

The Silver Lining



*Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober,
and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you
at the revelation of Jesus Christ;*

*As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according
to the former lusts in your ignorance:*

*But as he which hath called you is holy,
so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;*

Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

1 Peter 1:13-16

June 2011

Sermon by Bro. Cory Metzger, Wichita, KS

II Chronicles 9:1-23 & II Corinthians 11

Good morning and greetings in the name of Jesus Christ. It is always a joy when we open the Word of God. When I am not in Wichita, some Sundays I am nervous and sometimes I am not. I guess I am used to about fifty people. But nonetheless God is faithful, He provides and He meets our needs. We do ask for prayer and that as we read from the Word, each of our hearts can be prepared for what God has for us today.

In II Chronicles 9 we read about various times in the life of Solomon and his children. Something that comes to my mind as we read this, we are all familiar with the story of Solomon and his life and his great wealth. In the news here just this last week – I don't know how many of you pay attention to it, it is not really that significant – there is a magazine called Forbes Magazine and it puts out the wealthiest men on earth. I don't know if you ever pay attention to that. I always find it kind of interesting. Over the years, most of us are familiar with Bill Gates. He has traditionally been the wealthiest man in the world. But here over the last couple of years, there is a man in Mexico – I want to say he is a telecom magnate – who has all kinds of telecommunications businesses. Now he is the wealthiest man. But what is interesting to me is that Warren Buffet and Bill Gates, I think their net worth dropped twenty billion or something, I don't know.

But as I looked over that and we read the story of Solomon, we really need to put into perspective this issue of wealth. The reason we do is because we read about Solomon here and we read of the reputation of Solomon. He had a tremendous reputation. He was a wise man. He was a godly man. Early on in his years, he did that which was right in the sight of God. Yet, beloved, we can read later in the accounts of Solomon, whether it was his wealth, whether it was all the wives and concubines or whether it was the idol worship he began to adopt, eventually you could say he failed. He made some extraordinarily poor decisions. It is a chal-

lenge.

Verse twenty is talking about the vessels and the glasses and the things that were used in the temple by Solomon. "And all the drinking vessels of king Solomon were of gold, and all the vessels of the house of the forest of Lebanon were of pure gold: none were of silver..." II Chronicles 9:20. This man had a degree of wealth that is probably even incomparable in today's time. Yet Solomon, in and amidst all of these great possessions and earthly splendor, really forgot God.

I think all of us are familiar with Ecclesiastes. He came to a point in life where he understood some of the foolishness of some of his judgments. Yet here was the queen of Sheba. What was her response? Her response was that Solomon far exceeded even her wildest imagination in his wealth and his splendor and all those things. Yet Solomon himself really couldn't handle all God gave him. It is a sobering account. May we be challenged in the blessings that God gives us, that we don't lose the eternal perspective. Solomon said in Ecclesiastes, "Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher, vanity of vanities; all is vanity." 1:2. Everything! The only thing that he said really mattered in the end was that we had a right relationship with God.

II Corinthians 11 is a familiar scripture. The apostle Paul was a spiritual father to many of the Gentile churches, Corinth being one of them. If you are a parent, you understand your love for your child. You understand the desire of your heart that your child would behave in a certain way or be obedient. Ultimately, as a believer, your hearts' desire is that your children, by faith, believe the Gospel of Jesus Christ and are born again. That's really the ultimate desire of any parent. As we read the writing of Paul's, we see the heart of a spiritual parent to his spiritual children. His desire, as he said in some of his writings, was that his children were perfected in the Faith.

In the First book of Corinthians, Paul was kind of like a parent that

maybe his specific goal at that time was to really discipline and chastise his spiritual children. In I Corinthians he really came down hard on this

Sermon continued on page 40

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“And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men.”
(Colossians 3:23)

Light From The Word



Writings based
on God's Word

June 2011

Giving Heartily, As To The Lord

Charitable giving is taught and modeled throughout the Bible. It was demonstrated profoundly by our Heavenly Father when He gave His only begotten Son, who then gave His life so that we can spend eternity with Him. (John 3:16) The purpose of this article is to help us understand the scriptural teachings which guide our charitable giving. Application of these teachings will bring glory to God and will further His work here on earth.

All charitable endeavors should be done with a heartfelt desire to bring glory to God. *“And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men”* (Col. 3:23). Our efforts must be motivated by love for God and our fellow human beings; otherwise, even the greatest of benevolent offerings will be in vain: for without *“... charity, it profiteth me nothing”* (1 Cor. 13:3). We should also recognize that giving is a commandment of the Lord. (Luke 6:38) We are called to labor diligently so that we can provide adequately for those entrusted to us (Rom. 12:11; 1 Tim. 5:8) and so that we *“...may have to give to him that needeth”* (Eph. 4:28). The Word commends giving to those in need (Rom. 15:26; 2 Cor. 9:12-13) and condemns *“despising the poor”* (Jam. 2:6). The Apostle John questions whether the love of God is in us if we see our brother's need and withhold our compassion from him. (1 John 3:17)

There are many biblical teachings regarding the attitude with which we are to give. We are to give humbly in the selfless spirit of Christ, with a willing, cheerful heart and without expectation of recompense or reward.

We are instructed to give with *“simplicity”* (Rom. 12:8) which means in humility, with sincerity of purpose and without fanfare. Jesus was very displeased with the Pharisee who boasted openly about his fasting and tithing (Luke 18:10-14). It should be our heart's desire to give privately (whenever this is practical) and without seeking the praise of others (Matt. 6:1). It is also scriptural that evidence of our good works helps others see the hand of God working which may move them to glorify Him.

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven” (Matt. 5:16). The key difference is whether we want to be seen because of pride, or if we are serving humbly in a role which is naturally visible, with a sincere desire to do it heartily for the Lord. If the latter is our heart's desire, any recognition here or reward in eternity will be unexpected, because all we will have done is our *“reasonable service”* (Rom. 12:1). What a joy for those faithful servants who will someday be surprised to hear the Lord say, *“Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me”* (Matt. 25:40).

The Word exhorts us to be ready and willing to give of ourselves and our resources to others (1 Tim. 6:18), with the first requirement being a *“willing mind”* (2 Cor. 8:12). What is the response of our heart when a collection to help a worthy cause is announced or we learn of any specific need? Do we sigh inside and feel the weight of a sense of duty being pressed upon us? The Apostle Paul warned against giving grudgingly or of necessity; *“...for God loveth a cheerful giver”* (2 Cor. 9:7). Rather we are to respond with the positive view that this is an *“opportunity to do good”* (Gal. 6:10), even if our ability to contribute is limited, because *“...it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not”* (2 Cor. 8:12). Already in the time of David's gathering of resources for the temple we see the joy which comes forth with an attitude of giving willingly: *“Then the people rejoiced, for that they offered willingly, because with perfect heart they offered willingly to the Lord: and David the king also rejoiced with great joy”* (1 Chron. 29:9).

We are given teachings and examples throughout the Bible which make it clear that we are to give generously of those things over which God has made us stewards. They are not our own—they belong to God and we will someday give an account of our stewardship. *“Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful”* (1 Cor. 4:2). Old Testament principles for giving to the Lord include pro-

portional tithing and offering something of significant value—the firstfruits of one's harvest and the best of one's flock. While teaching about stewardship, Jesus said: *“For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required”* (Luke 12:48). We are thankful that the instruction in the New Testament calls each of us to search our own hearts, seeking the guidance of the Spirit (John 16:13) to make these decisions. *“Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give...”* (2 Cor. 9:7). If we look to the example of our beloved Savior and what He has done for us, it should move our hearts out of deep love for Him to give freely and generously of what we have. He gave a very pointed charge to His disciples when He said, *“...freely ye have received, freely give”* (Matt. 10:8). The Word in its completeness acknowledges that we are also given the privilege of enjoying the fruits of our labors, always recognizing God as the one who *“...giveth us richly all things to enjoy”* (1 Tim. 6:17). This same verse warns us to never *“...trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God...”* Rather we are to *“...do good...be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate...laying hold on eternal life”* (1 Tim. 6:18-19).

In summary, all of us have something we can give, whether it be our physical resources, a caring heart of love or any form of service for someone in need. The Lord Jesus gave us a beautiful example when He washed the disciples' feet. This exemplified a very loving, humble deed of service. (John 13:4-16) When finished, He said, *“If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them”* (John 13:17). Knowing, understanding and applying the instructions in the Word regarding charitable giving will bring glory to God and multiplied spiritual blessings. (Heb. 13:16; 2 Cor. 9:10-14) The greatest gift of love we can ever have a part in is helping a lost soul (often unbeknown to us) receive the *“unspeakable gift”* of salvation (2 Cor. 9:15). This, like all worthwhile endeavors, can be done only by the grace of God. (John 15:5; 2 Cor. 9:8)

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

Suggestions for subjects are welcome and can be sent to:

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



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN Mission Committee

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

Thankful Hearts at CVE in Magdalena

First and foremost we want to thank our Creator for the blessings He has given us in this last year! God's hand is definitely working here at Casa Vida y Esperanza and we are continually amazed at His work.

Several of our older residents have expressed a desire to walk with Christ, as well as several who have been coming to church consistently for quite some time. We were blessed to have baptisms in November of 2010, and we hope that those who have made a beginning will have the opportunity to share their testimony of faith in baptism.

We are thankful for the work that God is doing in His people's hearts and are prayerful that our Lord will continue to call those that are searching for truth.

We had the opportunity to hold our annual VBS last August and were thankful for around 500 children that were able to hear the truth of God's Word during this special week.



Candi and Osmara in Preschool

CVE school

We are grateful that our school continues to grow and that in the past year we started schooling all of our

residents on campus. It's been such a blessing to have the children here, and to know exactly what is being taught to them.

We also have a few children who receive one-on-one tutor lessons with a teacher. Starting in the school year of 2011-2012 we are hoping to begin incorporating some students from our church family into our program. We are excited about the transition and thankful for the opportunity it brings for teaching more children the truth in Jesus.

Growth and change

The orphanage has continued to grow and change as we feel led by the Lord regarding what is the best way to serve those whom society has cast aside. We have added two new households, and have had some engagements and marriages.



Currently we have five different living households for children with a census of around 30 children, although we have had as many as 35 children in the past months. We are also thankful that a few of our children have been adopted, and several others are in the process of being adopted by different staff families.

Praise God that He is working in the lives of these little ones to bring Moms and Dads to their lives. Please be prayerful these adoptions

would pass through the governmental process quickly and smoothly.

We have found it is possible to adopt children, that are available for adoption, if the adopting couple resides in Mexico and the children have been in their custody for two years. The adoption is completed in Mexico. It is not through the U.S., but is recognized by the U.S. after certain requirements are completed.

Work teams

We are also grateful for all the work teams who give of their time to come and work on different projects. Currently, the teams are focusing most of their work on remodeling our boy's dorm to be a house, including a kitchen, living room and quarters for house parents to live in, and also a third group home. We appreciate having another group home where children can have more of a "family" setting, rather than a "dorm" feel in their lives here.

As of April 2011, we have hosted eight work teams and have several more planned throughout the year. If you are interested in coming on a work team, you can see the current teams listed in the back of the Silver Lining or on the World Relief website: www.acworldrelief.org

We want to thank you, the Church, the body of Christ for all of your love, support, most importantly your prayers. We know that without your prayers we wouldn't be where we are today. None of us are here on our own strength. This is the Lord's work, not ours and we must never forget that.

I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

JOHN 10:10



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

One Child at a Time

On a March 2011 visit to Haiti, representing ACWR Child Sponsorship, one is overwhelmed by the magnitude of poverty and lack of infrastructure to service the Haitian people. In Haiti's sea of despair, Child Sponsorship provides an island of hope, one child at a time.



Earthquake trauma

Port-au-Prince, the capital, is an intensely populated city where most of the residents struggle for daily survival. It is still reeling from unrepaired earthquake damage. The city has almost no formal infrastructure to provide basic services like water, sewer, electricity or waste management. Open-air food markets reside next to piles of waste throughout the city. Almost no earthquake repair construction is evident, with piles of rubble on almost every corner.

UNICEF estimates that more than 220,000 lives were lost and countless families fractured, impacting 750,000 children directly. More than a year later, over one million people remain displaced, living primarily in crowded tent cities or camps. Livelihoods, shelter and services are hardly sufficient for children to survive, let alone receive an education to enhance their future prospects of breaking out of the cycle to become productive adults.

While earthquake damage is much less significant in the remote

mountainous areas to the east of Port-au-Prince, the standard of living seems almost frozen in "Bible times." Very few country residents have electricity or water in their homes; most still walk or ride donkeys for miles to access water from rivers and streams. In some areas, wells have been drilled and serve as a source of clean water, which still has to be transported many miles to individual homes or businesses. Life is difficult and truly does meet the "daily bread" description in the Lord's prayer; a dependency few of us in the U.S. can understand.



An island of hope

In the midst of this extreme poverty and these challenging living conditions, Child Sponsorship has partnered with two Haitian Christian organizations to sponsor nearly 100 Christian schools and over 750 individual students.

For \$25 per month, your contribution can provide a Christ-centered education for a young person by covering part of his or her cost for tuition, books and uniforms.

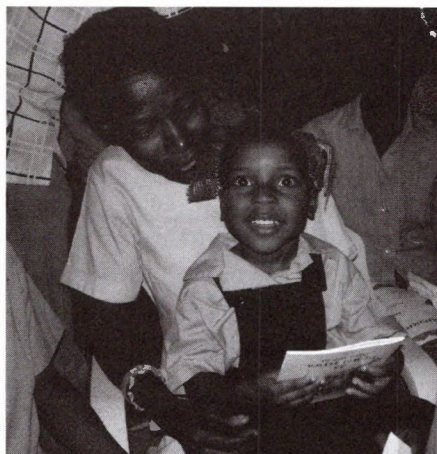
And, for \$110 per month, there is a great need to sponsor a Christian school, which contributes toward covering administrative costs and teacher salaries. If you want to get involved in Child Sponsorship for either a student or a school, please contact:

ACWR Child Sponsorship
PO Box 36
Morton, IL 61550
309-266-6080
childsponsorship@acwr.org

To learn more about Child Sponsorship go to www.acworldrelief.org: click on "Project Areas," then "Child Sponsorships," then "How to Sponsor a Child."

Planting the seeds of Truth

One of the blessings of our recent visit to the schools where we sponsor students was the opportunity to distribute to each student almost 2,500 "25 Favorite Bible Stories" books translated into Creole.



The children were thrilled and received the gift as a treasured possession. Through our two Haitian partners, around 15,000 of these books have been distributed to all the students in the schools where we sponsor children.

Surely in the midst of all the despair in Haiti, each one of these children is a potential island of hope, not only to be a more productive adult, but to become an advocate for God's Kingdom and to win other souls for Christ.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

Summer is here! We are expecting 91 degrees of warm sunshine today...praise God! It's been a wet spring in central Illinois, so each day the forecast calls for sunshine is incredibly welcome. Even though the weather has been kind of gray, this cannot be said for our residents' moods. They have been eagerly anticipating summer with all the enjoyment that comes with the season. And now that summer is here, they have been taking lots of walks around the community and Timber Ridge; they have been busy planting flowers and planning summer day trips to places like Chicago, the Peoria Zoo, and the annual Peoria Steamboat Festival, to mention just a few. Just like so many of us enjoy summer family vacations, so do our residents. And, they really are like family trips...several people packed in a vehicle, stopping at rest stops, playing travel games and, of course, stopping every now and then for some eats.

The ability to travel and take summer trips here and there truly is a blessing we have been afforded in this land of the free. Indeed, we can come and go as we please. However, our residents may not always feel as though this is the case for them as their lives are pretty much structured in order that their general care, health and leisure needs are met. The thing that is quite insightful however, is the fact that they accept this structure. They do assist in the planning to the degree that they are able. Their preferences for leisure are certainly honored when practically possible and financially feasible. On the occasions when we are not able to meet their specific requests, they truly do "go with the flow" and are really quite content. For this writer anyway, God uses these times in their lives to teach me that joy is found in submission. As difficult as it can often be to submit, at least this writer has found that when being honest with self, there has been a deep joy on the other end of that submission - every time. Just as our residents may learn that a trip they originally may not

have thought would be fun, like a visit to Springfield, IL, for example, truly is a lot of fun...especially when a train trip is involved!

As our residents submit to their reality and find joy in it, we find that when we let the One who deeply desires to care for each and every one of our needs to grow us and show us His infinite love, that the paths He takes us on throughout life's journey really are far more interesting, far more spiritually-strengthening and far greater in breadth and depth than what our finite minds could have conceived.

"For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God.

Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen."

Ephesians 3:14-21

GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

Ross Feller

What comes to your mind when you think of Gateway Woods? I would venture to say that for most of us, myself included, the first image is some memory from the Annual Auction. For years, when I thought of the children at Gateway Woods I thought of the images of them singing on stage at the opening program, each of them in straight rows wearing skirts or khakis and button-up shirts. I realize now that for years I had

thought of Gateway as little more than a summer camp, a place where children came to spend some time learning about what God intended a family to look like, and then they would move on as better people.

You can imagine my surprise when I began my job at Gateway and I heard some of the stories of what these children have gone through in their lives: divorce, abuse, abandonment and in many cases, far worse things. And it isn't just the Residential program; nearly all of the families we work with, whether in our Home-Based program or Foster Care have similar stories. Sadly, some of these children may never recover from their experiences. They will continue to make bad choices and cause harm to themselves and others. However, through the grace of God, some of them do come to Him! This is what is so amazing about the power of the love of our God! He can and does touch the hearts of even the most jaded and hurt children.

I do not say any of this to excuse the behavior of these children. They are responsible for the decisions they have made, and each of them must learn to live with the consequences. My prayer is that they will learn to throw off their past and learn to run after a God who loves them more than their families ever have.

Pray, please pray. Not for the neat and well-dressed children you see at the Gateway Woods Annual Auction, but instead for the hurting and hardened child inside. Pray for the many children that have come to Gateway in the past, and for the many that will come in the future.

"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Matthew 11:28-30

- Please mark your calendar for our

2011 Annual Benefit Auction on Saturday, August 6th.

- Gateway Woods welcomed two new residents to campus this past month. Please pray with us as they become accustomed to their new home. It can be a difficult adjustment for new residents as they discover a very different living situation than they have experienced before.

- Our Adoption program just passed a major milestone by helping to place over 200 children into permanent Christian families. We praise the Lord for these opportunities and for His continued work of setting the lonely in families.

- Summer is quickly approaching and with that comes our many summer volunteers! Bro. Brandon Wiegand (Gridley, IL) will be serving as our Summer Volunteer Coordinator. If you are over 19 years old and have a desire to serve the Lord and children with other believers, please visit the volunteer page on our website at: www.gatewaywoods.org/supporters/volunteer where you can electronically submit a volunteer application and obtain a volunteer reference form. Thank you in advance for your willingness to serve!

- We currently have two positions open at Gateway Woods: Assistant Houseparent and Alternate Houseparent. Please see the notices in this month's edition of The Silver Lining for more information or visit the Career Opportunities page on our website at: www.gatewaywoods.org/supporters/career-opportunities. 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 and our Facebook page at facebook.com/gatewaywoods often for updates, and make sure that you are on our mailing list. In an effort to be as efficient as

possible we are gathering as many email addresses as we can for our E-Post. Please send a message to mail@gatewaywoods.org.

**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
PRESCHOOL
Athens, Alabama
Louise Hall**

Another school year has come to a close, with seven children graduating from preschool and entering Kindergarten in the fall of 2011. Graduation night was held May 20, with all of the children participating in the program. They quoted Bible verses that they had memorized throughout the school year and sang songs they learned about Jesus and the Bible. It is always so encouraging to see children this young able to sing and quote Bible songs and verses! Some of the Bible verses they worked on this month were "I will praise thee, O Lord, with my whole heart..." Psalm 9:1, and "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6. They also learned about shapes, and reviewed the school year's lessons.

At our Memorial Day Singing this year, we had four of our former Preschool Teachers and one current Preschool teacher, along with some of the children, sing songs they had taught the children over the years. It was special to have four of our former teachers return, and appreciate them helping out at the Preschool during their visit. The children always love to have their former teachers help out at the Preschool.

**ALABAMA, ATHENS
Louise Hall
Pam Moore**

"Behold, a whirlwind of the Lord is gone forth in fury, even a grievous whirlwind: it shall fall grievously upon the head of the wicked."

Jeremiah 23:19

We continue to be in the cleanup stage of recovery from the Day of Tor-

nadoes on April 27, 2011. We are thankful to have the Apostolic Christian World Relief Team in Athens helping with the cleanup from the tornadoes. We have many visitors each week, from all over the United States coming to help. We enjoy meeting many new people and renewing previous friendships as the teams come to help out. We pray God's blessings on each and every one.

We've had many visiting ministers this past month, sharing the Word of God with us: Bro. Daron Price (Sis. Monica) and family (Milford, IN), Bro. Ron Kipfer (Sis. Linda, Bluffton, IN), Bro. Dean Steffen (Sis. Carol) and family (Belvidere, IL), Bro. Fred Funk (Sis. Diane) and family (Morton, IL), Bro. Roger Sauder (Sis. Judy, Ft. Lauderdale, FL), and Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Sis. Roberta, Smithville, OH).

We rejoice to have Bro. Matthew and Sis. Kristy Moore move back to the Athens area, after spending a year in Aurora, CO. We look forward to their love and support in the Athens congregation.

We had four high school graduates this year: Luke Moore (Bro. Mike and Sis. Pam), Jessica Edelman (Bro. Kerwin and Sis. Sara), Olivia and Roslyn Coulter (Bro. David and Sis. Barb). We pray that God will guide and bless their lives as they make future plans.

We ask for prayers for Tracy, daughter of Andrew Hagggenmaker, who now has Hospice services. We also ask your prayers for Bro. J.R. Hall, who is having numerous medical problems, and will be having surgery.

May 28 and 29 were the dates for the Athens/Tennessee Memorial Day Weekend. The topic was the "History of the Apostolic Christian Church", with Bro. Ron Kipfer (Bluffton, IN) as the speaker. We enjoyed a weekend of singing, eating, fellowshiping and learning about the history of our Church. The weekend was a blessing for those who attended.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX

Heather Hinrichsen

Sharing the Word of God with us this month were Bro. Richard Aberle (Atlanta), Bro. Bill Schick (Magdalena), Bro. Loren Schrenk (St. Louis), Bro. Brad Bauer (Tucson), Bro. Jeff Waibel (Leo), and Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign). We thank these brothers and their wives for taking time out to visit the Phoenix congregation.

Many in our congregation are in need of healing prayer this month. Megan Sutton (Bro. Tim and Sis. Verene) was involved in a serious bicycle accident that required surgery. Sis. Ruby Barna has been struggling with health issues and has been unable to assemble with us. Bro. Kenny Schmidgall and Sis. Mary Jo have moved to a new care facility in Paradise Valley. Their new address is: Sunquest Manor, 10419 N 57th St., Paradise Valley, AZ 85253. Sis. Toni Bentley is now in a care facility. Her new address is: Scottsdale Heritage Court, Room #412, 3339 N. Drinkwater Blvd., Scottsdale, AZ 85251.

Bro. Earl Roth went home to be with the Lord on April 26. He is survived by his wife, Sis. Marilyn; children: Steven and Jill (Scottsdale), Bro. Daniel and Sis. Patty (Phoenix), Shirley and Ty Gillespie (Phoenix), Sis. Sherry (Phoenix), Charlene and Jerry Sanders (Vail) and Todd and Jill (Scottsdale); two brothers and one sister, twelve grandchildren and fourteen great-grandchildren. We continue to pray for Sis. Marilyn as she has moved to Roanoke, IL.

We keep the family of Wayne Schrenk in our prayers as he left this life on April 23. A memorial service was held on April 30 in the Fellowship Hall. He is survived by his brother, Bro. Loren Schrenk (St. Louis), his two children, Nicole Witter and David Schrenk, and four grandchildren, Jack, Charlie, Landon and Liam.

Our annual church business meeting was held May 3. The following positions were filled: Sunday School Assistant Superintendent - Bro. Mark

Steffen; Trustee Secretary - Bro. Larry Labudde; Trustee Exterior Maintenance - Bro. Tim Sutton; Trustee Fellowship Hall - Bro. Todd Baum; Lunch Fund Treasurer - Bro. Nate Knochel; Ushers - Bro. Leon Baumgartner and Bro. Aldo Yackley; and World Relief assistants - Sis. Verene Sutton and Sis. Wanda Hoerr. We thank those who have served and will serve our church for their love and willingness to take care of our church body.

We also honor our graduates this month. They are: from the 8th Grade - Casey Katich, Claire Steffen, Erica Emch, and Megan Sutton; from high school - Trevor Meiss, Sis. T'kya Hoerr, Whitney Baum, Bro. Steven Emch, and Leah Mitchell; from college - Sis. Kaitlyn Meiss, Tim Kokanovich, and Sis. Abby Freed. We pray for them as they enter the next phase of their lives.

