

The Silver Lining



*The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer;
my God, my strength, in whom I will trust;
my buckler, and the horn of my salvation,
and my high tower.*

Psalms 18:2

July 2011

Sermon by Bro. Daren Metz, Gridley, IL

Deuteronomy 28:1-37 & St. Mark 10:1-45

I certainly greet each one of you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I appreciated the singing. I was struck by the last words we sang together and I want to repeat those. It is a blessing when we are able to travel to another congregation. It talks about that. But then it talks about the true importance of why we are here in church today. It says, This is the wish from all my heart, for you my loving comrades..., (Heart's Wish, Zion's Harp #173, v.4). Hopefully that is the feeling each of us has today as we gather together. We are with our comrades.

When I think of that word, I think of a war term or a battle term. We are soldiers and we are in a battle. Let's not be naïve. Satan is probably working on each one of us right now, trying to discourage us, or more likely just to take our thoughts somewhere else rather than around God's Word.

...In our alliance may the Lord Be felt in blessed nearness. So the focus is on the Lord. The power of His cross and blood Unites us in true brotherhood. (Heart's Wish) The power of the Spirit was working mightily through you this morning. I appreciate that and I thank you for that; your prayers that God's Word would draw each one of us closer to Him. But your responsibility doesn't stop there. I would appreciate your continued prayers; they are so needed. That is the only way we will receive a blessing today, through the power of His people; His brothers and sisters and friends who love Him and want this day to be dedicated to Him. Ultimately that it could bear fruit in our lives. So I beseech your continued prayers as we look into God's Word.

We look at basically two opposites here in this chapter (Deuteronomy 28), and we started off with a positive aspect. It's always kind of nice sometimes to finish with a positive, but we started with a positive here, so let's start with that. "...if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments..." Deuteronomy 28:1. I hope that's why we are here today - to hearken unto the voice of the Lord. Anything other than that - we would really need to take stock of why else we are here. We enjoy the social aspects of our fellowship, but that's just what it is, isn't it? If that's our focus, then our

gathering here today is no different than a Lions' Club, the Kiwanis Club, or any of those other things, right? Good things. They may be very socially beneficial. But Brothers and Sisters, we need to be living our lives and our thoughts need to be on a different spiritual plane; our desire to observe and to do all His commandments which I command thee this day.

I don't know what kind of commandments we are going to get from the Word today, but my guess is that we will have some. The commandments, all the statutes, and laws were not only just given to Moses in the Old Testament. We can read many commandments in the New Testament, and as we open to that Word, we will probably get some. Jesus said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." St. John 14:15. I hope that's our desire today.

We know, as we go through the Old Testament, there are many times, maybe in the Psalms or in many other Scriptures, where God's people said why are the heathen so successful? Why is the rain falling on the unjust? Why are the people that mistreat others, that have the false balances, that lie, steal, and cheat blessed by God's apparent blessings? (Psalm 73) By reading just this Scripture (Deuteronomy 28), we could almost get that idea, couldn't we? If we follow God, He says He's going to bless us.

Many of the things that He talked about here were financial blessings. He talks about the fruit, of the cattle and the field (Deuteronomy 28:3-4), things that would add financial wealth to us. The Scripture says if we follow God, He's going to bless us in that way (v.1-14), and it also says if we don't follow God, then He is going to curse that (v.15-68). So it's easy, for me at least, to understand why they would have trouble with that when they looked around and saw people who were not doing God's will and yet were blessed. Yet we can read where God causes the rain to fall on the just and the unjust. (St. Matthew 5:45)

His ways are so far above ours that we never want to be in the situation where we are saying, 'God, you are unfair to me and you're being overly fair to another person.' We never want to get in that position where we're making judgments about what God should be

doing.

If we would think about these Scriptures that were given to us this morning in this chapter in an eternal sense, aren't they so true? When we take our

Sermon continued on page 40

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*"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth."
(3 John 4)*

Light From The Word



Writings based
on God's Word

July 2011

Accountability

A steward is someone who is entrusted with responsibility for something belonging to someone else. Paul writes, "Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful" (1 Cor. 4:2). In Christ's parable of the unjust steward, the day came when this servant was required to give an account of his stewardship. (Luke 16:2) Being held accountable simply means that one is expected to be open to examination and review with regard to his responsibilities. A faithful steward is trustworthy and reliable—fulfilling his commitments to those whom he serves and to whom he is responsible.

Every child of God is a steward of the spiritual responsibilities entrusted to him by the Heavenly Father. The principle of being held accountable as a servant in Christ's earthly kingdom is described by the Apostle Paul in 2 Thessalonians 2:4. "But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust of the gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing man, but God, which trieth our hearts." Every one of us is ultimately accountable to "...the Lord, the righteous judge..." (2 Tim. 4:8) with regard to our life here upon this earth.

As we progress through life, we should always be open to admonition and being instructed in the "way of God more perfectly," as in the case of Apollos, who was "fervent in the spirit" and who "taught diligently the things of the Lord" (Acts 18:24-26).

The Lord Jesus Christ is our greatest example of one who was fully dedicated to fulfilling the mission entrusted unto Him. This dedication was evident throughout His life. At one point He said, "My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work" (John 4:34). He also declared, "For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me" (John 6:38). In His beloved high priestly prayer, Christ testified, "I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do" (John 17:4).

We also have the biblical record of several expressions of commendation by the Heavenly Father, to whom His beloved Son was accountable. At the time of Christ's baptism and again at His

transfiguration, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased" (Matt. 3:17; 17:5). It was prophesied by Isaiah that God would acclaim the fulfillment of Christ's ultimate mission to die for the sins of all mankind as His crowning achievement: "He shall see the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied...therefore will I divide him a portion with the great...because he hath poured out his soul unto the death..." (Is. 53:11-12).

How seriously do we take the covenant of faithfulness we made to our God at the time of our baptism? What does faithfulness really entail? We can observe that Jesus from his youth was fully dedicated to carrying out His Heavenly Father's "business" (Luke 2:49). The Psalmist's expression of commitment took into account his respect for the heritage of God's word and for faithful servants who had gone before him. "Thy testimonies have I taken as an heritage forever..." (Ps. 119:111). "For thou O God, hast heard my vows: thou hast given me the heritage of those that fear thy name" (Ps. 61:5). We are taught in the Word that we live today under the aura of a great cloud of witnesses made up of faithful men and women of God from all ages of time. This should generate within us a deep sense of responsibility to also be found faithful. "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us" (Heb. 12:1).

We will be held accountable for our words and deeds as servants of the most High God and ambassadors for Jesus Christ. In our walk of life we also represent our church, which is a part of Christ's Bride—for whom He has great expectations. "...Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word. That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish" (Eph. 5:25-27).

In the order of the church which God has established here on earth, faithful men are given spiritual oversight over His flock. We are accountable to our spiritual leaders

who will someday give an account to God of their stewardship over the church (Heb. 13:7, 17). How wonderful when an account can be given such as the beautiful expression of the Apostle John: "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth" (3 John 4).

In view of the brevity of our lives (Ps. 90:12) and the certainty of Christ's return, we are lovingly forewarned: "Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness" (2 Pet. 3:11). Paul exhorted Timothy to be an example "in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity" (1 Tim. 4:12). Like David, we should walk in integrity, willingly open to the Lord's examination. "Judge me, O Lord; for I have walked in mine integrity" (Ps. 26:1).

Our accountability can be enhanced if we share our inner thoughts and struggles with a sound, mature fellow believer. This requires humility, vulnerability, compassion and mutual reliance upon the standards of purity found in God's Word. We should hold each other accountable to seek, by God's grace to be Christ-like in both our private and public lives—in all of our relationships and activities. We should use respect and discretion in our spoken word as well as anything we might post through the far-reaching electronic media of our time. The Apostle Paul exhorted, "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers" (Eph. 4:29). Jesus said, "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God" (Matt. 5:8).

Let us continue to follow the wonderful example of humility, unconditional love and faithfulness exemplified by our beloved Saviour. This should inspire us to give Him our very best. By the grace and mercy of God, and by faith in His sacrifice on our behalf, we can have a lively hope of someday hearing those beautiful words of approval from our Saviour, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant...enter thou into the joy of thy lord" (Matt. 25:21).

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

Bible Study Development

God's Word is the life blood of every true believer. It was with God from the beginning and was made flesh and dwelt among us. Through searching the scriptures daily we can be mature, godly men and women of understanding. And by knowing and understanding God's Word we may "*observe to do according to all that is written therein*" (JOSH. 1:8) and to avoid sinning against God.

There is no substitute for the believer to personally read and meditate on God's word. However, it is the heart of the Apostolic Christian Church also to support Bible Studies which are structured in accord with biblical principles, for the purpose of increased understanding and application of God's Word, edification of participants and the church, and are to the glory of God.

The purpose of studying God's word is to help us walk on the narrow way which leads to life (MATT. 7:14). It should serve to inspire us to godly living, and to be less carnally minded and less conformed to the things of this world which will soon pass away. It should not be solely to obtain biblical knowledge, but to gather spiritual resources, putting on the "*whole armor of God*" (EPH. 6:13-17) to combat our enemy. It should strengthen the overall spiritual welfare of the church. "*Let all things be done unto edifying*" (1 COR. 14:26). We must always examine our hearts and determine that we are constrained (driven) by the "*love of Christ*" (2 COR. 5:14); for unless there is "*charity out of a pure heart*" (1 TIM. 1:5) in all of these endeavors, no matter how much we may

know and speak and do, "*without charity it profiteth me nothing.*"

(1 COR. 13:1-3)

Process update

The Bible Study Development Committee (BSDC) was formed to support and encourage the development of Bible studies that support this mission. The committee consists of five brothers selected from the brotherhood, one counseling elder, and one brother from Apostolic Christian Counseling and Family Services (ACFS) who also serves as the Bible Study Coordinator and Editor. Many other individuals support this effort, such as external reviewers, pilot reviewers, graphic design artists, typists, and other similar roles.

During the past year the committee has worked closely with staff from ACFS to clarify roles and streamline the development, review and approval process. Development of any particular Bible study is the responsibility of the individual or group who initially volunteered to develop the study. The coordinator assists the developers with internal review, external review, pilot studies if appropriate, graphic layout design, editorial decisions and the final decision to release a study for general use.

This process provides a framework for other committees or groups within our Brotherhood to contribute studies addressing a particular need. One example is a need identified by the Small Church Support committee. They identified a benefit for brethren and friends to understand the Biblical teachings regarding responsibilities of established churches to support small, newly established gatherings.

Having identified this need, they felt it would be desirable to provide a Bible Study addressing this topic. They solicited a group of individuals willing to develop the study. The Bible Study Development Committee provided a starter kit containing a few forms and other resources to help them begin. As they complete their work, other individuals and resources are being made available through the Bible Study Development Coordinator to provide review and feedback to the developers prior to formatting and distribution.

Your part

It is our intent and desire that the collaboration between the Small Church Support Committee and the Bible Study Development committee will serve as a model for development of other studies. If your congregation has a particular need for a Bible study topic, we invite suggestions. In addition, any individual(s) willing to assist with Bible study development are encouraged to make your interest known. Your interest should be discussed with your local elder then directed to the ACFS Bible Study Coordinator at (309) 263-5536.

Once supported by local leadership, the BSDC is prepared to work with you to provide materials for getting started, guidelines for content and qualities of effective questions, as well as moving through the internal and external process for review and revision prior to release. Our intent is to use the Apostolic Christian Publications as one means for distribution of materials when all steps have been completed. The BSDC solicits your prayers, your help, and your patience in this important undertaking.



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

Combine Upgrades Needed in Ukraine

Nazarean believers in Ukraine depend on basic farm machinery provided by donations channeled through World Relief. Farming is difficult for these small farmers due to continually rising input costs for seed, fertilizers, animal feed, supplies and manipulated markets in a land known for corruption at all levels. Lack of grain storage facilities requires they sell grain at time of harvest, often at artificially low prices.



In addition, yield-enhancing technology, which Western farmers take for granted, is generally unavailable or beyond the scope of their limited operations. This low level of profitability makes even basic purchases of labor saving machinery unjustifiable and unaffordable for most farmers. Thus, the shared farm machinery provided through World Relief is regarded as a tremendous benefit and value for which they are extremely grateful.

Also of great value is the fact that the young people who have a love for the land, a desire to work with their families, and a commitment to their faith, now see farming as a viable alternative to seeking employment in a city, even though income level may be low.

Farming in Ukraine

Nearly all Nazarean believers in this area of Ukraine rely upon family gardens and home-grown meat to provide necessary food. However, many brethren also cultivate small farms and have small herds of cattle or swine as their source of income for family support. Generally, they grow the small grains of wheat, barley, and oats coupled with alfalfa and grass for their cattle. Corn is grown only as feed for their animals, primarily due to lack of grain drying facilities. Small grains and soybeans have become the primary cash grain crops for which the harvesters are needed.

You can make a difference

Basic tractors, implements, and combines are shared among numerous small farmers within a congregation. These provide mechanization and relief from the drudgery of hand labor which has changed little over the past centuries.



Several combine harvesting machines in Ukraine need to be replaced with newer, more reliable versions. The original machines, which were also purchased used, have served these brethren well, but have become unreliable due to wear, and are consuming precious funds for repair and parts which must often come from outside countries.

He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. 2 COR 9:6

\$60,000 needed for combine upgrades

Lord willing, prior to small grain harvest, the WR European Committee intends to upgrade the combines for the Ostrita and Korovia congregations. This will require approximately \$60,000. The farmers in both congregations have total harvested acres of 200-300A. These combines are small by western standards, with maximum 15ft headers. They will likely be Claas, which are German made, excellent design and with available parts. The original machines will be sold and funds applied toward those purchases.

How you can help

The shared farm machinery program in Ukraine is funded solely by those donors contributing specifically toward this project, and not by overall church collections for World Relief. If you are led to support this effort, checks should be payable to Apostolic Christian World Relief with "Ukraine Farm Machinery Fund" in the memo line. Give to your local WR representative or send to the WR national office:

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN WORLD RELIEF
UKRAINE FARM MACHINERY FUND
16448 S US HWY 231
REMINGTON, IN 47977

Or visit our website to make donations online via credit card. Enter "Ukraine Farm Machinery" in the drop down menu. The Eastern European brethren express their gratitude for support given through World Relief.

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

It was a privilege to host the Volunteer Dinner for ACHH. This was a time for us to recognize those who have given of their time and talents to improve life for our residents.

It was also a time to reflect on the agency's history. The year of 2011 marks the 40th Anniversary of the opening of Apostolic Christian Home for the Handicapped in Morton. On October 1 of 1971 the doors of a brand new building opened for our first two residents to start living here, Marlene Moser and Harold Miller.

A few of the people who were here on that day spoke to us at the Volunteer Dinner. Bro. Bob Pflederer was the Home's medical director in the early days, giving an examination, interview, and introduction to each person as they came to live at their new home. His shared memories reminded us that we can learn life lessons from the residents, at times in dramatic fashion.

Sis. Sharon Kelson gave us the new Home perspective from the family of Marlene Moser, a first resident. Knowing that due to progressing age, her parents would not be able to provide the care needed, they began to look at options, and would come home saying "no, we cannot do that" until ACHH was built. It was not easy to move their daughter/sister to Morton from Fairbury on that October day in 1971. But as they were leaving to go home, they were comforted by the peaceful, loving music being sung to Marlene by the Activity Director accompanied by her autoharp. They knew they could go to their homes and this would be her home, a home that has been brightened by Marlene's laugh for 40 years now.

Sis. Vi Funk told us that she considered it a privilege to be the first Activity Director. She enjoyed the

challenge of finding just the right activity for each unique resident. At 90 years of age, Vi looks back in amazement at God's provision.

Bro. Bob Knobloch, the first Administrator of Apostolic Christian Home for the Handicapped, began his duties with a typewriter on a card table in his home. Sis. Marian Wiegand was his secretary. Bob contrasted his one typewriter to the 80 plus computers that are used in the agency today. Other contrasts included 12 employees to the 285 employees working for us today. The original building had 50 beds; today 13 homes provide for the special needs of 150 residents. We are thankful that in spite of all of the changes from 1971 to 2011, that showing Christ's love has never changed.

Bro. Ron Messner, current Administrator, concluded that God's faithfulness and provision have been shown over and over in the past 40 years. We can look to the future trusting that the Lord is bigger than every challenge.

**GATEWAY WOODS
APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
CHILDREN'S HOME
Paul and Nichole Suvar**

"This life is not about me"—A counter-cultural concept that we all must fight to embrace every day. The constant struggle to maintain this perspective has been reiterated to us since accepting the challenge of full-time Houseparenting. Our lives are not about us.

In mid-May, we "graduated" from our role as Alternate Houseparents and accepted the position of full-time Houseparents in the Cypress House. Daily, hourly, minute by minute, our own concerns and wants are set aside so that we can see to our children, our residents, our fellow employees and each other. At times, frustration can set in when it feels like things aren't

going well. More often than not, these feelings are manifested in simply not getting to do what we would like to when we would like to. Instead, we are forced to set our own wants aside for the needs of others. This is humbling to admit to such an audience, but we are selfish people. We want what we want, when we want it; no questions asked.

One thing this job is teaching us, in painstaking detail, is that our lives are not about us. Our lives are about bringing glory to God and presenting the incredible, wonderful, miraculous salvation story of Jesus Christ. We do this by administering a godly hierarchy of service in our lives: God first, others second and ourselves last. We are called to look on the needs of others and not just on our own wants. "It's not about me" is scrawled in large letters for all to read on a chalkboard in our office at the Cypress House. It helps to keep our focus where it needs to be, though it pains us that we need to be reminded so often. The job of taking on the issues, burdens and challenges of others and confronting them, in love and truth, is by no means easy. However, it seems that our days seem to go so much better when we are able to do this.

Thank you all for your love and support. Even through the struggles, our cups are truly overflowing! May the God of Heaven and earth bless you as much as we have been blessed.

"Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others."

Philippians 2:4

News:

- Please mark your calendar and plan to join us and thousands of others at Gateway Woods for our 2011 Annual Auction on Saturday, August 6th. If you would like to donate an

item, contact your local church Rep or Bro. Ross Feller at (888)443-4283.

- Gateway Woods welcomed three 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.

- Summer is upon us and with that comes our many summer volunteers! 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 or call (888)443-4283. Thank you in advance for your willingness to serve!

- We would like to wish a hearty congratulations to Chris, one of our Foster Children. Chris placed second at the State Science Fair and was given the opportunity to attend the International Science Fair in Los Angeles. While he did not place in Los Angeles, he still said that it was a fantastic experience.

- We currently have three positions open at Gateway Woods: Assistant Houseparent, Alternate Houseparents and Math Teacher. For more information please see the notices in this month's edition of The Silver Lining or visit the Career Opportunities page on our website at: www.gatewaywoods.org/supporters/career-opportunities. We trust that God will continue to provide qualified, mature brothers and sisters who will 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

Louise Hall

We are having fun at the Preschool this summer, swimming in the kiddie pools. It's a great way to stay cool during these warm Alabama summers. This month we are learning about: Patience, Kindness, Anger, and Joy, and what the Bible has to say about these. Ephesians 4:26 tells us about anger: "Be ye angry and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath." Proverbs 17:22 tells us about Joy: "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones." We would like to thank B.J. Hinrichsen for volunteering at the Preschool for 2 ½ weeks this month! We thank God for bringing her to us to help in our time of need.

ALABAMA, ATHENS

Louise Hall

Pam Moore

We would like to thank all of the World Relief volunteers and workers who came to Alabama to help with the tornado clean-up project. May God bless each and every one of you.

We also want to thank those who came to Athens to share the Word of God this month: Bro. Chad Gerber (Bluffton, IN), Bro. Mark Wettstein (LaCrosse, IN), and Bro. Mark Ramseyer (Sardis, OH). So many important teachings from God's Word!

Bro. JR Hall had surgery and is recovering; please remember him in your prayers.

Tracy Hagggenmaker passed from this life on June 13. She is the daughter of Andrew and Evelyn Hagggenmaker. Please keep her family in your prayers.

"Consider the lilies how they grow: they toil not, they spin not: and yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these."

Luke 12:27

We are enjoying the beautiful lilies that are in full bloom at this time, a reminder that God will take care of us!

ARIZONA, PHOENIX

Heather Hinrichsen

We are grateful to the following brothers for bringing us the good news of the Gospel and calling the lost to repentance: Elder Bro. Steve Ringger (Bluffton North), Bro. Don Manz (Junction), Bro. Brad Bauer (Tucson), and Bro. Nick Gutwein (West Lafayette).

Bro. Philip Huette (Bro. Doug and Sis. Jill) had knee surgery and is prayerful for a successful and quick recovery. Megan Sutton (Bro. Tim and Sis. Verene) is having complications from her accident and appreciates prayers.

We are thankful that the Sunday School students and teachers had a safe and blessed week in Magdalena. It's always uplifting to meet those who serve the Lord and hear of the work He is doing in other countries.

Vacation Bible School was June 9-15. Bro. Brad Bauer and Bro. Nick Gutwein opened the Word with us and expounded on what it means to Walk with Christ in Life, Love and Spirit. We thank all those who labored each night to teach and those who organized the week.

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT

“But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.”

Titus 3:4-7

Elder Bro. Jon and Sis. Nancy Kokanovich came up and held the last Bible Study on the Book of Titus. We want to thank them for their dedication to our small congregation. The above Scripture is so powerful! May it cause us to be more awed by God and His wonderful love and kindness to us!

We were visited this past month by the following ministering brothers: Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich (Sis. Nancy, Phoenix), Bro. Don Manz (Sis. Connie, Junction), Bro. Bill Brake (Sis. Miriam, Sardis), Bro. Dale Frank (Sis. Tina, Oakville), Elder Bro. Herb Knochel (Sis. Laurie, Phoenix) and Bro. Jessie Bedolla (Sis. Bonnie, Detroit). Thank you for being willing servants!

Andrew and Amanda Furrer were blessed with a new baby, Garrett James, on May 30. He is welcomed home by big brother, Dylan.

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp

It's been an eventful month in our little church – and not in very happy ways, but such is life. Last month I was thrilled to report on the birth of several babies. This month I must report that we had to say goodbye to two of them. Bro. Jamin, Sis. Lauren,

Reuben and Eli Steffen have, after some bumps in the road, made it safely back to Philadelphia. Bro. Jamin will begin a new job and Sis. Lauren will continue her education. Reuben and Eli will keep them busy with various projects, I'm sure! We will miss them so very much but we are also glad that the past few crazy months are over and they are done with hospitals, oxygen tanks, moving boxes and so much uncertainty. We pray for rest, growth and God's provision for their family. It was a blessing to be part of their lives for the time that God allowed.

Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand was with us recently (and visiting Jamin, Lauren, Reuben and Eli) and ministered to us which we thank him for.

Bro. Keith Hinrichsen (Sis. Tammy, Phoenix) came down for a Sunday recently to minister to our little church as our three ministers were out of town. We are so very grateful for their willingness to make the drive and give of their time on our behalf. God bless you both.

Our friend, Jerry Conway, received the tragic news that her son, Randy Elendt, was killed in a car accident last Monday morning. Words cannot express how sad our hearts are for Jerry and her husband, Tom. We are praying for their family during this hard loss and adjustment.

We were also terribly saddened to hear of the accident that took the life of our dear Bro. Rich Hermann. Rich and his dear wife, Marilynn, winter with us and we were always so happy to see them arrive. We will miss his smiling face and big personality as well as his love for his Lord. We can only pray for comfort for Marilynn and their family knowing that Rich has achieved his life's goal, an eternity with the Saviour.

