

The Silver Lining

*Let all those that seek thee rejoice and be glad in thee;
let such as love thy salvation say continually, The Lord be magnified.
But I am poor and needy; yet the Lord thinketh upon me;
thou art my help and my deliverer; make no tarrying, O my God.*

Psalm 40:16-17

September 2011

Sermon by Bro. Randy Gudeman, Francesville, IN

Psalm 100 & II Corinthians 5

I greet you all again in the name of God our Father, His Son and the Holy Spirit, asking for your prayers as we open God's good Word. As we heard this morning, it was coined, 'The good stuff'. That is so true.

This is a powerful chapter written to the Corinthians. We pray God will give us the words either through the minister or in our hearts personally. If we refer back just a little bit to the Old Testament, the message this morning seemed so powerful that we recognize God is all in all. There are probably twenty some in this congregation who distinctly recognized the verses that were read this morning. It is part of that financial Bible study that is going on. In week two, there is a memory verse and that memory verse is I Chronicles chapter 29, verses 11 and 12. The point the Bible study and the Spirit this morning, more importantly, is trying to drive into our minds and into our lives - not just our minds, it must connect with our heart - is that God is God and He is in control of everything. There is nothing that God does not control. Think about that. God is God and He is sovereign - sovereign means absolute control.

We hear about the country of Egypt, and there is a man there who's been in control for thirty years. He has been sovereign for thirty years, but he may easily be overthrown and will not be sovereign any more. People, governments, authorities come and go and come and go. Yet God is sovereign for eternity - past, present, and eternity future. If we believe that, it will change our lives. It will change how we behave.

Now there's a head knowledge and then there is the heart knowledge that affects our lives. That is a saving faith through Jesus Christ. David says, as they were building and dedicating the great temple - I believe it needs to be driven into my

heart, and you can see how you accept it in your heart - "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..." I Chronicles 29:11. What is the kingdom? A kingdom is for a person who has the sovereignty. He is the alone authority. Thine is the kingdom. God is sovereign. "...thine is the kingdom, O Lord, and thou art exalted as head above all. Both riches and honour come of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand is power and might; and in thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all." v.11-12. Everything that has value and that is going to last is from the Lord. That is what the Bible verses are telling us here.

We are reminded of Zacchaeus. He made a choice. He had a decision point. God made the call, and he followed Him. Is anyone here where God is calling you and you are at that critical decision point? I was listening to someone speak about a company that processes food. They are really sensitive that everything's just right because it creates all kinds of problems when bad food goes out. They have critical decision points all the way through this process. There's a critical decision point where this has to be done and this has to be checked. Zacchaeus came to a critical decision point. We come to that in our lives where God walks through this congregation and stops each one of our hearts, and there's critical decision points. God is saying, 'Come to me'.

God told Adam and Eve, If you eat of this fruit you will surely die. (Genesis 2:17) Probably all of us had little goldfish some time in our life. You put them in these tanks, and every once in a while one will jump out. Now I could say to that goldfish, 'You jump out of the water

and you are going to surely die. You know that is the truth. I cannot change that fact.' So that goldfish jumps out and sure enough, you get up in the morning and he's laying there as stiff as a board. We all

Sermon continued on page 40

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*“For thou, O God...hast given me the heritage of those that fear thy name.”
(Psalms 61:5)*

Light From The Word



Writings based
on God's Word

September 2011

Respect For Our Heritage

As children of God, we have a tremendous heritage. This is a term often used, maybe even taken for granted, but perhaps we've never asked, "Just what is our heritage? What have we inherited?" On a grand scale, we've become "heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together" (Rom. 8:17). Although God's heritage is the church, "Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock" (1 Pet. 5:3), the overcoming church's heritage is everything. "He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son" (Rev. 21:7). In addition to these "exceeding great and precious promises" (2 Pet. 1:4), we have inherited much from our Apostolic Christian forefathers and many other believers who lived in the centuries before our Brotherhood came into being. "For thou O God...hast given me the heritage of those that fear thy name" (Ps. 61:5).

It can be challenging to discern the real treasures of one's heritage. Many a hard-working man has become wealthy – only to leave his substance to children who've no appreciation for the blood, sweat, and tears that were required to produce the wealth. In the face of great wealth, it is no simple task to look deeper for the real treasures. However, those who do, are rewarded by, and learn to appreciate, an even greater wealth. Monetary wealth is tangible. But there are greater treasures that go deeper than that which is seen. The most valuable earthly inheritances include values, morals, ethics, and other intangible characteristics that far exceed the value of money. Who can place a value on integrity, or contentment, or commitment? Can all the financial freedom in this world be of more value than the freedom of always telling the truth?

The present is inarguably shaped by history, such that we inherit great treasures from our fathers – of which we may be largely unaware. Just as a wealthy child may not understand how difficult it was for his father to earn his substance, and how easily a child may

waste it by not knowing its value, we may be inclined to underestimate much about our heritage. What are the true treasures of our heritage? Clearly the greatest portion of our inheritance is eternal life, which we have not yet fully received, although God has given us a measure of it in advance: "...who also has given unto us the earnest of the Spirit" (2 Cor. 5:5).

Along with the promise of eternal life with God in the time to come, we find ourselves very grateful for the present treasures of fellowship, a good measure of unity in application of the Scripture, and many other facets of our lives as Apostolic Christians. Clearly we are recipients of blessings that are the enduring results of other men's perseverance, dedication, and spiritual labor. "And herein is that saying true, One soweth, and another reapeth. I sent you to reap that whereon ye bestowed no labour: other men laboured, and ye are entered into their labours" (John 4:37-38).

However, have we asked ourselves if there are underlying treasures that are even greater? If we've been raised by parents who taught us the Bible from the time we were little, can we place a value on such a foundation of truth? Along with our faithful predecessors and the Psalmist, we can declare: "Thy testimonies have I taken as an heritage forever: for they are the rejoicing of my heart" (Ps. 119:111). How difficult would your life be if your inclination was to lie rather than tell the truth? In a time in which many religious groups deny the truth of the Bible, do we understand just how much it means to share a nearly universal expectation within our Brotherhood that all things must rest on the truth of God's Word? Can we grasp the value of the sense of commitment that leads to being willing to die for the sake of the gospel – and that we are recipients of such a shared commitment even though we've not experienced such persecution for many years here in America? Do we maintain the trust that permits us to "bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ"? (Gal. 6:2). Can we place a value on the blessing of brethren who were willing to follow Jesus, turning the other cheek and not returning evil for

evil? (1 Pet. 3:9).

Above all, we are forever indebted that our church is built firmly upon the solid rock, which is Jesus Christ. As so aptly stated by the Apostle Paul, our faith must be "...built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone" (Eph. 2:20).

As a contrast to your experience, consider the challenge facing a child who grows up in a household of nearly twenty people sharing a tiny shack – none of whom are her parents... a child who at the age of ten is expected to go out on the streets and bring back money to support the drug addictions of her housemates. Or consider the heritage of a six-year old boy who is the primary caretaker of his three siblings who faces the tough choice of digging through garbage cans or stealing to find food for his family. What would be the heritage of a young girl who believes her only option to survive is to use her body as a means of earning a living – who has many children before she turns twenty – whose only experience with men is demeaning and degrading. These aren't made up. They are real life examples of souls whom God loves.

Let's be very thankful to our loving and merciful Heavenly Father. It is a priceless treasure to share in the heritage of a fellowship of sanctified, born again believers, (though not unencumbered by the flesh), who speak the truth in love, and love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. "For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ" (2 Cor. 2:17). The true riches of God are ours if we are faithful! "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. If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?" (Luke 16:10-11).

If we have a genuine appreciation for the rich heritage we enjoy, "Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another" (Rom. 14:19).

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

Ambassadors for Christ

In the Apostle Paul's letter to the believers in Corinth, he reminded them that *we are ambassadors for Christ.* (2 COR. 5:20) To fully understand this counsel, it may be good to consider the responsibilities and job description of an ambassador.

An ambassador is a representative for somebody else. He is an individual called to a high position and rank, typically employed by his nation to represent the dignity and power of that nation.

Being an official spokesman, his words and actions are chosen carefully to represent his country in the best light possible. He does not author the policies of his nation; he explains them while reflecting the trust and dignity of his leaders who placed him in office.

Our calling

Every believer has the responsibility to be a spokesman and ambassador for Jesus Christ. This high ranking position requires that our conduct and walk of life reflect the dignity and sovereignty of who we are representing.

The Scripture encourages us to live a holy and sanctified life, walking in the fear of the Lord, so that we can be an example and light to a dark and lost world.

But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation. (1 PETER 1:15)

That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world.

(PHILIPPIANS 2:15)

Our responsibility

Our devotion and adherence to these scriptural directives is critical, as people must see the gospel of Jesus Christ before they hear it. Our talk should not contradict our walk.

One of our most important duties as an ambassador is speaking as the Holy Spirit prompts us. An ambassador does not visit another nation and remain silent. He is carrying a message from his homeland. The Apostle Paul, though in prison, refused to be silenced by his bonds:

And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, For which I am an ambassador in bonds; that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak. (EPHESIANS 6:19-20)

Our message

There is no true evangelism without an understanding of what sin is. Our message needs to include the definition and penalty for sin, as well as the salvation offered through Christ. It is impossible for a person to fully realize his need for God's grace until he sees how terribly he has failed the standard's of God's law.

For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. (ROMANS 6:23)

Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. (GALATIANS 3:24)

Our readiness

Unlike the Apostle Paul, we are not all called to be evangelists, but we are all called to share the gospel.

Every Christian must be ready at all times and in all situations to share his or her faith in Christ if directed by the Holy Spirit with those who do not have a relationship with Christ.

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear. (1 PETER 3:15)

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen. (MATT 28:19)

Our service

Do you feel you are an effective ambassador for Christ? God can, and will use anyone to convey the gospel who is open to serving him.

There is a wonderful story in the book of Jeremiah that illustrates the power of God's Word in the heart of his servants. Jeremiah went through a period in which he was very angry with God, and felt that God had deceived him. In his anger and frustration Jeremiah said:

I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his name. But his word was in my heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay. (Jeremiah 20:9)

Does the word burn in your heart as it did in Jeremiah's? If not, pray that the Lord of Glory would place a burden for the lost in your heart and the desire to boldly proclaim and share the precious truth of salvation as directed by the Holy Spirit.



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

Opportunities to Serve One Another

Many disasters have troubled our earth in the past few years. We thank God for the wonderful assistance given by our many congregations through World Relief, not only with funds, but with volunteer labor by our brethren. One way to hear about this assistance is to attend one of three presentations held through out the year.

The Western Meeting is held every second Saturday of March and is rotated between the Apostolic Christian Churches west of the line between Indiana and Illinois.

The Eastern Meeting is held on the second Saturday of November and is rotated between the churches in Indiana and all churches eastward.

Also, Thursday before the conference in August, there are presentations scheduled by the church holding the conference. For more information, go to the World Relief web site (www.acworldrelief.org) and check under Informational Meetings.

The next Eastern meeting will be held in Detroit, MI, on November 12, 2011, from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. The Western meeting will be held in Oakville, IA, on March 10, 2012, from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Recent meetings

At recent informational meetings, the new local World Relief projects plan was presented. Bro. Tom and Sis. Kathy Schifferer are the product coordinators. They provide the World Relief representatives information about kits, uniforms and any other project their churches are doing for World Relief. This

information is on the World Relief website under "Resources."