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT

Max Knobloch

Once again we have been blessed this past month with life and hope in the salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ. We were reminded of His grace and mercy as we celebrated Good Friday and Easter Sunday. He died so that we would not have to. He paid the price that we could not repay. We by God's grace are able to be adopted into His family and by repentance and conversion through Him, we can look forward to living with our Heavenly Father and Saviour Jesus Christ forever! It was a blessing when we were able to see the Sunday School children sing and read about the awesome Easter story. Our hearts were touched as their tender voices lifted praise to our risen King. We thank our Sunday School teachers as well for the effort they put in to prepare the children. The Prescott congregation has also decided to add another teacher to teach grades 2 through 5. Sis. Denise Steidinger was voted into this position. May God give her wisdom in teaching the kids Sunday to Sunday as well as every day of the week.

The faithful brothers and sisters

who ministered with us recently were Bro. Howard and Sis. Kristen Plattner (Alto, MI), Bro. Earl and Sis. Suzanne Beery (Rittman, OH), Bro. James Emch (Phoenix), Bro. Keith Hinrichsen (Phoenix), Elder Bro. Jon and Sis. Nancy Kokanovich, and Bro. Jeff and Sis. Margo Waibel (Leo, IN). What a blessing once again to have such willing fellow believers travel many miles to serve us each week.

We would also like to congratulate our graduates. They were Bro. Max Knobloch, and Matt and John Schmidgall (Doug and Susan). May God guide them as John moves on to college and Bro. Max and Matt pursue their post-college careers.

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

Proverbs 3:5

"My soul, wait thou only upon God; for my expectation is from Him."

Psalms 62:5

We were also able to finish the Love and Respect Bible study on May 14. Most everybody was able to attend, and it was a blessed evening. The study was concluded with the focus where it should be, on Jesus. He commands husbands to love their wives and wives reverence their husbands regardless of the other's performance. He asks us to do it for Him. We trust that the Lord will bless Bro. James and Sis. Gina Emch for their effort in traveling up from Phoenix the past four Saturdays to serve us. Thank you both very much.

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp

We continue to be prayerful and thankful for the growth and progress of little Reuben and Eli Steffen, the beautiful little boys born to Bro. Jamin and Sis. Lauren Steffen prematurely on March 22. Reuben has come home from the hospital and is making his Mommy and Daddy very happy! As of this writ-

ing, little Eli is progressing toward his goal of coming home to join Reuben. Mommy and Daddy are splitting their time between home and the hospital. Visits from grandparents, meals from church families and lots of prayers, encouragement and love from family and friends across the country are keeping the Steffen family going until they are a complete family unit one day soon.

Our dear Bro. Les Plattner was finally granted his wish and went home to be with his Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Les was tired of this life and the pain he was experiencing since falling awhile back and breaking ribs. He was always upbeat in his spirit but also longing to go home. Les was such a wonderful gift to the Tucson church in the short few years we enjoyed with him. A kinder, gentler man you will never meet and we are the richer for having known him. Les was always a pleasure to visit with and we looked forward to seeing him each Sunday. We will miss Les so much, and we are grateful for the Lord allowing him to touch our lives. May God richly bless his family and friends as they seek to move on in this life without his presence.

Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix) and Elder Bro. Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL) were both with us for Bro. Les' funeral. We thank them both for their love and service.

We are enjoying a most unusual spring this year. We have not approached the 100 degree mark, which is usually threatening to spoil our spring by now. We are instead having cooler, cloudy days with little threats of rain interspersed by days of warm, sunny weather. We may even make it to June without recording our first 100 degree day, a rarity but a very welcome one!

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

LIFE is the theme of our month! We celebrated LIFE with the resurrection of Jesus on Easter morning! Many friends and family gathered early in the morning to join us as we made our an-

nual trek into the local foothills, to look out over the city and worship a risen Savior! It was glorious! We went back to church for a delicious hot breakfast and fellowship. Then before the morning service, our Sunday School told the story again with scripture, verse and song! So many reasons to Praise God for the LIFE of His Son!

On May 7, we shared the Lord's Supper, remembering the LIFE of Christ and what He did for us. It was a small group, with Bro. Herb and Sis. Laurie Knochel (Phoenix) here to share the service with us. On Mother's Day, we celebrated LIFE again: God's gift of mothers, the lives they've lived, the investments they've made...and how they have reflected God's love in loving their children and families. Then, after much prayer and waiting, we welcomed NEW LIFE, with baby Evelyn Jean! Scott, Shayna and Jace Mangers are delighted to have a precious baby girl...a welcome gift of LIFE! Grandparents, Bro. Doug and Sis. Sandy Aberle, are pleased and thankful, too!

Manuel (age 10), our friend from Magdalena, Mexico, came up for some prosthesis work on his leg at the Shriners Hospital. He was accompanied by teaching staff from CVE, Georgina, Paulina and Elizabeth... who helped with translation and transportation. They took him faithfully to each appointment, and also took in some of the Los Angeles sights as well. They shared Easter weekend with our congregation, and it was a blessing for all!

On May 14, we contemplated Eternal LIFE, as we laid dear Sis. Kay Hackenjoes to rest. She was loved by many, and after several years in the Eureka Home, came to her final resting place here in Altadena.

All around us is evidence of LIFE, with green mountains, bright flowers budding, baby birds hatching, everywhere there is LIFE! And all the life we witness is evidence of the Creator...who authors all LIFE, inside and out! Praise we the Lord!

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO Yasmin Koehl

"For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother."

Matthew 12:50

What a glorious weekend we experienced and shared together as we had the blessings of the service of Elder Bro. Ben Walder (Sis. Juanita, Congerville, IL) who came to assist our Elder Bro. Peter Petrovic in serving our brothers and sisters in Holy Communion. We thank both Elder brothers for their loving encouragement, exhortation and their labors upon our behalf. May our Lord and Savior who so freely gave of Himself so that we might have this blessed salvation bless our Elder brothers who follow Christ's example and continuously give of themselves to guide their flocks according to God's Holy Word.

We were grateful to have Bro. Brent Wagenbach come home safely for a couple of weeks from Haiti. We enjoyed having him once more among us. Now as he has traveled back to Haiti, our prayers will continue to be with him. We pray the Lord will continue to bless him in his efforts and above all guide him in all aspects of his life. We feel his absence and hope he can feel our love for him as he travels home on his visits.

We were blessed with visiting ministering brothers, Bro. Mike Rieker (Sis. Carol, Peoria IL) and Bro. Joe Klotzle (Sis. Sue, Altadena, CA). We thank them for sharing God's Word with us. We welcome Sis. Marie Luthi from Lamont/Gridley, KS, and Sis. Natalie Stieglitz from Leo, IN, as they traveled here with their occupations and plan to be with us during the summer months.

We pray that their time with us might be blessed and that our congregation may be a source of spiritual encouragement and strength to them while they are with us.

We have several in our congregation who have experienced one chapter in their life closing and a new one opening

up before them. Bro. Brian Wagenbach, Bro. Doug Brewer (Sis. Janelle) and Bro. Denny Fulop all have now completed their college education. Our convert, Lizzy Fulop, completed her high school education. Our prayers are that the Lord will direct each of their steps, that they may stand fast in the faith no matter where the Lord may lead them.

“Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.” (I Corinthians 16:13) We rejoice that each one of our graduates has come to the knowledge of what matters most in this life, living a holy and consecrated life for our Lord and Savior.

**KITCHENER, ONTARIO
CANADA
Kim Leman**

“And they slew a bullock, and brought the child to Eli. And she said, Oh my lord, as thy soul liveth, my lord, I am the woman that stood by thee here, praying unto the LORD. For this child I prayed; and the LORD hath given me my petition which I asked of him: Therefore also I have lent him to the LORD; as long as he liveth he shall be lent to the LORD.”

I Samuel 1:25-28

In honor of the mothers in our congregation, our Brothers took over doing the lunch dishes on Mother's Day Sunday. We appreciate their love and kindness.

We are thankful for the ministering Brothers and their wives who traveled to share God's Word with us this month. They were Bros. Todd Stoller (Sis. Pam, Latty, OH) and Greg Stoller (Sis. Jill, Forrest, IL).

Our oldest Brother, Peter Pfeiffer, and our youngest baby, Ruthann Tomic (Bro. Tim and Sis. Melanie), both spent time in the hospital recently. May God touch them with His healing hand.

**REGINA, SK
CANADA
Myrna Shipley**

“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.”

Matthew 28:19

The date for baptisms has been set for June 25. Lord willing, this will include Hermann and Hilda Kaiser and their sons, Benjamin and Uli. We are rejoicing with them and we all plan to go to Morris church. Morris church is hosting the baptisms because of their large assembly room and baptismal which we do not have in Regina.

We had visitors from West Bend, IA, with us this past Easter weekend. They were ministering Bros. Kevin and Sis. Sandy Banwart and Bro. Kevin and Sis. Lonnie Fehr, along with James and Carol Maier and Bro. Dave and Sis. Laura Bahler. We held a Good Friday service as well as Sunday services. God bless you for coming!

**COLORADO, DENVER
Lily Zarkovacki**

“For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”

II Corinthians 5: 21

Our church was blessed with a presentation from the Sunday school children about Christ's suffering and death. We were all reminded of His love and mercy - the true meaning of Easter.

We wish Bro. Kyle and Sis. Trish Fiechter God's blessings as they leave Denver and follow God's leading as they begin a new endeavor as missionaries in Senegal, Africa.

We bid a sad farewell to our dear Sis. Kristy and Bro. Matthew Moore as they will be leaving Denver and attending the Athens, Alabama church. We wish them God's richest blessings!

**CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE
Laura Virkler
Bonnie Bahler**

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

Proverbs 31:30

May is the month we remember our mothers and especially thank them for all that they do. It is a special blessing to be a mother as well as a woman of God, as the scripture reminds us.

Haste and seek your soul's salvation;
Heed the word of God today!

Zion's Harp #52

What a joy it is to be able to report that three more souls have begun a repentance. Our prayers and support will continue to be with Ben Wagenbach (Bro. Dale and Sis. Mary), Tom Gerber (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Carol) and Andy Schneider (Bro. Doug and Sis. Jane). May many more be encouraged to seek out salvation while the world stands. What an encouragement and help it is to us when they do!

Two couples have been blessed with little ones this past month. Tom and Wendy LaPlante are new parents, welcoming Emily Susan into their lives. Grandparents are Roland and Joan Robinson and Bro. Leo and Sis. Sherri LaPlante. Madison Barbara was born to Carolyn and Mark LaGassie, and joins her sister Emily. Grandparents are Ken and Sis. Jan Boynton and Larry and Barbara LaGassie. We are thankful for the safe arrival of these little souls and pray God will bless these families.

It was a wonderful blessing to fellowship with ministering Bro. Justin Moser and his wife, Sis. Robin (Altadena, CA), and their family this past month. We are thankful for the time he spent being used to preach the gospel and appreciate these times to renew the ties of love and faith that bind us. We also enjoyed the visit of retired Elder Bro. Andy Virkler and his wife, Sis. Maxine, now of Congerville, IL.

We bid farewell this month to our

dear Sis. Bertha Trueb, commending her to the care of our Lord for eternity. She leaves the sons of her late husband, Bro. Jake Trueb, Bro. Ron Trueb and his wife, Sis. Adele, and Wayne Trueb and his wife, Peggy; as well as her sisters, Sis. Barbara and Sis. Ruth Schneider. She leaves many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nephews, nieces, and brothers and sisters in faith that will sincerely miss her. Sis. Bert was our church historian, and we will miss hearing the wealth of information she was able to share.

Addison Reutter, little daughter of Bro. Derek and Sis. Darla Reutter, had major heart surgery at the beginning of May. It was an answer to prayer to hear that all seemed well when it was over, and she is back in church sharing her smiles like usual! May the Lord keep His hand upon her and her family for whatever the future holds.

Sis. Gerri O'Brien had surgery this month and is recuperating. Sis. Helen Gottier and Sis. Anna Thompson have been hospitalized this month and we pray for God's continued nearness to these sisters as they recover.

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
WASHINGTON
Henrietta Meyer**

Our caretakers for May were Bro. Lenard and Sis. Charlotte Meyer from Chicago, IL. We always enjoy getting to know our caretakers. Thanks to those who have responded to our appeal for caretakers; we just have December left this year, but there are plenty of openings for 2012. If you have a desire to support our small church in this way, please contact Sis. Doreen Steffen for more information at dkgsteffen@gmail.com or 302-540-6574. We have been richly blessed by our caretakers over the past four years, and we look forward to getting to know and fellowshiping with more in the coming year. We also encourage past caretakers to come again!

Our ministers this month were Bro. Paul Zimmerman (Sis. Loretta, Forrest, IL), Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Sis.

Michelle, Philadelphia, PA), Bro. Neil Ramseyer (Sis. Sharon, Bay City, MI), Bro. Tom Bahler (Sis. LaNae, Rockville, CT), and Elder Bro. Herb Knochel (Sis. Laurie, Phoenix, AZ). Other visitors were from Forrest, IL and Philadelphia, PA.

It has come to our attention that the contact information in the Ministers' Book is wrong. Bro. Barry Steffen's phone number should be 443-504-3757. The person having the number listed in the book is getting upset with all the calls he has been receiving.

If you are planning to visit Washington, D.C. area for vacation or business, please contact Bro. Joe and Sis. Holly Bohart at jbohart@gmail.com or Sis. Henrietta Meyer at (703) 904-8301 for assistance and to let us know how many to expect for Sunday services.

**FLORIDA
FORT LAUDERDALE
Renee Mangold**

We were grateful to have visiting ministers this past month. Elder Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen, Kansas City, MO) and Bro. Marvin Steffen (Sis. Rhea, North Ft. Myers, FL) came and shared God's Word with us and a time of fellowship. We pray for His blessing on them.

Our prayers for comfort go out to Sis. Barb and Sis. Ruth Schneider on the loss of their sister, Sis. Bert Trueb.

Congratulations to Andy Hohulin (Bro. Mike and Sis. Faye) who has recently become engaged to Amy Seamon. May the Lord bless them. It sounds like Andy and Amy will be marrying in Ft. Lauderdale, so we are all looking forward to that happy occasion.

The last of our winter residents have left Ft. Lauderdale and our numbers are small again. We welcome and encourage visitors at any time of the year.

**FLORIDA
NORTH FORT MYERS
Victor Beer**

Our winter season has come and gone very swiftly, and we miss the full

house we have had for a few weeks. We do have a lot to rejoice over, though, when we gather in God's house with our home folks. It's hard to describe the great overflow of kinship with visiting brethren, when we enjoy them during the peak winter months.

We were so blessed with the ministry of our visiting ministers, and also with the visit of so many great song leaders.

Our blessings overflowed by the ministry of these brethren: Bro. Greg Rassi (Sis. Carla, Chicago, IL), Bro. Jeff Grimm (Sis. Ruth, Goodfield, IL), and Bro. Willis Ehnle (Sis. Lois), formerly of the Shioda, Japan, congregation, but now of Peoria, IL. We pray God's rich blessing on these willing ambassadors of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We're glad to have back with us Bro. Larry and Sis. Teresa Bruellman from their semi-annual farming "vacation".

On the first mid-week service of the month, during the winter season, we have a singing. This is with an occasional potluck supper in our church dining room. It was enjoyed very much by each one of us. The worship in song has a high priority with our congregation.

**FLORIDA, SARASOTA
Kim Ott**

"Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee."

Exodus 20:12

As Mother's Day and Father's Day arrive this spring, once again we are grateful for this time of year where we can remember our parents with extra special appreciation. Although we want to be thankful throughout the year, it is nice to have these days set aside to respectfully acknowledge our parents and all that they have done for us.

We wish a warm welcome to Sis. Susie Katanic from the Phoenix, AZ, congregation as she assembles with us for a short time. It is our hope and prayer that she feels God's love and nearness while she is away from home.

We want to extend our prayers and sympathies to several in our congregation who have lost loved ones this month. On May 8, Bro. Harold Spiker passed from this life into his home in heaven. Bro. Harold is survived by his wife, Dorothy; daughters, Sis. Linda Sabo (Bro. Doug) and Sis. Sharon Sabo (Bro. Greg, Mansfield, OH); many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. We were grieved to hear the news of the death of Bro. Bob Belsley (Morton, IL). He is the grandfather of Sis. Emily Koehl (Bro. Matt). We were also saddened to hear that Stephen Sauder (Vicki) had also passed away. Stephen is the son-in-law of Sis. Doris Rocke.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Marie Keller (Bro. Art) as she is recuperating from a recent fall. We also are keeping Leo Krstec close in our prayers as he recovers from surgery following a brain aneurysm. May God help them to regain strength for each new day and give them full restoration of health.

GEORGIA, ATLANTA

On May 14, Caleb Lindberg (Bro. Rich and Sis. Julie) was joined in marriage with Maliscia Rose Schmittou. Our prayers are with them as they adjust to married life!

It was wonderful to have Bro. Mark and Sis. Julie Maibach and their family (Leo, IN) back in the south for a visit. Our church family shared a potluck together at the Waldbeser's home and enjoyed hearing of the ways the Lord has worked in their lives since their move from Georgia to Indiana! They continue to be in our thoughts and prayers often as they follow the leading of our Savior through work at Gateway Woods.

Bro. Ken and Sis. Sharon Lawson have felt the Lord's leading to relocate to Phoenix, AZ. We are sad to see them go, yet trust that they will be as great a blessing in Arizona as they were in Atlanta! However, on a more exciting note, Bro. Kevin and Sis. Erica Kipfer, who serve in Ethiopia, have returned to Atlanta for a number of months as they

anticipate the birth of their first child!

A group of families from our Atlanta congregation were recently privileged with the ability to travel to Athens, AL, to assist on a tornado clean-up team. For each individual, it was an eye-opening experience. The devastation was breath-taking. Within the homes, ordinary objects such as a loaf of bread and mail lay in piles of insulation and dry-wall. In some cases, the roof was completely gone and furniture was heavily soaked in mold from the rain. Clothing, furniture, tools, and other possessions lay scattered all over the house and lawn. What a strong and impacting reminder that this world will pass away! We cannot hold onto our worldly possessions; the only things which truly matter can be carried within our hearts to heaven's gates!

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE

**Doreen Moser
Shayla Steffen**

"Thus united and in concord, let us walk the path of life..."
Zion's Harp #237

This month found a few sisters from Belvidere and Elgin attending Sister Heart in Gridley, IL. It was a day of singing praises and fellowshiping. As we sometimes had to practice more on one song than the others, we were reminded that we needed to sing together, not louder or faster than our sisters, but in unity. We hope we were able to make a harmonious sound that will be pleasing to others ears and especially to our Savior's ears. It certainly was a glimpse of what we hope to do in heaven, singing praises unto our Lord in peace and harmony with great "joy".

Our Bible class spent a Sunday together this month for ACYF. As our teachers united together and worked in love, a blessed day was enjoyed by the students and the teachers.

Retired Elder Bro. Ron Schambach and his precious wife, Sis. Nancy, spent a Sunday with us this month and our Elder Bro. Dave Steffen spent a Wednes-

day eve in Belvidere. As our ministers and Elders strive to preach the Word, if we are all united in the Lord's Word, His Spirit, and pray for our loving servants, we will all receive a blessing.

Believing it is the Lord's will, Bro. Troy Steffen (Bro. Dean and Sis. Carol) and Sis. Ellie Hoerr (Bro. Doug and Sis. Peg, Washington, IL) announced their engagement to be united in marriage. We look forward to having Sis. Ellie in Belvidere.

As we walk this daily path of life, may our hearts be united in love! May others see "Jesus in us".

ILLINOIS, BLOOMINGTON

**Heidi Rinkenberger
Shelley Steffen**

On April 16 the Bloomington Young Group invited the church to participate in a "Journey to the Cross". It was a somber and beautiful evening of reflection on the final days of Jesus, and His resurrection. On Palm Sunday the Sunday School presented their Easter Program. It is always such a blessing to hear the young ones share their songs and stories with us.

Sunrise Service was held on Easter Sunday, bringing another opportunity to worship together and to praise God for the fulfillment of His plan of redemption. Visiting ministers, Bro. Darren Plattner (Sis. Sue, Champaign) and Bro. Jedd Rocke (Sis. Marsha, Goodfield) joined us for the day, and we appreciate their service on the pulpit.

Easter Sunday brought another reason to rejoice as we heard the engagement announcement of Sis. Kendra Knapp (Bro. Charlie and Sis. Paula) to Bro. Doug Dohman (Bro. John and Sis. Judy) of Gridley. We pray for God's blessings on them as they look forward to their upcoming marriage.

With Easter being later this year, Communion was scheduled for the following Saturday. Communion is always a special privilege, but it held extra significance this year as the knowledge of Christ's death and resurrection was still so fresh in our minds and hearts.

We thank Elder Bro. Jim Plattner (Sis. Marlene, Princeville) who was here to assist Bro. Mark with the service.

Hope. That was the message presented at the funeral service for our Bro. Brad Gramm. When treatments on earth fail and we think "It was our last hope", Bro. Brad reminded us that it is not our last hope. God has promised to those that love and serve Him, a glorious resurrection with Him. We continue to pray for his wife, Sis. LuAnn; his children, Bro. Alec, Ashlyn, and Reid; his mother, Sis. Nola (Bro. Mel) Schrock; and the rest of his family who will dearly miss him.

"Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die."

John 11:25-26

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD **Sandi Joos** **Roseann Stahl**

"I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase."

I Cor. 3:6

On May 1 the Bible Classes from Washington, Tremont, and Bradford gathered in Bradford for ACYF Day. We pray that the seeds from God's Word were planted and that God will give the increase. Bro. Paul Kilgus (Sis. Carmen, Fairbury, IL), Bro. Paul Zimmerman (Sis. Loretta, Forrest, IL), and Bro. Trent Meiss (Sis. Lucy, Eureka, IL) shared the Word with the Bible Class students and our congregation. We appreciate their labors on our behalf.

Sis. Deann Baer (Ron) has had surgery and been hospitalized at Mayo Clinic in Rochester. We pray for her renewed health and look forward to having them assemble with us again.

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

Ps. 143:10

We have five graduates from high school this year. They are Rebecca Ehnle (Bro. John and Sis. Sara), Casey Gillespie (Bro. Richard and Sis. Paula), Shannon Gudeman (Bro. Brad and Sis. Teresa), Sis. Kayla Kupferschmid (Bro. Brad and Sis. Cheryl), Alexandria Moody (Jenny), and Anthony Moore (Rob and Angie Joos). Graduation is a time to reflect on the past and the direction of the future. May we always seek the Lord's direction in our future.

ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN **Sarah Drake**

Greetings from Champaign! We were blessed with several visiting ministers this month. We welcomed Bro. Steph Baner (Sis. Donna Lou, Gridley) and Bro. Marshall Heinold (Sis. Jan, Ixtlán). Also, as we had the privilege to partake of Communion on May 11, Elder Bro. Steve Sauder (Sis. Mary, Tremont) was present to assist with the occasion. Thank you, Brothers, for your willingness to serve God in this way and bless our congregation!

We are thankful for several new additions to our church family. The family of Bro. Walt and Sis. Janelle Edelman recently moved to Mahomet, IL, and will be attending our Champaign church. We look forward to having them with us! Another exciting addition to our congregation is baby Markus John Gerber. Markus was born on May 2 to Bro. Joe and Sis. Heidi Gerber (and big brother Owen!). We congratulate the Gerbers on another beautiful baby!

May is often a time of transition, and this can be especially true in a college town like ours! This month we recognize several graduates. From high school: Cortney Eisenmann (Bro. David and Sis. Jackie) and Sharnell Knapp (Sis. Gwen); from the University of Illinois: Bro. Grant Zimmerman (Bro. Joe and Sis. Barb, Morton), Sis. Susan Koch (Bro. Roger and Sis. Sally, Tremont), and Sis. Sarah Drake (Allen and Rita, El Paso); From Danville Area Community

College: Ashely Aberle. Congratulations and God's blessings on your next stage of life!

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO **Rachel Meyer**

Greetings from Chicago. As we commemorated the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we were reminded of the opportunity to renew ourselves through Christ. Jesus paid it all.

The Chicago bus trip to Indianapolis took place the weekend of April 30 – May 1. We thank the Indianapolis church for their hospitality and God for His protection. It is good to fellowship together.

On May 8 we said farewell to Rochelle Meiss. She plans to return home to Arizona for more schooling. We thank her for visiting with us and pray she feels God's guiding hand.

Congratulations to three Chicago graduates! Graduating high school are Sis. Julie Eisenmann (Elder Bro. Brad and Sis. Cindy) and Jade Steffen (Bro. Kim and Sis. Diane). Receiving her Master's Degree in Social Work is our Sis. Kaitlyn Isaia. God bless you and lead you, each one.

In one of my speech sessions at work I was with a young boy who has ASD (autism spectrum disorder). He was participating in an intensive six-week block of therapy – two hours a day, five days a week, for a total of six weeks. This dear boy could speak a handful of words clearly and was working hard at mastering more.

On that particular day it became clear something was on his mind. He desperately wanted to communicate what was upsetting him. But the words were not coming. Instead he would whirl around the room, then come close into my face and wordlessly plead for me to understand. His face was tense, his fists and jaw clenched, and his eyes pleaded with mine to understand. I tried guessing aloud and changing materials in hopes I would hit on what was upsetting him. His frustration escalated. I told him I knew he was upset

and wanted to tell me something but that I could not understand. To de-escalate the situation I took him in my arms, held him closely, and let him cry. I wanted him to feel safe.

