

# *The Silver Lining*



*And I will bring the blind by a way that they knew not;  
I will lead them in paths that they have not known:  
I will make darkness light before them, and crooked things straight.  
These things will I do unto them, and not forsake them.*

*September 2010*



*Sermon by Bro. Akihiro Ito, Shioda, Japan*

## Proverb 14:1-5 and I Corinthians 14:13-25

Greetings dear brothers, sisters and friends. Today is the Lord's day. In the past week, so many things happened in our family. Also, so many of Brother Chuck's words and his advice came into my mind. Before I open the Old Testament, I would like to share, one time I asked him his advice to me, after he was diagnosed with lung cancer. I wanted to know any advice, his word, speech or perspective. Brother Chuck mentioned, I don't have much advice because, if you want to know, please listen to my previous sermons on compact discs or tapes. He has been preaching for many years and all his advice is in this church and in his preaching God's Word. All his wisdom and advice are in there. So as today is our worship day, let's pray for and seek His Word. It always tells us the truth through the Bible.

Proverbs 14:5 says, "A faithful witness will not lie: but a false witness will utter lies." Who is a faithful witness? We are always thinking we want to be a good witness and a faithful and true witness. For what? For Jesus Christ as good Christians, to our neighbors, our friends and our family. As faithful Christians, we want to be good witnesses.

Also, probably myself, I always am more focused on the presence of my friends, my co-workers or just our neighbors who are not Christians. Because most of the time in Japan, we just talk to those who are not Christians. Less than one percent are Christians. So most of the time they are just watching me. There, they don't know I am Christian. So I try to be a good witness to them.

But in church, also we have a lot of brothers, sisters and friends. They have the same faith, so we can share our faith much easier. Also we can watch each other and love each other. Those are also witnesses.

Also, other witness - I thought for the past week, I have known Brother Chuck only five or six years after we were announced to be engaged and

get married. Each time when I visited or he visited Japan, in that five or six years, it was a short time for me. But through all these five years, I just found, he was a very faithful Brother and witness for Christ. Also, all of you are witnesses for him, that he was a faithful brother. I am so thankful that so many of you knew him for years and years. You can tell me, and perhaps in the near future, tell my son, about him. How he was a strong man, faithful man. Those are witnesses.

In the Old Testament and New Testament, there are a number of prophets or the kings. Lots of Israelite names in there. Each of them are witnesses for God and Christ. We know a lot of disciples and apostles, they were facing dangers because of their faith. But they showed their faith and they died. And many brothers and sisters are witness for them. That is why we know those true stories from the Bible.

Each of us, we are witnesses for this world. Not only for our current generation. But for the future generations; your family, from your great-great grandfathers handing out the Word or their faith or perhaps the Bible. When we see the Bibles which were handed out from past generations, sometimes those Bibles have special meaning for us, because we know that those people had faith and had a Bible. We are reading the same Scripture. The same Word and the same hope that we go to heaven and perhaps meet them.

This verse encourages me and perhaps you, that we want to always be a good witness and we don't want to lie. To everybody; those that are living here but also those who will perhaps be born in the future or those who may not see us.

I Corinthians 14:13 speaks of an unknown tongue. I believe we say, speaking in tongues. They say, pray that he may interpret. We don't believe in speaking in tongues. This re-

*Sermon continued on page 40*

### Cover Verses

*Front: Isaiah 42:16*

*Back: Zechariah 8:12*

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*"Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all." (Col. 3:11)*

## Light From The Word



Writings based  
on God's Word

September 2010

### Identity In Christ

Who are you? This question is often asked and answered in our daily interactions with others. How do you answer?

We are complex creatures, shaped by myriad factors – both internal and external. We may identify ourselves by our name, by our occupation, family relationships, ethnicity, nationality, locality, school, political party, church membership, social group, citizenship, or possibly some other affiliation or accomplishment. However, the Bible teaches us that our hope is in Christ alone and therefore, our identity should be in Christ alone.

The Apostle Paul could have identified himself by ethnicity (stock of Israel), family name (tribe of Benjamin), nationality (Hebrew of the Hebrews), membership in a religious sect (Pharisee), school (taught at the feet of Gamaliel), locality (born in Tarsus), citizenship (Roman), or even by his zeal for God (persecuting the church of Christ). (Phil. 3:4-6)

Many of these identifying factors would have conferred status and position on Paul among his peers. However, contrary to human nature, Paul counted all these accomplishments and qualifications as if they were dung so that he could win Christ. *"But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ"* (Phil. 3:7-8).

How is this relevant to you and me? Few of us are Pharisees, citizens of Rome, or can claim lineage of the tribe of Benjamin. Not many can claim to be blameless according to the Law of Moses, and few can say we were schooled at the feet of a widely respected teacher of the Bible.

On the other hand, we may sincerely be able to say that we are free from breaking the laws of our land – which may give us the tendency to justify looking down on others who bend or break the law. Some of us may proudly claim American citizenship – inadvertently elevating ourselves over others who are citizens of another country. We may have graduated from a particular university,

taking pride in our degree, and subtly despising those who have less education. We may identify ourselves by our ethnic heritage, separating ourselves from others of a different background and giving the impression that we think we are better. Without realizing what we are thinking, we may elevate such identifying factors to a place of undue importance in our mind – thinking ourselves to be something special when we are really no different than anyone else in God's eyes. In his letter to the Galatians, Paul writes that we should not be desirous of vainglory and reminds us that if we think ourselves to be something when we are nothing, we deceive ourselves. (Gal. 6:3)

Our Lord Jesus Christ calls us to see ourselves as He sees us, and to see others as He sees them. The only way to do this is to count all our earthly qualifications, accomplishments, and identifications as insignificant, and to put on the nature of Christ. Indeed, if the Spirit of Christ lives in us, we will already have done this. If our identity is in Christ, our accomplishments, titles, and heritage fade to nothing. Although Jesus was one with God, He willingly submitted Himself to mistreatment at the hands of His own creation, and ultimately submitted Himself to the death of the cross. *"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross"* (Phil. 2:5-8).

Jesus Himself said, *"I can of mine own self do nothing..."* (John 5:30). And again, *"I am come in my Father's name..."* (John 5:43). He encourages us to be so thoroughly identified with Him that we are like the branches of a vine—empty of life without Him. *"I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing"* (John 15:5).

If, by His grace we count all things as His: our reputation, accomplishments, family heritage, citizenship, even our very

identity; then it will not be difficult to fulfill James' admonition that we not be respecters of persons. We will rather esteem one another higher than ourselves. *"Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves"* (Phil. 2:3).

What does it really mean to have our identity in Christ? Can we ignore the poor if our identity is in Christ? Can we expect any different treatment than He received at the hands of the world? Can we honestly elevate ourselves above our brother if we count all our titles, heritage, nationality, and accomplishments as nothing? Can we do anything less than sacrifice our life in service to others—even for those who don't appreciate it, if our identity is in Christ?

Perhaps a few of Paul's words could be adapted to today's realities. There is neither American nor Mexican, German nor Hungarian (or any other ethnic group), there is neither weak or strong, for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. *"For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise"* (Gal. 3:26-29).

If our first and foremost self-identification is to gratefully declare and demonstrate that we are Christ's, we can then flourish as a viable part of His sacred Body, the church. Then the church will prosper spiritually and our love for each other will truly *"cover the multitude of sins"* (1 Pet. 4:8). This does not mean that we should approve of behavior that is not in accord with God's Word. It does mean that we should accept and love everyone in the likeness of Christ, which can soften all of our hearts and make us more receptive to God's loving chastisement. (Heb. 12:6)

Who am I? I am a believer and follower of Jesus Christ – nothing more, and nothing less! This is the identity which governs my life.

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](mailto: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

### Vision and Mission

The Apostolic Christian Mission Committee (MC) activities can best be described by our vision and Mission statements.

#### Vision Statement

The Mission efforts of the Apostolic Christian Church exist to embrace and respond to Jesus' vision: "Behold! Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest... pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers..." to make disciples of Christ wherever God opens doors, so that Jesus may receive His harvest of sanctified believers.

#### Mission Statement

To present to the lost the Gospel message of salvation based on faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ and a true repentance and conversion. This is to be done in harmony with the nurturing and instructing of the believers in the truths of God's Word and the preserving of sound doctrine by "earnestly contending for the faith," and serving others in humility and love.

#### Activities and resources

The Mission Committee manages activities and resources in the following areas:

##### Bible and Material Distribution

The MC provides funding for and manages the distribution of Bibles locally and throughout the world. Bibles are sent to churches, schools, prisons, hospitals, nursing homes, college campuses, restaurants, gas stations, motels and businesses. Our hymn books are translated and dispersed where there is an interest in worshipping God through song.

Additionally the MC is involved in printing and distribution of sermons and other spiritual materials.

##### Internal Apostolic Christian mission activities

The MC distributes funding for Apostolic Christian activities within the brotherhood such as foreign and domestic church building construction, assisting with elder and minister expenses and communicating to the brotherhood through the Silver lining and the MC website.

##### Establish and nurture churches

The MC selects, prepares, sends, and nurtures faithful believers to establish and nurture churches in the U.S., Canada, Mexico, and Japan.

##### Sending Brethren

The MC also selects, prepares, sends, and nurtures faithful believers for short and long term mission-oriented outreach in Mexico, Japan, Haiti and Jamaica.

##### Other Mission Organizations

The MC distributes partial funding to external agencies to support mission work that is in alignment with our purpose and doctrine such as Rural Gospel and Medical Missions of India (RGMMI), Berean Prison Ministries, and Athens, AL preschool.

##### What you can do

**Prayer** – The Mission Committee recognizes the need for God's blessing and the presence of His Holy Spirit in all we attempt to do. Therefore, the need for fervent prayer to God is essential. James 5:16 says: The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. We humbly ask for prayer support for all mission activities as God leads.

**Volunteer** – Volunteers are needed for many local churches to accomplish Bible and Material distribution. Service begins at home. Attitude, prayerfulness, carefulness, and willingness begin with a faithful witness right where you are now. With prayer and time God may open the door individually for expanded MC opportunities.

**Financial Support** – Individuals and local churches have opportunity to support the MC directly as well as the Servant Fund.

**Servant Fund** – The Mission Committee established the Servant Fund in 2006. Increased interest and willingness to serve have provided a need and opportunity to support modest living expenses for brethren sent by the MC and World Relief. This arrangement allows our brethren to devote their time and attention to their calling, rather than being required to raise their own funds. It is hoped that brethren will support the Servant Fund on a regular basis. Contributions can be designated for an individual, a project area, or the general Servant Fund.

The Servant Fund would benefit greatly from brethren and friends who would help sponsor those desiring to serve by having funds transferred automatically each month much like Child Sponsorship currently operates. Forms to set this up can be obtained at the address below. This is also the contact information to send donations:

Apostolic Christian Servant Fund  
Attn: Jerry Banwart  
805 W. Jackson St, Suite 305  
Morton, IL 61550  
309-263-9300 Phone  
309-263-8722 Fax  
gnf@mtco.com





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

## Attend the Next Informational Meeting

Significant changes have transpired in World Relief in the last 10 years. God is moving many to deny themselves and reach out to the helpless and destitute. To see where God has used the church is remarkable.

Each day we thank God for another night of rest and good health that He has blessed us with. It's going to be another busy day at the office or taking care of the needs of an active growing family. Dad is worrying about that morning meeting with the boss. Mom needs to hurry to get the kids to appointments and to get groceries. Does this sound familiar? We live in a fast paced world and often miss the blessings God provides for us.

After being given the opportunity to go to a third world country, we were given the chance to see first hand what it is like for a family who does not know what meal they will have that day, if any. We met souls who only have a grade school education and others with none at all, people who make a dollar or two a day if they are fortunate enough to have a job and mothers who can't take their children to the doctor or provide the basic needs we take for granted.

Through Apostolic Christian World Relief, we are given the opportunity to help these hurting souls by providing the support and assistance they need. Those that are suffering are not only in third world countries; they could be in Florida, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas or anywhere in the U.S. Our brethren from all over the globe have been an inspiration as they reach out to

the needy with their personal time and their heartfelt giving.

How can we learn more about these needs and opportunities? One way is by attending an Informational Meeting. Here we learn what World Relief is doing to help alleviate human suffering around the world. We are inspired as we hear the experiences of others first hand.

### Recent meeting

This year we learned about the persecution in India and the need to keep them in our prayers daily as they carry the torch for Christ in a country where the Gospel is often repressed.

In the presentation about Haiti, we were made aware of the need to continue to pray for the Haitian people after the massive earthquake this winter. The recovery and rehabilitation will take years. Many have been blessed with the participation in medical and construction work teams that provided immediate relief after the disaster. There will be many more opportunities in the future.

We were informed of the AWA well drilling in Haiti, bringing clean drinking water to thousands and the challenge to give the true water of life so that we will thirst no more.

We were told about the various needs in Mexico and encouraged to consider helping children in Haiti, Jamaica, Mexico and Guatemala through the Child Sponsorship program. There is always a child in need.

We also heard about the need to disciple believers with Bible study programs through prison ministry. Many of these souls have been awakened by the Gospel while in

prison and need encouragement and understanding of the Scriptures to allow them to live in victory over sin.

Here in the U.S. we were reminded that our Oakville brethren are still assisting those who lost their homes from the flood, the work going on at His Ranch in Taylor, MO and their request for prayers to be able to help those in their own backyard through local church outreach.

### Meeting content

Brethren will give 15-30 minute presentations, often with the aid of PowerPoint, to share the prayers answered in providing humanitarian aid and volunteer labor to alleviate human misery and suffering throughout the world, done in a way that is a Christian witness and brings glory to God. Expect to hear about six hours worth. The presentation will include a cross section of World Relief projects, from local to international.

### Future meeting dates

The Eastern meeting is November 13, 2010 at Mansfield, Ohio. The Western meeting is March 12, 2011 at Peoria, IL.

Meeting times are 8:00 am – 4:00 pm. For more information on informational meetings please go to the World Relief web site at [www.acworldrelief.org](http://www.acworldrelief.org). Check under "Meetings." May our Heavenly Father provide us His grace daily to be about his business.

*I was a hungered and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.*

Mathew 25: 35-36



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

Jesus said in Matthew 10:42, "And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward." Just a few verses earlier in Matthew 10:39 Jesus also said, "He that findeth his life shall lose it, and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it."

Would you like those words to have deeper meaning for you? There are staff who include working at the Home in their journey in life, and have "carried many cups of cold water in His name" while working here.

A staff member who recently retired was one of those staff. This sister retired after working here for over 29 years in a variety of jobs. Over the years she worked in the OT/PT Department, Activity Department, Training Department and in our CILA (Community Integrated Living Arrangement) program.

We realize this staff is just one of many who have come through the doors of Apostolic Christian Home for the Handicapped over the years. As it has been with others, her commitment to the residents, families, staff and the agency has been inspiring. Her love, care, and creativity was directed toward the residents in a way which improved their quality of life. When staff members such as this are asked, they usually say they are most motivated on the job by interactions and friendships that are developed with the residents. This was certainly a driving factor in her ability to maintain her commitment in good times, as well as challenging times. Like some other staff, this sister did not seek recognition from others in her daily tasks. In many ways, staff such as these are considered "unsung heroes" by many of us. We believe God

will bless her, as well as all who give in this way, for their labors of love. The words from Matthew 10 become real when we see loving commitment to our residents by the staff. We are thankful for all who heed the call to work in our settings and set these examples for the rest of us.

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

I heard it said once at a conference that the most effective therapeutic tool is the use of self. In essence, this is suggesting that the best way to reach a person is through being in a relationship with that person. With that as a valid point, you pour yourself into building trust and rapport. You open your home, your heart, extend a hand, all in an attempt to understand, connect, and foster change. This is often a part of being a Houseparent. You do life together. There are good days, right along with the rough days. You see a glimpse into their past, their hurts, fears and dreams or at times the lack of. You see things that are irritating and endearing, and time passes, day in and day out. Some children's stays are short, some end on an unexpected note, and others stay longer. But then there is a day when there is a sudden transition and they leave. I know that is the objective of a treatment facility and the eventual goal. But they leave and there is no longer that day in and day out connection. Yes, there are the occasional letters, phone calls, and visits.

As time has passed, I have found this hard to process - the continual loss of relationships with kids coming and going. It seems to leave me feeling at times emotionally dry and a bit raw. I am not sure I really like good-byes, and I'm not sure that they are always so good. You might be thinking, "Well, that is a part of life",

and I would agree; that is the reality of living in a fallen world. There are good-byes, loss, and death; yet, it seems to me that maybe we weren't quite created to know how to process this because we weren't designed to. However, sin entered the world and there are now separations in relationships, and there is loss.

When I'm not sure how to process these changes, it leads me straight to hope. I would love to see each kid leave on a healthy and happy note and I would like to see the kids graduate high school, be productive citizens, and have healthy relationships and lifestyles. But more than all of that, my greatest desire for them would be to have a relationship with their Heavenly Father, the gift of salvation and the promise and hope of eternal life. Please take time with us to pray that past, current, and future residents would truly understand the hope that lies in a loving relationship with their God. Love never fails.

**NEWS:**

- We would like to again express our sincere thanks to everyone who supported our 34th Annual Auction. God blessed us with over \$380,000! We are so very thankful for His provision and our supporters' generosity! Next year's Auction is scheduled for Saturday, August 6, 2011.

- Now you can connect with Gateway Woods in yet another way. We have launched our all-new Facebook page! Be sure to check it out to get the latest updates, pictures, videos, interviews, and prayer requests from Gateway Woods. Visit us at [facebook.com/gatewaywoods](http://facebook.com/gatewaywoods).

- We are very grateful to the MidOhio Chamber Players and to the Apostolic Christian Church Choir for giving their time and talents to put on the spectacular "Let Your Heart Be Moved" benefit on August 14. Nearly 600 people attended the event and \$3,500 was donated to Gateway



Woods! We thank God that He provides through the hard work and generosity of others.

- Gateway Woods has a new baby on campus! Little Joye was born on August 25, and weighs in at seven pounds and two ounces. Both the baby and her mother are doing well! We are thankful that God has brought these two this far and ask that you would be prayerful for their future together.

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

- You are an important advocate to help us spread the word about God's work at Gateway Woods. Please continue to lift us up in prayer, check our website [www.gatewaywoods.org](http://www.gatewaywoods.org) often for updates, follow us on Facebook to keep up with our daily 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](mailto:mail@gatewaywoods.org).

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**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN  
PRESCHOOL  
Athens, AL  
Cassie Bertsch**

The 5 year olds have now moved on to "big school", and we are gratefully welcoming new children to the preschool. The "new kids on the block" are quickly finding that the stories

are exciting (David and Goliath), the food is tasty (corndogs, pizza, etc), the songs are fun (Who's the King of the Jungle?), and the teachers aren't too boring! By the end of one week, a new child will most likely have the meal-time prayer memorized:

Father we thank Thee for the night  
And for the blessed morning light  
For rest and food  
And loving care  
And all that makes the day so fair.  
Help us to do the things we should  
To be to others kind and good  
In all we do and all we say  
To grow more loving every day  
Amen.

Fifty years from now, it is likely that I will still be able to recite that prayer! It is also likely that I will remember the shining smiles and bright laughter that children so effortlessly express. Just today, my class decided to hide under the table and "scare Miss Cassie" when I came in. Little did they know that I heard their conniving plans, and entered in a different door at the back of the room. I crept up behind them, hearing urgent whispers, "Shhhh!! Miss Cassie's coming!" With that, I yelled out a "BOO!" and endless screaming and giggling pursued, me included.

Two teaching positions are available. 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](mailto:ALM38@aol.com)

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**ALABAMA, ATHENS  
Louise Hall**

Our hearts are touched deeply by the encouragement received here in Athens from our visiting church family. This month, a large group from Rockville, CT, poured out a week of service to the Apostolic Christian Preschool. They not only repaired the preschool from top to bottom, but also

lightened the hearts of the Athens church family with their kindness, generosity, and genuine love for our Saviour. Our dear Sis. Deb Blunier (Eureka, IL) and her niece Whitley also worshipped with us and volunteered at the preschool. Bro. Mark and Sis. Lisa Schmidgall (Eureka, IL), and Bro. Don and Sis. Eileen Braker (Kansas City, MO) also gave of their time and talents to support us believers in Athens. It means a lot to us to see familiar faces or greet a stranger in the name of Jesus Christ.

There has also been some times of storms for some here in Athens, and we strive to diligently lift them up to the Father in prayer. Olivia Coulter (Bro. David and Sis. Barbara's daughter) was in the hospital for 24 hours. Also, Sis. Ola Mae Barnes' daughter, Betty Hammond, suffered a heart attack. Betty was visiting her daughter, Patricia Neuman, in the hospital when the heart attack occurred. We take comfort in knowing our Lord never suffers us to be tried above that which we are able to handle through His grace (I Cor. 10:13).

We rejoice greatly in accepting the newest addition of the Athens church. Little Natalie Rebekah Klaus was born August 5, sharing a birthday with her mother. Bro. Mark and Sis. Rebekah Klaus are thankful for this precious gift from the Lord. Grandparents include Sis. Betty Klaus (and the late John Klaus) from Washington, IL, and Bro. Ed and Sis. Renee Wenger from the Forrest, IL, congregation. In a small church the size of Athens, we take special pleasure in welcoming Natalie and offer many prayers on her behalf. Praise the Lord!

It also encourages us when we see the Lord's guidance in the soul of one of His children. However, at times, His direction can bring forth tears as well. From 2006-2010, Sis. Sarah Hodel has worshipped with, served, and loved the people of Athens. We re-



joyce with her greatly as she pursues the Lord's will in Roanoke, IL, but it does sadden our hearts to see her go. How thankful we are that this life is but a mere shadow of the blissful eternity to come! In addition, distance is no barrier when compared to the bond of brothers and sisters in Christ.

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### ARIZONA, PHOENIX Heather Hinrichsen

Grant Katich (Bro. Brian and Sis. Debbie) made an unexpected visit to the ER at the last church dinner. He required stitches after falling from a retaining wall. We pray for rapid healing.

We extend our sympathy and prayers to Bro. Ed and Sis. Connie Frautschi in the passing of her mother. May God wrap His comforting arms around them.

Safe in the arms of Jesus,  
Safe on His gentle breast,  
There by His love o'ershaded,  
sweetly my soul shall rest.

*Hymns of Zion #218*

Bro. Charlie Baumgartner went to be with the Lord on August 11. He is survived by his brother, Dave, and sister, Mary. The memorial service was held in Phoenix on August 15 and the final resting place is in Francesville, IN.

Lane Anliker (Bro. Rod and Sis. Anne) was married to Colleen Danaher of Brookfield, IL, on June 6. Colleen's parents are Terry and Millie Danaher of Milton, WI. We wish them God's blessings as they establish their home in Flagstaff, AZ.

Promising to live true and faithful by God's help the remainder of their lives, Franz Hoerr (Bro. Jake and Sis. Wanda), Brent Emch (Bro. James and Sis. Gina) and Phillip Huetter (Bro. Doug and Sis. Jill) were baptized into our church body on July 18. We greet these new brothers and look forward

to watching God do wondrous things in their lives.