Like I said, it was an eventful month but not in the way we as humans would like. Life does go on and

we did have our annual business meeting which yielded the following results: Sis. Young Bauer will replace Sis. Lauren Steffen as the teacher for our young children. Sis. Lisa Knapp will replace Sis. Lucy Knapp as our Kitchen Chairman. Lord willing, our VBS starts this week with the theme of “God's Attributes”. Our Sunday School and Fellowship suppers will resume in September. Wednesday evening church will resume in October.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

June started off cool and turned warm, ushering us into a typical summer season. We closed out the Sunday School year with a picnic for the kids, and attended by all ages, hosted by Bro. Scott and Sis. Shayna Mangers. The games, food and fellowship, brought hearts together, and strengthened the sense of “church family” that binds us so close. We count each one a precious gift, and God the faithful Giver!

The Tom Klotzle and Buckheister families hosted the Bible class for an overnight/activity day, which turned out to be a great blessing to all! Truly, God is the Author of these precious bonds. May they grow and bring the fruit our hearts long for!

We have had many visitors, as well, and we appreciate the effort and planning it takes to worship with us! Among our visitors were visiting ministers, Bro. James Emch (Sis. Gina, Phoenix) and Bro. Greg Lehman (Sis. Mary Beth, Wolcott).

We are pleased and thankful that Bro. Lazlo and Sis. Maria Cser have relocated closer to us, in Orange County near their daughter Mary, and are able to worship with us more often. Bro. Steve Cser kindly provides transportation for them. We have several transportation

teams/ministries going here, as well as carpool situations. This provides fellowship and a way to church for many, uniting us despite the miles that separate. Isn't it Glory, how God uses things that seem to separate us, to actually unite us! Only our Mighty God can do such a thing!

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO
Yasmin Koehl

Thankful that our Elder Bro. Peter Petrovic, along with several others from the European Board, returned home safely after a successful mission trip to three Eastern European countries. As they do each time, and often through their tears, the believers in Croatia, Slovakia and Serbia thanked the brethren in America for their Christ-like love and care for them as they are helped in many different ways.

Along with our visitors, we were blessed to also have visiting ministers. We thank Bro. David Hartter (Sis. Beth, Sabetha) and Elder Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Sis. Nancy, Forrest) for their willingness to preach God's Holy Word.

KITCHENER, ONTARIO
CANADA
Kim Leman

"Thine, O LORD, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O LORD, and thou art exalted as head above all."

I Chronicles 29:11

May God bless the visiting ministers who preached among us recently. They were Bros. Erik Givens (Sis. Debbie, Princeville, IL), Todd Graf (Sis. Lydia, Akron, OH), and Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi, Alto, MI).

We enjoyed a cookout at the Ursu family home for our annual Sunday School Picnic. What a blessing to our small church to have so many children to fill our benches and our hearts. We pray God will lead each of them to Him by His gentle calling.

REGINA, SK
CANADA
Myrna Shipley

We appreciated having Bro. Matthew and Sis. Deanna Steffen from Princeville who came this month. One very interesting thought he told us was:

The Lord may come in 20 years? - but I think not.

Perhaps He'll come in 10 years? - but I think not.

Maybe He'll come in 5 years? - but I think not.

Possibly tomorrow? - but I think not.

I know He'll come..... when we think not.

A group of fishermen came to our area and one was a minister so we enjoyed a sermon from him. The group was ministering Bro. Clint Schmidt and his son Tristan, Bro. Verl Schmidt and his nephew Mason (all from Winthrop) and Bro. Martin Zaugg (West Bend).

Ministering Bro. Rich and Sis. Samantha Gramm (South Bend) came during the week as well as Sis. Samantha's parents, ministering Bro. Scott and Sis. Gigi Schafer, and Bro. Rick Tomic from Kitchener - Strasburg. They all stayed for the week while they were doing some business. We had a gathering one evening while Bro. Scott shared a message from The Living Word. We thank all you ministers for coming. God bless you!

The schedule for minister rotation is (July 17, Forrest), (Aug. 21, Chicago), (Sept. 18, Sabetha), (Oct. 16,

Silverton) and (Nov. 11, Morris).

COLORADO, DENVER
Lily Zarkovacki

"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. And he took the cup and gave thanks, and gave it unto them, saying, Drinkye all of it; for this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins."

Matthew 26:26-28

Recently our congregation partook of Holy Communion with the guidance of our Elder Bro. Mike Leman. This is a good reminder for us of Jesus Christ's death and suffering. We are thankful for our wonderful hope of Heaven!

We are thankful for the ministering brothers who were willing to be used this past month: Bro. Allen Stoller (Sis. Susan, Bluffton, IN) and Bro. Richard Gramm (Sis. Samantha, South Bend, IN).

We rejoice with Bro. Joel and Sis. Kristy Leman (Magdalena, Mexico) as they welcomed their precious little girl, Soraya Grace, into their lives! Happy grandparents are Elder Bro. Mike and Sis. Deb Leman and Bro. Ed and Sis. Bonnie Stoller.

Our thoughts and prayers go with Kris and Britany Braun as they will be leaving Colorado and moving to Iowa - they will be missed!

Stand up, stand up for Jesus,
Ye soldiers of the cross,
Lift high His royal banner,
It must not suffer loss;
From victory unto victory,
His army shall He lead,
Till every foe is vanquished
And Christ is Lord indeed.

Hymns of Zion #219, vs.1

**CONNECTICUT
ROCKVILLE
Laura Virkler
Bonnie Bahler**

This covenant shall then
Endure and stand forever;
There neither grief nor pain
Shall come to part or sever.
There God shall e'er abide
With us our truest Friend,
Our hearts in Him unite
Forever, without end.

Zion's Harp #79

Many of us witnessed the marriage vows of four dear couples. May 8 was the wedding day of Bro. Rich Hany and Sis. Andrea Banwart. Their parents are Bro. Dick and Sis. Betsy Hany and Bro. Gene and Sis. Linda Banwart (Ft. Scott, KS).

On June 3, Debra Bahler, daughter of Bro. Owen and Sis. Donna (and the late Sis. Lois Ann) and John DuPerry made their marriage vows.

Bro. Kevin Luginbuhl and Sis. Jayme Lanz were united in Holy Matrimony on June 5. We rejoice with them and their parents, Bro. Rick and Sis. Sue Luginbuhl and Bro. Barry and Karen Lanz.

June 12 was the day that Bro. Rob Widmer and Sis. AnnMarie Hoffman became one in the Lord. Their parents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Virginia Widmer (Rittman, OH) and Bro. Steve and Sis. Joan Hoffman. We wish these couples God's richest blessings as they begin their life together.

We rejoice with our convert, Heidi Beutel (Bro. Gene and Sis. Lynne), who has turned to the Lord in repentance. May God give her grace and strength to live an overcoming life.

Our prayers are with Sis. Joni Moser (Bro. Roger) who met with accident. May God be near Sis. Joni as she recovers.

Our visiting ministers this month

were Elder Bro. John Jackson (Sis. Peggy, Bay City), Bro. Tim Ramsier (Sis. Joni, Rittman), and Bro. Jerry Bauman (Sis. Martha, Rittman). We pray that the Lord will bless each one for their labors of love among us.

We extend our love and sympathy to the family of Sis. Anna Thompson who passed away recently. She leaves behind her daughters, Carol Charter and Judy Thompson, and her brothers, Bro. Walt Limberger (Sis. Charlotte) and Henry Limberger.

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
WASHINGTON
Henrietta Meyer**

Our caretakers for June were Bro. Ray and Sis. Jeannie Haerr from Ft. Myers, FL. We always enjoy getting reacquainted and updated with our returning caretakers. We just have December left this year (we will take those offering a few weeks for that month), 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. Dean Steffen (Sis. Carol, Belvidere, IL), Bro. Jacob Kuntz, (Sis. Brooke, Croghan/Naumburg, NY), Bro. Lenard Meyer (Sis. Charlotte, Chicago, IL), Bro. Dana Indermuhle (Sis. Joy, Sardis, OH), and Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Sis. Pam, Washington, IL). Other visitors were from Elgin, Forrest, Congerville, Chicago and Fairbury, IL; LaCrosse, IN; Taylor, MO; Latty, Rittman, and Smithville OH; Lester, Iowa City and West Bend, IA.

Please note that the contact information in the Ministers Book has changed. Bro. Barry Steffen's phone number is now 443-504-3757. The person having Bro. Barry's old number 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 three visiting ministers this past month. We pray for a blessing on the ministers and their wives, Bro. Mark Gerber (Sis. Barb, Bluffton, IN); Bro. Tim Hohulin (Sis. Cathy, Roanoke, IL); and Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger (Sis. Peg, Goodfield, IL).

As we celebrated Father's Day, we heard the message of how much our Heavenly Father loves us and how blessed we are to have received the gift of His sacrifice for each one of His children.

**FLORIDA
NORTH FORT MYERS
Victor Beer**

June is one of the months our folks like to head north to enjoy the cooler climate. However, since our severe dry season is over, we that live here year around don't mind it much. Our church numbers do dwindle a bit, but the "church family" seems to enjoy each other ever as much.

We were blessed by the visit of Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Sis. Bev, Detroit, MI), Bro. Virgil Kaeb (Sis. Suellen, Sarasota) and Bro. Daron Price (Milford, IN). We are thankful for

these brothers bringing us God's Word of hope and blessing, which is always appreciated.

The family of Bro. Vic and Sis. Dorothy Beer was blessed with a great occasion this month. Grandson Brent Beer was married to his long time school mate, Jessie Robbins, whom we welcomed to our family. Brent's father is Bryan Beer and his mother is Cindy. The newlyweds are making their home in LaBelle, FL, where Brent works for LeBelle Grove Management of LaBelle.

We have a new outreach in our congregation to help young single mothers get an education so they can get a good job. It also helps them with learning how to be a good mother to her children. Also it helps her and her child to understand God's eternal plan of salvation. There are currently three mothers and three 2-year olds in the program and now attending our church regularly. The program is called "The New Beginnings" and is in need of some mentoring couples, because they have more young mothers waiting to be in the program. If you know of anyone that would be interested in helping with this ministry, please contact Bro. Bill and Sis. Mary Masters at 239-540-9377. You can also go on their website to learn more about what we are doing here: www.thenewbeginnings.org

FLORIDA, SARASOTA

Kim Ott

"And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;"

Hebrews 5:9

Obedience was the theme of this year's Vacation Bible School. The classes began with the stories of Bible characters such as Noah and Esther who dutifully complied with God's direction. Then on the final day the

children were taught about the ultimate example of obedience, Jesus Christ. It is our hope and prayer that not only the children, but all who participated in this event, can take what we have learned and apply the lessons to our daily lives. Many thanks to all who helped make this special time possible.

We were so thankful to have visiting ministers this month, including Bro. Fred Witzig (Sis. Nancy, Washington, IL), Elder Bro. John Wiegand (Sis. Jane, Silverton, OR), Bro. Art Ingold (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman, OH), Bro. Vic Bauman (Sis. Brenda, Smithville, OH), and Bro. Dan Beer (Sis. Deb, Milford, IN). We pray a special blessing on these brothers for willingly sharing God's Word with us.

GEORGIA, ATLANTA

We rejoice with the angels in heaven as Cody West (Bro. Brad and Sis. Stephanie) has found the truth of amazing grace and surrendered his life to the Lord in repentance! Our prayers are with him as he seeks the Lord and grows in grace.

Our church family gathered together at Chris and Sis. Peggy Camp's family cabin on a lake in Alabama for a day this summer. We drank in the beauty of nature as we enjoyed sweet fellowship. We fondly remember this day every year as the day at "Camp's Cabin".

Once again, we were blessed by the willing hearts of our visiting ministers and their families. Bro. Paul Zimmerman (Forrest, IL) and Bro. Kerwin Edelman (Athens, AL) both served us this past month. How encouraging it was to have them with us and hear the Word spoken through them!

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE

Shayla Steffen

Doreen Moser

Training (Pro. 22:6): Part of our responsibility as a church is to train up a child to know the truth. Our prayers are with Bro. Joe Darlington and Sis. Darcy Steffen as they take on the responsibility of teaching Sunday School.

Service (Eph. 6:7): Bro. Troy Steffen was elected Trustee. Our prayers are with him that he may do this service for our earthly church, as to the Lord.

Ministering (2 Cor. 6:4): While we are all ministers during our day to day lives, we are appreciative of those who minister the Word to us on Sunday. We again thank retired Elder Bro. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL) for his willingness to be used for this service of the Lord.

Fathers (Heb. 12:9): We give thanks to our earthly fathers for their guidance, correction and example during our life here below. And for helping to guide us to our heavenly Father who can give us eternal life.

Direction (Pro. 3:6): "In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." We had five graduates this year. Congratulations to Derek Anliker (Bro. Brian and Sis. Peg) and Jacob Jepson (Bro. Jim and Sis. Carlene) on their graduation from high school, and Emily Jepson (Bro. Jim and Sis. Carlene), Hannah Schock (Bro. Ted and Sis. Heidi) and Kayla Mueller (Bro. Art and Sis. Marlene) from college. The Lord has a plan for you; we pray you will be willing to listen.

ILLINOIS BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

Shelley Steffen

Heidi Rinkenberger

"Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be

able to withstand in the evil day.”

Ephesians 6:13

The end of May brought graduations. Our High School graduates were Christian Winger, Bro. Alec Gramm, Bro. John Cargill, and converts Ryan Greiner, Quinton Rabe and Drew Schumacher. Our College graduate was Bro. Dustin Huber. We pray for these young men as they enter a new chapter in their lives. May the Lord direct their paths in His will.

On May 15, Sis. Leah Gerber and Bro. Ross Feller (Leo, IN) were announced to be married. Parents are Bro. Mark and Sis. Barb Gerber (Bluffton, IN) and Bro. Joe and Sis. Jackie Feller (Valparaiso, IN). We ask the Lord's blessings on their lives as they join their lives together.

Bro. Adrian and Sis. Melodee Rabe welcomed Kylie Rose Rabe into their lives on May 16. Kylie's siblings are Emma, Jayden and Jesse. Grandparents are Bro. Derek and Sis. Julie Rabe and Bro. Marvin and Sis. Mary Bachtold (Forrest).

Bro. Ben and Sis. Molly Knochel and big brother Sam welcomed Zoe Raeanne on May 20. Grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Maxine Hodel and Bro. Eric and Sis. Penny Knochel (Taylor, MO).

Bro. Ed Orth (Sis. Jean, deceased) died on May 26. Through God's grace, Ed was baptized May 21, 2011. We rejoice with the angels in Heaven over one lost coming to repentance.

We were so blessed to have another successful Vacation Bible School week, the first week of June. We thank the visiting ministers and singing groups who came and shared their time and talents. We were instructed and inspired to take on the whole armor of God, so that we may be able to withstand in the evil day.

Our Bible Class left June 11 for a mission trip to Jamaica. We pray for their safety and their effectiveness in

being witnesses of the Lord's love and mercy.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD
Roseann Stahl
Sandi Joos

We have witnessed two different types of births here in Bradford this month. Aubrey Elaine was born to Bro. Ben and Sis. Katie Endress. She is welcomed home by siblings, Corbin, Marissa, Maria, Mallory, Elijah, and Libby. Her grandparents are Bro. Richard and Sis. Marilyn Slutz and Bro. Larry and Sis. Becky Endress.

We rejoice with Sis. Rebecca Ehnle (Bro. John and Sis. Sara) and Sis. Allaina Stoller (Bro. Nate and Sis. Sherrill) as they have experienced a birth thru baptism. We thank Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi (Sis. Becky, Lamar, MO), Bro. Pat Zaugg (Sis. Julie, West Bend, IA), Bro. Glen Braker (Sis. Audrey, Princeville) and Bro. Craig Martin (Sis. Terri, Princeville) for being here for the occasion.

Other visiting ministers this month were retired Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Sis. Judy, Chicago, IL), Bro. John Steiner (Sis. Carol, Oakville, IA), Bro. Ken Schneider (Sis. Bernice, Remington, IN), Bro. Nelson Beer (Sis. Minnie, Milford, IN), and Bro. Scott Schambach (Sis. Hope, Columbus, OH).

Knowing the importance of sowing the Word in young and tender hearts requires us to remember to be prayerful for all of our Sunday School teachers. Bro. John Ehnle (Sis. Sara) will be taking Bro. Wendell Stahl's (Sis. Linda) position and Sis. Char Dietz will be taking Sis. Deann Baer's (Ron) position as their terms have expired. Many thanks goes to Bro. Wendell and Sis. Deann for their time and efforts put forth in teaching our future church.

Our thoughts and prayers are

with those requiring medical attention: Jennifer Moody, Sis. Char Dietz, Sis. Deann Baer (Ron), Bro. David Klumpp (Sis. Barb), and Bro. Kenny Dietz (Sis. Mardell).

Congratulations to Jerrica Kieser (Joe and Geri) and Jordan Blakey on their recent engagement. We wish them God's richest blessings in this next step of life.

ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN
Sarah Drake

June has been a busy month in Champaign-Urbana, as summer months usually are! June 6-10 we enjoyed a week of Vacation Bible School. Our theme this year was "Stepping in the Light". We would like to thank visiting ministers, Bro. Fred Witzig (Sis. Nancy, Washington) and Bro. Greg Stoller (Sis. Jill, Forrest) for coming to assist with the week. VBS was fun and encouraging, as we were all exhorted to follow in the footsteps of our Savior.

In addition to our VBS visiting ministers, we appreciated the willingness of Bro. Scott Wegman (Sis. Dawn, Taylor) to be used in ministering God's Word to our congregation this month.

June 26 was the last day of Sunday School for the year, and accordingly, we had our annual Sunday School Picnic. We would like to thank all the teachers and parents for the time and effort they put into teaching the Word to their students/children. We especially thank our outgoing teacher, Sis. Dona Fehr, for her three years of service.

Our sympathy goes out to the family of Bro. Darren and Sis. Sue Plattner in the loss of Bro. Darren's grandmother, Sis. Geraldine Leman (Goodfield). Sis. Geraldine will be greatly missed by all her family, but they rejoice that she can now rest in harmony with her Lord.

With the last week of June came the beginning of our summer all-church Bible Studies. These Bible Studies are an encouraging way to take advantage of the smaller attendance our congregation tends to see on Wednesday nights during the summer. It is a blessing to have the opportunity to study and discuss the Word with other members of our church family!

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Rachel Meyer

Greetings from Chicago. We thank the following visiting ministers for sharing God's Word this past month: Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein (Francesville, IN), and Bros. Dana Indermuhle (Sardis, OH), David Eisenmann (Champaign, IL), and Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL).

We continue to support our dear Sis. Lois Metzger as she receives medical treatments. We appreciate her Godly example and pray for healing.

Natalie Art (Bro. William) has begun her repentance. We praise God for His mercy and pray for her.

The weekend of May 21 – 22 we welcomed Bro. Bryce Westfall (Bro. Dave and Sis. Julie) as our new brother-in-Christ. We were blessed by his testimony and baptism and pray God will give him courage as he continues in life.

Bro. Kim and Sis. Diane Steffen welcome little Rhett Isaac Steffen joyfully to their home along with Jade, Brock, Sierra, Alexa, Asher, and Elena. Each one is a gift from God. Welcome, Rhett!

We are pleased to welcome Sis. Sydney Eisenmann as she spends the summer in Chicago doing an internship. May God bless and keep her.

June 1 found Elder Bro. Brad and Sis. Cindy Eisenmann the recipients of a surprise 25th wedding anniversary

celebration at church. Singing, food, and fellowship were enjoyed by all and we wish them God's richest blessings.

June 5 was a lovely day to enjoy our Sunday School picnic. God blessed us with clear skies and everyone enjoyed the food, fun, and fellowship. We give God thanks.

We learn wisdom from failure much more than success. We often discover what we will do, by finding out what we will not do. (Samuel Smiles)

May God be near each one.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

Marilyn Maul Tina Walder

We rejoice with two couples here as they welcomed grandsons into their families. Bro. Fred Maul and fiancée, Sis. Judy Bauer, welcomed Sawyer Lee Fehr, son of Bro. Lee and Sis. Alicia Fehr of West Bend. Bro. Bruce and Sis. Bonita Frank welcomed Lathan William Van Wyhe, son of Bro. Monte and Sis. Bethany Van Wyhe of Lester.

We are so appreciative of the ministering brothers who travel to visit with the different congregations. Our thanks go to Bro. Dan Moser (Sis. Anne, Elgin, IL), Bro. Bob Beebe (Sis. Sue, South Bend) and Bro. Don Sinn (Sis. Linda, Silverton) for being with us this past month.

May our prayers be with Bro. Gilbert Stock as he was in the hospital with heart conditions.

As we have just recently honored our earthly fathers, let us ever be mindful of the love of the Heavenly

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

Rachel Currier

“Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:”

Matthew 7:7

We're thankful that two souls in our congregation, Eric and Jodi Zimmerman, have sought the Lord in repentance recently. Their parents are Bro. Ben and Sis. Kathy Zimmerman and Bro. Jon and Sis. Rita Wettstein (Bloomfield).

Harold and Ashley Schieber have welcomed their first child, Myla Dru, into their home. Grandparents of Myla are Bro. Mike and Sis. Mary Schieber and Bro. Mark and Sis. Lisa Schmidgall (Eureka). Also, little Ethan Paul was born into the home of Bro. Brad and Sis. Anna Knapp. He is welcomed by sister Amber and grandparents, Bruce Knapp and Sis. Mary Knapp and Bro. Jake and Sis. Glenna Rinkenberger. We wish them all God's grace and keeping as they raise their children.

We appreciated the labors of visiting ministers again this month. They include Bro. Ron Isch (Sis. Jane, Lamont-Gridley), Bro. Warren Schlatter (Sis. Cindy, Junction), and Bro. Dan Stoller (Sis. Deb, Remington). May God provide for them as they seek to preach His Holy Word.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN

Amy Gasser Miriam Gasser

Bros. Ken Dietz and Brad Gudeman (both of Bradford, IL) recently exhorted and encouraged us through the preaching of God's Word. We were blessed by their visits.

The heart of Shania Young (Tom and Sis. Jolene) has been stirred to the point of confessing her need for repentance. We are thankful and prayerful for each convert.

The Bible Class students and some teachers and parents returned safely from a week of volunteer work at the orphanage in Magdalena, Mex-

ico. A brother who gave a description of the trip expressed appreciation for the many prayers offered on behalf of the travelers.

Sis. Erika Furj had additional surgery, and Sis. Nancy Schambach (Bro. Ron) had a hip replacement. We pray that both recoveries go well.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

**Dee Baer
Jodi Blunier**

We have been blessed with many new babies. Serena Leigh joined Bro. Jared, Sis. Sarah and Audrey Fehr. Grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Sandy Fehr and Bro. Tom and Sis. Edie Stoller. Hadley Quinn was added to Bro. Tyler, Sis. Tiffany, Autumn and Madison Knapp's home. Grandparents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Lori Knapp and Dave and Diane Eastman. Kylie Renae came to Bro. Jarod, Sis. Heidi and Lindsey Leman. Grandparents are Bro. Chris and Sis. Marlene Leman and Bro. Paul and Sis. Kris Schmidgall. Will Jay blessed Bro. Randy, Sis. Lindsay, Kaiya and Rylee Huber's home. Grandparents are Bro. Gary Huber, Karen Huber and Bro. Mark and the late Sis. Carolyn Hoerr. Kary Lou brightened the home of Bro. Jake, Sis. Janell, Ernie, Lester and Charles Fehr. Grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Sandy Fehr and Bro. Tim and Sis. Donna Carr. Autumn Rose cheered Bro. Dan, Sis. Holly, Jesse, Jordan, Amber, Amanda, Alayna and Justin Bradle. Grandparents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Ila Bradle and Bro. Wally and Sis. Diane Feuchtenberger (Morris, MN). Kinsey Marie arrived at Bro. Brad, Sis. Amanda and Emerson Stoller's home. Grandparents are Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Sherry and Bro. Norman and Sis. Connie Hoerr.