Some days, spiritually, I am that boy. I feel utterly overwhelmed, confused, and frightened; not knowing how to express my need. I thank God for Romans 8:26 which echoes my human condition, "Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered."

May God be with you.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK Marilyn Maul Tina Walder

Our visiting ministers were Bros. Les Kaeb (Sis. Christine, Francesville, IN), Art Mueller (Sis. Marlene, Belvidere, IL), Mark Rufener (Sis. Julie, Mansfield, OH), and Jeff Neihouser (Sis. Sue, Morton, IL). We thank these brothers for sharing God's Word with us.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Laverne Farney as she has been in the hospital this month.

Congratulations to our high school graduates. They are Adam Kaeb (Bro. Hartzell and Sis. Denise), Dylan Kaufman (Arlan and Clem), Steven Maul (Bro. Bill and Sis. Wanda), Katie Walder (Bro. Doug and Sis. Julie) and Morgan Walder (Bro. Steve and Sis. Kathy).

The young Sunday School students were delighted to deliver flowers to the residents at the Heartland Health Care on Sunday, May 15. The children also enjoyed sharing their hearts by singing their joyful songs to the residents. It was a blessing to see the smiles this brought to the residents' faces.

On May 15, Bro. Fred Maul and Sis. Judy Bauer announced their engagement. We rejoice with this couple during this time. A July wedding is planned.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE Rachel Currier

Out of water and of Spirit
Thou, O child, art born today;
You've escaped the old oppressor,
In God's covenant you'll stay..."
Zion's Harp #34, vs. 3

We were thankful to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of three new Brothers and one Sister in Christ the weekend of May 14-15. We welcome Bro. Brian Craig (Bro. Kim and Sis. Carol), Bro. Jesse and Bro. Joshua Knapp (Bro. James and Sis. Lisa) and Sis. Abby Hartman (Bro. Bob and Sis. Lisa) into our brotherhood.

We would also like to welcome Bro. Bruce and Sis. Donna Wyss to our congregation, as they have recently begun to worship with us. May they feel God's nearness and peace as they make this adjustment.

Our prayers are with Jerry and Sis. Linda Knobloch and their family, as Jerry's mother, Sis. Lauretta Knobloch, was recently laid to rest in Lester, IA. May they feel the comfort of the Holy Spirit through this time of sorrow.

We rejoice with the home of Bro. Brent and Sis. Sheila Ifft as another daughter, Betsy Ann, has been added to their family. Siblings are Joseph, Darren, Stephen, Nathan, Jacob, Marcy, Sharla, and Larissa. Also welcoming Betsy are grandparents, Bro. Larry and Sis. Shirley Ifft (Forrest) and Bro. Greg and Sis. Jill Stoller (Forrest).

The home of Bro. Ben and Sis. Kristan Craig has also been blessed with a little one, Ian James. He is welcomed by siblings, Liberty, Lucy and Jesse. Grandparents are Bro. Kim and Sis. Carol Craig and Clair and Sis. Bev Keever (Mansfield).

We have had many visiting ministers this past month. They include Bro. Mark Rufener (Sis. Julie, Mansfield), Bro. Greg Lehman (Sis. Mary Beth, Wolcott), Bro. Jacob Kuntz (Sis. Brooke, Croghan-Naumburg), Elder

Bro. Steve Sauder (Sis. Mary, Tremont), Bro. Paul Kilgus (Sis. Carmen, Fairbury), and Bro. Wayne Wiegand (Sis. Rosemary, Goodfield). We also appreciate Elder Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Sis. Nancy, Forrest) being here to assist Bro. Ben and Bro. Steve Sauder the evening of our converts' testimonies.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN Amy Gasser Miriam Gasser

We appreciated the services of Bro. Ted Schock (Belvidere, IL), who visited us on Easter Sunday.

On May 1, Sunday School classes from Belvidere, Chicago, Cissna Park, Morton, Peoria, and St. Louis and Taylor, MO, were with us for ACYF Day. Following the afternoon service, the group sang several hymns. Both the song selections and the beautiful blending of voices provided an uplifting experience.

Our church family gathered at the Fellowship Center on May 15 for an appreciation dinner and singing for retired Elder Bro. Ron and Sis. Nancy Schambach. Throughout the evening, many memories were shared—some even spanning beyond the 30 years of Bro. Ron's ministry.

Two enthused parents, Nick and Niki Pilotte, announced the birth of sweet Viola Rose on April 23. Viola's delighted grandparents are Mike and Sis. Nancy Scott (Wolcott, IN) and Duane and Roberta Pilotte, also of northern Indiana.

Bro. Darren and Sis. Krystin Schambach, Tobin, and Castalie welcomed the arrival of Gavin Layne on May 18. After a lengthy period of bedrest, Sis. Krystin and family are thankful for a different routine. Gavin's grandparents are Bro. Tim and Sis. Marcia Kellenberger and Bro. Stan and Sis. Norma Schambach (Prescott, AZ).

We wish our graduating seniors wisdom and God's blessings as they leave high-school doors to pursue a livelihood or further education. The students are

Philip Hann (Jerry and Sis. Cindy), Aaron Kellenberger (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Julie), Michael Kellenberger (Bro. Ken and Sis. Vicki), Austin Lodge (Dave and Lori), and Joshua Moser (Bro. Dan and Sis. Anne).

Our congratulations and best wishes also go to the following college graduates: Tim Hann (Jerry and Sis. Cindy), with a BFA in Graphic Design from the Illinois Institute of Art; Grant Kellenberger (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Julie), with a nursing degree from Elgin Community College; Courtney Lodge (Dave and Lori), with a degree in Global Health from the University of Iowa; Shawn Moore (Bro. Larry and Sis. Beth), with degrees in Asian Studies and Violin Performance from New York's Bard College; and Sis. Maria Steffen (Elder Bro. Dave and Sis. Linda), with a nursing degree from Illinois State University.

Elgin will be collecting Silver Lining dues during the month of July. The suggested donation per subscription is \$14, which may be deposited in the Maintenance box. Your voluntary contributions will be appreciated.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

**Dee Baer
Jodi Blunier**

Bound by love and in God's will, Bro. Kyle Feuchtenberger (Bro. Ken and Sis. Sally, Morris, MN) and Sis. Rachel Martin (Bro. Craig and Sis. Marilyn) exchanged marriage vows.

Tim (Bro. Charles and Sis. Karen) and Regina Sinn have been attending our congregation and we are thankful they now have the desire to be a part of our precious faith.

Sis. Verna Wettstein has mourned the death of her sister, Sis. Lauretta Knobloch (Lester, IA). Sis. Kay Hackenjoos passed from this life. Funeral services were held in the Altadena, CA, church.

Bro. Dale and Sis. Lavonne Schumacher welcomed Kaiya Joy to their family. At home to love her are Seth, Brooke, Larae, Lane, Olivia,

Callie and Jesse. Grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Charlene Schumacher and Bro. Larry and Sis. Becky Endress (Bradford). Another little one, Raya Autumn, was welcomed by Bro. Ross, Sis. Whitney and Clay Blunier. Grandparents are Bro. Ted and Sis. Donna Blunier and Bro. Jon and Sis. Cyndee Anderson (Congerville).

Dale and Sis. Freidora Wiegand welcomed a grandson, Eli Ryan Wiegand Milo, born to Kaiser and Rachel of Cypress, CA.

Visiting ministers serving us this month were Bro. Kent Getz (Elgin, IA), Bro. Matt Oesch (Alto, MI), Bro. Tony Manz (Junction, OH) and Bro. Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville).

Sis. Amanda Stoller (Bro. Brad) has been in our prayers for health and healing.

High School graduates were honored at a dinner to recognize their milestone: Bro. Luke Anliker (Bro. Art and Sis. Carol), Dana Blunier (Bro. Kurt and Sis. Livy), Stephen Getz (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Mary), Sis. Miranda Leman (Bro. Chris and Sis. Marlene), Brace Martin (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Sheri), Tyler Porter (Ellen [Mike] Anders), convert Clint Schumacher (Bro. Dan and Sis. Heidi), Bro. Matt Sinn (Bro. Charles and Sis. Karen), Sis. Rose Stoller (Bro. Tom and Sis. Edie), Sis. Julie Streitmatter (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Deyona), convert Josh Wettstein (Bro. Jim and Sis. Dianne), convert Kelton Wiegand (Bro. Brian and Sis. Tina) and Larae Zimmerman (Bro. Loren and Sis. Mary).

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

**Angela Herr
Kay Steffen**

Visiting ministers serving our congregation this month were Bro. Dennis Rassi (Austin, TX), Bro. Jerry Wagenbach (Oakville, IA), Bro. Nathan Walder (Cissna Park, IL), Bro. Keith Hinrichsen (Phoenix, AZ), Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington, IL), and Bro. Ted Witzig, Jr. (Morton, IL). We thank each of these brothers for sharing

God's Word with us and pray that He will richly bless them.

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

Many of us witnessed the marriage vows of our Bro. Neil Kaisner and Sis. Kay Leman on May 22 in Forrest. Parents of this dear couple are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Donna Kaisner and Bro. Phil and Charlotte Leman (Forrest, IL). We wish them God's richest blessings as they begin their life together and we welcome Sis. Kay to our congregation.

Also on May 22, the engagement of Bro. Bryan Steffen (Bro. Chris and Sis. Kay) and Debbie Stork (Elmer and Darlene) of Forrest was made known. May God be with them and guide them as they plan for a life together.

We recently bid farewell to Bro. Walt and Sis. Janelle Edelman and their two small children, Gage and Haleigh. They have moved to the Champaign area and will be assembling with our brethren there. We wish them God's blessings as they settle into a new home and a new church family.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with those recovering from recent surgeries, including Sis. Colleen Walter (Bro. Rich) and Bro. Kyle Steidinger (Sis. Alicia). May God heal and provide for each one according to His will.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Marvin (Jane) Bahler, Bro. Ralph (Sis. Jeanette) Bahler, retired Elder Bro. Art (Sis. Suzanne) Bahler, and Verla (Bro. Wayne) Davis as they mourn the loss of their sister, Helen Frye, who passed away on May 1.

We extend our sincere congratulations to those who have graduated this spring. Our high school graduates are: Eric Bahler (Bro. Neil and Sis. Tami), Sis. Heidi Fehr (Bro. Randall and Sis. Janis), Marcus Fehr (Bro. Les and Sis. Sally), David Herr (Sis. Cindy), Sis. Michelle Kaisner (Bro. Don and Sis. Leona), Trent Kilgus (Bro. Paul and Sis.

Carmen), Travis Ravens (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Kara Moser), Brianna Rinkenberger (Bro. Doug and Sis. Beth), Sis. Tiffany Steffen (Corey and Sis. Beth), Jake Steidinger (Bro. Keith and Sis. Kristine), Sis. Maria Steidinger (Bro. Keith and Sis. Kristine), and Thane Zehr (Bro. Quinn and Sis. Joan). Bro. Jason Edelman (Bro. Walt and Sis. Rosetta) and Sis. Rebecca Steffen (Bro. Troy) have finished their nursing studies and also graduated this month. May each graduate seek God's guidance and direction as they make plans for the future.

Note of Thanks:

I wish to thank each one who remembered me with cards and other expressions of sympathy since the recent loss of my sister, Kathryn Kaeb. May God bless each one.

Sis. Norma (Bro. Wayne) Fehr

ILLINOIS, FORREST

**Lisa Aberle
Lynn Dotterer**

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

Proverbs 3:5-6

We extend our congratulations to: convert Karla Edelman (Bro. Karl and Sis. Bethany), convert Matthew Gutwein (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Wendy), Jessica Ifft (Bro. Duane and Sis. Mary), Emily Kraft (Dan Kraft and Andrea Kraft), Brooke Kupferschmid (Bro. Todd and Kim), Sis. Jeana Leman (Bro. Ernie and Sis. Carol), Sis. Emily Ricketts (Sis. Marie and the late Bro. Brian), Olivia Roth (Bro. Ken and Sis. Deb), Jonathan Rudin (Bro. Craig and Sis. Trudy), Sis. Stefani Schmidgall (Bro. John and Sis. Janet), convert Arlen Steidinger (Bro. Glen and Sis. Holly), Kimberly Wenger (Sam and Teri), and convert Rollin Wenger (Bro. Rich and Sis. Jill) as they graduate from high school. May they look to God to di-

rect their paths!

Bro. Neil Kaisner (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Donna, Fairbury) and Sis. Kay Leman (Bro. Phil and Charlotte) were united in marriage. We will miss Sis. Kay, but we wish them God's richest blessings as they assemble with the Fairbury congregation. Following God's direction in their lives, Bro. Bryan Steffen (Bro. Chris and Sis. Kay, Fairbury) and Debbie Stork (Elmer and Darlene) have announced their engagement.

We rejoice with Lincoln Mueller (Bro. Stan and Sis. Kristen) and Kyla Kupferschmid (Bro. Todd and Kim) as they have answered the call to repentance!

Bro. Ron, Jr., Sis. Vicki, Reagan, Royce, Rollie, Chloe, Remington, Reuben, and Riley Mueller welcomed Roman Jacob into their family. Grandparents, Bro. Ron Sr. and Sis. Loida Mueller and Bro. Eldon and Sis. Darlene Steidinger (Fairbury), are also thankful to welcome him!

We thank Sis. Holly Steidinger (Bro. Glen) for her years of faithful service in teaching Sunday School. Sis. Brenda Kuntz (Bro. Rollyn) has our prayers and support as she begins her teaching term.

Our thoughts and prayers are with retired Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Sis. Judy) and Sis. Ruth Roth as they spent time in the hospital this month.

We extend our sympathies to Sis. Leona Leman on the passing of her brother, Bro. Earl Roth (Phoenix, AZ).

We thank Bros. Dana Indermuhle (Sardis, OH), Jacob Kuntz (Croghan-Naumburg, NY), Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN), Mark Schmidgall (Eureka, IL), Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA), Dale Stoller (Fairbury, IL), John Hartman (Fairbury, IL) and James Fehr (Tremont, IL) for ministering to us this month. May God bless them for being willing workers for the Lord!

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

**Melissa Rokey
Kayla Wiegand**

I am coming, Lord! Coming now to Thee!

Wash me, cleanse me in the blood That flowed on Calvary!

Tabernacle Hymns #265 (chorus)

We are thankful to continue to see the hand of God moving and calling souls unto repentance. Kalene Kloter (Chad), Barbara Jean Hinrichsen (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Brenda), Norm Ricketts (Sis. Barb), and Allison Hinrichsen (Bro. Mike and Sis. Gerri) have felt the conviction of sin and the grace of God and started their repentance. May we continue to lift them up in prayer to our heavenly Father as they follow and serve Him.

When I survey the wondrous cross,
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Gospel Hymns #709

We want to thank our Sunday school children and their teachers for bringing to us the Easter story. It is always good for us to reflect upon the price that was paid there on Calvary, so that we can have hope of life eternal.

We want to thank everyone who participated in the ACYF day on Sunday, May 1. We had Roanoke, Princeville, and Forrest as guests. Our visiting ministers and teachers were: Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Sis. Pam, Washington), Bro. Mark Schmidgall (Sis. Lisa, Eureka), Bro. Matthew Steffen (Sis. Deanna, Princeville), Bro. Stephen Baner (Sis. Donnalou, Gridley), and Bro. Fred Funk (Sis. Diane, Morton).

"I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you."

John 14:18

Our Bro. Steve Gerst (Sis. Bonnie) passed away suddenly on Wednesday, May 4. Our sincere sympathy is extended to Sis. Bonnie and their chil-

dren, Sis. Tiffany, Sis. Trista and Bro. Doug Ulrich (Addison, Brooks), Bro. Tadd and Sis. Jill (Selah, Finn). Bro. Steve repented when he was 14 years old and served the Lord faithfully for 50 years. We don't always understand God's timing of calling our loved ones home, but we know that sometime we'll understand. May you feel the comfort and prayers of our church family during this difficult time.

We extend our sympathy to Madolyn Tanner and Sis. Phyllis Rokey (Bro. Kenneth) at the passing away of their sister, Sis. Laretta Knobloch from Lester, IA.

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

Romans 5:1

Marisa Wiegand (Bro. Brad and Sis. Karen) and Clint Schumacher (Bro. Dan and Sis. Heidi) have surrendered by faith, confessed their sins, express peace with God and man. May God continue to grant them grace to live an overcoming life.

Tyson Royce Schieler blessed the home of Bro. Royce and Sis. Sarah on Thursday, May 12. Tyson was welcomed home by big sister Katelyn. Grandparents are Bro. Brian and Sis. Teresa Schieler and Bro. Tom and Sis. Jane Bolliger (Tremont, IL).

We lift up those in our congregation who have been hospitalized this past month. Our prayers are with Sis. Marie Kieser, Norm Ricketts, Barbara Jean Hinrichsen, Zoe Bauman (Justin and Sis. Christy), Sis. Sarah Melton, Bro. Wilbur Heinold, and Bro. Wes Knapp. We pray each one will feel the nearness of God during their healing.

We want to thank our visiting Elders and ministers this past month which included: Bro. Ken Hoerr (Sis. Darlene, Peoria, IL), Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Sis. Pam, Washington, IL), Bro. Jay Knapp (Sis. Lisa, Tucson, AZ), Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL) and Bro. Byron Stoller (Sis. Carol, Gridley, IL). May God continue to bless

them for their labors that His Word can be preached in truth and sincerity.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

Perry Klopfenstein

We are glad to report the marriage engagement of Bro. Doug Dohman to Sis. Kendra Knapp (Bloomington). This took place on May 1. He is the son of John and Sis. Judy Dohman, Gridley. Her parents are Bro. Charlie and Sis. Paula Knapp, Bloomington.

Sis. Bethany Witzig was announced to marry Bro. Reed Yackley. Both are of Gridley. She is the daughter of Bro. Curt and Sis. Norma Witzig, Gridley, and he is the son of Bro. Elwood and Sis. Trudie Yackley, Taylor, MO. They are planning an August 21 wedding.

Emily Ringger is engaged to be married to Adam Wherry of Bloomington. She is the daughter of Bro. Steve and Sis. Donna Ringger, Gridley; and he is the son of Gary Wherry, Lane, Illinois, and Robin Huff of Bloomington. A June 12 wedding date has been set.

Our sympathies are extended to the family of Bro. Brad Gramm of Bloomington, who passed away of cancer. He grew up here in Gridley. His illness ordeal was our concern, and we thank God he is relieved of all pain.

Bro. Stan Ringger, who had brain surgery, was later treated for a blood clot; and is now taking chemotherapy. May God be with him. Bro. James Funk is recovering from surgery. Others experiencing surgery were Sis. Patti Klopfenstein and Bro. Orlan Miller. Gerry Sievers was to have knee surgery sometime in May. Bro. Ron Schmidtgall is recovering from surgery.

There were 10 students from our church who graduated from the eighth grade this spring. A total of 16 graduated from high school. Nine graduated from college. We wish them well in life's endeavors henceforth.

A child, their first, was born to Bro. Dallas and Sis. Beth Steidinger on April 7. He was named Liam Keith. Grandparents are Bro. Randy and Sis. Dawn Steidinger, Fairbury; and Bro. Chip and

Sis. Sieda Hill, Mansfield, OH. May the Lord be with this couple as they train and nurture this child in the ways of the Lord.

Elder Bro. Bruce Endress (Bradford, IL) and Bro. Brandon Emch (Kansas City, MO) ministered here on May 15. May God bless them for their efforts.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

Annette Tanner Julie Bahr

Where is your treasure stored? It had better not be here! We are prayerful for those who have lost their loved ones and also their entire earthly possessions in the deadly tornados that have crossed our land.

The following Brothers served us in the work of the ministry. Elder Bro. Steve Sauder (Sis. Mary, Tremont), Elder Bro. John Jackson (Sis. Peggy, Bay City), Bro. Ken Wuethrich (Sis. Lyn, Indianapolis), Bro. Scott Schafer (Sis. Gigi, South Bend), Bro. Greg Rassi (Sis. Carla) and Bro. Matthew Rassi (Sis. Bridget), both of Chicago.

Bro. Ted Witzig, Jr. gave the spiritual message for our graduating High School Seniors, which included a hand-out on "Circles of Concerns vs. Circles of Influence". Congratulations to Sis. Lindsey Ploussard, Ashley Braker, Karissa Neihouser and Bro. Nick Kaiser. God loves you and your church family loves you, each one!

Our love and sympathy is shared with the family of Annabelle Stetzler (the late Manuel) who passed recently. Our sympathy is also with the family of Sis. Faye Pfister (late Bro. Levi) who passed away May 24.

Bro. Robert Belsley (late Sis. Mabel) was called home April 30. May the Lord bless and comfort his dear family: Roger (Marty) and Randy (Joan) Belsley, Sis. Joanni Endress and Sis. Joyce (Bro. Ted) Hirstein.

Our loving sympathy is shared with the entire family of Bro. Donald Hermann, including his dear wife, Sis. Mavis Hermann. Bro. Don was called to his heavenly home on May 9.

Congratulations to Emma Taufer and Adam Bucher as they were united in marriage on May 21. Emma's parents are Bro. Dana and Sis. Kris Taufer.

Note of Thanks:

The children of Bro. Bob Belsley would like to express their sincere thanks for every expression of sympathy in the loss of their dear Dad. May God bless you.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Pam Fritzenmeier

Christ is risen! We were blessed to celebrate our Lord's death and resurrection, starting with Good Friday evening service where we heard of the suffering our Saviour endured for us, while we were yet sinners. Then Easter morning sunrise service...a delicious breakfast, followed by congregational and special group singing and the gospel message, and on to church for the day of rejoicing. Our thanks to all who served us that holy weekend.

The annual choir benefit dinner was held April 30. Thank you, choir, for serving us with food for our body and soul. The singing was beautiful and three worthy ministries benefited from the generosity of those attending.

The Goodfield choir and our 3rd, 4th, and 5th Sunday School classes sang for us as part of our May 1 monthly hymn sing. Thank you for blessing us in song.

Thank you to Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke) who ministered to us Wednesday, May 4.

We are thankful to report two new converts: Steven Davidovics (Bro. Fedi and Sis. Ruth) and Rich (Bonnie) Hodel.

Three families are delighted to report new babies. Neiko joined the Bro. David and Sis. Michelle Kellenberger family on April 15. He was born July 26, 2010. His big brother and sisters are Tyden, Shaeya, Tekoa, and Wren. Grandparents include Bro. Ron and Sis. Carole Kellenberger (Washington) and Bro. Greg and Sis. Beth Herman. Tali Geneva was born May 4 to Bro. Trent

and Sis. Kary Scholl. Her big sisters and brother are Tea, Kenzie, and Maclin. Grandparents include Bro. Carle and Sis. Debby Hoerr and William and Linda Robinson. Jack Isaiah was born May 10 to Bro. Ben and Sis. Taunya Sceggel, Bloomington. His big sister is Addyson and grandparents include Bro. Ron and Sis. Jackie Rumbold (Princeville) and Bro. Mark and Sis. Judy Sceggel.

Four seniors and their parents were honored at the Senior Breakfast Sunday morning, May 15. They include Amber Christ (Bro. Ron and Sis. Carol), Sis. Alexandra Ginzel (Bro. Geoff and Sis. Angie), Maria Kieser (Bro. Wes and Sis. Lena), and Bro. Caleb Sauder (Bro. David and Sis. Rachel). Elder Bro. Paul Messner (Sis. Jan, Winthrop) shared a timely message with the seniors and all of us.

Congratulations to Bro. Peter and Sis. Mabel Weber who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on May 21!

Please remember these dear ones in your prayers: Sis. Barb Schafer, cancer treatments; Rich (Bonnie) Hodel, Sis. Kathy (Bro. Dave) Obergfel, and Sis. Elsie Eilers, health issues; missionaries to Haiti, Bro. Tim and Sis. Joan Reinhard and family, and in Magdalena, Bro. Jonathan and Sis. Bere Aupperle, and Bro. Zach Knobloch. Our hearts also go out to those suffering from natural disasters in Japan and Alabama. Please pray for those who have lost everything and those who are working to relieve their suffering, both physically and spiritually.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

Linda Joos
Gloria White

"I was glad when they said unto me,
Let us go into the house of the Lord."
Psalms 122:1

We have had several visiting ministers, Bro. Ned Stoller (Alto, MI), Bro. Greg Stoller (Forrest, IL), Bro. Ken

Schneider (Remington, IN) and Bro. Craig Stickling (Peoria, IL). Thank you to you and your families for including Princeville for a Sunday.

The engagement of Sis. Luann Martin (Bro. Sam and Sis. Mary) to Bro. Neil Stoller (Bro. Steve and Sis. Anna Marie, LaCrosse, IN) was recently announced. May God bless this couple as they take this most important step in faith.

Our prayers are with our new converts, Hannah Schick (Bro. Stan and Sis. Margie) and Hannah Martin (Bro. Larry and Sis. Tiffany). We wish them God's nearness and direction as they give their life over to the Lord.

Marvin and Sara Streitmatter have been blessed with the opportunity to adopt a little girl, Sahara. We rejoice with them and grandparents, Bro. Bill and Sis. Diane Streitmatter. Bro. Howard and Sis. Mary Ann Herrmann are the happy grandparents of a baby boy, Dean Curtis, born to Bro. David and Sis. Joanna Sauder (Tremont, IL).