Realizing his need for a Savior and desiring to be part of the body of Christ, Steven Emch (Bro. James and Sis. Gina) has begun the repentance process. May we encourage and uplift our coverts in word and prayer.

Many of our congregation joined the Prescott congregation for the 2nd Annual Prescott Picnic on August 7. We thank the Prescott congregation for their love and hospitality.

#### *Note of Thanks:*

As Jesus came to take Kathie's hand from ours and take her home, it both broke our hearts and gave us a peace knowing that she was with Him. We as a family thank the Lord and each one of you for your prayer support over the past several years that Kathie dealt with the cancer. Your prayers strengthened us in a time of weakness and brought us through all this so that His name might be praised and glorified. We thank each of you for your encouraging words, love, cards, visits, gifts and so many kind deeds during this time. May the Lord bless you and keep you in His perfect care.

#### *The Labudde family*

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### 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 Bros. Chris Huber (Sis. Sharon, Francesville), David Obergfel (Sis. Kathleen, Peoria), Dan Koch (Sis. Julie, Tremont), James Emch (Sis. Gina, Phoenix), Nate Lehman (Sis. Yvonne, Denver) and Dwight Stoller (Sis. Lori, Latty).

The 2nd annual all-Arizona invite picnic was held Saturday, August 7. Unfortunately, it rained all day, so

the picnic was moved from a park to the church, but it was still a blessing to all who attended. Thanks to those of you from Phoenix who made the effort to come and fellowship.

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### ARIZONA, TUCSON Lisa Knapp

As school was recently starting up and we were getting our children ready for another year, we had the opportunity to also provide some assistance to some disadvantaged children in our community. We were able to host a booth (miniature golf) at a local back-to-school festival sponsored by GAP Ministries here in Tucson. The children play games at the different booths and there is food and entertainment provided along with the backpacks and school supplies they will need to start their school year. It's a great way for our little church to have an impact in our community as we're too small to hold our own festival, but just the right size to host a booth at someone else's! Many thanks to everyone who helped make the day a success.

Our kids are indeed trudging off to school in these hot August summer days. Our prayers are with them as they face the challenges of many students across the country – decreasing funding, larger class sizes and many different ideas and beliefs coming to their attention. May God keep His big hands over them during their time in school.

Our monsoon storms have tapered off and our days are sunny, hot and long. We enjoyed the rains while they were here, and we hope for just a few more, but we didn't get as much rain as we have in previous monsoon seasons.

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### CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

We bade farewell to the Cox/Luthi/



Witzig family on August 1, tearfully and joyfully, blessing each one in this new chapter of the journey. There will be adjustments in the leaving and the staying, and we set our hope in the Lord, whose abundant grace covers all.

We are thankful for visiting ministers who served us, Bro. Leonard Meyer (Chicago, IL) and Bro. Herb Knochel (Phoenix, AZ).

We shared the Lord's Supper on Sunday afternoon, August 22, and sent our Sis. Stephany Moser on again, to her work in China. She teaches English at the university level there, sharing the Father's love with her students. There seems to be spiritual apathy among the students in her current location, so she has asked for prayers to awaken hearts.

*Note of Thanks:*

Our hearts have been deeply touched and we thank you all for your prayers, messages of caring and sympathy, gifts and kindness shown to us at the passing of our beloved husband, father and grandfather, John Klotzle. We continue to feel comfort through those prayers. God bless each one of you.

*Sis. Lois Klotzle*

*Bro. Tom and Sis. Jody Klotzle and family*

*Sis. Kathy and Bro. Frank Sauder and family*

*Sis. Heidi and Bro. Tom Luginbuhl and family*

*Bro. Joe and Sis. Sue Klotzle*

*Sis. Mary Beth and Bro. Greg Lehman and family*

*Bro. David and Sis. Janelle Klotzle and family*

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**KITCHENER, ONTARIO  
CANADA  
Johanna Fortenbacher**

"And I will raise me up a faithful priest, that shall do according to that

which is in mine heart and in my mind: and I will build him a sure house; and he shall walk before mine anointed for ever."

*I Samuel 2:35*

God has truly been faithful as He has provided for us a new minister in Bro. Chad Leman. Please pray for Bro. Chad and his wife, Sis. Kim, and their children, Milan, Paul, Maria, Audrey and Ellie. I'm sure they never knew the plans God had in store for them when they felt led to move to Canada.

Elder Bros. Mark Bahr (Sis. Bev, Detroit) and John Jackson (Sis. Peggy, Bay City) were here to share in Holy Communion on the same weekend as Bro. Chad's minister ordination. A special thank you to all our ministering brothers for giving us encouragement. Other ministers this past month were Bro. Warren and Sis. Cindy Schlatter (Junction, OH), Bro. Dean and Sis. Wanda Messner (Winthrop, MN), Bro. Dan and Sis. Dianne Stoller (Rockville, CT) and Bro. Gary and Sis. Edith Anliker (Elgin, IL).

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**REGINA, SK  
CANADA  
Myrna Shipley**

A sincere thank you to our minister, Bro. Paul and Sis. Loretta Zimmerman (Forrest) on July 18. Bro. Art and Sis. Sandra Nohl and Bro. Carl and Sis. Marilyn Koehl came for a visit on July 25. We really would like visitors to come to Regina church so please consider supporting us.

There are friendships that we cherish in our daily walk of life.

Friends with whom we meet and labour,

in our earthly toil and strife.

Friends among the aged and youthful,

friends that live from us apart.

Friends of higher rank and station,

find a place within my heart.

*Hymns of Zion #91*

The visiting minister schedule is:

August – Francesville

September – Sabetha

October – Silverton

November - Morris

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**COLORADO, DENVER  
Lily Zarkovacki**

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

*Philippians 4:4*

What a blessing it is to see our church growing!

Congratulations to Bro. Fred Leman (Dennis and Sis. Karen, Roanoke, IL) and Sis. Jodi Kieser (Bro. Mark and Sis. Cathy, Peoria, IL). We pray that they can feel God's direction and blessings as they plan for their wedding and marriage.

We welcome our newest addition, a sweet baby boy, Brady Shayne Fehr. Thankful first-time parents are Bro. Shayne and Sis. Emily Fehr. Happy grandparents are David and Sis. Linda Fehr (Washington, IL) and Bro. David and Sis. Kathy Obergfel (Peoria, IL).

Once again, we were blessed to have the privilege to have visiting ministers: Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern, KS), Bro. Frank Sauder (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL), Bro. Joe Gerst (Sis. Connie, Iowa City, IA), and Bro. Jeff Neihouser (Sis. Sue, Morton, IL). We are thankful for their willingness to serve on the pulpit.

Our church held our annual VBS on July 19-23. Thanks to all who organized it and participated.

We welcome back Sis. Ruth Pfeifer to worship with us again, after recovering from several health challenges at home.

After spending the summer with



us in Denver, we bid Bro. Max Knobloch farewell as he returns back to Prescott, AZ.

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**CONNECTICUT  
ROCKVILLE  
Laura Virkler  
Bonnie Bahler**

"Thus united And in concord Let us walk the path of life;" (Zion's Harp #237). August 1 was the wedding day of Bro. Phil Schneider and Sis. Jen Hoffman. Their parents are Bro. Ralph and Sis Tina Schneider and Bro. Arlo and Sis. Lynn Hoffman. May the Lord grant His blessings on this young couple in their married life.

Our congregation has been blessed with many visitors this summer and we appreciate each one. Our visiting ministers have been Bro. Neil Ramseyer (Sis. Sharon, Bay City, MI), Bro. Mike Rinkenberger (Sis. Pat, Congerville, IL), Bro. Philip Schulz (Sis. Kelli, Burlington, IA) and Bro. Don Gudeman (Sis. Mary, LaCrosse, IN). We want to thank these Brothers for their willingness to preach God's Word to us.

On the weekend of August 28 we heard the testimonies of four precious souls. We welcome into the fold Sis. Rebecca Moser (Bro. Steve and Sis. Jan), Bro. Rob Widmer (Bro. Dan and Sis. Virginia, Rittman, OH), Bro. Mark Eastwood (Nancy) and Sis. Margo Wheeler (Burt Sr.). We also want to thank Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH) for helping in this work.

We are always thankful for the safe arrival of precious little babies. Jonathan Douglas was welcomed into the home of Bro. Bruce and Sis. Laura Gottier on August 17. First-time grandparents are Bro. Scott and Sis. Luanne Hills, Sis. Beth Gottier and Guy Gottier.

"For I the Lord thy God will hold

thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee."

*Isaiah 41:13*

Many prayers have been offered for those in our congregation who are struggling with bodily afflictions. Our prayers for recovery go out to Sis. Betsy Hany (Bro. Paul). May she feel God's nearness and healing hand on her in the days and weeks ahead. We also pray for Sis. Eloise Webb and Sis. Helen Gottier, who are recovering in the nursing home. We sure do miss them at church each week and look forward to their return.

Our congregation warmly welcomes Bro. John, Sis. Maureen and Bro. Sam Virkler back to Rockville as they have relocated from Congerville, IL. May the Lord be with them as they make the many adjustments in this transition.

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**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
WASHINGTON  
Henrietta Meyer**

Our caretakers for July were Bro. Harve and Sis. Jan Schieler from Fairbury, 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](mailto:bdsteff@yahoo.com) or 302-540-6574.

We have been blessed with many visiting ministers this month. Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Ron Joos (Sis. Christy, Bloomfield, IA), Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Sis. Michelle, Philadelphia, PA), Bro. Don Manz (Sis. Connie, Junction, OH), Bro. John Steiner (Sis. Carol, Oakville, IA), and Bro. Todd Stoller (Sis. Pam, Latty, OH). Other visitors were from Rittman and Junction, OH; Roanoke, Eureka, Bradford, Congerville and Elgin, IL;

Francesville, Remington and Bluffton, IN and Morris, MN.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Madelyn Fehr (Bro. Rich) from Roanoke. She fell while visiting her nephew in the area and broke her hip. She has spent time in the hospital and nursing home in Fairfax before returning to Roanoke.

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](mailto: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.

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**FLORIDA  
FORT LAUDERDALE  
Renee Mangold**

This past month has been one with many of us experiencing the blessing of safe travel and the time to enjoy various parts of the country with family and loved ones. We are always grateful when we can travel and renew many friendships and see dear ones whom we have missed.

Bro. Roger Sauder and Sis. Judy were able to attend this year's Conference and we look forward to hearing the Memorandum in time. Many prayers go with the Elder Brothers each year as they convene and care for our congregations.

Our visiting ministers this month were Bro. Ron Jones (Portland, OR), Bro. Paul Zimmerman (Sis. Loretta, Forrest, IL), and Bro. Art Ingold (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman, OH) and some of their family. We thank each one for their willingness to come and visit.

Our son, David Mangold, is now in Ft. Jackson, North Carolina, as he begins his ROTC program. We pray that the Lord will cover him with His care and keeping in the days ahead.

Summer is drawing to a close and we see how quickly time flies here. We hope to remember every day that



there is an eternity awaiting all of us and that we can keep our Savior close to our activities of this life.

As always, we want to welcome and encourage anyone traveling to come and visit us here in South Florida.

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**FLORIDA  
NORTH FORT MYERS  
Victor Beer**

It looks like our "monsoon" season is here finally, a little late, but the important time with our church is that our local church folks are coming back. We truly enjoyed and appreciated the visitors we've had this summer.

The highlight of our summer was probably the first wedding down on the beach, for John Sweet and Alison Weiss (Elgin, IL). John is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Sweet Sr. of South Elgin, IL, and Alison is the daughter of Bro. Roger and Sis. Karen Weiss. The children of these parents and many friends came down from Illinois for the affair, and a great time was enjoyed by all. The regular rains that threatened the lovely affair held off just right for the late afternoon wedding. We wish John and Alison God's richest blessings in their life together.

Our thoughts and prayers have been for the Brotherhood Conference at Rittman recently. We implore God's blessing on all involved in the leadership of our precious fellowship.

It is truly amazing how our youth have wanted to and are reaching out to help the needy all over the world. Thank God for His Almighty power over all that will confess and follow Him.

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**FLORIDA, SARASOTA  
Kim Ott**

"Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the

name of our Lord Jesus Christ."

*Ephesians 5:20*

We are thankful for God's provision and direction for the leading of our congregation as Bro. Jeff Streitmatter (Sis. Lynne) was approved for the position of our church Elder at the August 2010 Conference. We wish to thank Elder Bro. Dale and Sis. Judy Eisenmann for their many years of devoted service to our Sarasota church. We appreciate so much the blessings we have received from the numerous words of wisdom and instruction Elder Bro. Dale has shared to us. Lord willing, we look forward to having Bro. Dale and Sis. Judy continue to spend time with our church family in the future.

We want to welcome Sis. Sandra Gal to her teaching position in our Sunday School. Sis. Sandra has agreed to teach Sis. Lindsay Brown's class now that Sis. Lindsay is away at college. Many thanks to Sis. Lindsay for all of her time and effort teaching our young children Bible stories and demonstrating God's love for each one.

During this past year, Bro. Doug Sabo (Sis. Linda) has been diagnosed with pneumonia on three separate occasions. We continue to lift Bro. Doug up in our prayers, asking God for his recovery of renewed strength.

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**GEORGIA, ATLANTA**

We were so blessed to have Bro. Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL) minister to us this month. Bro. Gary and Sis. Edie are always such a joy to be with!

On August 28, we enjoyed a time of fellowship during a potluck at the Waldbeser's. The fellowship between us is such a blessing!

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**ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE**

**Jenn Johnson  
Doreen Moser**

We had our Annual Sunday School

Picnic in July at Bro. Art and Sis. Marlene Mueller's house. The children enjoyed the different activities and games they played with their Sunday School teachers. Thank you to the Sunday School teachers for all you do for our children!

We are also thankful to Bro. Dean Messner (Sis. Wanda, Winthrop, MN) for sharing God's Word with us this month. We have enjoyed the many visitors so far this summer as many are travelling on vacations. We certainly extend a warm welcome to anyone who is in the area to visit us!

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

"The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein."

*Psalms 24:1*

On July 24-25, we were blessed to have a baptism weekend for Bro. Marv and Sis. Rita Wenger. We have enjoyed having them worship with us and give glory to the Lord for their testimony of repentance and their obedience in baptism. Bro. Stephen Baner (Gridley, IL) had the morning service and Elder Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL) had the afternoon service.

We always appreciate visiting ministers in Bloomington. Bro. Bill and Sis. Mary Masters (Ft. Myers, FL) have been visiting this month and Bro. Bill has ministered two Sundays to us.

Our prayers are also with Bro. Nic and Sis. Amanda Rassi as Bro. Nic has been undergoing medical treatment. We pray for his health and recovery and that the Lord's wisdom could be evident through this time in their lives.



## ILLINOIS, BRADFORD Philip and Donna Nenadov

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

*Psalms 127:3*

It seems that the only news we have to report from our church involves children, however, we know that this is a special blessing from the Lord and it motivates us to do our best to preserve our faith so that our heritage will live on.

On April 27, Henry Jordan was born into the family of Brock and Mindy Elsasser. Zachary and Nickolas are happy to welcome their little brother into his new home. Grandparents of Henry are Bro. Jordan and Sis. Sharon Elsasser, and Jim and Nancy Gross of Pennsylvania. On July 23, Ryan and Jill Pyles welcomed a little boy in their household. Siblings of Gabriel Ryan are Emma and Olivia. Grandparents of Gabriel are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Becky Pyles, and Jim and Brenda Kelly of Sparland, IL. Heidi Pearl entered into this world on August 25. She is the daughter of our Elder Bro. Bruce and Sis. Elizabeth Endress. Her siblings are Matthew, Sarah, Laura, Andrew, and Julia. Grandparents are Bro. Perry and Sis. Carol Klopfenstein (Gridley) and Bro. Gary and Sis. Evelyn Endress. May the Lord bless each one of these precious children as they take their place in this life.

Bro. Greg and Sis. Kristin Johnson adopted three young gentlemen from Estonia in August. Juri, Kenneth, and Elvis were greeted to America by their new sister, Elsa. I also failed to mention that in December 2008, three young ladies were received into the home of Bro. Ralph and Sis. Jenny Joos. Ana Ruth, Jessica Isabel, and Patti Noel came from Guatemala and were welcomed by the Joos family and our church family. We wish God's

nearness to these children and their new families as they adjust to their new environment.

God be with you 'til we meet again.

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## ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN Jackie Eisenmann

Greetings from Champaign-Urbana! Our prayers have gone out for our dear Elder Brothers as they assembled together this past month in Rittman, OH. May God continue to give them wisdom and bless them for their labors on our behalf.

Wednesday, August 11, we enjoyed a picnic at a local park to welcome Sis. Lacy Braker from Morton, IL, to our congregation. Lacy has taken a teaching position at a nearby district and we are excited that she will be worshipping with us in Champaign. May God bless her in her transition!

Sunday, August 15, we enjoyed an all-church potluck and fellowshiping with Dr. Parke and his son Amit, from India. After the meal, Dr. Parke took time to talk to us about the Lord's work in India through the Rural Gospel and Medical Mission of India. It was very interesting to hear how God is working in the lives of people in India. It has also prompted us to pray for the believers and unbelievers, alike, as well as Dr. Parke and his family as they seek to do God's will in India. May God bless them!

Our Sunday school students began Sunday school for the new school year on Sunday, August 22. There is always much excitement when they get to return to classes after our summer break. We want to thank the teachers who put much effort into teaching our children the Truth.

Our college students have returned for the '10-'11 school year! We enjoyed a welcome picnic with the students and their families at a local park on Sunday, August 22. It was great to see familiar faces as well as

meet new students coming to C-U this year. Bro. Brad Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) was here that day as a parent and was used on the pulpit as well. We also want to thank other visiting ministers we were blessed by this past month: Bro. John Wiegand (Silverton, OR) and Bro. Paul Kilgus (Fairbury, IL). May God bless these Brothers, their ministries and their families!

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## ILLINOIS, CHICAGO Rachel Meyer

Greetings from Chicago. We wish to thank visiting ministers, Bro. Tom Waldbeser (Atlanta, GA), and Bro. Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL), for sharing God's Word with us.

Our dear Mildred (Sauder) Siepka's son-in-law, Stephen T. Kasos, passed away. He was married to Mildred's daughter, Nancy, and lived in Hoffman Estates, IL. We extend our sympathy to this family.

Congratulations are extended to our Bro. Greg Eisenmann (Bro. Brad and Sis. Cindy), upon earning his Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical Engineering. Bro. Greg attends the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana and plans to continue his education there working toward a Master's Degree.

On July 17-24 our Sunday School Bible Class traveled to Magdalena, Mexico. We thank God for His guiding hand upon them.

Our new Sunday School teachers are Bro. Aaron Plattner, Sis. Andrea Luthi, and Sis. Jaron Montgomery. Bro. Rick Kaisner will serve as Superintendent. Thank you for being willing to serve.

Our Sis. LaVirra Lehman's 90th birthday was August 14. We love her and thank God for each of our older brothers and sisters and the wisdom that comes with each year.

As a congregation, we praise God for His leading to place Bro. Brad



Eisenmann (Sis. Cindy) as our new Elder. Approval was given at the Brotherhood Conference in Rittman, OH, and we look forward to ordination services August 29, Lord willing. We are so thankful for the Holy Spirit's leading and direction.

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### ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

**Vickie Maul**

**Marilyn Maul**

In sorrow and pain we are thankful that the Lord is with us at all times.

In sorrow we have Bro. Ben Rudin who lost his brother-in-law, Bro. David Wagner, of Gridley; Sis. Rosie Martin and Sis. Jeanie Kaufmann (brother-in-law and uncle respectively) have lost Ed Martin of Morton; and Sis. Caroline Gudeman lost her sister-in-law, Anna Gudeman. Also, Sis. Vi Greiner lost her nephew, Terry Hamrick.

In pain we have several that are or have been in the hospital needing prayers: Pete Bauer, Liz Rudin (Gary), Bro. Gerald Rudin (Sis. Joan), Nick Sauder (grandson of Bro. Curt and Sis. Elaine Sauder), Sis. Lou Hari, Sis. Judy Edelman, and Grace Farney. We do pray that each one can feel the nearness of our blessed Lord in their time of need.

Even in joy we appreciate the nearness of God. Bro. Steve and Sis. Cheryl Eisenmann rejoice with the birth of their son, Jesse Robert. Excited siblings are Tyler, Amanda, Philip and Laura. Bro. Ken and Sis. Sharon Eisenmann are the rejoicing grandparents. Bro. Larry and Sis. Jeanine Kaufmann also received the blessing of a grandson, Braden Matthew, born to their daughter, Sally, and Matt Walton of Mechanicsville, VA.

We had a special blessing recently when two home grown ministers returned to their home church: Bro. Duane Reutter (Rockville, CT) and Bro. Les Kaeb (Francesville, IN). We

also were thankful for Bro. Dana Indermuhle (Sardis, OH) for joining us on a Wednesday evening.

As we approach the time of school starting, we pray for each student to learn to the best of their ability and for the teachers as they teach each child what they need to know to become productive adults in today's world.

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### ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

**Holly Zobrist**

July 24 was a special day for Bro. Brian and Sis. Holly Zobrist as Trevin Michael was born. Welcoming him home are his two older brothers, Troy and Denver. Thankful for his safe arrival are his grandparents, Bro. Scott and Sis. Jan Stickling and Bro. Clarence and Sis. Luann Zobrist.

Keith Grimm (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Ruth, Goodfield) and Perri Hartman (Bro. Jim and Sis. Ree) have announced their engagement. We wish them God's blessings as they prepare for this big step in their lives.

Bro. Josh and Sis. Tina Walder have submitted to God's leading as they made the decision to move to Cissna Park. This is sad for our congregation in Congerville. They will definitely be missed. However, we are sure they'll be a blessing to Cissna Park church.

Bro. David Currier (Art and Sis. Mary) and Sis. Maria Hartter (Bro. Tim and Sis. Charlene, Sabetha) were married August 15. May they feel God's nearness as they walk the road to Heaven together.

We were thankful to have ministering Bro. Dana Indermuhle (Sis. Joy, Sardis), and Bro. Tom Leman (Sis. Marlene, Denver) with us this past month. We are always thankful for those who allow God to use them to bring God's Word to us.

*Note of Thanks:*

Dear Brothers, Sisters, and

Friends,

Thanks to all who prayed for or visited Bro. Virgil when he was in the hospital. After his passing, thanks for your sympathy, love, prayers, and support. Thanks to those who prepared or served meals, gave cards, flowers, gifts, or memorials. Thanks to those who had the services, sang in the choir, did the recording, or ushering. May God bless you for any act of kindness you sent our way. It makes it easier to go on when there is that blessed hope that our loved one is safe in the arms of Jesus.

*Love in Christ,*

*Sis. Shirley Funk and Family*

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### ILLINOIS, ELGIN

**Amy Gasser**

**Miriam Gasser**

Within the past month, our summertime visitors included several ministers, to whom we are grateful. They were Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Bloomfield, IA) and Bros. Earl Beery (Rittman, OH), Ken Dietz (Bradford, IL), Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI), Mark Gerber (Bluffton, IN), and Alan Schambach (Remington, IN).