A spiritual awakening has prompted Brooke Schumacher (Bro. Dale and Sis. Lavonne) to repen-

tance. "Haste to flee His condemnation, Seek the straight and narrow way." (ZH 52)

Karen Blunier took her last breath after a brief hospitalization. She is survived by her mother, Sis. Wilma Blunier, and sisters, Sis. Nancy Knepp (Washington), Sis. Evie (Bro. Randy) Mogler (Washington), Sis. Dori Blunier, Sis. Edie (Bro. Tom) Stoller, Marge (Adam) Parmenter (MI). "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes..." Rev. 21:4

Bro. Terry Leman (Sis. Shirley) grieved the loss of his stepmother, Sis. Gerry Leman (Bro. Milton). Her services were held at Goodfield Church.

Recovering from hospitalizations are Sis. Sharon Martin (Bro. Alan), Bro. Keith Blunier, Bro. Harold Hodel (Sis. Mick) and Sis. Charlene Schumacher (Bro. Bob).

Visiting ministers who labored in our behalf were Bro. John Steiner (Oakville, IA), Bro. Beirne Messner (Morris, MN), Bro. Ken Eisenmann (Cissna Park), Bro. Steve Pamer (Akron, OH), Bro. Warren Schlatter (Junction, OH), Bro. Ted Luginbuhl (Smithville, OH), Bro. Dave Hartter (Sabetha, KS), Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN) and Bro. Randy Mogler (Washington).

Bro. Dave and Sis. Beulah Ehnle have relocated to Eureka and are assembling with us.

Note of Thanks:

The family of Karen Blunier wishes to express a thank you for all the love, gifts, food, prayers and memorials given in her honor. It happened so suddenly, but we have the faith to believe it was God's timing. Even though we know that we will miss her, we are happy we could enjoy her for 48 years. May God bless all for your kind deeds.

Sis. Wilma Blunier and family

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

**Angela Herr
Kay Steffen**

What glorious state, to be a lamb of Jesus,
to feel the faithful Shepherd's loving grace.

In all the earth there is no higher standing
than this - to follow in the Saviour's ways...

Zion's Harp #16, vs. 1

We rejoice with Bro. Kirk Steidinger (Bro. Martin and Sis. Trish), Bro. Micah Zehr (Bro. Nelson and Sis. Amy), Bro. Philip Hartman (Bro. Ryan and Sis. Lori), and Bro. Timothy Hartman (Bro. Mark and Sis. Judy) and welcome them as our new brothers-in-faith! We heard their testimonies and witnessed their baptisms the weekend of June 11 and 12. Our prayers are with them as they continue their walk with the Lord. We thank Elder Bro. Steve Martin (Eureka, IL) and Elder Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL) for assisting our Elder Bro. Rick Plattner throughout the weekend.

Our Sunday School enjoyed a week of Vacation Bible School the week of June 6-10. We were thankful to have Bro. John Bradle (Roanoke, IL), Elder Bro. Bruce Endress (Bradford, IL), and Bro. Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL) in our midst to minister to our Bible class students. Bro. Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL) also visited our Sunday School on June 12 and spoke to our Bible class students.

Other visiting ministers serving our congregation this month were Bro. Dennis Rassi (Austin, TX), Bro. Todd Sinn (Latty, OH), Bro. Arlen Leman (Forrest, IL), Bro. Gary Brown (Forrest, IL), Bro. Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL), Bro. Al Schambach (Remington, IN), and Bro. Dewayne Dill (Minneapolis,

MN). We thank each of these brothers for being with us. May God richly bless each one as they minister God's Word.

We are thankful that Abram Zehr (Bro. Nelson and Sis. Amy) has answered God's call and made a beginning in repentance. We pray that he may build a firm foundation as he begins his walk with the Lord.

We extend our deepest sympathy to William Fehr (Helen), Sis. Anna Mae Fehr, and Sis. Eunice Stork (Bro. John) in the loss of their sister, Margaret Fehr, who passed away on June 11.

Our prayers have been with Bro. Mark Bazzell (Sis. Tania) as he recently had surgery. May God heal and provide for him and his dear family as he recovers.

ILLINOIS, FORREST

Lynn Dotterer
Lisa Aberle

How thankful we are to welcome four new brothers into the fold! They are Bros. Stuart Kilgus (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Denise), Reuben Leman (Bro. Fred and Sis. Brenda), Jordan Zimmerman and Pete Zimmerman (Bro. Kent and Sis. Paulette). Elder Bros. Ted Steffen (Alto, MI) and Tom Stock (Cissna Park, IL) were here to help our Elder Bro. Marvin for this joyful occasion. Elder Bro. Ted Steffen also stayed to minister to us on Sunday.

Our other visiting ministers during the past month were Bros. Kerwin Edelman (Athens, AL), David Eisenmann (Champaign, IL), Ron Koehl (Sarasota, FL), Dale Moore (Elgin, IA) and Mark Zimmerman (Eureka, IL). Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA) also visited us. We thank each of them for their selfless service on our behalf.

In addition, we had several ministers who traveled to Forrest to talk to our Bible Class during Vacation Bible

School. Bros. Trent Meiss (Eureka, IL), John Rassi (Tremont, IL), Craig Stickling (Peoria, IL), and Michael Wagenbach (Wolcott, IN) all made special efforts to come; we thank them for speaking to our young people.

This month, Shana Hetherington (Mike and Debbie Kaye Craddock, Fairbury, IL) and Justin Koehl (Bro. Jim and Sis. Diane) began their life together. In addition, Troy Slagel (Bro. Lynn and Sis. Kathy) and April Kaeb (Will and Juanita, Arrowsmith, IL) also were married recently. As they establish their homes, may they look to God for His wisdom and direction.

Bro. Seth, Sis. Renee and little Sophie Leman welcomed home Kyson Alan. Kyson's grandparents are Bro. Kevin and Sis. Nita Grimm (Sabetha, KS) and Bro. Fred and Sis. Brenda Leman.

Bro. Levi Edelman (Sis. Donna) and Bro. Rich Wenger (Sis. Jill) spent time in the hospital this month. We pray they will continue to recover from their surgeries.

Note of Thanks:

We want to thank everyone who remembered our mother on her 100th birthday with cards, telephone calls, visits, gifts, and flowers. May God richly bless each one of you for your kindness.

The family of Sis. Nettie Kupferschmid Kyburz

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

Kayla Wiegand
Melissa Rokey

“For thou art my hope, O Lord GOD:thou art my trust from my youth.”

Psalms 71:5

A breakfast in honor of the graduating senior class was held May 15.

We give our encouragement and blessings for the future to Mallory Bauman, Luke Lowery, Kaitlyn Monfre, Tyler Porter, Robbie Rieke, Reid Schieler, Clint Schumacher, Brent Wiegand, and Zachary Wiegand.

Alex Knepp (Cassie) has surrendered by faith, confessed and expresses peace with God and man. We are thankful to continue to see the hand of God at work.

“Love of all gifts is the greatest, which the Spirit does bestow” (Zion's Harp #37). On Sunday, June 5, our loved ones, Keith Grimm and Perri Hartman, were united in marriage at the fellowship hall. Keith is the son of Bro. Jeff and Sis. Ruth and Perri is the daughter of Bro. Jim and Sis. Ree Hartman from Congerville. We wish them God's blessings in their life together. We also rejoice with this couple as they have turned their hearts to the Lord in repentance. We are thankful to continue to see the hand of God moving and calling souls.

“The LORD is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him.”

Nahum 1:7

Our sincere sympathy extends to Ethel Finley as her sister, Elvina Guengerich, from Morton passed away on May 17.

Sis. Marie Kieser (Bro. Alfred) is at home again and recovering. Bro. Wilbur Heinold (Sis. Mildred) continues to battle pneumonia and has been in and out of the hospital. Chuck Shrock (Diane) and Bro. Andy Bauman (Sis. Rita) have both spent time in the hospital. Please continue to remember them all in prayer.

“Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a

rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.”

Matthew 7:24-25

We had a wonderful week of Vacation Bible School June 6-10. Special thanks to all who taught the children, the visiting ministers, singing groups, and the committee who planned the week and provided us with snacks afterwards. We felt the nearness of the Holy Spirit throughout the entire week. Speaking on “Building on the Rock” were our visiting ministers, Bro. Mike Moore (Sis. Pam, Athens, AL), Bro. Clark Stoller (Sis. Cindy, Gridley, IL), and Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Sis. Jane, Bluffton North, IN).

We appreciate the ministering brothers who visited and served our congregation. They included Bros. Darren Fehr (Sis. Nora, West Bend, IA), Brian Huber (Sis. Jacki, Francesville, IN), and Darren Plattner (Sis. Sue, Champaign, IL).

Note of Thanks:

We desire to honor the Lord our God as He is glorified with prayers as He answers our request for healing. Thankful for the opportunity to be blessed by His mercy, love, and compassion to help Marie return to reasonable health and strength. We are thankful for the support of all the love received from the Goodfield Church Brothers, Sisters, prayers, and cards.

Bro. Alfred and Sis. Marie Kieser

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

Perry A. Klopfenstein

Our oldest sister in faith, Sis. Ruth I. Gramm, 101, passed away June 7 at the Eureka Home. Truly she will be missed as one possessing an inviting personality and always eager to visit with anyone. A widow, she had been

married to Bro. “Hank” Gramm from 1932 to 1989. Survivors are a daughter, Jane Cloat, Peoria, and a son, Jack Gramm, of Fountain Hills, AZ. A son, Willis “Butch” Gramm, preceded her in death. Also surviving her are ten grandchildren, twenty great-grandchildren, and four great-great grandchildren. That is quite a legacy.

Sis. Ruth was the last remaining person connected to our earliest leaders here in Gridley. She was born in 1910, and was two years old when Elder Rudolph Witzig died in 1912. Although she did not know him, she was living when he passed away.

Vacation Bible School was held in early June. Speakers for the adult sessions were Bro. Ron Koehl (Sarasota, FL), Bro. Tim Lehman (Taylor, MO), Bro. Matt Kaufman (Bloomington, IL), Elder Bro. Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO) and Bro. Jeff Wiegand (Goodfield, IL). They spoke on varying categories under the theme “The Power and Purpose of Praise”. The topical information centered on Psalm 34:1, “I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.”

Another visiting minister at Gridley was Bro. Mark Wettstein (LaCrosse, IN).

Bro. Art Kuerth has returned to his home on East Sixth Street after spending some time at a nursing home.

Gerry Sievers had knee replacement, and is taking therapy. Sis. Renee Witzig is recovering from surgery. Bro. Curt Gramm is undergoing tests as is Henry Finck. We pray for their well being.

Bro. Jay Wettstein was injured when a farm implement he was delivering fell onto his foot and some toes were injured. He had surgery in a Springfield hospital, and is now home recovering.

Corn and beans are all planted,

and we are thankful for timely rains.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

Annette Tanner

Julie Bahr

Bro. Bob Pflederer (Sis. Ellie) gave our Wednesday evening Family Worship message, “God’s Message to the Rich”. Bro. Bob challenged us to take inventory of ALL our personal possessions and do a little assessment as to how MUCH we have in comparison to many others less fortunate.

During our Bible School week the following ministers blessed us with messages of God’s Word centered on the topics of “God is Alive and Active!” Our deepest appreciation to Bro. Clark Stoller (Sis. Cindy, Gridley); Bro. Dave Obergfel (Sis. Kathleen, Peoria); Bro. John Bradle (Sis. Jill, Roanoke); Bro. Brad Metz (Sis. Karen, Bloomington); and Bro. Dave Marquart (Sis. Lori, Taylor). Our thanks also to Bro. Glen Funk (Sis. Sally, Wichita) who visited us this month.

Our sympathy is shared with our Sis. Louise Steiner in the loss of her sister, Maxine Dingleline.

On June 12 the engagement of Sis. Whitney Braker to Bro. Brent Dill was made known. Sis. Whitney is the daughter of Bro. Todd and Sis. Wendy Braker and Bro. Brent is the son of Bro. Dave and Sis. Ann Dill (Tremont).

We extend a warm welcome to Bro. Benji and Sis. Kyle Leman along with sons, Hudson and Parks, to our Morton Church family.

Congratulations to grandparents, Bro. Mark and Sis. Becky Grimm, as they, along with parents, Paul and Elise Grimm, welcomed baby boy Elijah Evan into their home on May 18. Big brother Judah and maternal grandparents, Bro. Tim and Sis. Betty Kaupp (Gridley) also welcome Baby Elijah.

Bro. Jan and Sis. Glenda

Neukomm are thankful grandparents for baby girl, Remy Tulip, who entered the home of Traevor, Andrea and Adalai Guingrich on May 26. Paternal grandparents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Sandy Guingrich (Indianapolis).

On June 22, baby girl Tinley Renee became part of the family of Andy, Becky and Gavin Zeller. Grateful grandparents are Bro. Jon and Sis. Christie Zeller and Dan and Bonnie Oltman.

Congratulations to Amy Stephens and Tim Zimmerman as they were united in marriage on June 25. Amy is the daughter of Bro. Mark and Sis. Esther Stephens and Tim is the son of Bro. Doug and Sis. Jane Zimmerman.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA **Pam Fritzenmeier**

Gianna James Funk was born June 6 to Bro. Dustin and Sis. Erin Funk. Big brother, Oliver, and grandparents Elder Bro. Tim and Sis. Debi, and Sis. Jeanne Metzger (Champaign), welcomed her home, after an extended stay in the hospital.

We are happy and thankful to report three young ladies have come in repentance. They are Paige Elsasser (Bro. Brian and Mary), Tiffany Waibel (Bro. Mike and Sis. Rose), and Abby Triplett (Bro. Matt and Sis. Kristi).

Our youth of all ages enjoyed a week of Vacation Bible School. Thank you to all volunteers who devoted so much time to make it meaningful and memorable for them. Our guest ministers for the week included Bro. Fred Funk (Sis. Diane, Morton); Bro. Fred Witzig (Sis. Nancy, Washington); Bro. Matt Steffen (Sis. Deanna, Princeville); Bro. Clark Stoller (Sis. Cindy, Gridley); and Bro. Darren Plattner (Sis. Sue, Champaign). Bro. Bill Schick (Sis. Joan, Magdalena) was with us Memorial Day weekend

and Bro. Fred Funk (Sis. Diane, Morton) on Father's Day.

We wish to extend our sympathy and prayers to those who have suffered the loss of loved ones: Bro. Ken and Sis. Sherry Sauder – Bro. Ken's brother, Dr. Steven (Vicki) Sauder; Bro. Loris and Sis. Pat Knobloch – Sis. Pat's mother, Sis. Faye Pfister, Morton; Bernice Houk – her sister, Sis. Marie Heinold, Valparaiso; and Marilyn Hermann - her husband, Bro. Rich. We pray for comfort for each family member who is grieving.

Please join us in also remembering in prayer those suffering health problems – Sis. Barb Schafer, Rich (Bonnie) Hodel, Sis. Elsie Eilers, and Sis. Betty Obergfel. Sis. Ardith Herrmann and her young grandson, Ivan Carlson (Bro. Jim and Sis. Faith), were in an automobile accident.

Bro. Tim and Sis. Joan Reinhard and family, Haiti, are home in the states for some family time. Continue to pray for their ministry in Haiti and for Bro. Jonathan and Sis. Bere Aupperle and Bro. Zach Knobloch, Magdalena. Sis. Angela Knobloch (Bro. Loris and Sis. Pat) has moved to Leo, IN, serving as an assistant houseparent at Gateway Woods. Others have been to Romania, Japan, and Russia. May God bless each of us, as we serve Him in the corner of the world where we are.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE **Gloria White** **Linda Joos**

Follow me, the Saviour calleth;
Come to me, I am the way!
Zion's Harp #95

We are thankful that God is still calling souls to repentance. Our recent converts are Clayton Blunier (Bro. Darin and Sis. Keri), Larissa Herrmann (Bro. Roger and Sis.

Darlene), Victoria Stoller (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Mary), and Rhea Berchtold (Bro. David and Sis. Leann).

Visiting ministers have been Retired Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle (Peoria, IL), Bro. Nelson Beer (Milford, IN), Bro. Rex Frieden (Lamar, MO), and Elder Bro. Brad Eisenmann (Chicago, IL). May the Word sown bring forth bountiful Fruit.

Kristi Stahl (Bro. Rod and Sis. Cathy) married Robert Koch from Tremont, IL, on June 10. We wish them God's nearness in this important step in life.

Bro. Dave and Sis. Beulah Ehnle moved to Eureka, IL, to our church home. We wish them God's blessings in their new home. We are thankful for their many years with us and their faithful walk of life. We will miss their presence here, but hope they will return often to visit.

Sis. Adele Martin, Sis. Evalyn Herrmann (Bro. Noah), Sis. Emily Stoller (Retired Elder Bro. Joe), and Sis. Esther Martin (Bro. Nate) have been hospital patients recently. We pray for God's healing for them.

Elder Bro. Jim and Sis. Marlene Plattner are thankful for a little granddaughter, Danae Grace, born May 24 to Bro. Kirk and Sis. Keri Plattner.

Retired Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle (Peoria, IL) and Bro. Justin Koch (Washington, IL) spoke to our Bible Class during Vacation Bible School week. May God bless the words shared by these brothers.

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE **Jamie Hodel** **Judy Sauder**

St. Matthew 28:19: "...baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:" We rejoice with Sis. Joy Hinrichsen (Bro. Mark and Sis. Sue) who gave her testimony of faith and was baptized on May 21-22. Bro. Wayne

Wiegand (Goodfield) was our guest minister for the day. We are also thankful for our three new converts, Mindy Bradle (Bro. John and Sis. Jill), Ruth Hodel (Bro. Phil and Sis. Lynne) and Jenna Moser (Bro. Brian and Sis. Beth) who have given their hearts to the Lord in repentance. We pray for God's continued nearness upon these young women as they establish their lives in the Lord.

St. Mark 10:7: "For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife;" Also on May 22, the marriage engagement of Sis. Hannah Knepp (Bro. Rich and Sis. Janet) and Bro. Keith Wettstein (Bro. Gary and Sis. Elna) was announced. We ask that the Lord would bless them as they look forward to a marriage in Him.

Bro. Bob and Sis. Marilyn Ott have once again become grandparents with the arrival of Cole Robert Adams on May 23. His parents are Joe and Lisa of Washington; his older brothers are Nathan and Brandon, and his paternal grandparents are Don and Joan Adams of Normal. Bro. Larry and Sis. Sharon Neukomm also welcomed a new granddaughter, Lydia Rose Neukomm, on May 13. Her parents are Jeff and Brandi of Roanoke and her maternal grandparents are Oscar and Diane Osorio of Linwood, WA, and Greg McAdams. Bro. Kirk and Sis. Keri Plattner are rejoicing over the arrival of Danae Grace on May 24. Her excited brothers and sister are Drew, Truitt, and Daisha and her thankful grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Patsy Kaeb and Elder Bro. Jim and Sis. Marlene Plattner (Princeville). Then on June 21, Rio D arrived to bless the home of Bro. Jay and Sis. Jackie Braker. Grandparents, Elder Bro. Kent and Sis. Jan Heimer (Taylor) and Bro. Jim and Sis. Marge Braker, are also thrilled with this new addition to each of their families. We are so thankful for these

new arrivals and pray for God's blessings upon these dear families as they seek to raise their children in the ways of the Lord.

Exodus 12:13: "...and when I see the blood, I will pass over you." On May 25, Bro. Mike Rieker (Peoria) presented our monthly topical Bible Study on the First Passover. We thank him for his exhortations to us.

I Cor. 15:55: "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?" Sis. Faye Pfister (Morton) went to be with the Lord on May 24. She was a sister to Bro. Lyle (Sis. Mary Lou) Martin. May God comfort this dear family in their loss.

We were privileged to host Vacation Bible School June 6-10. On Monday, Bro. Dave Zehr (Gridley) spoke on "The Miracle of New Creation". Tuesday, Bro. Erik Givens (Princeville) presented his talk on "Spiritual Warfare, It's Real!" "Who is My Neighbor?" was the subject for Bro. Jedd Rocke (Goodfield) on Wednesday. Thursday, Bro. Craig Stickling (Peoria) exhorted us on "For Such a Time as This". And Bro. Willis Ehnle (Peoria) wrapped up the week by instructing us that "This is For Eternity". We thank all of our visiting ministers for their gracious service to us and pray for God's continued blessings upon them. It was a blessed week of worship and instruction.

We lift up Sis. Ann Hodel, Bro. Merlyn (Sis. Jan) Getz, Bro. Walt (Sis. Mary) Schwind and Bro. Don (Sis. Helen) Brown in prayer as they are facing health issues.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT **Teresa Rowell** **Janice Sauder**

We are thankful for ministering brothers who are willing to preach the Word in season and out of season. Bro. John Rowell (Sis. Nelda, Burlington), Bro. Fred Witzig (Sis.

Nancy, Washington), Bro. Chuck Kellenberger (Sis. Debbie, Elgin, IL), and Bro. Akihiro Ito (Sis. Carrie, Shioda) have been here recently.

The engagement of Bro. Brent Dill (Bro. Dave and Sis. Ann) and Sis. Whitney Braker (Bro. Todd and Sis. Wendy, Morton) was made known to us. We wish them the Lord's richest blessings as they begin this new chapter in their lives.

Todd and Jodi Dawson became parents to their first girl. Addilyn Sue is welcomed home by them and siblings, Andrew and Aaron. Addilyn's grandparents are Bro. Si and Sis. Lavonne Wagenbach.

Don Davis (Kay), Bro. Derek Sauder (Sis. Leann), Chris Allen (Sis. Sheri), and Bro. Earl Sauder (Sis. Glenna) have all experienced health issues and are undergoing treatment or surgery and are thankful for the prayers of the brethren as they heal.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON **Nancy Lemam** **Linda Folkerts**

Bro. Drew and Sis. Jodi Fehr welcomed a sweet little boy, Teyden Drew, on June 4. Also welcoming Teyden are grandparents, Dave and Sis. Linda Fehr and Bro. Art and Sis. Carol Anliker (Eureka).

Adam Herrmann and Kathy Wagner have announced their engagement and plan to marry August 26. Rejoicing with them are their parents, Bro. Mark and Sis. Tammy Hermann and Bro. Greg and Sis. Jill Wagner (Goodfield). We wish them many rich blessings as they anticipate and plan their wedding.

Thomas and Sarah Kellenberger were married June 19. Their parents are Bro. Ron and Sis. Carole Kellenberger and Dave and Dixie Selenke of Viola, KS. May God richly bless them as they begin their life together.

Karen Blunier passed away peace-

fully into the arms of Jesus on June 8. We rejoice in her victory but will sorely miss her sweet loving presence in our church. Karen lived at one of the group homes of the Home for the Handicapped in Morton. We extend our deepest sympathies to Karen's family: her mother, Sis. Wilma Blunier (Eureka); five sisters, especially Sis. Nancy Knepp and Sis. Evie (Bro. Randy) Mogler that worship with us. Karen's joy was evident and we look forward to joining her on Heaven's golden shore.

We are prayerful for Bro. Dean Kellenberger. He has been struggling with health problems and has recently went on hospice care. Also struggling with health difficulties are Sis. Sue Ruppert and little Abram Sauder (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Chelby). Both Sis. Sue and Abram recently underwent surgery and are recovering at home. As these dear members of our body struggle, we pray that the enemy would flee, they would feel the comfort of the Father's nearness and the love and support of our church family.

