehr (Sis. Nora, West Bend, IA) all ministered to us recently. We are thankful for their willingness to serve us and we are grateful for the humble, inspired preaching of the Truth. Our own local ministers are also greatly appreciated as they serve us week after week. May they each receive extra measures of grace and wisdom for the duties that have been put upon them.

**PENNSYLVANIA
PHILADELPHIA
Emily Wiegand**

“...and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.”

1 John 1:3

The fellowship we share with each other is truly a joy as we think of this verse and remember God's presence with us. We were able to extend this fellowship on July 4 as we were blessed with two ministering brothers: Bro. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI) and Bro. Bradley Strahm (Bern, KS), along with their families. Our church appreciated their services as well as their company.

**TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE
Mike and Monica Fritz**

We are so thankful to the Lord for the willing service of our visiting min-

istering brothers, and the spiritual strengthening that has brought us. Our recent visitors have been Bros. Matthew Rassi (Sis. Bridget; Chicago, IL), Brandon Emch (Sis. Maria; Kansas City, MO), Tim Gerber (Sis. Wendy; Mansfield, OH), Steve Baner (Sis. Donnalou; Gridley, IL), and Galen Rokey (Sis. Nancy; Bern, KS). We have also been encouraged by the fellowship of brethren and friends visiting from Champaign, Chicago, Fairbury, Morton, Princeville, Tremont, and Washington, IL; Bern, KS; Kansas City, MO; Latty and Mansfield, OH; and Windsor, ON.

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: Oakville, IA (8/22); Indianapolis, IN (8/29); Detroit, MI (9/5); Alto, MI (9/12); Peoria, IL (9/19); and Tremont, IL (9/26). 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 (fritzmb.family@gmail.com); and Sis. Gwen Leuthold, (615) 356-5755.

**TEXAS, AUSTIN
Serenity and Jasmine Ringger**

It's been a pretty summer here, so far. It has not been over 100 degrees

yet, and things are still green. How can it still be green in Texas in the summer? Because we've had rain often enough to keep the plants green. We're thankful that God provides for us in every way. "My doctrine shall drop as the rain, my speech shall distil as the dew, as the small rain upon the tender herb, and as the showers upon the grass." (Deut. 32:2)

Our visiting ministers were Bros. Dan Stoller (Sis. Deb, Remington), Myron Knobloch (Sis. Beth, Lester), Howard Plattner (Alto), Gary Endress (Sis. Evelyn, Bradford), and Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata). Other visitors were from McAllen, Latty, Fairbury, Bluffton North, and Smithville.

The following is the minister schedule for September: (5) Sarasota, (12) Junction, (19) Latty, (26) Phoenix. 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.



Sermon continued from page 2

account. They want to give that account with joy and peace, knowing it is well for all of us together. That is truly the spirit of Ezekiel 33 and 34.

It is not to warn in the context of catching you or me in doing something wrong. Warn is fundamentally a beautiful word that carries with it the need to speak the truth in love, be candid, speak truth in love. And do that in a way that brings us along, that nurtures us. That informs us and equips us to understand the problem and have the vision of the Word on how to address the problem.

Think about then the responsibility we as a church will give to those who are asked to feed and to lead. In this case, one of those definitions is watchman. The Word so often, we read the words in the epistles and we so often within our faith, speak of elders, shepherds, watchmen, ministers. Then as we open up these words and these responsibilities of nurturing and being watchmen and being our brother's and sister's keeper, it real quickly begins to include us all, doesn't it? Is any one of us exempt from the responsibility of being there for each other? Of being a part of edification and not a stumbling block?

This Word says, when I bring the sword upon the land and there is this watchman... (Ezekiel 33:2). We have been given the responsibility to look forward. That is one of the fundamental definitions of watchman. It requires us to look forward. We would want to do that with a Biblical vision. It is one of the most meaningful things you can pray for, for those who have been given the responsibility to lead the church. That is that they can be given a heart that is humble enough to be surrendered and a Biblical vision of, where do we go? How do we go forward?

"If when he seeth the sword come upon the land, he blow the trumpet, and warn the people;" v.3. How do you react to the word, 'warn'? If someone were to warn you, you can real quickly create scenarios where it is quite easy to receive that warning and examples of where we just almost feel an immediate, inherent resistance to receiving that warning. Why is that? When our hearts are pliable, when we are genu-

inely humble, when we have a love for the Word, when we have a love for each other, when we feel a beautiful responsibility and opportunity to be part of a church structure that is built on love, that is built on the truth of the Word and we have Jesus Christ as our Shepherd, then why can it be sometimes hard for us to accept warning? What does that say about the battle that is going on inside between the carnal spirit and the Spiritual mind? The carnal spirit and the Spiritual mind.