Our Sunday School picnic was held at the Fellowship Center on July 25. As three new teachers begin their terms, we also want to thank outgoing Bro. Fred Dietz (Sis. Shaena) for his years of faithful service. (This is a correction to the last column, which indicated that Bro. Dave Stieglitz had completed his term.)

The following week, teachers and students met for four days of Vacation Bible School. Thanks to all who participated, especially those who came the extra miles to teach: Bros. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI), Matt Steffen (Princeville, IL), Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL), and Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN). On Wednesday evening, Bro. Brian Huber (Francesville, IN) spoke on "Signs of



the Times" to the entire church.

Scott and Darlene Krueger have moved to the Ft. Collins, CO, area for college and plan to attend the Denver church. Another couple, who married on July 18, has moved to the Elgin area for school and work. We welcome Bro. Kyle and Sis. Melissa Hangartner, whose parents are Bro. Harvey and Sis. Judy Kaeb (Gridley, IL) and Bro. Mark and Sis. Karen Hangartner (Washington, IL).

John Sweet and Alison Weiss (Bro. Roger and Sis. Karen) were married on August 5. We wish them happiness and a union strengthened by God's love.

Rick and Sis. Cindy Schmidgall are delighted to have a new granddaughter, Wells Maelee. She was born August 16 and is the daughter of Mark and Aubrey Triplett. Wells' big brothers are Maine and Gibson.

The families of Bros. Dick Klopfenstein (Sis. Judy) and Mo Young (Sis. Pat) are humbly grateful for the recoveries of Bro. Dick from his surgery and Bro. Mo from his fall. He decided not to undergo spinal surgery and has been touched by the Great Physician. Both brothers have returned to church and are testimonies of the power of prayer.

#### *Note of Thanks:*

We wish to thank all of you for your love and concern during Matt's illness and passing. Your letters on Caring Bridge, cards, and phone calls meant so much. It is such a comfort to know he is out of pain and is safe in the arms of Jesus. May God bless each of you.

*The Families of Bro. Matt Steffen*

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### ILLINOIS, EUREKA

**Dee Baer  
Jodi Blunier**

Bro. Steven and Sis. Rachel, Ashlyn and Carson Dotterer welcomed Nolan John. Grandparents are

Bro. John and Sis. Jeanne Dotterer and Bro. Ed and Sis. Donna Kupferschmid. Bro. Joe and Sis. Andrea Ehnle are parents of Treyden Lee. Grandparents are Bro. Gary and Sis. Carol Ehnle and Bro. Stan and Sis. Dawn Knobloch (Lester, IA). Tim and Regina and Michael Sinn added another boy, Jordan Charles. Grandparents are Bro. Charles and Sis. Karen Sinn and David and Faith Yoder.

Bro. Ted and Sis. Donna Blunier are the grandparents of Nohl Edward, son of Brian and Lizzie Blunier. Nohl's siblings are Elle and Jack.

Bro. Arlen Edelman (Bro. Keith and Sis. Nadine) and Sis. Marissa Schieber (Bro. Mike and Sis. Mary, Congerville) announced their engagement.

With thanksgiving, Clint Schumacher (Bro. Dan and Sis. Heidi) submitted to God's call in repentance.

Saddened by the death of their step-mother, Sis. Katie Blunier, are Sis. Lola Stoller (Bro. Stan), Bro. Ted Blunier (Sis. Donna), Bro. Myron Blunier (Sis. Elaine) and Kawin Blunier. Services were held in the Minneapolis church.

Thankful for healing are Bro. Shannon and Sis. Sharon Witzig as their boys, Sheldon and Shane, were both hospitalized. Also recovering are Bro. Roger Blunier (Sis. Wendy) and Sis. Wendy Blunier (Bro. Roger).

We appreciated visiting ministers, Elder Bro. Duane Rocke (Minneapolis, MN), Bro. Floyd Frieden (Elgin, IA), Bro. Kent Getz (Elgin, IA) and Bro. John Wiegand (Silverton, OR).

Our apologies to Bro. Jonathan and Sis. Sheila Sanders for misprinting their name in the last issue.

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### ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

**Angela Herr  
Kay Steffen**

We are thankful for the many visitors who have assembled with us this

month. We appreciate our visiting ministers, Bro. Dennis Rassi (Austin, TX) and Bro. Michael Wagenbach (Wolcott, IN), sharing God's Word with us. May God's richest blessings be upon them for their willingness to serve our congregation.

We rejoice with families that have welcomed precious babies into their hearts and homes. Bro. Wes and Sis. Erinn Steidinger are thankful for the safe arrival of a son, Wade Martin, on August 5. Happy siblings are Lucas and Kiley. Wade's grandparents are Bro. Martin and Sis. Trish Steidinger and Will and Juanita Kaeb. On August 15, Sis. Damaris and Silas, Leighton, Gideon, Reena, Elsa, Josiah, Louisa, Stella, and Peter welcomed a new baby sister, Florence Delight. Thankful parents are Bro. Kevin and Sis. Kara Moser. Grandparents are Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Martha Moser (Washington, IL), Robert and Cheri Kaisner, and Colleen Tholen. Little Florence needed to spend a few extra days in the hospital. Her family is looking forward to having her home soon.

Our hospital patients this month were Sis. Anna Lou Van Antwerp, Bro. Glenn Fehr (Sis. Kathryn), and Bro. Duane Kilgus (Sis. Arlene). Also Bro. Wayne Davis (Verla) had an accident on the farm requiring numerous stitches. We pray for God's healing according to His will.

We look forward to listening to the Conference tapes and are thankful for our shepherds who strive so diligently, giving of their time. May we each be encouraged in our walk of faith, and continue our prayers for our Elder brothers.

We have recently begun our kitchen remodeling and Sunday School addition. We will be under construction during the next several months.

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**ILLINOIS, FORREST**

**Lisa Aberle  
Lynn Dotterer**

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

*Psalm 127:3*

Bro. Andy and Sis. Jenise Rudin were blessed with a daughter, Lydia Ann. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Craig and Sis. Trudy Rudin, Morris Kaeb and Brenda Mueller. Lindsey Alice Honegger is the newest member of Bro. Ryan and Sis. Tabatha's family. Lindsey's excited siblings and grandparents are: Kara, Renee, Lyle, Aaron, Leah, Bro. Lloyd and Joyce Honegger and Laurie Franz. Bro. Stan and Sis. Kristen, Allison, Nicole, Lincoln, Stanton, Wade, Erin, and Jacob Mueller welcomed Autumn Grace. Her grandparents are Bro. Al and Sis. Wanda Kupferschmid and Bro. Ron and Sis. Loida Mueller.

Our prayers are with Sis. Jean Ricketts as she recovers from surgery.

Elder Bros. Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN) and Art Metz (Silverton, OR) and Bro. Trent Meiss (Eureka, IL) ministered to us this month. May God bless them for their service.

**ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD**

**Kayla Wiegand  
Donna Wyss**

Bro. Ed Steffen (Sis. Mary, Congerville) passed away in July. He was the father of Bro. Mark Steffen (Sis. Joan) and the brother of Bro. Jerry Steffen (Sis. Allene). Our sympathy and prayers are with these loved ones.

Isaiah 55:6 “Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:” We are always thankful when souls answer the call to repentance. Joe and Abby (Blunier) Tabor started this wonderful journey.

Cassie Knepp (Alex) and Matt Grimm (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Ruth) have found peace with God and man and were announced for their testimony and baptism. May we all be prayerful for them.

Bro. Curt and Sis. Larisa Wettstein and their daughter Isabella are making Goodfield their home church.

I Cor. 2:13 “which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but the Holy Ghost teacheth...” Our counseling Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley), Bro. Craig Stickling (Sis. Jacki, Peoria) and Bro. Stephen Baner (Sis. Donnalou, Gridley) worshiped with us this past month.

*Note of Thanks:*

I would like to thank all of you that sent me nice cards for my 80th birthday. May God bless each one of you for thinking of me.

In Christian Love,

*Sis. Loretta Hess*

**ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY**

**Perry A. Klopfenstein**

There is an interesting principle pertaining to our spiritual life. It is in reference to being a good soldier. “Thou, therefore, endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ” (I Timothy 2:3). In our English language a soldier is a noun. But as one “soldiers” each day, it is a verb. Soldiers are those who endure the challenging paths thrown at them from the enemy. In spite of troubles, heartaches, setbacks, one soldiers in keeping his equipment, his clothing, his gear, and his tools of warfare always in good shape for whatever he may face. And when times get hard, his constant soldiering helps him stay firm, and fulfill his duties as a soldier. Surely, in our daily spiritual lives, we need to “soldier” on, knowing that there is always light at the end of the

tunnel — and that God will not leave or forsake any of His own, providing they stay true to their soldiering in their quest for victory.

Bro. Dave Wagner, 91, passed away on August 1, in El Paso. He is survived by his wife of 68 years, Sis. Lucille, formerly Lucille Rudin of Cissna Park. Also surviving are three daughters, Judith Valentine, and Sis. Celia Harroun, El Paso, and Sis. Laura Wagenbach, Kiowa, KS; two sons, Henry Wagner, Avondale, AZ, and Steve Wagner, Macomb, MI; one brother, Victor Wagner, Peoria, and one sister, Rachel Davidson, Eureka. He is survived by 15 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren, six step-grandchildren, and four step-great-grandchildren.

Bro. Dave will be missed by our congregation. A quiet and gentle man, he is remembered as one who was nice to greet each Sunday, and surely we will remember where he sat for each worship service; and that he was diligent in attending church up until his health would no longer permit it. We surely extend our deepest sympathies to Sis. Lucille, and her family.

Sis. Eileen Greiner is recovering from a heart procedure, with a pacemaker installed. May God help her, and provide for her health.

The seasons surely come and go. Now we are at the outset of the harvest season, with corn and soybeans awaiting the implements to garner in the grain. Also, the Sunday School season has begun anew, and in this sense it is planting time as seeds are sown among the youth, with a hope for a bountiful harvest in due season. It is God's will that “all” will come to repentance. May God's Spirit be with our Sunday School teachers.



**ILLINOIS, MORTON**  
**Annette Tanner**  
**Julie Bahr**

We came to minister, not to be ministered to! With thanksgiving we appreciate the servants who ministered the Word of God: Elder Bro. Steve Sauder (Sis. Mary, Tremont), Elder Bro. Tim Funk (Sis. Debbie, Peoria), Bro. Keith Hinrichsen (Sis. Tammy, Phoenix), Bro. Jeff Grimm (Sis. Ruth, Goodfield), and Bro. Fred Funk (Sis. Diane) for our Family Worship topic from the Old Testament Book of Ezekiel titled "Wheels and Bones" which was inspiring and informative.

Our sympathy is extended to our Sis. Beulah Funk in the loss of her brother, Ed Martin.

Our sympathy also to Sis. Helen (Bro. Harry) Schmidgall in the loss of her brother, Wayne Kaiser.

Bro. Bill Kaufman lost his sister, Mary Ann Pfeifer. Our deepest sympathy and Christian love is shared with those who are experiencing sorrow.

Congratulations to grandparents, Bro. Doug and Sis. Gerry Kruse, as they welcomed granddaughter, Paisley Joy, on July 9. Little Paisley entered the home of Bro. David "Tater" and Sis. Haley Kieser along with siblings, Landon, Elle and Briana. Paternal grandparents are Bro. David and Sis. Wilma Kieser (Blooming- ton).

We rejoice with and welcome Sis. Stephanie Braker (Bro. Brent and Sis. Becky) and Sisters Lacey and Lynnae Braker (Bro. Brad and Sis. Debbie) as our Sisters in Christ, as they testified and have chosen to trust their lives to Jesus Christ.

How blessed to marry within the "Precious Field of God". The engagement of Sis. Holly Plattner (Morton) to Bro. Kent Levy (Washington) was made known on August 15. Sis. Holly is the daughter of Bro. Howard and Sis. Kristen Plattner (Alto). Bro. Kent is the son of Bro. Roger and Sis.

Sue Levy (Indianapolis).

**ILLINOIS, PEORIA**  
**Pam Fritzenmeier**

We were excited and joyful to hear on August 1 of the engagement of Bro. Joel Stickling (Chris and Sis. Marcia) to Sis. Mindy Campbell (Bro. Mark and Sis. Marcia) of Gridley. May God bless them during this special time in their lives.

Our thanks to Bro. Marshall Heinold (Sis. Janice, Ixtlan) for sharing the Gospel with our congregation Wednesday evening, August 4. We pray for them as they serve Jesus in Ixtlan, and for Bro. Jonathan and Sis. Bere Aupperle in Magdalena. Bro. Tim and Sis. Joan Reinhard and family are here for a time yet, as Bro. Tim recovers from knee surgery, before they return to Haiti.

Edith Traub and Elsie Eilers were baptized at Skylines on August 7 and are now our sisters in Christ. We are thankful they could come to know Jesus in their twilight years and pray they can live restfully in His care.

Our deep sympathy is extended to Bro. Jesse (Sis. Jill) Schroeder and Sis. Lindsey (Bro. Jason) Getz on the death of their brother, Bro. Jordan (Sis. Katelyn) Schroeder, on July 24. Please remember this dear family in your prayers. Also, Sis. Carol (Bro. Mike) Rieker and Sis. Kathy (Bro. Dave) Obergfel need our prayers for healing.

Our young group went to the Creation Museum and Indianapolis on July 31-August 1 and to Bluffton on August 7-8. Many from our congregation were in Leo for the Gateway Woods auction. The Elder General Conference was in Rittman. Our sincere thanks to these hosting church families for your kind hospitality. We pray God will be glorified in all our activities.

Two couples in our church welcomed new grandchildren recently.

Bro. Jim and Sis. Jean Huber welcomed Alexander James Huber, born July 2 to Bro. Jimmy and Sis. Abi (Bloomington). Bro. Dave and Sis. Kathy Obergfel welcomed Brady Shayne Fehr, born July 28 to Bro. Shayne and Sis. Emily (Denver). We pray for godly wisdom for these two couples as they nurture these precious babies.

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

Our visiting ministers have been Bro. David Eisenmann (Champaign, IL), Bro. Glen Steiner (Winthrop, MN), Bro. Andy Klaus (Shioda, Japan), Bro. Greg Stoller (Forrest, IL), Bro. Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL), and Bro. John Grimm (Columbus, OH). We appreciate their willingness to share God's Holy Word with us and invite them back.

Lynelle Berchtold (Bro. David and Sis. Leann) has heeded God's loving call and began her repentance. May God grant her grace during this time. Richard Stahl has been in the hospital. May we remember him in prayer during this time. He resides at Skylines.

Clint Martin (Bro. Craig and Sis. Terri) and Jessica Aimone (Joe and Janine) were married on July 24. Ty Endress (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Luann) and Erin Zimmerman (Don and Kim) were married on July 31. Bro. Shane Martin (Bro. Alan and Sis. Janice) and Sis. Megan Pardo (Jack and Sis. Laurie) were married at Alto, MI, on August 1. We rejoice with each of these couples and wish them God's blessings in their future life together as husband and wife.

Bro. Ben Martin and Sis. Hannah Herrmann have become engaged to be married. Their parents are Bro. Sam and

Sis. Mary Martin and Bro. Howard and Sis. Mary Ann Herrmann. May



God bless them as they make future plans.

Bro. Fred and Sis. Tina Christ welcome their first grandchild, Mailey Ryan, daughter of Nathan and Maggie. Bro. Harold and Sis. Karen Steiner also welcome a new grandchild, Lily Janis, daughter of John and Holly Zimmerman. Bro. Bill and Sis. Kathy Stoller rejoice with the adoption of a granddaughter, Charis Leigh, daughter of Bro. Ben and Sis. Kristy Luginbuhl (Bloomington, IL). They have been doubly blessed with another granddaughter, Sage Gloria, born to Bro. Jason and Sis. Rebekah Stoller (Washington, IL).

*Note of Thanks:*

We would like to thank all of you for prayers, cards, food and gifts during my hospital stay and at home after open heart surgery. God is truly awesome! We appreciate all the deeds of kindness shown to us during Ray's affliction.

*Bro. Ray and Sis. Betty Wagenbach*

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## ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

**Jamie Hodel  
Judy Sauder**

Psalms 128:6: "Yea, thou shalt see thy children's children," Bro. Bruce and Sis. Deb Fischer became grandparents on July 13 when Mackenzie Elizabeth was born to Sam and Erica Fischer of Roanoke. Other thankful grandparents are Jill Martino of Roanoke and Tom Martino of Grand Rapids, MI. Bro. Dennis and Sis. Eva Rocke also became grandparents for the first time when Malachi Kadin was born to Bro. Brent and Sis. Stacy Rocke of Temple, TX, on July 22. Bro. Linn and Sis. Brenda Stoller (Atlanta) are also thrilled with their new grandson. May God bless these dear families as they raise their children in the ways of the Lord.

Titus 2:11: "For the grace of God

that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men." We are so thankful for Bro. Jason Moser and Bro. Josh Moser (Bro. Greg and Sis. Sharlene) and Bro. Craig Byrd (Bro. Steve and Sis. Colleen) who have received the grace of God unto salvation. They gave their testimonies of faith and were baptized on August 14-15. Elder Bro. Mark Streitmatter (Bloomington), Bro. Andy Klaus (Shioda) and Bro. Ted Witzig, Jr. (Morton) served us on the pulpit over the weekend. Also, Elizabeth Lowder (Barb Lowder) has turned to the Lord in repentance. May God richly bless these dear souls who in their youth have begun their walks with the Lord, that they would grow and mature in Him.

Bro. Dan Beer (Milford) was our guest minister on August 1. On August 8, Bro. Brad Metz (Bloomington) and Bro. Daren Metz (Gridley) exhorted us from God's Word. We thank all of our visiting brothers for their gracious service to us and ask for God's continuing mercies for them as they "Preach the word;...in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine." II Tim. 4:2.

Isaiah 54:4, 5: "...and shalt not remember the reproach of thy widowhood any more. For thy Maker is thine husband; the Lord of hosts is his name; and thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel;" These words were quoted at the funeral of Bro. Jordan Schroeder (Washington) on July 28. What comfort they offer to Sis. Katelyn, his beloved wife. Bro. Jordan, Sis. Katelyn and their entire family have shown such grace and courage throughout Bro. Jordan's journey with cancer. May the scriptures that were read at his funeral and the Lord Himself grant comfort and peace to this dear family. Others left to mourn his passing are his beloved daughters, Jaycee and Arawen, his parents, Bro. Duane and Sis. Rachel Schroeder, his brother, Bro.

Jesse (Sis. Jill) Schroeder (Peoria), his sisters, Sis. Allison (Bro. Luke) Fischer, Sis. Lindsey (Bro. Jason) Getz (Peoria), and Lauren Schroeder. Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield) offered the prayer at Jordan's grave. And Bro. Steve Baner (Gridley) had the prayer at the funeral meal. We thank all those who participated in the services for Bro. Jordan and pray for God's blessing upon them.

Harold Aeschleman passed away July 28. He was a brother to Sis. Mary Lou (Bro. Lyle) Martin. Sis. Linda (Bro. Steve) Pfister and Bro. Dennis (Sis. Marybeth) Zimmerman also mourn the loss of their stepmother, Diana Zimmerman, on July 28. We ask for God's peace and comfort for these dear families.

Sis. Madlyn (Bro. Rich) Fehr is dealing with health issues. We pray for God's healing power upon her.

*Note of Thanks:*

To All My Loved Ones from Coast to Coast,

I want to thank you all so very much for the cards, gifts and sunshine boxes I received while in Arkansas and since I'm home. I also want to thank the Fort Sam Houston group for remembering us when you were in Roanoke. We missed our church family - no ministers to come in to visit and pray with us. No visitors as we didn't know anyone. What a precious Faith we have, and the Silver Lining is such a blessing. May God bless you all for your many deeds of kindness.

In Christian Love,

*Bro. Gene and Sis. Marge Fehr*

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## ILLINOIS, TREMONT

**Teresa Rowell  
Janice Sauder**

As our Elder brothers met this past month, I hope that we all had a prayer upon our hearts as they met to make difficult decisions and to encourage one another as the topics



were discussed. Are we willing to follow the God-given instruction that they as our shepherds give to us? Or do we just go on our way, not believing that it applies to us?

We were thankful to have Bro. Gary Maibach (Sis. Mary Ann, Smithville, OH), Elder Bro. Peter Petrovic (Sis. Marian, San Diego, CA), Bro. Ed Fritz (Sis. Sally, Washington, IL), and Bro. John Rowell (Sis. Nelda, Burlington, IA) with us this month to preach the Word. We pray that God will bless them and "give the increase".

We extend a hearty welcome to Sis. Elsie Koch (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Cathy) and Sis. Willow and Sis. Echo Sauder (Bro. John and Sis. Misty) as they gave their testimonies and were baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. We pray that as they take their places in the body of Christ that they will be a blessing to all those around them.

Several families have added to their families. Tucker Reese joined Jeff and Heather Wagenbach and siblings, Mackenzie, Luke, Jake and Isabelle. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Si and Sis. Lavonne Wagenbach. Bro. Mike and Sis. Carmen Rassi, Kate and Lincoln welcome Creighton Joe into their family circle. Bro. Jerry and Sis. Marcia Kaiser and Bro. Curt and Sis. Cathy Rassi are his grandparents. Bro. Bob and Sis. Rosie Frank are happy to have another grandson. Bro. Steve and Sis. Cheryl Eisenmann, Tyler, Amanda, Phillip and Laura (Cissna Park, IL) welcome Jesse Robert into their family. Bro. Roger and Sis. Sally Koch have a new granddaughter also. Bro. Rustin and Sis. Sharon Schmidgall and Grace (Morris North, MN) are excited to have Eden Rose added to their home.

We bid Wade Sinn (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Gail) farewell as he heads to San Diego to join the armed forces. Our prayers go with him as he starts this new chapter in his life and we ask God's continuing protection as he

does not know what the future holds.

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## ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

**Nancy Leman  
Linda Folkerts**

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

*Psalm 91:1-2*

On July 24 we bid a tearful good-bye to Bro. Jordan Schroeder. Although we rejoice in his victory, he will be sorely missed by his wife, Sis. Katelyn, and little girls, Jaycee and Arawen; his parents, Bro. Duane and Sis. Rachel Schroeder (Roanoke, IL), brother and sisters. We extend our deepest sympathies to his family. On the day the Thames family said good-bye to their dear son-in-law, Bro. Jordan, they also welcomed a precious gift from heaven. Sweet little Noah Jordan was born on July 24 to Bro. Jeff and Sis. Brenda Thames. Welcoming Noah are his brothers and sisters, Bro. David, Sis. Katelyn, Joshua, Sis. KaraLea, Sis. Hannah, Susanna, Caleb, Jonathan, Jesse, Zachary, Thad and Timothy, as well as his nieces, Jaycee and Arawen Schroeder.

On July 25, we celebrated the union of Bro. John Cox and Sis. Shirley Luthi. We extend a warm welcome to Sis. Shirley and her children from the Altadena, CA, congregation. May God bless their marriage and guide their decisions as they plan and blend their families.