On Memorial Day weekend we were delighted to welcome Bro. Marshall and Sis. Jan Heinold from Ixtlan, Mexico. It is always good to have them visit. Along with sharing the Gospel they shared an update on their work and ministry in Ixtlan. It is always a great reminder to fervently pray and support the missionaries that spread the Gospel across the world. We are a blessed people.

We were pleasantly surprised with a visit on a Wednesday evening from Bro. Akihiro Ito (Sis. Carrie) of Shioda, Japan. We enjoyed a blessing from his ministry.

Other ministers sharing with us were Bro. Darren Plattner (Sis. Sue, Champaign, IL) and Bro. Jerry Wagenbach (Sis. Bonnie, Oakville, IA).

"Jesus Calms the Storm" was the

theme for our Vacation Bible School week. It always takes a group effort to plan VBS but we pray our children's hearts would remain soft and receptive to the message of Jesus.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

**Kim Meyer
Suzie Fiechter**

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

II Cor. 5:17

We have witnessed the miraculous hand of God as He has delivered five souls from death unto life! We rejoice with Aaron Steffen (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Jeanne), Ben Frauhiger (Bro. Chris and Sis. Sara), Chelsea Baumgartner (Bro. Craig and Sis. Beth), and Rob and Sierra Parker as they have become our new brothers and sisters in Christ.

Beginning a new walk with the Lord, Jason Graf (Deb Snider Graf) and Dan Barger have turned to Him in repentance.

It's such a joy to witness God's work as He brings two souls together. We pray God's blessings on Bro. Aaron Rush (Steve and Kelly) and Sis. Katie Gerber (Bro. Jay and Sis. Deb) on their engagement. He has also led Bro. Austin Gerber (Bro. Dean and Sis. Jaci) and Sis. Rachel Powell of Toledo (Bro. Don and Sis. Carol, Rittman) together.

Bro. Joel Fiechter (Bro. Mark and Sis. Shelly) and Sis. Danielle Geisel (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Marcia) were united in marriage on June 5 here in Bluffton, while our Bro. Joel Rinkenberger (Bro. Jim and Sis. Jeanne) married Sis. Stephanie Bahr (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Janice, Kiowa) in Magdalena, MX. May God be glorified in each of these couples' lives!

The sounds of little children in

church give us such a hope for the future. On May 24, Bro. Vince and Sis. Brandy Pfister, along with their children, Lilly, Maxton, Hazel and Marcus, welcomed Judah Alexander into their home. Grandparents are Bro. Kendall and Sis. Sandy Ringger and Bro. Al and Sis. Becky Pfister. Bro. Allen and Sis. Susan Stoller added granddaughter, Saylor Brynn Stoller (Bro. Andy and Sis. Jenna), to their family. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Len and Sis. Mary Francesci (Bluffton North). Little Layne Mae Meyer has blessed the family of Bro. Bryan, Sis. Kim, Jesse, and Katelyn. Bro. Harold and Sis. Violet Meyer and Bro. Lyle and Sis. Connie Kaehr are the thankful grandparents.

Thank you to all the organizers and counselors of Jr. High Girl's Camp! Thirty-one Bluffton teens enjoyed and appreciated the new friendships that will hopefully last for eternity.

Our love and prayers follow each of our graduates as they enter a new phase of life. Our seniors were honored with a breakfast on May 22, where they were encouraged to look to God first and seek His direction in all their days.

We continue to lift Bro. Zach (Sis. Jenny) Bertsch and Sis. Mary (Bro. Carl) Fiechter and their families before the loving Father as they struggle with health issues. Their joy and courage in the face of death has inspired all of us to greater love and faithfulness.

Bro. Allen and Sis. Susan Stoller said goodbye to her stepfather, Edward Murphy. May they feel the comfort of the Holy Spirit.

"It is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy."

I Peter 1:16

"He is Holy" is the theme of our 2011 Bible School. Nursery through

8th grade children gather each morning for 2 weeks to learn more about the God who created them, the Savior who died for them and the Bible which instructs them. On Friday evening, the church resounds with their voices lifted in praise and prayer. We are all blessed as we work together. It's a beautiful example of the body of Christ operating in the unity of the Spirit! We have been challenged to live holy lives, conformed to the image of God, set apart to His sacred use!

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

I Peter 1:15

**INDIANA
BLUFFTON NORTH
Jessie Longenberger
Amy Moser**

"Honor thy father and thy mother..."

Exodus 20:12

On Mother's Day the Singles Group served lunch. It was a very special time of sharing and fellowship. We would ask God to bless all the mothers, grandmothers, aunts, and sisters who have been a Godly influence in our lives.

The blessing of a baby sister, Saylor Brynn, was added to the home of Bro. Andy and Sis. Jenna Stoller. Rejoicing grandparents are Bro. Allen and Sis. Susan Stoller (Bluffton) and Bro. Len and Sis. Mary Francesi. Welcoming Saylor home are brothers Crew and Ridge.

Bro. Vernon Gerber became a great-grandfather again with the birth of Judah Alexander Pfister. He is the new son of Bro. Vince and Sis. Brandy Pfister.

Our Sis. Mary Honegger's (Bro. Bob) mother, Marie Heinold, has

gone home to be with her eternal Father. Her funeral was held on May 30 in Valparaiso, IN. Even as we sorrow with her family, we can rejoice that she is now in the presence of her Lord and Savior.

"Oh, give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good! For his mercy endureth forever. Let the redeemed of the Lord say so..."

Psalms 107:1-2

**INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE
Jacki Huber
Mildred Clauss**

"Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep."

Romans 12:15

There have been occasions for us both to rejoice, and to experience sorrow with loved ones this past month.

We rejoice with Sis. Danielle Wuethrich (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Kathy) and Bro. Luke Furrer (Bro. Brian and Sis. Lorene) of West Lafayette, IN, as they were united in marriage on Sunday, June 12. It was a beautiful day, and we wish to thank visiting ministering Bros. Mark Gerber (Sis. Barb, Bluffton, IN) and Ken Wuethrich (Sis. Lyn, Indianapolis, IN) who shared the morning services with us that day, and also Bro. Nick Gutwein (Sis. Suzanne, West Lafayette, IN) who assisted Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein with the wedding ceremony that afternoon.

Also visiting this past month was our Bro. Jeff Neihouser (Sis. Sue, Morton, IL). It is always a blessing to have visitors, and we are thankful for each one.

We were happy to have Bro. Bob and Sis. Joy Huber and their family "home" in Francesville, visiting from their home in Mexico recently. While they were here, they celebrated the

graduation of their daughter, Sis. Chloe, from High School.

Children are precious to the Lord, and little Mirabel Lourdes-Esther is a precious addition to the home of Steve and April Young. She was born on May 23, and her older siblings, Quinton and Hope, also welcome her into their hearts and home.

Abdullah Alwulayi spent the past year with our Bro. Les and Sis. Christine Kaeb and their family as a foreign exchange student from Saudi Arabia. We are thankful to be able to meet and welcome visiting students into our community and church family, and pray that the Lord will touch Abdullah's life, and bless him as he returns to his home.

Two of our dear loved ones have passed from this life into eternity, and both professed a saving faith in our Lord Jesus, and also led fruitful lives which showed His love to us, not only by what they said, but by how they lived their lives.

Bro. Harvey Gutwein passed from this life on May 22, and we express our loving sympathy to his wife, Sis. Joan (Streitmatter), and to his children, Ann Gutwein of Mt. Vernon, WA; Gwendolyn Gutwein of Fort Wayne, IN; Madeline (Honey) Gutwein of Mountainair, NM; Audrey (Jeffrey) Schneider of Greenfield, IN; Amanda (Scott) Liter of Plovdiv, Bulgaria; Bro. Fred (Sis. Madeleine) Gutwein, Gordon (Judy) Gutwein, and Bro. Harvey (Sis. Ellen) Gutwein, all of Francesville; Eric (Cyndi) Gutwein of Rensselaer, IN; and Kurt (Debbie) Gutwein of Lafayette, IN. We also extend our sympathy to Bro. Harvey's sisters and brother, Sis. Fern (Bro. Sid) Leman of Francesville; Sis. Dorothy (Bro. Victor) Beer of LaBelle, FL; Sis. Marcella Gudeman (Bro. Wendell), Sis. Suzanne (Herb) Cook, and Bro. Glen (Sis. Mary Ann) Gutwein, all of Francesville.

Sis. Marie Heinold went home to be with the Lord on May 29. We have missed Sis. Marie in Francesville, as she resided here after living in Valparaiso and before moving to Bluffton, IN. We extend our loving sympathy to all of her family, especially Bro. Leon Wuethrich from Francesville. Services for Sis. Marie were held at the Valparaiso church.

We are beginning a week of Vacation Bible School as I send this news, and we are praying for the following ministering brothers who plan to share with us this week. We wish to thank Elder Bro. Ted Steffen (Sis. Sandra, Alto, MI), Bro. Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue, Detroit, MI), Bro. Daren Metz (Sis. Rita, Gridley, IL), and Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Sis. Jane, Bluffton North, IN). May God bless you all for your time and efforts in preparing and sharing with us.

**INDIANA
INDIANAPOLIS
Penny Schroder
Sandy Lichtle**

On May 22, Bro. Eric Frantz (Joe and Sis. Cheri, Remington, IN) and Sis. Katy Zeller (the late Bro. Eric and Sis. Ginny) were united in marriage. We wish them God's richest blessings upon their new life together in the Lord. We want to thank our Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign, IL) and Bro. Curt Rassi (Sis. Kathy, Tremont, IL) for being with us on the wedding day. We appreciate their servant hearts and labors of love.

Our Vacation Bible School was held the week of June 6-10. The verse for the week was Mark 16:15, "And He said unto them, Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." It was a blessing to see the enthusiasm of the children as they listened to the Bible stories and sang praises to our Lord.

Our prayers are with our High

School Bible Class and others who left on June 18 to work at His Ranch in Taylor, MO. It is a joy and blessing to be able to help and serve others.

We extend our thanks to our Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) and Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington, IL) for their willingness to be used in the Lord's service on a recent Wednesday evening.

We rejoice with Bro. J.R. and Sis. Tiffany Sauder on the birth of their daughter, Ainsley Rose, born on June 17. Ainsley is welcomed home by her big sister, Aubrey, and her grandparents, Bro. John and Sis. Peg Sauder and Bro. Jon and Sis. Wendy Schwab (Wolcott, IN).

**INDIANA, LACROSSE
Meagan Frank
Julie Rocke**

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

Psalm 127:3

Two families in our congregation were blessed with new babies this month. Bro. Ed and Sis. Carol Troxel are thankful for the safe arrival of a new grandson. Joseph Hulse III arrived to bless the home of Joe and Karina Hulse on May 28. Bro. Brad and Sis. Meagan Frank are rejoicing in the birth of their daughter, Brielle Lanae, who arrived on May 29. Her grandparents are Bro. Chris and Sis. Carla Wuethrich (St. Louis, MO) and Elder Bro. Curt and Sis. Lyla Frank. May each of these couples be granted grace to raise the new babies in God's truth and love.

We've enjoyed the fellowship of two young brothers who are working in our area this summer, Bro. Jesse Knapp from Congerville, IL, and Bro. Reid Zehr from Fairbury, IL.

We apologize for omitting the news of the engagement of Bro. Steve

and Sis. Anna Marie's son, Bro. Neil Stoller (Princeville, IL) to Sis. Luann Martin (Bro. Sam and Sis. Mary, Princeville, IL). We wish them God's richest blessings and look forward to seeing them when they come to visit.

We enjoyed our annual Sunday School Picnic on Sunday, June 12. It is always a wonderful evening of fellowship with the whole congregation at a local park.

Vacation Bible School was the week following on June 13th, 15th, and 17th. Monday evening the topic was "All of Self and None of Thee". Bro. Greg Lehman (Sis. Mary Beth, Wolcott, IN) joined us to speak on this topic. Wednesday evening, Bro. Art Mueller (Sis. Marlene, Belvidere, IL) spoke on "Less of Self and Some of Thee". Friday evening, Bro. Darren Fehr (Sis. Nora, West Bend, IA) came to speak on "None of Self and All of Thee". It was a very inspiring week with many truths shared – convicting and encouraging each of us. Thank you to each of the ministers who prepared for these evenings and spoke.

We are also thankful for our other visiting ministers this month – Bro. Chris Wuethrich (Sis. Carla, St. Louis, MO), Bro. Kevin Fehr (Sis. Lonnie, West Bend, IA) and Bro. Lucas Frank (Sis. Crystal, Detroit, MI). May God richly bless each who spends and is spent on His behalf in preaching and teaching the Word.

**INDIANA, LEO
Kirby Reutter**

As usual, there is so much to report in a single month that this article will simply have to be selective for the sake of brevity.

First, we wish to extend warm congratulations to Bro. Kirk and Sis. Keri Plattner on the safe arrival of previous little Danae Grace Plattner at 8:30 am on May 24. Danae checked in at 21 inches with 7 pounds, 10

ounces. Bro. Kirk and Sis. Keri and their dear children are residents of the island nation of Jamaica. Thus, it was a privilege to worship with this beloved family as they spent several months in the States in preparation for childbirth.

Secondly, two visiting ministers recently led us in worship: Bro. Jedd Rocke from our dear congregation in Goodfield, as well as Bro. Matt Kaufmann from our beloved congregation in Bloomington. Please come back, brothers!

Finally, a recent group of Leo voyagers safely returned from a service trip to Ixtlan, Mexico. We are so appreciative of the warm welcome which we received from the dear brothers to the South. While in Ixtlan, we were privileged to fellowship with various believers from a multitude of congregations within our Apostolic fellowship: Latty, Junction, Milford, Lacrosse, Gridley, Goodfield, Peoria, Washington, Eureka, Altadena, Tecate, Guadalajara—and even two brothers from Hungary! In fact, the only language in common for all the brothers from both continents was Spanish, which at times made communication rather interesting. Upon our return to Leo, greetings were locally extended from believers as geographically diverse as Mexico, Connecticut, and India. How merciful is the Savior in bringing His Body together for His purposes! The blood of Christ truly transcends every tongue, tribe, and border.

INDIANA, MILFORD

**Janie Price
Paula Haab**

As the school year draws to a close, preparation has been made to attend Vacation Bible School. The theme was perfecting our walk. Bro. Jeff Waibel spoke on God has a plan; Bro. Tim Drayer spoke on life's purpose; Bro. John Reinhard's topic was

avoiding lukewarmness, perseverance; and Bro. John Lehman spoke on prize or punishment.

What a joy it is to teach the youth and see the love for Jesus that warms their hearts.

With tender love, a baby girl was born to the family of Brad and Kim Brown. Bro. Bill and Sis. Anne Troup are the grandparents of Mia Isabelle. Mia has two sisters, Claire and Grace.

Our Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter once again brought us the Word. We praise God for the blessings Bro. Bill is so willing to share with us.

Sis. Pam Leman and Sis. Janie Price spent time in the hospital recently. How often do we take for granted how God has designed our unique body. When one part becomes handicapped, how quickly we realize the importance of all things working together. In our earthly families and our church family, when all members work together, it becomes a blessing to God.

How thankful we are to live in a country that sets aside a day to honor our fathers. What a blessing to be raised by a father who is an example of faith, of trust and of love. Our Heavenly Father promises us in Hebrews 13:5, "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee." Let us remember to pray for fathers who have chosen the earthly path over the love and grace God offers to us.

INDIANA, REMINGTON

**Jenni Honegger
Marcella Tyler**

Some of us were able to share in their days of joy and thanksgiving as we witnessed two weddings: Bro. Eric Frantz (Joe and Sis. Cheri) and Sis. Katy Zeller (Sis. Jenny and the late Bro. Eric, Indianapolis) in Indianapolis on May 22; and Bro. Jesse Stoller (Bro. Dan and Sis. Deb) and Sis. Maura Knobloch (Bro. Stan and

Sis. Dawn, Lester) in Lester on June 5. It is such a blessing to see how God can bring two lives together to be one flesh. We wish both couples many blessings as they start their newly married lives together. We also look forward to welcoming Sis. Maura as she makes Remington her new church home.

We also want to welcome Sis. Marge Pitman and Sis. Ada Jones back to Remington after an extended time away. Sis. Marge had been living in Sarasota for several years, and Sis. Ada was in Nashville, Indiana. We look forward to worshipping and sharing fellowship with Sis. Marge and Sis. Ada now that they have both returned to the area.

Bro. Dan Reinhard (Sis. Delores) was a hospital patient this last month. We pray for his continued healing and recovery.

We are thankful and humbled to once again be able to gather together each evening this week for Vacation Bible School with the Wolcott congregation. The theme this year is "The Potter and the Clay" and we have really enjoyed hearing about how God wants to knead and soften us by humbling our hearts, shape and mold us as we turn our lives over to Him, purify us in the fire of trials, adorn and glaze us using the talents and uniqueness He gave each one of us, and finally to use us for His glory as a finished vessel of His. We want to thank the visiting ministers who shared their time and wisdom with us: Bro. Dan Pfister (Sis. Sherry, Bluffton North), Bro. Mark Schmidgall (Sis. Lisa, Eureka), Bro. Randy Beer (Sis. Deb, Milford), Bro. Gary Sinn (Sis. Paulette, Latty), and Bro. Les Kaeb (Sis. Christine, Francesville), and also all the Wolcott brothers and sisters who worked so hard to make this week a success. "But now, O Lord, thou art our father; we are the clay; and thou the

potter; and we all are the work of thy hand.” Isaiah 64:8

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND
Natalie Virkler

“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever.”

1 John 2:15-17

We are very thankful to our Brothers and Sisters of Milford for sharing their VBS with us. We truly appreciate all the effort put into the VBS program and the ministering Brothers who came and shared God’s Word with us during the week. What a blessing it was for all!

INDIANA, VALPARAISO
Marguerite Hoerr

Summer has come to the Midwest and we are thrilled seeing the green all around us and the flowers blooming. It has been a very rainy spring and the farmers are dealing with it, perhaps deciding to plant soybeans instead of corn because of the time needed to mature. The farmers I spoke with aren’t complaining, just shifting with the weather to get their crops in. I often think that a farmer is very close to God because he depends on Him so much for the weather and conditions to plant and raise his crops. I worked with farmers for over twenty-five years and found this to be true.

The Valpo church lost a prayer warrior recently when Sis. Marie Heinold left her earthly home for one in Heaven. Her funeral was held in

Valpo where she and her husband, Bro. Ray, had lived for many years. Bro. Garry Bucher of our congregation, and Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein (Francesville) conducted the loving services for her.

A Francesville group of men, relatives of Marie, provided the beautiful music. We feel sympathy for her family and know they will be comforted with happy memories they had together. Marie was no longer living in Valpo when I first met her but our conversation will always stay with me. She told me how she loved our church and to remember wherever she is, she will continue to be a Prayer Warrior for our congregation. As our congregation became smaller I would think of Marie’s prayers for us, and was always so grateful to her. She came home to Valpo so we could say our last goodbyes to her.

Sis. Jo Meiss is another loved sister who has gone to be with her Lord. She and her husband, Rollie, who left for Heaven a while ago, were stalwarts in our Valpo church. I find myself looking at their usual seats as I walk into church for worship. Jo leaves to survive her: her son, Dale, and his wife Sherry and her two grandchildren, Anthony and Stacia. Jo is dearly loved by her nieces and nephews; she stepped into their home and helped with a big family after their mother (her sister) died. Later she married Rolland Meiss and they adopted two children, Dale and Marlene (who is no longer with them). Marlene left them two grandchildren, Anthony and Stacia, who were adopted by Jo and Rollie. In later years, these two wonderful people, who had reached their teens, were adopted by Dale and his wife Sherry. It has been such a tender story to me, because Anthony and Stacia had four parents who loved them so much. This entire remaining family is so valued in our Valpo

church and we ask God to comfort them and to bless them mightily as they face the future. Jo’s services will be held in our Valpo church on Wednesday, June 22. She was the first person who met me when we came to Valpo for the very first Sunday and she stayed with me all day and introduced me to everyone. I’ll never forget her as long as I have breath.

Having lost these two sisters in faith makes our membership count at the Valpo church smaller. We find, though, as we enter our church each Sunday morning that our flock keeps growing closer to each other and we find our love growing stronger. We have two dedicated ministers who provide us with the true Word of God each Sunday and we have the courage that God will continue to bless our church.

Father’s Day was observed this weekend and it reminded all of us to remember our fathers and give honor and thanks to them. God gives special recognition to our fathers in His Word. There are many scripture references to advise us of this. We are to “honor thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.” (Exodus 20:12) Other references are Deut. 5:16 and Matt 15:4 and 19:19. Many more remind us to give honor to our fathers. For those of us who had kind Christian fathers, this is easy to do. For those who do not, the scripture still applies, but might be harder to follow. Sometimes when respect is given, even though it isn’t deserved, fathers eventually live up to that respect. This is a beautiful way that God blesses His children. For the children who do not have fathers that are present in their homes, there is always their God in Heaven who can be revered.

A special blessing to me is the “up front” singing that takes place be-

tween lunch and our afternoon services. Bros. Tim Bucher and Joe Feller are faithful to get the Sunday school up front with them and they lead our singing together. It often rings with joy because the Sunday school participants choose to sing joyful songs. God has given them youthful voices clear and true and it gives us a lift each time.

Please remember that we are just 2 ¾ miles South of U. S. 30 on State Rd. 49. If you are in this area, we would welcome you to worship with us.

**INDIANA
WEST LAFAYETTE**

**Katie Widmer
Beth Tonner**

We have had a sad month of good-byes as Bro. Karl Kirsch moved to Peoria, our dear friend Cynthia Jackson to Wisconsin, and Bro. Kevin and Sis. Laura Gutwein and family to Indianapolis. Our Sunday school will miss the cheerful personalities of the Gutwein children: Kaitlin, Brecken, Isabella, and Taye.

We have been prayerful for Sis. Jaimie Oppermann, and Bros. Brad Widmer and Grant Heinold as they traveled to Jamaica Deaf Village for a mission trip.

Congratulations to Bro. Kurt Bahler and Sis. Madison Rose Gutwein on their graduation from high school. We look forward to keeping them around as Boilermakers!

We are excited that Bro. Ben Stoller is staying in Lafayette as he is working in the area. His talent for writing may land him in the West Lafayette Silver Lining column before too long!

We had a great week of VBS last week with the theme "Hometown Nazareth". The kids learned about Jesus' growing up years and that He was a kid, just like them. Their enthusiasm for praising God and learning

about His Son is contagious and we are so thankful for all of our children here in Lafayette.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

**Donita Edelman
Sasha Kyburz**

Vacation Bible School was held at Wolcott this year. We alternate years with the Remington congregation. Our theme for the week was "The Potter and the Clay". We would like to extend a special thank you to the visiting ministers that came and shared of themselves on our behalf. Monday evening, Bro. Dan Pfister (Sis. Shari, Bluffton, IN) spoke on Kneading and Softening. Tuesday, Bro. Mark Schmidgall (Sis. Lisa, Eureka, IL) spoke on Shaping and Molding. Wednesday, Bro. Randy Beer (Sis. Debra, Milford, IN) expounded on Fire. Thursday was Bro. Gary Sinn (Sis. Paulette, Latty, OH) and he spoke on Adorn and Glaze. On Friday evening, Bro. Les Kaeb (Sis. Christine, Francesville, IN) spoke on Using the Finished Vessel. We also want to extend a big thank you to all the Sunday School teachers and their wives, who spent many hours preparing lessons and craft projects for the week. We each one have received a blessing from the week and hopefully we can use what we have learned and heard to edify our Lord in some way.

We are thankful God is still calling souls unto him in repentance. Seth Edelman (Bro. Kip and Sis. Donita) has begun his walk with the Lord. Many prayers will be offered on his behalf that he may follow God's guidance and direction in this repentance time of his life.