At these meetings, you will also be able to sign up to sponsor a child through the World Relief Child Sponsorship program. These children are from Haiti, Jamaica, Mexico and Guatemala.



Rebuilding in Nashville, TN

Presentations available

Several PowerPoint presentations are available from past WR Informational Meetings. Please contact the national World Relief office at 219-261-3200 or information@acwr.com. A speaker will be provided who will make a presentation for a World Relief meeting at your local church.

Following is a list of presentations available:

- Introduction to World Relief
- Child Sponsorship Opportunities
- Overview of Eastern Europe
- Antioch Project and Romania
- WR Projects in the Caribbean
- Work Teams in Jamaica
- Work Teams in Haiti
- Haitian Linens
- Summary of Work in Mexico
- CVE Orphanage at Magdalena, Mexico
- Medical and Dental Work Teams in Mexico
- Construction Teams in Mexico

- Eyeglasses for Mexico – Seeing the Light
- WR Work at RGGMI in India
- Projects supported by the International Grants Committee
- Medical Teams for Indonesia
- USA Distribution Centers
- Canning Meat at Smithville/Rittman, Ohio
- Packaging WR Food Packets – Soup's On
- Overview of Work in USA
- World Relief – Rebuilding Nashville and Beyond

The presentations listed here are examples of what has been presented at previous meetings.

Hosting a meeting

Please consider hosting a World Relief Informational Meeting at your local church. These meetings help us learn how to serve one another and are an opportunity for fellowship. You will take home a renewed commitment to further God's work in your single group, Sunday school, family, work teams in another country or local volunteer projects in your community.

World Relief is a channel to serve in Christ's mission to the world. In Luke 4:18 we read, "*...he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised.*"

Thanks and gratitude is extended to all brethren who have been involved and supported the World Relief efforts in the past years. May we all be ambassadors and good stewards for our Lord in our journey to heaven.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

One of our residents recently passed from this life into eternity. He was surrounded by family, staff and residents during his last days here on earth. We truly experienced God's nearness and presence at this time. Not only was this a time of sadness and parting, but this became a time of reflection as well. This gentleman had lived at Timber Ridge for nearly 40 years when the Lord took him Home. He was one of the youngest residents to be admitted to Timber Ridge, and moved here in 1972. When we stopped to ponder these facts, we began to realize that the Lord has certainly blessed us all. We couldn't begin to count the number of family members, care givers, and residents who touched his life over the years. Even though the man experienced communication challenges and couldn't verbally speak to us, he communicated in a variety of creative ways. It has become clear to us that he deeply touched and warmed the lives of many people. People mentioned things they had learned from him. We reflect on the number of people who have lived in our homes over the past 40 years since our first two residents moved into Timber Ridge on October 1, 1971. God has blessed us beyond measure and has walked with us through joys and sorrows over the years. The following lyrics by Carolina Sandell Berg indicates what we sense because of the Lord's consistent loving care and involvement in our Homes:

Day by day, and with each passing
moment,
Strength I find to meet my trials
here;
Trusting in my Father's wise bestow-
ment,
I've no cause for worry or for fear.
He, whose heart is kind beyond all

measure,
Gives unto each day what He deems
best,
Lovingly its part of pain and plea-
sure,
Mingling toil with peace and rest.
Every day the Lord Himself is near
me,
With a special mercy for each hour;
All my cares He fain would bear and
cheer me,
He whose name is Counselor and
Pow'r.
The protection of His child and trea-
sure
Is a charge that on Himself He laid;
"As thy days, thy strength shall be in
measure,"
This the pledge to me He made.
Help me then, in every tribulation,
So to trust Thy promises, O Lord,
That I lose not faith's sweet consola-
tion,
Offered me within Thy holy Word.
Help me, Lord, when toil and trouble
meeting,
E'er to take, as from a father's hand,
One by one, the days, the moments
fleeting,
Till with Christ the Lord I stand.

GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

Jan Beer

Foster Care, Adoption,
Home-Based Counseling, these are
the "invisible" parts of Gateway
Woods. Before becoming a Staff
member, my perception of this minis-
try was a lot like yours may be; it's a
beautiful residential campus, with its
own school, serving a limited number
of children. But I can tell you now it's
a whole lot more!

The children who reside on our
campus are a very small percentage
of the total clients served. There are
forty-two Christian foster homes li-
censed through Gateway Woods ea-
ger to provide excellent care to foster
children. The Adoption department
processes many requests each

month, and Home-Based Counseling
reaches out to a large number of fami-
lies who need direction in their lives.
All of these departments point people
to the only answer to all of this life's
problems: Jesus Christ.

Another misconception I had is
that a person decides to work at Gate-
way Woods in the same way as one de-
cides to work on a World Relief
mission to a disaster area. A sort of,
do a "good deed for those in need" for
a short while, then go back to life as
normal approach. The Lord really
opened my eyes on this subject when
His Holy Spirit brought conviction
on my heart to apply for an office posi-
tion at Gateway Woods. I strongly re-
sisted the conviction. I already had
my own "service" plan. My husband
and I were going to move into one of
the new housing units being built by
the Bloomington church, then I
would join him in retirement in a cou-
ple years and we would work side by
side in the many outreach missions of
the Bloomington church. After an in-
tense time of resistance, God's grace
was sufficient for my husband and
me to become obedient to His call.
Since then, I have learned that all of
the Gateway Woods staff is "called"
to serve God in this ministry – it is
God's choice!

After being on Staff at Gateway
Woods for a little over a year, I cannot
begin to tell you all the ways the Lord
has enriched our lives. He has helped
us grow in faith and trust, taught us
how selfish we are, and exposed us to
needs we did not even know existed.
He has shown us over and over the
power of bringing it all to Him in
prayer and trusting His Spirit to
guide us in the path He chooses for us.

So, if you are feeling the least bit
convicted about answering the call
for one of the present Staff openings
at Gateway Woods, please pray, then
respond. God may have a surprising
blessing in store for you!

News:

- All of our members and friends across the country recently received a very important mailing about the Promise Fund—this generation's promise of love to children who will need the nurture and structure of a Christian home in the future. This is a major initiative to build and solidify our financial resources in preparation for a time when Gateway Woods may need to operate without public funding or expanded services or facilities. We are praying our supporters will respond as the Lord leads.

- It was a sad day for us on campus as we said goodbye to Sis. Chalise Steffen this past month. She was a great help to us this summer to serve as a temporary Assistant Houseparent in the Cypress House. We are thankful that she was able to stand in the gap for the past few months and we wish her God's blessings as she returns home to her work in the schools in Illinois.

- We are thrilled to welcome Sis. Maria Steffen (Elgin, IL) to Gateway Woods as a new Assistant Houseparent. We are excited to see how God will use Maria in her new role.

- Our 35th Annual Sale, which took place on August 6, was a huge success again this year. We were blessed with over \$400,000! We thank each of our supporters, volunteers and our great God for providing for us through the Auction once again. Next year's Auction will take place on Saturday, August 4.

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

- We currently have two positions open at Gateway Woods: 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](https://www.facebook.com/gatewaywoods) often for updates, and make sure that you are on our mailing list. In an effort to be as efficient as possible, we are gathering as many email addresses as we can for our E-Post. Please send a message to mail@gatewaywoods.org

**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
PRESCHOOL
Athens, Alabama
Susan Koch**

The school year has begun. This month's theme is "I Am Special", so we are all learning about what makes each of us special in God's eyes. I love watching the students as we read Bible stories in the morning and sing praises to God. It's such a blessing to see their faces light up when they get to sing their favorite song. Some of our favorites are This Little Light of Mine, My God is so Big, and I'm in the Lord's Army. We began the first week of school learning our preschool's theme verse: Proverbs 22:6 "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." We'd also like to thank Sis. Deb Blunier (Eureka) and Whitley Gregoire for coming down and helping out for a week this summer.

We really appreciated your hard work and fellowship.

**ALABAMA, ATHENS
Pam Moore**

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."

Isaiah 55:8,9

We are excited and thankful to have a baby added to our church family. Lexi Renee Klaus was born to Bro. Mark and Sis. Rebekah Klaus on 8-11-11, weighing 8 lbs. and 11 ounces! Her big sister Natalie is very into "Baby".

We appreciate visiting ministers who brought to us God's Word this month. Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH), Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN), Elder Bro. Tom Stock (Cissna Park, IL), and Bro. Ron Palitto (Akron, OH). We thank them for taking the time to visit us in Athens.

There are many who need prayers this month: Roslyn Coulter (Bro. David and Sis. Barbara Coulter), Bro. J.R. Hall, Janice Flannagan and Bro. Tim Hall (Bro. J.R. and Sis. Louise Hall), Bobby Gullett (brother-in-law to Sis. Louise Hall), Roy Dugger (son-in-law to Sis. Ola Mae Barnes), and Rebecca Emerson (sister to Sis. Doris Moore). Each one is undergoing various illnesses, procedures, or difficulties and need prayers.

Barbara Kyle (niece of Sis. Doris Moore) passed away on August 27. Please pray for this family.

**ARIZONA, PHOENIX
Heather Hinrichsen**

We continue to lift up Sis. Joyce Yackley (Bro. Aldo) in prayer as she

begins therapy following her recent illness and surgery. Prayers are also being offered for the family of Bro. Harold Meiss as he battles cancer.

Sympathies are extended to Bill Fehr in the passing of his step-father and to the family of Larry Labudde in the passing of their brother-in-law and uncle, Bro. Mike Baumann (Sis. Florina) of Mansfield, OH.

Leigh Anne Hand (Dennis and Sis. Jenny) is moving to Oregon to continue her education. We pray for safe travels and God's guidance in her new endeavor.

The Prescott Picnic was held Saturday, August 13, at Watson Lake Park. Many from Phoenix went for the fellowship and cooler weather. We want to thank the Prescott church for all their labors of love.

As Sunday School is starting, we lift up the teachers and students in prayer, that God will bless them and give them a wonderful year.

'Twas a sheep not a lamb that
strayed away
In the parable Jesus told,
A grown-up sheep that strayed away
From the ninety and nine in the fold.
And why for the sheep should we
seek
And earnestly hope and pray?
Because there is danger when sheep
go wrong;
They lead the lambs astray.
Lambs will follow the sheep, you
know,
Wherever the sheep may stray.
When sheep go wrong, it won't take
long
Til the lambs are as wrong as they.
And so with the sheep we earnestly
plead
For the sake of the lambs today,
For when sheep are lost, what a terrible
cost
The lambs will have to pay!
— C. C. Miller

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT

Denise Steidinger

We were blessed with visiting ministers this month including Bro. Jay Knapp (Sis. Lisa, Tucson), Bro. Tom Leman (Sis. Marlene, Denver), Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich (Sis. Nancy, Phoenix) and Bro. Tom Bolliger (Sis. Jane, Tremont).

The All-Arizona Church Picnic was held on August 13 at Watson Lake. It was a beautiful day, a beautiful view of God's creation and wonderful fellowship! Thanks to all who made the effort to come.

August 14 was the wedding day of Christopher Taylor and Sarah Furrer (Sis. Rowena Furrer). We rejoice with them and wish them God's blessings.

Our congregation has started studying through the book of Philippians. Our first study on Philippians 1 was held on August 17.

We thank Elder Bro. Jon and Sis. Nancy Kokanovich for coming up to facilitate this. We were all challenged and encouraged by Paul's attitude and focus on Christ and serving others even while in prison.