On August 15, Bro. Kent Levy and Sis. Holly Plattner (Morton, IL) announced their engagement. Bro. Kent's parents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Sue Levy (Indianapolis, IN) and Sis. Holly's parents are Bro. Howard and Sis. Kristen Plattner (Alto, MI). May

they be blessed during this special time of engagement.

On August 1, we enjoyed sharing in the testimonies and baptisms of two special young men. We welcome our Brothers, Daniel Dreeste (Bro. Mike and Sis. Kathy) and Adam Pfaffmann (Bro. Max and Sis. Mary). Joining us for this special weekend were Elder Bro. Steve Sauder (Sis. Mary, Tremont, IL), Bro. Andy Klaus (Sis. Jana, Shioda, Japan) and Bro. Willis Ehnle (Sis. Lois, Peoria, IL).

We were delighted to welcome Bro. Marshall and Sis. Jan Heinold from Ixtlan, Mexico. We were happy to congratulate them on their 50th Wedding Anniversary and welcome their family, too. Along with sharing the gospel they shared an update on their work and ministry in Ixtlan. May we continue to fervently pray and support the missionaries that spread the gospel across the world.

Other ministers sharing with us were Bro. Darren Plattner (Sis. Sue, Champaign, IL), and leading our monthly Bible study was Bro. Willis Ehnle (Sis. Lois, Peoria, IL).

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## INDIANA, BLUFFTON

**Grace Gerber  
Kim Meyer**

"Open thy mouth, judge righteously, and plead the cause of the poor and needy."

*Proverbs 31:9*

In the midst of all the goings-on in Bluffton, I can often become caloused and quite oblivious to the rest of the globe. As we celebrate, mourn, rejoice and thank the Lord for all of His goodness here in the Bluffton congregation, may I not forget the impoverished in Haiti, the orphan in India, the unreached in China or millions of souls that live forgotten in the most destitute corners of the earth. Yet in the midst of all of the evil that plagues



the world today, I can't help but lift up my voice in thanks to Jesus for His faithfulness to cast out wickedness and usher in glorious righteousness to the uttermost regions of our planet—which He continues to do daily through prayer and the hands of His children. It's also good to see the Holy Spirit move in power and love among our own community and we'd certainly like to share how He's done that!

We'd first like to take a moment to mention and lift up in prayer those who are undergoing some difficult times. Our Bro. Chuck Neuenchwander (Sis. Doris) had been doing some extensive physical therapy and we pray that he can continue to improve in his mobility.

Our prayers and thoughts also go with many families who are mourning the loss of their loved ones. Our Bro. Howard Schwartz (Sis. Beulah) stepped over the river to see Jesus. We grieve with our Bro. Duane (Sis. Karen) Steffen and our Bro. Craig (Jean) Steffen as they lost their mother, Carol Tar, this month. Our dearest Sis. Minnie Aschliman (Bro. Homer-dec.) went to see her precious Jesus as well. She was a dear sister to many in our church and is no doubt singing her favorite hymn, "Blessed Assurance" with Jesus right now. But I guess she doesn't need to be assured anymore, because she's seeing Jesus face to face now anyway! Hallelujah! It is certainly a bittersweet time when our loved ones pass away, but let our joy overcome our sorrow when we realize that they are in the presence of the Almighty.

Our prayers rise up to the Lord for the many sorrows in our congregation, but prayers of thanks and praise go up to Him as well as we rejoice in births, engagements and weddings! Our Bro. Jayson Grube (Bro. Jay and Sis. Ronda) and our Sis. Sarah Towle (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Jodi) exchanged wedding vows in the joy of the Lord, as

well as our Bro. Nathaniel Aschliman (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Beth) and our Sis. Krista Fiechter (Bro. Don and Sis. Suzie). May the Lord bless these new couples in abundance!

We're also excited to announce the engagement of our Bro. Tyler Earney (Bro. Todd and Sis. Teresa) to Sis. Michelle Furrer from our Wolcott, IN, congregation. We are very happy for both of them.

What a joy it is to see new little faces among us! Bro. Grayson and Sis. Tara Reinhard met little Easton Gray for the first time on July 30! Welcome Easton! Avery Sue was born to Bro. Kole and Sis. Amy Meyer, and we thank Jesus for her safe arrival on August 7!

Along with all of this exciting news we can also thank God for five new members in our church. Jeremy Stroup (Bro. Joe and Sis. Julie), Rachel Tungate, Britton and Sarah Claghorn (daughter of Bro. Gary and Sis. Barb Schwartz) and Kaitlin Tonner (Bro. Brent and Sis. Rachelle) all shared in the death and resurrection of Christ in baptism and joined our Bluffton congregation. May God richly bless them!

Our hearts always rejoice when people receive Jesus as their Savior and commit their lives to following Him! Thank the Lord for Catherine and Catie Neuenschwander (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Mary Jo) as they began their walk with Jesus this month!

It's a blessing to share in the ministry of our visiting ministers and our Bro. John Steiner (Sis. Carol, Oakville, IA) blessed us with the words of God as well as our Bro. Dale Zeltwanger (Sis. Rachel, Morris, MN).

So it's been a wonderful August with many happenings, and I truly praise God for His obvious presence. But may I never forget His work to the ends of the earth. May I never forget that He intends to use me to reach out my hand to where He wants to touch

and to speak where He wants His Word spoken and to go where He wants to set foot.

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**INDIANA  
BLUFFTON NORTH  
Jessie Longenberger  
Amy Moser**

"Be thou exalted, Lord, in thine own strength: so will we sing and praise thy power."

*Psalm 21:13*

O that with yonder sacred throng.  
We at His feet may fall,  
We at His feet may fall!  
We'll join the everlasting song...  
And crown Him Lord of all! Amen.  
All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name  
*Hymns of Zion #80*

July 25 was the wedding of Sis. Sarah Towle (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Jodi) and Bro. Jayson Grube (Bro. Jay and Sis. Ronda, Bluffton). We wish them God's blessings as they start their new lives together as a couple.

Bro. Bill Gerber spent time in the hospital. We continue to pray for God's peace and healing for him.

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**INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE  
Jacki Huber  
Mildred Clauss**

There are many ways to fill our time, and life has many seasons. Sometimes we have so many responsibilities, there really isn't time to think a lot about what to do, we just do it; but there can be quieter seasons when we have more time for reflection, and more time to ask the Lord for direction in how to use our time most wisely for Him, so that when life is over, we have spent our days for God's praise, by His grace.

Funeral services were held here on Thursday, August 19, for our dear Bro. Charlie Baumgartner, who lived



in Francesville years ago, was raised in Milford, IN, and lived in Phoenix, AZ, for the past 15 years. When I remember Bro. Charlie, I remember him smiling. We can be sure that his joy is full now! We extend our sympathy to his brother, Dave Baumgartner (wife Jennifer) of Warsaw, and sister, Mary Baumgartner of Columbus, OH.

As we are a farming community, it is common for many of our young people to move away from home. It is wonderful to have quite a few close to home, though, and we are excited that Bro. Andrew Huber (Bro. John and Sis. Bev) has felt the Lord's leading to live back "home" in Francesville, after living away for few years, first in West Lafayette where he attended school, and then in IL. We pray for him to feel the Lord's continued grace and peace!

A.J. and Raquel Gutwein are thrilled to have a precious baby girl to share their lives with. Liberty Ann was born July 25, and her grandparents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Janice Gutwein and Phil and Anita Messer, all from Francesville.

Visiting ministers this past month have come on Wednesday evenings, and we want to extend our thanks to Bros. Bill Masters (Sis. Mary, North Fort Myers, FL) and Don Sinn (Sis. Linda, Silverton, OR), for taking the time to share God's Word with us.

Bro. Wayne Putt (Sis. Paulette) and Evan Neihouser (Bro. Marty and Sis. Angie) were both hospital patients this past month, and we are thankful to know they are getting along well.

On the weekend of August 15, the Bible Class (High School aged Sunday School Students) attended Christian Endeavor, held in Bluffton, IN. We pray that the efforts and prayers of teachers, parents and loved ones will be blessed and that there will be fruit that lasts for eternity from these times spent together.

Bro. Lon and Sis. Sarah Vogt have spent the past years as missionaries in India, and were home recently and shared an informative evening with us at the Fellowship Center, sharing experiences and situations for us to pray for. They are now back in India, and we pray for God's protection and blessings upon them and their precious children, Aesha and Jaece.

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**INDIANA  
INDIANAPOLIS  
Gail Bradford  
Penny Schroder**

*\*\* Special Note:* During our remodeling process, Sunday worship services are being held at Heritage Christian School, 6401 E. 75th St., Indianapolis 46250. Sunday services begin at 9:10am. 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.

We were blessed to having several large family gatherings congregate with us this past month, as well as the Bible Class from Peoria as they traveled through the area. We welcome visitors during our remodeling time and are thankful for the fellowship.

Our hearts and prayers go out to Sis. Edye Mayer whose brother, Bro. Elmer Oesch (Mansfield, OH), passed away recently. This is her third sibling to have passed away within the year. We pray that she and her family can feel God's nearness and be encouraged by those around them. Sis. Edye has several children and grandchildren in the Indianapolis church and area.

We rejoice with Bro. Kent Levy and Sis. Holly Plattner as their engagement was announced on August 15. Kent's parents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Sue Levy. Holly's parents are Bro. Howard and Sis. Kristen

Plattner (Alto, MI). Kent grew up in Indianapolis and Holly in Alto; however, both now reside in the Morton, IL, area. We wish them God's blessings as they begin their lives together.

We enjoyed a time of fellowship at our annual Sunday School picnic on August 15. The new teachers for this year include: Sisters Karla Aberle, Kim Bucher, Suzanne Graham and Bro. Ben Graham. Our prayers are with all of those who share their love and time with our children in Sunday School.

Lon and Sarah Vogt and their family have again returned to India. We pray a blessing on them and the work they do in Christ's name. Sarah is the daughter of Bro. Ron and Sis. Edie Bollier.

We thank ministering Bro. Craig Stickling (Sis. Jacqueline, Peoria, IL), Bro. Neal Widmer (Sis. Kristine, West LaFayette, IN), Bro. Tom Leman (Sis. Marlene, Denver, CO), Bro. John Leman (Sis. Ruth Ann, Wolcott, IN), Elder Bro. Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan, Taylor, MO) and Bro. Daron Price (Milford, IN) for sharing the Truth with us. God's blessings to each of you.

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**INDIANA, LACROSSE  
Bethany Johnson  
Julie Locke**

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

*Psalms 127:3*

Bro. Steve and Sis. Anna Marie Stoller are the proud grandparents of little Clarice Alexandra. She is the daughter of first-time parents, Bro. Ed and Sis. Michelle Ramsey, of Mansfield, OH. What a joy to have a new baby to love and to hold!

We have had several loved ones in the hospital this month. Sis. Ruth Heinold and Sis. Mary Ann Feller are



being lifted up in prayer by our congregation.

Everyone enjoyed getting the chance to help host the Fort Sam Reunion here this month. There was an all church singing at the Valparaiso Fellowship Hall on Saturday and then a church supper on Sunday. It was a blessing for all of us!

The Elder brothers have had our prayers this past week as they held the Elder Conference in Rittman, OH. We appreciate all the love and effort that they put forth for the whole church body. We can't thank them enough for all that they do!

Our visiting ministers this month were: Bro. Ron Palito (Sis. Lynell, Akron, OH), Bro. Dean Messner (Sis. Wanda, Morris, MN), Bro. Chris Wuethrich (Sis. Carla, St. Louis, MO), Bro. Kevin Banwart (Sis. Sandy, West Bend, IA), Bro. Jim Butikofer (Sis. Diana, Iowa City, IA), and Bro. Dan Moser (Sis. Ann, Elgin, IL). Thank you for bringing God's Word to us.

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**INDIANA, LEO**  
**Elizabeth Schrenk**  
**Abigail Schrenk**

"Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness."

*Isaiah 41:10*

God is so good! This past month holds many examples of the faithfulness of our God. We all enjoyed the fellowship of our brothers and sisters from around the world for the annual Gateway Woods benefit auction. We counted over 20 different churches give their greetings on the following Sunday morning. Among the many visitors, Bro. Andrew Klaus (Sis. Jana, Tokyo, Japan), Elder Bro. Tom Klotzle (Sis. Jody, Altadena), and

Bro. Bill Waibel (Sis. Carol, Bay City) shared the Word with us. It was an inspiring weekend and we hope those who came were blessed as well.

We have been praying for Tashi Bent as she and her family mourn the death of her Dad. While spending her college years in our congregation, she touched many of our lives. We pray God will sustain Tashi and her family as they continue to shine for Jesus.

We're excited to welcome a new addition to our congregation. Bro. Joe and Sis. Jan Beer (Bloomington) have relocated to this area to help at Gateway Woods. We join Bro. Joe and Sis. Heather Beer and their kids, Hannah, Cooper, and Conner, in welcoming their grandparents into this area.

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**INDIANA, MILFORD**  
**Paula Haab**  
**Pam Beer**

We offer our congratulations and best wishes to Bro. Regg Beer (Bro. Fred and Sis. Pat) and Sis. Beverly Schlatter (Bro. Bill and Sis. Emily, Junction, OH) as their engagement was announced to the church. Although Bro. Regg is living and working in Ixtlan, Mexico, we as his home church wish him God's blessings as they plan for their marriage.

We always appreciate ministers who come and share God's Word with us. This past month our visiting ministers have been Bro. Ron Kipfer (Bluffton, IN), Bro. Willis Ehnle (Peoria, IL) and Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH).

Sis. Kate Price (Bro. Glenn) spent time in the hospital and we continue to keep her and Bro. Glenn in our prayers as they face health concerns. The high school students and teachers spent last weekend in Bluffton North for Christian Endeavor. We want to thank all the teachers and parents at Bluffton North who made it a very enjoyable and memorable weekend for the students. May God

bless them for all their efforts.

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**INDIANA, REMINGTON**  
**Jenni Honegger**  
**Marcella Tyler**

"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? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? As it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!"

*Romans 10:14-15*

We are privileged to report that God has "sent" His servant, Bro. Dana Nieman (Sis. Lea), to be a minister of the gospel. The Holy Spirit's leading was evident throughout this prayerful selection process, and we are both humbled by and thankful for God's provision for our congregation's needs. We ask for your prayers for Bro. Dana, Sis. Lea, and their four children as they transition into their new roles and responsibilities. We can take comfort in the fact that the Spirit will provide what is needed, or as it is sometimes said - God does not necessarily call the equipped but He does equip the called!

We want to thank all the ministers of the gospel who obey the Spirit's leading and preach to us the gospel of truth - especially our visiting ministers, Bro. Justin Koch (Sis. Marcia) and Bro. Ed Fritz (Sis. Sally), both of Washington, IL. Bro. Ed was with us on the pulpit this past Sunday, and Bro. Justin presented a Topical Bible Study on the book of Galatians earlier this month. We were challenged to rely 100% on our faith in Jesus for our righteousness - because all of our pitiful attempts at obedience (while valuable in "proving" our faith) do not add up to even a fraction of the total righ-



teousness which He provided with His blood on the cross and which is required to enter into the Lord's presence in Heaven.

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## INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

### Rachel Langhofer

We bid a sad farewell to Bro. Josh and Sis. Keyna Martinez, as they move their little family to the Midland/Bay City area. Sis. Keyna was completing her Family Medicine residency in South Bend and has now graduated and joined a Family Medicine practice in the Midland area. They have been an integral part of our South Bend church and we will greatly miss Bro. Josh's smile, Sis. Keyna's singing voice and their three little boys. We wish them God's blessing as they start a new chapter of their lives.

We had one visiting minister this month, Bro. Paul Gasser (Sis. Joyce, Akron), and we thank him for being willing to share the Word with us.

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## INDIANA, VALPARAISO

### Marguerite Hoerr

We had a most meaningful weekend in our little Valpo church. We heard a testimony and witnessed a baptism of a young man who has come to mean so much to all of us. Jon Pratt is a young Attorney who felt the desire for closeness with his Lord and Savior. True to his vocation, he researched diligently how this would be possible in his life. It was uplifting to all of us to hear of the steps he took to arrive at this point. Each soul coming to this realization is such a miracle in today's world; and we are overjoyed here with the miracle of having a new Brother in faith. Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna) had the joy of baptizing him.

We also had a beautiful lesson in Christian friendship. As we've mentioned, Bro. Merle Bucher has been

recovering from surgery and his convalescence has had some rough spots along the way. Jon was faithful to visit Merle during this time. Today Merle was able to sit with him during his testimony. We saw a friendship that transcends years and which now binds them as Brothers in faith.

Another reason to lift our spirits is that our dear friend, Natasia Weiss, daughter of Sis. Marsha and Bro. Dennis, has been announced for giving her testimony about her decision to walk with her Lord. This gives us new determination to "update" our own walk so that we can become more zealous in our journey with Him.

We have been blessed with visitors during this month and they all are so welcome and so appreciated. To have young children noises during our worship services seemed like music to our ears. It's at times like this that we take heart that someday our little Valpo church won't be so little anymore. We know size doesn't make for a more devout group, but we do all seem to be more elevated in spirit when the benches are filled with more people; and when the singing goes so much more beautifully with more voices joining in.

Our visitors stopped by for various reasons; coming through after the Brotherhood Conference, having been on vacation nearby and coming by to worship with us. Retired Elder Bro. Marvin Leman (Sis. Jane) was among them. This past Sunday a group of Army buddies and their wives who reunion each year in some of our smaller churches, were with us. This year we were fortunate enough to be chosen. How we enjoyed them all.

LaCrosse church and ours co-hosted a Fort Sam reunion and both churches were blessed by this large group of veterans and their wives. We were privileged to have Bro. Duane Metzger (Sis. Ruth) minister to us that day. What touches our

hearts more than to have a reunion with someone who became near and dear years ago? Then when we meet, we find the relationship still exists. It's one of God's special gifts.

I was privileged to attend a reunion of my high school classmates in this past month. It has been 66 years since we graduated from Milford High School, in Indiana. What made this reunion the most special of all was that Sis. Lois Ehnle was able to attend. She had been in Japan for over 50 years and can you imagine the welcome she received? Bro. Willis was so kind to bring her and it was a reunion that touched all our hearts.

As I write this I realize we have been blessed to the uttermost by all of our visitors and by our converts. We feel grateful to the God Who made it all possible.

We were all overjoyed this past Sunday to see Bro. Rollie Meiss, who has been quite ill, walk in with his son, Dale, and his daughter-in-law, Sherry. God blessed us with that event. Seeing Rollie at the lunch table made it all seem right again.

Don't forget that we have room for more visitors, and that the weather will probably be beautiful for some fall vacations. We heartily invite you to find us just 2 3/4 miles South of U. S. 30 on State Road 49. The doors of our church are open to you.

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## INDIANA WEST LAFAYETTE

### Katie Widmer

### Beth Tonner

Summer is coming to an end and along with it, our Purdue students will soon be coming back! We are excited to have an incoming freshman dinner in order to welcome all new Purdue students.

Bro. Ed and Sis. Annette Bahler recently traveled to China and came home with their twelve-year-old adopted daughter Mia. Mia is a sweet



girl with a beautiful smile and we all look forward to getting to know her better as she begins school and learns English. Please keep them all in your prayers while she adapts to her new home.

Bro. Ryan Schleman (Wolcott) and Sis. Kim Furrer were married on August 8. There were many visiting ministers: Elder Bros. Dan Kilgus (Remington), and Curt Frank (La-Crosse), and Bros. Dwight Stoller (Latty) and Greg Lehman (Wolcott). We are so excited for Ryan and Kim as they begin their lives together as one in the Lord.

We will miss Sis. Laura Ridge as she moves to the Bluffton area to take a job as a high school teacher.

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## INDIANA, WOLCOTT

**Lynell Blume  
Donita Edelman**

We were privileged to have several visiting ministers this past month. Bro. Justin Koch (Sis. Marcia, Washington, IL) took us into the Book of "Galatians" for our Topical Bible Study on July 28. The Apostle Paul uses this letter to remind Christians that we are heirs of God, and that this inheritance is not available by works, but only by faith in Jesus Christ. We certainly thank Bro. Justin for laboring on our behalf. Also sharing God's Word with us were Bros. John Hartman (Sis. Rosemary, Fairbury, IL), Dale Banwart (Sis. Missy, Congerville, IL), and our Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Remington, IN). May the Lord richly bless all of these Brothers for their willingness to be used as faithful servants.

Many from our congregation were in attendance in West Lafayette, IN, on August 8 to witness the marriage vows of Sis. Kim Furrer (Bro. Irv and Sis. Shirley) and Bro. Ryan Schleman. It is a joy to see the Lord's work in regenerated hearts, and we pray that they may ever seek God's

perfect will in their life together.

It is such an encouragement to hear of a soul that has felt the forgiveness of sin. Brett Gerber (Bro. Bob and Sis. Luann) has found that peace given only through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. We look forward to hearing his testimony of how God has worked in his life in the near future.

We warmly welcome Sis. Mary Witzig, who has moved into the home of her daughter and son-in-law, Sis. Beckie and Bro. Rob Lehman, and their family. Sis. Mary is originally from Altadena, CA, and we already appreciate her kind, gentle spirit and warm smile. We pray that she will feel the love and care of our congregation as she worships with us. Also assembling with us for this upcoming school year are foreign exchange students, Cristina Diego from Spain and Linda Hildén from Finland. Their hosts are Bro. John and Sis. Ruth Ann Lehman and Bro. Troy and Sis. Lisa Furrer and their families, respectively. We are excited to become acquainted with them and hope that they, too, will feel at home with our church family.

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## IOWA, BLOOMFIELD

**Christy Wiegand**

He speaks in a still, small voice we are told,

A voice that dispels all fear;  
And when I'm in doubt, or troubled in soul,

That still small voice I can hear.

He whispers sweet peace to me.

*Gospel Hymns #780*

With gladness and thanksgiving we listened to the testimony and witnessed the baptism of our new brother in Christ, Nathan Schock (Elder Bro. Doug and Sis. Clara), the weekend of August 24-25. Elder Bro. Roy Koehl (Sis. Jenell, Morris) assisted Bro. Doug. Other visiting ministers were Bros. John Steiner, Jerry

Wagenbach, and Tom Lanz (all from Oakville) and Bro. Brad Funk (Garden Grove). A special thank you to each one.

We rejoice with Darcy Price (Bro. Phil and Sis. Jane, Milford) as she was announced for peace and is awaiting baptism.

We thank ministering Bro. Bill Brake (Sis. Miriam, Sardis) for gathering with us on a Wednesday evening. We are thankful for Bro. Bill's willingness to share the Word of God with us that evening.

"My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness."

*II Corinthians 12:9*

Our prayers are with Bro. Russell Wuthrich, as he has had some minor health issues lately.

We want to thank the Elders for taking time out of their busy schedules to meet on our behalf. We look forward to listening to the Conference topics in the near future.

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## IOWA, BURLINGTON

**Marilyn Anderson  
Karla Gerst**

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

Now I have vowed to fear and love

Thee

And to obey Thee, Lord, alone;  
I feel Thy Holy Spirit move me  
And freely pledge myself Thine own,  
Renouncing sin to keep the faith  
And war with evil unto death.