This Word clarifies very quickly that there is a mutual responsibility here. Just as Hebrews 13:17 says, it is very much a mutual responsibility. It would be required of us to speak the truth in love. Then have a recognition of accountability, loving and caring enough to nurture and try to create accountability. At the same time, acknowledging forthrightly that salvation is of the Lord. There isn't any one of us that have the ability or the authority or the wherewithal, the wisdom to create solutions and answered prayers and answers to so many of the issues and problems and challenges that are going to come up into each of our lives, but God can and does. The Word can and does. So we are servants.

One of the most profound examples that Jesus Christ gave us when He walked this earth; He indeed set the example of being a servant. He who was the Son of God. He had power to forgive. He had power to heal, to raise to life. Yet, He was very intent in His heart to teach what it means to be a servant. It is the second thing you can pray for us in our responsibilities, in this case, as Elder, or as minister. That indeed we can grow in our understanding and application of being a servant.

So to have Spiritual vision, as the watchman is required to have, the watchman looks forward. To have the ability to learn from past experiences. To do that in the context of grace. Do that in the context of faith. So there are those decisions that can be made that are wrong and need to be corrected. Think of our individual lives, the times when we make many right decisions. Then those times when we made a wrong decision. It may be of

the nature that it is required of us of the Word that we go back and say, I was wrong. I am sorry. Or maybe it is the many, many private thoughts and decisions that are made that we acknowledge, that that wasn't the right thing to do, it wasn't the right thing to say, it wasn't the right thing to think.

Nonetheless, as watchmen, we are exhorted to have a Biblical vision of what is coming and to then teach and to exhort truth and preparation and readiness. The armor of God to be prepared. We love the Scripture, don't we? We love Ephesians 6. "Put on the whole armour of God...and having done all, to stand." v.11,13. Stand, being prepared for the battle.

So the exhortation is to warn. Then the exhortation is to accept personal responsibility. Because if we hear the warning, we know the Biblical requirement that is upon our soul. We know what is in front of us. We have a personal responsibility to be accountable to that.

Nevertheless, if thou warn the wicked of his way and he turns from it, his soul shall be saved. (Ezekiel 33:5) That goes back to the whole context of, salvation is of the Lord. God empowers. Grace works in our lives. The Holy Spirit works in our lives. All of us. We have the ability to be prepared.

As we think about the little Hebrews verse that we read, we want the end result of Ezekiel 33 to be that as we give an account to God, that it may be done with joy, not with grief and that it may indeed be profitable for all of us. So let's use this opening Scripture and exhortation from Ezekiel 33. Use it as a point in time. Checkpoint. Think about our readiness to receive and to immerse ourselves into the exhortation of the Word. Prayerfully think about our mutual readiness to counsel one with another.

Are we open to counsel? It is perhaps one of the most fundamental indications of the health of our spiritual life; our openness to council. We experience it in our prayer life with God, when we read the Word and the Word speaks to our hearts and it changes us. When we hear services, we worship together. We fellowship together. We have someone that loves us enough to come to us and say, have

you thought about this? Have you taken time to think through the decision you just made before you implement it? All of those are mild forms of council. We can blow right by them or it can touch our heart.

Then there is the more serious side of when we have clearly begun a walk that is leading us to heartache. Someone warns us with Biblical vision, having prayed that that Biblical vision can be timely and accurate. We again have an opportunity to respond to that council. The Word says, with council, purposes are established. Without council, purposes are disappointed. (Proverbs 15:22) Let's be open to council, let's listen for the warnings and with the warnings, let's know that it is generated from a heart of love. Just as God our Father loves us enough to actually warn us.

So we come to Acts 22. The Apostle Paul, giving his defense, in many ways. His testimony. We come down to him being in a part of his life when things were just plain going wrong. He did not see it. He was earnestly, zealously carrying out that which he felt compelled to carry out. We come to this point when he was on his journey, coming near to Damascus. There shone from heaven a great light.