We want to extend a warm welcome to Sis. Lisa Frauhiger (Bro. Lynn and Sis. Jenny, Bluffton) who has moved to Flagstaff to attend NAU and will be assembling with us; and also to Michael McLane who has moved to our area from Bluffton.

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp

It's August in Tucson, and just about the time you think you can't handle the heat anymore, another monsoon storm whips through bringing cooler temperatures and a really fun show to watch – if you're blessed to be watching it from inside! We are thoroughly enjoying our monsoon season which has been better than last year's and provided much

needed rain to our desert.

August also means our kids are back in school. We are always prayerful that they can navigate their little "mini real world" that has many of the same challenges Christians face in the real world we live in.

Our Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia) was with us for a recent Sunday. It's always good to see him and while we appreciate his visits so much, we were probably a little more excited to see pictures of his beautiful grandsons, Reuben and Eli. It was good to hear that they (and their parents) are doing well! We thank Bro. Ben for his efforts to spend time with us – and, of course, for the cute pictures. We look forward to your next visit!

I can't seem to shake the graduations this year. I totally forgot to mention the graduation of Sean Keller (Stephanie), son-in-law of Steve and Maria Bauer, and "new" grandson of Bro. Don and Sis. Gloria Bauer. Sean and Stephanie are newlyweds who graduated from the UA together this past May.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

We shared the Lord's Supper with our small group on August 21, remembering the sacrifice of Christ and the benefits of trusting Him each day as believers. On August 24, Sis. Stephany Moser returned to China and her work as an English teacher there. We hold her up in prayer, along with all those who have followed the call to make disciples of Christ in all nations. And we send her to this work with blessing and prayer, entrusting her to the loving, all-powerful hands of the Father.

Altadena hosted the bi-annual Arizona/California Youth Fellowship event again this year! A bus full of students and teachers from the Ari-

zona congregations arrived on Saturday, along with a group from San Diego, joining our kids at Huntington Beach. It was windy and cool, but many sand activities, good food and singing around the campfire made the fellowship bond precious to all. Several in our congregation participated in the hosting, with Dave Klotzle family keeping all the visiting boys, and the Doug Aberles hosting the girls. We were blessed to have ministering Bros. Brian Huber (Sis. Jackie, Francesville) and Jim Koehl (Sis. Hilde, San Diego) here that weekend as well. Bro. Scott Mangers set the theme from John 15: Christ is the Vine, we are the branches abiding in Him ... and apart from Him we can do nothing! Bro. Brian spoke to the students in the morning service, emphasizing the love of Christ as the Good Shepherd. The Sunday school teachers gave the lesson for the students in the afternoon, sharing testimony of what is to abide in the Vine. All were blessed!

We pray for our students and teachers (a high percentage of our congregation, when you add them up!) as they begin a new school year! May God give wisdom and strength, grace and courage as they navigate the challenges that will come. May each one reflect the light of Christ day by day! We also have several young people looking for employment, so we pray God will provide for them as well.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO
Yasmin Koehl

We bid farewell to Sis. Marie Luthi as she returned to her home in Lamont-Gridley, KS, after being with us for several months. We pray the Lord continues to bless her and guide her every step.

Bro. Denes Fulop also bid farewell to his uncle, Bro. George Fulop (Ak-

ron, OH), as he passed from this life unto the heavenly glories above. Our prayers are with their family as we pray they find their comfort in the memories they shared and in the hope of being reunited again on heaven's shores.

KITCHENER, ONTARIO
CANADA
Kim Leman

“Thou hast dealt well with thy servant, O Lord, according unto thy word. Teach me good judgment and knowledge: for I have believed thy commandments.”

Psalm 119:65,66

May God bless Bro. John Rassi (Sis. Heather, Tremont, IL) for serving us on the pulpit recently. We also trust God to reward our Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Sis. Bev, Detroit, MI) for coming to serve us Holy Communion and teaching us good judgment and knowledge.

Our love and sympathy is with Bro. Murray Metzger (Sis. Esther) in the loss of his grandmother.

REGINA, SK
CANADA

This month we enjoyed having a nice, young minister and his wife from Forrest, IL, here, namely Bro. Arlyn and Sis. Denise Leman. We're thankful God has provided a safe trip for you. Thanks for coming here.

Bro. Keith Shipley's cousin from Moosomin, SK passed away and he and his wife, Sis. Myrna, took the trip there. While they were on the road they stopped in Wolseley to visit her brother and his sister and other relatives.

“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of

some is; but exhorting one another; and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”

Hebrews 10:25

Bro. Hermann Kaiser's niece, Johanna, from Heilbronn, Germany is here visiting the Kaisers for three weeks. She was able to get a green card here and travel with Bro. Herman and Sis. Hilda to Morris for a weekend.

COLORADO, DENVER
Lily Zarkovacki

Thus united and in concord
let us walk the path of life...

Zion's Harp #237

We have been blessed by having visiting ministers this month: Bro. Gerald Wagenbach, Jr. (Sis. Bonnie, Oakville, IA), Bro. Curt Rassi (Sis. Kathy, Tremont, IL) and Bro. David Eisenmann (Sis. Jackie, Champaign, IL). May they feel God's rich blessings for their service in the Lord.

We would also like to thank all those that came out to our “off-site” services in Winter Park; we appreciate the support!

CONNECTICUT
ROCKVILLE
Laura Virkler
Bonnie Bahler

“Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”

Phil. 3:13-14

We are so thankful when we hear of another soul seeking the Lord in

repentance. Amanda Bahler (Bro. Phil and Sis. Michelle), Leah Gerber (Bro. Ronnie and Sis. Sheila) and Joshua Luginbuhl (Bro. Matthew and Sis. Heidi) have all surrendered their heart to the Lord. We rejoice that the call of God is still being heard, and that they press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God.

Two precious gifts have brought much happiness to their families. On August 3, Steve and Cecelia Gerber welcomed a baby girl, Tessa Louise. She joins her big brother Jackson, and grandparents, Bro. Edwin and Sis. Beverly Gerber, and Darcy Doyle. Nathan John came to join the family of Bro. Mark and Sis. Ashley Lanz on August 19. First-time grandparents are Bro. Barry and Karen Lanz, and Jack and Donna Yurgel.

What a blessing to have visiting ministers to labor on our behalf. We appreciate Bro. Brace Wieland (Sis. Brenda, Leo, IN), for his willingness to share the Word of God with us.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with Micah Bahler (Bro. Glenn and Sis. Erika), Nora Hany (Bro. Paul and Sis. Betsy), Bro. Walt Limberger (Sis. Charlotte) and Sis. Nancy Gerber (Bro. Everett), as they have spent time in the hospital recently. We are thankful that they are all on the road to recovery and we wish them restored health.

Our congregation bid farewell to Bro. David Beutel (Bro. Gene and Sis. Lynne) as he has moved to Champaign, Illinois, for schooling. We wish David the Lord's blessings and guidance as he continues his education.

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
WASHINGTON
Henrietta Meyer**

Our caretakers for the end of July and first part of August were Bro. Darren and Sis. Sue Plattner from

Champaign, IL. 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. Ken Eisenmann (Sis. Sharon, Cissna Park, IL), Bro. Jesse Bedolla (Sis. Bonnie, Detroit, MI), Bro. Todd Sinn (Sis. Janet, Latty, OH) along with Bro. Darren. Other visitors were from Rockville, CT; Goodfield, Gridley, Congerville, Bradford and Fairbury, IL; Columbus, Sardis, Latty, and Akron, OH; Ft. Lauderdale, FL; and Oakville, IA.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Barbara Rapp and her children, Owen and Julia, as their husband and father, Jim Cardwell, has suffered a stroke and is undergoing rehab.

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 thankful to have visiting ministering Bro. Art Ingold (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman, OH). We appreciated their service to God and the sharing of His Holy Word.

We are happy that Bro. Ed Gerber (Sis. Vi) was able to return home after some time spent rehabilitating from hip surgery.

We were glad to see Sis. Josephine Martin well enough to return to worshipping with us in church.

It's so comforting to know that whatever trials we suffer, we can always stand on the rock of Jesus Christ and be strengthened.

"From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I."

Psalm 61:2

**FLORIDA
NORTH FORT MYERS
Victor Beer**

August with vacation time upon us is usually the quietest time at our church. However, we were blessed with Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Sis. Jeni, Bluffton, IN), Bro. Ron Bollier (Sis. Edie, Indianapolis, IN) and Bro. Chris Huber (Sis. Sharon, Francesville, IN). We thank each of them for their services and blessing to us.

Our Sis. Carolyn Siegle is in the rehabilitation section of the Cape Coral hospital this week. She is recovering from last week's operation on her knee. We miss her always present joyful personality.

We would like to report current events at the New Beginnings in Cape Coral, FL. Evelyn, one of our young mothers, has begun her fall semester at Edison State College in Fort Myers. She is looking forward to

the birth of a daughter in September.

We have all six units of our New Beginnings building completed and ready for occupancy, but waiting for God's timing in sending us some helpers before we actively pursue more residents to the program. The schedule becomes quite hectic when there are doctor and dentist appointments, plus school appointments for both mothers and children. Sis. Naomi Vogel has graciously offered to teach cooking to our young mothers on Thursday evenings. We have enjoyed learning new techniques and recipes from a pro. Sis. Naomi is home economics teacher at a Sanibel school.

We have been in contact with our convert, Robers Mesidor, and he is enjoying the abundant fellowship of the young group at our church in Bloomington, IL. He is going to Heartland College there and shares housing with three other young brothers. We miss his smiling face and quick answers in our Sunday School class.

FLORIDA, SARASOTA
Kim Ott

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

Psalms 46:1

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Bro. Gordon Bryant (Sis. Marilyn) as he has recently broken his hip. We are so thankful for answered prayers already that his surgery has been successful and that he is now moving around. We pray for God's continued healing and strength. We miss Bro. Gordon and Sis. Marilyn assembling with us and hope to see them again soon in the near future.

We rejoice with first time parents, Joe and Trisha Kondratek, as they welcome home their new son, Logan

James. Grandparents, Bro. Tom and Sis. Cindy Hitz (Detroit, MI), and great-grandfather, retired Elder Bro. Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI), are especially joyful with the new addition to their family. The miracle of new life never ceases to amaze!

Note of Thanks:

We wish to thank everyone who has so lovingly reached out to our family during this time of loss of our son. We appreciate so much the prayers, cards, food, and gifts that you have thoughtfully shared with us. We are so thankful for your kindness and pray that you will be blessed richly.

Love in Christ,
*Bro. Doug and Sis. Linda Sabo
and family*

GEORGIA, ATLANTA

With excitement, we announce the birth of Ellilta ("Ellie") Joy Kipfer! Her parents are Bro. Kevin and Sis. Erica Kipfer. Ellilta's grandparents are Bro. Linn and Sis. Brenda Stoller and Bro. Ron and Sis. Linda Kipfer (Bluffton). Ellilta's name is the Amharic/Ethiopian word for "shout of joy".

We were touched by the willing hearts of our visiting ministers and their families this month. We want to especially thank Bro. Troy Leyse (Bluffton), Bro. Ron Bollier (Indianapolis), Bro. Kurt Walter (Mansfield), Bro. Ron Kipfer (Bluffton) and Bro. Brian Huber (Francesville) for each giving of themselves and blessing our church!

The closeness of eternity has been pressed on our minds as we grieve with the family of Bro. Brad and Sis. Stephanie West. Sis. Stephanie's grandmother, Juanita Newby, left her earthly body behind as well as a hole in the hearts of her loved ones.

We lift this family to the Father's throne, realizing that He alone can comfort their hearts!