*Zion's Harp #41, vs. 1,3*

We were thankful that there were lambs added to the fold in Burlington once again. Bro. Jacob Schulz (Bro. Gary, Sis. Melody, and the late Sis.



Karen) and Bro. Blake Wulf and Sis. Hannah Wulf (Bro. Leroy and Sis. Carolyn) were baptized recently. We had a number of visitors with us including Elder Bros. Roy Koehl (Morris, MN) and Jon Schmidgall (Oakville) and ministering Bros. Dale Wulf (Lester, IA), Tom Lanz and Mark Schmidgall (both of Oakville). Ministering Bros. Jerry Wagenbach and Mark Schmidgall (both of Oakville) also shared the Word with us at other times this past month. May the Lord bless each of the brothers for their willingness to serve.

Yea, all I am and love most dearly  
To Thee I offer now, the whole;  
O, let me make my vows sincerely;  
Take full possession of my soul!  
Let naught within me, naught I own  
Serve any will but Thine alone.

And never let my purpose falter,  
O Father, Son and Holy Ghost!  
But keep me faithful to Thine altar  
Till Thou shalt call me from my post.  
So unto Thee I'll live and die,  
And praise Thee evermore on high.  
*Zion's Harp #41, vs. 4,6*

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### **IOWA, ELGIN** **Maria Rocke**

Jill Schupbach and John Butikofer (Gridley, IL) were married on July 31. Jill's parents are Bro. John and Sis. Janet and John is the son of Bro. Bill and Sis. Norma (Gridley, IL). We hope they will come back and visit us often.

Alex Callahan spent some time in the hospital this month. We are thankful he is feeling better and recovering well.

Seeds of goodness we are sowing  
In the hearts of man today.  
Bless it, Lord, that it may prosper,  
And bear fruit for harvest day.  
*Hymns of Zion #46*

Our annual Sunday School election was held this month. Bro. Wade Halverson was elected as superinten-

dent and will be teaching the Bible class, Sis. Tammy Mayhall was elected to teach the Intermediate class, Sis. Gloria Frieden was elected to teach the Preschool class and Sis. Sandy Butikofer was elected as substitute. We are thankful for their willingness to each our youth and pray they will receive a blessing in their labors. We also thank the teachers whose terms have expired for their service.

Bro. Jim Butikofer (Sis. Diana, Iowa City, IA) assisted our ministering brethren this month in preaching God's Word, and we thank him for his labors.

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### **IOWA, GARDEN GROVE** **Rhoda Plattner**

We are grateful for many visitors who have worshipped with us during the last few weeks, and in particular we appreciate those who came to labor in the pulpit ministry from Chicago, IL, and Elgin, IA.

Though the weather was hot, our congregation enjoyed the annual Sunday School picnic at a lakeside park in Humeston, IA.

We also are glad for Elder Bro. Doug Schock's (Sis. Clara, Bloomfield, IA) Wednesday evening visits for services and he has recently spent time sharing about some church history.

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### **IOWA, IOWA CITY** **Diana Butikofer**

Bro. Larry and Sis. Emily Peterson were blessed with a granddaughter on August 1. Isadora Rose Hewitt was born to Mark and Karin (Revere, MN) and joins big brothers, Zach and Alex, and sister Lily.

We appreciate Bro. Kevin and Sis. Sandy Banwart's (West Bend, IA) visit and Kevin's service on the pulpit. May the Lord bless him and his family.

Some of us were blessed to attend the Brotherhood Conference in Rittman, OH, and we appreciate the efforts put forth by the congregations helping to host us along with the service of the Elder brothers as they labor daily for our brotherhood. May the Lord bless their work and bless us as we listen to the recordings and consider how we might be edified as a result of His teachings.

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

O, how lovely is the morning,  
When it is begun with God,  
Joy and thanks our hearts adorning,  
As behooves a child of God,  
Waking after night so fair  
In the Maker's gentle care,  
Rising without grief or sorrow  
To a new and joyful morrow.  
*Zion's Harp #166*

After a four-year peaceful slumber, our dear Sis. Martha Feucht has awakened to a "new and joyful morrow"! She is once again enjoying her family and getting to know her younger grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Her family is so thankful for this gift from God and we are all so thankful that she can once again assemble with us.

We rejoice with Kayla Metzger (Bro. Jerome and Sis. Jana). She is seeking her soul's salvation. May she have "joy and thanks" in her heart, and feel God's blessings as she starts on this path.

Our converts, Morris and Tonya Metzger and Nate Knobloch (Bro. Dan and Sis. ReJean), have found their peace with God and man. May they hold fast to God's precious gift, and abide safely "In the Maker's care".

We have had visiting ministers with us, and certainly appreciate their efforts. Bro. Ken Eisenmann



(Cissna Park), Bro. Gary Sinn (Latty), Bro. Larry Bahr (Ft. Scott), and Bro. Duane Metzger (West Bend) were here to share God's Word. May our ministering brethren continue to feel God's nearness as they preach His truth.

We keep a prayer in our hearts for all those who suffer illness or sorrow. Those spending time in the hospital were Sis. Emma Knobloch, Bro. Gene Nester (Sis. Shirley), Bro. Chuck Leuthold (Sis. Vicki), Sis. Angie Metzger (Bro. Brian), Sis. Lois Metzger (Bro. Jim), and Sis. Betty Popkes (Bro. Jeff). May God's healing hand rest mightily on them.

Sis. Viola Kellenberger passed away on August 3 at the age of 91. We extend our sympathy to Bro. Art and Sis. Elgeva Knobloch (her sister) and her many nieces and nephews. One can truly picture Sis. Viola enjoying the beauty of Paradise, as she enjoyed God's creation here on earth.

On August 6, Bro. Carl Strahm (Sabetha) passed away at the age of 83. We extend our sympathy to his family and his mother-in-law, Sis. Martha Feucht; brothers and sisters-in-law, Bro. Roy and Sis. Melisa Feucht, Bro. Wes and Sis. Esther Moser and Tim and Carla Feucht, and their families. Bro. Carl was the last of his siblings, and leaves many dear nieces and nephews. May God comfort these dear families and be near them all.

A special prayer for all our children and college students as they look to another year of education. May we strive as parents to continue to be there for them in all their needs.

We'll now depart ye faithful friends;  
And from this place we'll go;  
The Lord, in whom our spirits blend,  
Will lead us on the road.

*Zion's Harp #143*

We bid farewell to Sis. Anita Knobloch (Bro. Terry and Sis. Elaine)

as she had taken a teaching position at the Prairieview Meadow School in Sabetha. We wish her God's blessings as she makes her home there.

Jason Knueven (Sis. Trela) has been called back for a year of duty in Afghanistan. May God keep him safe, and all our troops, that they may return home to us, to once again enjoy the freedoms they have helped preserve. May God bless them all.

### IOWA, OAKVILLE Sharla Wiegand

"Baptized into Thy name most holy ... Immersed with Christ, I'm dead to sin; Thy Spirit now shall live within." (Zion's Harp #41). On July 18, we witnessed the baptisms of six dear souls: Alyssa Lanz (Bro. Tom and Sis. Mary), Orrin and Christa Lanz, Kaylee Lanz (Bro. Monte and Sis. Kelly), Joel Steiner (Bro. Tom and Sis. JoAnn) and Nathan Frank (Bro. Curt and Sis. Kathy). May they never lose their First Love. We were thankful that Elder Bro. Steve Sauder (Tremont, IL) and Elder Bro. Rod Bajema (Lester, IA) helped on this important occasion. Thanks also to visiting ministers, Bro. Tony Manz (Junction, OH) and Bro. Ted Hirstein (Morton, IL), for their willing service.

"Thus united and in concord, Let us walk the path of life." (Zion's Harp #237). Sis. Alexandria Lanz (Bro. Ron and Sis. Timna) and Bro. Kurt Kraft (Bro. Doug and Sis. Judy) of Lamont/Gridley, KS, were married before a cloud of witnesses on August 1. Many visitors were present including ministering Bro. Tim Zimmerman and Bro. Ron Isch (Lamont/Gridley, KS) and Bro. Phil Schulz (Burlington, IA). We hope Bro. Kurt and Sis. Alex will come back and visit us often.

Bro. Dan and Sis. Autumn Lanz welcomed another bundle of joy, Kendyn Jon, on July 27. Also rejoicing are his big sister, Alayna, and

grandparents, Bro. Dennis and Sis. Judy Fehr (West Bend, IA) and Bro. Ken and Sis. Janet Lanz.

August 4 marked the last day on earth for our Sis. Lorraine Whipple. May God comfort her daughters, Gail Bennett, Twila Martin and Martha Noll, in their loss.

### IOWA, WEST BEND Janet Fehr Leona Fehr

"One generation passeth away, and another generation cometh: but the earth abideth forever."

*Eccles. 1:4*

We extend our sympathies to three families whose lives were touched with the sorrow of losing family members this past month. August 3, Sis. Della Metzger and Ernest Kellenberger lost a sister, Sis. Viola Kellenberger (Lester, IA). On August 6, Sis. Sue Schneider bid farewell to a brother-in-law, Bro. Carl Strahm (Sabetha, KS). Our prayers also go out to the family of Sis. Ella Schneider as August 10 marked the passing of daughter-in-law, Chris Schneider (Dousman, WI). May God comfort all of those with grieving hearts.

We are blessed here in America to have medical staff and hospitals to assist us in our various needs. Experiencing the joy of a firstborn son are Marshall and Brittany Koethe with the safe arrival of little Owen Banwart on July 23. He is lovingly welcomed by grandparents, Brad and Julie Banwart and Terry and Cathy Koethe.

Sis. Joyce Banwart was also in need of hospitalization for a few days and we are thankful she is home again.

What joy the West Bend congregation felt the weekend of July 18 when Nettie Banwart (Ervin) gave her testimony and was baptized. We were



pleased that Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzell (Sis. Ellen, Sabetha, KS), Bro. Wes Moser (Sis. Esther, Lester, IA) and Bro. Myron Knobloch (Sis. Beth, Lester, IA) could be with us to share in this blessed occasion. May God's continued nearness be felt in Sis. Nettie's life.

Bro. Dewayne Dill (Sis. LaRae, Minneapolis, MN) and Bro. Glen Steiner (Sis. Rachel, Winthrop, MN) were here the following weekend to share the gospel message. We appreciate their labors of love on our behalf.

After prayerfully considering God's will for our congregation, Bro. Kevin Fehr (Sis. Lonnie) was chosen to help with the ministry in West Bend. May the Spirit of the Lord and our prayers and support hold up his arms in the coming days.

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### JAPAN, SHIODA

#### Carrie Ito

Three sisters from Hungary visited our church this month—Anita and Agi Nyari and Hajnalka Hejja. The sermons were translated to English and then to Hungarian! Again, we are encouraged that God has faithful believers all over this wide earth!

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### JAPAN, TOKYO

#### Marie Inoue

We enjoy and appreciate all articles in this publication and the efforts to write them. Last month our brethren laboring in Mexico wrote a true story of a sad happening in their area. The comments expressed on how to "give an answer" seemed so relevant not only to their situation but to each of us as we come into contact with others. As mentioned, may others see the Lord Jesus through us, and understand, "that the only way into the kingdom is through faith and repentance."

We were taught of the "only way" on August 1 through our visiting min-

ister, Bro. Doug Wagenbach (San Diego, CA) as he expounded on John 10 — The Good Shepherd. We heard about the close relationship between the sheep and the shepherd, and that the shepherd wants to give an abundant life — not just enough to get through life — but to experience joy, blessings, and peace. Satan, on the other hand, is a thief, and a liar, and does not want us to experience this abundant life. Bro. Doug attended a conference in Singapore and continued on to Japan for Sunday. We thank him for his efforts to be in our midst, and may God continue to bless him and his family.

Our two-day fellowship meeting was held at our Tokyo church on August 6-7 with lodging provided at the church for those from a distance. It was a joy to be together for several days with some of the meals ordered in. The theme of our meetings was "Things we do and do not do in our faith, according to the Word." Our Elder Brother taught two topics under this heading which were our closed Holy Communion service, and why our ministering brethren do not attend schools for theological training. The children also enjoyed a time of Bible lessons and artwork. We thank all who could attend.

Three Hungarian Sisters were also among us for the fellowship meeting, namely Hajni Hejja from Budapest, and Anita and Agnes Nyari from Oroshaza church. It was such a joy to meet and be with them for two days. They favored us with several songs in the Hungarian language. They seemed interested in how the faith was brought to this country and how the local believers found faith in the true and living God. The Sisters stopped here in Japan for a week before continuing on to the Australian churches of Brisbane and Perth.

We thank the Rittman, OH, congregation and all those who participated in our recent church

Conference. We probably do not realize all the time spent on their knees asking for God's help and guidance. As schools of higher learning soon begin, may we also spend time on our knees for the teachers and the students that the Lord would be with each one.

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### KANSAS, BERN

#### Sheri Edelman Jill Meyer

"Preserve me, O God, for in Thee do I put my trust."

*Psalms 16:1*

How thankful we are that no matter what season we are experiencing in our lives, we can put our trust in God!

We rejoice with first-time parents, Bro. Jason and Sis. Maggi Kaeb, as they welcome little Kyson Paul into their family. Grandparents are Bro. Paul and Sis. Joan Kaeb and Bro. Dave and Sis. Sheri Eisenbise (Sabetha). Welcoming a new granddaughter is Bro. Rod and Sis. Joleen Edelman when Anaya Brown was born to Charles and Amy of Olathe, KS. We continue to pray for little Anaya as she has had extensive medical complications and has remained in the hospital.

Our gratitude is extended to each of our visiting ministers this past month: Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Sis. Julie; Oakville), Bro. Mark Schmidgall (Sis. Sally; Oakville), Bro. Dale Wulf (Sis. Becky; Lester) and Bro. Cory Metzger (Sis. Jodi; Wichita). Bro. Cory also conducted a Bible study for our Jr. and Sr. Bible classes. May God bless each of them for their willingness to serve on our behalf.

After assembling with us for the last five years, we bid farewell to Bro. Kellen Kerschner, who has finished his studies at Kansas State and will be moving to West Lafayette, IN. May he



feel God's nearness and blessings in his future endeavors.

Our prayers have been with Matthew Baumgartner (Bro. Jay and Sis. Heidi), who underwent surgery, and with our friend, Betty Kusler, who has been unable to assemble with us due to health issues.

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### **KANSAS, FORT SCOTT** **Martin Hohulin Sr.**

As I look out the window, I see yet another day of triple digit temperatures. Every day the news talks about the heat wave gripping the nation. However, our Heavenly Father continues to provide and blessed us with two inches of rain on August 15. As the children of the Most High, we always have reasons to rejoice.

The weekend of the Sinn reunion brought many visitors to our congregation including many whom I had never met. The thought crossed my mind about how many Brothers and Sisters are living all over the world that I have never had the privilege to meet. Then I thought about the many faithful brethren who died before our time and the many faithful the Bible speaks of. As believers, we know God's Word is true. When, by God's Grace, we enter heaven we will be able to meet each and every one of these believers. My mind cannot handle the magnitude of this crowd, but we know God's ways are far above the minds of the most brilliant people here on Earth.

Our recent Sunday School elections brought another term for Bro. Chris Wuthrich and a term for Sis. Debbie Banwart. We are grateful for those willing to serve our children.

Sis. Ruth (Bro. Jim) Bahr recently underwent surgery and is recovering nicely. Sis. Juanita Sinn had an outpatient procedure and is also doing well. Bro. Bob (Sis. Betty) was confined to his home with an illness, but was soon able to rejoin us in church.

We are thankful for God's healing hand on these individuals.

We extend sympathy to the Bahr family on the passing of their brother-in-law and uncle, Bro. Carl Strahm, of Sabetha, KS. Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.

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

"And he said to them all, if any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it, but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it."

*Luke 9:23-24*

There is great joy in our small congregation as our dear friend, Donna Piper, has found peace with God and plans to bring her testimony before the Kiowa church this Saturday evening, August 21. To look at the world around us and believe that we are in the latter times, it makes us so very thankful that the door of grace is still open and that God is continually beseeching souls to come, and taste, and see what a true Friend He can be if we just take that step, and open our heart's door to let Him in!

"Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord...happy is the man who hath his quiver full of them..."

*Psalms 127:3,5*

Oh, what a blessing are the children God has given us to love, care for, and rear in His name. Besides our own children, the children in our church here in Kiowa give us such a tremendous lift every Sunday. Their energy, their joy, their trust and love for the Lord. We can truly see why God wants us to become as a little

child to serve Him, for their faith is so beautiful to behold. And our job on their behalf? Hold them up in prayer—always! Also, let the light of God shine in us so that they may see and want the peace and joy that we have in the Lord. Our children face a lot of trials in school today that we did not see 50 years ago, but as James 5:16 states, "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." And those prayers can ward off the deceit of the devil. If we really want something important to do in our church, pray continually! For our children, each other, our country, everything in our lives. And then be thankful to a loving God Who proves to us every day that prayer works!

During July, many in our area travel for vacations before school starts again, and we realize how very much we miss each one when they are gone. We are thankful that most are safely home now and in our midst again.

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

August 1 was the wedding day of Bro. Kurt Kraft (Bro. Doug and Sis. Judy) and Sis. Alex Lanz (Bro. Ron and Sis. Timna) in Oakville, IA. We wish God's richest blessings upon their union and welcome Sis. Alex to our congregation.

Sunday school has resumed after summer break with the new teachers installed. We trust that God will grant them wisdom in teaching the tender hearts about God's ways.

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

We were thankful to have visiting ministers, Bro. Pat Zaugg (Sis. Julie, West Bend, IA), Bro. Dale Moore (Sis. Cheryl, Elgin, IA), Bro. James Knapp



(Sis. Lisa, Congerville, IL), and Bro. Ron Isch (Sis. Jane, Lamont-Gridley, IA) minister to us this month. We thank each one for their time and effort and pray that the Lord will richly bless them.

Bro. Don and Sis. Ada Plattner welcome twin grandchildren into their lives. Gideon John and Gracyn Joy were born to Bro. Dominic and Sis. Jenny Meyer (Bern, KS) on July 16. Bro. Dennis and Sis. Beth Hartter welcome granddaughter Kami Rae into their hearts. Kami is the daughter of Bro. Trent and Sis. Rita Menold (Bern, KS). May these families look to the Lord for guidance and strength as they raise their dear children in the fear and admonition of Him.

Be present, blessed Jesus,  
To join their loving hands,  
As thou didst bind two natures  
In Thine eternal bands.

*Hymns of Zion #196*

We rejoice with Bro. David Currier (Art and Sis. Mary, Congerville, IL) and Sis. Maria Hartter (Bro. Timothy and Sis. Charleen) as they were united as one in the Lord on August 15. May God bless them as they establish their home and travel life's journey as one in Him.

The church enjoyed a potluck supper and a program on Sis. Sheila Moser's mission in Haiti. Sis. Sheila has returned to her duties in Haiti after a short break here in the States. We pray the Lord will continue to guide and protect her and we look forward to her return.

"Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms."

*James 5:13*

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

*Romans 12:15-16*

Our thoughts and prayers have been with Bro. Frank Hertzell (Sis. Ruth), Bro. John Hartter (Sis. Teresa), and Bro. Gene Kellenberger (Sis. Marian) as they have battled conflicts of the flesh. May they feel God's nearness and gain strength through His power.

Bro. Carl Strahm went to his reward on August 6. Survivors include his sons, Bro. Tom (Sis. Carrie), Bro. Troy (Sis. Dawn), Bro. Trent (Sis. Rosie), Terry, Bro. Travis (Morris, MN), Bro. Todd (Sis. Kara), and their families. Our prayers have also been with Bro. Larry Bailey (Sis. Linda), Sis. Selena Brownlee (Bro. Steve), Bro. Lafe Bailey (Debra), and their families as they have lost their dear mother and grandmother, Anna Bailey.

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

Our Sunday School is taking a summer break for the month of August and will resume on September 12. We pray the Lord will work through each Sunday School teacher as they bring forth the Truth to each of the young and tender hearts of our children. May the seeds they plant bring forth fruit.

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

*Isaiah 26:3-4*

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### KANSAS, WICHITA Emma Miller

Bro. Phillip Bower is in need of prayer. His sisters, Sis. Ruth Long and Phyllis Frank, are both nurses

and both are trained by experience as well as by education to meet Phil's needs. Caring for Phil is in addition to their hospital work. Other family members have their part to do for Phil and we all should be praying for God's will to be done on earth as well as in heaven.

Bro. Glen and Sis. Sally Funk had reasons to be gone most weekends this summer. Glen's sister, Marian, died at age 60. She lived in Morton, IL. As the Funk family lost a soul, another related family gained a new member when Mr. and Mrs. Richard Wullschleger's daughter, Renee, was married to Adam Fahrenholz. Renee graduated from K-State and spent many weekends at Glen and Sally's home and worshipped with us. You may be wondering how all these items fit together. To start solving the relationships, you need to know that Richard Wullschleger and Sally Funk are brother and sister. Another item of interest is the fact that 77 Wullschlegers gathered for the wedding.

Tim Funk has a new position as an aircraft mechanic. He is happy to have completed the year and a half training for the position.

During the past year or more, a mother has been bringing her four children to Sunday School. She told us recently about her decision to go south where she hopes to find work. May her prayers be answered and may our prayers for her be heard, also.

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### MEXICO, IXTLAN Matt Gerber

"For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things



which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.”

*II Cor. 4:16-18*

We share in the joy of Bro. Regg Beer in his engagement to Sis. Bev Schlatter (Junction). They plan to live in Ixtlan after getting married. We are thankful for another couple to help in the Lord's work here.

Many sisters and brothers had the opportunity to help with Vacation Bible School in Ixtlan, Morelia, Barra Vieja, and Lomas. We give God thanks for their willingness to serve and for the children and teens that came. This year's theme was the life of Joseph, especially its similarities to the life of Christ. Please pray for the children and teens who have continued to come to church activities since VBS.

The church is looking forward to the testimonies and baptism of three converts, scheduled for September. Elder Bro. Mike Leman plans to be with us. It's been more than a year since we last had baptisms. The church is always encouraged when we hear and see lives have been rescued from sin by God's grace, redeemed by faith through the blood of Christ, and converted by the present work of the Holy Spirit.

A number of sisters in our congregation are suffering from health problems and aging. Please pray for Sis. Estela, Sis. Rosa, Sis. Chuya, Sis. Carmen, and Sis. Luz, that even though their outward body is perishing, the inward man could be renewed day by day, as they set their eyes on eternal things and the hope of glory we have in Christ.

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

Our congregation was blessed on the 1st of August with the wedding of

Sis. Megan Pardo (Jack and Sis. Laura) to Bro. Shane Martin (Bro. Allen and Sis. Janice, Princeville, IL). We wish them our support and prayers as they embark on the wonderful journey of marriage.