We have a new addition to our church family. Bro. Derek and Sis. Theresa Blume have welcomed Elsa Mae into their family circle. Elsa is lovingly welcomed home by big sisters and brothers, Emma, Levi, Marie and Orrin, along with grandparents,

Bro. Larry and Sis. Lynell Blume and Bro. Tim and Sis. Rachel Schwab. Bro. John and Sis. Wendy Schwab also became grandparents again this month when their daughter, Sis. Tiffany and Bro. JR Sauder from Indianapolis had a new daughter, Ainsley Rose. May God direct each of these parents in the raising of their little ones in the fear of Him.

IOWA, BLOOMFIELD

Christy Wiegand

Baptized into Thy name most holy,
O Father, Son and Holy Ghost,
I claim a place, though weak and
lowly
Among Thy seed, Thy chosen host.
Zion's Harp #41

We were blessed with two week-ends of baptisms this month. Our new brothers in Christ are Steven Schock (Bro. Doug and Sis. Clara), Jeff Wuthrich (Bro. Joel and Sis. Shirley), Jacob Joos, (Bro. Ron and Sis. Christy), Philip Maibach (Bro. Tim and Sis. Mary) and Matt Wettstein (Bro. Jon and Sis. Rita). Our new sister is Kendra Wuthrich, (Bro. Roger and Sis. Deann). We give the Lord all glory for this growth in our congregation. Visiting ministers present for these baptisms were Elder Bro. Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA), Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA) Bro. Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL), and Bro. Brad Funk (Garden Grove, IA). We appreciate the labors of these brethren on our behalf.

As we share each others' joys, so we share each others' sorrows. Bro. Dan and Sis. Barbara Rokey buried a premature infant son, Matthew. We trust the Lord knows best, and has a home prepared in heaven for him. Grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Phyllis Rokey (Goodfield, IL) and Elder Bro. Doug and Sis. Clara Schock.

IOWA, BURLINGTON
Marilyn Anderson
Karla Gerst

How blessed 'tis when we as lambs,
 Are gathered 'round our Lord;
 In youthful years with tender hearts,
 To hear the Master's words.
 There we are taught to lift our eyes
 to Him who lives on high.

Hymns of Zion #73, vs. 1

New teachers were chosen this month for the next Sunday School terms. Bro. Michael Steiner and Sis. Tami Banwart will be taking the new terms. May God be near them and grant them wisdom. We pray that those who have completed their terms will feel God's blessings for the time they spent teaching the children His ways.

We were thankful to have ministering Bro. Dale Frank (Oakville) share the Word with us once again. We appreciate his visits.

IOWA, ELGIN
Maria Rocke
Brianna Strahm

We'll ne'er forsake the Bible
 our banner of defense;
 In youth or age it is our staff
 and leads us now and hence.
 The sun whose light illuminates
 this darkened vale below,
 Redemption now to all the world
 through Jesus Christ does show.

Hymns of Zion #237

We thank Bro. Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata, TX) for sharing the Truth of God's Word with us while visiting our congregation this month. May God bless him for his labors.

Our thoughts are with Alex Callahan (Jeff and Tammy) as he was hospitalized a few days this month.

We wish Alex God's strength as he regains his health.

A group of single sisters and converts from Bradford and Princeville, IL, worshipped with us Sunday, June 12. We appreciated their presence and thank them for visiting.

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE
Laura Funk

Blessing our congregation with an inspired message from God were Bro. Wes Moser (Lester, IA), Bro. Tom Bolliger (Tremont, IL), Bro. Brad Strahm (Bern, KS), Bro. Brandon Emch (Kansas City, MO) and Elder Bros. Doug Schock (Bloomfield, IA) and Bruce Endress (Bradford, IL). We want to thank retired Bro. Marvin Lemman for visiting our congregation. We appreciate the family members and visitors that accompany these ministering brethren as many in our congregation do not have the opportunity to travel.

And ye, the Church's members, truly
 Are folded in my heart's embrace!
 In Christ ye are my brethren duly;
 We share salvation through His
 grace,
 We drink one cup; we break one
 bread;

One Saviour suffered in our stead.

Zion's Harp #25, vs. 5

It was a solemn occasion as our congregation remembered the sacrifice our Saviour, Jesus Christ, endured for our redemption. We thank Elder Bros. Doug Schock and Bruce Endress for serving Holy Communion.

We are truly thankful for our earthly fathers that taught us of the undying, forgiving love of our Heavenly Father.

A Father's Prayer

Dear God, my little boy of three
 Has said his nightly prayer to Thee;
 Before his eyes were closed in sleep

He asked that Thou his soul would
 keep;
 And I, Still kneeling at his bed,
 My hand upon his tousled head,
 Do ask with deep humility,
 That Thou, Dear Lord, remember
 me.

Make me, kind Lord, a worthy dad,
 That I may lead this little lad
 In pathways ever fair and bright,
 That I may keep his steps aright.
 O God, his trust must never be
 Destroyed or even marred by me.
 So for the simple things he prayed
 With childish voice so unafraid,
 I, trembling, ask the same from
 Thee;

Dear Lord, kind Lord, remember me.

Author unknown

IOWA, IOWA CITY
Diana Butikofer

Our friend Celeste Reker (Bro. Roger and Sis. Rhonda) has recently graduated from the University of Iowa with a degree in Global Health. We pray the Lord will guide her as she seeks work or additional education.

We are also praying for God's grace once again as our Elder Brothers and the Forrest congregation prepare for the annual Brotherhood Conference.

IOWA, LESTER
Gloria Moser
Polly Metzger

A precious blue bundle, Lathan William, was born on June 17 to Bro. Monty and Sis. Bethany Van Whye. Levi, Lydia, Loren and Larae welcome him into the world along with his grandparents, Bro. Bruce and Sis. Bonita Frank (Cissna Park) and Bro. Pete and Sis. Susan Van Whye. May God bless these dear parents as they raise their family.

Ring the bells of heaven!
 There is joy today,
 For a soul returning from the wild.

Gospel Hymns #622

We rejoice with our converts, Tim and Carla Feucht and Joe Barber (Mike and Sis. Donna). May God keep these dear souls and guide them on this walk of life.

My Lord an offering do I bring,
My heart I give to Thee.
I gladly give this heart of mine,
Which Thou dost ask of me.

Hymns of Zion #163

The weekend of May 21-22 we welcomed four dear souls into the fold. Grant DeSmet (Bro. Bob and Sis. Shirley), Tad Meyer (Bro. Denis and Sis. Jill), Josie Knobloch (Bro. Dan and Sis. Jeanie), and Lana Meyer (Bro. Dean and Sis. Linda). Elder Bro. Wayne Grimm (West Bend) was here to assist Elder Bro. Rod with this undertaking. We thank him for his efforts. On May 28-29, Alyssa Messner (Bro. Doug and Sis. Suzie) was brought into the fold in Minneapolis. We wish these dear souls God's nearness as they start this new path.

May 28 was the wedding day of Gregg Metzger (Bro. Mark and Sis. Audrey) and Jessica Moore. June 5 was the wedding day of Sis. Maura Knobloch (Bro. Stan and Sis. Dawn) and Bro. Jesse Stoller (Bro. Dan and Sis. Deb, all of Remington). We ask God's blessing upon these dear couples as they establish their homes and begin their lives together.

We always want to remember in prayer those who are suffering. Our hospital patients this past month are Perry Mogler (Jessica), and Bro. Art Knobloch (Sis. Elgeva).

We always appreciate our visiting ministers. This month they were Bro. Roger Aberle (Sabetha), Bro. Dan Stoller (Remington), Bro. Kent Mogler (Minneapolis), Bro. Michael Wagenbach (Wolcott), Bro. Dana Neiman (Remington) and Bro. Kevin Fehr (West Bend). May God truly bless these dear brothers for all their

efforts and sharing God's Word.

IOWA, OAKVILLE **Sharla Wiegand**

Leaving this life behind, Bro. Vernon Stoller passed away on May 19. Our sympathy is extended to his daughter, Sis. Sandy and Bro. Dave Schaer, in this time of sorrow.

On June 12, we were privileged to witness the baptisms of Caleb and Benjamin Larson (Bro. Mark and Sis. Rosemary) and Corin Wagenbach (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Bonnie Jr.). May the Lord richly bless Elder Bro. Tom Stock (Cissna Park, IL) for laboring on our behalf. We were thankful to also have visiting ministers, Bro. Michael Wagenbach (Wolcott, IN) and Bro. John Rowell (Burlington, IA) on this special weekend.

Bro. Mark and Sis. Sally Schmidgall welcomed a new baby, Evie Jean, on June 12. Also welcoming her home are Nolan, Olivia and Nathan and grandparents, Elder Bro. Jon and Sis. Julie Schmidgall and Bro. Gary and Sis. Jean Heyer (Lester, IA).

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

Sawyer Lee Fehr joined the family of Bro. Lee and Sis. Alicia on May 26. He is sure to get much attention from his four sisters, Sis. Aubrey, Ashley, Allison and Mackenzie. Grateful grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Sharon Fehr and Bro. Fred Maul (Cissna Park, IL).

Another precious bundle arrived into the home of Bro. Kurt and Sis. Ruth Zaugg on June 10. They named their new son Benjamin David and their older son, Levi, is sure to be a willing playmate soon. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Pat and Sis. Julie Zaugg and Bro. Gerald and Sis. Karen Feuchtenberger (Morris,

MN).

Sis. Matilda (Bro. Elmer) Fehr was hospitalized early this month and has returned home with renewed health. Sis. Elma Mogler also spent time in the hospital after a fall in her apartment. She continues to recuperate at the care center in West Bend. Two young boys, Noah and Thomas Fehr (Bro. Cory and Sis. Jennifer), were involved in a farm accident requiring a night of hospital care. God has placed His healing hand upon them and their injuries are healing, but they continue to have some restrictions on summer activities.

On June 5, Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign, IL) was here to visit family and break the wonderful Word of Life with us. We were also privileged to have Bro. Steve Pamer (Sis. Arliss, Akron, OH) exhort to us through the Spirit on June 12. May the Lord bless our dear ministers and let us remember to be fervent in prayer for them.

Our convert, Donald Gates, passed from this life on June 10. Left to cherish his memory are his wife, Judy, from West Bend; daughter, Diane (Randy) Balvin from Brooklyn, IA; and sons, Ron (Sandy) Fehr from Boone, IA, Donald (Susie) Fehr from Des Moines, IA, and Bill Fehr from Chandler, AZ. May God comfort the hearts of the grieving. "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me." (Psalm 23:4)

JAPAN, SHIODA **Carrie Ito**

Though the Shioda American Kindergarten didn't produce any current attendees to our church, it did produce many visitors and connections for our church—and for this we are thankful. Sis. Kathy Drete, a former teacher, visited us this month as she

was here visiting Sis. Jana Klaus and her family. We are thankful for each visitor and the encouragement they provide.

JAPAN, TOKYO **Jana Klaus**

The relief and rebuilding efforts continue in full swing in northeastern tsunami ravaged Japan. It has become a big focal point for many Japanese Christians and missionary organizations all throughout Japan, which is a wonderful thing as it is one of the least church areas of Japan. The Lord is definitely at work in the hearts of people here and we continue to beseech Him to open many more hearts to the Truth, which will give them hope and a reason to go on. We cannot imagine the despair and destitution so many of these people are feeling.

With the Lord's help, the way opened with Bro. Andrew Klaus' company to give him a three month partial leave of absence so he could join the recovery work up north full time. Bro. Andrew's three oldest children have also had the opportunity to volunteer up there, and it's likely that more trips will be taken, along with some other of the brethren and friends. Toward the end of last year, I was commenting to my husband that our children do not have the opportunity like youth in the US to go on work teams and we began to discuss about any available options we could think of. We had no idea that just a few months later, a huge opportunity would submerge in this very country. It certainly would not have been our choice, but our prayer continues to be that God would use all of this for drawing hearts of every level of faith to Him.

The last visit home, Bro. Andrew shared after the afternoon service a bit of what he's doing up there, about

some of the people he has met, and how we can pray. There are so many stories of how God is at work, but just to share one — One woman he met at a shelter shared with him how she has read all the tracts and Christian literature she has been given, including a Bible, and is expressing a small level of belief. We believe the Lord is working in her heart as she told Andrew how she had read the verse in the Bible, Luke 6:38: "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again" and she felt compelled to encourage her shelter to give abundantly of their supplies to the neighborhood people one day (she said there are fights as to who is in need of the stuff more, those in the shelters, or those who are in the neighborhood, still somewhat able to live in their homes). Somehow, she managed to talk her shelter into giving the supplies away, and then that very afternoon, a very large new shipment arrived for them. She felt the words of that verse come very alive to her that day.

Sis. Jana Klaus' sister, Sis. Kathy Drete (Bro. Mike, Washington, IL), who was a teacher at our Shioda American Kindergarten for four years back in the mid 80's, came back for a visit to this country which is still very dear to her heart and in her prayers. We were so thankful to have her worship with us on Sunday, June 12, along with a Japanese friend and her family whom Kathy met while they were both living in California for their husbands' work some ten years ago. This family, the Miyamoto's, attended our church in Altadena occasionally, and even stayed with a family from our San Diego church while in the area, so have had some exposure to the Bible and Christian

way of life. They are now living in the city of Sendai in a township near the coast, whose eastern side was ravaged by the tsunami. As was the story for countless people in the Tokyo area who have friends and family living in that area, we had no idea how this family was until a week after the earthquake when we could finally make contact and found out they were far enough inland to have escaped the tsunami, but went through quite an experience being so near the earthquake's epicenter. There are so many people to pray for, but we ask for prayers for the Miyamoto's also.

And, there have been a few new people attending our church in the recent weeks, including two women and a man. We ask for continued prayers for our churches here, both for those who have been coming for many years and for these newcomers.

We are gearing up for summer activities, including a Sunday School overnight stay, church fellowship meeting, and some travelling to the US, including the Inoue family—Elder Bro. Akito, Sis. Marie, son Koichi and daughter Sis. Ayako — and Sis. Hannah Klaus — all meeting up with relatives over there. We pray for the Lord's continued mercy in safe travel and blessed time of fellowship for the whole summer.

KANSAS, BERN **Sheri Edelman** **Jill Meyer**

"But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear Him, and His righteousness unto children's children"

Psalm 103:17

Bro. David and Sis. Sheri Edelman warmly welcomed Kayleen Jane to their family on June 1. She joins her older sisters, Kari, Kristi and Kyla.

Her grandparents are Bro. Nathan and Sis. Marlene Edelman and retired Elder Bro. Don and Sis. Eileen Braker. May God bless them as they raise their family in Him.

On June 12, we witnessed the wedding of Bro. Eric Steiner (Bro. Rich and Sis. Pat, Rittman) and Sis. Lindsay Edelman (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Linda). We appreciated Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Sis. Jane, Lamont-Gridley), as well as Bro. Art Ingold (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman) and Bro. Jeff Bahr (Sis. Janice, Kiowa) who served us that weekend. Our prayers go with Bro. Eric and Sis. Lindsay as they make their home in the Rittman congregation!

We also thank Bro. Scott Wegman (Sis. Dawn, Taylor) and Bro. Roger Aberle (Sis. Lavonne, Sabetha), who served us this past month. Our prayers are with all ministers who bring forth His precious Word from week to week!

Vacation Bible School was held on June 13-17, with the theme of "Dare to be a Daniel". May the seeds planted in young hearts bring forth fruit in its proper time.

FOUND: 2 black coats hanging at Bern Church. The first is a leather "Tanner's Avenue" with New Zealand lamb fuzzy lining, size small, and has been left for many months. The second was possibly left after the World Relief weekend in April – it is a men's "London Fog", size 40 short, with the lining zipped out. If either of these coats are yours, please contact Janet Meyer at (785)336-3801.

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

Our thoughts and prayers are with the residents of Joplin, MO, as they experienced an F5 tornado the evening of May 22. Joplin is 35 miles south of where we live. An event such

as this reminds us of God's awesome power and how we trust He will be with those who suffered loss on that day.

On Sunday, June 12, we were especially blessed as we heard two inspiring sermons from visiting ministering Bro. Ed Sauder (Sis. Bonnie) from Roanoke. God's blessings continued as we gathered in the park for the Vacation Bible School picnic. The children sang the beautiful songs of praise they had learned, the weather was perfect, and the food was delicious.

Sis. Valerie Wuthrich came with the Sauders to see her son and daughter-in-law, Bro. Chris and Sis. Janelle, as well as her two granddaughters, Abby and Joanna.

David Sinn and Jennifer Leek were married on May 28. We wish them God's blessings as they begin their life together. Many of the Sinn relatives were here for the wedding and stayed to attend church on Sunday.

Sis. Maria Bahr (Bro. Jerry) was recently in the hospital. She has since returned home and we pray for God's continued healing hand upon her.

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

Seeds of goodness we are sowing in the hearts of man today. Bless it, Lord, that it may prosper, and bear fruit for harvest day. Now the field is ripe for harvest; Let us then all garner in; For if we should stand here idle, who would bring the sheaves of grain.

Hasten gladly to the labor. Consecrate to God your heart. Say this day unto the Saviour, "Lord, I'll gladly do my part."

Hymns of Zion #46, "The Golden Harvest", verses 1 and 3

We are thankful to the Lord for a safe harvest time and for His wonderful blessings.

We would like to thank our visiting ministers, Bro. Tim Roecker (Peoria, IL) and Bro. Max Reimschisel (Wichita, KS) this past month for sharing God's Holy Word with us and all the efforts they made to join us on the Sabbath.

Our prayers and God's blessings to Sis. Stephanie Bahr (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Janice) and Bro. Joel Rinkenberger (Bro. Jim and Sis. Jeannie) whose home church is Bluffton, IN. They were united in holy marriage in Magdalena, Mexico where they are both serving the Lord at the CVE campus.

KANSAS **LAMONT-GRIDLEY** **Sarah Somerhalder**

The Sunday school students enjoyed vacation Bible school where they learned about being "fishers of men" and also assisted in assembling health kits. May God bless each one who helped.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Dorene Metzger who spent some time in the hospital this month.

We extend our sympathy to Faye Kraft as her brother, Don Sherman, passed from this life.

Our congregation is rejoicing that God is continuing to call and work in the hearts of souls. We prayerfully support Michelle Huber (Edward) as she has been seeking the Lord in repentance. Also, Michael Luthi (Elder Bro. Jay and Sis. Jane) has begun his repentance. We wish them much grace and the Lord's guidance in this most important step.

KANSAS, SABETHA

**Sally Strahm
Carrie Grimm**

“Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”

John 14:27

We rejoice with convert Jesse Hartter (Bro. James and Sis. Sandy) as he was announced for peace on May 29. We continue to pray that Jesse will feel God’s grace and we look forward to his upcoming testimony.

On June 4, we enjoyed a beautiful evening of song and fellowship at the Sunday School picnic which was held at Mulberry Creek. We pray the Lord will grant these Sunday School teachers wisdom in teaching the way of Him, and that the dear children may have hearts of fertile ground.

We were thankful to have visiting Elder Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen, Kansas City, MO) with us this month. Bro. Art Ingold (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman, OH) had a service Sunday evening, June 12, for the Bern and Sabetha congregations in Bern, KS.

Bro. Kevin and Sis. Nita Grimm welcome a new little grandson into their hearts. Kyson Alan was born to Bro. Seth and Sis. Renee Leman (Forest, IL) on June 16.

Our prayers continue to be with Bro. Kent Grimm (Sis. Molly) as he spent some time in the hospital recovering from surgery. Our prayers also continue to be with Sis. Lois Meyer. May the Lord touch all who have dealt with afflictions of the flesh.

“But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.”

Isaiah 40:15

Our 2011 High School graduates were Bro. Levi Grimm (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Nita), Bro. Joshua Hartter (Bro. David and Sis. Beth), Trenton Huber (Bro. Gordon and Sis. Sharlyn), and Claire Wenger (Bro. Marc and Sis. Julie). Sis. Maria Eisenbise (Bro. Dave and Sis. Shari) graduated from college. May each look to the Lord for direction as they travel life’s journey. Bro. Joshua Hartter makes his home in Morris, MN. We look forward to his return. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with each one.

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

Isaiah 26:3-4

KANSAS, WICHITA

Emma Miller

Our visiting minister for June was Bro. Matthew Kaufmann from the Bloomington congregation. He and his wife, Sis. Rebecca, left for home shortly after afternoon services. God bless them for their unselfish effort for our benefit.

Our Sis. Kathleen Gallatin, 83, went to be with the Lord on Thursday, June 9. She is survived by her daughters, Laurie McDonald (Mark) and Sis. Sara Schrader (Bro. John); her four grandchildren, Hans, Stefan and Niklaus Schrader and Mac McDonald; a brother, John Gleichman, of Northville, MI; and a sister, Joyce Moser, of Morris, MN. Sis. Kathleen taught the beginning Sunday School class for years.

Evan though Easter passed several months ago, I feel moved to write about an assignment Bro. Max Reimchisel made to all of us. We were to prepare something about what

Easter meant to us and to share it at the Easter breakfast. The following was written by ten year-old Stefan Schrader.

Adam and Eve lived in their garden
for free
And could eat of every tree.
All trees were OK except one
But this was not done.
They made clothes out of leaves
That caused God to grieve
Because of their sin
Christ had to come in
He was born and He died
For which many cried
Hallelujah! He rose again.
Over death He did reign
His blood covered our sin
Believe in Him now
So you will go to Heaven somehow
Oh! Wow!

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON

Barb Huber

“Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”

John 14:27

How precious it is that we can have open access to our Heavenly Father’s heart through the Holy Spirit, by the preaching of God’s Word, by reading His Word and through prayer. Through His Spirit He reveals His direction for us in life and grants to us what we need. The Holy Spirit inspired Elder Bro. Rick Plattner (Sis. Mary, Fairbury, IL), Bro. Tim Gerber (Sis. Wendy, Mansfield, OH), and Bro. David Eisenmann (Sis. Jackie, Champaign, IL) as they came to minister God’s Holy Word. We were very thankful for them and all those who travelled with them to worship with us. May the Lord bless you for your faithfulness in His service.

We continue to extend a warm welcome to come and visit us in

Lexington. You may 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

“And there was no water for the congregation: and they gathered themselves together against Moses and against Aaron. And the people chode with Moses, and spake, saying, Would God that we had died when our brethren died before the LORD!”

Numbers 20:2-3

This month we have been blessed by a number of visitors, including two brothers from Hungary. Bro. Dave and Sis. Stephanie Sceggel (Peoria, IL) spent several weeks in Morelia and Barra Vieja doing language study and encouraging the believers. Bro. Kirby and Sis. Areli (originally from Ixtlan) Reutter and their family visited Ixtlan with a group from the Leo, IN, area. During part of their trip they taught English classes and helped with clean up work in one of the Ixtlan public schools.

Despite the fact that there was no city water for several weeks and almost 100 degree temperatures, the visitors didn't complain and were happy for the daily bucket showers. Water is such a basic necessity that we so often take for granted. We don't realize how many functions water serves until we're without it—for drinking, bathing, cooking, washing clothes, washing dishes, watering plants, flushing toilets, washing hands, etc. It's easy to understand how the Israelites complained when they were in the desert and ran out of water. Yet they failed to remember how God had miraculously cared for

them in times past. They doubted God's goodness and power. How would we respond in a similar situation of testing? Is there anything in your life that you feel you “need” and God hasn't provided right at the moment? Let's trust Him to provide what we really need in His way and His timing.

MICHIGAN, ALTO

**Listyn Oesch
Melissa Blough**

Alto was blessed this past month with many visiting ministers including Bro. Matthew Steffen (Sis. Deanna, Princeville IL), Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Ruth Ann, Wolcott, IN), and Bro. Scott Schafer (Sis. Gigi, South Bend, IN). We thank these brothers for their faithful time and service.