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE
Shayla Steffen
Doreen Moser

Heb. 1:14, "Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?" We thank Bros. Randy Beer, Glen Steiner, Mark Wettstein and retired Elder Bro. Ron Schambach for ministering the Word to our small congregation in Belvidere. The Spirit also spoke through our Elder Bro. Dave Steffen when he joined us on a Wednesday night.

Eph. 5:31, "For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh." Bro. Troy Steffen and Sis. Ellie Hoerr became one flesh the first weekend in August. We welcome Ellie and pray that she will soon feel at home here in our congregation.

II Tim. 3:16, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:" The scripture brought some reproof, correction, encouragement and inspiration to us at the Brotherhood Conference. We thank the Elder Brothers for their labors of love and we encourage them to diligence.

ILLINOIS
BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL
Shelley Steffen
Heidi Rinkenberger

"And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left."

Isaiah 30:21

What a joy for our church family to witness the marriage of our dear Sis. Kendra Knapp to Bro. Doug Dohman (Gridley) on July 17. Kendra is a daughter to Bro. Charlie and Sis. Paula Knapp. John and Sis. Judy Dohman (Gridley) are the parents of Bro. Doug. We share in their joy as they begin their lives together.

We always appreciate visiting ministers. This last month we had Bro. Steve Baner (Gridley), Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit), Bro. Art Mueller (Belvidere) and Bro. Curt Kaufmann (Tucson) visit and we appreciate them and their wives taking time to come serve and fellowship.

This month, on the 24th, we were able to witness the baptisms of Bro. Drew Schumacher, Sis. Karen Hertz, and Bro. Quinton Rabe. Elder Bro. Mark Bahr assisted with the testimonies and baptisms.

Our other activities this month included a presentation by the Bible Class about their mission trip to Jamaica and the Sunday School picnic. We had warm weather and a great turnout. We appreciate and love the blessings of a church with wonderful fellowship.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD
Roseann Stahl
Sandi Joos

Beyond the sunset, O glad reunion,
 With our dear loved ones who've
 gone before;
 In that fair homeland we'll know no
 parting,
 Beyond the sunset, forever more!
Hymns of Zion #172

With hope of a reunion in that fair homeland, Bro. Kurt and Sis. Jane Ehnle laid to rest his mother, Sis. Beulah Ehnle (Bro. David, Princeville). Our love and prayers go out to the family at this time of loss.

We are rejoicing with Tim Ringger

(Bro. Bill and Sis. Karen) as he has begun his walk with the Lord. We lift him up in prayer and may we remember to pray for all of our converts that a firm foundation may be built upon the Solid Rock.

First-time parents, Bro. Adam and Sis. Brittany Endress, welcome Kylie Beth into their family. Grandparents of Kylie are Bro. Larry and Sis. Becky Endress, and Bro. David and Sis. Crystal Streitmatter (Princeville).

The engagement of Sis. Kayla Shernak (Jeff Shernak, Theresa VandeBerg) to Bro. Joe Kummer of Peoria (Bro. Chris and Sis. Patty) was made known. May these two continue to feel the Lord's guidance as they prepare to join their lives as one.

ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN
Sarah Drake

Another year has begun! In a college town, and in a church where many people are involved with education, it is easy to slip into the mindset that the year officially begins in August, not January. This school year, our congregation is blessed with several new faces. On August 21 we welcomed our new college students with a picnic held at Crystal Lake Park. We appreciate the new students and their visiting families who attended church services and the picnic that day.

August 21 was also our first day of Sunday School. We ask a blessing on our Sunday School students and teachers as we look forward to a fruitful year.

We thank visiting ministers, Elder Bro. John Wiegand (Sis. Jane, Silvertown) and Bro. Dan Koch (Sis. Julie, Tremont) for sharing God's Word with us this month. Thank you and God bless!

We welcome Alexandria (Alex), a German exchange student, to our

congregation. Alex is a sophomore in high school and is living with the family of Bro. Jim and Sis. Beth Walder this year. We are delighted to have her with us.

On August 17, housewarmings were held for two families in our church. The evening began with dinner at the home of Bro. Brent and Sis. Janelle Young. The evening closed with dessert and a singing at the home of Bro. Joe and Sis. Heidi Gerber. We are very thankful for these families, and while their homes have been established for some time, it was a blessing to officially "warm" them with prayer and song!

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO
Rachel Meyer

Greetings from Chicago. We were blessed with several visiting ministers and we wish to thank them for sharing God's word. They are Bros. David Eisenmann (Champaign, IL), Randy Mogler (Washington, IL), and Tim Hohulin (Roanoke, IL).

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Kasey Messner (Bro. Daniel) upon the passing of her beloved grandfather, Bro. Rich Zimmerman of Roanoke, IL. May the God of all comfort be near.

We thank the following Brothers for being willing to serve in Sunday School: Troy Blunier, Tom O'Shea, and Mark Lindberg. May God give you wisdom as you teach.

On August 3, Bro. Tim Hohulin presented a Topical Bible Study entitled, "Spending and Debt". We appreciate his taking the time to be with us.

On August 7, Dr. Surendra Parkhe of RGMMI worshipped with us and subsequently gave a presentation about the mission work in India and shared a sobering reminder to pray for God's protection for fellow Christians around the world.

Bro. Amit Parkhe gave his testimony of faith on August 17 in Morton and we welcome him as our brother-in-faith. May God bless him.

We welcome Bro. Shane and Sis. Emily Fehr and family to Chicago. We are happy to have them worshipping with us and pray God's blessings and protection upon them as they make the drive from Milwaukee, WI. Also assembling with us is Sis. Britney Kiefer. She is working and living in Chicago and we are thrilled to have her. Respective family and friends – please come and visit them often!

Special thanks to Bro. Norman Stahl for agreeing to serve on the Bible Distribution committee. This is God's work and may He bless.

We said farewell on August 14 to our dear Sis. Kaitlyn Isaia. She spent several years in Chicago and will be greatly missed. She has taken a position at Gateway Woods in Leo, IN, and our loss is their gain. May God be with you.

Why would someone want the word MALICE on his/her license plate? That was my exact thought when the car bearing that plate passed me on the highway. Why willingly send such a negative message? Honestly, I'm not sure I would be interested in getting to know the owner of that vehicle.

Have I ever caused someone to stay away based on my actions, words, deportment? Willingly or unwillingly missed an opportunity to reflect Christ in action? I have. Have you?

“...by their fruits ye shall know them.”

Matthew 7:20

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

Marilyn Maul

Tina Walder

Thankful for a new gift from heaven are grandparents, Bro. Max and Sis. Beth Kaeb. Landon Troy was born to Bro. Will and Sis. Joanna Manz of Junction.

Belated sympathy goes to Bill and Judie Drayer for the loss of her father, Bill McCullar. Also, Sis. Sal Markwalder and Sis. Laverne Kaufmann lost their sister, Sis. Martha Rinkenberger of Congerville. Bro. Bill and Sis. Marj Rinkenberger and Bro. Ed and Sis. Marge Alt are Sis. Martha's in-laws.

We lost one of our oldest brothers, Bro. Ed Alt. Bro. Ed was one who served God his whole life with a meekness and gentleness that was an example to all of us. Left behind were his wife, Sis. Marge, and children, Mark (Kai), John, and Beth (Bill) Novak. We appreciated having Bro. Ed's nephews with us for his funeral. We thank Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield) and Bro. Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville) for bringing us comfort on that day.

Heaven is rejoicing with the baptism of three new brothers in the Lord. Bro. Tyler Eisenmann (Bro. Steve and Sis. Cheryl), Bro. Joel Kaeb (Bro. Max and Sis. Beth), and Bro. Adam Kaeb (Bro. Hartzell and Sis. Denise) were baptized on August 14. With us on that special weekend were Elder Bro. Brad Eisenmann (Chicago), Bros. Mike Leman (Portland), Les Kaeb (Francesville), Don Sinn (Silverton), and Justin Koch (Washington).

We thank God for the willingness of our ministering brothers to travel to other churches. Elder Bro. Tom Waldbeser (Atlanta), Bros. Warren Schlatter (Junction), Ken Dietz (Bradford), and Duane Reutter (Rockville) were with us recently bringing us the Word of God.

Those that have had to seek the help from the medical community are Bro. Gib Stock (gallbladder removal), Sis. Sal Markwalder (pacemaker) and Bro. John Waldbeser (hip replacement). May God grant His healing blessings to each one of these dear ones.

Note of Thanks:

A heartfelt thanks to everyone who remembered our family with kind words, prayers, cards, and visits during the illness and passing of our dear loved one, Bro. Ed Alt. May God bless each and every one.

Sis. Marge Alt and family

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

Rachel Currier

“From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

St. Matthew 4:17

We are thankful that God has called several souls unto repentance recently. They include Leah Knapp (Bro. James and Sis. Lisa), Joshua Knepp (Bro. Doug and Sis. Lynette), and Harold and Ashley Schieber (Bro. Mike and Sis. Mary Schieber and Bro. Mark and Sis. Lisa Schmidgall, Eureka). May they each one feel God's grace as they sincerely seek Him.

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

Zion's Harp #163

Four souls were brought into our brotherhood, as they gave their testimonies and were baptized. We welcome Bro. Andrew Hoerr (Bro. Max and Sis. Suzanne), Bro. Nathan Anderson (Bro. Jon and Sis. Cyndee), and Bro. David and Sis. Erica Steffen

(Kent and Sis. Beth Steffen and Eric and Pam Kuchenmeister).

The Word was brought forth by several visiting ministers these past few weeks. We were grateful to Bro. Paul Zimmerman (Forrest), Bro. Ned Bahler (Fairbury), Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis), Bro. Bruce Frank (Cissna Park), Bro. Mark Schmidgall (Eureka), Bro. Greg Lehman (Wolcott), Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville), Bro. Greg Stoller (Forrest), Bro. Tom Lanz (Oakville), Bro. Dana Indermuhle (Sardis), and Bro. Mark Rufener (Mansfield) as they willingly preached the Gospel.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN

Amy Gasser
Miriam Gasser

“For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.”

Matt. 24:27

Along with abundant rains, the summer’s powerful thunderstorms have brought spectacular lightning. It makes one think the Creator is trying to tell us something.

Our past month’s visitors included ministering Bros. Earl Beery (Rittman, OH), Scott Schambach (Columbus, OH), Craig Stickling (Peoria, IL), and Todd Stoller (Latty, OH), who edified us during Sunday worship services. Others who served during Vacation Bible School were as follows:

Aug. 1 - Bro. Trent Meiss (Eureka, IL) “Having a Good, Positive Attitude”

Aug. 2 - Bro. Todd Stoller (Latty, OH) “The Lord is Coming. Are You Ready?”

Aug. 3 - (all church) - Bro. Fred Witzig (Washington, IL) “Early Church History”

Aug. 4 - Bro. Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL) “Benefits of Serving the Lord Now”

Aug. 5 - Bro. John Bradle (Roanoke, IL) “The Greatness of God”

After a recent trip to Magdalena, our Bible Class group hosted a taco dinner at the Fellowship Center. It was followed by an interesting photo presentation of their experiences.

The angels in heaven rejoice over one sinner who repents, and so are those who know Angela Steffen (Elder Bro. Dave and Sis. Linda). May she experience the power of grace to turn from the broad path to the narrow way, which leads to eternal life.