It is more than interesting that he saw the light and those that were with him saw the light. But only he heard the voice. It would be interesting to study that particular concept and expression here. But one of the thoughts that comes to us as we just think and meditate together, the calling of God in so many ways, is very personal. Think of the number of times, for those we know and love dearly, if we could have given them salvation, we would have. To the point we would have sacrificed much if we could have accomplished that. Yet every one of us comes to a point where we must listen and hear our name and respond personally. It was that way here in Paul's life. He saw the light and he heard the pronouncement, "...Saul, why persecutest thou me?" Acts 22:7.

The question seems reasonable and honest, "...Who art thou, Lord?..." v.8. One of the blessings of being raised in faith is that we can know that, Yes, there is Jesus. I believe Jesus is the Son of God. But it is

that partial belief definition. It is an acknowledgment in some ways, of God, of Jesus. But to be able to come to a point and say, Who art thou Lord, it is a very appropriate question. Who is Jesus to you and to me this morning? Particularly to the converted, is Jesus indeed Lord and Savior? By definition, does that mean we are willingly and fervently following, so that allows Him to be our Shepherd?

As anyone that would be unconverted, does not yet know Christ as Lord and Savior, has not experienced repentance, conversion, the wonder, the beauty of being born again, the miracle of the Holy Spirit and the grace grounded on a foundation of faith working in our lives, changing us beautifully from the inside out; for any that would yet be in that condition, think about the significance of Saul saying, Who art thou, Lord? At which time the Lord begins to teach, very personally, in a way that we, individually, you or myself at that particular time in our life, we need to know Jesus. He will show us who Jesus is. He will reveal Himself to us. We begin with a humble, surrenderedness that says, teach me Lord. Who art thou, Lord?

And Jesus said, I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom thou persecutest. Verse 9 is what we referred to. "And they that were with me saw indeed the light, and were afraid; but they heard not the voice of him that spake to me." It is still going to be up to you and to me to personally respond to the voice of Jesus.

Verse 12 is so appropriately connected to Ezekiel 33 and 34. "And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law, having a good report of all the Jews which dwelt there, Came unto me, and stood, and said unto me..." So God is already providing, demonstrating, validating the structure of brother/sister accountability. We so often throw a whole lot of things into the word or expression of 'church', rightly so. It is a very precious teaching and structure prescribed quite clearly in the New Testament. And we have these Old Testament examples, too, of the importance of coming into the house of the Lord.

Here, Saul, in his moment of tremendous need, is being welcomed into

the nurturing and the care and the discipling and the mentoring of someone who knows more about the Word. Even at that time, if we think about, even as they undoubtedly did here, started building on the prophesy and the foundation that was in the Old Testament. Then to be able to connect that for Saul, studied in the Word, learned at the feet of Gamaliel. So now we see here that Ananias, who was a devout man, was placed into the life of Saul.

That is where you and I want to be. What a beautiful adjective. What a beautiful description, for the Lord Jesus, in the process of bringing a soul to salvation, and He looks at you or me and to make sure everyone knows why this is working, He says, Ananias, a devout man, according to the law, he has a good report of those who know him well. He walks in integrity. He is grounded on the Word. The Holy Spirit works in his life. And the Lord says, I am sending him to Saul, to disciple him.

He proceeded to explain the God of our fathers. He laid out a vision, a sense of purpose for Saul. Paul fulfilled that purpose. We know. It is beautiful. We go back to II Timothy 4:7. He comes to that closing season of his life. He says, I have fought a good fight. I have kept the faith. I have, by grace, earnestly tried to fulfill that which God called me to do. May that be true for you and me this morning. May we be quickened, made ready to hear and to think deeply about who Jesus Christ is. May we be open and receptive, prayerful that we can receive timely and scripture correct vision and exhortation and warning. That warning is intended to include instruction towards righteousness.