We congratulate the classes of 2011 on graduating from high school: Sis. Heather Steffen (Elder Bro. Ted and Sis. Sandy), Bro. Craig Huber (Bro. Ryan and Sis. Terri), Jalen Humphreys (grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Judy Gerst) and Allison Oesch (grandparents are Bro. Fred and Sis. Donna). We also congratulate Bro. Allen Huber for graduating from College. We wish them all God's blessings and guidance for their futures.

“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you.”

Jeremiah 29:11-12

We would like to bring to your attention Judah Oesch, the son of Bro. Matt and Sis. Shelli. We know the Lord has all things in His plan, yet we just want to ask for your help in lift-

ing he and his family up in prayer. Judah is having to go through more tests which is very hard on his little body and especially difficult for Bro. Matt and Sis. Shelli. So we pray God's love and healing for baby Judah and His comfort and grace for the Oesch family.

Prayer lights the way
On my dark cold days
Someone out there is caring
Someone out there is praying
To get me through this day
So when I feel all alone
And no one is there
I remember someone is on their
knees
Lifting up my needs
Prayer lights the way
On my dark cold days
So when I am faced with great temptation
And my hope diminished to dust
I remember someone is on their
knees
Praying for my needs
So when you dear friend are troubled
And are in a dark cloudy day
Just remember
Someone out there is caring
Someone out there is praying
To get you through this day
For God is listening
And will heed our humble request
Go in peace and love
He will guide you through the cold
‘Til you shall find
The sun behind the cloud
For His faithful, prayerful child.
- MRB

We can never pray too much. And it is prayer that gives us strength to carry on. Sis. Helen Steffen has recently spent time in the hospital. Our congregation prays for her healing and recovery as she rests at home.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

**Sarah Knochel
Janelle Ramseyer**

Greetings of love in the Saviour's

name!

We have been blessed with a beautiful spring and are thankful for all the blessings which our Heavenly Father does bestow.

Bro. Steve Stieglitz, (Sis. Jane, Leo, IN) spent a Sunday with our congregation recently and we appreciate his willingness to minister unto us.

Our prayers are with Jennifer Curtis, Sis. Marlene Mosher, and Sis. Shirley Wright (Bro. Gary) as they all spent time in the hospital recently. We continue to have many of our loved ones that are suffering from infirmities of the flesh and we entreat the Lord's blessings of health and healing to each one.

What a day that will be when my Jesus I shall see,
And I look upon His face,
The One who saved me by His grace;
When He takes me by the hand
And leads me through the Promised Land,
What a day, glorious day that will be.
Gospel Hymns, #831

Our hearts are saddened by the passing of Sis. Lula Meier. We especially want to remember her daughters, Sis. Diana Jacobs (Girard) and Sis. Janet Kober, her grandchildren, and her sister, Sis. Alice Mehl. We trust that God will continue to comfort the family in the coming days.

We rejoice with Bro. Jack and Sis. Debbie Knochel as they welcomed a grandson into their family circle. Jennifer and Jordan Winter rejoice in the birth of their first child, Jackson Charles. Thankful great-grandmother is Sis. Elinor Knochel.

We bid Bro. Joshua and Sis. Keyna Martinez and their sons a fond farewell as they have felt the Lord's guiding hand lead them back to the South Bend area. We are thankful for the past year they have shared with our congregation and we trust that God would continue to be their rich

rewarder.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT
Kay Rauhe
Manuela Denes

“Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ...”

Philippians 1:6

We wish a future filled with success and blessings to our high school graduates: Kyra Johnson (Sis. Barb), Katie Maibach (Bro. Doug and Carole) and Amanda Williams (Paxton and Denise). May the Lord richly bless you as you begin your post-secondary studies! We would also like to extend our congratulations and best wishes to Bro. Marc Knepp (Sis. Staci) upon the conclusion of his medical fellowship at the University of Michigan.

We grieve with Bro. John Gleichman (Sis. Marti) at the passing of his beloved sister, Sis. Kathleen Gallatin from Wichita, KS. May God grant the families with the peace and understanding that she is at home and no longer in any pain.

We share not only in the loss of loved ones but also rejoice when a new soul enters this world. What joy to be able to welcome a beautiful new baby into a family! Bro. Joel and Sis. Amber Virkler were blessed with the arrival of Aiden Josiah. His big brother Liam is excited to have him at home as well! Grateful grandparents are Bro. Joseph and Sis. Patricia Greenbank (Phoenix, AZ) and Bro. Stan and Sis. Beth Virkler (Remington, IN).

Our prayers are with Sis. Linda Shaw as she begins chemotherapy treatment. Let us remember that: “...the things which are impossible with men are possible with God.” (Luke 18:27) May the Lord bless and

keep her as she begins this journey and may we remember to keep her and those who are struggling with health issues in our prayers daily.

A final prayerful reminder for those who will be attending the Brotherhood Conference in Forrest, IL, this August. “But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.” Acts 6:4

MINNESOTA
MINNEAPOLIS
Tim McMillan

We began the month with the taking up of two souls into the House of the Lord. A reading from that day was in II Chronicles, chapter 3. Solomon built the House of God according to the exact specifications given by the Lord. Pray that we, as His temple, build according to the Lord's exacting specifications as well.

We were blessed by the visit of Elder Bro. Ben Walder (Sis. Juanita, Congerville, IL) to assist with the testimonies of Claire Dill (Bro. Dewayne and Sis. LaRae) and Alissa Messner (Bro. Doug and Sis. Sue) who now walk with us as Sisters in Christ Jesus. It is always refreshing to hear how the Lord works in people's lives. As new converts give testimony of what the Lord has done for them, it always reminds me that I can never do enough for the Lord. May His watchful eye be upon these two sisters throughout their new lives!

Other ministering brothers visiting this month were Bro. Al Schambach (Sis. Sarah, Remington, IN), Bro. Brian Waibel (Sis. Wendy, Champaign, IL), Bro. Art Mueller (Sis. Marlene, Belvidere, IL), and Bro. Glen Steiner (Sis. Rachel, Winthrop, MN). We are always grateful the Lord allows our brethren to travel freely to help us understand His Word and how He would have us to live.

The children have had their last

day of Sunday school for the season. A picnic was arranged for them to start their summer. We pray the lessons learned every year will give them the growth they need and the lessons will be remembered as they become adults.

Faithful unto death remain,
faithful unto death remain!

Toil and care, O may they never
from the cross of Christ thee sever!
Gladly suffer grief and pain,
Faithful unto death remain!

Hymns of Zion #225, vs. 1

MINNESOTA, MORRIS
Susie Wulf
Kim Feuchtenberger

Flourishing youth, Thou our hope
and our fond expectation,
Hark to the voice that is calling in
kind invitation!

That hand obey Which oft has
pointed the way
To the dear Saviour's salvation!
Zion's Harp #168, vs. 1

Morris hosted our area Youth Fellowship weekend this year. Bro. Todd Stoller (Latty, OH) was here for the weekend as well as all of the area Elders: Bro. Wayne Grimm (Sis. Rose, West Bend, IA), Bro. Duane Rocke (Sis. Bonnie, Minneapolis, MN), Bro. Rod Bajema (Sis. Twyla, Lester, IA) and Bro. Paul Messner (Sis. Jan, Winthrop, MN). It was a blessing to hear the pure Word of God brought forth in clarity and to see the many youth in attendance.

We had eleven graduates in our congregation this year: Erica Domnick (Bro. Jim and Sis. Penny), Micah Fehr (Bro. Gary and Sis. Sandy), Sis. Tara Fehr (Bro. Randy and Sis. Lori), Sis. Kayla Feuchtenberger (Bro. Bob and Sis. Gwen), Illissa Koehl (Bro. Arnie and Sis. Sharon), Martha Koehl (Elder Bro. Roy and Sis. Jenell), Rachel

Moser (Bro. Lowell and Sis. Karen), Jerry Sauder (Bro. Verle and Sis. Christa), Bro. Mark Schaefer (Bro. Rod and Sis. Denise), Andrew Steiner (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Jill), and Eric Wulf (Bro. Stan and Sis. Pam). It is our prayer that each one will look to God for their guidance and seek His will as they move into a new stage of life.

Keep me ever spotless free,
And that I may wakeful be,
Oft to pray, Night and day,
And to travel faithfully the narrow
way.
Zion's Harp #240, vs. 5

MINNESOTA
MORRIS NORTH
Lois Schmidgall
Wanda Gramm

Love and Greetings from Morris North!

'Tis the season that many of us plan, prepare, and then plant our vegetable and flower gardens. May we also make it a necessity in our lives to plan, prepare and plant our spiritual gardens.

GARDENING GOD'S WAY

Plant three rows of peas:
Peace of mind
Peace of heart
Peace of soul

Plant four rows of squash:
Squash gossip
Squash indifference
Squash grumbling
Squash selfishness

Plant four rows of lettuce:
Lettuce be faithful
Lettuce be kind
Lettuce be obedient
Lettuce really love one another

No garden without turnips:
Turnip for meetings
Turnip for service
Turnip to help one another

Water freely with patience and cultivate with love.

There is much fruit in your garden
Because you reap what you sow.

To conclude our garden we must have thyme:

Thyme for God
Thyme for study
Thyme for prayer

Blessing us this month with their spiritual wisdom and love were Bro. Steve Baner (Sis. Donnalou, Gridley, IL); Bro. Nelson Beer (Sis. Minnie, Milford, IN); Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Sis. Bev, Detroit, MI); Bro. Glen Steiner (Sis. Rachel, Winthrop, MN); Elder Bro. Steve Ringger (Sis. Myra, Bluffton North, IN). Our heartfelt appreciation to you for giving of your time and labors. Also, a special thank you to Elder Bros. Mark Bahr and Steve Ringger and Bro. Jeff Leman (Bluffton North, IN) for their topical talks.

"Building on the Rock" was our Vacation Bible School theme. We were inspired in coming together and learned more about building our "Spiritual Foundation". We want to THANK all who organized and helped make our first Bible School a BLESSED event.

Our dear Sis. Alyssa Knobloch has moved to Mediapolis, IA, to start a new chapter in her life. We wish her God's many blessings and will miss her dearly in our congregation. We look forward to your home visits.

Our congratulations to Alan and Dani Schmidgall on the birth of their precious little baby boy, Brayden Alan. We are so excited and thrilled to welcome him to our church family.

Congratulations go out to our four sweet high school graduates: Sis. Alyssa Knobloch, Sis. Tara Fehr, Erin Schieler, and Amanda Moser. We pray for GOD'S blessing upon them as they prepare for their new

journey in their lives. A special “thank you” to each of you for being such great examples to our younger youth. We love and appreciate you all.

Our prayer for Sis. Josie Esterling as she was hospitalized. Also hospitalized was Brett Howell who received a broken arm after a falling accident. We pray for God’s love and healing power upon each of them.

Bro. Doug and Sis. Dawn Moser were hosts of a church potluck which was followed by a surprise “25th” wedding anniversary celebration hosted by their children. We congratulate you both on a blessed milestone. May God richly bless you with many more wonderful years together.

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY **Brittany Fehr**

May God bless Elder Bro. Doug Shock (Sis. Clara, Bloomfield, IA), Bro. Brad Strahm (Sis. Michelle, Bern, KS), and Bro. Jeff Bahr (Sis. Janice, Kiowa, KS) — our recent visiting ministers — for their labors on our behalf. We especially appreciate Elder Bro. Doug’s willing assistance at our Holy Communion service.

We rejoice with Bro. Nate Smith (Ron and Sis. Diane Smith) and Sis. Ann Jacobs (Girard and Sis. Diana Jacobs, Bay City, MI), whose engagement was recently announced. May God richly bless this couple as they prepare for their life together as one in the Lord.

We are also thankful for the safe arrival of Henare Reuben Isaac Funk, son of Patrick and Joanne Funk. Henare is also welcomed by older siblings, Liam and Olivia, as well as grandparents, Bro. Glen and Sis. Sally Funk (Wichita, KS) and Malcolm and Lorraine Hogg, from Glen Murray, Née Zealand. May God bless this young family.

Sis. Allison Meyer (Bro. Devere

and Sis. Michelle) recently graduated from college, and Bro. Alan Banwart (Sis. Holly) just finished his masters program. We wish each of them God’s blessings as they seek His direction for the next step forward.

MISSOURI, LAMAR **Rebecca Dotterer** **Venetta Banwart**

We are thankful for the visiting ministers we had this month. May God richly bless Bros. Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL) and Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL) for their efforts of love and service that we may be fed the Truth.

Caleb and Courtney Braker welcomed the safe arrival of Rowan Bowdrie on April 22. Grandparents are Bro. Jay and Sis. Sharon Braker and Dennis and Carol Jeffries (Fairfax, IA). Bro. Jonathan and Sis. Beth Banwart welcomed the safe arrival of Daniel Jon on May 20. Grandparents are Bro. Alfred and Sis. Carolyn Banwart and Bro. Bill and Sis. Sharon Dotterer. Bro. Darin and Sis. Nicole Braker welcomed the safe arrival of Brian Ray on June 1. Grandparents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Carol Braker and Bro. Kevin and Sis. Kathy Marti. Bro. Evan and Sis. Crystal Braker welcomed the safe arrival of Whitney Jo on June 10. Also welcoming her home is big sister Ellie. Grandparents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Carol Braker and Bro. Greg and Sis. Jill Stoller (Forrest, IL). Bro. David and Sis. Carol Dotterer welcomed the safe arrival of Samuel David on June 13. Also welcoming her home are his big sisters, Brianna, Julia and Brittany. Grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Sharon Dotterer and Bro. Roy and Sis. Judy Braker. May God richly bless each of the parents and give them Godly wisdom to raise their children in the fear of the Lord.

We rejoice that convert Elizabeth Schmidgall (Bro. Larry and Sis.

Marcy) has found peace with God and man. May God continue to bless her.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS **Kary Mangers**

Our small church has had an active month. The monthly rotation in May was covered by Fairbury. Elder Bro. Rick Plattner and his wife, Sis. Mary Ann, came and brought a few families along with them. We also had visiting ministers, Elder Bro. Ted Witzig, Sr. and his son, Bro. Ted Witzig, Jr., along with their families. Our thanks go out to each of them for their service to the Lord by serving us. We also do not want to forget the general visitors that worshipped with us, too. We enjoy the fellowship each brings by their visit.

Communion was held at the beginning of June along with our annual business meeting and the reading of the Memorandum. Retired Elder Bro. Phil Stettner and his wife, Sis. Maureen (Bluffton North), joined our counseling Elder Bro. Kent Heimer and his wife, Sis. Jan (Taylor), for this special weekend of remembering the great sacrifice and blessings our Lord Jesus Christ provided and continues to provide for us daily through His grace, mercy and forgiveness.

We said goodbye to Bro. Craig Koch of Tremont as he finished up his year of study at Southern Illinois University. He will be attending school in Springfield, IL, next year. We encouraged him to come back and visit us any time.

Our prayers have been with Bro. Nathan and Sis. Michelle Rassi as Sis. Michelle has spent some time in the hospital and on complete bed rest as they await the arrival of twins due in September.

Thank you to those of you who support our small congregation, whether it is through visiting or by

prayer. We appreciate it and thank the Lord for you.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR Melissa Reiman

Independence Day, not only the day to be thankful for our independence and freedom to worship God, but also to remember our freedom from sin that was paid for by Jesus' shed blood on the cruel cross of Calvary.

We had two members that were in the hospital this month, Bro. Josh Sutter and Sis. Lois Sutter. They are both doing well and are thankful for all the prayers that they received while in the hospital.

We were so excited to share in the annual summer celebration of VBS! It was such a delight to see all of the crafts that the kids created and to hear praise songs sung by the little voices! The theme this year was miners and one of the songs was about mining for the truth which in only found in Jesus Christ! Thank you to all the people that helped out to make the VBS a success. The children also were able to make t-shirts that they tied and wrote on them to not be a camouflage Christian. This was to help the kids to remember that they should not hide the fact that they are a Christian and to spread the good news of Jesus Christ to others.

The angels rejoice at the news that Diana Wagenbach has found peace in her heart with God and that she is looking forward to sharing her testimony with the church!

We would like to thank Bro. Darren Plattner (Sis. Sue, Champaign, IL) for coming on a Wednesday evening and giving a Bible study called "Why I believe!" The Bible study was about using science to show that God existed. One of the points that he made was the existence of grace in Christianity. He talked about how it is not in human nature

to forgive someone after they had been hurt — it is human nature to want revenge. That is why God has to exist in Christianity because only God would have taught of grace and forgiveness for wrongs that we have committed.

There recently was a Massner reunion and we were blessed to see all the people that came for the reunion. We were also blessed to have seven ministers that Sunday: Bro. Greg Stieglitz (Sis. Lisa, Indianapolis, IN), Bro. Joe Sprunger (Sis. Tara, Indianapolis, IN), Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern, KS), Bro. Jeff Streitmatter (Sis. Lynne, Sarasota, FL), Bro. Clint Beyer (Sis. Kara, Sabetha, KS), Bro. Ron Bollier (Sis. Edie, Indianapolis, IN), Bro. Jeff Fischer (Sis. Gloria, Ft. Scott, KS) and Bro. Dean Steffen (Sis. Carol, Belvidere, IL).

An interesting thought to consider is something that Bro. Scott Wegman talked about during an afternoon church service. He talked about the meaning of meekness. Meekness is not how you submit to orders, it is your willingness to follow orders and to take the orders from the right leader, God! Are you meek towards the Lord and willing to follow the orders that He had given you?

NEW YORK CROGHAN-NAUMBURG Hope Graves

The end of May brought with it some visitors from Connecticut and Ohio. We enjoyed having ministering Bros. Tom Bahler (Sis. Lanae, Rockville) and Todd Graf (Sis. Lydia, Akron). We shared a potluck dinner together with a singing on the weekend of the 29th.

The blessings continued into June when Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi (Sis. Becky) traveled here from Lamar, MO. We were able to have a meal together followed by sharing

Holy Communion on the evening of the 11th. We thank Bro. Lawrence for his labors of love in traveling the many miles across several states to serve us.

We were excited to hear of the birth of a new baby on June 14. Little Bryson Bradley was born to Curtis and Meaghan Bowers. He joins his older siblings, Bailey and Brendon. Another beginning in life is also ahead for Ashley Panowicz as she graduated from high school. We wish her all the best as she makes decisions for her future.

We are happy that the way has opened for Brian and Danielle Graves and their daughter Mikaedyn to move home from Vermont. It is always a blessing when families can live close to each other and we wish them God's blessings as they get settled back in their home town.

OHIO, AKRON Erika Gal

"Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not."

Jeremiah 33:3

We are so thankful to share the news of more souls seeking the Lord in humble repentance. Our new converts are Katie Palitto (Bro. Bryon and Sis. Lisa) and Alex Carder (Mike and Sis. Sheila). We will continue praying for them.

Ryan Gabriel was born June 6 into the family of Bro. Tim and Sis. Angie Zarkovacki. He joins Alex, Rebekah, Heidi, Evelyn, and Katelyn. His grandparents are Bro. Peter and Sis. Margaret Zarkovacki and Ivone Chant. May God grant the strength and wisdom to raise these precious children to His honour.

Our prayers are with Bro. Eugene (Sis. Dianna) Bako who has spent

some time in the hospital. We trust that God will provide healing and strength according to His will.

We were blessed to have Bro. Mike Rinkenberger (Sis. Pat, Congerville, IL) with us this month. May God continue to bless his labours.

OHIO, COLUMBUS

Esther Saurer

This month was filled with new faces in Columbus. It was such a blessing to welcome Karina Banks (Bro. Casey and Sis. Rachel) and Levi Leonhard (Emily and Larry) to our church family. We also welcomed Bro. Anthony and Sis. Jill Amos to our church membership.

We had one visiting minister this month. Bro. Sam and Sis. Linda Schlatter (Junction, OH) were with us for a Sunday.

We continue to pray for healing for Sis. Nancy Banks as she recovers from surgery.

OHIO, JUNCTION

Vicki Boroff

Our congregation was blessed with a new baby on June 28. Landon Troy was born to Bro. Will and Sis. Joanna Manz. Grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Gwen Manz, and Bro. Max and Sis. Beth Kaeb (Cissna Park).

We were thankful to have Bro. Don Steidl (Sis. Nan, Akron) share the Gospel with us this month.

OHIO, LATTY

Mindy Stoller

Carmen Eisenmann

Greetings of love! We had several visiting ministers this month. They were Bro. Greg Stieglitz (Sis. Lisa, Indianapolis, IN), Bro. Vic Bauman (Sis. Brenda, Smithville, OH), Bro. Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue, Detroit, MI), and Bro. Dale Wulf (Sis. Becky,

Lester, IA). May God bless these dear brothers for their labor of love.

We are thankful to report that Joel Dunham (Bro. Byron and Sis. Jody), Sasha Greutman (Bro. Greg and Sis. Kristy), and Ashley Plummer (Bro. Rick and Sis. Denise) have turned to the Lord in repentance and are seeking out their soul salvation! May God bless them with grace, mercy, and joy.

May 21 was the birthday of Benson Todd born to Bro. Ryan and Sis. Kori Stoller. Helping to welcome him home is his big sister, Octavia. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Todd and Sis. Pam Stoller and Bro. Vic and Sis. Brenda Bauman (Smithville, OH).

Eli Sinn (Bro. Bob) spent a couple of days in the hospital after he experienced a four-wheeler accident. We are thankful for God's mercy and pray that He will continue to bless Eli and his family.

Our graduates this year included: Abbey Linder (Jim and Sis. Jane), Leah Nygaard (Bro. Doug and Annette), Bro. Nolan Sinn (Bro. Todd and Sis. Janet), Colin Klopfenstein (Bro. Leon and Sis. Deb), Sis. Jessica Wenninger (Bro. Randy and Sis. Joni), Sis. Rachael Rosswurm (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Amy), Taylor Baumle (Pat and Sis. Wendy), and Sis. Abby Greutman (Bro. Greg and Sis. Kristy). May God bless and provide for them and may they seek the Lord's will in all that they do.

Having finished his fight of faith, Bro. Ralph Stoller (Sis. Esther) passed away on Tuesday, June 14. Our sympathy and prayers go out to his family as they mourn the loss of their father. We pray the Holy Spirit would comfort them during this time.

OHIO, MANSFIELD

Tami Griffey

Vacation Bible School was held June 6-10 and brought much excite-

ment to our youth and anticipation to the adults as well. We are thankful to each teacher and preacher who brought forth the Word of God and gave of their time and talents to make the week a blessing to all. Following is a list of speakers and their topics: Bro. Gary Maibach (Sis. Mary Ann, Smithville, OH) - "The Armor of Faith"; Bro. Gary Sinn (Sis. Paulette, Latty, OH) - "Avoiding Pitfalls of Life"; Bro. Marvin Zollinger (Sis. Pam, Smithville, OH) - mid-week church service; Bro. Ron Palitto (Sis. Lynell, Akron, OH) - "Time Accountability"; Bro. Stephen Baner (Sis. Donnalou, Gridley, IL) - "A Holy Priesthood: The True Value of Brotherhood". These topics and speakers gave us many tools to help us all live an overcoming life in Jesus!

Visiting for Sunday services were Bro. Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi, Alto, MI) and Bro. Steve Baner (Sis. Donnalou, Gridley, IL). May God bless each visitor we've had over the last month and every effort they have made on our behalf.

Several in our congregation have been hospitalized recently including: Sis. Becky Vent, Bro. Jacob and Sis. Lydia Chant, and Bro. Greg Sabo. Our prayers are with these loved ones and their families.