Sis. Maria Steffen (Elder Bro. Dave and Sis. Linda) has taken a position as Assistant Houseparent at Gateway Woods and has relocated to Leo, IN. Our convert, Tim Hann (Jerry and Sis. Cindy), moved to Orlando, FL for employment. We pray for the guidance and protection of these young people as they launch out in new directions.

Bro. Bill Wewetzer had cataract surgery in late July and is thankful to have recovered with improved vision. May we keep Sis. Joan Scheitlin in our prayers since the recent discovery of cancer and her subsequent surgery.

Sis. Anna Reber, who had lived at Resthaven in Elgin, was called to her heavenly home on July 24. She will be missed by fellow ACR residents, as well as a step-daughter, three sisters-in-law, and many nieces and nephews.

Michael Kellenberger, 67, of West Palm Beach, FL passed away August 9 and was the son of our past Elder, Bro. Herman and Sis. Della Kellenberger. Sis. Lyla Schock, Sis. Carolyn Haas and Bro. Lloyd Kellenberger are siblings from our congregation.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

Dee Baer
Jodi Blunier

By faith, God has led Sis. Traci Hoerr (Bro. Mark Hoerr and the late Sis. Carolyn) and Bro. Ben Frieden (Bro. Floyd and Sis. Jan, Elgin, IA) to blend their lives in marriage.

Prayers for the sick include Sis. Verna Wettstein, Sis. Sonia Banwart (Bro. Joel) and Bro. Harold Hodel (Sis. Mick).

We are thankful for the faithfulness of God’s Spirit as He spoke through visiting ministers, Bro. Bob Dotterer (Sardis, OH), Bro. Tom Bahler (Rockville, CT) and Bro. John Steiner (Oakville, IA).

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

Angela Herr
Kay Steffen

We’ll now depart, ye faithful friends; and from this place we’ll go; the Lord in whom our spirits blend, will lead us on the road.

Zion’s Harp #143, vs. 1

Our prayers are with Sis. Renee Slagel (Bro. Ray and Sis. Gladys) as she has felt God’s leading to accept a full-time teaching position in Les Cayes, Haiti. May God continue to be with her and bless her as she works in Haiti.

We also bid farewell to Bro. Rick and Sis. Kim Steidinger and their four children, Clayton, Jordan, Trevin, and Shalise, as they have now moved to the Taylor area and will be assembling with our brethren there. We will miss them and wish them God’s blessings as they settle into a new home and a new church family. We also would like to thank Bro. Rick for the years he has spent teaching our youth in Sunday School. Our prayers and support are with Bro. Darl Rassi (Sis. Janelle) as he takes Bro. Rick’s place in Sunday School.

May God bless each one.

We rejoice with our new sister in faith, Sis. Verla Davis (Bro. Wayne), as many of us gathered together to hear her testimony and witness her baptism on the evening of August 3. We wish the Lord's blessings and grace upon her. We thank Elder Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL) for assisting our Elder Bro. Rick Plattner in this work.

Other visiting ministers serving our congregation this month were Bro. James Fehr (Tremont, IL), Bro. Mike Ursu (Kitchener, ON), Bro. Leland Plattner (Zapata, TX), Elder Bro. Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL), Bro. Ned Stoller (Alto, MI), Bro. Ron Isch (Lamont-Gridley, KS), Bro. Chad Leman (Kitchener, ON), Elder Bro. Duane Rocke (Minneapolis, MN), and Bro. Dennis Rassi (Austin, TX). We thank each of these brothers for sharing God's Word with us and pray that He will richly bless them.

Many of these ministering brothers assembled with us the week of the Brotherhood Conference in Forrest. We were also privileged to host the singing on Thursday evening prior to the Conference as well as many guests overnight. We thank our dear Elder brothers for their labors on behalf of our precious faith as well as the Forrest congregation for hosting the Conference. We are listening to the Conference recordings and pray that each one may be encouraged in our walk with the Lord.

"Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord..."

Psalms 127:3

Bro. Derrick and Sis. Joslyn Steidinger welcomed another little boy, Simon Andrew, into their family circle on August 2. Nathan, Jonathan, Benjamin, and Cora are excited to have another brother. Grandparents are Dave and Deann Steidinger

and Dan and Marcie Grosshans.

Also born on August 2 was Tanner Eli to Bro. Kent and Sis. Beth Steidinger. Big brother, Zackary, is happy for a playmate. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Martin and Sis. Trish Steidinger and Bro. Ken and Sis. Gwen Manz (Junction, OH).

Bro. Michael and Sis. Rachael Slagel welcomed their firstborn, Jace Michael, on August 4. Bro. Doug and Sis. Dixie Steidinger and Bro. Ray and Sis. Gladys Slagel are Jace's grandparents.

Bro. Nathan and Sis. Marsha Fehr welcomed another grandson into their family earlier this spring on March 16. Markus Octaveus was born to their daughter, Kaylee Fehr.

While we rejoice with those who rejoice, we also weep with those who weep. Our thoughts and prayers have been with our convert, Mandy Payne, as she mourns the loss of her mother, Sharon Payne, who died unexpectedly on August 2.

We also extend our deepest sympathy to Sis. Donna Kaisner (Bro. Jerry) in the loss of her father, Bro. Walt Schwind (Sis. Mary) of Roanoke, who passed away on August 14. May God comfort each one who has lost a loved one.

Our thoughts and prayers have also been with those who have recently spent time in the hospital or undergone surgery, including Bro. Vernon Hartman (Sis. Pat), Bro. Dale Banwart (Sis. Donna), Bro. Carlos Meiss (Sis. Jane), Bro. Ralph Bahler (Sis. Jeannette), and Arlene Farley (Charles). May God heal and provide for each one according to His will.

ILLINOIS, FORREST
Lynn Dotterer
Lisa Aberle

We had so many blessings this month. Some of them included bap-

tisms on two separate weekends. During the first weekend, Bro. Trevor Edelman and Sis. Karla Edelman (Bro. Karl and Sis. Bethany), Bro. Joel Steidinger (Bro. Roger and Sis. Sheila) and Sis. Amber Stork (Bro. Reuben and Sis. Devra) were added to the fold. Elder Bros. John Jackson (Bay City, MI) and Rick Plattner (Fairbury, IL) assisted our Elder Bro. Marvin. For the second weekend, Elder Bros. Mike Leman (Denver, CO) and Rick Plattner were with us as we welcomed Bros. Josh Coffey (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Denise), Caleb Kelson (Bro. Paul and Sis. Sherri), Arlen Steidinger (Bro. Glen and Sis. Holly), and Sis. Anna Stoller (Bro. Greg and Sis. Jill).

Our congregation was very blessed to host the Brotherhood Conference this year. We really appreciate the many labors of our Elder body on our behalf, and, of course, we had many visiting ministers and Elders. Some of these include retired Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle (Peoria, IL), Elder Bro. Duane Farney (Croghan-Naumburg, NY), Bro. Rex Frieden (Lamar, MO), Bro. Dan Goric (Rockville, CT), Elder Bro. John Laukhuf (Latty, OH), Bro. Don Manz (Junction, OH), Elder Bro. Art Metz (Portland, OR), Bro. Leland Plattner (Zapata, TX), Elder Bro. Steve Ringger (Bluffton North, IN), Elder Bro. David Steffen (Elgin, IL), Bro. Mike Walder (Smithville, OH), and Bro. Tim Zimmerman (Lamont-Gridley, KS).

We're also thankful to report that Joseph Kaeb (Bro. Eldon and Sis. Stephanie) has turned to God in repentance.

Bro. Caleb Leman (Bro. Fred and Sis. Brenda) and Sis. Shannon Stork (Bro. Reuben and Sis. Devra) announced their engagement.

Sis. Jean Ricketts (Bro. Nick) was our hospital patient this month.

Sharon Payne passed away sud-

denly on August 2. In this time of grief, we think especially of her husband, John, and her daughter, Mandy. We also extend sympathy to her mother, Sis. Ruth Roth, and her siblings: L. John Roth (Karen) of Shelbina, MO; Bro. Ken Roth (Sis. Deb); Tim Roth (Diane) of Germantown Hills, IL; and a brother-in-law, Takis Paplomatas (Baltimore, MD).

We also extend our sympathy to Sis. Jill Stoller (Bro. Greg) in the death of her mother, Sis. Beulah Ehnle (Princeville, IL). Our prayers are with these dear families.

Note of Thanks:

We would like to thank everyone for their gifts of love, support, and prayers at the passing of Sharon. We appreciate the love shown to us in our time of grief. May God bless each one of you for your acts of kindness.

The family of Sharon Payne

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

**Kayla Wiegand
Melissa Rokey**

We are excited to share the joyful news of two new babies in our church family. Brynn Leigh was born July 28 to Bro. Caleb and Sis. Bethany Wyss. Brynn has one older sister, Alea. Her grandparents are Bro. Bruce and Sis. Donna Wyss (Congerville, IL) and Bro. Wilfred and Sis. Verona Strahm (Bern, KS). Eliza Mae was born August 6 and is the daughter of Bro. Sam and Kristen Rokey. Her older brother is Josiah. Her grandparents are Bro. Ben and Sis. Shelley Rokey and Randy and Beth Barnes.

“Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.”

Psalms 23:6

Bro. Harold Reeser went home to

his reward on August 8. Our prayers of comfort are with his sons, Doug (Cynthia) and Steve (Karen), and their families. Heartfelt sympathy is also offered to Sis. Marie Kieser (Bro. Alfred) upon the death of her brother, Paul Fehr of Fairbury, IL, on August 4.

We lift our Sis. Laura (Bro. Nate) Wiegand up in prayer as she is in the hospital and has undergone surgery on a broken vertebrae in her neck following a swimming accident. Chad Gerber (Bro. Roger and Sis. Trish) is spending time in a hospital in the Chicago area and we cover him and his family with our prayers. Many others in our congregation have also spent time in the hospital. Our prayers for healing are offered for Bro. Larry Bauman (Sis. Betty), Bro. Steve Wiegand (Sis. Mary Ellen), Bro. Wilbur Heinold (Sis. Mildred), Bro. Dan Wiegand (Sis. Verla), Sis. Arlene Hinrichsen, Bro. Will Rokey, and both Bro. Alfred and Sis. Marie Kieser.

Whoever receiveth the Crucified One,

Whoever believeth on God's only
Son,
A free and a perfect salvation shall
have:
For He is abundantly able to save.
Gospel Hymns # 387

We were blessed with a weekend of testimonies and baptisms August 12-13. Elder Bro. Tim Funk (Sis. Deb, Peoria, IL) was here to assist our Elder Bro. Earl Ringger. We welcome Bro. Clint Schumacher (Bro. Dan and Sis. Heidi), Bro. Tyler Roche (Bro. Jedd and Sis. Marsha), Sis. Katie Monfre (Bro. Tony and Sis. Deonne), and Sis. Tiffany Hinrichsen (Bro. Mike and Sis. Gerri) as our new brothers and sisters in the Lord.

“Apply thine heart unto instruction, and thine ears to the words of

knowledge.”

Proverbs 23:12

We have begun listening to the CD's from the General Conference and are thankful that God can speak to us in this way.

Our visiting ministers this past month included Bro. Randy Beer (Sis. Deb, Milford, IN), Bro. Tim Drayer (Sis. Gwen, Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Keith Hinrichsen (Sis. Tammy, Phoenix, AZ), Bro. Virgil Kaeb (Sis. Suellen, Sarasota, FL) and Bro. Brandon Emch (Sis. Maria, Kansas City, MO). We would like to thank each one for their efforts.

**ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY
Perry A. Klopfenstein**

Truly, in our Christian walk, we have great and precious promises as they relate to our faith. At the same time, we exist in the flesh here on earth, and there are sorrows and disappointments. The believer in Christ, of necessity, must deal with the troubling aspects of life. In this, the phrase of a song comes to mind, “Never give up to thy sorrows, Jesus will bid them depart.” This is so true.

The song in the Tabernacle Hymnal (page 248) entitled “Never Give Up” is an appropriate one with verses that give courage to the believer.

What if thy burdens oppress thee;
What tho' thy life may be drear.
Look on the side that is brightest,
Pray, and thy path will be clear.

Never be sad or desponding,
Lean on the arm of thy Lord.
Dwell in the depths of His mercy,
Thou shalt receive thy reward.

Indeed, the true Christian must soldier on, and never give up. If he is faithful, he will dwell in the winning army.

Our Sunday School term began on

August 21. Bro. George Gramm is the new superintendent. Bro. Grant DesCarpentrie is the assistant superintendent. We wish them and all the teachers God's grace that they can be a big influence as they explain God's plan of salvation to our youth.

Bro. Doug Dohman was married to Sis. Kendra Knapp of Bloomington. He is the son of John and Sis. Judy Dohman, and her parents are Bro. Charlie and Sis. Paula Knapp (Bloomington). We wish them God's richest blessings as they dwell together with God as their lifetime Guide.

Bro. Reed Yackley was married to Sis. Bethany Witzig. He is the son of Bro. Elwood and Sis. Trudy Yackley (Taylor, MO) and her parents are Bro. Curt and Sis. Norma Witzig. We surely wish them the joys of marriage, and may they be of help to one another in the strengthening of their faith.

Bro. Nate Eichhorn, formerly of Bluffton, IN, has moved to Gridley, and will make his home here, residing at Sunrise Manor, south of our church. We welcome him to our community.

Bro. Stan Ringger continues to recover from a second surgery on his brain. We pray that God will heal him if it is His will.

Our sympathies are accorded to Bro. Don Stoller over the loss of his mother-in-law, Sis. Loretta Kaufmann Funk; also to Bro. Mike Stoller and family, her grandson.

We extend a welcome to convert Doug Schupbach who spent the summer with his grandparents in Elgin, IA. He has returned for his senior year at El Paso-Gridley High School. We rejoice that he has repented, and has a desire to move forward in faith.

Our prayers are that the Elder meetings of August 10-11 will bear fruit, along with the General Conference held on August 12. Man can

plant and water, but it is God who gives the increase.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

**Annette Tanner
Julie Bahr**

I recently attended a Christ-Centered Art display and was so touched as I gazed at one of the portraits. The picture depicted two very strong appearing arms that seemed to be stretching down from a heavenly place. At the ends of each arm was an embraced hand. One hand, seemingly reaching up from an earthly place, was securely and tightly wrapped around one of the strong heavenly arms; while the other hand/arm, also reaching upward, lay limp in the tight grip of the other heavenly strong arm. The Inscription was the scripture verse Isaiah 41:10 "Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness."

Our Morton loved ones have experienced the loss of many of their loved ones this past month. Our love and sympathy is shared with each of these families. Bro. Louis Belsley and Sis. Verna Rother experienced the loss of their brother, Alvin Belsley from California. Sis. Marvel Knobloch (Bro. Bob) lost her sister, Sis. Beulah Ehnle (Princeville). A brother to Sis. Mavis Hermann, Bro. Ken Grimm of Oakville, passed on. Bro. Richard Zimmerman (Roanoke) passed away. He is a brother to Sis. Lois (Bro. Marvin) Getz. Sis. Cheryl Knobloch (Bro. John) lost her brother, Steven Steffen. Our sympathy is shared with the family of Elsa Schmidgall who passed away this month also. Many opportunities for us as a church to ask for God's righteous right hand to uphold each one.

Visiting ministers, Bro. Roger

Sauder (Sis. Judy, Ft. Lauderdale), Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern), Elder Bro. Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan, Taylor), Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign), Elder Bro. Steve Sauder (Sis. Mary, Tremont), Bro. Gary Maibach (Sis. MaryAnn, Smithville) and Bro. Kevin Knapp (Sis. Dixie, Bloomington) all gave of themselves for our spiritual benefit. Bro. Kevin gave our Family Worship topic, "What to do with Mephibosheth"! God has so richly given us His blessings.

We were excited to hear the wedding engagement of Sis. Heather Funk to Bro. Kyle Plattner. Sis. Heather is the daughter of Bro. Fred and Sis. Diane Funk and Bro. Kyle is the son of Elder Bro. Jim and Sis. Marlene Plattner (Princeville).

We heard the testimonies of what God has done in the lives of Bro. Amit Parkhe, Bro. Tim and Sis. Jody Wagenbach, and Bro. Fred Roecker. What rejoicing we experienced along with each one, testifying as to how our Great God has transformed their lives. Grace, Grace, Wonderful Grace! We are all very thankful.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Pam Fritzenmeier

We are joyfully excited to report the engagement announcement of Bro. Joseph Kummer (Bro. Chris and Sis. Patty) to Sis. Kayla Shernak (Bradford), daughter of Jeff and Melissa Shernak and Mike and Theresa Vandenberg. We look forward to getting to know Kayla.

Bro. Chad and Sis. Julie Herman are delighted to welcome Emma Noelle into their home. She was born July 29 and has a big sister, Livie. Grandparents include Bro. Jan and Sis. Glenda Neukomm (Morton) and Bro. Greg and Sis. Beth Herman.

Many thanks to our visiting min-

isters: on July 24, Bro. Scott Wegman (Sis. Dawn, Taylor, MO) and Elder Bro. Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan, Taylor, MO), and August 3, Bro. Jeff Neihouser (Sis. Sue, Morton). God's blessings to you for sharing the Gospel with us.

Congratulations to Bro. Dave and Sis. Mary Ginzel who celebrate 50 years of marriage on August 20. Thank you for your example of a godly marriage.

Four converts were announced for baptism recently. We look forward to hearing the testimonies of these young ladies: Danae Hoerr (Bro. Don and Sis. Jackie); Chelsea Streitmatter (Bro. Doug and Sis. Cindy); Lexi Thomas (Bro. Dean and Sis. Teresa); and Brenna Waibel (Bro. Mike and Sis. Rose).

There are several in our congregation who have had surgery recently and desire prayers. They include Ben Stickling, Bro. Ed (Sis. Dana) Meister, and Sis. Marilyn Baurer. Also keep Sis. Barb Schafer and Sis. Kathy (Bro. Dave) Oberghel in your prayers as they endure continuing health issues.

Bro. Kent (Sis. Joanne) Steffen's brother, Stevie, passed away recently and we extend our sympathy to his family.

On August 2, Bro. Matt and Sis. Lisa Waibel hosted a farewell for Bro. Tim and Sis. Joan Reinhard and family at their new residence ... the old Meister home on Baer Road. The Reinhardts are now back in Haiti, along with Sis. Janelle Grassi (Bro. John and Sis. Cheryl), who plans to be there for an extended time. Bro. Jonathan and Sis. Bere Aupperle, and Bro. Zach Knobloch continue to serve in Magdalena. Please remember these dear ones in your prayers.

Note of Thanks:

Thank you so much for the love, prayers, cards, and acts of kindness

that was shown to us when Gladys passed away. It truly helped us get through this difficult time.

The Dick Binkele Family

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

Gloria White

Linda Joos

Nathan Braker (Bro. Glen and Sis. Audrey) and Sarah Stahl (Bro. Doug and Sis. Ann) gave their testimonies and were baptized the weekend of July 23-24. Elder Bro. Bruce Endress (Bradford, IL), retired Elder Bro. Don Braker (Kansas City, MO), Bro. Dan Koch (Tremont, IL), and Bro. Gary Endress (Bradford, IL) shared the weekend with us. It is so uplifting for a church to share in what the Lord has done for seeking souls. May many more be yielded to God's loving call.

We bid a fond farewell to our dear Sis. Beulah Ehnle (Bro. Dave) as she passed from this life on July 28. Besides her loving husband, she leaves her children: Sis. Wendy (Bro. Roger) Blunier (Eureka, IL), Bro. Kurt (Sis. Jane) Ehnle (Bradford, IL), Dana Ehnle (Encampment, WY), Sis. Jill (Bro. Greg) Stoller (Forrest, IL), and Bro. Phil (Sis. Barb) Ehnle (Princeville, IL). May God comfort her loved ones. We will all miss Sis. Beulah.

We keep in prayer those who have been in the hospital: Sis. Shirley Feucht, Sis. Grace Streitmatter, Sis. Cheryl Herrmann, and Don (Carol) Baer. May God be with each one during their time of healing.

We are thankful for two new converts. Victoria and Daniel Herrmann (daughter and son of Bro. Dennis and Sis. Renee) have begun their repentance. We keep them in our prayers during this time as the Lord works in their hearts.

Bro. Kyle Plattner (Elder Bro. Jim and Sis. Marlene) and Sis. Heather

Funk (Bro. Fred and Sis. Diane, Morton, IL) have found faith that it is God's will for them to become united in marriage. May God bless them each step along life's way.

Bro. Ben and Sis. Hannah Martin welcome Aleah Grace, born July 30. Happy siblings are Serenity, Derek and Brady. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Howard and Sis. Mary Ann Herrmann and Bro. Sam and Sis. Mary Martin.

Bro. David and Sis. Crystal Streitmatter welcome their first grandchild, Kylie Beth, born July 29 to Bro. Adam and Sis. Brittany Endress (Bradford, IL). A new baby is a joy to all and a reminder of God's marvelous creation.

Charlotte Hawkins has been worshipping with us on Wednesday evenings and has recently moved to Gulf Shores, AL, to live with her son. We will miss her but wish her God's nearness in her new home.

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Jamie Hodel

Judy Sauder

Acts 10: 48: "And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord." We are so thankful for the Lord's redeeming work in the hearts of men. Bro. Bradley Moser (Bro. Todd and Sis. Kathy), Sis. Abby Moser (Bro. Greg and Sis. Sharlene) and Sis. Elizabeth Leman (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Karen) gave their testimonies of faith and were baptized July 30-31. We pray for God's continuing peace and nearness for them as they establish their lives on the Lord. Elder Bro. Jim Plattner (Princeville) assisted Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman in this work, and Bro. Brent Kellenberger (Kansas City) was also our guest minister for the day. Bro. Mike Leman (Portland) was our visiting minister on August 14. We thank these brothers for their gra-

cious service to us.

Genesis 2:18: "And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a help meet for him." Craig Janssen (Bro. Fred and Sis. Cheri) was united in marriage to Laura Young of Peoria (Kurt and Janine Young of Bartonville) on July 30. On August 14, Bro. Keith Wettstein (Bro. Gary and Sis. Elna) and Sis. Hannah Knepp (Bro. Rich and Sis. Janet) were joined together as one in the Lord. Then on August 20, Traci Mueller (Bro. Jim and Sis. Jan) became the bride of Jason Ananias of Peoria. He is the son of Fred and Sally Ananias of Dunlap. We rejoice with these dear couples and pray for God's blessings on their marriages.

II Timothy 4:7: "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness..." Bro. Rich Zimmerman went to his heavenly rest on July 29. His survivors include his wife, Sis. Sis; a son, Rick (Diana) of Peoria; daughters, Susan (Mike) Aberle of Fall Creek, WI, Janet (Jared) Rogers of Brimfield, Sis. Patsy (Bro. Bill) Kaeb, and Sis. Peg (Bro. Tim) Stoller; a sister, Sis. Lois (Bro. Marvin) Getz (Morton); five stepchildren, eighteen grandchildren, and 47 great grandchildren.