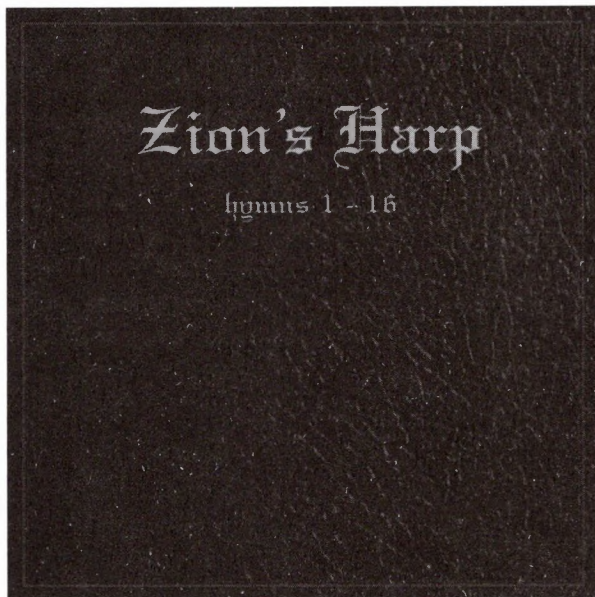
Then think about the Shepherd side of God, Christ Himself. And the Shepherd side of those who you have asked to feed and lead. For they too must give an account. They too, want to speak the truth in love. And at the end, when true accountability is measured by God Himself, in that end, there may be peace, there may be joy, that it may be well with our soul.



805 W. Cuger Street, Box 52
Eureka, IL 61530
Ph. 309-467-3611
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The **Zion's Harp** is the official and cherished hymnal of the Apostolic Christian Church. It has been a part of the church since the denomination was established. It contains hymns written as far back as the 15th century, and hymn tunes written as late as the 1990's. Powerful, vivid, and meaningful lyrics combine with beautiful four-part harmony written for men and women to form a hymn book that is loved and deeply appreciated.
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~*****~

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Silver Lining Now Available On-Line

*The Silver Lining is now posted on-line
at the Apostolic Christian Publications web site.*

For more information go to www.acpublications.org

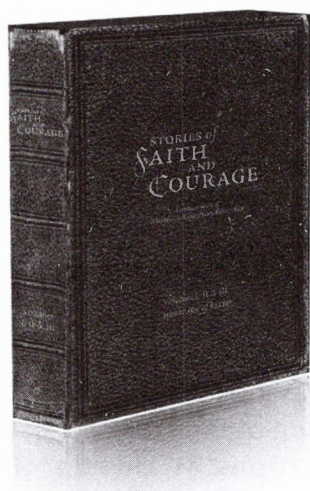
Froehlich Books Now Available in Searchable Database

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)*



AUDIO BOOK

Stories of Faith and Courage Volumes I, II, and III

Stories of Faith and Courage, Volumes 1, 2, and 3 are now available in an audio version for 23½ hours of listening time. Clearly narrated by Apostolic Christian brothers who are closely connected with the accounts, the stories come alive and engage the listener.

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or from www.melttheheart.com.

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,
 Morton, IL 61550
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877-370-9988 (toll free)

www.accounseling.org

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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



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN

Counseling and Family Services

515 Highland Street, Morton, IL 61550 ❖ Tel: (309) 263-5536 Fax: (309) 263-6841 ❖ www.accounseling.org

Remote Counseling at ACCFS

This month we will share some information regarding a few new ways that we are delivering services to our church family and friends. As you may know, ACCFS is a ministry of the national church and its scope is to serve all of the local churches across the nation as well as internationally. When the counseling center began operation, one of the purposes was to provide a source of help for mental health or relationship needs for church members, friends, and others regardless of where they lived. This was accomplished primarily through a hotline service where people would call in, describe their concern, and receive some direction in how to best get the needed services. Often times, this meant connecting people to appropriate services in their local geographic area. Over time, ACCFS has provided more and more counseling services at our office in Morton, IL through the brothers and sisters who serve as counselors. In late 2006, the original mental health hotline was converted over to calls taken by the ACCFS receptionist and an answering system for after-hours calls. Although helping over the phone has always been part of what we do, it was not until 2009 that we began a more formal project to offer Remote Counseling services to those who live outside of the central Illinois area.

What is Remote Counseling?

Remote Counseling refers to ACCFS providing counseling services to clients who do not physically travel to the ACCFS office in Morton, IL. It is designed especially for those who live in geographic regions where appropriate counseling services are not available. It can be done via phone or Internet-based video conferencing to connect the client and the counselor for counseling sessions. Counseling is performed in much the same way as if the client was physically coming to the office in Morton. It is important to note

that while many situations can be addressed effectively through Remote Counseling, there are some situations for which it is not recommended. Therefore, ACCFS counselors do a screening of each case to ensure that an appropriate type of care is recommended. Counselors consider several criteria, such as the nature of the issue, social support, and emergency considerations to make this decision. Remote Counseling usually starts with a Triage Session.