Where two join hand and heart,
We find a threefold cord,
Not lightly rent apart.

Zion's Harp #79, vs. 3

The marriage of Sis. Olivia Ramsey (Bro. Edward and Sis. Laura) to Bro. Daniel Zollinger (Bro. John and Sis. Marjorie) was held on June 19. We pray God will bless their married lives together in the Lord. Visiting ministers on this special day were Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sis. Linda, Sardis, OH), Bro. Mark Steiner (Sis. Sue, Smithville, OH) and Bro. Marvin Zollinger (Sis. Pam,

Smithville, OH).

Hark! The voice of Jesus crying
Who will go and work today?
Fields are white, and harvest wait-
ing;

Who will bear the sheaves away?
Loud and strong the Master calleth,
Rich reward He offers thee;
Who will answer gladly saying,
Here am I; send me, send me!

Gospel Hymns #640, vs. 1

OHIO, RITTMAN

**Jenny Rupp
Marge Stoller**

Two out of state weddings occurred this month. On June 12, Bro. Rob Widmer (Bro. Dan and Sis. Virginia), who is formerly from Rittman, and Sis. Anne Marie Hoffman (Bro. Steven and Sis. Joan) of Rockville, CT, were united in marriage. Also on June 12, Bro. Eric Steiner (Bro. Rich and Sis. Pat) and Sis. Lindsay Edelman (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Linda) had their wedding in Bern, KS. We are happy to have Sis. Lindsay with us and hope she feels warmly welcomed in Rittman.

Another wedding is in the forecast as Sis. Rachel Powell (Bro. Don and Sis. Carol) and Bro. Austin Gerber (Bro. Dean and Sis. Jaci, Bluffton Country, IN) made their engagement known. Sis. Rachel is currently a part of the Toledo congregation.

Rittman's newest convert is David Kipfer, and we pray he will feel blessed in this next phase of his life. David is the son of Bro. Jon and Sis. Suzanne.

On June 8, Bro. Javan and Sis. Josie Stoller welcomed a little girl, Adelynn Marie, into their world. Adelynn's grandparents are Bro. Eric and Sis. Melanie Stoller and Bro. John and Sis. Janice Rufener (Smithville, OH). On June 14, Sis. Betty and Zane Bachman's newest grandchild, Benjamin Todd, was born to Scott and Ruth Bachman.

Also becoming grandparents again are Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty Baltic, as Karina Laurae was born to Bro. Casey and Sis. Rachel Banks (Columbus, OH) on May 17.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Brian and Anna Jentes, whose newborn twin boys, Brendan James and Braydon Earl, were laid to rest on June 9 following a graveside service. Brendan and Braydon's grandparents are Bro. James and Sis. Sharon Rupp.

We give our best wishes to Bro. Peter and Sis. Laura Bodrogi and their children, Benjamin, Rebeka, Peter, and Laura, as they join the congregation in San Diego, CA. We also wish the best for Bro. Nathanael Steiner, who is now making his home in Austin, TX.

Several people have recently spent time in the hospital, including Sis. Martha Walder, Bro. Ralph Weber, Sis. Janet (Bro. Arthur) Maibach, Sis. Eleanor Ramsier, Sis. Bev (Randy) Moore, Sis. Joann (Bro. Bob) Widmer, Sis. Melba (Bro. Richard) Miller, Anna Jentes, Savannah McCutcheon (Pamela and Erik Hartzler) and Rebecca Steiner (Bro. Aaron and Sis. Holly).

OHIO, SARDIS

Faith Beard

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

Matthew 19:14

Bro. Bill and Sis. Miriam Brake rejoice with the birth of their newest grandson, Weston Gage, born on May 10 to Bro. Scott and Sis. Sarah Manz of Junction, OH.

Soon after contemplating the death and resurrection of our Saviour, we were privileged to be able to

receive Holy Communion. Helping to serve the bread and the cup, the symbol of the flesh and the blood of our risen Lord, was Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzler (Sis. Ellen, Sabetha, KS). May God be his rich Rewarder for his work during the Communion service and also the next day during our Sunday worship.

Also serving us from the pulpit was Bro. Tim Ramsier (Sis. Jonell, Rittman, OH). Tim and Joni were visiting us for the high school graduation of his nephew, Sam Ramsier, son of Bro. Mark and Sis. Alice. As Sam prepares to continue his schooling, we congratulate him on completing this step in his life and wish him God's guidance and blessings as he makes the many decisions necessary with his life.

While Fear hints, "There's something God will deny,"

"No good thing," is Faith's decisive reply;

Whate'er He withholds is most wisely denied;

How full is the promise, "The Lord will provide."

Zion's Harp #87, vs. 1

The words from this song were especially meaningful for Bro. Anthony and Sis. Jill Amos as they prayerfully considered a marriage of faith and then started to prepare for their life together during their engagement. Their vows for life took place on May 22 in Smithville, OH. Bro. Anthony is the son of Randy and Tawnya Amos of New Matamoras, OH. Sis. Jill is the daughter of Bro. Bruce and Sis. Lois Maibach (Smithville, OH) and the granddaughter of Sis. Helen Maibach (Rittman, OH). Bro. Anthony was recently from here, but for now they will be residing in Columbus, OH. We wish this couple God's direction and blessings in their new life together as husband and wife.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE

**Gina Brake
Lydia Dotterer**

It is always a joy to hear of more souls turning to the Lord in repentance. Ian Maibach (Bro. Steve and Sis. Dawn) and Nate Zollinger (Bro. Ken and Sis. Becky) have recently begun upon the way. We wish them much grace that they may build a firm foundation upon the Solid Rock.

Five dear families have welcomed little ones into their hearts and homes. Benjamin Todd was born on May 14 to Scott and Ruth Bachman. His siblings are Gregory, Daniel and Mark. Grandparents are Zane and Sis. Betty Bachman (Rittman) and Bro. David and Sis. Mary Ann Zollinger. On May 21, Benson Todd Stoller came into this world, joining his big sister Octavia. Thankful parents are Bro. Ryan and Sis. Kori Stoller (Latty). Also rejoicing are grandparents, Bro. Vic and Sis. Brenda Bauman and Bro. Todd and Sis. Pam Stoller (Latty). Bro. Brad, Sis. Nicole and big brother Titus Klotzle joyfully welcomed Tanner Michael on May 26. Little Tanner's grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Shirley Klotzle. First-time parents, Bro. Javan and Sis. Josie Stoller (Rittman), are glad for the arrival of Adelynn Marie on June 8. Her grandparents are Bro. Eric and Sis. Melanie Stoller (Rittman) and Bro. John and Sis. Janice Rufener. Brad and Trisha Maibach welcomed little Hesston Arthur Noah on June 13. Skylar, Holleigh, Seth and Hannah will have another little brother to play with. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Rudy and Sis. Barb Maibach.

Our graduates this year are Dorrice Beery (Bro. Dwaine and Sis. Shelly), Susan Fetzer (Bro. Andy and Sis. Elizabeth), Bailee Indermuhle (Bro. Brian and Sis. Bev), Alissa McFarland (Mark and Michelle

Zollinger), Sis. Julie Rufener (Bro. John and Sis. Janice), Sis. Lynelle Stoller (Bro. Scott and Sis. Charlene) and Wayne Stoller (Bro. Dan and Sis. Kim). As they look to the future, we pray they would look to God and seek out His perfect will for their lives.

Bro. Lucas Frank (Sis. Crystal, Detroit, MI) recently gathered with us and preached the Word. May God be with him and each of our ministers as they fulfill the weighty responsibilities that have been placed upon them.

Sis. Rhea Beery has recently been hospitalized. Bro. David Zollinger (Sis. Mary Ann) has also had to spend time in the hospital. We pray for God's nearness to be with them as they travel through this dark valley.

Our sympathy goes out to Sis. Shirley Klotzle (Bro. Bob) as her stepfather, Bro. Ralph Stoller (Latty), passed away. May each grieving soul be comforted by God's loving kindness.

**OHIO, TOLEDO
Deanna Manz
Teresa Rywalski**

"Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself: and the wife see that she reverence her husband."

Ephesians 5:33

Many from here traveled to Smithville to witness the wedding of our Sis. Jill Maibach to Bro. Anthony Amos (Columbus). Our prayers are that they will continue to trust in their Heavenly Father as they become one in Him. Bro. Bruce and Sis. Lois Maibach (Smithville) and Randy and Tawnya Amos (Sardis) are their parents.

On June 4, we gathered for a farewell singing for Sis. Gina Schlatter who has taken a new job in Colum-

bus. We will miss her and hope that she will come back often to visit.

June 5 was the day that our Sis. Shari Harmon (Bro. Doug and Sis. Lanna) and our Bro. Luke Tucker (Dan and Sis. Barb, Mansfield) announced their engagement. The following Sunday, June 12, we once again were treated to the engagement of our Sis. Rachel Powell (Bro. Don and Sis. Carol, Rittman) to Bro. Austin Gerber (Bro. Dean and Sis. Jaci Gerber, Bluffton Country). May God bless these two dear couples and their families as they work together to bring honor and glory to Him.

Bringing the Word of God to us this past month was Bro. Mark Ramsier (Sis. Alice, Sardis). We are always happy when they return home for a visit and thank Bro. Mark for willingly teaching us from God's Holy Word.

Our church family has grown by two little boys this month. Titus Joel joined the home of Bro. Brad and Sis. Holli Shields on Monday, June 6. Isaac, Haven, Micah, and Joseph are happy for the safe arrival of their new brother. Troy and Lanae Manz along with their parents, Bro. Matt and Sis. Deanna, welcomed Tyler Mark on June 11. May these dear parents continue to call on their Heavenly Father as they raise their precious gifts.

As we take our vacations this summer, may we remember not to take a vacation from our time with the Lord!

**OREGON, PORTLAND
Rebekah Jones**

This month, Bro. Todd and Sis. Michelle Zollinger (Silverton, OR) joined us in fellowship and shared God's Word with us. We were thankful for Bro. Todd's service and we welcome visitors any time to our small congregation.

Way out here in the west, graduation does not usually occur until June. Congratulations are in order for Vonn Leman (Bro. Mike and Sis. Lisa) and Sis. Rebekah Jones (Bro. Ron and Sis. Liz) upon their graduation from high school; and Dana Gallup (Bro. Mark and Sis. Louisa) who has graduated from college.

OREGON, SILVERTON

Deb Roth

Kris Luthi

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever.”

Psalm 111:10

May God bless and direct our graduates as they have completed high school and must make important decisions for their future. We pray that they will remember their Sunday School teachings and that the seed of Truth will be nurtured. Congratulations to Juliana Kuenzi (Bro. Jack and Sis. Janet), Teresa Tribbett (Bro. Mark and Sis. Anne-Marie), Tiera Wiegand (Elder Bro. John and Sis. Jane), Clinton Sinn (Bro. Don and Sis. Linda), Troy Sinn (Bro. Tom and Sis. Edith) and Shane Kuenzi (Bro. Art and Sis. Mary Beth).

We rejoice with the angels that Lydianne Metzger (Bro. Kurt and Sis. Koreen) professes peace with God and man and that she looks forward to baptism. We praise God for His mercy as He continues to call lost souls and to convert their hearts as they humbly come to Him.

Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Kristy Kuenzi are thanking God for a healthy baby daughter they named Angela Ruth. Their little angel's happy siblings are Micah, Drew, Kate and Russ. Grandparents are Bro.

Terry and Sis. Ann Kuenzi and Bro. Jim and Sis. Joan Dietrich. May God richly bless and provide for this family.

We were blessed with visiting ministers this past month who were willing to serve us. These Brothers included Bro. Dale Wulf (Sis. Becky, Lester, IA) and also Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Betty) and Bro. Ron Jones (Sis. Liz) from our Portland congregation.

PENNSYLVANIA PHILADELPHIA

Emily Wiegand

“I will praise thee, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will shew forth all thy marvelous works.”

Psalm 9:1

It was a blessing for our church to have a number of visiting ministers this month. We enjoyed the presence of retired Elder Bro. Andy Virkler (Congerville, IL) on May 25, as well as Bros. Justin Koch (Sis. Marcia, Washington, IL) on June 12; Loren Schrenk (Sis. Betsy, St. Louis, MO) and Jim Butikofer (Sis. Diane, Iowa City, IA) on June 19. We were blessed by their willing service on our behalf and appreciated the kind and loving exhortations to each one of us to a closer walk with the Saviour.

On June 4, we were able to gather for a night of World Relief work, assembling layettes for newborns in need.

We would also like to congratulate our two high school graduates this month: Christopher Lanz and Sis. Emily Wiegand.

Finally, we wish to extend a warm welcome to Bro. Jamin and Sis. Lauren Steffen and their newborn twins, Reuben James and Eli Robert, from Tucson, AZ. We certainly appreciate the fellowship and support

they will bring to our congregation.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE

Mike and Monica Fritz

We are thankful to God and our recent visiting ministering brothers for so ably bringing us God's Living Word: Bros. Mark Rufener (Sis. Julie; Mansfield, OH), Kevin Banwart (Sis. Sandy; West Bend, IA), Don Steidl (Sis. Nan; Akron, OH), and Glen Braker (Sis. Audrey; Princeville, IL). We have also appreciated the fellowship of brethren and friends from Bloomington-Normal, Congerville, Princeville, and Tremont, IL; West Bend, IA; and Akron, Junction, and Mansfield, OH.

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: Bay City, MI (7/17); Lester, IA (7/24); Mansfield, OH (7/31); Taylor, MO (8/7); Indianapolis, IN (8/14); Wolcott, IN (8/21); and Goodfield, IL (8/28). 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 (fritymb.family@gmail.com); and Sis. Gwen Leuthold (615) 356-5755.

TEXAS, AUSTIN

Serenity and Jasmine Ringger

Come, children, let us journey;
The evening draweth near;
Our path is full of danger;
The desert, dark and drear!
Encourage now your heart
To future life to wander,

Grow strong, until up yonder
All grief and woe depart!
ZH #185, vs. 1

We welcome Bro. Nathaniel Steiner (Rittman, OH) to our church. May he feel the Lord's blessing here.

It's nice to have Tristan Hartzler with us, Bro. Scott Harzler's nephew. He is here for the summer.

Ministering Bros. Tim Ramsier (Sis. Joni, Rittman, OH), Leland Plattner, (Sis. Mary, Zapata, TX), and Ken Schneider (Sis. Bernice, Remington, IN) came to exhort us.

Brethren from Eureka, Bern, and Sabetha came to visit.

The following is the minister schedule for August: (7) Washington, IL; (14) LaCrosse, IN; (21) Lamar, MO; (28) Peoria, IL.

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

VERMONT, CLARENDON
Nathan and Miriam Reutter

We are thankful for the visiting

ministers we have had this past month: Bro. Duane Reutter (Sis. Kay), and Bro. Warren Zahner (Sis. Bonnie), both of Rockville, CT, and Bro. Dale Banwart (Sis. Missy) and family from Congerville, IL. We were thankful that they preached the preaching that the Lord bid them to, as Jonah to Nineveh, Jonah 3:2. We also enjoyed the fellowship of the saints that these opportunities afforded, as we enjoyed a Wednesday evening service this month for the first time in a few years. We were careful to not forsake the assembling of ourselves together. (Hebrews 10:25)

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

gether.

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

**Apostolic Christian
Home of Roanoke
Benefit Day Sale**

Saturday, August 27

7 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Located on the

Nursing Home grounds

- * Pancake-Sausage Breakfast
- * Many food booths for lunch
- * Live Auction
- * Bake Sale
- * Large Children's entertainment center

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

mind off of those things of wealth, position, power, authority, and maybe family standing - which is one of the things that was blessed or cursed here, as far as how our children would be blessed - when our focus is off things of this world and we think eternally, then this chapter makes perfect sense, doesn't it?

We think about what awaits us in heaven, for those of us that love God, have been called, have availed ourselves through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. When we think about it in an eternal sense, what else could we say? If we observe and do His commandments, "...the Lord thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth:" Deuteronomy 28:1. We are going to reign on high above all the nations of this earth someday. Then when we're in that position, our thoughts will never again be worried about our baskets, cattle, lands, and storehouses.

Then what's the flipside? "...if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God...all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee:" v.15. As a tree falleth, so shall it lie. (Ecclesiastics 11:3) If we are in a position right now that if we exited this world, if our life was taken from us today, we would be overcome by the curse, then I hope today is a day that we have an ear to hear what God is telling us through this chapter in the middle of Deuteronomy. We will suffer the everlasting curse of sin. It is on each of us as men and women that have understanding.

This chapter just went on and on about the curses that await us, as the blessings do for those of us who believe. For those of us who may even be in this room who have not confessed the Lord Jesus Christ, it might do us good to read this chapter again and again if there is a thought in our mind that 'It doesn't really matter.' 'It's not that big a deal.' 'I'll wait a little longer.' 'There'll be another day.' 'There'll be a better time.' These curses are very, very serious, and hopefully they are sobering to us. Sobering in the sense that it clears our mind of what awaits us if we don't hearken to the commandments of God. We're thankful for His teachings that He provides in the Old Testament that are consistent with the message of Jesus Christ, and we take counsel in His whole Word.

Here in Mark 10, Mark brings us the

Gospel in such a unique way. Mark is a short Gospel, and Jesus goes very quickly from one topic to the next. Jesus was on the move. Even from the words that Mark uses how they departed and then Jesus went here and there, we get a picture of Christ from this Gospel of one who was on a mission to fulfill the Lord's will, and He was carrying that out in a servant way. We can look in the Gospel of John at the depth of the doctrine and what it meant for Jesus to be the Son of God. But in Mark, He is touching people. He is interacting with them in a servant way, teaching them what they needed to know before He departed this earth.

The Pharisees come unto Him focused on themselves, focused on how they could trip up Christ. They started asking Him questions about marriage and divorce. Jesus, of course, knows your thoughts and He knows my thoughts. He knows the very number of the hairs on our head so He knew the thoughts of these men who were coming unto Him trying to trip Him up, basically, or to back Him into a corner might be a way to say it. But He did allow them this interaction for our benefit today, I believe.

Jesus gives us a true meaning of what He wanted with a relationship between a man and a woman. God created them male and female for His glory. In this process of marriage of a man leaving his father and mother and cleaving to his wife to be one flesh - a beautiful process from God's own mouth, His own desire, His own will - that's how it should be, to cleave to our wife. You know, I heard recently of someone saying, "Well, I'm not sure I married the right person." And the minister said, "Are you married to her?" He said, "Yes." The minister said, "Then you married the right person. God has put you together. You married the right person."

Thoughts of, I don't know if it would be envy or looking outside of our marriage, is a dangerous, dangerous thing. What did Jesus say? "What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder." St. Mark 10:9. The world is making it very easy for us not to take that seriously and to find ways of breaking that union, but when we go back to God's Word, it becomes very clear on this issue.

Maybe some of us in this room are struggling in our marriage, and if you are, you are not alone. Satan is going to

use whatever relationships we have. He will use whatever he can to cheapen and weaken our relationship with God.

So if we find ourselves in that situation, it's a serious thing. I'm not trying to cast light on that at all, but I want us to be encouraged that it's an opportunity to draw closer to God. I hope we don't get the feeling, Brothers and Sisters, that "This is the way it is, and it's just the way my life is going to be. Sure wish it was different, but this is just the way it is." I hope we don't have that defeated attitude. Satan would like us to be defeated, I think, with that attitude. His desire is to discourage us. We should take courage that Christ Himself addressed this issue, that what God hath joined together, let not man put asunder. When we say man, that would include us. We should not put it asunder.

It's an opportunity, perhaps, to take stock of our lives. We may need to get rid of things in our life. If we are in a marriage that is struggling or in a difficult position, it may be a great opportunity to take inventory and get rid of things that are taking our focus off of healing that relationship with our spouse. That, I'm sure, is a very, very hard thing to do but a necessary thing according to what Jesus Himself said here, let not man put asunder. If our focus gets on other things, then yes, I'm sure our marriage will suffer.

This is an encouragement for all of us. Maybe we can say our marriage is healthy and we're not struggling. Our desire should be to continue to strengthen our marriage and to put time into it. I'm convicted as I say that.

"And they brought young children to him, that he should touch them..." v.13. "...Suffer the little children to come unto me...for of such is the kingdom of God" v.14. John the Baptist and Christ both said, "...Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" St. Matthew 3:2 & 4:17. For those of you who might be repenting, I hope your desire is to be as a little child - totally innocent as a little child.

For those who are maybe beginning their conversion, it would be easy for you, and for each of us as brothers and sisters, to hold back something. You could take part of your life and keep it for yourself. We all could do this, but I guess in reading this Scripture, I'm convicted to talk to those in that state of repentance and conversion. You could fool every single person in this room by

keeping back part of your life to yourself and not bringing it to light, not allowing God to help you with it. Perhaps it's an issue, a relationship, the desire you have for something that's not in accordance with God's Word.

When we think of a little child, they are one hundred percent innocent. They can try to hold something back, and we know they're holding it back. Pretty soon there are tears falling because of the shame they felt for trying to keep something from their mom or their dad. I hope your desire is to be as a little child. If we want to enter into the kingdom of heaven, that's how we need to be.

"And he took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them." St. Mark 10:16. Brothers and Sisters, can't we say we felt that relationship with Christ? When we feel His loving touch upon us, when we feel the Holy Spirit burning in us, we can just say 'Thanks'. Yet we get in those situations in our life where we are holding something back or maybe we lose our focus. For myself I can say in those times I don't feel His touch upon me, and I'm not blaming Him.

His desire is to be with us. The New Testament says, "Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you..." James 4:8. I take the inverse of that to be true as well. If we're walking away from God, or maybe we're just standing still, when we've lost our desire to pursue after Him, it's a scary situation to be in - where the Lord is no longer able to draw nigh unto us. Let's have a desire to be as a little child.

Then there is a wonderful interaction here as we go on to the next portion of Christ's teaching. It is consistent with what we read in the Old Testament of the commandments that were given through Moses there in Deuteronomy. Jesus repeats those commandments, the moral laws, that were given. "...Do not kill, Do not steal..." St. Mark 10:19. We know those, and what did the young man say? 'Yes, yes, yes, and yes. Everything's good with me'.

Then we start to see a difference between the old covenant and the new covenant, between the Old Testament and the New Testament. As we said, Jesus knew his thoughts and cut him right to the heart, and said, Thou lackest one thing. Sell everything, give it to the poor, and then you have treasure in heaven. (v.21)

Why did He use that with this man? Well the answer is in the next verse. "...he had great possessions." v.22. Not only did he have great possessions, but it sounds like he was holding onto them and gripping them with all of his strength. He didn't want to let go, and Jesus knew that so He took it from him. He said you'll need to get rid of that, and he "...went away grieved..." v.22. Sad, sad words from this interaction. I don't know that we ever read in the rest of the New Testament that the man ever came back. He may have. I don't know.

Have you been sad at something that Christ has told you to do or that the Holy Spirit has convicted you to get rid of in your life? We want to say things like, 'I'm going to church.' 'I'm serving in this board.' 'I'm giving.' 'I'm tithing.' 'I'm giving a lot of what I have.' Yet Christ comes unto us and says, 'There's something I want you to give up.' Let's not go away sad. Let's fall on our knees and thank God for His conviction and direction through His Holy Spirit, knowing that it's going to bring us closer to Him.

This man was holding onto those riches, and Jesus went on and taught more about that. For those of us in this room today, this Scripture should be something we are very familiar with. You may think 'Well, I'm actually not very rich. I have a very small house or a very small apartment, and you should see my car. I'm not making much at my job.' But if you're here this morning, you are so rich, and I'm talking materially. You don't really have to think about when your next meal's going to be. If you are in need of something, you have four hundred people here who would help you immediately if you were able to humble yourself to ask. At least I feel that way.