The Senior Breakfast was held on Sunday, May 15. Our graduates are Monica Baer (Don and Carol), Cody Blunier (Bro. Darin and Sis. Keri), Sis. Emily Braker (Bro. Glen and Sis. Audrey), Molly Christ (Bro. Kurt and Sis. Connie), Joe Graham (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Pam), Bro. Scott Herrmann (Bro. Dean and Sis. Dawn), Alisha Knobloch (Bro. Keith and Sis. Lisa), Kendra Knobloch (Bro. Alan and Sis. Mary Ann), Sis. Melinda Martin (Bro. Ed and Sis. Gladys) and Sara Stahl (Bro. Doug and Sis. Ann). We pray for God's direction and guidance in their lives now and always.

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Jamie Hodel
Judy Sauder

John 10:17-18 "Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself..." Our congregation reflected upon these words on Easter Sunday. We were thankful to have Bro. Tom Schambach (Elgin) with us for the day.

Also on Easter Sunday we were blessed to have the Prairie Choristers, youth choir, and a Sisters' Trio present an inspirational program of scripture and song beginning at 7:30 a.m. We then shared breakfast together. The afternoon service on Easter was our Sunday School Easter program. What a special day to reflect on Christ's triumph over death and grave.

Matthew 5:4: "Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted." Bro. Earl (Sis. Marilyn) Roth (Phoenix) passed away April 26. We welcome Sis. Marilyn back into our Roanoke congregation. Our sympathy is also with Sis. Carol (Bro. Dave) Knapp in the passing of her mother, Sis. Leona Wulf (Lester).

On April 27, Bro. Daren Metz (Gridley) presented our monthly Family Worship on "The Covenant".

II Chronicles 7:14 "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." On May 5 we were able to reflect on this verse as we gathered for the National Day of Prayer. The Prairie Choristers, Youth Choir, Testify, and a Sisters' Trio presented an inspirational program of scripture and song.

On Saturday, May 7, mothers and daughters in our congregation gathered for our Mother/Daughter Luncheon. The theme this year was "Let your Light Shine".

We rejoice with Bro. Luke and Sis. Allison Fischer in the birth of their son, Reid William, born on May 6. Reid is also welcomed by Clay and Halle, and grandparents, Bro. Duane and Sis. Rachel Schroeder and Bro. Kevin and Sis. Annette Fischer.

May 8 was the wedding of Bro. Daniel Stoller (Bro. Brent and Sis. Kay, Congerville) and Sis. Larissa Fehr (Bro. James and Sis. Brenda, Tremont). We welcome this dear couple into our congregation and pray they will feel God's nearness as they begin their lives as one in Him.

Romans 6:4 "Therefore we are bur-

ied with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we should walk in newness of life." May 11 was the testimony and baptism of Colleen (C.C.) Ney.

May 15 was our baccalaureate service for our high school graduates: Heidi Bradle, Bro. Craig Byrd, Bro. Daniel Lemman, Sis. Marisa Lemman, John Luginbuhl, Jesse Sauder, Lauren Schroeder, and Kristin Schwind. Bro. Greg Lehman (Wolcott) was with us for the day.

II Timothy 2:2 "...the same commit thou to faithful men who shall be able to teach others also." Those in our congregation selected as Sunday School teachers for the intermediate grades are Bro. Stephen Bertschi, Bro. Luke Fischer and Bro. Jonathon Hodel. Bro. Matt Gastman and Bro. Matt Mangold were chosen as Bible Class teachers.

We rejoice with Heidi Bradle (Bro. John and Sis. Jill) as she has come seeking the Lord in repentance.

Bro. Frank (Sis. Kathy) Sauder has been chosen to be our ordained deacon. Elder Bro. Rick Plattner (Fairbury) was here May 18 to help Bro. Tom as our congregation voted their support of Bro. Frank. We certainly lift them up in prayer as they take this step in Faith.

Simply trusting every day,
trusting thro a stormy way,
Even when my faith is small,
trusting Jesus, that is all...

Gospel Hymns #581

We pray this can be true for Bro. Merlyn (Sis. Jan) Getz and Sis. Esther (Bro. John) Sauder as they deal with health issues.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT Teresa Rowell Janice Sauder

"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

We want to congratulate our many high school graduates and wish them God's blessings as they pursue their futures with the strength of their youth! They are: Reid Aberle (Bro. Pete and Sis. Debbie), Paige Bolliger (Bro. Dean and Sis. Trudy), Kasi Crumbo (Bro. Mark and Sis. Colleen Moser), Sis. Lynelle Fehr (Bro. James and Sis. Brenda), Adam Frank (Bro. Doug and Sis. Cheri), Bro. Levi Kaiser (Bro. Tim and Sis. Ruth), Ashley Kilgus (Bro. Todd and Sis. Rita), Matthew Koch (Bro. Roger and Sis. Sally), Jeremy Oswald (Bro. Mike and Sis. Michelle), Brandon Rose (Jeff and Sis. Marla), Patrick Simms (Dave and Inga Lelm), Caitlyn Wagenbach (Bro. Simon and Sis. Lori), Emily Wagenbach (Bro. Ron and Sis. Liz), Mackenzie Wagenbach (Anita Wagenbach and Jeff Wagenbach), and Nichole Wagenbach (Bro. Jon and Sis. Rebekah).

Thank you to Bro. Chris Wuethrich (St. Louis, MO) for traveling to Tremont on a Wednesday evening for a topical lesson. We appreciate your labor of love.

Mother's Day was also the wedding day of our Sis. Larissa Fehr and Bro. Daniel Stoller (Roanoke, IL). Their parents are Bro. James and Sis. Brenda Fehr and Bro. Brent and Sis. Kay Stoller (Congerville, IL). We welcomed many visitors that day, including these ministering brothers: Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL), and Bros. Wayne Lemman (Roanoke), Glen Braker (Princeville, IL), and Paul Kilgus (Fairbury, IL). May God continue to be with this dear couple!

New babies are a gift from above, and we are happy to report the birth of four little ones: Bro. Kerry and Sis. Kelly Baer have a new daughter, Lila Rose. She is welcomed home by Samuel, Allison, and grandparents, Bro. Dave and Sis. June Koch. Bro. Dave and Sis. Joanna Sauder are proud parents of another son, Dean Curtis. His siblings are

Heidi, Debbie, Nathan, Jacob, Carl and Eli; and his grandparents are Bro. Dale and Sis. JoAnn Sauder. Bro. Mike and Sis. Dorothy Meister have a new grandson, Elijah William. Parents, Michael and Elisabeth Meister, and big brother Isaiah welcomed him home. Bro. Tom and Sis. Jane Bolliger are also grandparents again, with the birth of Tyson Royce Schieler. Bro. Royce and Sis. Sarah and big sister Katelyn are his family. God be with these precious children.

“The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way.”

Psalms 37:23

Our wish for God’s blessing and guidance go with our Bro. Jason Koch (Bro. Dan and Sis. Julie), as he will be moving to Detroit, MI, to continue his college education. We’ll enjoy your visits home, Bro. Jason!

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

**Linda Folkerts
Nancy Leman**

“Rejoice with them that do rejoice...”

Romans 12:15

We rejoice with our new sister, Wendi Pfaffmann (Bro. Max and Sis. Mary), and our new brother, Micah Pfaffmann (Bro. Robert and Sis. Lily), as they gave their testimonies and were baptized on the weekend of May 21-22. We are so thankful and joyful to welcome these dear lambs into our fold. Elder Bro. Steve Sauder (Sis. Mary, Tremont) was here to assist Bro. Ron in the testimonies and baptisms. Also, on Mother’s Day, we were thankful to have Elder Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen, Kansas City) with us to share the Word. We extend our appreciation to these dear brothers for their willingness to serve us.

We also rejoice with Sis. Ellie Hoerr (Bro. Doug and Sis. Peg) and Bro. Troy Steffen (Bro. Dean and Sis. Carol) of

Belvidere as their engagement was announced. May God bless and be near these loved ones as they plan for their wedding and future together.

We are prayerful for little Abram Sauder (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Chelby) as he awaits major heart surgery. May this dear family feel the love and support of our church family at this time and may God bless little Abram with a successful surgery and speedy recovery.

We want to congratulate our 2011 high school graduates and wish them God’s blessings and nearness as they look to their future. They are Sis. Anna Barth (Bro. Jim and Sis. Julie), Austin Endress (Bro. Don and Sis. Sandra), Bro. Jed Feucht (Bro. Curt and Sis. Beth), Jared Folkerts (Bro. Gary and Sis. Linda), Ross Knepp (Bro. Keith and Sis. Michelle), Shasta Ledford (Bro. Chris and Sis. Stacy), Sis. Erica Witzig (Bro. Fred and Sis. Nancy), Bro. Micah Pfaffmann (Bro. Robert and Sis. Lily), and Carly Slagel (Bro. Tim and Sis. Barb).

“...and weep with them that weep.”

Romans 12:15

Our hearts were heavy with sadness when we received the news that Bro. Roger and Sis. Nancy Musselman’s son, Mark, died on May 17 due to injuries sustained in a serious accident in Ault, Colorado. Mark had two sons, Cole and Clayton, and four brothers, Matthew, Michael, Aaron and Andrew. We lift these dear ones up in prayer that the Lord will be their Comforter.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

**Suzie Fiechter
Kim Meyer**

What a blessed month we had in Bluffton even though the weather has kept us all on our toes. The Sunday School kids shared their voices with us during the Easter Program and we appreciate Bro. John Reinhard, Bro. Chad Gerber, and Bro. Allen Stoller who shared the Easter and Good Friday messages with us. We were challenged to

walk the week with Christ as it led up to Easter. Bro. Allen had us focus on the promise of what was to come after the death of Christ. Bro. John pointed out the prayer that Jesus specifically prayed for the church and how we should be one as Jesus and God are one. We are so fortunate to know the true purpose of Easter, but how often do we take it for granted?

As we talk about the death and resurrection of Christ, we have to share the death of two dear sisters who are now one with Christ in heaven. Sis. Diana (Bro. Bill) Tonner passed away. She will be greatly missed by her family and friends as she was always a light to those around her. Sis. Sylvia Reinhard went home to heaven also. May these two families be comforted and feel God’s loving arms around them during this time in their lives.

We rejoice with three new couples who announced their engagements. Bro. Chad Fiechter (Bro. Mike and Sis. Shari) and Sis. Christen Huber (Bro. Brian and Sis. Jacki) of Francesville will be united on August 28. Bro. Jeff and Sis. Janice Bahr (Kiowa, KS) are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Sis. Stephanie (Magdalena), to Bro. Joel Rinkenberger (Magdalena), son of Bro. Jim and Sis. Jeanne of Bluffton. Bro. Mark and Sis. Barb Gerber are also rejoicing as they announced the engagement of their daughter, Sis. Leah (Bloomington), to Bro. Ross Feller (Leo), son of Bro. Joe and Sis. Jacki of Valparaiso.

Since we are talking about upcoming weddings, we were blessed with a full church during the wedding of another young couple. Bro. Jeremy Stieglitz (Elder Bro. Lynn and Sis. Leonda) of Leo and Sis. Maria Tucker of West Lafayette (Dan and Sis. Barbara, Mansfield) were united as one in Christ. We were blessed with several visiting ministers; and if I wrote fast enough, twenty greetings from fellow churches!

Our baby room continues to grow as we were blessed with four more babies over the past month. Stanley and Jaime Eaton attend our Adult Bible Class and

gave birth to Stanley Marshal Eaton III on April 20. Bro. Mark and Sis. Angie Reinhard were thrilled to bring home little Jace and have him meet his big sisters, Kaitlee and Bria. Bro. John and Sis. Pam Reinhard along with Bro. Fred and Sis. Pat Beer (Milford) are thankful for another grandson. Bro. Joe and Sis. Heidi Gerber are pleased to announce the arrival of their son, Markus. His grandparents would be Bro. Doug and Sis. Ruby Gerber and Bro. John and Sis. Cheryl Knobloch (Morton). Daisy Mueller was born to Bro. Nathan and Sis. Rachel Mueller on April 25. Bro. Jim and Sis. Jan Schwartz and Bro. Dave and Sis. Terri Mueller joyfully welcome little Daisy into their families, arms, and hearts.

Our prayers go out to Sis. Josephine Schwartz who suffered another stroke and is recovering at Christian Care. We look forward to having her back in church and seeing her faithful smile. We also pray for the Senior class as they had their Senior Breakfast. The message that was shared with them ties back to our Easter messages – The Love of God. The seniors were asked two questions. Who are you? What are you doing here? We know God loves us as sent us His only Son. We can read the Bible and find out who Jesus was and is and why He came. Then we can ask ourselves those same questions. Do we remember who Jesus is and why He came? If so, what have we done with that gospel message? Are we taking it for granted or sharing it with those around us?

Let's be thankful for the grace God sheds on us so that we can be lights to a dark world in need. May we be flexible and willing to learn and wait as He calls us to our specific witnessing fields whether that's at work, home, across the road, or across the sea.

"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 10:15

**INDIANA
BLUFFTON NORTH
Jessie Longenberger
Amy Moser**

"He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed."

Isaiah 53:3

We were encouraged on April 10 to prepare for our upcoming Bluffton North Communion service this month. Each of us was exhorted to give God permission to "search our hearts" (Ps. 139:23-24).

Holly Hopkins has made her beginning in repentance and would like to be announced as a Bluffton North convert. She would appreciate the prayers of the church.

On April 24 we were reminded of our Savior's death and glorious resurrection with a lovely Easter program by our Sunday School. We thank them for all of their hard work. It is always a joy to hear the children's enthusiastic voices praising our Lord.

Bluffton North had the privilege of remembering our Lord's last supper and sacrifice in Holy Communion on April 30. We thank Elder Bro. Tim Funk (Sis. Deb, Peoria, IL) for sharing God's Word and assisting us with our special service.

**INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE
Mildred Clauss
Jacki Huber**

"I believe God will guide me and that my life is in His hands and keeping. I believe He wants me to follow Him with praise on my lips for who He is, with thanks in my heart for what He does, and with obedience in my steps for what He asks me to do."

(Roy Lessin)

As our high school seniors graduate

and begin another chapter in their lives, we pray they will desire God's guidance and direction for the journey ahead! Our graduates are Sis. Erica Putt (Bro. Mike and Sis. Donna), Sis. Chloe Huber (Bro. Bob and Sis. Joy), Paul Huber (Bro. Chad and Sis. Pam), Bryce Murray (Bro. John and Sis. Jessica), Bro. Jonathon Pelsy (Bro. Roger and Sis. Lily), Mark Wuethrich (Bro. Mark and Sis. Lynn), Josh Zeltwanger (Bro. Dave and Sis. Kelly).

On Wednesday evening our graduation program was given at which time Bro. Gene Huber, our Sunday School Superintendent, presented a Bible to each of the seniors.

Sis. Christen Huber (Bro. Brian and Sis. Jacki) sought the Lord's guidance early in her life. Now she is blessed to be graduating from Purdue; and she has accepted the marriage proposal of Bro. Chad Fiechter (Bro. Mike and Sis. Shari) from Bluffton. We pray the Lord will bless their hearts together as they plan for their future.

Recent hospital patients have been Sis. Marcella Gudeman (Bro. Wendell) and Sis. Norm Pfledderer and we are thankful for their good recovery.

We extend sympathy to Sis. Anne Ward (Bro. Dale) on the death of her mother, Annabelle Jackson.

**INDIANA
INDIANAPOLIS
Sandy Lichtle
Penny Schroder**

Elder Bro. Ron Messner was with us on April 20 to share a presentation about the services provided by the Apostolic Christian Home for the Handicapped. He expressed a desire for prayer for their mission and a gratefulness for God's provision throughout the years.

Easter weekend, April 22-24, we shared multiple services to remember the death and resurrection of our Savior, Jesus Christ. May we remember the significance of this weekend throughout the year.

We enjoyed a weekend of fellowship with several from our Chicago congre-

gation the weekend of April 30. Chicago chose to visit Indianapolis for their annual bus trip; therefore, it provided a wonderful opportunity to build friendships and get to know each other. Three visiting ministers came from Chicago: Bro. Lenard Meyer, Bro. Virgil Metzger (Sis. Mary) and Bro. Matthew Rassi (Sis. Bridget).

Our church building dedication was held on May 8. It was a special time to reflect on the history of the Indianapolis church and to be reminded of the purpose and mission of our church today. Most importantly, it provided a time to ask for God's blessings on our congregation as we move forward to fulfill His work here on earth.

Visiting ministers at the dedication included: Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL), Bro. Kevin Knapp (Sis. Dixie, Bloomington, IL), Bro. Garry Bucher (Sis. Lois, Valparaiso, IN), Bro. Bob Beebe (Sis. Sue, South Bend, IN), and retired Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN).

INDIANA, LACROSSE

Meagan Frank Julie Rocke

The Lord has most certainly given us showers of blessings this past month. Good Friday services and the arrival of a beautiful Easter morning gave us many reminders to be thankful for the victory we have in Christ. We were again reminded of this at the proving and baptism of our new Sis. Mindy Wettstein. We rejoice with her and her parents, Bro. Mark and Sis. Karen, and welcome Sis. Mindy into the fold of God.

Many visiting ministers were willing to lend of themselves for these and other weekends, and we thank them and their wives and families: Bros. Lucas Frank (Sis. Crystal, Detroit, MI), Chris Wuethrich (Sis. Carla, St. Louis, MO), Dan Moser (Sis. Anne, Elgin, IL) John Lehman (Sis. Ruth, Wolcott, IN) Les Kaeb (Sis. Christine, Francesville, IN) and Elder Bro. Ted Steffen (Sis. Sandy, Alto, MI).

We are anticipating, Lord willing,

another baptism in the near future. Our convert Dean Nelson has found peace with God and man, and has expressed his desire to share his testimony and follow our Savior's example in baptism. May that peace continue to be with him, as our prayers will be, in the coming weeks.

The birth of Lincoln Frederick has brought much rejoicing to his grandparents, Bro. Gene and Sis. Evie Heinold and Bro. Don and Sis. Connie Manz (Junction, OH). Bro. Fred and Sis. Kayla Manz (Junction, OH) are also rejoicing and thankful for the safe arrival of their firstborn son.

Bro. Bill Frank underwent surgery on his shoulder recently, and we are thankful that the Lord continues to provide healing.

We were also thankful to hear of the engagement of Bro. Ross Feller (Leo, IN) to Sis. Leah Gerber (Bloomington, IL). Bro. Ross grew up in our LaCrosse congregation and we rejoice with this dear couple and their parents, Bro. Joe and Sis. Jackie Feller (Valparaiso, IN) and Bro. Mark and Sis. Barb Gerber (Bluffton, IN), as the Lord continues to draw them closer to each other and to Himself – and welcome them to visit anytime!

INDIANA, LEO

Kirby Reutter

Too much happens in one month at Leo to report in full. However, perhaps just a few highlights are in order.

First, we celebrated the births of three precious souls. Bro. Nathan and Sis. Rachel Mueller, who serve as the main houseparents at the Maple House, rejoiced with the safe arrival of precious little Daisy Grace (6 pounds, 8 ounces and 19.5 inches). In addition, two of our beloved residents from the Oak House Program had babies this past month. Our dear friend and resident Jossie rejoiced with the safe arrival of precious little Bently Ray (8 pounds, 3 ounces and 21.5 inches), while our dear friend and resident Kayla rejoiced with the safe arrival of precious little Rylie

Shane (6 pounds, 10 ounces and 19 inches).

Secondly, we celebrated the high school graduations of four precious souls, including Sis. Hannah Schrenk, Adam Sauder, Cameron Stieglitz, and Nathaniel Stoller.

Thirdly, the following dear Brothers and Sisters were nominated, balloted, and asked to serve our precious children in the Sunday School: Sis. Bethany Plattner, Sis. Molly Steffen, Bro. Bruce Drayer, Bro. Troy Reimschisel, Bro. Jarrod Steffen, and Bro. Tim Wiegand.

Fourthly, the Leo church community recently became privy to the betrothal of our dear Bro. Ross Feller (who worships with us right here in Leo) to Sis. Leah Gerber (from our beloved Bloomington congregation). Ross's parents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Jackie Feller (from our beloved congregation in Valparaiso), and Leah's parents are Bro. Mark and Sis. Barb Gerber (from our beloved congregation in Bluffton). Ross works at Gateway Woods as the Communication Coordinator, while his father Joe recently retired from eight years of loyal service as a board member to this organization.

Fifthly, our dear friends Jonathan Schumacher and Allison House were united in matrimony on May 28. Jonathan's parents are Bro. Jeff and Sis. Tina Schumacher from Leo (Bro. Jeff serves as the Administrator of Gateway Woods), while Allison's parents are Russell and Sheila House from Washington, IL.

Finally, a group of voyagers from the Gateway community will spend the first week in June teaching English lessons to primary school students in Ixtlan, Mexico. Believers from Leo, Latty, Bloomington, and Magdalena will all converge in Ixtlan to enjoy this week of worship, praise, fellowship, and service.

INDIANA, MILFORD

Janie Price Paula Haab

God has promised seasons and planting time. We've seen this promise

fulfilled again as it is warmer outside and the farmers are in the fields.

We welcomed several visitors this past month. The late Bro. Henry and Sis. Alice Beer's children gathered together bringing Bro. Victor and Sis. Dorothy (Ft. Myers) "home". Although retired, we appreciated his participation from the pews. Also "coming home" and being used on the pulpit was Bro. Willis and Sis. Lois (Beer) Ehnle (Peoria). We experienced how mightily God still uses him beyond his four score years. Another Sunday, Bro. Bob and Sis. Sue Beebe (South Bend) visited their children here. Bro. Bob was inspired and taught us from God's Word. We thank each visitor for taking the time to spend a Sunday in Milford.

Needing to be in the hospital was Bros. Lee Beer and Ray Haab, and Sis. Pam Lehman. We are thankful that they can now be back in church, but we need to continue to pray that their procedures will bring complete relief in due time. Having complications from a tonsillectomy, was a grandchild of Bro. Matt and Sis. Karen Pamer. They so diligently care for their grandchildren.

The ladies were treated to a luncheon one Saturday by a committee that chose School Days for their theme. How fitting to be reminded of the importance of learning. A minister recently reminded us that next to being thankful, Christians need to be learning more of God's ways and what He wants us to be doing for others.

Graduations will be over by the time you read this. It is always an exciting time for the young people. We pray they will include God in their plans. Seniors who please grandparents when they attend church with them are Hannah Smith (Bro. John and Sis. Carol Hurd) and Taylor Haab (Bro. Don and Sis. Martha). Kevin Schlipf (Bro. Rich and Sis. Kathy), Colin Beer (Sam), Cody Haab (Tom and Jody) and Briana Gunn (Bro. Bill and Sis. Judy Longcor) are 8th grade graduates. Graduating from Occupational Therapy school was Sis. Darcy (Bro. Loren) Schock (Bro. Phil and Sis. Janie Price). She'll seek em-

ployment in the Goodfield area where they now attend church.

Bro. Robert and Sis. Sue Cockburn announced the engagement of their daughter, Mary, and Eric Boles. An October wedding is planned.

INDIANA, REMINGTON

**Jenni Honegger
Marcella Tyler**

We are thankful that Bro. Tony Manz (Sis. Denise, Junction, OH) once again visited us and shared the Word with us. We are glad they visit their relatives here regularly and we enjoy their family's fellowship.

We congratulate Trent and Cammie Kilgus on the birth of their first child, a bouncing baby boy named Andrew Daniel. We pray that God's blessings and grace will be upon them as they raise their new little one. Andrew's thankful grandparents are Elder Bro. Dan and Sis. Jenna Kilgus, Tom Hasser, and Pam Hartman.

We have two graduates this month: Colby Waibel and Bro. Mark Waibel. Both are sons of Bro. Bruce and Sis. Jody Waibel. Colby graduates from high school and Bro. Mark graduates from college. We pray that both young men will seek the Lord and His will for their bright futures.

Bro. Stuart Kilgus (Elder Bro. Dan and Sis. Jenna) had knee surgery recently. We are thankful that he is healing well and pray for his continued recovery.

Our Sis. Lorrene Clauss Schieler passed away on May 9. Sis. Lorrene had been living at Parkview Haven for the last several years and looked forward to being with the Lord. Her sons are Tom Clauss and Bro. Rex (Sis. Tammy) Clauss, and we pray that they can find comfort in knowing that their mother is in the loving presence of Jesus after a long journey here below. May we each follow her example and pass peacefully into eternity knowing our soul is in Christ's keeping.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND Natalie Virkler

"I was glad when they said unto me,
Let us go into the house of the Lord."

Psalm 122:1

This year we celebrated the 30 year anniversary of the South Bend church building. What a wonderful blessing to have a comfortable building in which to worship unhindered! We are so very thankful to each one who has contributed to the South Bend church to make it what it is today.

A special thank you to Bro. Walt Rager for sharing the Word with us! Bro. Walt and his wife, Sis. Sharon (Toledo, OH), visited us Sunday, May 1.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO

Marguerite Hoerr

More than 65 years ago, before I was married, my Uncle Bro. Henry Beer penned the words to the hymn, "Christian Friendship". The first verse always impressed me:

There are friendships that we cherish
in our daily walk of life,
Friends with whom we meet and labor
in our earthly toil and strife,
Friends among the aged and youthful,
friends that live from us apart,
Friends of highest rank and station
find a place within my heart.