What is a Triage Session?

A Triage Session is a free, confidential thirty minute phone call with a counselor for the purpose of helping the caller to determine possible options for further assistance. In other words, if you or someone you know is struggling with an issue and would like to talk it over with one of the ACCFS counselors, you may call the ACCFS office (309-263-5536 or 877-370-9988) and set up a half-hour Triage Session for that purpose. Possible outcomes of a Triage Session could include recommendations for a specific book or other resource, a referral to a counselor in your area that has been screened by ACCFS, an appointment at the ACCFS office in Morton, IL, or an offer to do remote counseling with a counselor at ACCFS.

How does Remote Counseling work?

If following the Triage Session, Remote Counseling is the chosen route, the caller will receive an intake packet in the mail that contains forms that are used for new clients when they come to the ACCFS office. He or she will fill out the forms and mail them back to the ACCFS office. The client will then work with the receptionist by phone to schedule sessions with a specific counselor.

There are currently two methods of doing remote counseling. The first method is to engage in counseling sessions via telephone. The client needs to

be in a private place to communicate by phone to the counselor who will be in his or her office. The session will start with the counselor calling the phone number supplied by the client. The second method is through video conferencing. The client needs a broadband Internet connection and a webcam for this option. Before the first session, the client will receive instructions on how to go to a private and secured website to start the video session with the counselor. A big advantage of video counseling is that it allows the counselor to see non-verbal communication such as facial expressions and posture. ACCFS has taken steps to ensure that both methods are secure and confidential.

How much Remote Counseling is done at ACCFS?

Approximately 30% of the counseling sessions at ACCFS are done remotely. Of these sessions, about one third are performed through the video counseling option. Remote Counseling at ACCFS has had a broad geographical reach and has allowed the counselors to serve clients from across nation as well as internationally.

Why is this important?

As a Silver Lining reader, we want you to know that it is our desire that ACCFS services would be accessible to all who would benefit from them. We also want you to know that the local elder is appropriately informed of counseling as much as possible in order to provide for additional follow-up with the client. If you or someone you know is struggling or needing help and not getting the help they need, we encourage you to consider calling and scheduling a free Triage Session at ACCFS. We are committed to the goal from the ACCFS Charter to "...alleviate suffering and to promote Christian maturity so that people can grow in their likeness to Christ, experience a deeper relationship with God and enter into a more effective life of service to others."

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:

Printed Sermons
102 Lake View Drive
Fairbury, IL 61739
(815) 692-3616
 jschneider54@verizon.net

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

We currently have outlets for Bibles, Bible Story Books, Hymns of Zion, Gospel Hymns, and Tabernacles.

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

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Light From The Word

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

After entering the web site, click on the item located in the left hand frame entitled, "Light from the Word Reprints". The entire set of editorials are available in a complete download (*June 1987 through August 2010*).

BIBLE DISTRIBUTION

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

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Rochester, MN Services

Times:

7:30 - 3rd Wednesday of the month

Location:

310 16th Ave SW,
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*(within a few blocks
 of the Mayo campus)*

Contacts:

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.

SAVE THE DATE!

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME OF ROANOKE 2010 NURSING HOME BENEFIT SATURDAY, AUGUST 21

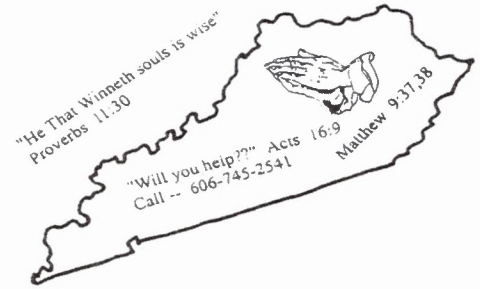
7:30-9:00	Pancake & Sausage Breakfast
8:00	Bake Sale
10:00	Live Auction & Children's Activities
<i>Many food booths for lunch</i>	

How can you be involved?

1. Donate a NEW item or a service to the live auction
2. Donate money to help with expenses
3. Support the event by attending the breakfast and lunch, bringing children to enjoy the children's activities, bidding on live auction items and making purchases at the bake sale.
4. Praying for good weather and God's blessings on the day.

If you have questions or donations, please contact Patsy Kaeb, Benefit Coordinator at 309-923-2071, ext. 114 or patsy@achroanoke.org

Come enjoy the day and join our mission for the elderly.