We are a blessed people with the fluid ability to travel and meet fellow believers of like mind and faith. This past month our congregation had the honor of meeting many traveling brethren. Thank you to each one for joining us. Our hearts were blessed by the working of the Spirit through the ministering brothers: Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Sis. Leonda, Leo, IN), Bro. Dennis Kaufmann (Sis. Bonnie, Bloomington, IL), Elder Bro. Jim Plattner (Sis. Marlene, Princeville, IL), Bro. Craig Martin (Sis. Terri, Princeville, IL), Bro. Brad Metz (Sis. Karen, Bloomington, IL), Bro. Doug Harmon (Sis. Lanna, Toledo, OH), and Bro. Chris Wuethrich (Sis. Carla, St. Louis, MO).

“Then were there brought unto him little children, that he should put his hands on them, and pray: and the disciples rebuked them. But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven.”

*Matthew 19:13-14*

To each God has given wonderful talents and we are grateful for those brothers and sisters willing to put these gifts to use for the Lord. Bro. Mike Baumann and Sis. Becky Baumann recently accepted the positions as Sunday school teachers. We thank them for their willingness to serve and pray for the work the Holy Spirit may do through them in the hearts of His little children. Sis. Laura Pardo and Bro. Martin Blough served their terms. Thank you for your service these past three years.

Jonas and Hope Grummet have a new baby sister, Lucy Jeanne. With Luke and Ruthanne we rejoice at the

miracle of God and also pray for the changes in their household and lives. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Tom and Sis. Michelle Oesch and great-grandparents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Melva Oesch.

Bro. Vern Meyer (Sis. Carol) recently spent time in the hospital. Prayers from the congregation were sent on his behalf. He is now at home recovering and we continue to pray for healing and strength.

On earth a time of parting must come ... so with Sis. Lily Baumann (Bro. Mike) we share feelings of sorrow at the passing of her dear mother, Sis. Rose Vukov (Mansfield, OH). Our prayers continue for the family as hearts ache at the farewell. Yet God reaches out with hope for again we shall meet our faithful loved ones.

“The LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.”

*Genesis 2:18*

We are pleased to announce the engagement of Sis. Holly Plattner (Bro. Howard and Sis. Kristen) to Bro. Kent Levy of Washington, IL (Bro. Roger and Sis. Sue, Indianapolis, IN). Our prayers are with them on this joyous new journey in their lives through engagement and into marriage.

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

Bay City has had several visiting ministers within the past weeks. We are thankful Bro. Brad Gudeman (Sis. Teresa, Bradford, IL), Bro. Troy Leyse (Sis. Kelly, Bluffton, IN), Bro. Ben Manz (Sis. Caroline, Junction, OH), Bro. Dave Steffen (Sis. Linda, Elgin, IL) and Bro. Jeff Waibel (Sis. Margo, Leo, IN) were here to worship with us.

Sis. Ileen Wackerle and Megan Meylan (Bro. Gene and Sis. Carol)



both spent time in the hospital recently. We pray that the Lord will continue to provide healing such as would be needed.

Our prayers are with Sis. Janet Kober and Bro. Jay Schlatter (Sis. Carola) as they were recently selected for Sunday School terms. We also want to thank Bro. Bob Grew (Sis. Kayleen), Sis. Janelle Ramseyer and Bro. Brian Wieland (Sis. Char) for their past years of service teaching our youth.

We want to welcome Bro. Joshua and Sis. Keyna Martinez and their boys, Marty Jo, Gabriel, and Ezekial, from the South Bend congregation. We are thankful to have another young family worshiping with us.

The summer has quickly come to a close and with that, school will soon be starting. Our prayers are with those who will be returning to school, that they could be safe from harm and accident and that they would have discernment between right and wrong.

May God be with each one in the coming days.

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### MICHIGAN, DETROIT

**Kay Rauhe**  
**Manuela Denes**

We were so happy to see the safe return of our young Bible class students and the brothers and sisters who accompanied them to Magdalena, Mexico. The theme for their week was Colossians 3:23: "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men." They all put that verse into practice as they helped with a variety of tasks that included the painting of the home where our Bro. Dan and Sis. Tamra Coughlin will be living as house parents. May they always cherish the memories of that time!

"Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near."

### *Isaiah 55:6*

It is such a joy to be able to announce that Katie Lanski has made the decision to give her life to the Lord! We rejoice with her mother and father, Sis. Melinda and Todd, and her sister Meredith. May she be blessed as she begins her new life in Christ.

Our Detroit family welcomed the safe and blessed arrival of little Keira Hope to Bro. Eric and Sis. Jodi Strassheim. Her big brothers and sister are Tatton, Landon, and Selah. Her grandparents are Bro. Wes and Sis. Joyce Hohulin from Goodfield, IL, and Bro. Dale and Sis. Carol Strassheim from Bloomington, IL. May the Lord bless her and their family!

We share the sorrow of Sis. Kristie Meyer at the passing of her father, Bro. Art Kipfer, of our Bluffton North, IN, congregation. Our prayers are with her and her family during this time. It is so beautiful to remember this scripture:

"And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."

*John 14:3*

It is time to say goodbye to two young men who have spent some time in Detroit with us while pursuing their studies. Sam Frank will be continuing his studies in Nashville, TN, where he will be attending Vanderbilt. Bro. Ned Troxel has finished his internship and will be returning to Purdue. May God bless them in their school and working lives!

We were very grateful to hear that young Grant Ramseyer underwent a successful surgery and is recovering very quickly! His thankful parents are Bro. Mark and Sis. Kelly Ramseyer. We were also sorry to hear

that Sis. Martha Szilagyi was hospitalized but are thankful that she is back home at Woodhaven.

Special thanks go out to Bro. Walt Rager from our Toledo, OH, congregation who was here to share services on a Tuesday evening at Woodhaven and to Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand from Philadelphia, PA, who shared Wednesday night services with us. We truly are blessed to have brothers that are willing to come and give of themselves!

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### MINNESOTA MINNEAPOLIS

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

*Rev. 21:4*

We rejoice with Sis. Katie Olson-Blunier as she has entered the heavenly gates. We pray for the family as they lay their loved one to rest, especially Sis. Diane and Bro. David Stewart.

We pray for Sis. Diane Stewart for complete healing. She has been hospitalized and is now recovering.

Sharing the Gospel with us this month was Bro. Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata).

"Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation."

*Hab. 3:18*

Praising God for calling Alissa Messner (Bro. Doug and Sis. Sue) into the joy of HIS salvation.

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**MINNESOTA, MORRIS**  
**Susie Wulf**  
**Kim Feuchtenberger**

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

*II Timothy 3:16-17*

We are very thankful when we can sit under the sound of the truth brought forth by inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi (Lamar, MO) and Bro. Byron Stoller (Gridley, IL) shared on the pulpit during the past month. Bro. Clint Schmidt (Winthrop, MN) also visited our congregation. Along with our visitors we thank our home ministers for labouring on our behalf.

Bro. Ben Furrer (Bro. Tom and Sis. Jill) and Sis. Kristi Nohl (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Shirley Kellenberger) were joined in Holy Matrimony on July 18. Our prayers are with them and Sis. Kristi's children (Ted, Staci and Jerry Jr.) as they begin their family life together. Also, Jonathan Messner (Bro. Tony and Sis. Nancy) was joined in marriage to Holly Erickson (Dale and Sheila) on July 24.

This month brought many new babies to our congregation. Benton Ronald was born to Jeffrey and Rebekah Schaefer on July 16. Grandparents are Bro. Stan and Sis. Bev Schaefer and Diann Giese. On July 20, Todd Arthur Wulf joined his brothers, Emmitt, Lane, Reid and Nolan, as well as his parents, Bro. Kurt and Sis. Savannah. Grandparents are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Judy Wulf and Bro. Tim and Sis. Gwen Gramm. Gavin Thomas was welcomed by Bro. Tom and Sis. Trish Koehl and his big brothers, Blake and Wyatt, on July 23. His grandparents are Bro. Karl and Sis. Marilyn Koehl and Bro. Rus-

sell and Sis. Vera Manz. Bro. Corbin and Sis. Stacy Fehr were thankful for the safe arrival of their first child, Anya Joy, on July 27. Her grandparents are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Judy Fehr and Bro. Jim and Sis. Hilde Koehl. On August 9, Annabella Grace joined Bro. Anthony and Sis. Amy Ekren. Her big brother is Alton, and grandparents are Mark and Mick Ekren and Vance and Kim Gullickson and Bro. Gary and Sis. Sandy Fehr. Bro. Paul and Sis. Heidi Wulf, along with Megan, Jeremy, Julia and Angela, were blessed with another baby girl, Hannah Joy, on August 11. Her grandparents are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Judy Wulf and Bro. Beirne and Sis. Joyce Messner.

We share in the sorrow with Bro. Ken and Sis. Sally Feuchtenberger and their family as they mourn the loss of Sally's father, John Blankers, on July 30.

We rejoice with Bro. Blake Wulf (Bro. LeRoy and Sis. Carolyn) as he was baptized on August 8 in Burlington, IA. He is currently living in the Morris area. May God continue to give him the grace to live an over-coming life day by day.

Rachel Veenstra (Kurt and Ann) was announced as having peace with God and man on August 1. We continue to pray for her as the time for her baptism approaches. "But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen." (II Peter 3:18)

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

We have experienced a blessed month of visiting Elders and ministering brothers whom include Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH), Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Sis. Judy, Chicago, IL),

Bro. Darren Plattner (Sis. Sue, Champaign, IL), Bro. Tim Roecker (Sis. Diane, Peoria, IL), Elder Bro. Paul Messner (Sis. Jan, Winthrop, MN), Bro. Brian Huber (Sis. Jackie, Francesville, IN), and Bro. Kim Sutter (Sis. Vonette, Taylor, MO).

Our congregation has had the delightful opportunity to share together in the Word of God with visiting brethren from Junction, Chicago, Eureka, Lester, Peoria, Latty, Morris South, Bradford, Tremont, Champaign, Winthrop, Bloomington, Gridley, Taylor, Francesville, and Oakville. We appreciate and thank you for your visit, and would like to leave you with an open invitation to worship with us again in the future at Morris North.

Skyview Plaza was the monthly place we held our hymn sing. We appreciate the listening ears and pray they can feel comfort through song.

"It is good to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto thy name, O Most High;"

*Psalms 92:1*

Our prayer is for the Lord's healing powers to our dear ones that were hospitalized recently. They include Sis. Norene Moser, Bro. Floyd Schmidgall and Sis. Ila Gramm. May you each be blessed with a speedy recovery.

We rejoice with Bro. Rusty and Sis. Sharon Schmidgall in the arrival of Eden Rose Schmidgall. May God richly bless them with this heavenly blessing from above.

Our hearts were saddened to hear about the passing of Bro. Travis Strahm's father, Bro. Carl Strahm. We extend our love and sympathy and pray for the Lord's comfort to Travis and his family in this time of sorrow.

On a beautiful evening our Bible class, along with some brethren, gathered together to assist a local woman and her grandson in a move



from an apartment to a house. An enormous blessing was felt by all to have experienced helping someone in need. Let us not neglect to do good and to share what we have, for we know this is pleasing to God.

Bro. Dennis Virkler visited our congregation with a presentation on the Crown Financial Bible Study. Thank you Bro. Dennis for the informational meeting. We pray that God's presence will be with us as we go through this study.

Let us find our fulfillment in Jesus Christ and share His riches with others.

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### MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

**Julie Schmidt**

**Lindsay Schmidt**

Greetings in the Lord!

“Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: 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.”

*Hebrews 13:17*

Many prayers were offered up as our Elders gathered together for Elder meetings and the annual Brotherhood conference. May God grant wisdom and guidance to our Elders. As members, we should consider that when our watchmen bring forth teachings and warnings, let us hear and obey them. We would also like to extend heartfelt thanks to the Rittman congregation for hosting this year's conference.

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

*Proverbs 22:6*

Another year of Sunday School began on August 1. After church the students and teachers enjoyed the an-

nual Sunday School picnic. Our prayers are with the teachers as they plant and nurture the seed in these young and tender souls so that some day a mighty tree will grow.

“But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.”

*1 Peter 1:25*

We are thankful that the Word of the Lord is still being preached unto us. We are thankful to our home ministers for their continual labors. Our congregation was pleasantly surprised to have visiting ministering Bro. Brad Strahm (Sis. Michelle, Bern, KS) present with us one Sunday morning. We are thankful for their impromptu visit and thank him for preaching the gospel in love.

“Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.”

*Psalms 34:19*

As long as we are on this earth, we will experience times of affliction whether it be physical or spiritual. Let us cling to the knowledge and promise that God is with us and will deliver us. Those suffering physical afflictions as hospital and surgery patients in our congregation were Bro. Doc (Sis. Hazel) Schmidt, Bro. Roy Howk, and Sis. Verna Bruns. May each feel the presence of the Lord and the prayers that have gone up on their behalf.

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### MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY

**Brittany Fehr**

Our prayers are with our friend, Melinda Trayford (sister of Sis. Michelle Meyer), and our Sis. Marty Rokey (the late Bro. Garry) as each has suffered physically in the past month. Sis. Marty is in the hospital;

Melinda experienced a severe car accident and is also hospitalized. We pray God will comfort and bless them and their families and that He will heal them if that is His will.

Our church has enjoyed many visitors this summer on Wednesday nights and also on Sundays. Thank you for coming!

Some of our news from this summer was mistakenly not included in the Silver Lining. At this time, we would like to mention that Elder Bro. Bruce Endress (Sis. Elizabeth, Bradford, IL) visited our congregation in July; may God bless Him richly for his willingness to preach the Word through inspiration of the Holy Spirit in truth and simplicity. Also, Bro. Scott Kellenberger recently graduated from college; Bro. Grant Meyer (Bro. DeVere and Sis. Michelle) and Sis. Brittany Fehr (Bro. Joe and Sis. Joan) were our high school graduates this year. May each one continue to seek, find, and obey God's direction in each step of his or her life.

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### MISSOURI, LAMAR

**Rebecca Dotterer**

**Dana Kellenberger**

We are thankful for the many visitors we have had this past month. We hosted the Ft. Sam reunion and had many visiting Elders and ministers: Elder Bros. Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL) and Dave Graf (Akron, OH), and ministering Bros. Tom Schambach (Elgin, IL), Gary Brown (Forrest, IL), Greg Stoller (Forrest, IL), Jon Zeller (Morton, IL), Floyd Frieden (Elgin, IA), Beirne Messner (Morris, MN), Bill Brake (Sardis, OH) and Mark Steiner (Smithville, OH). We also enjoyed a visit from ministering Bro. Jim Koehl (San Diego, CA). We are thankful to have brothers willing to stand and proclaim God's Word.

We wish to congratulate Bro. Doug and Sis. Amanda Strahm on the birth



of their first child, Elsie Mae, on July 24. Grandparents of the new baby are Bro. Larry and Sis. Marcy Schmidgall and Bro. Curt and Sis. Ellen Strahm (Sabetha, KS). May God grant them the wisdom and discernment to raise their daughter in His ways.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with Bro. Curt (Sis. Martha) Kellenberger as he spent some time in the hospital. We will continue to keep him in our prayers as he is home recovering. We also wish to remember Sis. Bonnie Braker (Bro. Leonard) in thought and prayer as she also was in the hospital.

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### MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS Kary Mangers

We are very excited to welcome some additions to our church family. Sis. Brittany Brecklin, formerly of our Peoria congregation, has taken her first nursing job at Barnes Jewish Hospital in transplant surgery. We also welcome Bro. Tate Hohulin (Peoria) as he goes to school at SIU in Edwardsville to study pharmacy and Bro. Craig Koch (Tremont) as he goes to medical school at SIU Carbondale. We wish them God's blessings and guidance as they start down these new paths in life.

Our congratulations go to Landon Wuethrich (Bro. Chris and Sis. Carla) as he graduated from high school. We pray for the Lord's guidance for him also as he decides what career path he will take.

This month has again brought us opportunities to fellowship with brethren from across the miles. Bros. Greg Rassi (Chicago), John Baumgartner (Bern), and Dale Banwart (Congerville) shared God's Word with us. We also enjoyed the many families passing through on vacations and the families from Congerville who joined us with their minister rotation. As the travel slows down, we will be praying for the chil-

dren as the school year begins. May they not only grow in knowledge but also in understanding of God's greatest gift, Jesus.

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### MISSOURI, TAYLOR Kathy Eberhardt

"Ring the bells of Heaven" has been sung three Sundays in a row in our Taylor Sunday School for five dear souls who have answered the most important call of their lifetime. Many times in our life we might miss a call, but let's not miss this call. Garrett Yackley (Bro. Joe and Sis. Jerilyn), Tinslee Tuley (Ed and Kathy), Philip Wegman (Bro. Scott and Sis. Dawn), and David and Jennifer Hoerr (children of Bro. Brent and Sis. Charlotte) all have committed their lives to the Lord.

We want to thank Elder Bro. Ted Witzig Sr. (Sis. Cindy, Morton, IL), and Bro. Ted Witzig Jr. (Sis. Donna, Morton, IL) for sharing God's Word. Elder Bro. Ted Witzig also assisted in the testimonies and baptisms of Bro. Caleb Sutter, Sis. Mercedes Thompson and Bro. Dallas Haerr. May God bless these new lambs of Jesus.

We would also like to thank Dr. Parkhe for the inspiring evening informing us about what is happening at the Rural Gospel and Medical Missions of India. He answered many questions for a better understanding of RGMMI for our congregation.

Our last speaker for our July Bible Study was Bro. Jeff Neihouser (Sis. Sue, Morton, IL). He finished the July sessions with his talk on Proverbs 4. He ended the lesson using the formula  $F[(J + T) + P) + L] = WU$ , which translates to Faith plus Journey plus Trials plus Patience plus Lessons equals Wisdom and Understanding.

We also thank Bro. Dean Steffen (Sis. Carol, Belvidere, IL) for sharing the good news of God.

Hospital patients this month were

Bro. Norman Haerr and Sis. Lois Sutter. May God bless them with His healing hand.

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### NEW YORK CROGHAN-NAUMBURG Hope Graves

Our annual church cleaning was held Monday evening, July 26. We are thankful for each one that helps to keep God's earthly house in order.

We had a beautiful day for our Sunday School picnic at Happy Hollow on Saturday, August 7. We were happy to see so many in attendance and the adults and children enjoying time fellowshiping together.

We were glad that several from our congregation were able to travel to Rittman, OH, for our church Conference on August 13. The Lord provided safety for each and we thank the Elder brethren and those from the Rittman congregation for their many labors of love. May we take the teachings brought forth and apply them to our everyday lives.

It was a blessing to have ministering Bro. Tim Gerber, his wife, Sis. Wendy, and his children with us for services on August 15. We are thankful they were able to travel to be with us from their Mansfield, OH, congregation.

Our prayers extended to Loren Virkler who had surgery this past month and is home recovering.

Our hearts were saddened with the death of Bro. Clyde Virkler on August 3. Our prayers are with his wife, Sis. Lois, and children in the days ahead. He will be greatly missed by our congregation.

We rejoice with Brian and Danielle Graves in the arrival of their daughter, Mikaedyn Jacqueline. Mikaedyn was born on July 28. Happy grandparents are Bro. Floyd and Sis. Linda Graves and Victor and Jeanette Tripp.



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## OHIO, AKRON

### Erika Gal

We are so thankful for all the visiting ministers we had this month. With us on the pulpit were Elder Bros. Peter Petrovic (San Diego) and Merle Hartzler (Rittman), and Bros. Ron Jones (Portland), Kevin Banwart (West Bend), Virgil Kaeb (Sarasota), Tom Bahler (Rockville), Rex Frieden (Lamar), Gary Tonner (Bluffton), Mike Ursu (Kitchener), Jerry Bauman (Rittman) and Tim Ramsier (Rittman). There were many other visiting ministers with us following the Rittman Conference. We appreciate each one making the effort to worship with us. We certainly hope that everyone felt a warm welcome and will come visit us again.

We are rejoicing with Bro. Micah and Sis. Marcy Gherian and their family in the birth of Dayne Peter on August 6. Dayne is welcomed home by Zachary, Jenneka, and Abel. His grandparents are Sis. Sharon Gherian from Akron and Bro. Pete and Sis. Susan Van Wyhe (Lester, IA).

Bro. Eugene and Sis. Dianna Bako are thankful to have two new grandsons. John and Vanessa Bako named their son John Paul. Bro. Tom and Sis. Laura Bako's little boy is named Zalan Botond. Zalan's maternal grandparents are Bro. Greg and Sis. Joy Stoller. What a blessing to have such precious little babies in our church!

We are happy for Sis. Esther Steidl and Bro. Jeran Stoller as they were married in the Lord on August 22. Their parents are Bro. Don and Sis. Nan Steidl and Bro. Eric and Sis. Melanie Stoller (Rittman). We wish to heartily welcome Bro. Jeran as he and Sis. Esther plan to worship with us in Akron.

We look forward to another wedding in Akron as our Sis. Christina Steidl was announced to Bro. Greg

Gasser from Junction. Sis. Christina is also the daughter of Bro. Don and Sis. Nan. Bro. Greg's parents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Sue Gasser (Junction). We pray for God's blessings on their engagement and on their future life together.

Our prayers have been with Izabella Kocsis as she spent some time in the hospital. She is the daughter of Bro. Jozsef and Sis. Susie Kocsis. We are thankful she is better, and it is good to see her smiling face in church again.

... for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God ...

*Ruth 1:16*

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## OHIO, COLUMBUS

### Esther Saurer

Visiting ministers for the month were Bro. Bob and Sis. Rhonda Knochel (Bay City, MI), Bro. Tom and Sis. Connie Schambach (Elgin, IL) and Bro. Kevin and Sis. Sandy Banwart (West Bend, IA). We appreciate their willingness to serve our congregation.

Bro. Kyle and Sis. Christine Germann were married this month in Mansfield, OH. We would like to welcome Sis. Christine to our congregation. We are thankful to have young families join our congregation.

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## OHIO, JUNCTION

### Vicki Boroff

Thus united, and in concord, let us walk the path of life; hand in hand, o may love bind us, for each other's welfare strive.

*Zion's Harp #237, vs. 1*

We were happy to hear of some engagements this month. Bro. Greg Gasser is engaged to Sis. Christina Steidl of Akron. Parents are Bro.

Roger and Sis. Sue Gasser, and Bro. Don and Sis. Nan Steidl. Also engaged is Sis. Beverly Schlatter and Bro. Regg Beer of Ixtlan. Parents are Elder Bro. Bill and Sis. Emily Schlatter, and Bro. Fred and Sis. Pat Beer of Milford.

Our prayers go out to our hospital patients. We missed mentioning Eleanor Gerber last month, and are pleased to have her assemble with us again.

We are thankful for those that teach us. Bro. Denny Schlatter and Sis. Linda Schlatter each completed their Sunday school term, and Sis. Karen Schlatter and Bro. Sam Manz have filled those slots.

Teaching us from the pulpit this month, in addition to our home ministers, were Bros. Jesse Bedolla (Sis. Bonnie, Detroit), Philip Schultz (Sis. Kelli, Burlington), Fred Funk (Sis. Diane, Morton), Bruce Frank (Sis. Bonita, Cissna Park), Fred Domka (Sis. Connie, Mansfield), and Doug Harmon (Sis. Lanna, Toledo).