Then on August 14, Bro. Walt Schwind received his "crown of righteousness". He is survived by his wife, Sis. Mary; a daughter, Sis. Donna (Bro. Jerry) Kaisner (Fairbury); three sons, Bro. Dave (Sis. Barb), Bro. Dan (Sis. Donna) and Bro. Dennis (Sis. Rita); 13 grandchildren and nine great grandchildren. Also, Sis. Edna Wiegand (Forrest) passed away on July 19. She was a sister to Sis. Wilma Fischer. We extend our love and deepest sympathy to these dear families and pray that our Lord would comfort them in

their loss.

We rejoice with Bro. Bill and Sis. Jeanne Leman who have become grandparents again. Jade Holland was born to Bro. Luke and Sis. Natalie Baker (Washington) on August 4. Big sister Mercedes and paternal grandparents, Joe and Sis. Karen Baker (Washington) are also thrilled with her arrival. Tim and Jessie Mueller of Morton have been blessed with the adoption of Cruz William who was born July 19. His older sisters are Rya and Kailie, and his thankful grandparents are Bro. Doug and Sis. Gerry Kruse (Morton) and Bro. Jim and Sis. Jan Mueller.

And Bro. Blake and Sis. Kristin Gerber, Gabriel, Austin and Molly welcomed Noel Kate on August 10. Grandparents, Bro. Curt and Sis. Denise Knepp and Bro. Roger and Sis. Trish Gerber (Goodfield) are also rejoicing over this new addition to their families. Finally, Bro. Tom and Sis. Mary Sauder are also thankful for their new granddaughter, Brooklyn Elyse who was born to Tom and Amy Sauder of Germantown Hills on August 6. Mason is Brooklyn's older brother and Charlie and Brenda Gangloff of Metamora are her maternal grandparents. May God bless these dear families as they raise their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Psalms 62:7: "In God is... my strength, and my refuge, is in God." We want to lift up a number of brothers and sisters in our congregation in prayer as they are suffering with infirmities of the flesh. They are Sis. Shirley (Bro. Mel) Hohulin, Bro. Merlyn (Sis. Jan) Getz, Sis. Helen Leman, and Sis. Pam Bryan. We pray for God's strength and nearness upon them and their beloved families.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

**Teresa Rowell
Janice Sauder**

How thankful we are that we have humble brothers who are willing to be God's spokesmen as they speak to us Sunday after Sunday, coming before us without any thought or pretense about what they are going to say. They rely on the Holy Spirit to give them the words to speak. Bro. Kenny Dietz (Sis. Mardel, Bradford), Bro. Glenn Steiner (Sis. Rachel, Winthrop) and Bro. Roger Sauder (Sis. Judy, Ft Lauderdale) have been with us this month and brought God's unchanging Word to us.

"One of Thy children is coming home, open Thy merciful arms" was a stanza from one of the songs sang at Sis. Dorothy Stuber's funeral. Aren't we grateful that God in His mercy has seen fit to give us a way to heaven through Jesus Christ our risen Lord, and that Sis. Dorothy's son, Bro. Todd (Sis. Beth) Stuber; daughter, Peggy (Walter) Mueller (Mansfield, OH); and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren do not have to sorrow in vain but can have the blessed hope of some day seeing her again in the second resurrection?

Afflictions of the flesh are part of being human, and we want to remember to pray for those who have experienced health issues. Sis. Rachel Sauder (Bro. Jim) and Sis. Doris Baer (Bro. Bob) have both had surgery and are recovering. We know also that there are those of whom we haven't heard that have sickness or testing or are waiting for treatment and we wish to lift them up in prayer also.

Then there is the joyful experience of a new baby. How can anyone look at a new baby and not see God? Bro. Troy and Sis. Anne Stuber welcome Aaron Todd into their family. Matthew, Alexander and Savannah are his happy siblings. Bro. Todd and Sis. Beth Stuber and Bro. Roger and

Sis. Joanne Beutel are his grandparents.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON
Nancy Leman
Linda Folkerts

“He that handleth a matter wisely shall find good: and whoso trusteth in the Lord, happy is he.”

Proverbs 16:20

As our summer draws to a close, we are especially mindful of our children’s instruction as they return to school. Whether it be a new beginning in elementary school, college, resuming classes or home school, our children and their instructors need the loving, prayerful support of a church. We look forward to beginning a new season of Sunday School on August 28.

Welcoming a sweet little girl are Bro. Luke and Sis. Natalie Baker. Jade Holland was born on August 4. Also welcoming Jade are big sister Mercedes and grandparents, Joe and Sis. Karen Baker and Bro. Bill and Sis. Jeannie Leman (Roanoke).

On August 7 we celebrated in the wedding ceremony of Sis. Ellie Hoerr (Bro. Doug and Sis. Peg) and Bro. Troy Steffen (Bro. Dean and Sis. Carol, Belvidere). We joyfully welcomed many visitors for the special day including visiting ministers: Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern, KS), Bro. Ted Schock (Sis. Heidi, Belvidere), Bro. Chuck Kellenberger (Sis. Debbie, Elgin, IL) and the groom’s parents, Bro. Dean Steffen (Sis. Carol, Belvidere). We will miss Sis. Ellie, but pray a blessing on this dear couple as they establish their home.

Hospitalized this month with health concerns were Sis. Freida (Bro. Andy) Mogler, Sis. Cathy (Keith) Steffen, Sis. Sue Ruppert and

Bro. Harold Meiss. We pray that God may grant them each a quick recovery with renewed strength.

Also sharing in the ministry this month were Bro. Greg Stieglitz (Sis. Lisa, Indianapolis), Bro. Ron Jones (Sis. Elizabeth, Portland, OR) and Bro. Marshall Heinold (Sis. Jan, Ixtlan, MX).

INDIANA, BLUFFTON
Suzie Fiechter
Kim Meyer

We are thankful to announce the birth of Randy Frauhiger to Bro. Travis and Sis. Jenna Frauhiger on July 8. His grandparents would be Bro. Kris and Sis. Ann Frauhiger and Bro. Keith and Sis. Kay Steffen. Sis. Wanda Moser is rejoicing over another grandson, Oakly, born to Bro. Jeff and Sis. Gretchen Moser. His maternal grandparents would be Bro. Rod and Sis. Beth Steffen (Cissna Park). Bro. Terry and Sis. Jean Neuenschwander are pleased to announce the birth of their granddaughter, Paisley, to their son Kip and Carrissa Neuenschwander. What a blessing these babies are to their individual families as well as the church family.

Our hearts are tender as we said goodbye to our dear Sis. Mary Fiechter (Bro. Carl). Although we miss her dearly, we are thankful for her peaceful passing into Jesus’ arms. Bro. Troy and Sis. Brenda Kipfer also said goodbye to her father, Howard Hess. Our prayers extend to Bro. Alan and Sis. Arlene Steffen as her father, Ermil Shifferly, passed away this month also. After a long battle with cancer, Bro. Dave Sinn (Sis. Joleen) said goodbye to his sister, Becky Blaser. We continue to pray for her daughters, Kenya and Jennifer, along with her mother, Sis. Juanita Sinn. It’s never easy going through the death of a loved one, but

how thankful we are for a praying church body when we find ourselves too weak to pray.

The high school students enjoyed a weekend at Remington, IN, for the annual Christian Endeavor. Parents and teachers, thank you, for all the time and effort put forth to make this weekend possible. Parents, thank your children for going and encourage them for future events. The bonds made now from church to church are such a blessing to see especially as they grow over the years. Efforts put forth towards these kind of weekends are efforts put towards the future of our church.

We lift up several brothers and sisters in our congregation who are undergoing medical issues. We pray for Sis. Alice Schwartz who fell and broke her hip. Bro. Craig Steffen (Sis. Jean) will be in our prayers as well as Bro. Zach Bertsch (Sis. Jenny).

We were blessed to hear from Bro. Gary Maibach (Sis. MaryAnn, Smithville, OH), Bro. Jeff Bahr (Sis. Janice, Kiowa, KS), and Bro. Seth Gerber (Magdalena, MX). Thank you, brothers, who stand before us week after week and share the Gospel message.

As I gathered the information for this month’s article, I kept thinking of the song “I Need the Prayers” from the Hymns of Zion. We all have situations and prayer requests in our lives where we don’t know the outcomes. How reassuring it is to know that we can take these burdens to the Lord and leave them there! At the same time, how sad it is to think of those who don’t know about this avenue of prayer. While we lift one another up in prayer, let’s continue to pray for those who have not turned their hearts towards Jesus. May we all go into the next month with praying hearts and thankful hearts.

I need the prayers of those I love,

while traveling over life's rugged way.

That I may true and faithful be,
and live for Jesus every day.
I need the prayers of those I love,
to help me in each trying hour,
to bear my tempted soul to Him,
that He may keep me by His power.
I want my friends to pray for me,
to hold me up on wings of faith,
that I may walk the narrow way,
kept by our Father's glorious grace.
I want my friends to pray for me,
to bear my tempted soul above,
and intercede with God for me,
I need the prayers of those I love.

Hymns of Zion #201

**INDIANA
BLUFFTON NORTH
Jessie Longenberger
Amy Moser**

"Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow."

Psalms 51:7

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior!

The weekend of July 16-17, we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of Bro. Connor Pfister (Bro. Dan and Sis. Sherry Pfister) and Bro. Scott Moore (George Moore). It was truly a special time as we welcomed these two tender lambs into the fold and pray that God's grace and nearness will be upon them as they begin their life as brothers of Jesus Christ. Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Sis. Leonda, Leo) was here to assist our Elder Bro. Steve Ringger in this important work. May God bless and provide for them all as they preach the Gospel of salvation.

We are also praying for Bro. Charles (Sis. Marilyn) Gerber and Sis. Diane Mason as they have spent some time in the hospital this month.

We rejoice with Bro. Travis and Sis. Jenna Frauhofer as they add an-

other son to their family. Randy Keith was born on July 8. He joins brother Jarin and sister Hallie. Grandparents are Bro. Keith and Sis. Kay Steffen and Bro. Kris and Sis. Ann Frauhofer. Great-grandparents are Bro. Harry Steffen, Bro. Alvin and Sis. Bernice Fiechter, Bro. William and Sis. Betty Frauhofer and Bro. Carl Fiechter.

"My help cometh from the LORD,
which made heaven and earth."

Psalms 121:2

**INDIANA
FRANCESVILLE
Mildred Clauss
Jacki Huber**

"God cannot give us happiness and peace apart from Himself, because it is not there. There is no such thing."

(C.S. Lewis)

Bro. Brian Huber gave a topical Bible Study on "Peace" and he highlighted various truths regarding "peace"; solutions for finding "peace" and for living in "peace". It was a blessed evening and we are thankful to God for His wonderful provision.

Recent visiting ministers have been Bro. Chris Wuethrich (Sis. Carla, St. Louis) and Bro. Troy Leyse (Sis. Kelly, Bluffton). It's always encouraging to have visitors share the Word with us and thank them for coming.

Bro. Otto and Sis. Donna Wuethrich have moved from their country home to a condo in Parkview Village. Our loving Lord needs no address book; yet His blessings are new each morning! May they always feel His nearness!