Apostolic Christian Church
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*Welcome to support our
precious 'Faith' in Kentucky*

Families needed! Singer brothers,
prayer brothers, ministers,
teachers, helpers...

Employment opportunities available
Contact Elder Bro. Andy Stoller

Business Manager Position Available

Parkview Haven is pleased to announce the need for a Business Manager, which in a long term care nursing setting performs a range of management functions, of which accounting is primary.

Skills required: Bachelors Degree in Accounting. Proficiency in accounting software, spreadsheets, and computers is necessary. Some knowledge of IT and experience in healthcare would be a plus. Must be organized and efficient, given to detail, and have business acumen. Interpersonal skills are a must, as the Business Manager interacts with peers in management, fellow employees, and all stakeholders. Of course a love of elderly people is necessary, and spiritual mentoring of the residents is an arm of the position. Parkview Haven is sponsored by six Apostolic Christian churches in northwest Indiana—Francesville, Wolcott, Remington, West Lafayette, Valparaiso, and Lacrosse.

We hope you will give this prayerful consideration. You may contact us at Parkview Haven 101 Constitution Drive, Francesville, IN 47946, 219-567-9149, or [sstoller@parkviewhaven.com](mailto:ssoller@parkviewhaven.com).

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

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 August 10th, 2010 -www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-caribbean/

Project	Year 2010	Coordinator	Capacity				
Les Cayes AWA Water Aid	Nov 29-Dec 6	Maurice Schaefer 309-925-3740 schaefs2@gmail.com	4	Les Cayes SEED Agriculture Aid	Feb 18-25	Dale Frank 319-766-3661 dtfrank@louisacomm.net	12
Les Cayes MEBSH School Roof	Dec 3-10	Ted Habegger 260-694-6765 tjh@citiznet.com	12	Les Cayes MEBSH Construction	Feb 25-Mar 4	Randy Kieser 309-695-6340 kieser84@gmail.com	12
Les Cayes MEBSH Haiti Support	Dec 10-13	Rich Bertschi 309-467-2351 lemangm@mtco.com	Invitation	Les Cayes FRW Vocational School	Mar 15-25	Rick Wuethrich 219-567-9488 rick@wuethrichfarms.com	4
Les Cayes FRW Vocational School	Dec 13-23	Rick Wuethrich 219-567-9488 rick@wuethrichfarms.com	4	Les Cayes MEBSH School Roof	Mar 18-25	Rich Bertschi 309-467-2351 lemangm@mtco.com	12
Project	Year 2011	Coordinator	Capacity				
Les Cayes MEBSH School Roof	Jan 3-10	Ron Palitto 330-336-5373 Ronp@palittoconsulting.com	12	Les Cayes MEBSH Haiti Support	Mar 25-28	Rich Bertschi 309-467-2351 lemangm@mtco.com	Invitation
Les Cayes FRW Simone Orphanage	Jan 21-28	Rick Wuethrich 219-567-9488 rick@wuethrichfarms.com	12	Les Cayes SEED Agriculture Aid	Mar 25-Apr 1	Dale Frank 319-766-3661 dtfrank@louisacomm.net	12
La Higuera Lifeline Construction	Jan 25-Feb 1	Jim Koehl 309-377-3201 jmkoehl@yahoo.com	12	Les Cayes MEBSH Maintenance	Apr 1-8	Jon Zeller 309-266-9009 jzeller@mtco.com	12
Les Cayes MEBSH School Roof	Jan 28-Feb 4	Dean Pashak 989-662-7685 dwpashak@charter.net	12	Les Cayes AWA Water Aid	Apr 29-May 6	Maurice Schaefer 309-925-3740 schaefs2@gmail.com	4
Dumay Lifeline Construction	Feb 1-8	Jim Koehl 309-377-3201 jmkoehl@yahoo.com	12	Les Cayes MEBSH Haiti Evaluation	May 13-20	Rich Bertschi 309-467-2351 lemangm@mtco.com	Invitation
Les Cayes AWA Water Aid	Feb 4-11	Maurice Schaefer 309-925-3740 schaefs2@gmail.com	4	Les Cayes MEBSH Medical	May 20-27	Keith Knepp 309-467-3468 kknepp@mchsi.com	8
Dumay Lifeline Construction	Feb 8-15	Jim Koehl 309-377-3201 jmkoehl@yahoo.com	12	Les Cayes FRW Vocational School	Jun 8-18	Rick Wuethrich 219-567-9488 rick@wuethrichfarms.com	4