We are always thankful to have additional siblings in the faith. Sis. Anita Schlatter (Elder Bro. Bill and Sis. Emily Schlatter) was baptized this month. We appreciated having Bro. Walt Rager (Sis. Sharon, Toledo) help our Elder Bro. Bill with the testimony Saturday evening, and Elder Bro. Lynn Fiechter (Sis. Ronda, Bluffton) join us on Sunday.

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## OHIO, LATTY

### Mindy Stoller

### Carmen Eisenmann

Greetings of love! Our congregation was once again privileged to have several visiting ministers with us this month. They were Bro. Bill Waibel (Sis. Carol, Bay City, MI), Bro. Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue, Detroit, MI), Bro. Jesse Bedolla (Sis. Bonnie, Detroit, MI), Bro. Clark Stoller (Sis. Cindy, Gridley, IL), and Bro. Dale Wulf (Sis. Becky, Lester, IA). Thank you to



these brothers for serving us!

We are so happy that two of our friends have turned to the Lord in humble repentance. We pray that Colin Klopfenstein (Bro. Leon and Sis. Deb) and Nolan Sinn (Bro. Todd and Sis. Janet) will have the grace, mercy, and strength to lay a firm foundation in Jesus Christ.

Karl Klopfenstein (Bro. Leon and Sis. Deb) and Angela Klopfenstein (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Cherry) have professed peace with God and man. We continue to pray that God will be near unto them as they prepare for baptism.

Kim Wenninger and Ian Miller were united in holy matrimony on July 31. Kim is the daughter of Bro. Kevin and Sis. Della. We pray this couple will feel the blessing of God upon their marriage.

July 14 was the birthday of Brayden Thomas who was born to Blake and Tiffany Sinn. Happy grandparents are Bro. Tom and Sis. Kim Sinn. Bro. Chad and Sis. Jennifer Keysor welcomed home Joshua James on July 18. His siblings are Dylan, Andrew, Kaleb, Alexis, Kelsey, and Kali. Thankful grandparents are Bro. George and Sis. Sharon Keysor. May these two families find much joy in these new births!

Surgery and hospital patients this month include Bro. Darl Stoller (Sis. Iva) and Tom Laukhuf. May the Holy Spirit provide healing and comfort according to His will.

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### **OHIO, MANSFIELD** **Tami Griffey**

The Annual Youth Fellowship Day was held on July 25 at the Pleasant Valley Ranch. This special gathering brought together students 7th through 12th grades from the Ohio and Michigan churches. The weekend was filled with fellowship and teachings from the Word of God. May God bless the Gospel message deep

into the heart of each one who attended and the lifelong friendships from the weekend.

Our prayers and love continue to be with those in our congregation who have been hospitalized or are dealing with health concerns, including: Bro. Dave Eyerly, Sis. Elizabeth Walter, Lynette Rau, and Sis. Lucy Baumann.

We rejoice with first-time parents, Bro. Edward II and Sis. Michelle Ramsey whose daughter, Clarice Alexandra, was born on July 21. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Edward and Sis. Laura Ramsey, and Bro. Steve and Sis. Anna Marie Stoller.

We were blessed to witness the wedding of Sis. Christine Ramsey (Bro. John and Sis. Dawn) to Bro. Kyle Germann (Bro. Doug and Sis. Rebecca, Columbus) on August 1. May God bless their marriage and lives together in the Lord. Visiting ministers sharing the weekend were: Elder Bro. Tom Stock (Sis. Karol; Cissna Park, IL), Bro. Glen Braker (Sis. Audrey; Princeville, IL), and Bro. Ron Steiner (Sis. Ruth, Rittman).

Surrounded by family and friends on August 14, Corbin Masters (Elder Bro. Mark and Sis. Jeannine) and Amber Hobbs (William and Robin) were united in marriage. We pray God's blessings upon their lives and the love they have for one another.

May God's blessings be upon the many visiting ministers who have spent time with our congregation: Bro. Bob Knochel (Sis. Rhonda; Bay City, MI), Bro. Curtis Kaufman (Sis. Caroline; Tucson, AZ), Bro. Brent Kellenberger (Sis. Beth; Kansas City, MO), Bro. Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary; Zapata, TX), Bro. Roger Sauder (Sis. Judy; Ft. Lauderdale, FL), and Bro. Ron Steiner (Sis. Ruth; Rittman).

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Bro. Elmer Oesch who passed away on August 16. His children, Greg and Paula Oesch, Collette and Al Huggins, Carl and Lisa Oesch,

and Fred and Jean Oesch, have our prayers and love.

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### **OHIO, RITTMAN** **Heidi Rufener** **Marge Stoller**

"Fulfill ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind."

*Philippians 2:2*

We were privileged to host the annual Brotherhood Conference in Rittman this month. It was truly a blessing for each one of us who were able to take part in not only the event itself, but also the months of planning and preparation beforehand. Working side by side to achieve a common goal drew us closer together as a congregation.

In addition to the Elder brothers who took part in the Conference, we had several visiting ministers, including Elder Bros. Tom Stock (Cissna Park, IL), Steve Martin (Eureka, IL), Steve Sauder (Tremont, IL); and ministering Bros. Todd Stoller (Latty), Ken Schneider (Remington, IN), Roger Sauder (Ft. Lauderdale, FL), Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO), and Leland Plattner (Zapata, TX).

The engagement of Bro. Caleb Beery (Bro. Earl and Sis. Susie) and Sis. Charity Riggerbach (Bro. Bob and Sis. Lorie) was announced to us recently. May God bless this couple as they plan for their life together.

Two couples exchanged wedding vows in the past month. Rachel Tieche (Greg and Sis. Peggy) and Caleb Middleton were united in marriage on July 17. Bro. Javan Stoller (Bro. Eric and Sis. Melanie) and Sis. Josie Rufener (Bro. John and Sis. Janice, Smithville) became one in the Lord on August 1. We pray God's nearness and direction for both of these unions.



We rejoice with Jeremy Steiner (Bro. Rod and Sis. Jill) as he turns his heart to the Lord in repentance. Another world-weary soul is now seeking the Father!

Several new babies have been born this month. Zane Michael joined the family of Bro. Marlin and Sis. Tonya Miller on July 21. His older brothers are Kolton and Carter; grandparents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Norene Miller and Bro. Fred and Sis. Connie Domka (Mansfield). Carson Dale was born on July 22 to Brant and Tiffany Gasser. Carson's older brother is Austin and his grandparents are Bro. Dale and Janet Gasser and Stanley and Wendy Haverty. Also on July 22, Bro. Aaron and Sis. Deb Gasser welcomed Adrya Eryn into their family. Her older siblings are Kayla, Charity, Brittany, Josiah, and Lily. Grandparents are Bro. Virg and Sis. Lois Gasser and Bro. Ken and Sis. Jane Hartzler (Smithville). Mackenzie Rose made first-time parents of Nate and Whitney Sample on July 23. Grandparents are Terry and Dorothy Sample and Bro. Steve and Sis. Mary Lynn Stoller. Koriana Lanae made her appearance on August 1 to Bro. Isaac and Sis. Brittany Steiner (Smithville). Koriana's grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Lynn Steiner and Bro. Brian and Sis. Bev Indermuhle (Smithville).

Bro. Glenn Winkler passed from this life on July 18. He is survived by his wife, Sis. Mary Jane, and children, Sis. Susan (Gary) Murray, Keith (Regina) Winkler, Kevin Winkler, and Michele (Rich) Holcomb. Because Bro. Glenn was hospitalized and it was felt his time on this earth was short, both he and Sis. Mary Jane were baptized in the hospital prior to Bro. Glenn's passing. We pray for God's comfort for his grieving family, but rejoice that he was able to make this most important step in faith before he went to meet the Lord.

Also hospitalized this month were

Roger Maibach (Cinda), Mason Hartzler (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Sue), Sis. Bev Moore (Randy), Morgan Dotterer (Bro. Mark and Sis. April), and Zane Miller (Bro. Marlin and Sis. Tonya). We pray for God's healing hand upon each one.

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### OHIO, SARDIS Faith Beard

"This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success."

*Joshua 1:8*

Success can be defined in different ways, but is not the greatest success to make that choice to live your life, through God's grace, in such a way so that one day you will attain the Glories of Heaven? We extend congratulations to our graduate from earlier this summer, Sis. Alysha Figel, daughter of Bro. Andy and Sis. Cyndi, and granddaughter of Bro. John and Sis. Paula Figel. We pray for the Lord's guiding hand in Sis. Alysha's life as she continues to seek out His will in her life.

The weekend of August 14-15 was one of blessing and Christian friendship as we witnessed the testimony and baptism of our Bro. Anthony Amos. Anthony is the son of Randy and Tawnya Amos of New Metamoras, OH. We rejoice with Bro. Anthony as he has made the greatest choice ever in his life, and pray with him as he continues to strive to live his life according to The Word.

Here to help with the baptism weekend were Elder Bro. Ted Witzig, Sr. (Sis. Cindy, Morton, IL), Bro. Doug Harmon (Sis. Lanna, Toledo, OH), and Bro. Matthew Rassi (Sis.

Bridget, Chicago, IL). Also here to minister to us on a separate weekend were Bros. John Grimm (Sis. Julie, Columbus, OH), Marvin Zollinger (Sis. Pam, Smithville, OH), and Ted Luginbuhl (Sis. Stephanie, Smithville, OH). We thank all these brothers for their willingness to preach the Truth to us, as inspired by the Spirit.

On August 24, Bro. Denny and Sis. Doris Miller added a new member to their family with the birth of a granddaughter, Ashley Ann. Ashley is the daughter of Steve and Kati Miller and the little sister of Dillon, Brandon, and Kara. We are thankful for God's continued blessing on this family!

"And Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven."

*St. Matthew 19:14*

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### OHIO, SMITHVILLE Lydia Stoller Gina Brake

We welcome Sis. Christine and Sis. Cheryl Dotterer, who recently moved to the area from Mansfield, and have begun attending Smithville. We are thankful to have them assemble with us.

August 1 was the wedding of Bro. Javan Stoller (Bro. Eric and Sis. Melanie, Rittman) and Sis. Josie Rufener (Bro. John and Sis. Janice). We wish them God's blessings in their marriage. Visiting ministers that weekend were Bros. Ron Palitto (Akron) and Earl Beery (Rittman).

The Rittman Conference brought many visiting ministers to our area. Those who assisted on the pulpit were Elder Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Forrest), and Bros. Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City), Brad Eisenmann (Chicago), Jeff Streitmatter (Sarasota), Paul Schmidgall (Morris), Ned Stoller (Alto), Leland Plattner (Zapata),



Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North), Clark Stoller (Gridley), and Glenn Braker (Princeville). Bro. Curtis Kaufman (Tucson) also visited our congregation this month.

We extend our sympathy to families who have recently lost loved ones. Bro. Ted Beery passed away on August 17. His wife is Sis. Rhea Beery, and his sisters are Sis. Alma Maibach, Sis. Christine Dotterer, and Sis. Delphine Nieman. Bro. Kenneth Ramsier (Rittman) passed away on August 22. His brothers from the Smithville church are Bro. Jim (Sis. Dorothy) and Bro. Bob (Sis. Inez). We pray that these families can feel the prayers of the church and the nearness of the Lord.

Bro. Ken and Sis. Jane Hartzler welcome a new granddaughter. Adrya Eryn was born on July 22 to Bro. Aaron and Sis. Deb Gasser (Rittman). Adrya's siblings are Kayla, Charity, Brittany, Josiah, and Lily. Bro. Isaac and Sis. Brittany Steiner are thankful for the safe arrival of their first child, Koriana Lanae, born on August 1. Her grandparents are Bro. Brian and Sis. Bev Indermuhle. August 17 was the birth date of Elias John, who joined the family of Paul and Carol Zollinger and big brother, Levi. Bro. Dave and Sis. Mary Ann Zollinger are his grandparents. Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Keith and Sis. Autumn Stoller and their first child, Kendall Sue, born on August 18. Kendall was born with heart problems, and has been in the hospital. We pray for God's blessings on her and her parents, and the rest of the family, including grandparents, Bro. Max and Sis. Diane Miller.

Our prayers are also with Sis. Martha Lou Marty (Bro. Dean) and Sis. Sharon Gasser (Bro. Ben), who have both spent time in the hospital this month. May they feel God's nearness in the upcoming days.

We were thankful to hear of the en-

gagement of Bro. Jon Dotterer (Bro. Dave and Sis. Luanna) and Sis. Lydia Stoller (Bro. Dan and Sis. Kim) on August 1. It is always wonderful to hear of God working in the lives of His children, and we pray for His blessings on them.

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### OHIO, TOLEDO Teresa Rywalski Rebecca Beard

"Save thy people, and bless thine inheritance: feed them also, and lift them up for ever."

*Psalm 28:9*

Once again we were blessed by many visiting ministers. Joining us on the pulpit were Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH), Bro. Ron Palitto (Sis. Lynell, Akron, OH), Bro. Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi, Alto, MI), Bro. Michael Wagenbach (Sis. Erica, Wolcott, IN), and Bro. Warren Schlatter (Sis. Cindy, Junction, OH). We trust that the Lord will provide for these brothers and their families as only He is able.

We welcome Sis. Anita Schlatter (Elder Bro. Bill and Sis. Emily, Junction, OH) as a new sister in faith. Many in our Toledo congregation went to Junction to hear her testimony of faith and witness her baptism on August 21-22.

We wish God's blessings on Sis. Bev Schlatter (Elder Bro. Bill and Sis. Emily, Junction, OH) and Bro. Regg Beer (Bro. Fred and Sis. Pat, Milford, IN) as they have announced their engagement. Bro. Regg is currently serving in Ixtlan, Mexico. On August 29, we were happy to hear of another engagement and also wish God's blessing on Bro. Ben Harmon (Bro. Doug and Sis. Lanna) and Sis. Sarah Nolan (Abraham and Sarah). We congratulate both couples and pray they continue to seek God's direction in their lives.

Bro. Dave and Sis. Geri Beard are thankful for the safe arrival of a granddaughter. Isabelle May was born on August 25. Happy parents, Michael and Lindsay Beard, along with siblings, Quinn and Griffin, are eager to shower her with love.

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### OREGON, PORTLAND Renee Angstrom

We were very blessed to have Bro. Ed Sauder (Sis. Bonnie, Roanoke, IL) visit our congregation. We appreciate his service and bringing forth the Word. Our visiting ministers this month from Silverton were Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Betty), and Bro. Todd Zollinger (Sis. Michele). We appreciate the support from the Silverton brethren.

Our congregation hosted an Invite a Family weekend the end of July. We took our guests to the Oregon Coast for the day where we were blessed with beautiful weather and an enjoyable day of fellowship. On Sunday, we hosted a potluck dinner after services and a Hymn Sing in the evening. There were many blessings received by all that participated and we are thankful for everyone that took the time from their busy lives to come and fellowship with us for the weekend.

We are very thankful that the engagement of Sis. Adriana Jones (Bro. Ron and Sis. Liz) to Bro. Duane Sinn (Bro. Don and Sis. Linda) of Silverton, OR, was made known to our congregation. We pray for them as they prepare for their wedding.

#### *Note of Thanks:*

My family and I want to say a special thank you for all the love, food, prayers and kindness that everyone showed to us when our beloved Raymond passed away in June. May God richly bless each and every one who remembered us at this time.

*Sis. Barbara Moser*

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## OREGON, SILVERTON Deb Roth

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

*St. Mark 10:7-8*

We rejoice with Bro. Duane Sinn (Bro. Don and Sis. Linda) and Sis. Adriana Jones (Bro. Ron and Sis. Liz, Portland) as they have made their engagement known. May God's blessings be with them as they plan for their life together. How fortunate we are to be able to seek the Lord's guidance in such important decisions in life!

We are always grateful for the ministers who bring us God's Word every week. We thank Bro. Darren Fehr (West Bend, IA) and Bro. Wayne Fehr (Portland) for encouraging us through His teachings.

We are also thankful that Bro. John Wiegand (Sis. Jane) was approved by the Elder body at the Rittman Conference for the duty of Elder. We look forward to the ordination service which is planned for the weekend of September 18-19. Our prayers will continue to be with Bro. John and his family as he takes up this important duty of service to the Lord's flock.

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## PENNSYLVANIA PHILADELPHIA Emily Wiegand

"...that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen."

*1 Peter 4:11*

It was a blessing for our church to have a number of visiting ministers this month. Bros. Dale Stoller (Sis.

Sandy, Fairbury, IL) and Tom Bahler (Sis. LaNae, Rockville, CT) were with us on a recent Sunday and taught us from God's Word, while Bro. Corey Metzger (Wichita, KS) was with us on a Wednesday evening. We were blessed by each of their Holy Spirit-inspired messages.

On July 31st and August 1st, the Philadelphia Church was privileged to hold our 30th Reunion. It was encouraging to remember God's faithfulness to us over the years, and to see old acquaintances as we reminisced, fellowshiped, and glorified God. We thank all those who made a special effort to be with us for the weekend, including ministering Bro. Matthew Rassi (Sis. Bridget, Chicago, IL), and trust it was a blessing for each one.

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## TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE Mike and Monica Fritz

Our congregation bid farewell to Bro. Grant Zimmerman (Morton, IL) as he has returned to school in Champaign, IL, after a summer internship in Nashville. And we welcome back Shelly Beth Getz (Mansfield, OH Nazarene), who has returned to Nashville for the school year. We pray that the Lord will be with them both as they seek to fulfill His purpose in their lives.

We have been blessed by the Living Word of God, brought to us by our visiting ministering brothers, Bros. Rex Frieden (Sis. Vera; Lamar, MO), Duane Metzger (Sis. Ruth; West Bend, IA), Tim Lehman (Sis. Amber; Taylor, MO), and Brad Gudeman (Sis. Teresa; Bradford, IL). We have also been strengthened by the fellowship of brethren and friends visiting from Bradford, Congerville, and Morton, IL; West Bend, IA; Lamar and Taylor, MO.

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: Tremont, IL (9/26); Tucson, AZ (10/3); Rittman, OH (10/10); Smithville, OH (10/17); Washington, IL (10/24); and Goodfield, IL (10/31). 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.

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## TEXAS, AUSTIN Serenity and Jasmine Ringger

If we ever think that we're doing just fine in our spiritual walk, let's look into the Word. "And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me." (Luke 9:23). Have we taken up our cross today?

O watch, and fight, and pray; the battle ne'er give o'er;  
Renew it boldly ev'ry day, and help divine implore.  
Ne'er think the vict'ry won, nor lay thine armor down;  
The work of faith will not be done, till thou obtain the crown.  
*Hymns of Zion #13 vs. 2 & 3*

Our visiting ministers were Bros. Dave Zehr (Sis. Vicki, Gridley), Virgil Metzger (Sis. Mary, Chicago), Elder Bro. Tom Stock (Sis. Karol, Cissna Park), and Ken Hoerr (Sis. Darlene, Peoria). Other visitors were from Fairbury and Princeville.

The following is the minister schedule for October: (3) Sabetha, (10) Akron, (17) Washington, (24) Minneapolis, (31) Bern. We extend a warm welcome to anyone who may be in the area to worship with us, on Sun-



days 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.

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### TEXAS, McALLEN Joyce Nohl

Our visiting ministers have been Bro. Craig Martin (Sis. Terri, Princeville, IL) and Bro. Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata, TX). May God bless them for their time and effort.

We enjoyed having Bro. Craig and Sis. Terri's children with us on Sunday. We have so few children assemble with us that it is really a joy when we have children from other congregations visit us.

The following churches are scheduled for services: (Oct. 10, Bradford, IL), (Oct. 24, Bluffton North, IN), (Nov. 7, Rockville, CT), (Nov. 14, Morris, MN), (Nov. 21, Tremont, IL).

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

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### TEXAS, ZAPATA Mary Plattner

As the seasons change, so do the activities in Zapata. We are anticipating the arrival of our winter visitors again with much anticipation. From October to April our church finds many brethren from multiple states gathering each weekend and mid-week to worship.

Each summer the Zapata brethren, both present and former residents, gather in the Midwest for a weekend of fellowship and renewal of friendships. This year they were hosted by the Oakville, IA, church on the weekend of August 21.

We certainly invite anyone spending some time in South Texas to worship with us in Zapata.

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### VERMONT NORTH CLARENDON/ NORWICH Nathan and Miriam Reutter

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

*Psalm 133: 1*

We felt God's love and unity of Spirit at the Brotherhood Conference this past month. What a precious privilege to be part of the Apostolic Christian fellowship. Let us keep our shepherd brothers in our thoughts and prayers continually as they strive to sound the trumpet for the edification of our souls.

"Bless ye the Lord, all ye his hosts; ye ministers of his, that do his pleasure."

*Psalm 103:21*

Visiting us in Vermont this month were the following ministers: Bro. Warren Zahner (Sis. Bonnie, Rockville, CT) and Bro. Steven Frauhiger (Sis. Irene, Bluffton North, IN). We pray God's blessings upon them for their labors and service to our small congregation.

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

*Psalm 127: 3*

With thankful hearts, Bro. Chad and Sis. Jenny Virkler welcome home their newest addition, Nathanael James. Also welcoming him home are his siblings: Abigail, Ethan, Caleb, David, Hannah, and Lydia. Each new precious soul added to our congregation is such a blessing. We wish them much strength and grace to raise him up to God's glory.

If you are interested in fellowshiping with us here in Vermont, and would like information about service locations and dates, please contact Bro. Chad and Sis. Jenny Virkler (802-293-2724). We love to fellowship with believers, whether it is during the week or on the weekend. Please let us know if you are planning on being in our area so we can accommodate you. Service times are as follows:

Mid-week services

(Contact local brethren)

Sunday Morning Service

10:10 AM

Sunday Afternoon Service

12:15 PM

Sunday school is held during the morning service.





*Sermon continued from page 2*

minds me, recently of my experience in the Japanese church, when a friend called me. I didn't know him but he called and asked about my church. He mentioned that he is a Christian and he was looking for some different denomination. He used to go to a church that did speak in unknown tongues, speaking in tongues. He just didn't believe that. He wanted to come to another church that he could trust.

The verse clearly says, if we use an unknown tongue, which we don't understand, also my understanding is unfruitful (v.14). So we are still learning the Scriptures. I just don't trust how much fruit there is in speaking in tongues. We know that also, as I preach, the Holy Spirit inspires me to speak to you. The Holy Spirit helps to speak anything. I can just feel a different feeling, rather than when I speak to other friends. Through my job experience, I have the chance to talk to many students. So I just feel this pulpit here, always I feel a difference. I trust that is because of the Holy Spirit helping me to tell God's Word to you.

Verse 15 says, "...I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also." We have our customs. We sing before the service. Also, in Japan, we have a blessing because others who are friends, who are Christians and have been attending other churches, come to our church and tell us what the difference is. It is almost hard for me to explain what the other denominations and churches are doing. These friends tell me, why do you sing the hymns without the music or why do you sing hymns before the service? That is a simple question. But I just didn't think much, because when I started to come to our church, you are always singing before the service. It seems to be natural for me. We just sing and praise His name and prepare our heart to listen to the Word. That is the reason we sing.