When I was a young girl I was always surprised that older members would pay attention to me and were interested in what I was doing. Now that I have joined the ranks of the "older" I understand so much better. This friendship of "the aged and youthful" was portrayed so beautifully to me recently. I sat with a visiting Sister at lunch last Sunday, and in talking to her found what brought her to our area. She told me a sweet story. She was on a work team and shared a room with a young teenage girl. She said they got along so well and struck up such an understanding between them that to her it was just won-

derful. She learned later, since they had the experience, that this girl had given her heart to the Lord, and was going to be baptized that very Sunday. She drove by herself, so she could be at LaCrosse church for the baptism. She had stayed overnight with Bro. Ken and Sis. Carol Bucher. I was privileged to sit beside her at the lunch table, and privileged more to hear this story. Sis. Christa Moser and our new Sis. Mindy Wettstein were brought together on a work team. To quote the song, "Friends with whom we meet and labor (on a work team) in our earthly toil and strife, Friends among the aged and youthful, friends that live from us apart (one in Roanoke, IL, the other in LaCrosse, IN) ... find a place within my heart." I have pondered over this story all week and wanted to share it with you.

Our Easter/Spring program was held on the first day of May. It was an inspiration to everyone. We would like to thank the Francesville quartet for their beautiful hymns that were so inspirational. Bro. Bruce Wuethrich told of the fall he had from a great height resulting in many injuries. He was told he may never walk again and that his pelvic area was so broken they expected to insert a rod through it to hold it stable, and the rod would extend out of his body. As he was being taken out of the operating room, he looked down and didn't see the rod. He said the song came to him, "To God be the Glory" and he started to sing. He sang all the verses by the time he was taken back to his room. Prayers of thanks were in all our hearts as we heard of this modern day miracle. We finished with singing "To God be the Glory".

It's graduation time. It's always a pleasure to get a picture of a young man or woman, along with the invitation to their reception. We have one graduate from high school this year in our Valpo church; Logan Weiss, son of Sis. Marsha and Bro. Dennis. We extend our love, best wishes and our prayers that God will bless him as he makes his plans for the future.

We're pleased that Bro. Art Heinold

is able to be in church with us again after a fall. We missed him during the time he spent in Florida. His cheerful manner is always appreciated and enjoyed.

Sis. Josephine Meiss has been moved from her room in a Valpo Care Facility to the hospital because she was in pain and because of an infection. She is in our prayers daily and we ask our God to take care of a dear sister who is very loved by all of us. When we entered the Valpo Church on our first Sunday, Sis. Josephine welcomed me and sat with me during services. I'll never forget her kindness to me.

Sherry Meiss is making progress since her surgery, and we're thanking God for His healing hands where she is concerned. She and Dale are concerned for his mother and are staying close by and doing all they can for her. We think of Stacia and Anthony, too. We ask God to be with this entire family as they go through some rough times.

Remember we're just 2 ¼ miles South of U. S. 30 on State Rd. 49. Visit us when you can. We will welcome you.

INDIANA WEST LAFAYETTE

**Beth Tonner
Katie Widmer**

We have had a month of new beginnings here in Lafayette.

We celebrated the baptism of four souls, Sis. Jaimie Oppermann, Bro. Kurt Bahler, Bro. Brian Allinder, and Bro. Karl Kirsch on May 1. Thank you to Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, LaCrosse) and Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Remington) for taking part in the weekend.

Congratulations to our high school and college graduates, as follows: Bro. Randy Lehman, Bro. Mark Waibel, Sis. Carrie Blunier, Sis. Alyssa Klopfenstein, Sis. Sarena Wahl, Bro. Luke Wahl, Sis. Christen Huber, Sis. Kaitlyn Bahler, Bro. Ben Stoller, Bro. Sam Kaufman, Bro. Ned Troxel, and Bro. Karl Kirsch. It is a privilege for our church body to be a part of so many young people's lives. We hope those who move away will feel welcome to come

back to visit from time to time.

The Purdue Young Group has elected new officers for the upcoming year. President - Bro. Brent Fiechter, Vice President - Bro. Matthew Gerber, Secretary - Sis. Katie Widmer, Treasurer - Sis. Janessa Wahl, Purdue Ushers - Bro. Andre Gutwein and Bro. Tad Tonner. Thank you to those who faithfully served this past year.

We look forward to Vacation Bible School which will be held the week of June 6th. The children will be learning lessons set in "Hometown Nazareth: Where Jesus was a kid."

Finally, thank you to all the fathers who have faithfully demonstrated a taste of our Heavenly Father's love to us. Happy Father's Day.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

**Donita Edelman
Sasha Kyburz**

Congratulations go to excited new grandparents, Mike and Sis. Nancy Scott. Their daughter, Niki, and Nick Pilotte have a precious daughter to love, Viola Rose. We wish Nick and Niki much grace and wisdom from the Lord in raising this precious bundle.

We extend a special thank you to those who have given of themselves in the Lord's service on our behalf. May God richly bless the following visiting ministers: Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Remington, IN) and Bros. Dale Banwart (Sis. Missy, Congerville, IL), Ned Bahler (Sis. Anna, Fairbury, IL) and Nathan Walder (Sis. Denise, Cissna Park, IL).

Our high school graduate this year is Sis. Rebekah Edelman (Bro. Kip and Sis. Donita). Our college graduates are Sis. Kimberly Lehman (Bro. Greg and Sis. MaryBeth), Emily Bahler (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Heidi) and Bro. Randy Lehman (Bro. John and Sis. RuthAnn). We pray they will always seek direction and guidance from the Lord in all their future endeavors.

IOWA, BLOOMFIELD

Rachel Stoller

"Who is like unto the LORD our God, who dwelleth on high, Who humbleth himself to behold the things that are in heaven, and in earth!"

Psalm 113:5-6

We are thankful the Lord humbled Himself to think of us and send His Son to be our Saviour. As we have just celebrated Easter, we realize this is the most He has done for us. We also had the privilege to partake of Holy Communion recently. Elder Bro. Rick Plattner (Fairbury, IL) was here to assist Bro. Doug in serving. Bro. Brad Funk (Garden Grove, IA) was with us both on Easter and Mother's Day. We are thankful to these brethren for their labors on our behalf.

The Lord remembered our congregation by writing three more names in the Book of Life this past month. Our new brothers are Nathan and Caleb Wettstein (Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Carol) and Kurt Dotterer (Bro. Joe and Sis. Rose). Elder Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL) and Bro. Bill Brake (Sardis, OH) were here to serve us that weekend.

The Lord remembered the family of Bro. Vern, Sis. Boni, and Ethan Hostetler by sending a new little girl, Lily Sue, to their home. Grandparents are Bro. Jon and Sis. Rita Wettstein and Joe and Wilma Hostetler.

We rejoice with Philip Maibach (Bro. Tim and Sis. Mary), Kendra Wuthrich (Bro. Roger and Sis. Deann), Jacob Joos (Bro. Ron and Sis. Chris) and Jeff Wuthrich (Bro. Joel and Sis. Shirley) as they have professed peace with God and man and desire Holy Baptism. May God be near during this special time of their life.

We extend sympathy to Bro. Virgil and Sis. Katrina Knobloch's family as Bro. Virgil lost his mother, Sis. Laurretta Knobloch (Lester, IA), this past month. May God comfort them in their loss.

Several souls are ready for a new phase in life. We wish God's nearness

on the marriage of Katie Townsend (Danny and Sis. Lynn) and Dustin Harris.

Congratulations to our graduates also. Alan Schock (Elder Bro. Doug and Sis. Clara) and Derek Wettstein (Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Carol) are finished with high school. Kendra Schlatter, Sis. Darcy Schock, and Sis. Emily Bahler have completed college.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Marilyn Anderson Karla Gerst

We appreciated having brethren from other congregations visit us during the last month. Among them were two ministering brothers, Bros. John Steiner and Mark Schmidgall (both of Oakville). May God bless them for sharing His Word with us.

Thy conflict is our peace,
Thy death is our salvation,
Thy bonds, our liberty,
Thy pains, our consolation.
Thy cross doth comfort give,
Thy wounds, a balm that heals.
Thy blood a ransom is,
Thy Word a hope reveals.

Lord, help and make us brave
To bear our cross and burden,
That we may not grow faint
Nor yet give up the battle.
Yea, from Thy crown of thorns
Let us our courage take,
That through reproach and shame
We ne'er Thy ways forsake.

Zion's Harp #44, vs. 5-6

IOWA, ELGIN

Maria Rocke Brianna Strahm

"He will swallow up death in victory;
and the Lord God will wipe away tears
from off all faces."

Isaiah 25:8

We extend our sympathy to the family of Sis. Ruth Metzger (West Bend, IA) as she recently passed from this life. Sis.

Ruth's funeral service was in Elgin as she lived here for many years and had many friends and family ties in our area. We are thankful for the years she was with us and the faithful example she was to our congregation. Visiting ministers assisting with the service were Elder Bro. Wayne Grimm (Sis. Rose, West Bend, IA) and Bro. Duane Metzger (Sis. Ruth, West Bend, IA).

Zavier Elias was born to Rhett and Amy Jensen on May 16 and is the grandson of Bro. Tim and Sis. Kathy Butikofer. Zavier's siblings are Trevin, Avery and Vinley.

Our thoughts go out to all the graduates of 2011. Kendra Knobloch (Bro. Jim and Sis. Marcy) will be graduating from high school on May 22. We wish her God's blessings as she plans for her future.

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

Proverbs 3:6

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE

Laura Funk

Graduating from High School is Stacia Garland, granddaughter of Bro. Tony and Sis. Eileen Funk, and Andrea Moser, daughter of Bro. Tom and Sis. Dawn Moser. We pray for God's leading as these two young ladies step out into the world.

Bringing God's Word to us this month include Bro. Joe Dotterer (Bloomfield, IA), Bro. Kevin Banwart (West Bend, IA) and Bro. Craig Martin (Princeville, IL). May God bless each of His servants.

Protect, O Lord, Thy children,
As we still tarry here,
That we in realms of glory
May then with Thee appear.

Zion's Harp #138, vs. 9

IOWA, IOWA CITY

Diana Butikofer

We have several graduates this year. Noah Landherr (Ron and Audrey) is graduating from high school and plans

to pursue a career in criminal justice at a local college. Bro. Luke Gerst (Bro. Joe and Sis. Connie) graduated from Kirkwood Community College and is continuing his education in an aviation program fairly close by in Dubuque, IA. Sis. Alicen Wagenbach, Sis. Carly Wagenbach, and Sis. Kaylee Lanz, all from Oakville, IA, have graduated from the University of Iowa; we appreciated their attendance on Wednesday evenings and when they stayed in the area on weekends and will miss them as they move on. Sis. Alicen finished her pharmacy degree and will be working in Illinois. Now that Sis. Carly has completed her degree in Social Studies Education and Sis. Kaylee has her degree in Chemistry, they will be seeking employment. We wish all of our graduates the Lord's blessings and guidance as they continue their education or seek/begin new jobs.

We are thankful our Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Sis. Julie, Oakville, IA) was willing to come and share Holy Communion with us. We appreciate Bro. Jon and Bro. Joe Gerst's service to us as we partook of the bread and wine. Bro. Jon also stayed for Sunday and assisted on the pulpit along with Bro. Phil Schulz (Sis. Kelli, Oakville, IA).

**IOWA, LESTER
Polly Metzger
Gloria Moser**

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

James 1:17

Two precious gifts have brought much happiness to their families. Bro. Eric and Sis. Joy Kupferschmid welcomed a daughter, Elly Joy, on April 20. Levi, Drew and Kate are excited for a new sister. Bro. Richard and Sis. Maribeth Kupferschmid (Eureka, IL) and Bro. Pat and Sis. Twyla Meyer are the grandparents. May 11 is the birth date of Julia Jennecka Rinkenberger. Bro. Isaac and Sis. Melissa, Rebekah, Noah, Barak, Joshua and Caleb are the

thankful family. Bro. Jake and Sis. Glenna Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL) and Bro. Pete and Sis. Susan Van Wyhe are thankful for another precious grandchild. May these dear families look to the Lord as they raise their children.

Sharing the Gospel over the Easter weekend were Bro. Wayne Fehr (Portland, OR) and Bro. Curt Walder (Mansfield, OH). We appreciate their willingness to share the Word of Life with us.

"I called upon the Lord in my distress: the Lord answered me, and set me in a large place. The Lord is on my side; I will not fear..."

Psalms 118:5-6

Many prayers have ascended to our Heavenly Father as we remember those suffering with physical afflictions and undergoing various medical treatments. Bro. Larry Peterson (Sis. Emily) and Bro. Verlyn Kellenberger (Sis. Linda) have spent time in the hospital. Seven year old Kendon Knoblock (Bro. Marti and Sis. Martha) has recently been released from St. Mary's Hospital and is now residing at the Transplant House in Rochester, Minnesota. His address is:

*Kendon Knoblock
724 1st Street SW
Rochester, MN 55902*

May 14 was the wedding day of Carrie Knoblock (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Coralee) and Justin Brower. We wish them God's blessings.

Oh, what is more delightful, And in what blessed state,
When we our souls and bodies: To God do consecrate?

There freed from earthly burdens,
with no more pain or ache,
Till in the glorious morning....He calls "Awake! Awake!"

There with the angels singing, In heaven we shall roam,
With gratitude proclaiming: "We've reached the soul's bright home."

Zion's Harp #139

At this time of Mother's Day, our congregation has bid farewell to two dear mothers and sisters-in-faith. Sis. Lauretta Knobloch was called to rest on April 27 at the age of 74. We sympathize with her children: David, Donald and Lorry, Jerry and Sis. Linda (Congerville, IL), Bro. Jim and Sis. Sandy (West Bend, IA), Harlan (Dallas, TX), Bro. Virgil and Sis. Katrina (Bloomfield, IA), Mark and Lynette Knips and Alvin and Sandra Knobloch, and extended family: Sis. Gladys Knobloch, Bro. Art and Sis. Elgeva Knobloch and Dale and Sis. Mary Knobloch.

On May 9, Sis. Leona Wulf passed into eternity at the age of 88 years. Our love and sympathy is extended to her children: Bro. Dave and Sis. Carol Knapp (Roanoke, IL), Bro. Dale and Sis. Becky Wulf, Bro. Arden and Sis. Darlene Stoller (Sabetha, KS), Bro. Arnie and Sis. Myra Wulf, Bro. Stan and Sis. Pam Wulf (Morris, MN) and Bro. Leroy and Sis. Carolyn Wulf (Burlington, IA), and sisters: Sis. Alice Metzger and Sis. Esty Metzger.

"Flourishing youth, Thou our hope and our fond expectation..."

Zion's Harp #168

Graduation time is upon us and we rejoice that God has granted achievements to our high school and college graduates. We have high hopes and expectations for each one of them and pray they will seek God's guidance and follow His direction for their lives. Our high school graduates include: Philip Feucht (Bro. Roy and Sis. Melisa), Karmen Klostergaard (Brad and Sis. Linda), Clark Knobloch (Bro. Myron and Sis. Beth), Garth Knobloch (Bro. Vern and Sis. Chalea), Sis. Maura Knobloch (Bro. Stan and Sis. Dawn), Sadie Knobloch (Bro. Dan and Sis. ReJean), Sis. Joanna Knoblock (Bro. Terry and Sis. Elaine), Brendan Metzger (Bro. Blair and Sis. Julie), Samuel Meyer (Bro. Denis and Sis. Jill), Sis. Janae Mogler (Bro. Dwight and Sis. Donna), Jeff Moser

(Bro. Donn and Sis. Joyce) and Maranda Oleson (Kevin and Janet). College Graduates are: Mitchell Barber (Mike and Sis. Donna), Ruth Feucht (Bro. Roy and Sis. Melisa), Jeena Metzger (Bro. Art and Sis. Kris), Miranda Metzger (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Dawn) and Sis. Crystal Moser (Bro. Rick and Sis. Lori).

As Father's Day approaches, we are so thankful for our fathers and the love and help they so willingly share, just as our heavenly Father shares His love and help when we humbly seek Him.

IOWA, OAKVILLE **Sharla Wiegand**

We were blessed with visiting ministers this month including Bro. Michael Wagenbach (Wolcott, IN), Bro. Bruce Frank (Cissna Park, IL) and Bro. Scott Wegman (Taylor, MO).

On May 15, we witnessed the baptisms of Reed Wagenbach (Bro. Colin and Sis. Barb), Jared Schmidgall (Bro. Aaron and Sis. Luann), Josh Lanz (Bro. Ron and Sis. Timna) and Kaylyn Lanz (Bro. Robby and Sis. Kris). Helping with this important work were Elder Bros. Brad Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) and Rod Bajema (Lester, IA). Other visiting ministers on this special occasion were Bro. Brian Metzger (Lester, IA) and Bro. Phil Schulz (Burlington, IA). May the Lord bless each one for their labors.

First-time parents, Bro. Ben and Sis. Kasha Lanz, welcomed Tate Benjamin into their family on April 27. Tate's grandparents are Bro. Doug and Sis. Judy Kraft (Lamont/Gridley, KS) and Bro. Keith and Sis. Tonya Lanz.

IOWA, WEST BEND **Janet Fehr** **Leona Fehr**

Elder Bro. Roy Koehl (Sis. Jenell, Morris, MN) joined our Elder Bro. Wayne Grimm in serving Holy Communion to our congregation on Palm Sunday. It was a blessed evening together as we partook of the Lord's supper with a prayer on our hearts. May God bless Bro. Roy as well as Bro.

Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy, Portland, OR) for their part in the day, and we look forward to having Bro. Wayne with us for a few weeks this spring.

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

Psalms 116:15

On earth it is a time of sorrow and grief when we bid a final farewell to our loved ones. It gives us comfort and courage to know it is precious in the sight of the Lord. Bidding a final farewell to her mother on April 27 was Sis. Eunice (Bro. Dan) Fehr. Sis. Ruth Metzger resided in the assisted living/care center here in West Bend for the last 8 years of her life. Her funeral took place in her home congregation at Elgin, IA.

Also on April 27, Bro. Jim (Sis. Sandy) Knobloch was thankful to be present when his mother, Sis. Laretta Knobloch (Lester), breathed her last earthly breath.

Sis. Leona Wulf (Lester) passed from life into eternity on May 9, and we extend our sympathy to Sis. Lela Banwart in the passing of her sister. May we all strive to reach Heaven's portals where loved ones are gathering. Our prayers are certainly with all those who are grieving.

We had a couple loved ones spend a short amount of time in the hospital this past month and we are thankful they have returned home. These dear sisters are Sis. Pearl Anliker and Sis. Joyce Banwart. May the Lord continue to provide for their needs.

Sunday, May 15, was graduation time here in West Bend. We appreciated Bro. Jim Butikofer (Sis. Diana, Iowa City, IA) being here to share in this special occasion. The 2011 graduating seniors are as follows: Jake Bruellman (Bro. Mark and Sis. Deb), Colleen Fehr (Bro. Byron and Sis. Anita), Jessica Fehr (Bro. Mark and Sis. Janet), Jordan Knobloch (Bro. Jim and Sis. Sandy), Cody Schmidt (Bro. Neal and Sis. Angela), Elisabeth Virkler (Bro. Andy and Sis. Becky), and Sis. Heidi Zaugg (Bro. Pat and Sis. Julie). We pray that

each one will take the precious teachings of their parents and Sunday School teachers to heart. "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." (Matt. 6:33)

JAPAN, SHIODA **Carrie Ito**

We are thankful for our visitors this month — Elder Bro. Mark Bahr and Sis. Bev, and Bro. Dale and Sis. Meg Koch and their daughter Maria (Tremont).

JAPAN, TOKYO **Jana Klaus**

We had our Holy Communion service on Sunday, May 8, and thank Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI) who came with his wife, Sis. Bev, to assist our Elder Bro. Akito Inoue. How humbling, and yet what a privilege it is, to remember the Lord's suffering for each of us and every human being He so lovingly created throughout the ages. We had a large group, as all members were present except our dear Sisters Shizuko Urushino (who is hospitalized) and Kido-san from the southern island of Kyushu. Even Sis. Yoshiko Sakuta was given strength to join us for the day. How can anyone find words to describe how it will be in heaven to sit at the wedding feast with our Savior Jesus and people of ALL nations?

Bro. Akihiro, Sis. Carrie and little Tomoki Itoh (Shioda) joined us for church services on Sunday, May 22, as they brought Bro. Dale (Carrie's cousin), Sis. Meg and little Maria Koch (Tremont, IL) to worship with us. We appreciated Bro. Akihiro's morning service and Bro. Dale's afternoon Bible study and thank God for a truly blessed day.

May is also the month for our annual business meeting, covering the topics from Sunday school teachers and various jobs, to financial reports and the giving/relief/recovery work for the northeastern tsunami victims. New Sunday School teachers are Sisters Sa-

rah and Hannah Klaus who will be taking turns with veteran S. S. teacher Sis. Marie Inoue to teach the kindergarten/lower elementary class. They are replacing Sis. Grace Klaus, who has moved back to the US (Washington, IL) after over 10 years of teaching English here. We will miss her excellent Sunday School teaching skills, but pray God will bless her in this new phase in her life. Sisters Yoko Suzurikawa and Jana Klaus will take turns with veteran S.S. teachers, Sisters Onoda and Hiroko in teaching the upper elementary/jr hi class. We pray for God's abundant help in teaching all the precious children.

We again want to thank each and every one who has given so generously through World Relief and other organizations to benefit the tsunami victims. We thank God for all the relief workers who are giving their time and energy, especially to show the love of Christ and the hope that comes through Him. Please continue to pray for comfort and revival in the hearts of the people of Japan.

Our hearts and prayers also go out to the many suffering people in our beloved country of America going through tornado and flooding disasters. May God have mercy in drawing us all closer to Him during these trying times.

Speaking from a personal experience here — recently we had our annual disaster drill at the local elementary school, where a parent/guardian is told to pretend an earthquake happened at 1 PM and walk to the school to pick up your child/children, who are waiting in their classrooms with their head protector cushion on (which they store in a cover on the back of their desk chair). I have to admit that in the past, I found these somewhat bothersome, especially until a couple years ago, as they used to take place in the heat of summer outside on the playground (and I was often pregnant!). However, this time, it was rather sobering, and I felt ashamed that I had looked at it as a bother. I have three children in elementary school this year, and we were told to start with the oldest child, so I found myself in a long

line outside of my 5th grader's classroom. Another lady soon lined up behind me, and I recognized her as the mother of a very friendly boy, who had been in the same class as my daughter for a number of years and whose younger brother was in the same kindergarten as my youngest son now. At the time of the big earthquake on March 11, this mother and I were actually very near each other, huddled under our children's desks, as we had just begun a parents/teacher meeting at the school. As I stood in line beside her now, I struck up a conversation with her and it turned to the March 11 earthquake. Imagine my surprise when she tells me that she is from Miyagi-ken, the very prefecture where the earthquake was centered offshore, and that her parents' house was washed away in the tsunami. My thoughts went back to that day we were huddled together under our children's desks — I was praying like mad for God to watch over my children, whom I had just left 10 minutes earlier, and who were all at home together or very nearby at a neighbor's house playing, and here this woman had no idea that her parents and sister with a newborn baby were about to flee for their lives. But, thanks to God, they had escaped to a hospital on higher ground (with nothing, but that newborn baby wrapped in a blanket). But the danger was not over, as the water from the waves reached to the top of the first floor ceiling of the hospital—her relatives were again spared as they were part of the evacuees and/or residents who were able to run up the stairs to higher floors, but many of those who were helpless in wheel chairs or unable to move, perished. She told me she and her children would visit there every summer for a vacation, and now Grandpa and Grandma's house and everything in it, every memento is gone. But, she was so calm throughout the whole conversation and only expressed thankfulness that her relatives had survived. I wonder though, what is she really thinking inside? The Japanese in general are a very reserved people, finding it difficult to show or express their

true heart feelings. Please join us in praying that God would give them the grace, courage and humbleness to open their hearts to find healing and peace and that He would lead them to the right place and people to guide them to Him.

KANSAS, BERN
Sheri Edelman
Jill Meyer

"I love Jesus because He first loved me."

Children's Harp, #124

What a blessing to be able to tell of another convert! Benton Rokey (Bro. Dwight and Sis. Anita) has begun his repentance. May God lead him and provide for him as he starts this heavenly journey!

We thank our visiting ministers and their wives for sharing with us this past month. Bro. Dale Wulf (Sis. Becky, Lester, IA) and Bro. Tim Lehman (Sis. Amber, Taylor, MO) were here for Good Friday services and then Bro. Tim and family stayed for Easter services as well.

Our congregation appreciated hearing a Gateway Woods presentation one evening with the Sabetha congregation.

Our sympathy is extended to the entire family of Sis. Leona Wulf who passed away into eternity. From our congregation we want to especially mention her daughter and family, Bro. Arden, Sis. Dar, Sis. Laurie, and Benji. May God grant comfort to each of you now and always.