JAMAICA

Data updated from the Apostolic Christian World Relief web site as of August 10th, 2010 -www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-caribbean/

Project	Year 2011	Coordinator	Capacity				
Kingston School CCCD	Jan 8 - 15	Roger Stoller 309-747-3228 rstoller@gridcom.net	40	Jamaica Deaf Village CCCD Bible Class Trip	Jun 25-Jul 2	Harvey Landis 330-925-8632 landziv@aol.com	

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 mfiechter@onlyinternet.net
Data updated from the Apostolic Christian World Relief web site as of August 10th, 2010 -www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-mexico/*

Location	Year 2010	Coordinator			
Reynosa Medical	Oct 6-13	Cheryl Herrmann cherrmann@verizon.net	Magdalena Construction	Nov 20-27	Rod Schmidt 303-774-7913 rschmidt@acosta.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



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
World Relief

www.acworldrelief.org



REMEMBERING

Our Spiritual Heritage

This is the final installment of the funeral service of Elder David Mangold, Roanoke, Illinois, held on December 8, 1964, at the Eureka, Illinois, church (due to a recent fire that had destroyed the Roanoke church building). Elder Sam Aeschleman, Bluffton, Indiana, finishes his "follow up" remarks below.

I had to think, dear ones, that in one of the Psalms we read of David it tells us at the end of the Psalm that the prayer of David, the son of Jesse are ended. I had to think — yes, the prayers of Brother Mangold are ended. It might be very interesting, dear ones, to all of us, if we knew what those last prayers were. I am sure he did not forget his dear wife; and I am sure that he mentioned his children by name, and no doubt sincerely and humbly begged for the grandchildren that he might, up there, be able to embrace them, where there will be no parting and no sorrow. So you have, dear ones, fond memories which we also cherish, and as long as we live we will not forget.

May the Eternal God bless you dear ones richly and abundantly, and may it be your lot and mine, and of every one present, that we might reach that blessed end where we are sure Brother Dave is now resting in peace, and may God bless His Holy Word.

Prayer - Elder Joe A. Getz, Morton, Illinois

Gracious God, we are of one mine and of one thought that we should again bow heads and hearts before Thee, the Lord, and thank Thee, to honor Thee, and to reverence Thee for Thy loving kindness and Thy tender mercy, even in these hours of solemn sorrow and dedicated worship to Thee, the Father.

We are thankful for the very fitting service and tribute paid our devoted and beloved brother, who is lying in the still-

ness of death on his pillows of silk, where we have plans now to commit into the bosom of the earth where he will lay with the fallen brethren down through the ages, and in the rows of the fathers, until Resurrection Day, when we believe he will come forth with those who have prepared themselves through Thy marvelous plan of salvation.

So even amidst sorrow, we have reasons to have thankfulness and joy in our hearts, that Thou has not only prepared our brother for this great and eventful time and day, but has prepared him to be of devoted and dedicated service in the vineyard of the Lord, that he could not only prepare himself, but be helpful to many, many others.

And that he could be of help in his own dear congregation and in many congregations, and, as we have been beautifully reminded, has been helpful to many in their personal individual problems and services, and also in various congregations.

How can we be otherwise than to be thankful to Thee, the Lord, that Thou dost still care for Thine own, for Thy children and for Thy people that Thou hast called out of the world, out of sin and corruption, and out of deceit, and brought them to light and understanding through Thy wonderful plan of salvation.

Then, yet, we are concerned that Thou wouldst now again see that Thy people are prepared and serviced by faithful brethren who will take examples not only from the apostles and from the dear Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, but also from faithful brethren who have laid down their armor and who have now gone to their rest.

Now, as we have been reminded, we will no longer see the face of our beloved brother, but his memory will live with us a long, long time. "Precious memories

— how they linger, how they ever flood the soul," and well it is so, for even the prophet of old said the righteous shall not so soon be forgotten, and we want to keep it in pleasant memories.

Especially, do we thank Thee now for the comforting words that Thou hast prepared and kept in store for those of us who come into trials and in sorrow, for we are living in a world where thorns and thistles grow, where our fathers and mothers, husbands and wives, and our brothers die, and then we have comfort in Thy good word, such as we have been reminded.