But other churches don't sing. Or they are using instruments. But clearly this verse says, I will sing

with the Spirit. So when we sing, especially before the service, we are preparing to listen to God's Word and also the hymns calm down our heart. Each tone is so beautiful. If we use some instrument, it might disturb us. As you know, when we sing without any instrument, just from our heart, it is most beautiful. Probably most spiritual singing. Because we just concentrate for our tunes in our minds and from your brother and sister's voice. Otherwise we cannot sing well. Think about that. If we just listen carefully for our brother and sister's voice and we try to help each other, the praise and the whole purpose is just to praise God's name. And to prepare for the service. Cleanse our heart. Be ready to listen to the gospel. So we sing with the Spirit. That is how the verse mentions that.

"Else when thou shalt bless with the spirit, how shall he that occupieth the room of the unlearned say Amen at thy giving of thanks, seeing he understandeth not what thou sayest?" I Corinthians 14:16. I believe this meaning is, if they don't know God's Word, why would they say Amen? That really makes sense to me. Probably many of you are not much experienced because since you were a child, you always hear 'Amen'. But in Japan, think about it, many people never say Amen. Because they know the name Jesus Christ and Bible but Amen - I just remember when I was nineteen years old and I came to Shioda church for the first time, my first prayer, which Brother Akito prayed during the service, when they kneeled in prayer and then they say Amen. Everyone said Amen. Those Amens were my first time I said, Amen. So this Scripture mentions, if we just don't know simply Amen, people just need to explain why we say Amen or why we need to pray and worship God.

This Scripture mentions those who don't know any Bibles or Jesus Christ. Of course we need to be very careful and also be patient to just explain everything. Why we need to pray, why we kneel, why we sit down or kneel in prayer or why we sing be-

fore church service. Why we just sit separate from couples, separated brothers from sisters and all those things.

Also, just a few weeks ago it happened. The new friend came to our church. He was so surprised because I just opened the Bible and read and started to preach. Those experiences so attracted him. He just didn't understand. Even he understands the Bible and that Jesus died for us because we are sinners. He understood that. But still, he just didn't understand so many things. So I had good opportunity to explain this is the reason why we do what we do. While I explained to him, it reminded me how nice our churches' customs or traditions were doing. Because everything makes sense. It refers to our Bible Scriptures. I explained to him, the Scripture mentions like that. That is why we are doing so. He has been a Christian five or six years already. He just listened to me and "hmm...I see, I see. You are right. The Scripture mentions it like that." But his previous church just didn't do that. That just helped and encouraged me that our church is doing right things and God is helping our church.

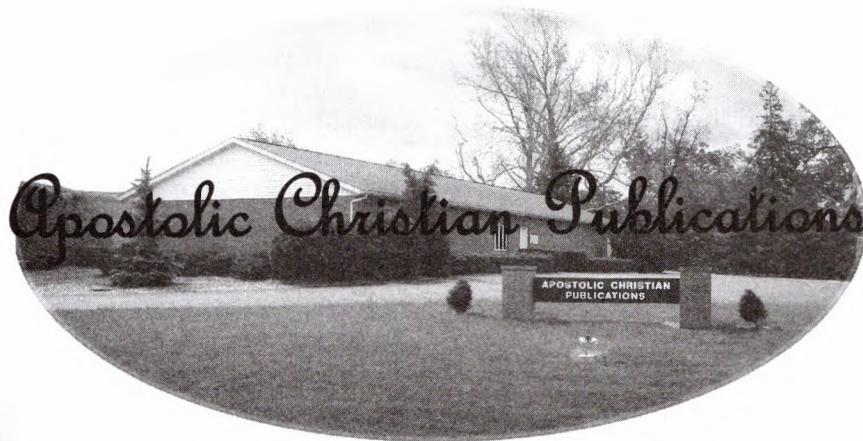
So verse 16 isn't simply Amen. If they don't know Amen, we need to explain the Amen. Also, Amen is not Japanese either. In Japanese, we say Amen. So many Japanese don't know the meaning.

The languages or words that we don't know are almost meaningless. Because we know in the Acts of the Apostles, the Holy Spirit came to them and there were many disciples. They spoke many languages to them. Each Jew or Greek or Gentile understood what happened. (Acts 2:6-8) So probably another reason I am preaching in English. Because if I preach in Japanese, maybe none of you understand that. It is not productive and not good. I twist my broken English but you can pick up and know some message from God. I am so thankful that God has given me a chance to learn English and your language and as we are communicating together, we can talk and we







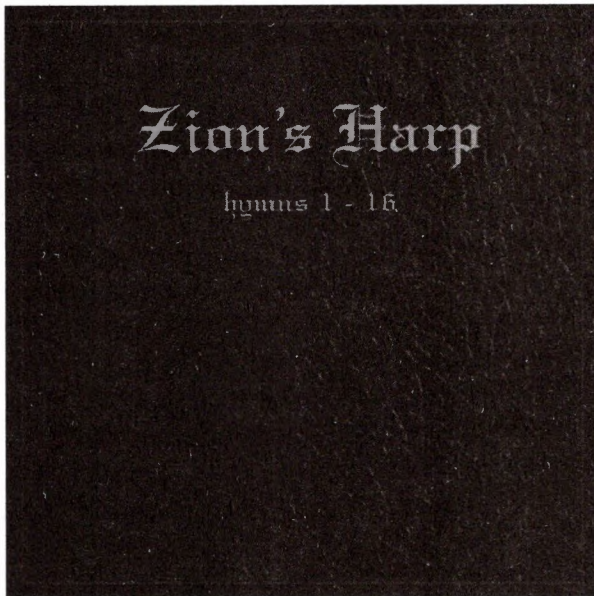


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## Assistant Houseparent Needed

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



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

Lynn Stieglitz  
Counseling Elder  
15417 Doty Rd.  
New Haven, IN 46774  
260-657-1033

## Caretaker Needed at Tennessee Fellowship Center

A caretaker is needed at the Tennessee Fellowship Center located in Pulaski, Tenn. which is approximately 1 hour south of Nashville and 1/2 hour north of Athens, Ala. Living accommodations are available for a couple or a family.

The site, which consists of 12 acres, is used for singings, picnics and other church events including Memorial Day Weekend where ministers give topical presentations, an auction is held and singing and fellowshiping are enjoyed by all. Two acres of the 12 was made into a lake, called Lake Richard, where fishing can also be enjoyed.

Please prayerfully consider answering this call and joining the loving congregation at Athens, Ala.

If you are interested or have additional questions, please contact Bro. Mike Moore at ALM38@aol.com or (256)729-0260 or (256)777-3390.



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN  
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## Benefit Auction

SAVE THE DATE

**Saturday, November 13, 2010**

Peoria Apostolic Christian Fellowship Hall

Dinner will be served from 4:30 -6:30 p.m.

Live auction begins at 6:00 p.m.

*To make this evening a success, YOU have an opportunity to become involved.*

1. Donate a NEW item or a service.
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4. Pray for God's blessings for the residents, employees, attendees, & volunteers.

***Please contact us if you have questions or items to donate.***

Sallie Hoerr 696-4127  
sallieh99@yahoo.com

or

Pam Graham 256-5151  
pamgraham81@gmail.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  
 lynnstiegl@lightningnet.net

## Apostolic Christian Counseling and Family Services

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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

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### Needs of Adopted/Foster Children

#### Article One of Three:

#### God's Care for the Fatherless

*James 1:27, "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world."*

Throughout the Bible, God is clear that He loves and cares for the orphaned, oppressed, and needy. As members of the body of Christ, we are called to be God's "hands and feet" in this world by doing His work. In this cruel world, He calls us to oppose evil and be a force for good. In Isaiah 1:17, God calls us to "Learn to do well; seek judgment [justice], relieve the oppressed, judge [defend] the fatherless, plead for the widow." There are many opportunities in the Church and the community to carry out the calling of Isaiah 1:17. Some may feel led by God to open their homes to foster children (often temporary placements) and others may feel led to adopt a child. Our desire in this series of articles is to highlight some of the needs of foster and adopted children. This first article is intended to understand God's heart for the fatherless. It is also intended to encourage the body of Christ to consider how God would call them to serve the fatherless.

Children were designed to thrive under the care of Godly parents who provide an environment of love, safety, security, and truth. Consider the description Psalm 68:5-6 gives us of God, "A father of the fatherless, and a judge of the widows, is God in his holy habitation. God setteth the solitary in families: he bringeth out those which are bound with chains: but the rebellious dwell in a dry land." It is clear that God's heart is toward those in need and in particular the fatherless. Who better to step in and serve the fatherless than those who are to be "conformed to the image of his Son." While many may

never be called to become foster or adoptive parents, it is important to acknowledge God's heart toward children in need. It is also important to consider what the body of Christ's role is in serving foster children and children awaiting adoption. To help put this need into perspective, 424,000 children were in the United States foster care system in 2009 and 115,000 of those children were waiting for adoptive families. Worldwide there are estimated to be 16 million orphaned (not having a mother or a father) children.

The need for Godly men and women to stand in the gap for the fatherless is evident. It is very important that every believer prayerfully consider what the Lord desires of them. Becoming a foster or adoptive parent is not what God has called all of us to be and those who have been called to such a task should prayerfully entreat the Lord for direction. Luke 14:28 says, "For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have [sufficient] to finish [it]?" The principle in this verse can be applied to considering foster care or adoption. Those who are called into this ministry will experience challenges and in many cases these challenges will be beyond what were expected. To deny such a fact is not helpful or beneficial for parents or children alike. This reality is also why it is essential to consider the truth expressed in Psalm 127:1, "Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh [but] in vain." God blesses those who do the work God calls them to. This does not mean it will be easy or that it will result in the outcome envisioned by parents. Instead, it means that God is faithful and good regardless of outcomes. He desires obedience from His people rather than an "I will do this for you God if it goes well or turns out like I want" attitude.

So what is the "Body's" role in serving foster and adoptive children? We

can clearly see that God loves the fatherless and desires to provide for their needs. It should likewise be the heart of all Christians to love and care for the fatherless (Exodus 22:22-23; "Ye shall not afflict any widow, or fatherless child. If thou afflict them in any wise, and they cry at all unto me, I will surely hear their cry;"). Likewise every believer ought to be taking an active role in serving those in need. The Word of God clearly expressed God's desire for His people to serve and provide for the needs of others. I Corinthians 12 tells us that God has given different gifts within the body and that every gift in the body is important. Your God-given gifts will shape how you should serve foster children and adoptive children. This does not elevate or diminish the role God desires to have you step into. Instead it shows the importance of knowing your gifts and using them in a way that is pleasing to God. May God move your heart to become more in-line with His heart toward the fatherless. This may mean that you will pray, open your home, express kindness, extend a smile, become involved in a ministry that serves children, or step into another role the Lord would have for you in serving the fatherless.

As the Church becomes more actively involved in foster care and adoption, may God's heart be pleased as He sees His children serve the fatherless. Being a parent is a wonderful blessing and gift from the Lord. Yet, being a parent is not the ultimate goal. Ultimately, the goal of all parenting, with biological, foster, or adopted children, is to help them to know Jesus Christ. Through Christ we are able to experience the ultimate adoption into the family of God (Romans 8:14-15, "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.").

Next month, the second article in this series of 3 articles will focus on the specific needs of foster children.



### **Important Notice to Americans Crossing the Canadian Border by Land.**

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### **Rochester, MN Services**

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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.



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

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E-mail: [childsponsorship@acwr.org](mailto:childsponsorship@acwr.org)



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN  
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[www.acworldrelief.org](http://www.acworldrelief.org)

## 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:sstoller@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](mailto:ALM38@aol.com)



## CARIBBEAN BOARD PROJECTS - 2010/2011

*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](mailto:lemangm@mtco.com).*

### HAITI

*Data updated from the Apostolic Christian World Relief web site as of September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010 -[www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-caribbean/](http://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	Puits Sales Palm Grove Construction	Mar 8-15	John Aberle 785-459-2423 jraberle@hotmail.com	12
Les Cayes FRW Vocational School	Dec 13-23	Rick Wuethrich 219-567-9488 rick@wuethrichfarms.com	4	Les Cayes FRW Vocational School	Mar 15-25	Rick Wuethrich 219-567-9488 rick@wuethrichfarms.com	4
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 School Roof	Mar 18-25	Rich Bertschi 309-467-2351 lemangm@mtco.com	12
Les Cayes FRW Simone Orphanage	Jan 21-28	Rick Wuethrich 219-567-9488 rick@wuethrichfarms.com	12	Les Cayes MEBSH Haiti Support	Mar 25-28	Rich Bertschi 309-467-2351 lemangm@mtco.com	Invitation
La Higuera Lifeline Construction	Jan 25-Feb 1	Jim Koehl 309-377-3201 jmkoehl@yahoo.com	12	Les Cayes SEED Agriculture Aid	Mar 25-Apr 1	Dale Frank 319-766-3661 dtfrank@louisacomm.net	12
Les Cayes MEBSH School Roof	Jan 28-Feb 4	Dean Pashak 989-662-7685 dwpashak@charter.net	12	Les Cayes MEBSH Maintenance	Apr 1-8	Jon Zeller 309-266-9009 jzeller@mtco.com	12
Dumay Lifeline Construction	Feb 1-8	Jim Koehl 309-377-3201 jmkoehl@yahoo.com	12	Les Cayes AWA Water Aid	Apr 29-May 6	Maurice Schaefer 309-925-3740 schaefs2@gmail.com	4
Les Cayes AWA Water Aid	Feb 4-11	Maurice Schaefer 309-925-3740 schaefs2@gmail.com	4	Les Cayes MEBSH Haiti Evaluation	May 13-20	Rich Bertschi 309-467-2351 lemangm@mtco.com	Invitation
Dumay Lifeline Construction	Feb 8-15	Jim Koehl 309-377-3201 jmkoehl@yahoo.com	12	Les Cayes MEBSH Medical	May 20-27	Keith Knepp 309-467-3468 kknepp@mcchsi.com	8
				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 September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010 -[www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-caribbean/](http://www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-caribbean/)*

Project	Year 2011	Coordinator	Capacity				
Kingston School CCCC	Jan 8 - 15	Roger Stoller 309-747-3228 rstoller@gridcom.net	Full	Jamaica Deaf Villg CCCC	Jun 10 - 18	Ted Hirstein 309-266-8769 hirstein@mtco.com	40
Jamaica Deaf Villg CCCC	Mar 5 - 12	Tom Waldbeser 770-463-4788 tswald@bellsouth.net	40	Jamaica Deaf Village CCCC	Jun 25 - Jul 2	Harvey Landis 330-925-8632 landziv@aol.com	Akron/ Rittman BC Trip



## MEXICO

*If anyone is interested in leading a team to Mexico, contact Bro. Mike Fiechter at 260-597-7330 or [mfiechter@onlyinternet.net](mailto:mfiechter@onlyinternet.net)  
Data updated from the Apostolic Christian World Relief web site as of September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010 -[www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-mexico/](http://www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-mexico/)*

Location	Year 2010	Coordinator	Location	Year 2010	Coordinator
Magdalena Construction	Nov 6-13	Fred Beer 574-658-4578 <a href="mailto:fredpatbeer@gmail.com">fredpatbeer@gmail.com</a>	Magdalena Construction	Mar 5-12	Jason Edelman Illinois State University 309-848-7987 <a href="mailto:isuyounggroup@gmail.com">isuyounggroup@gmail.com</a>
Magdalena Construction	Nov 20-27	Rod Schmidt Denver/Morris North Bible Class 303-774-7913 <a href="mailto:rschmidt@acosta.com">rschmidt@acosta.com</a>	Agua Prieta Construction	Mar 19-26	Sam Kaehr 260-565-3200 <a href="mailto:sckaehr@adamswells.com">sckaehr@adamswells.com</a>
Location	Year 2011	Coordinator	Location	Year 2011	Coordinator
Magdalena Construction	Jan 1-8	Bryan Steffen 815-867-7556 <a href="mailto:bcsteffen@gmail.com">bcsteffen@gmail.com</a>	Magdalena Construction	Mar 19-26	Jeff Leman Bluffton Senior Class 260-565-3815 <a href="mailto:jvleman@adamswells.com">jvleman@adamswells.com</a>
Reynosa Construction	Jan 1-8	Matthew Gerber Purdue 260-273-0292 <a href="mailto:matthewgerber@adamswells.com">matthewgerber@adamswells.com</a>	Reynosa Construction	Mar 19-26	Tristan Herrmann University of Illinois 309-712-6902 <a href="mailto:tristanherrmann@gmail.com">tristanherrmann@gmail.com</a>
Magdalena Construction	Jan 8-15	John Teubel 815-657-8721 <a href="mailto:jteubel@maxwire.net">jteubel@maxwire.net</a>	Agua Prieta Construction	Mar 26-Apr 2	Aaron Beery 330-927-6926 <a href="mailto:beeryaaron@embarqmail.com">beeryaaron@embarqmail.com</a>
Reynosa Construction	Jan 8-15	Tim Schwind ICC/BU 309-645-2331 <a href="mailto:0971sjt@gmail.com">0971sjt@gmail.com</a>	Magdalena Construction	Mar 26 - Apr 2	Pete Aberle Tremont Bible Class 309-925-5969 <a href="mailto:paberle.wr@gmail.com">paberle.wr@gmail.com</a>
Magdalena Construction	Jan 15-22	Steve Kaeb 217-379-4707 <a href="mailto:kaebbs@illicom.net">kaebbs@illicom.net</a>	Magdalena Construction	May 28 - Jun 4	Todd Baum Phoenix Bible Class 480-563-8286 <a href="mailto:toddbaum@svmasonry.com">toddbaum@svmasonry.com</a>
Magdalena Construction	Feb 12-19	Jon Baner 309-747-4085 <a href="mailto:jbaner@grid.com.net">jbaner@grid.com.net</a>	Magdalena Construction	Jun 11-18	Jason Schambach Elgin Bible Class 847-468-1194 <a href="mailto:jkschambach@att.net">jkschambach@att.net</a>
Agua Prieta Construction	Mar 5-12	Kevin Gerber 260-565-3313 <a href="mailto:kevgerber@yahoo.com">kevgerber@yahoo.com</a>	Magdalena Construction	Jul 9-16	Jason Kaeb Bern Bible Class 785-284-3202 <a href="mailto:jason.maggs@gmail.com">jason.maggs@gmail.com</a>

### 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

## 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





# REMEMBERING

## *Our Spiritual Heritage*

### General Conference

As usual the Annual General Conference of the Apostolic Christian Church was a blessed event. Held on Friday, August 13, more than 1500 believers convened at Rittman, Ohio for an all-day session with 12 speakers delivering messages pertinent to the doctrine and lifestyle of the brotherhood.

Early on conference days, as multitudes approach and drive into the parking lot, there is a pervasive spiritual feeling of blessed anticipation that our faith and beliefs can find an undergirding as the Holy Spirit provides inspiration to the large throng of listeners

As the Elder brothers walked into the assembly and took their seats to the music of more than 1,000 voices it was indeed a special time. The *Zion's Harp* song, "The Best Refuge" (page 46) was sung when the Elders were seated.

As in any era, or in any year, when a host of brethren from far and near comes together to coalesce their thoughts around God's Word and Spirit, there is likely no more appropriate song to sing — because the Lord Jesus is, indeed, our best refuge. Amid the vexations, temptations, problems, and the sometimes "fiery-darts of the enemy," the hymnwriter put it well: "He'll lighten the load, and level the road, and bear thee on hands of compassion."

Also, in verse 7: "In patience then bear, all trial and care. Above streams of bliss will refresh thee." How true, and how comforting (it was).

It could be said that the General

Conference is a dual-conference; that is, along with exhortations from the Elder brothers, the hymns we sang out of the *Zion's Harp* during the day spoke clearly and provided exhortation in a highly effective way.

To sing "Unity" (page 237) at the end of the day was a very uplifting moment, and each year that song is a worthy tradition, as brothers and sisters lift their voice in unison around the principles of unity and likemindedness — in doctrine and practice. Verse four reads, "With the love of God inspired, there is joy for us on earth. May the Spirit we've acquired, grant us blessing, peace and mirth."

### The Candle of Faith

*(Written to commemorate the 125th anniversary of the Gridley, IL congregation in 1995)*

The Candle of Faith, it burns so bright  
Revealing Christ and His heavenly  
might.

It was lit at Calvary on that fateful  
day,  
when Christ ushered in the narrow  
way.

He bled and died, that we might live,  
as we surrender, and our will to Him  
give.

A Candle of Faith is a life that is true.  
His ways are that which we must do.

Our foreparents walked in the can-  
dle's glow  
as the Holy Spirit into their hearts did  
flow.

The Candle's lure to them did call,  
and in repentance they gave their all.

To form a church that we might  
thrive,  
and keep His spirit ever alive.

To a new land they came, huddled and  
poor,  
that their children could prosper, for-  
ever sure.

That their soul's welfare was always  
put first,  
so their inner man would never thirst.

Toils and tears were often their lot,  
and prayers and pleadings to the altar  
were brought.

They preached and lived a sermon  
true.  
Their children learned what they  
must do.

By the scores and hundreds they came  
to repent,  
gladly realizing that Christ was sent.

Then we, like them, must always be  
true,  
so our children too will know what to  
do.

So onward we go in ways that are  
true,  
under the candle's glow to that heav-  
enly view.

-Perry Klopfenstein



# The Light Of Hope

## “Avoiding Strife”

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

Do you like strife? I think not. We should become skilled in avoiding strife without compromising God’s Word. Strife is very stressful and harmful. Peace and tranquility are salve to our souls.

In Genesis 13:7 we read, “And there was strife between the herdmen of Abram’s cattle and the herdmen of Lot’s cattle.” The problem was caused by a lack of water for all the cattle.

Abraham solved the problem by offering Lot his choice of going either to the right or to the left. In this way further strife over this matter was avoided.

The Old Testament is filled with strife, not only between Israel and the Canaanites but also between Israel and Judah, both of which were of God’s chosen people. It is written in II Samuel 19:9, “And all the people were at strife throughout all the tribes of Israel.”

Today the church may have strife with the world, those who do not believe in Jesus Christ as the Son of God. However, there is always peace within the church! Or is there? What is going on? It is a fact that we must face, we still have strife even though we have a common faith that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. I believe it is an indication of our great weakness as human beings.

In Psalm 31:20 the Psalmist wrote concerning those who fear God, “Thou shalt keep them secretly in a pavilion from the strife of tongues.” This teaches us that, if we fear God we will be very careful what we say. Improper use of our tongues causes strife.

Proverbs 20:3 reads, “It is an honour for a man to cease from strife.” We better be investigating how to avoid strife and still remain true to God and our faith that Jesus Christ is the

Son of God.

Proverbs 26:20 tells us one way to avoid strife. It reads, “Where there is no talebearer, the strife ceaseth.” Let’s try not to pass on any information which is apt to gender strife without any benefit to anyone.

There is a saying, “If you can’t say something good about another person don’t say anything.” That’s the best way to live, but when questioned about another person you may find it difficult to answer truthfully without saying something which is not complimentary.

In Philippians 2:3 it is written, “Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.” This is humility.

There is a warning against strife in James 3:16, “For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.”

# 希望の光



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*For the seed shall be prosperous; the vine shall give her fruit,  
and the ground shall give her increase, and the heavens shall give their dew;  
and I will cause the remnant of this people to possess all these things.*