We are so rich so what does Jesus say to you and to me? "...how hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God!" v.24. We have riches. I'm taking that as a given. We have riches, Brothers, Sisters and Friends, but are we trusting in them? If we are, Jesus says "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God. And they were astonished out of measure..." v.25-26. This was a totally new thought to them. It says they were astonished. "...Who then can be saved?" v.26. How in the

world would any of us get to heaven? How are you and I going to get to heaven? I just said we're rich. How are we going to do it? Well, it's only through God. Let's not ever think that our standing, wealth, position, or the power that we may have in this world is going to mean one single thing when we get to heaven. "...with God all things are possible." v.27. If our focus is anywhere other than Him and our joy is anywhere other than on the Lord and His glory, we're in deep trouble according to this Word.

Jesus could not stand hypocrites. When we read the Word, He had a special wrath and zeal for those who were hypocritical. It's easy for us, at least it is for me, to say we trust in God and His Son Jesus is number one in my life. It's easy for me to say that, and I'm glad it's easy. I hope it's easy for you to say that too. But what about on a Tuesday afternoon when we have a business dealing? Do our actions and does our attitude match what we would say on a Sunday morning?

It's easy to get caught up in the way this world works. It is for me anyway. 'If I don't do this, all these other guys are going to pass me up. I'll take this deal this time, and then maybe there'll be another time when I can kind of give a little extra.' The Word tells us to be good stewards of what He's given us, but let's not twist that into putting something else before our relationship with God.

The depth of that relationship and commitment are talked about here when He says, "...there is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father... But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time..." v.29&30. For many of us here, we have been blessed with families that maybe went to this very church. Grandparents and great grandparents - a legacy of faith in our families that made being a part of this church and a committed follower of Jesus Christ a very natural path for us to take. I'm thankful for that. I hope that's something that we as parents and grandparents are putting time into passing down to our children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, or anybody in this church - it doesn't have to be family but our church family.

A special encouragement for those who may be members or friends here whose family is maybe not supportive

Sermon continued on page 42

Sermon continued from page 41

of you being here - I hope the Holy Spirit continues to direct your path. I know you probably have difficulties that most of us cannot really appreciate or imagine. But an encouragement here that it says, he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time. A blessing that comes to my mind of one of the hundredfold things you receive if you come in repentance, are baptized, and live for Him would be brothers and sisters numbering in the hundreds and thousands. But even much more "...and in the world to come eternal life." v.30. Nothing in this life, no relationship, should hinder our walk with the Lord. We pray that all of us could have that focus that no matter what our family background might be, but a special encouragement for those who maybe have special hardships in that area.

James and John came unto Him. They wanted to sit on the right hand with Jesus (v.37), and that's not such a bad thing to want, is it? I hope they wanted it for the right reason; to sit with Jesus on His right hand - they wanted to be close to God. They wanted to be in heaven. I think they started to understand and appreciate it. They started to feel what that meant. For those of us that have a dear one who we love, who we have confidence is in heaven, doesn't it make us want to get there more - to be with God? Our focus starts to get off things of this world

even more when our loved ones start to go Home, and we want to be there with them. But I hope James and John wanted it for the right reasons.

Jesus says, "But to sit on my right hand and on my left hand is not mine to give; but it shall be given to them for whom it is prepared." v.40. God will determine that. Jesus is on God's right hand. It's God's prerogative and His good pleasure to place people in heaven, but that was not Christ's domain. That was God's domain. I'm not sure how the arrangement of worship will be in heaven. I know and have confidence it's going to be glorious for each one of us that are there.

He gives them another word here that's easy to skim over. He says, "...Ye shall indeed drink of the cup that I drink of; and with the baptism that I am baptized withal shall ye be baptized:" v.39. Christ was killed for your transgressions and mine. He was persecuted. He was mocked. He was beaten. He was whipped with leather cords that had pieces of bone on the end, and they tore His flesh as He was whipped. He had the crown of thorns placed on His head so that the blood ran down. That was Christ's baptism - one of His baptisms. I think this Scripture is referring to that baptism. We know He was baptized in the river as well. James and John suffered that same baptism of persecution, death, and martyrdom for the name of Christ, and I hope that each one of us could say the

same.

We've talked about relationships in our marriages. We've talked about riches and how easy it is for our focus to get off of eternal things and to get on things of this world. We've talked about forsaking others for the cause of Christ. We may need to do that.

But isn't the ultimate test of our devotion to God our willingness to die for Him and to suffer for His name's sake? As we continue to grow in our relationship with Him and mature in our spiritual walk, if soldiers came through that back door with machine guns and said 'Anybody who stands for Christ we're going to shoot you', my prayer would be that everybody in this room would stand up and be willing to die for the name of Christ. If you say 'I'm not ready for that' - why? What is keeping you from committing your life to God? Whatever reason you come up with I think is a reason Satan's using to prevent you from committing your life to God. Hopefully every brother and sister in here is ready to do that. But Friends, let's be willing to take those steps. We talked about commandments. Jesus said, Come, repent (St. Matthew 4:17), and be baptized (St. Matthew 28:19). Friend, avail yourself to the Lord today. Brother and Sister, let's draw nigh to Him that when others see us, they see an accurate and a true reflection of Jesus and what He wants us to be. I pray God would give us the grace to that end.

Teaching Position Available

Gateway Woods is excited to announce an opening for a Math teacher at Gateway Woods School. Gateway Woods School is a fully accredited educational facility serving 5th-12th grade students who have difficulty in public school. Qualifications include a Bachelor's Degree in Education and/or an active teacher's license. Special Education Certification and previous teaching experience is especially useful, but not required. If you hold these qualifications and have a heart for children, please ask the Lord if this is the position He has in mind for you. For more information please contact one of the brothers listed below.



Adam McAfee
Director of Education
PO Box 151,
Leo, IN 46765
1-888-443-4283

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

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Eureka, IL 61530
(309) 467-2311
(309) 467-2075 fax
humanresources@each.org

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:



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

Lynn Stieglitz
Counseling Elder
15417 Doty Rd.
New Haven, IN 46774
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Church Outreach Services

Part 1

Apostolic Christian Counseling and Family Services (ACCFS) provides two sets of services to members and friends of the Apostolic Christian Church and others, as the Lord leads and as resources allow. The more well-known set of services are the Counseling Services which provide both in-office and remote (by phone or web camera) counseling to those in need of mental health and relationship counseling.

The less known set of services are called Church Outreach Services. These are the various services that ACCFS delivers to local churches and to individuals in a non-counseling setting. These services are generally educational and are proactive or preventative in nature. The Church Outreach Services are grouped into the following six categories: Mentor Training, Mentored Programs, Bible Studies, Website, Seminars, and Presentations.

MENTOR TRAINING

The Mentor Training Program was developed by ACCFS in response to requests from elders through their meetings and forums. It is intended to be a resource tool for elders to augment their counseling efforts by equipping selected members to become effective and godly mentors who will work under their elder's supervision. The program focuses on teaching individual brothers, sisters, and married couples the skills that make for effective mentoring. The primary purpose and goals for the Mentor Training Program are to instruct course participants in how to mentor others in order to help them grow spiritually and personally, enhance relationships, deal with spiritual struggles, deal with life issues (such as singleness, marriage, or parenting), and deal with sin issues (such as alcohol, pornography, or sexual struggles).

Mentoring results in people learning how to grow spiritually from other people whom God brings into their lives. The vast majority of people who benefit from mentoring have a desire to grow and learn. Mentoring involves coming along-side someone to help them through the struggles of life. Mentors should be empathetic, having a genuine interest in helping others, and be able to maintain confidentiality.

"Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also." 2 Timothy 2:1-2

Basic Mentor Training:

A Basic Mentor Training session is com-

pleted in one day and is conducted by a team of brothers either in a local church or at ACCFS. Some of the topics covered are:

Definition and biblical foundation for mentoring.

Mentors - types, characteristics, qualifications, and skills.

Important elements - confidentiality and privacy, mandated reporting laws, appropriate boundaries for mentoring sessions, and the roles of elder/clinical counsel/mentor.

Managing concerns - need for elder involvement, warning signs of depression and anxiety, and referral to a professional.

Mentor work - establish a mentoring relationship, communicate mentee's role and expectations, assess spiritual well-being, and evaluate mentee's progress.

Mentee work - prayer, scripture study and memorization.

Accountability - areas and methods.

Anyone interested in participating in this training should contact their local elder. More information on mentoring and mentoring classes can be found at www.accounseling.org/mentoring.

Advanced Mentor Training:

Advanced Mentor Training focuses on teaching specific skills (in addition to those taught in Basic Mentor Training) that make for effective mentoring in one of several focus areas, including: marriage, sexual purity, betrayed wives, and missionaries. Participants in this class are brothers, sisters, and couples (as appropriate for the subject content), and are expected to have previously taken the Basic Mentor Training. Advanced Mentor Training is conducted by ACCFS staff at the request of local church elders. The time required for this training varies greatly depending upon the topic and local needs.

ACCFS MENTORED PROGRAMS

The two mentored programs currently offered by ACCFS are structured to provide biblical training and daily accountability to help participants overcome specific sinful behaviors. Each participant is assigned an ACCFS-trained mentor who provides feedback and support through email or fax. Students initially fill out an intake form and then receive a program CD to install on their computer. To be enrolled, potential students should contact their local elder. All correspondence is confidential.

"Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend." Proverbs 27:17

Apostolic Christian Way of Purity (ACWP)

ACWP is a 60-lesson program for individuals struggling with sexual temptation, por-

nography, etc.

Apostolic Christian Way of Temperance (ACWT)

ACWT is a 59-lesson program for individuals struggling with substance abuse (drugs, alcohol, and tobacco).

BIBLE STUDIES

ACCFS develops, adapts, and monitors the use of Bible studies that fit within its scope (mental health and relationships). We work closely with the Bible Study Development Committee and under the guidance of the Elder Communications Committee. Bible studies materials are available to the church from AC Publications. For any additional information on any of these studies, please contact ACCFS. Also, any elder desiring an introductory presentation on any ACCFS developed Bible study should likewise contact ACCFS.

"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." 2 Timothy 2:15

Crown Financial Bible Study

The Crown Financial Bible Study is a 10-week small-group Bible study and includes a practical application workbook that concentrates on scriptural directives concerning the handling of finances. A similar study is also available for teens. Typically, an elder will choose someone locally to coordinate the sign-up and small groups. More information on this study can be found at www.accounseling.org/Crown.

Keys to a Healthy Marriage

(anticipated release in the fall of 2011)

This 10-week marriage Bible study is designed for small groups of couples to discuss the biblical principles of marriage. Each lesson also includes a practical application exercise for couples to learn more about each other and to enhance their marriage relationship.

WEBSITE

ACCFS develops and maintains an Internet Website (www.accounseling.org). The website has a wealth of educational information on mental health, marriage & family, and many other areas. The website contains over 250 documents and presentations that can be downloaded by anyone, free of charge. Schedules for upcoming presentations are also included. In addition, password-protected areas are provided for elders, ministers, and ACWP Mentors that provide additional information specific to people in those roles.

Next month:

Part 2 will cover the seminars and presentations that ACCFS offers.

Important Notice to Americans Crossing the Canadian Border by Land.

All adults will need just one of the following documents:

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

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

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Ed Graf
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 1-888-443-4283
ed.graf@gatewaywoods.org

Lynn Stieglitz
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"We have always considered our position a ministry for our entire family not just a job for us. Relationships built during this time can last for a lifetime." - Bro. Jason & Sis. Joy Kilgus, Houseparents

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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 July 9th, 2011 -www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-caribbean/

Project	Year 2011	Coordinator	Capacity				
Les Cayes MEBSH Construction	Oct 21-28	Steven Veins viens_steven_l@sbcglobal.net	12	Les Cayes SEED Agricultural Aid	Feb 3-10	Dale Frank 319-766-3661 dtfrank@louisacomm.net	12
Les Cayes AWA Water Aid	Oct 28-Nov 4	Maurice Schaefer 309-925-3740 schaefs2@gmail.com	4	Les Cayes MEBSH Construction	Mar 2-9	Rodney Menold rminpeoria@hotmail.com	12
Les Cayes MEBSH Construction	Dec 2-9	Ted Habegger 260-694-6765 tjh@citznet.com	12	Les Cayes MEBSH Maintenance	Mar 9-16	Jon Zeller 309-266-9009 jzeller@mtco.com	12
Les Cayes MEBSH Haiti Support	Dec 9-12	Rich Bertschi 309-467-2351 lemangm@mtco.com	ACWR-CC	Les Cayes FRW Vocational School	Mar 9-16	Rick Wuethrich 219-567-9488 rick@wuethrichfarms.com	4
Les Cayes FRW Vocational School	Dec 12-19	Rick Wuethrich 219-567-9488 rick@wuethrichfarms.com	4	Les Cayes MEBSH Construction	Mar 16-23	Rich Bertschi 309-467-2351 lemangm@mtco.com	12
Project	Year 2012	Coordinator	Capacity				
Les Cayes MEBSH Construction	Jan 2-9	Ron Palitto 330-336-5373 Ronp@palittoconsulting.com	12	Les Cayes SEED Agricultural Aid	Mar 23-30	Larry Kaufmann 815-716-6018 ljkaufmann@juno.com	12
Les Cayes AWA Water Aid	Jan 6-13	Maurice Schaefer 309-925-3740 schaefs2@gmail.com	4	Les Cayes AWA Water Aid	Apr 6-13	Maurice Schaefer 309-925-3740 schaefs2@gmail.com	4
Les Cayes FRW Simone Orphanage	Jan 20-27	Rick Wuethrich 219-567-9488 rick@wuethrichfarms.com	12	Les Cayes MEBSH Haiti Support	Apr 13-16	Rich Bertschi 309-467-2351 lemangm@mtco.com	ACWR-CC
Les Cayes MEBSH Construction	Jan 27-Feb 3	Rod Wieland 989-671-0404 rhwieland@speednetlic.com	12	Les Cayes FRW Vocational School	Jun 8-15	Rick Wuethrich 219-567-9488 rick@wuethrichfarms.com	4

JAMAICA

Data updated from the Apostolic Christian World Relief web site as of July 9th, 2011 -www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-caribbean/

Project	Year 2011	Coordinator	Capacity				
Kingston School CCCCD	Jan. 7-14	Roger Stoller 309-747-3228 rstoller@gridcom.net	40				

Pre-School Teacher Needed

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

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

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 July 9th, 2011 -www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-mexico/

Location	Year 2011	Coordinator			
Magdalena Construction	Jul 9-16	Jason Kaeb Bern Bible Class 785-284-3202 jason.maggs@gmail.com	Magdalena Construction	Nov 19-26	Rod Schmidt 303-774-7913 rschmidt@acosta.com
Reynosa Medical	Oct 5-12	Cheryl Herrmann cherrmann@frontier.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	<i>Counseling Elder</i>	Taylor, MO	Cell# 573-248-5701
* Bro. Chuck Kellenberger	<i>Chairman</i>	Elgin, IL	Cell# 224-629-6531
* Bro. Bill Leman	<i>Treasurer</i>	Roanoke, IL	Cell# 309-241-0257
* Bro. Les Schambach	<i>Administrator/Sec.</i>	Elgin, IL	Cell# 630-247-5271
* Bro. Tom Neuenschwander		Bluffton, IN	Cell# 260-307-6026
* Bro. Ray Slagel		Fairbury, IL	Cell# 815-848-3714
* Bro. Paul Kaeb		Bern, KS	Cell# 785-547-5269

Administrator Job Opening at Hospital Lumiere

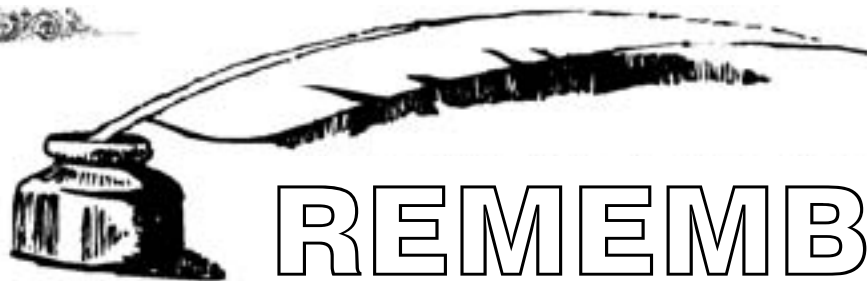
As the Lord opens the hearts, we are searching for a Hospital Administrator who will be acting as the Chief Operating officer for Hospital Lumiere at Bonne Fin, Haiti. Under the direction of the Hospital board, the administrator is to enable the hospital to provide, in a Godly way, the best care possible within the Haiti environment.

Some responsibilities will include overseeing: staffing, training, recordkeeping, hospital team building, efficient operations and maintenance of facilities, monitor community needs, excellent communication through all facets of the Hospital operations and management, and chair various Hospital committees.

As the Lord lays this opportunity to serve on your heart, please contact:

Bro. Tom Hitz
tchitz@sbcglobal.net
 734-454-9229





REMEMBERING

Our Spiritual Heritage

The remarks by Elder Noah Schrock, Oakville, Iowa, presented at Phoenix, Arizona, many years ago continue. An Elder who traveled widely with many responsibilities, he had a good perspective on the history of our church in America.

The first opportunity that we had to prove our esteem to them (of the Apostolic Christian Church Nazarene) arose in the second world war afterward when the need developed in Europe, especially in Serbia or Yugoslavia and Hungary. It might interest you to know that we sent \$600,000 to their church in Europe, which I think demonstrated a sympathetic understanding of their problem. I think, for the most part, they appreciated it. We built, with our own funds, a very lovely Old People's Home in Germany.

Two years ago, Bro. Bahler and I were in Europe and we were invited to a meeting with 15 Elders in Switzerland. Both Bro. Bahler and I could speak German very fluently. I am saying this very modestly, but we can. We met with 15 Elders, it was a very solemn assembly and Paul _____ was the dean of their Elders. He is the older gentleman, a nice man. I esteem him as a brother (in Europe we can do that).

He asked us plainly, "Do you see any prospect for the two bodies to unite by proclamation?" Well, that was a serious question. Having gone through these different conferences with them and having had considerable information, we told them we could see no possibility. I said this to them in the German language, of course. I am not going to talk that language because you wouldn't

understand me.

I said in 1906, a church stood here like a Gibraltar, solid, united, and a lamentable thing occurred in 1906 which, no doubt, was partly to blame among our elder brethren as well as theirs. I would say we would divide the responsibility for this sad situation equally. Here stands the third generation. We are estranged from you people, we don't know you. You are strangers to us. We can see nothing to be gained for several reasons. Since you left our assembly or organization in 1906, you've taken on a lot of customs that you didn't take with you when you left us, to which we couldn't subscribe.

You see value in using the wedding band to exemplify your marriage. We could never, as far as I could see, resort to a cold lifeless object to exemplify a thing God does. Now marriage is an act of God. And we repeat, "What God has joined together, let not man put asunder." Such a solemn thing which we associated God with cannot be exemplified by any visible thing. If that would be true, then our members should wear a crucifix to exemplify that they are God's people. How do people know that a man and wife are married? In America, our members don't have any difficulty. If I see a man and wife going into a motel and she has a ring, I take it they are married, but whether they are married to each other I do not know. So the whole thing falls apart. So that was one thing (regarding the division).

Another thing — when you left us you did not feel it was necessary to have musical accompaniment with your sacred singing in your church. Now you have done that.

We pointed out a number of things that we would immediately have conflict with, and we don't want that. So they came to this conclusion by their spokesman, "We see there isn't any possibility" (for a union of the two sides).

In Germany and Switzerland probably we could. But here in America a great many people have come out of your church to ours because they could no longer go along with your views. We would disappoint those people. We would drive them away from us. So Elder _____ said, "Well, I can see that very clearly, but even if we can't become one body, we can love each other." That's what we certainly want to recommend since you are living in such close proximity. I would never want to venture to say that those people are standing in disfavor with God. I wouldn't know. I don't belong to their organization so I wouldn't know. After all, they themselves advocate that we keep order, keep our lands where they belong.

(Editors note: Again, Bro. Schrock has spoken openly and honestly about conditions as he saw them. Many years have transpired since 1906, and after official attempts to re-unite the two church bodies. This generation very likely has a clouded view of that era, or no view at all, so as we study history we can learn from the forces that cause division — and this helps us to avoid such in the future).

Next Issue:

The concluding remarks of Elder Bro. Schrock (at his Phoenix talk)

The Light Of Hope

“Faithfulness In Small Things”

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

In hymn 179 in our Zion’s Harp, second verse, it is written, “In small and unimportant matters, Yet to be careful and sincere.” Is this what the Bible teaches? The question has arisen because some believers claim that it is the big things like the efficacy of the blood of Christ that are really important, not the teachings that we should greet with a holy kiss, the sisters should wear head coverings, avoid adorning your body, a dress code for worship services, etc.

In one of Christ’s parables He made the following statement, Luke 19:17, “Well, thou good and faithful servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities.” Here the Lord Jesus seems to indicate that faithfulness in small things is important, probably from the standpoint of obedience after conversion.

Luke 16:10 reads, “He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.” In this verse also, the Lord Jesus Christ seems to be commending being faithful in little things.

In regard to verses which tell how believers should live we have II Corinthians 13:12, “Greet one another with an holy kiss,” I Corinthians 11:5, “But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head uncovered dishonoureth her head,” I Peter 3:3, “Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel,” and I Corinthians 14:40, “Let all things be done decently and in order.” It looks to me that these verses

and other similar verses, are meant to instruct us as to what we should do and what we shouldn’t do, little or big.

The next question is, “Does the Bible teach us that we should know whether or not the blood of Christ is the basis for the forgiveness of sins committed by someone who has been converted?” Please correct me if I am wrong, but I have the impression that the exhortation is kept quite simple, just repent and be converted, or believe and obey. The legality or basis of God’s forgiveness we may leave with Him. He is God and I am satisfied to know that He has forgiven me.

It can also be argued that since God is sovereign He decided who will be saved and who will be lost and there isn’t anything that you or I can do to change that. However, the Bible is filled with verses exhorting us to repent and to come to Christ. This is not a trick God is playing on us. Anyone who is willing to believe enough to obey can be saved. God knows the end from the beginning but we will leave that with Him. We are operating in a different sphere than God.

There is great concern on the part of some that we are following another Gospel by teaching and practicing obedience in the so called “little things”. This is based on Galatians 1:6, “I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel.”

The problem in the Galatian Church is made known by Galatians 2:16, “For by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.” Therefore the problem was that the Galatians were being taught and they believed

that they would be saved by the works of the law, including circumcision. This we must never teach. We are saved by the blood of Jesus Christ, but if we are really converted we will surely want to do those things which the Bible teaches. We do not believe that what we do in little things or in big things, will be the basis for our salvation, but we believe that real faith in Christ affects the way we live, what we do, and what our attitude is about things. Our attitude should be that we ourselves can do nothing without Christ, and we know nothing without Christ, and that we are always willing to be taught what the Bible teaches as to how we should live.

Are little things important in serving Christ? It is my opinion that if we are willing to go by what the Bible teaches, the little things are very important. The little things may be what has been listed above but they may include things not written in the Bible but which make for better unity in a family of believers. The Apostle Paul knew that it was all right to eat meat which had been offered to idols, yet he wrote in I Corinthians 8:13, “Wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend.” He was willing to go the second mile in order to bring about better unity.

I have been told that there is such a thing as the dictatorship of the offended. People should not say they are offended and expect everyone to fall in line with their thinking. However, it is Scriptural to be willing to bend, and to be faithful in small things.

希望の光

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



*Wilt thou set thine eyes upon that which is not?
for riches certainly make themselves wings;
they fly away as an eagle toward heaven.*

Proverbs 23:5