So bless the words, and especially may they bring fruit in the hearts of our loved ones — the beloved family. Our dear sister has been a faithful companion and a helpful wife to our beloved brother. To the dear children and to the grandchildren, well do we know that a good example of a kind father and grandfather has lasting memories, and we pray and believe it will be so in this dear family; and so bless us all. Give us courage to walk onward and forward in the path of life that we can prepare ourselves that when our flesh grows weak and our hearts will fail us, that we will not be found too light on the scales of justice, but that we can day by day so work out our salvation to prepare ourselves for that great and eventful day.

Bless this dear congregation; bless all that have taken part, for their services and labor of love and their kindness. Now keep us all together, dear Lord, thanking Thee for what Thou has done for us and that we cannot look with despair upon Thy doing, but thankful for every good service that Thou hast done, especially thanking Thee for having used our dear brother in Thy service, asking Thee to accept thanks and praise and honor and glory in Jesus' name. Amen.

The Light Of Hope

“About Angels”

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

Recently someone asked me the question, “When were angels created? They are not mentioned in the story of creation in Genesis.” The Bible doesn’t tell us when the angels were created but we assume that they were created before the first day of the Genesis account. The devil deceived Eve and he, the devil, is a fallen angel. Many creations may have taken place before the creation recorded in Genesis. There are many things we do not know.

The word angel first appears in the Bible in Genesis 16:7 where it is recorded that the angel of the Lord appeared to Hagar, Sarah’s maid.

In Genesis 20, three men appeared to Abraham and they turned out to be angels, although this was not known to him when he first met them. Neither does the Bible in Genesis identify them as angels but simply as “The Lord.” However, Hebrews 13:2 identifies them as angels with this statement, “Be not forgetful to entertain strangers; for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.”

Daniel told the king as recorded in Daniel 6:22, “My God has sent his angel, and hath shut the lions’ mouths.” This indicates that angels not only deliver messages for God but sometimes they provide protection for God-fearing people.

Turning to the New Testament, we all know that the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary to inform her that she would be the mother of Jesus. This is recorded in St. Luke the first chapter,

verses 26 and 27. The only other angel spoken of by name in the Bible is Michael. He is spoken of as a great prince in Daniel 12:1 but Jude identifies him as an archangel in Jude, verse 9, where it is written, “Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses.” We do not know what that dispute was about. In Deuteronomy 34:6 it is simply stated, “And he (God) buried him (Moses) in a valley in the land of Moab.” It further states, “But no man knoweth of his sepulchre unto this day.”

Cornelius was instructed by an angel whom he saw in a vision, to go meet Peter who would instruct him in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Acts 10:3 reads, “He saw in a vision evidently about the ninth hour of the day an angel of God coming in to him.” This indicates that angels are active in the ministry of bringing people to repentance and conversion. They must work in conjunction with the Holy Spirit.

Isaiah 14:12 reads, “How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning!” Lucifer is considered to be the original name of the devil, who was an angel before his fall. Verse 13 tells us that he said, “I will exalt my throne above the stars of God.” Jesus tells us in Luke 10:18, “I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.” I had thought that a third of the angels in heaven sided with Satan when he was cast out of heaven but I can’t find it in the Bible. If anyone reading this has

any information on that, please share it with me. I wonder about that.

In one of the hymns we sing, there is the statement, “For angels never knew the joy that our salvation brings.” I remember that line but I don’t know the name of the hymn. If you know, please inform me. Thank you.

It is our understanding that angels are individually created beings and that there is no plan of salvation for them if they sin. Hebrews 2:2 reads, “For if the word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward; How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation?” I believe this Scripture tries to impress us with how fortunate we are to have the opportunity to repent and be reconciled to God when the angels have no such opportunity.

We know that angels are messengers and that they are protectors. Every night I pray that God will send His angels to encompass my bed and protect us. We need to be constantly protected from evil spirits and this is especially true when we near death. Let’s visit those who are seriously ill and near death, and pray for God’s angels to hover about them and bear them safely to heaven.

In the parable of the rich man and Lazarus, it is written in Luke 16:22, “And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham’s bosom.” The angels are very busy and anxious to help us.

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*The wolf and the lamb and the leopard, the lion and calf shall be
lead by a child, the cow and the bear shall then all feed together
all beasts will be tamed that have roamed in the wild.*

*Then the beasts from the wild will be lead by a child,
When Christ the Prince of Peace reigneth.*