Laura Baumgartner (Bro. Jay and Sis. Heidi) is our high school graduate this year. We also have two graduates from Kansas State University. Sis. Maria Baumgartner (Bro. John and Sis. Lori) has received her education degree and Bro. Jeffrey Edelman (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Linda) has earned his Agriculture Engineering degree. May God lead each graduate as they continue on in life.

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT Martin Hohulin, Sr.

This article of the Silver Lining may be somewhat late as I am writing it from a hospital bed in Lamar, MO, where I have been confined for the past week. I anticipate going home soon and sincerely appreciate all the calls and visits I have received.

May is graduation month, and we have had a number of graduates from our congregation. Bro. Ryan Kellenberger and Anna Marie Bahr are graduating from Pittsburg State University. He is the son of Bro. Rick and Sis. Karen Kellenberger. Mikayla Boge is graduating from Kansas State University. She is the daughter of Bro. Bill and Sis. Jan Boge. Sis. Adriene Bahr is graduating from Fort Scott Community College School of Nursing. Bro. Jerod Bahr is graduating from Christian Heights High School. All the Bahrs are children of Bro. Jerry and Sis. Maria Bahr. Noah Fischer is graduating eighth grade from the Fort Scott Christian Learning Center. He is the son of Bro. Jeff and Sis. Gloria Fischer.

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. David Hartter (Sis. Beth) and Bro. Klint Beyer (Sis. Kara), both from Sabetha, KS. May God richly bless them for serving us.

On May 8, Bro. Gene and Sis. Linda Banwart attended the marriage of their daughter, Sis. Andrea, to Bro. Rick Hany in Rockville, CT. He is the son of Bro. Rick and Sis. Betsy Hany from Rockville. Also making the trip was Sis. Juanita Sinn, maternal grandmother of the bride as well as other family members. May God bless them as they begin their new life together.

KANSAS, KIOWA Janice Bahr Jenny Stewart

“And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought

her unto the man. And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.”

Genesis 2:21-24

We were so happy to hear of the engagement of Sis. Stephanie Bahr (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Janice) to Bro. Joel Rinckenberger (Bro. Jim and Sis. Jeanne) of Bluffton, IN. Bro. Joel and Sis. Stephanie are to be married June 5 in the Apostolic Christian church on the CVE campus in Magdalena De Kino Sonora, Mexico, where they have both lived and worked at our Church Outreach Orphanage for the past five years; Sis. Stephanie as a caregiver to four young children, and Bro. Joel as an overseer of work teams and maintenance on the CVE campus. May God richly bless them as they join their lives in Him, and as they continue their work for Him there in Mexico where they plan to stay until God would direct them elsewhere. Receptions for them in Bluffton and Kiowa are planned in July.

We are so thankful that our five hospital patients (four of those who had various types of surgery and one who was very ill for a time) are recuperating nicely and are able to worship with us again. May we never fail to hold each other up in prayer, as the Great Physician knows and hears our petitions for those we love.

Time goes by so quickly, and it is hard to believe that our precious Staci Stewart (Bro. Kelly and Sis. Jenny) is graduating from high school. Staci is a joy to our church here in Kiowa, and we wish her all of God's love, grace and guidance as she makes the next step in her life.

Proverbs 3:5-6 says what we feel in our hearts: “Trust in the Lord with all thine heart and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him and he shall direct thy paths.”

We extend our deepest gratitude to

Bro. Max Reimschisel (Wichita) and his wife, Sis. Judy, and daughter, Sis. Schanda, for sharing a Sunday with us recently to feed our flock from the Scriptures. One of our ministers was away for a graduation and the other was recuperating from a knee surgery, so Bro. Max graciously agreed to help us. Thanks so much and God bless.

KANSAS LAMONT-GRIDLEY Sarah Somerhalder

During this Easter season, may we remember our dear Lord's suffering, death, and glorious resurrection for the wonderful plan of salvation. Visiting ministers for Good Friday Services and on Easter were Bro. Cory Metzger (Sis. Jodi, Wichita, KS) and Bro. Brandon Emch (Sis. Maria, Kansas City, MO). May the Lord bless them for bringing the Word of Truth to us.

Bro. Doug and Sis. Judy Kraft are rejoicing in the arrival of their first grandchild. Tate Benjamin was born April 27 to Bro. Ben and Sis. Kasha Lanz (Oakville, IA). Paternal grandparents are Bro. Keith and Sis. Tonya Lanz (Oakville, IA).

We enjoyed hosting the Kansas/Missouri/Colorado Youth Fellowship on the weekend of April 30 – May 1. This included the Sunday school teachers and students of the sixth through eighth grade classes. Ministering Bro. Mark Schmidgall (Sis. Sally, Oakville, IA) spoke to the students about the relevant issues of our time. Bro. Brad Funk (Sis. Laura, Garden Grove, IA) also ministered to us that weekend. May the Lord bless them for their labors of love.

KANSAS, SABETHA Carrie Grimm Sally Strahm

Good Friday
Hill of Golgotha, place of a skull,
Grim in its mission of hate,
The worst of all criminals were taken
there

Where lingering death was their fate.
 Death on the cross! The most
 dreaded words
 Prisoners of old ever heard.
 So cruel was the sneer and jeer of the
 crowd
 As the crowd so angrily cried.
 Though totally innocent and loving
 still,
 To be whipped and crucified.
 Oh! The awful pain and weight He
 feels,
 The cross too heavy to bear,
 For it's loaded down with mankind's
 sins-
 Yes, all of our troubles and care.
 But love has triumphed and ever will,
 No grave could hold Him long,
 The angels came and He arose,
 Having conquered death and wrong.
 This is the Savior in whom we de-
 light,
 To serve, to praise and to love.
 He gave His all. If we do the same,
 We may join His glory above.

We were thankful for the message that God sent to us on Good Friday and Easter Sunday. We joined the Bern congregation for Good Friday services. Visiting ministers preaching the Word that evening were Bro. Dale Wulf (Sis. Becky, Lester, IA) and Bro. Tim Lehman (Sis. Amber, Taylor, MO).

We gathered together to share in Holy Communion on May 7. Elder Bro. Jim Plattner (Sis. Marlene, Princeville, IL) along with Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern, KS) came to assist our Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzell. May God bless you both for lending yourselves in the Lord's work.

We were privileged to have the Elder Agenda Committee meet April 28-29 in our area preparing for the Fall Elder Conference. May we continue to pray for them as they meet from time to time. Wednesday, April 27, we were blessed to have evening church services. Among us were Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Sis. Jeannine, Mansfield, OH), Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Sis. Clara, Bloomfield, IA), Elder Bro. Phillip Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North, IN) and Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Sis. Kathy,

Roanoke, IL).

We also appreciate Bro. Ron Isch (Sis. Jane, Lamont-Gridley) and Bro. Greg Braker (Sis. Wendy, Lamar, MO) ministering to us this month.

We rejoice with first-time parents, Bro. Art and Sis. Joy Kellenberger, as Seth Arthur was added to their family circle on May 15. Loving grandparents are Bro. Paul and Sis. Marilyn Nenadov (Bradford, IL) and Sis. Marian Kellenberger (the late Bro. Eugene).

There was a potluck, singing and presentation on Gateway Woods given by Bro. Tim Sauder on Sunday, May 1.

Lakeside Terrace (Home for the Handicap) in Sabetha celebrated 20 years of service. There was a reception at the Fellowship Center in Sabetha on May 1. May God bless all the workers and volunteers.

Now that spring has arrived, we have ended our Wednesday evening church services and have begun our every other Sunday evening church singings. There is truly a blessing in the singing of praises to our Lord.

Our Junior Bible Sunday School Class traveled to Lamont-Gridley, KS, the weekend of April 30-May 1. May God bless the Lamont-Gridley church for hosting that weekend.

Our hospital patient this month was Sis. Marian Kellenberger. May God grant her healing and strength.

As we think of our mothers and fathers, may we take this verse to heart.

"Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee."

Exodus 20:12

We would like to welcome Bro. Corbin Knoblock (Bro. Tom and Sis. Jeri) of the Lamont-Gridley, KS, congregation as he will be assembling with us this summer.

Note of Thanks:

Thank you for the many cards and deeds of kindness shown to us for our 55th anniversary. Also, special thanks to the group who delivered an Easter

basket filled with treats.

Bro. Harvey and Sis. Arleta Wenger

KANSAS, WICHITA

Emma Miller

Sadly, we have learned that Sis. Kathleen Gallatin is seriously ill and we have added her name to our prayer list.

You may have read the Wichita entry in the April Silver Lining. I asked for help to find the Zion's Harp song which used the word "asperse". I am happy to tell you that seven souls sent me the information I wanted. Also, a sister from Ohio called me.

Song #198, "Our conversation is in Heaven", verse 4, reads as follows:

Should our enemies asperse us,
 Our dear Lord who loves us so,
 Bids us bless e'en those who curse us
 And to love our greatest foe.
 He who died for our salvation
 And on us hath life bestowed,
 Wills that by our conversation
 We should glorify our God.

Several of the sisters told me that they set aside a time each day to read hymns from the Zion's Harp. Using the hymns as a devotional is a practice I should start.

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON

Barb Huber

"Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord."

II Peter 1:2

It was a privilege to partake of Holy Communion on Saturday evening, May 14. We appreciate the efforts of our dear Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Sis. Roberta, Smithville, OH) who has always been faithful to serve on our behalf. We were grateful for the assistance of retired Elder Bro. Henry Dotterer (Rittman, OH) also, in this blessed event. We thank these dear servants of the Lord for their labors of love and pray the Lord to bless and reward them.

Other visiting ministers who came to share God's Holy Word and to lend themselves in the Lord's service were: Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern, KS) and Bro. Troy Leyse (Sis. Kathy, Bluffton, IN). We pray God will bless them and their dear families for their efforts to travel the many miles and to bless our time of fellowship on the Lord's day.

Brethren and friends who assembled with us were represented from Chicago and Morton, IL; Bluffton, IN; Junction and Latty, OH. Your Christian fellowship was a real joy and blessing.

Again, we extend a warm welcome to all visitors who may be in our area or travelling through. Contact Bro. Lester Huber (859) 745-2541. Church services are held at 3938 Becknerville Rd., Winchester, KY. Directions to the church are in the 2010 minister's book.

MEXICO, IXTLAN **Matt Gerber**

"What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God? God forbid. For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion."

Romans 9:14-15

In late April, Bro. Lalo Ugalde's wife, Sis. Silvia, and their youngest child, Andres, were in a serious automobile accident on the way from Queretaro to Ixtlan. Andres was thrown out of the rolling vehicle and landed on the highway. Miraculously, God spared his life. Both mother and son were hospitalized but released after a few days. Despite the injuries and the total loss of the family's only vehicle, Bro. Lalo expressed his gratitude toward God for His mercy. He also shared a passage from the book of Jonah through which God had spoken to him after the accident. "Sometimes, like Jonah, we are sleeping instead of doing what God has called us to do, and God has to send difficulty to

wake us up."

The church shares the sorrow of Sis. Luz Brenes in the sudden death of her son, Gonzalo AviZa. He left behind a wife and four young children. Please pray for the AviZa family during this difficult time.

Bro. Loren Schrenk (St. Louis) and the helpers on the eye team experienced God's grace as the week of eye surgeries went very successfully and many people were helped. Their good work helps the testimony of the church in Ixtlan and is a positive witness of God's love to the community.

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

"And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body."

Matthew 26:26

We were blessed with the presence of Elder Bro. Mike Leman and his wife, Sis. Deb, Denver, CO) for our yearly Holy Communion. We thank them for traveling so far to remember and worship with us.

Our congregation would like to welcome Sis. Moonlight Szabo, originally from Bay City, to Alto. We are blessed to have her assembling with us.

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

Matthew 5:4

Prayers of comfort are lifted for our dear Bro. Wally Gerst (Donna) at the passing of his brother. Bro. Steve Gerst (Sis. Bonnie, Goodfield, IL) went to be with his Saviour this month. The hearts of family and friends ache at this parting, yet we have hope of seeing him again in eternity.

With much joy and thankfulness our congregation witnessed the union of two hearts in the Lord. Some months back, Bro. Brett Messner (Bro. Dean

and Sis. Wanda, Winthrop MN) felt the Lord's leading to ask for Sis. Becky Baumann (Bro. Mike and Sis. Lily). On May 8 their vows were exchanged. Many ministering brothers joined us in service for the weekend. We are thankful to each of them and their families for their love and service. The brothers included: Bro. Duane Metzger (Sis. Ruth, West Bend, IA), Bro. Tim Gerber (Sis. Wendy, Mansfield, OH), Bro. Fred Domka (Sis. Connie, Mansfield, OH), Bro. Dean Steffen (Sis. Carol, Belvidere, IL), and Bro. Dean Messner (Sis. Wanda, Winthrop, MN).

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

Elder Bro. Duane Rocke (Sis. Bonnie, Minneapolis, MN) assisted our Elder Bro. John Jackson in serving Holy Communion to our congregation on May 15. We are thankful for the service each of these brothers provided to our congregation. Bro. Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi, Alto, MI) also visited our congregation on a recent Wednesday evening.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Stacy and Sis. Marcie Cowan in the passing of Stacy's father, Bryan. We trust that God will be with their family in the coming days. Bro. Robert Knochel, Sis. Lois Wieland and Sis. Nina Wieland are also mourning the loss of their sister, Sis. Arlene Belsley (Detroit, MI).

We also want to remember Bro. Jim Ramseyer (Sis. Marlene) as he has spent time in the hospital recently. Our prayer is that God would heal all according to His will.

We also want to remember Sis. Nina Wieland as she has relocated to Woodhaven of Livonia for a period of time.

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

Philippians 4:4

MICHIGAN, DETROIT
Kay Rauhe
Manuela Denes

“And as they did eat, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and brake it, and gave to them, and said, Take, eat: this is my body. And he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them: and they all drank of it.”

Mark 14:22-23

What a beautiful evening it was when we gathered together to take part in the Lord's Supper. There is always such a blessing when we take time to ponder over the sacrifice and love our Saviour had for us! We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Tom Waldbeser (Sis. Susan, Atlanta, GA) to assist our Elder Bro. Mark Bahr with this very important work.

A special note of thanks goes out to those ministering brothers who came to visit us in Detroit to share the Word. Bro. Dan Koch (Sis. Julie, Tremont, IL), Bro. Howard Plattner (Sis. Kristen, Alto, MI), Elder Bro. John Jackson, who gave a sermon at our Woodhaven nursing home and Bro. Glenn Ruegsegger, Jr. who assisted him and are both from Bay City, MI. May the Lord richly bless you for your time and love—please come again!

It is always exciting for a small church such as Detroit when new people come to live here. We heartily welcome four young men who will be living in the house that can be found right next door to our church. Bro. Jason Koch (Bro. Dan and Sis. Julie, Tremont, IL) is here doing graduate work at the University of Michigan; Bro. Ned Troxel (Bro. Tom and Sis. LuAnn, LaCrosse, IN) has accepted employment with Chrysler; Bro. Matthew Gerber (Bro. Gene and Sis. Becky, Bluffton, IN) and Nick Schlatter (Bro. Jay and Sis. Carola, Bay City, MI) are both here for summer jobs. May your time with us in Detroit be a time of growth and success!

We said goodbye to a dear Sister this month. The Lord took Sis. Arlene Belsley to be home with Him. She was

loved by us all and we will miss her! She leaves behind many dear family members, especially her children: daughters, Barb (Dave) Bayne, Marsha (Walter) Henscke, Janice (Dave) Barta, and sons, Dale (Wendy) Belsley and Ken Belsley, along with many beloved grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Sis. Suzanne, Sis. Anna and Pauline Sabados want to thank all for the cards, thoughts, and prayers that came to them before and after the passing of their brother Joseph. Such a small thing as a card or a phone call, come to mean so much when we lose someone who is precious to us! May God keep them all in His precious care.

We're thankful that Bro. Leonard Hitz came through hip replacement surgery successfully. We pray that God continues His healing mercies to Bro. Leonard and others who are dealing with sickness and health concerns.

Sis. Barb Johnson wanted to share a note of thanks with everyone:

“I wish to express my heartfelt thanksgiving to all who have remembered us in prayers, cards and many acts of kindness since my diagnosis of cancer last fall. God has been very gracious and good to us throughout these months of chemotherapy. I am doing well overall and the cancer markers are coming down. I will remain on chemotherapy for most likely another six months. Thanks again to everyone for the love and support from around the world. May God reward each of you abundantly as you have so generously and graciously given on our behalf.”

Barb and Kyra Johnson

And, once more we in Detroit would like to take this opportunity to invite one and all for our Annual Choir Benefit:

If you have never been to the Detroit church, please consider the following your personal invitation to come and visit us. If you have been here before and would like to return, the invitation is especially for you, too! Everyone is

warmly welcomed and personally invited to be part of the Detroit Church's 23rd Annual Choir Benefit. Following last year's popular format, the dinner will be at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 16, followed by a 7:00 p.m. choral program all taking place at the church. The invitation is for the entire weekend and overnight accommodations are being coordinated by Bro. Scott and Sis. Jamie Bahr (734) 513-5907 or spbahr@yahoo.com. Please RSVP for meal planning purposes to Bro. Scott or Sis. Jamie by the 4th of July. Come and glorify God with us!

MINNESOTA
MINNEAPOLIS
Tim McMillan

We started the month reading Ezekiel Ch. 25 and 1Cor. 3. God struck down the Ammonites because they mocked Him and His people Israel. 1Cor 3:17 “If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is Holy, which temple ye are.” Not only we as individuals are part of the body of Christ (the temple of God), but the church as a whole is as well. When we bring something into our lives and/or our church, do we first ask, “will this defile the temple”? There is no place in the temple (body) for worldly ways or traditions of men. Lest we stray too far, ask ourselves where are the Ammonites? God has made clear what He will do to those who mock Him.

We are thankful that there are no tragedies or disasters in our congregation this month. The many tornadoes throughout the country and here in Minnesota are a reminder of Who is truly in charge. We pray for those who have lost much this season and hope for clearer skies.

As the summer months approach, we are hopeful that many brethren will visit our congregation on their way up north. These visits are always uplifting for us and we hope for those who visit as well.

We are saddened that Bro. Perry and Sis. Carol Virkler are preparing to leave

for Illinois. If we were to have our way, we would want them to stay for many more years, but the Lord knows what is best, and we pray the best for them.

Renew my will from day to day;
blend it with thine;
and take away all now that makes it
hard to say,
"Thy will be done".

Gospel Hymns #229, vs. 4

MINNESOTA, MORRIS

**Kim Feuchtenberger
Susie Wulf**

We were thankful for visiting ministering Bro. Kent Getz (Elgin, IA) as he spent a Sunday with us. Also Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) and Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) visited us on a Wednesday evening. May each minister and Elder feel the sword of the Spirit as they instruct God's children on the pathway of duty.

We would like to welcome Bro. Derek and Sis. Annie Knapp and their daughter Kelsey to our congregation. They have relocated from West Bend, IA.

The wedding of Bro. Kyle Feuchtenberger (Bro. Ken and Sis. Sally, Morris, MN) and Sis. Rachel Martin (Bro. Craig and Sis. Marilyn) of Eureka, IL, took place on May 15. May the Lord's blessings be upon this couple.

The engagement of Bro. Ken Messner (Bro. Sid and Sis. Cheryl) and Sis. Mindy Braker (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Carol) of Lamar, MO, was announced. May this couple feel God's nearness and blessings in the days to come.

April 21 brought the arrival of Zeke Thomas Furrer. Welcoming Zeke home are parents, Bro. Ben and Sis. Kristi, and siblings: Ted, Stacey and Jerry, Jr. Grandparents are Bro. Thomas and Sis. Jill Furrer and Bro. Dennis and Sis. Shirley Kellenberger (Lester, IA).

On May 14, Bro. Taylor and Sis. Tanya Gramm welcomed their first child, Kyria Rose. Grandparents are Bro. Tim and Sis. Gwen Gramm and Bro. Arnie and Sis. Myra Wulf (Lester, IA).

Our prayers are with Bro. Kenny and Sis. Sally Feuchtenberger as Bro. Kenny has been diagnosed with colon cancer. May they feel the strength of God as they take all their cares and concerns to Him.

What a friend we have in Jesus,
all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
everything to God in prayer...

Hymns of Zion #161

MINNESOTA MORRIS NORTH Wanda Gramm Lois Schmidgall

"For ye shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace; The mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands."

Isaiah 55:12

We are entering into such a beautiful time and season....Spring is here! A time of resurrection, rebirth and renewing; couldn't help but think of the verse in Isaiah. Doesn't it just seem that the mountains are singing and the trees are clapping their hands? Living for Christ can bring this joy to our hearts.

We have been so blessed this month again. Our church enjoyed our Easter breakfast, a beautiful time together remembering the resurrection of our Lord. It just seemed that the songs that our children and other groups sang were so very beautiful and touching. Can we realize how much Christ did for us?

Our appreciation to the Brothers and their wives for coming to share God's Word with us. Ministering to us this month were Bro. Clint Schmidt (Sis. Magdalena, Winthrop, MN), Bro. Dale Wulf (Sis. Becky, Lester, IA), Bro. Ken Hoerr (Sis. Darlene, Peoria, IL), Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL), Bro. Galen Rokey (Sis. Nancy, Bern, KS), our Elder Bro. Paul Messner (Winthrop, MN), Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH), and El-

der Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH). May God richly bless you for your labors of love.

Mark and Becky Reutter's home was blessed with a little bundle of joy. Madalynn Marie is welcomed by her parents and sisters, Blaire and Cassidy. Grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Carolyn Reutter (Morris) and Dan and MaryJo Damman.

Our hearts are saddened to hear of Bro. Brad Gramm's passing. Bro. Brad has many aunts, uncles and cousins from our church. Our love and prayers continue to lift his family up.

We thank Elder Bro. Earl Ringger for sharing with us a topical Bible study on Prophecy and the end times. Just seems that there is so much going on around us that we just can't help but look up for we feel that our redemption times does draw nigh.

On May 7, Bro. Ken Hoerr (Sis. Darlene, Peoria, IL) joined us for a potluck supper and in the evening Bro. Ken gave of himself with a Biblical Topical Study.

We can't express how much we thirst for the Word, and how much we appreciate it when you Brothers take time out of your schedule to share God's Word with us.

Our hospital patients this month were: Sis. Victoria Stoll and Sis. Pearl Moser. We are thankful that they are feeling better and are back with us.

We have enjoyed company visiting us from various of our churches. This month we had visitors from Lester, IA; Washington, IL; Gridley, IL; Morris, MN; Winthrop, MN; Peoria, IL; Phoenix, AZ; Smithville, OH; and Junction, OH. Thank you for spending time with us and we just extend a warm welcome to anyone traveling through our area or are planning to vacation.

Elder Bros. Paul Messner, Bill Schlatter and Andy Stoller were with us midweek of this week. It has been a couple of months ago that we were asked to seek God's direction as our little congregation grows, as to whether or not this was the time to seek out a minister. We are thankful that God has revealed to

the church two Brothers to fill this position. Ordained as ministers for our Morris North church were Bro. Dale Zeltwanger (Sis. Rachel) and Bro. Doug Moser (Sis. Dawn). We hope these Brothers and their families can feel our love and prayers, and can look to God as they will begin this new duty.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP
Lindsay Schmidt
Heather Steiner

For nothing good have I
 Whereby Thy grace to claim-
 I'll wash my garments white
 In the blood of Calvary's Lamb.
 Jesus, paid it all,
 All to Him I owe;
 Sin, had left a crimson stain:
 He washed it white as snow.
Gospel Hymns #588, vs. 3

The Easter season is a very special time of year as we consider especially closely the love of Jesus as He gave Himself for us. The weekend after Easter we gathered to remember our Lord's body and blood in Holy Communion. Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL) was here to serve the Lord's Supper, along with our Bro. Paul Messner. Later in the special weekend, Bro. Earl gave us a presentation explaining how prophesy is being fulfilled now in the end times. Considering the topic made us very sobered, excited, or fearful, depending on the state of each heart.

"And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest..."

Genesis 28:15

We welcome Peggy Snyders to our congregation as she recently moved here from Lester, IA. We enjoy having her gather with us!

Now thank we all our God
 With heart, and hands and voices,
 Who wondrous thing has done,
 In whom the world rejoices,
 Who from our mother's arms

Has blessed us on our way
 With countless gifts of love,
 And still is ours today.

Zion's Harp #236, vs. 1

Mothers are very special to each of us. Whether our mother is young, old, or passed on, we can each one remember all our mother has done for us and the example of her life. We honor our mothers each year on Mother's Day, but indeed their impact on our lives is an honor every day!

The union of our hearts
 Shall stand through grace in Jesus;
 We walk the path of life,
 While cheer and trust increases.
 Where God in truth abides,
 Where two join hand and heart,
 We find a threefold cord,
 Not lightly rent apart.

Zion's Harp #79, vs. 6

Our congratulations are extended to Bro. Brett and Sis. Rebecca (Baumann) Messner as they joined hands and heart on May 9 in Alto, MI. We welcome Sis. Rebecca to Winthrop! May God bless their marriage.

MISSOURI, LAMAR
Venetta Banwart
Rebecca Dotterer

On May 8, the engagement of our Sis. Mindy Braker (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Carol) to Bro. Ken Messner (Bro. Sid and Sis. Cheryl) from the Morris congregation was made known. We wish them God's richest blessings as they seek to follow His leading in their lives.

Melinda Luthi (Bro. Leon and Sis. Teresa) graduates from high school this spring, and we wish her the Lord's blessings as she begins a new phase in her life.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS
Kary Mangers

We welcome Bro. Curt and Sis. Larisa Wettstein and their daughter, Isabella, to our congregation. We wish them God's blessings in their new ven-

ture that brings them to our congregation for a time.

We are thankful for the Lord's protection through the recent storms in the St. Louis area. We had physical damage but no loss of life. Our prayers go out to the areas where lives were lost and great damage took place. We are so thankful that God is right there in the middle of the storms of life being a constant source of love, comfort, and peace for those who know Him. We also pray for the Christian witnesses that will be present during the relief work in the aftermath of these disaster areas.

Our prayers continue to go out to Bro. Loren and Sis. Betsy Schrenk and the family as they grieve the death of Loren's brother, Wayne, of the Phoenix, AZ, area.

We thank the many visiting ministers we had this past month. Bro. James Knapp (Sis. Lisa) from Congerville along with a few families came at the end of April for their rotation. Bro. Greg Rassi (Sis. Carla) from Chicago shared Mother's Day with us. Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen) from Champaign and Bro. Scott Wegman (Sis. Dawn) from Taylor added support to our Wednesday night services. We appreciate each of them serving the Lord from the pulpit and for the fellowship we enjoyed with them and their families.

Again we pray for those in the midst of the storms of life. May each of us keep our eyes focused on the Prince of Peace.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR
Melissa Reiman

Happy Father's Day! Make sure that this Father's Day we remember to thank our fathers for all the love that they have given us. How blessed we are to have fathers that are willing to love us and take care of us! Best of all, we have a Heavenly Father that loves us most of all! He is willing to take us into His loving arms and care for us even when we don't deserve it!

We would like to thank Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger (Sis. Peggy, Goodfield,

IL) and Bro. Lenny Meyer (Sis. Charlotte, Chicago, IL). Thank you for your willingness to come to Taylor and teach our church Christ's Word through Bible Study! Bro. Jaye talked about how we, as Christians, need to follow something that he called the "Death Principle". Don't worry, it is not as scary as it seems. The Death Principle was about how we need to die to our old selves and awaken unto our new selves as born-again Christians. Bro. Jaye talked about how in Romans 6:6 it says "Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin." This means that after we repent and give our lives to Jesus, then we are born to serve Him and not to serve sin!

Congratulations to all of our graduates! It is such a scary and exciting time for both the graduates and their parents. We hope that whatever your future goals are that you will not lose track of the Lord Jesus Christ that gave you the opportunities that you have today. Our prayers go out to the 2011 graduates: Garrett Yackley, Destiny Kuntz, Madison Haerr, Bro. Dallas Haerr, and Annalynn Knochel.

We rejoice with Bro. Reed Yackley and his family with his engagement to Sis. Bethany Witzig (Gridley, IL). We wish the best of God's richest blessings for both of you during your engagement!

All the angels sing at the news that Cole Sutter has found peace in his heart with God and that he is looking forward to sharing his testimony with the church!

Hospital patients this past month include Bro. Eric Knochel and Sis. Judy Huber.

NEW YORK CROGHAN-NAUMBURG Hope Graves

Our church enjoyed listening to the children present their Easter Program on April 24. It was such a blessing for us to hear each voice as they shared recita-

tions and songs regarding Jesus' death and resurrection. Our prayer is that what they have learned in Sunday School may stay with them and influence them as they make decisions and grow into adulthood. How amazing that the Lord would have died to save just one child!

Our blessed Saviour hung on the
cross

To save us all from eternal loss.

He shed His precious blood

Then arose to save,

Your soul and my soul

His life He gave.

The Children's Harp #113, vs. 3

We were thankful for the many hands who made light work for our annual church cleaning on Monday evening, May 2. What a blessing it is to be able to maintain God's church building here in Croghan. May we spend much more time maintaining our hearts, minds, souls and bodies for Him.

OHIO, AKRON Erika Gal

"Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon."

Isaiah 55:6-7

We are so thankful for another young person who is seeking his soul's salvation. Our prayers are with Trent Gasser. His parents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Sue Gasser from Junction.

This month our best wishes go to our four high school graduates. They are Brianna Palitto (Bro. Bryon and Sis. Lisa), Amanda Steidl (Bro. Don and Sis. Nan), Matthew Gal (Bro. Roger and Sis. Judy), and David Ordogh (Bro. Peter and Sis. Elvira). We certainly wish each one the Lord's blessings and guidance in the future.

We are very thankful for our visiting

ministers this month. Elder Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Sis. Nancy) from Forrest was with us to help serve Holy Communion. We had a blessed evening and appreciated his services on Sunday as well. We are also thankful for the labors of Bro. Ted Luginbuhl (Sis. Stephanie, Smithville) who spent a Sunday with us.

Our thoughts and prayers are with our dear Bro. Don (Sis. Carol) Gasser who had surgery this month. We pray that the Lord will provide strength and healing according to His will.

OHIO, COLUMBUS Esther Saurer

This month Columbus was thankful to have multiple visiting ministers with us both during the week and then some on the weekends. Those who visited were: Bro. Fred and Sis. Connie Domka (Mansfield, OH), Bro. Jessie and Sis. Bonnie Bedolla (Detroit, MI), Bro. Bob and Sis. Rhonda Knochel (Bay City, MI), Bro. Curtis and Sis. Caroline Kauffman (Tucson, AZ), and Bro. Tom and Sis. Connie Schambach (Elgin, IL).

We also had a very blessed evening as we were able to share Holy Communion served by Elder Bro. Duane Rocke (Minneapolis, MN), and Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Sis. Jeanine, Mansfield, OH).

OHIO, JUNCTION Vicki Boroff

Our congregation was blessed with two new babies recently. Weston Gage was born on May 10 to Bro. Scott and Sis. Sara Manz. Grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Connie Manz and Bro. Bill and Sis. Miriam Brake (Sardis). On June 3, Hudson James was born to Bro. Wendell and Sis. Kari Spangler. Hudson's grandparents are Bro. James and Sis. Carolyn Spangler and Bro. Les and Sis. Karen Manz.

We were thankful to have Bro. Bill Brake (Sis. Miriam, Sardis) share the gospel with us this month.

Our high school graduates this year are: Aaron Manz (Sis. Verginia Manz); Jessica Manz (Sis. Verginia Manz); Sis.

Hannah Schrenk (Bro. Steve and Sis. Linda); and April Manz (Bro. Ken and Sis. Gwen). We wish them the best as they move into the next phase of their life.

OHIO, LATTY
Carmen Eisenmann
Mindy Stoller

Greetings of love to all! God has been faithful through another month and we are so thankful for that. It was a joy to celebrate Easter and the Lord's resurrection recently. May we never take for granted the gift of His shed blood.

The weekend of May 14-15, we witnessed the testimonies and baptisms of three dear souls: Calvin and Nolan Sinn (Bro. Todd and Sis. Janet), and Mallory Rosswurm (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Amy). Elder Bro. Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan, Taylor, MO) was here to assist in that. The weekend was a blessing and an encouragement to all. We wish to thank Bro. Kent and Sis. Jan for making the effort to visit us and help out with the weekend.

There were many visiting ministers that served our congregation this past month. Bro. Nelson Beer (Sis. Minnie, Milford, IN), Bro. Warren Schlatter (Sis. Cindy, Junction, OH), Bro. Ron Isch (Sis. Jane, Lamont-Gridley, KS), and Bro. Walt Rager (Sis. Sharon, Toledo, OH) gave of themselves to us and we extend our thanks to them.

Sis. Dolores Grant (Bro. Tom) and Sis. Vickie Laukhuf (Bro. Bruce) had recent hospitalizations. May God bless their recovery and grant His peace to them.

"And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee: for thou, LORD, hast not forsaken them that seek thee."

Psalms 9:10

OHIO, MANSFIELD
Tami Griffey

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

Proverbs 3:6

Sis. Olivia Ramsey (Bro. Edward and Sis. Laura), and Bro. Daniel Zollinger (Bro. John and Sis. Marjorie, Smithville, OH) have been guided and directed by God to each other. We pray God will bless their engagement and upcoming marriage.

We rejoice with Ashley Gabor (Scott and Lori) who was married to Anthony Schriener on April 30. We pray God's blessing's upon their lives together.

A graduation breakfast was held May 15. Our graduates include: Anthony Baumann (Bro. David and Sis. Lucy), Marjorie Dawson (Bro. Ed and Sis. Judy), James Dotterer (Bro. Gaylord and Sis. Betty), Quinton Foss (Rick and Sis. Susan), and Dayne Sauder (Gary and Vicki). We hope they feel our love, prayers, and most importantly, God's guidance as they make plans for their future.

Hospitalized loved ones over the last month include: Sis. Lydia Chant (Bro. Jacob), Sis. Marcella and Bro. Charles Sauder, Bro. Mike Baumann (Sis. Florina), and Sis. Lucy Baumann (Bro. David). We pray our Heavenly Father will comfort and heal each one according to His will.

Visiting ministering Bro. Chad Leman (Sis. Kim; Kitchener, Ontario, Canada) shared worship services with us recently and we thank him for lending himself in God's work and his traveling efforts.

OHIO, RITTMAN
Jenny Rupp
Marge Stoller

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

I Cor. 11:26

It was good for our congregation to remember Jesus' death and suffering April 16, as we shared Holy Communion. Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Lamont-Gridley, KS) and Elder Bro.

Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) assisted our own Elder Bro. Merle Hartzler in this important work.

Our hearts rejoiced on the weekend of April 30 - May 1 as we witnessed the testimonies and baptisms of three dear souls. We welcome into the fold Bro. Brant (Bro. Dale and Janet) and Sis. Tiffany Gasser, and Sis. Belinda Zollinger (Bro. Norman and Sis. Betty). May they cherish God's precious gift of salvation.

Bro. Nathan Steiner and Sis. Lynn Stoller exchanged wedding vows on May 8. Thankful parents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Sara Steiner and Bro. Jeff and Sis. Millie Stoller (Smithville, OH). We hope that Sis. Lynn feels loved and welcomed to our congregation. Then on May 14, Kevin Steele and Kathleen Pusztai were wed. Their parents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Martha Steele and Tibor and Sofia Pusztai. We wish the new couples God's blessings in their lives as they establish new homes.

Haste and seek your soul's salvation;
 Heed the Word of God today!

Zion's Harp #52

We rejoice that we have three new loved ones that have made known their desire to follow the Lord and seek their soul's salvation. They include Andrea Gasser (Bro. Mark and Sis. Jill), Mollie Hanzie (Tim and Sis. Kimberly) and Trinda Hartzler (Bro. Tom and Sis. Diane). May they feel an abundance of God's grace.

The engagement of Bro. Joel Landis (Bro. Harvey and Stephanie, Smithville, OH) and Sis. Roxanne Gerber (Bro. Joe and Sis. Ann) was made known May 15. May God bless them as they make plans to begin their life together as one in the Lord.

Several from our congregation will be graduating from high school soon: Sis. Anna Bauman and Sis. Laura Bauman (twins), Brandon Bauman, Eric Beery, Jill Dotterer, Kevin Dotterer, Matthew Gasser, Abby Hanzie, Anna Hartzler, Trenton Hartzler, Bro. Kyle Keiper, Blake Maibach, Jacob Riegenbach, Logan

Rufener, Patrick Rufener, Todd Rupp, Hannah Steiner, Sis. Lois Steiner, Jay Stewart, Kiersten Stoller, Neil Widmer, and Bro. Chad Zollinger. We pray that each one of these graduates will look to God to guide their future. Our young people are such a blessing to us.

Visiting Elders this month include Elder Bros. Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN), Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH), Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT) and Ken Indermuhle (Sis. Linda, Sardis, OH). Also serving us was Bro. Dana Indermuhle (Sis. Joy, Sardis, OH) and Bro. Curtis Kaufman (Sis. Caroline, Tucson, AZ). We are thankful for willing servants and pray God will richly bless each one.

Note of Thanks:

I would like to thank all of you who remembered me on my 90th birthday. I was truly overwhelmed by your love and kindness. May God bless you for your thoughtfulness and love shown me.

Sis. Ruth Ingold

OHIO, SMITHVILLE

**Lydia Dotterer
Gina Brake**

“For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.”

Eph. 5:21

The engagement of Bro. Dan Zollinger to Sis. Olivia Ramsey (Mansfield) was announced on April 24. Bro. Dan’s parents are Bro. John and Sis. Marge Zollinger. On May 15 the engagement of Bro. Joel Landis (Bro. Harvey and Steph) to Sis. Roxanne Gerber (Rittman) was announced. May 8 was the wedding day of Sis. Lynn Stoller (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Millie) and Bro. Nathan Steiner (Rittman). We pray for God’s blessings upon each of these couples.

Bro. Steve and Sis. Jollene Hofacre welcomed two new granddaughters this month. Levanah Aviv was born to Bob

and Stephanie Sax on April 17. Her siblings are Sarah, Hadassah, Zipporah, and Reuven. Alen Mae was born on April 27 to Shawn and Jenny Frazier and joins siblings, Bethany and Collin.

We were thankful to hear the testimony and to witness the baptism of Dana Riggerbach on May 4. We wish him much grace as he seeks to faithfully serve God. Elder Bros. Ken Indermuhle (Sis. Linda, Sardis) and Merle Hartzler (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman) assisted that evening.

Bro. Jacob Kuntz (Sis. Brooke, Croghan-Naumburg) also served us on the pulpit this month. We appreciate his willingness to serve and speak the truth.

Hospital patients this month were Sis. Luanna Dotterer (Bro. Dave), Sophia Lusk (Mike and Terry), and Caden Bauman (Bro. Jon and Sis. Karen). We pray for God’s healing upon each of them.

OHIO, TOLEDO

**Deanna Manz
Teresa Rywalski**

Bringing God’s Word to us this month was Bro. John Steiner (Sis. Carol, Oakville). We trust that God will bless him for his willingness to serve us. A special thank you to all the willing hands who helped with the outside cleaning of the church and yard.

“I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season: reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.”

II Timothy 4:1-2

After much prayer, we have chosen a new minister. Bro. Matt Manz (Sis. Deanna) has been chosen. Our Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction) and Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Sis. Jeannine, Mansfield) were here to do this important work. Not only was Bro. Matt given the charge as to his duties toward the church, we as a congregation

were also given a charge as to our duties. May Bro. Matt, Sis. Deanna, Troy and Lanae feel our love and prayers as they begin this new walk in life.

OREGON, PORTLAND

Rebekah Jones

Our visiting ministers this month were Bro. Chris Kuenzi (Sis. Mary, Silverton) and Elder Bro. Peter Petrovic (Sis. Marian, San Diego). We were thankful for their willing service. Elder Bro. Peter Petrovic shared the service on Good Friday and we were richly reminded of the suffering that Christ so willingly endured. He reminded us that we were Barabbas, released from prison because of Christ’s willingness to die in our stead. The Sunday School classes also shared the Easter story through songs and verses.

OREGON, SILVERTON

**Kris Luthi
Deb Roth**

“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Romans 5:1

Christina Sinn (Bro. Don and Sis. Linda) has professed peace with God. We rejoice with her and look forward to hearing her testimony of what the Lord has done for her.

We have two new births to announce in our congregation: Brian and Sis. Amanda Dietrich welcome Nathaniel Donald, along with siblings, Johanna, Jennifer, Gabriel and Jocelyn. Grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Linda Sinn, and Bro. Jim and Sis. Joan Dietrich. Also excited for a baby sister is Emmett Dietrich; Mary Marie has come to join the home of Bro. Rick and Sis. Laura Dietrich. Thankful for her arrival are grandparents, Bro. Jim and Sis. Joan Dietrich and Dan and Tanya Herberger. We wish both families the Lord’s guidance as they raise their little ones.

We had an uplifting weekend May

14-15 as we welcomed five new souls into the family of God. We heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of Bros. Cameron Sinn (Bro. Mark and Sis. Elsie), Jordan Sinn (Bro. Dean and Sis. Heidi) and Nelson Sinn (Bro. Tom and Sis. Edith) and Bro. Scott and Sis. Bethany Zollinger (Bro. Ed and Sis. Shirley Zollinger and Bro. Wayne and Sis. Linda Edelman, Bern, KS). Many thanks go to Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern, KS) and Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Betty, Portland) for spending the weekend with us. It is so encouraging to see souls still seeking the Lord and we pray that many more will answer God's call before it is too late.

Our Sunday School students presented to us the story of Christ dying on the cross and rising again to redeem us from our sins. A lot of hard work is done by teachers, parents and students for this and we thank them all. We also thank Elder Bro. Peter Petrovic (Sis. Marian, San Diego, CA) for ministering to us on Easter weekend.

**PENNSYLVANIA
PHILADELPHIA
Emily Wiegand**

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to His abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

1 Peter 1:3

This past Easter has brought us many wonderful reminders of the love and mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ. We were thankful to have the opportunity to assemble for Good Friday services, where we were brought back to Calvary's hill and retold of the atoning blood of our beloved Savior that was shed for our sins. Then, on Easter Sunday, the wonderful story of Christ's rising from the grave was brought to us by our Sunday School children through song worship, telling of the Resurrection. We were also blessed by their ser-

vice, as they prepared a breakfast for the Church.

We were also thankful for the efforts of Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT) and his wife, Sis. Cheryl, as they were with us for Holy Communion. It was a blessing for us all, as we were reminded of how generations have "remembered" His broken body and atoning blood. We wish to thank Bro. Kevin for all of his efforts throughout the weekend.

**TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE
Mike and Monica Fritz**

We have been blessed from God's Living Word shared with us by our recent visiting ministering brothers: Elder Bro. Dave Steffen (Sis. Linda; Elgin, IL), and Bros. Kevin Knapp (Sis. Dixie; Bloomington-Normal, IL), Ken Schneider (Sis. Bernice; Remington, IN), and Mark Zimmerman (Sis. Cheryl; Eureka, IL). We have also been strengthened by the fellowship of brethren and friends from Bloomington-Normal, Elgin, and Eureka, IL; and Remington, IN.

If you are traveling to or through the Nashville area, please plan to worship with us. The following churches are scheduled for services in the near future: Princeville, IL (6/19); Kansas City, MO (6/26); Lamar, MO (7/3); Junction, OH (7/10); Bay City, MI (7/17); Lester, IA (7/24); and Mansfield, OH (7/31). If you plan 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 often meet on Wednesday evenings at 7:15 p.m. for singing or call-in services 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@gmail.com); and Sis. Gwen Leuthold, (615) 356-5755.

TEXAS, AUSTIN

Serenity and Jasmine Ringger

Our prayers are with Steven, Karen, and Carol Anne Chambers, as their sister-in-law, Monica Chambers, passed away. "Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God." (II Cor. 1:4).

We are thankful for the ministers who served us in the last month. Retired Elder Bro. Ron Schambach (Sis. Nancy, Elgin, IL), Bros. Brian Metzger (Sis. Angie, Lester, IA) and Steven Pamer (Sis. Arliss, Akron, OH) spoke the Word.

Brethren from Sabetha, West Bend, Forrest, and Lamont-Gridley came to visit. "And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers." (Acts 2:42).

The following is the minister schedule for July: (3) Leo, IN; (17) Bradford, IL; (31) Rittman, OH.

Please refer to the minister's directory for directions and contacts.

TEXAS

DALLAS/FORT WORTH

Bro. Leland and Sis. Mary Plattner served our congregation on May 15.

Services are being held generally the 2nd Sunday of each month at the Holiday Inn Express, 4450 W. John Carpenter Freeway, Irving TX. There are many that have Apostolic Christian ties in the area. Please inform your relatives and acquaintances that may have interest. Please call ahead to verify. Leland & Mary Plattner 956-265-0351 or Dennis & Diane Rassi 512-321-2345.

"Now the city was large and great, but the people were few therein, and the houses were not builded."

Neh. 7:4

We humbly request your prayers that God may grant the increase.

TEXAS, McALLEN**Joyce Nohl**

God's Living Word was brought to us this month by retired Elder Bro. Ron Schambach (Sis. Nancy, Elgin, IL) and Bro. Jeff Wiegand (Sis. Janel, Goodfield). May God reward them for their service.

We extend our prayers and deepest sympathy to Bro. Leland and Sis. Mary Plattner and to Andy and Kristi Plattner in the death of their mother and grandmother, Sis. Ruth Metzger.

Services are scheduled for July 17 - Bradford, IL; August 7 - Princeville, IL; and August 21 - Roanoke, IL.

Sunday services are held at 10:30 and 12:30 at the Holiday Inn Express, 1921 South 10th St. Take the 10th Street exit off Expressway 83 and go 1 1/2 blocks south. Please see the ministers' directory for local contact information. We are small in number and welcome anyone spending time in South Texas to worship with us. We appreciate advance notice when possible to help us plan for meals and fellowship.

**VERMONT, CLARENDON
Nathan and Miriam Reutter**

"And when he had given thanks he brake it, and said, take, eat; this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, this cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me."

I Corinthians 11: 24, 25

It was a blessing to partake of Communion this past month. We thank Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Sis. Cheryl) and Ordained Deacon, Bro. Warren Zahner (Sis. Bonnie), for being willing to come and serve us. We felt renewed in Spirit and encouraged to continue the battle.

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

Matthew 5:4

Bro. Adam Stevenson, his wife Kris, and children are grieving the loss of Adam's dad, Richard, this month. We mourn with them in their loss. We pray

that they can find comfort in their sorrow by the faith he had in Christ Jesus.

We would like to thank another visiting minister this month from Rockville, CT, Bro. Dan Stoller (Sis. Diane), who came to bring us the Word on May 15. God's blessings rest upon them for their willingness to serve us.

If you are interested in fellowshiping with us here in Vermont, and would like information about service times and dates, please contact Bro. Chad & Sis. Jenny Virkler (802-293-2724). We treasure the fellowship of brethren and would relish any visitors. Please notify us if you are planning on traveling in our area and would like to worship together.

Service times are as follows:

Mid-week services

(Please contact local brethren)

Sunday Morning Service

10:10 AM (Sunday school held concurrently)

Sunday Afternoon Service

12:15 PM

Summer Worship Services in Colorado

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

July 17 and July 24 - Best Western Alpenglo Lodge - Conference Center

Located downtown Winter Park (78665 U.S. Highway 40)

Office: 888-726-8088 (Toll free)

www.wplodging.com

Winter Park is accessible from the Estes Park area as well as the Summit County area.

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

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

Sermon continued from page 2

church. Then here in II Corinthians, it says that his desire was that he wouldn't come so aggressively. His desire was that he would encourage them now.

As we talk about parents, just my thoughts, and this may be a strange illustration. But if you take a mother bear and she has her cubs with her, if something threatens the welfare of the life of those cubs, what does a mother bear do? Actually a mother bear, as well as any mother animal, becomes extraordinarily aggressive in the protection and defense of her young ones. I think that is easy to understand.

I believe as we read this, that Paul was as a father who was protecting his possession, and the threat of his possession here was a spiritual possession and the spiritual heart and mind of the people of the church in Corinth.

We know when we read there in I Corinthians that the Corinthian church had many spiritual problems. We don't need to go through all of them. But one of the problems that they had was that there were individuals within, who participated in the body in Corinth, who were false teachers. They were people who challenged the spiritual authority of the apostle Paul, as to who he was to that church.

It would be kind of like if we were parents and we knew who our child was and someone came to us and said, 'You know what? You're really not that child's parent. So what I am going to do is assume the position of parental authority over your children.' It's kind of like the state. All of us are familiar with different stories where parents have been accused of not caring for their children so the state moves in and wants to take possession of those children. In this illustration, what we see is that Paul was challenging those individuals, or individual, in that Corinthian Church who were trying to essentially say that Paul was not who he said he was. Who did Paul say he was? He claimed to have the spiritual authority given to him by God to be the spiritual father of this Church in Corinth. Yet

here you have these individuals who challenged him.

He begins this chapter by saying, "Would to God ye could bear with me a little in my folly: and indeed bear with me." II Corinthians 11:1. So what Paul is doing here is he is going to present a defense or a basis for why he has the spiritual authority from God to be to the children of the Corinthian Church what he is; their spiritual father. He does this in several of his writings, because he had opposition in churches. They did not care for his leadership, for various reasons. He says, bear with me in my folly. Why did he call it folly? Do you think it was spiritually beneficial for Paul to get in front of a church body and to defend his spiritual authority that was given to him by God? It would be kind of like any of these brothers or maybe your elder getting up and there would be someone who challenged his authority, and him having to get up and to defend the authority that was given to him by God, ultimately. That's what Paul was doing here. He says, bear with me in my folly, this is foolishness, and indeed bear with me. "For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy," v.2.

You see Paul's desire and heart for these Corinthian believers, as well as for each one of us. As God is for us, He desires an intimate and a dynamic spiritual relationship with us. Just as God would defend His relationship with us against some opposition, that's what Paul was doing here. He says, "For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ." v.2. Beloved, do we understand who we are as followers of Jesus Christ, as children of God? He says we have been spiritually espoused, just as a man and woman become engaged and become one union in the person of Jesus Christ, as followers of Christ. He says spiritually that is what has happened. That through my spiritual leadership ordained by God, we have presented the Gospel of Christ. You have become one in union with Christ and as a result of that, you are now one in a spiritual marital union. He says, for I have espoused you to one

husband that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.

It is interesting; we live in a time where those who are in spiritual authority - I am talking about those who God has ordained to be over his people - it appears to me that there is a trend throughout the churches of America where there is a lack of respect for those who God has placed in authority. There is probably a reason for that. Maybe those in authority through different churches and denominations are violating the word of God. I don't know. What we do know is that there is a lack of submission, by the body, to the authority that God has ordained. That is really very much what has happened here.

Paul talked about his speech not being very impressive, his speaking was weak. Paul was probably not a charismatic man. He probably did not have great speaking abilities. Yet what did he say he had? He said, I have knowledge (v.6). He had a spiritual knowledge of the Word of God, particularly of the Old Testament because he was trained in it and he said, this is what I have. Not only do I have spiritual knowledge but I have been given this authority because God called me. Christ called me to be an apostle.

He says, "But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ." v.3. Just for instance, what is the simplicity in Christ, what is he talking about? One of the things that he does, essentially as he goes on and talks about these individuals who are challenging his authority - they too are Hebrews, look in verse 22 & 23 - he is starting to deal very directly with these people. "Are they Hebrews? so am I. Are they Israelites? so am I. Are they the seed of Abraham? so am I. Are they ministers of Christ? ...I am more..." Now why was he saying that? You see, the people that were challenging the authority of Paul, they were other Hebrew people. It was someone who was a descendant of Abraham who came into that church and said, Paul is not teaching the complete story.

And what was the teaching of

Paul? If you go back to Galatians the third chapter, I think Paul was dealing very specifically with a similar issue. Paul said, "O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you ..." v.1. Who hath deceived you, that you would believe something other than what I told you? What were they teaching in Galatia? They were teaching that even though a man was born again by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, you still had to be circumcised and you still had to practice certain elements of the Law (Galatians 6:13-15).

"...so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ." II Cor.v.3. What is the simplicity that is in Christ? It is that which is a belief based upon faith in the redemptive work of Christ. There are terms for that. We talk about spiritual rebirth, we talk about repentance. We talk about those things, but what Paul was saying is we are not to add to the simplicity of the Gospel. What these individuals were doing, as I presume they did in Galatia, is they were saying you do still need to practice circumcision and you still need to practice this and that and the other.

"For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus..." v.4. If you can put yourself in church on the Sabbath, in Corinth on this day, I don't think any of us would be real comfortable. What would it be like if your elder got up here on Sunday and said, 'You know what? Today we are not going to preach a sermon. I am going to talk about the opposition to God ordained leadership.' That really is the last thing I would want to be involved in, and yet it had to be done. He said, "For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him." v.4. How critical is it, beloved, that we understand Biblical truth? What happened here is, because these individuals were not firmly grounded in truth, when a counterfeit came in and presented an alternative perspective, these people were prepared to accept that alternative. Beloved, we must know and understand the truth. We

are in an age when truth is relative. We are in an age when people will challenge the validity of the divinity of the word of God. They say, 'Well, it isn't divine, it is just a bunch of men who wrote this.' We hear that, and yet we know that it is not true. It is the divine, revealed word of God.

He says, For if he that cometh preaches another Jesus, whom we have not preached. There are denominations out there- I am not picking on other denominations- let's be frank, if you study many of the churches and denominations that exist, I am not going to name it, but there is a specific church that talks a lot about Jesus. But if you study their definition of Jesus, it is not the same Jesus that we have. They talk about God. In fact, they are very aggressive in promoting their views on mass media. They send people door to door and promote their views. I have sat down with one group and I have discussed these things with some of these people. If you don't know better you would think they are talking about the same Jesus. Beloved, they are not! For if he that cometh preaches another Jesus, whom we have not preached,... Now how do we distinguish that? Do we understand who the Biblical person of Jesus Christ is? It really astounded me as I read and talked to some of these people, how deceptive and sly their ability to present their view is. How you could easily say, 'I think the same thing you do. We pretty much believe the same thing.' Well it is not. There are many different views. But he says, preacheth another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive another spirit,...

Paul was saying that through his divine authority given to him by God, he had properly and Biblically defined who Christ was; the work of Christ on the cross of Calvary; the necessity of sinful men to be redeemed through that work; and that then through the resurrection, that was a confirmation of Christ Himself, and of the work of Christ on the Cross. That is the Christ who he was talking about. He wasn't talking about another Christ that says, 'Here I am, the Lamb of God, offered on the Cross of

Calvary' and then after this we've got to still practice various elements of the Law. No, Paul is saying that is wrong.

"For I suppose I was not a whit behind the very chiefest apostles." v.5. What does Paul do here? He takes significant measures to defend his spiritual authority. Look what he says. For I suppose I am not very far behind even the chiefest apostles. What was he doing? He was correlating his apostleship to the apostleship of the original twelve. How did Paul validate his apostleship? How did he see Jesus?

What is an apostle, first of all? An apostle as I understand it is someone who has seen Christ directly or had direct revelation from Christ in their calling to the Faith. We know that Paul may have physically seen Him as an unbeliever. But it was on the road to Damascus then that Christ very personally called Paul, and revealed Himself in a first person (Acts 9:3-5). As the result of that, Paul was an apostle.

But he says, "But though I be rude in speech..." v.6. As I have been in the ministry, my tune has changed a little bit. I would ask you, how are you on Sunday, regarding the ministers that God has placed on your pulpit? Do you have preferences? That is a normal human response to be attracted to certain types of personalities and people. But you know beloved, an individual doesn't have to be an eloquent speaker to present the powerful life-changing Gospel message. Anything is easy for God, but I would presume that it is probably a simpler thing to use a man who is not eloquent in speech for the purpose of the Gospel then it is an individual who is eloquent in speech. Why is that? I believe because the man that is eloquent in speech is probably more subject to his own personal pride than the man who knows he's not a good speaker. Paul says, "But though I be rude in speech, yet not in knowledge; but we have been thoroughly made manifest among you in all things." v.6.

Then he goes on and talks about this opposition. Place yourself there

Sermon continued from page 41

in Corinth on this Sunday, this day. How would you feel when Paul said "I robbed other churches, taking wages of them, to do you service." v.8. You know what he is saying there? He is saying, 'There are other churches who actually provided for me monetarily, that I could come to Corinth and spend time with you and really, because they provided for me, I should have been there with them. Instead I am here with you and they supported me.'

He says "And when I was present with you, and wanted, I was chargeable to no man: for that which was lacking to me the brethren which came from Macedonia supplied: and in all things I have kept myself from being burdensome unto you..." v.9. Do you understand the logic that Paul was presenting? If Paul would have went to Corinth where this conflict was and these problems were and a group of people would have put together twenty dollars, and said, 'Here Paul. Here's twenty dollars, why don't you live off of that.' Wouldn't there be a perception that maybe Paul would be more inclined to defend their position than the position of those who didn't support him? That is a wise leader. Instead he said, 'I am not going to take anything from any of you people in Corinth. I am taking from someone in another church because I don't want to be chargeable to any of you. I don't want to have to defend my position or my decisions regarding church leadership, to any of you.'

He says, "...in all things I have kept myself from being burdensome unto you, and so I will keep myself." v.9 His interest and desire in the circumstance of this challenge of his spiritual authority was that he could be found in a proper and appropriate motive in his decisions with this church. He says, "As the truth of Christ is in me, no man shall stop me of this boasting in the regions of Achaia. Wherefore? because I love you not? God knoweth. But what I do, that I will do, that I may cut off occasion from them which desire occasion; that wherein they glory, they may be found even as we." v.10-12

Isn't that an amazing heart? If I understand that right, he says, 'But what I do, that I will do, that I may cut off the occasion from them which desire occasion against me.' The people who opposed Paul's leadership, he essentially still desired that they would come around, and they would come back into proper communion within the church. He says that wherein they glory, they may be found even as we. That they may come back into proper communion, that they would not challenge his authority, that they would recognize their own personal error. That they would repent and back down, that they would submit to this authority.

"For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ." v.13. Do we allow God to take us as we are and use us as He calls us? Paul says, it is a good thing that a man desire the office of a bishop. It is not a bad thing to desire spiritual leadership. (I Timothy 3:1) When it becomes bad is when the motive to be involved in spiritual leadership becomes that which is other than God ordained or God motivated. What can that be? A lot of things can drive an individual to desire spiritual leadership. Maybe it is to be seen. That is not proper.

He says "And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works." II Corinthians 11:14,15. These are people who at one point were in proper fellowship and demonstrated godliness and yet they were deceived. And as a result of that, they began to do things that were not godly, were not Biblical, and that challenged God's authority.

He begins very specifically to defend himself there in about verses 23 through 30. Again, if you put yourself there on that Sabbath, can you imagine, maybe your own spiritual leader, maybe your elder, getting up on Sunday and listing numerically the things that establish his God ordained authority? What a strange thing, and yet Paul found it to be nec-

essary to establish his authority that God had given him. He says, "Are they ministers of Christ? I am more..." v.23. Now isn't that amazing! Paul is saying, this is foolish that I should have to boast about what God has done in my life, to clarify the fact of who I am to you.

He says, 'I was beaten with stripes, I was in prison frequent, I nearly died, five times I was beaten of the Jews, I was beaten with rods, stoned, shipwrecked.' v.23-25. We know all these things. He says, "...and a day I have been in the deep;"v.25. Wonder what that means? Sometimes I wonder if he nearly drowned when he was in a shipwreck. "...perils of water, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen..."v.26. All these things. "In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches."v.27, 28.

You see Paul was a spiritual father to these people, and he had a heart and a love for that church just like a mama bear does for her cubs. Just like a father does for his children. You had better believe that Paul was not going to just back away out of Corinth and say, 'Okay you guys are just too tough for me. I am going to move to Macedonia. They've supported me, they've been good to me. So Corinth, I'm going to leave these guys to you, and I hope things work out for you.' He didn't do that. He aggressively not only defended himself, but he put himself in a position that he could present again his spiritual and God ordained authority to this church and say, 'I am still who I was originally. My message is still Biblical and it is still consistent with what God revealed to me. So Corinthians, I am asking you to depart from this individual, and I am asking you to continue to follow what God has revealed to me, and what through me, God has revealed to you.'

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Immediate opening for full time position as Director of Nursing at our 112 bed skilled nursing facility. The primary purpose of this position is to direct and supervise the day-to-day activities of the facility in the assessment, planning, implementing, and reassessment of nursing care according to Federal and State regulations/guidelines to assure the highest degree of quality patient care at all times.

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Volunteer Caretaker Opportunity

The Washington, DC congregation would welcome your help. They purchased a house in Silver Spring, Maryland, and are holding services there every Sunday.

Due to the small number of members and friends, and because most live a distance from church, they are looking for volunteer caretakers to live in the house and perform routine household and yard maintenance chores. Caretakers should plan to stay 3-4 weeks.

We are working on filling the calendar for 2012.

Caretakers could be couples, singles or families who would enjoy fellowship with the DC congregation and spending time near the Nation's Capitol and other points of interest on the East Coast.

For more information, please contact Sis. Doreen Steffen for more information at dkgsteffen@gmail.com or 302-540-6574.

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:



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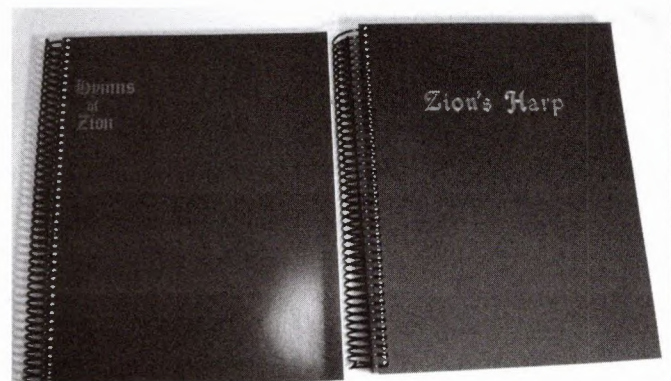
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Christ-Centered Self Worth Part 3 of 3

This article on Christ-centered self-worth will focus on our perception of ourselves, including our understanding of spiritual gifts and serving. How do you view yourself when looking into a mirror? How do you view yourself when looking into God's mirror? Does the image change when you switch from your own mirror to God's mirror?

Often in looking into our own mirror, we need to deal with distortions in how we see ourselves. Sometimes we are held captive by fear of failure, trying to earn the approval of others, shame, or blame. The effects of the fear of failure cause us to avoid situations, not try, miss opportunities, worry, and procrastinate. It is normal and natural for us to want others to accept us—especially our parents. Unfortunately, many people eventually learn to place their self-worth in other people's opinions. This leads to excessive attempts to please others in order to win their approval and avoid criticism.

Your emotions provide you with a moment-to-moment reading of how you feel in the environment where you are. Your feelings and your true worth are not the same things. Feelings fluctuate up and down—sometimes very quickly. These fluctuations are due to changes in how you feel about your performance, who you are with at the time, how well you think you rate in the eyes of others, etc. Biblical Faith is conforming our will to God's will even when our feelings don't match and/or we don't understand why certain things occur. It is surrendering our will to God, which is sometimes very difficult to do. When your feelings and your Christian beliefs don't match, live "as if" your beliefs are true—they are! Faith is not a feeling. Faith is what you believe, not what you feel. True faith is not the complete absence of doubt or struggle; rather, it is trusting in God even when the evidence to do so is limited or is apparently absent altogether.

Your true value, based on God's love and grace, is steady and constant, whereas feelings fluctuate up and down. Peace with God is a "state of relationship" not simply a feeling. *Isaiah 32:17* "And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of

righteousness quietness and assurance for ever."

God made each person in His image and created each person for specific purposes. What are your purposes in life?

Romans 12:4-8 "For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching; or he that exhorteth, on exhortation; he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness."

God has provided each believer with spiritual gifts for the purpose of strengthening the Body of Believers and glorifying God. *Ephesians 4:11-12* "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ."

How do you know your spiritual gifts? They are given to you by God. They are often something you feel strongly about or have a passion for. They are often in line with your natural talents. They encompass your own unique personality in relating to others. They involve your experiences which give you a perspective on life. Think through and ponder your own gifts. How has God made you? Use the spiritual gifts that you have been given for God's glory. We are responsible for using our talents to the fullest (*Matthew 25: 14-30* – the parable of the talents).

Comparison keeps many believers from using their spiritual gifts. Comparison of spiritual gifts is one of Satan's biggest lies. "She does that so much better than I do." "I can't do much; so why try?" *2 Corinthians 10:12* "...but they measuring themselves by themselves and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise." God never intended for us to have to be "the best" at something in order for us to use our gifts! There will always be someone better than you (looks, intelligence, money, strength, social skills, humor, etc.). The sooner you accept this, the sooner you

can stop trying to perform up to impossible standards and start serving God the way He created you to be.

Sometimes believers feel insecure and worry about their ability to do what God has asked them to do. This is how Moses felt when God asked him to talk to Pharaoh. Note God's response to Moses' uncertainty. *Exodus 4:10-12* "And Moses said unto the LORD, O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither heretofore, nor since thou hast spoken unto thy servant; but I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue. And the LORD said unto him, Who hath made man's mouth? Or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? Have not I the LORD? Now therefore, go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say." Remember that your spiritual gifts come from and are empowered by the Holy Spirit, not you.

Sometimes people limit themselves as they don't see the spiritual gifts that God has given them because they are looking for something specific. There are a number of examples in the Word, including Moses, Gideon, and Isaiah, where they didn't recognize the spiritual gifts God had given them to accomplish His purpose.

The foundation for all spiritual gifts should be built on the two greatest commandments: *Matthew 22:37-39* "...Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself." Fill your heart with love for God, love for others, and love of yourself. Then let that love activate your spiritual gifts. *Corinthians 13* tells us the spiritual gifts must be motivated by love or they are nothing.

What can you do? Open your heart to God as you pray for wisdom and guidance to know how He wants to use you each day, what He wants you to say, and what He wants you to do. Be open throughout the day for God's nudges as you interact with people who cross your path or who come into your thoughts. Then prayerfully do it. Don't give excuses like Moses did. God knows what you can do; He made you. He wants you to try, and He wants you to do your best. You will receive blessings multiplied knowing you are in the center of God's will for your life.

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ed.graf@gatewaywoods.org

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CARIBBEAN BOARD PROJECTS - 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.

HAITI

Data updated from the Apostolic Christian World Relief web site as of June 14th, 2011 -www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-caribbean/

Project	Year 2011	Coordinator	Capacity	HAITI MEDICAL WORK TEAMS			
Les Cayes FRW Vocational School	Jun 8-18	Rick Wuethrich 219-266-9488 rick@wuethrichfarms.com	4	Hospital Lumiere at Bonne Fin, Haiti Haiti Medical Team	May 13-21	Alice Widmer 330-939-0083 alice.widmer@jmsmucker.com	8-10

JAMAICA

Data updated from the Apostolic Christian World Relief web site as of June 14th, 2011 -www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-caribbean/

Project	Year 2011	Coordinator	Capacity				
Jamaica Deaf Villg CCCD	Jun 10 - 18	Ted Hirstein 309-266-8769 hirstein@mtco.com	40	Jamaica Deaf Village CCCD	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
Data updated from the Apostolic Christian World Relief web site as of June 14th, 2011 -www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-mexico/

Location	Year 2011	Coordinator				
Magdalena Construction	Jun 11-18	Jason Schambach Elgin Bible Class 847-468-1194 jkschambach@att.net	Magdalena Construction	Jul 9-16	Jason Kaeb Bern Bible Class 785-284-3202 jason.maggs@gmail.com	
Magdalena Construction	Jun 18-25	Stan Virkler 219-863-5913 svirkler@fbibuildings.com	Reynosa Medical	Oct 5-12	Cheryl Herrmann cherrmann@frontier.com	
Reynosa Construction	Jun 18-25	Joe Sprunger Indianapolis Bible Class 317-491-4424 joesprunger@gmail.com	Magdalena Construction	Nov 19-26	Rod Schmidt 303-774-7913 rschmidt@acosta.com	

Haiti and Jamaica Work Team Code Definitions

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

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

USA World Relief Committee

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

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

Our Spiritual Heritage

Comments by Elder Noah Schrock, Oakville, Iowa, on Apostolic Christian Church History continue. He had made these "off the cuff" remarks at a Sunday evening gathering at Phoenix, Arizona, many years ago. Bro. Noah, an experienced Elder during his era, was well versed in the history of our congregations here in America. He makes reference to the aftermath of the division in 1906.

When I came into the church in 1910, this thing (the division) was at the boiling point. It was unfortunate, of course. The sad thing went on and went on. We were hardly on speaking terms because it was a terrible scandal and reproach upon the church to have a visible separation. As soon as they ordained elders, they became a separate organization.

I've been approached — we've had many meetings with those people where we feel kindly towards them. I believe for the most part they have become converted. A lot of them had no part in this thing, but it's a good deal like where the church strife is like it is among nations. A lot of false rumors and propaganda and many falsehoods are being circulated. People become gossipers and they interest themselves in passing on things that they have heard and build up resentment between each other. It is unfortunate.

I can give you a little humorous slant on this thing. A commentator one time said that there are three instances when lying is quite prevalent. One is during a war, another before an election, and after a fishing trip. These three instances provoke falsehood, you know, some harmful and some harmless. That goes along with church strife, too. We do have to be careful and, if we do find or sense that there are sometimes differences, by all means tone them down. Don't let them get out of

hand.

It was then, I suppose, in 1930 at a conference, that we finally extended a hand to our erring brethren (as we called them). We became more congenial to each other and visited each other. It was quite a step forward. I will admit there have been urgings from the Nazarean people, that's the name of their church in the Balkans, Yugoslavia, and Hungary. In Germany and Switzerland their name translates into English as Evangelical Baptist. By the way, the two churches (of ours) in New York have taken that name and kept it to this day. They are on record as Evangelical Baptist because that is the European name.

A man once asked me what I thought about it (the division) and I said, "Well, there aren't many scriptures on how to mend the situation. We have scriptures on how to prevent it, but not on how to mend it." And I further said, "You can't unscramble an omelet. You can scramble it, but you can't unscramble it." In the meantime, we had several meetings (with them). Our Elders were there and discussed many things.

We have reached the conclusion in Mansfield, Ohio (several years ago), in a very congenial meeting, an all-day session. We could see no profit, nothing to be gained nor did we feel as Elders we had the authority to join these two organizations together. We made a written proposal just before that. I have a copy of it, welcoming them back to the Mother church, forgiving them of their mistaken error of departing from us.

However, all we expect of them is that they give testimony before each local congregation as to their original conversion. Quite a few came back. In Peoria, Illinois, there were 15 or 20 or even more than that (that came back); also quite a few in Akron, Ohio, and

other places. We felt that would provide the opportunity for them to come back again to their Mother church. In numbers we were about 7,000 or 8,000, and they were about 1,500. Not that numbers mean anything, but we didn't think it was an impossible thing. We felt it was the problem or that each church would make that determination (to bring individual souls back).

We have no authority to bring these two organizations together. Each local congregation would receive them upon their testimony as individuals. They (the other church group of 1,500) couldn't accept that sort of procedure. They wanted a universal, general proclamation made that we are no more two, but we are one. We couldn't agree on that. We said we would try to be helpful to each other. We would try to share their burdens. But we unanimously agreed that we would not run back and forth and cause disorder because God is a God of order and they agreed with us.

We have it in writing that they would not try to take our members away from us, and they would not try to induce our members to participate in their activities, nor vice versa. That's the agreement we made. They want us to adhere to that. Maybe some don't, but that is the conclusion we reached.

(Editor's note: Bro. Schrock spoke with forthrightness and honesty about a sensitive time in our church. Since this occurred over a century ago, it was felt it is appropriate to print these remarks, with respect for the need to become informed about history, and to learn from it).

Next Issue:

More comments from the Elder Noah Schrock talk at Phoenix.

The Light Of Hope

“Whatsoever A Man Soweth”

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

A well known verse in Galatians 6:7 reads, “Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.” If, as a farmer, I want to reap or harvest corn, I must plant or sow, corn. If I want to harvest soybeans, I must plant or sow soybeans. It isn’t likely that God, in His sovereignty, will say, “I wanted you to grow soybeans in that field but you planted corn. Therefore, I will cause soybeans to come up even though you planted corn.” God could do it, you know. He is sovereign and He is almighty. Proverbs 19:21 reads, “There are many devices in a man’s heart; nevertheless the counsel of the Lord, that shall stand.”

The word “sovereign” is not used in the King James Bible but the preceding verse is an indication of His sovereignty. The teaching that God is in complete control of everything may make us complacent and irresponsible. Therefore, it is good for us to think about our responsibility toward God and toward our fellow human beings. It seems to me, that God in all of His power and sovereignty, has given us a mind and now says to us, “I want to see how you perform. Will you choose me or choose the devil? Will you choose self or others? Will you choose life or death?” In Joshua 24:15 we find the words, “Choose you this day whom ye will serve;....but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”

Spiritually speaking, our reaction toward what Christ has done for us determines our eternal destiny. We can repent and follow Christ but we are not compelled by God to do so. He

wants volunteers. The final invitation is in Revelation 22:17, “And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.”

Hosea speaks of reaping according to what we sow. Hosea 8:7 “For they have sown the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind.” If you drive recklessly, you will have an accident. If you eat the wrong foods and refuse to exercise, you will get sick. Even if you do everything right, you may still have an accident and you may still get sick but that doesn’t mean we should invite trouble and say I won’t die until God decides that I should. We do have a mind and we can hasten our death if we do the wrong things.

Now about living the Christian life, we have great responsibility. We should try to know God’s will for our lives through the Bible and through circumstances, and sometimes, through other believers. Proverbs 11:14 reads, “In the multitude of counselors there is safety.” As for being willing to do God’s will, there is no room given in the Bible for hesitation. I find no scriptures that tell us that we are to decide to what extent we are willing to do His will. I believe the Bible teaches us to be very humble and flexible and willing to go the extra mile.

Since God is watching us and keeping a record (Malachi 3:16 “And a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon his name.”) we should ask God to humble

us and we should ask others to pray for us, that we can comply with Romans 12:3, “To every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think.” Without Christ, we individually are nothing and without Christ, our church is nothing. “Christ is all, and in all.” Colossians 3:11.

Whatsoever we sow, that we shall also reap. Therefore, if we want others to recognize where they may have wronged us, we should also recognize where we may have wronged others, as individuals or as a church. Wherever we have failed to treat others as God’s Word teaches, we apologize and ask forgiveness. We want to help everybody but in trying to help we may sometimes hurt others where there should be no hurt. God knows. We repent.

Another related Bible verse is Hosea 4:6 which reads, “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.” If we would know how terrible hell is, we would all repent and live for the Lord Jesus Christ, and be very nice to each other. It is important that we know and understand what we are doing and the impending results.

Usually, if we have bad business practices such as being wasteful and inefficient, it will show up on our Profit and Loss Statement. God does not usually override our failures.

We are to do the best we know how, and then we must leave the end result in the hands of God. He is in control but He expects us to know what to do and to do it. Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

希望の光