"How beautiful is the day that is touched by love"! Three of our young

couples have recently exchanged marriage vows: Kaitlyn Wuethrich (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Connie) is married to Jacob Lee Podell (Doug and Cheryl Podell). Robin Overmyer (Bro. Roger and Sis. Janet) is married to Mark Houston (Mr. and Mrs. Brian Houston) and Kayla Garbison (Robert and Nicole Gutwein Schwartz) is married to Caleb Leman (Mike and Tina Leman). We pray for these young couples that their love for each other will grow even deeper because of God's love for them!

Sis. Phyllis Wuethrich (Bro. Bob) is undergoing surgery and we pray she will have a successful recovery.

**INDIANA
INDIANAPOLIS
Penny Schroder
Sandy Lichtle**

Bro. Scott and Sis. Kate Levy have been blessed with a daughter, Lydia Jo, born on August 5. Welcoming Lydia home are her brothers, Cohen and Abe, and her grandparents, Bro. Roger and Sis. Sue Levy and Bro. Steve and Sis. Donna Ringger (Gridley, IL).

We enjoyed a blessed afternoon of fellowship at our annual Sunday school picnic on August 14. The new teachers for this year include: Bros. Matt Ackerman and Kevin Gutwein and Sisters Missy Ackerman, Abby Klopfenstein, Kara Klopfenstein, and Stephanie Standish. Also, Bro. Makoto Inoue will serve as the new Assistant Sunday School Superintendent. We thank all of the outgoing teachers for their labors of love, and our prayers are with the incoming teachers as they teach the precious Word to our children.

Our church looks forward to a special Ordination Service on Sunday, October 30, at 6:00 p.m. for Bro. Ken Wuethrich (Sis. Lyn) who was recently approved by the Elder body for

the Ordained Deacon position. We thank our Heavenly Father, and our love and prayers are with Bro. Ken and Sis. Lyn as they begin their new shepherding responsibilities.

We want to thank Bro. David Marquart (Sis. Lori, Taylor, MO), Elder Bro. Steve Sauder (Sis. Mary, Tremont, IL), and Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Ruth Ann, Wolcott, IN) for sharing the Word with us. We appreciate their willingness to be used in the Lord's service.

INDIANA, LACROSSE
Meagan Frank
Julie Rocke

“The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”

James 5:16

This month has been a month with many prayers needed for loved ones. How thankful we are that God has made it possible to approach His throne with grace through His Son, Jesus.

“Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.”

Psalms 116:15

Through the hard time of losing a loved one, there is consolation in knowing that God loves His children and welcomes them home at the end of their life. Bro. Richard Zimmerman (Sis. Sis) went home to be with the Lord this month. Our hearts go out to Sis. Sis and to his family at this time. May they feel God's love around them and comforting them.

We were blessed with many visiting ministers this month. Elder Bro. Ted Steffen (Sis. Sandy, Alto, MI) and Bros. James Knapp (Sis. Lisa, Congerville, IL), John Lehman (Sis. Ruth Ann, Wolcott, IN), Kevin Fehr

(Sis. Lonnie, West Bend, IA), Dan Stoller (Sis. Deb, Remington, IN), Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi, Alto, MI) and Dean Messner (Sis. Wanda, Winthrop, MN) each spent of themselves in labor for the Lord on our behalf. We pray God's blessings on each of them as they serve the Lord.

Bro. Jesse Knapp of Congerville has spent some time with our congregation this summer doing work in the area. We have enjoyed having him with us and pray that he will feel God's nearness and direction in his life as he moves back to Congerville to continue his schooling.

Bro. Elvin and Sis. Jan Nuest celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary this month. We enjoyed having many of their family join us for the day on Sunday. What a blessing to have them worship with us and to see the blessings that come from families that have been raised to serve God.

August 6 was the wedding day of Chris Frank and Amy Koch. Their parents are Elder Bro. Curt and Sis. Lyla Frank, Lisa Holliday and the late Rick Holliday, and Ken and Kathy Koch. May they seek God's direction in their life as they join hand and heart.

We rejoice in the birth of little Ava Rose Johnson on August 11. Bro. Josh and Sis. Bethany, and big sisters, Emily and Erin, welcomed her home. May they feel our prayers for them as they prayerfully bring up their children to know and love God. Bro. Bob and Sis. Luann Gerber of Wolcott are Ava's loving grandparents.

We were exhorted again recently to pray for those of our loved ones who have chosen to follow their own way instead of God's. While there is life, there is hope and we will continue to lift them up to God in faith that He hears our prayers and can do all things according to His will.

Finally, many prayers were of-

fered and answered during the week of the Elder Conference. We are encouraged that God's Spirit was felt mightily, and yet exhorted to continue in prayer for the church.

INDIANA, LEO
Kirby Reutter

The Lord again has given us many reasons to rejoice!

First, we were blessed with three wedding receptions this month. The first reception celebrated the marriage vows of Bro. Blake and Sis. Tashi Widmer from Jamaica. The second reception honored the marriage vows that will soon take place between Bro. Nathan Smith and Sis. Ann Jacobs. Finally, the third reception commemorated the marriage vows of Bro. David and Sis. Marie Bertsch, who have been united in the Lord for seventy years! Bro. David also served on the Leo pulpit for many decades as a minister and shepherd to this beloved flock. We rejoice with each of these couples in their respective stages of life. What a testimony of the Spirit's working! In addition, what a reminder of the vows we have made both to Christ and to one another (Mark 10:9).

In addition, three single sisters and one believing couple have recently responded to the Lord's call to serve in the Gateway ministry. The following sisters have accepted their new role in life as Assistant House Parents: Angie Knobloch (Peoria, IL); Abby Freed (Phoenix, AZ); and Maria Steffen (Elgin, IL). Bro. John and Sis. Amy Klotzle have likewise embraced their new role as Alternate House Parents. Sis. Amy was originally from Bay City, MI, while Bro. John was originally from Altadena, CA. Welcome aboard!

However, just as we rejoice to see new servants come, we will also miss those who have been called on to dif-

ferent fields of labor. Sis. Chalise Steffen, who substituted as an Assistant House Parent for the summer, will be returning to Bloomington, IL. In addition, Bro. Brandon Wiegand, who served as our Volunteer Coordinator for the summer, will be returning to Gridley, IL. Finally, Bro. Nathan and Sis. Rachel Mueller, who have blessed so many lives over the past five years in their role as House Parents, will soon be worshipping in Detroit, MI, with their three beautiful children.

We are also thankful once again for the overwhelming support and participation that we received during the 35th annual Gateway Woods Benefit Auction. The Sunday following the sale, many of the auction visitors gathered to worship with us in our Leo church. For the last song of the morning service, we stood in unison as a congregation to sing these words: "Greetings be to you our brethren, to our sisters in the Lord. Here from far and near assembled, gathered here in one accord. Welcome, welcome, all ye loved ones: Greetings in the Savior's name" (Zion's Harp). These were not empty words. Following the morning service, thirty different greetings were offered from ten different states. We were especially blessed that weekend to host ministering Bro. Bill Waibel (Bay City, MI) as well as ministering Bro. Duane Reutter (Rockville, CT).

Finally, a number of us from the Leo congregation were also blessed to attend the annual Brotherhood Conference, where we heard the following themes deliberated upon: principles of salvation, principles of sanctification, and principles of evangelism. It was so encouraging to be instructed in the simple, basic, timeless truths of the gospel—how to live it and how to spread it. Thank you so much, shepherd brothers! Please keep up the good work (I Co-

rinthians 15:58).

In the words which are frequently uttered by our dear ministering Bro. Steve Stieglitz at the close of a worship service: "Brothers, let's be encouraged."

The following message was submitted by Sis. Jane Stieglitz:

Dear Leo Church Family,

Thank you so much for the overwhelming prayer support in the sudden death of my brother. You have truly helped to carry my mother, my brother's family and me through this ordeal. The daily expressions of your sympathy and God's promises have brought great comfort. I received a picture from the church and also want to thank everyone for this keepsake, which will be a daily reminder of your support and love.

Love, Jane (Steve and family)

Gateway Prayer Corner

Kyle recently had a beautiful boy, Treveon. In addition, a number of Gateway residents have moved on in recent weeks. In no particular order, some of these individuals include Destiny, Tasha, Riley, Adam, Whitney, Johnese, Chante, Kayla, and Jossie. Not only did Jossie move in with an Apostolic Christian foster family, but she also is now repenting as a convert of the Leo congregation!

INDIANA, MILFORD

**Paula Haab
Janie Price**

"Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him."

II Corinthians 2:9

August 7 our congregation was

blessed to witness the baptism of Michael Lehman. May his confidence in the Lord fill him with courage to share this wonderful message throughout his walk with the Lord. Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo) assisted Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter in Michael's testimony. Also visiting our family of God was Bro. Ron Kipfer (Bluffton), Bro. Bill Brake (Sardis) and Bro. Ron Palitto (Akron). We are thankful for those who share the talents God has given them.

Bro. Alvin and Sis. Carol Haab are rejoicing over the birth of a grandson. Brady was born on August 1 to Greg and Kelli Koutsouros. Brady has three sisters and one brother to shower him with love.

Our prayers are with Bro. Jesse Beer and his family as he faces surgery this week.

We sing in Zion's Harp #177, "I place myself in Jesus' hands and there abide forever."

INDIANA, REMINGTON

**Jenni Honegger
Marcella Tyler**

Elder Bro. Tom Waldbeser (Sis. Susan, Atlanta) and Bro. Rustin Meister (Sis. Amanda, West Lafayette) were our visiting ministers this month. We are thankful to them for their time and effort to bring us the Word of God. In addition, Bro. David Zehr (Sis. Vicki, Gridley) and Bro. Matt Steffen (Sis. Deanna, Princeville) lent themselves to serve our youth at Christian Endeavor. It was a blessed weekend and we are grateful for each one's efforts.

Convert Brittany Weerts (Bro. Dan and Sis. Denise) has found peace with her God and desires to be baptized. We are thankful that the Holy Spirit still moves and works in our lives and pray that He will continue to guide and prepare Brittany for this next step in her walk of faith.

Wayne Siebenthal (Carolyn) passed away suddenly on July 26. Besides his wife, Carolyn, he left two daughters, Susie Benner (Mick) and Jacquie Cunningham (Mark), a sister, Sharon Justice (Jim), and a brother, Orlan Siebenthal (Janet). We ask for your prayers for the whole family that they may find comfort and healing during this difficult time.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

Laura Schafer

We have been blessed with a month full of visitors: Bro. Tom and Sis. LuAnn Troxel (LaCrosse), Bro. Tim and Sis. Gwen Drayer (Bluffton North), Bro. Jeff and Sis. Margo Waibel (Leo), and Bro. Herb and Sis. Laurie Knochel (Phoenix). Thank you all for your support and warm fellowship!

We are excited to announce that our church has welcomed a new life as Micaiah James Schafer was born to Bro. Caleb and Sis. Laura Schafer on July 27.

Our Bro. Nathan and Sis. Natalie Virkler and girls, Portia and Cosette, made a move to Phoenix, AZ. We pray they feel God's presence and welcome in our church there; they will be missed dearly here.

Our Sunday school will be introducing a new rotation of Sunday school teachers: Bro. Caleb Schafer will be in charge of the intermediate class and Sis. Gigi Schafer will be head of the 2 and 3 yr. old class. God's blessing on a new school year!

"My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

And hereby we do know that we

know him, if we keep his commandments."

I John 2:1-3

INDIANA VALPARAISO Marguerite Hoerr

Our news report starts with the last week of July when our Bible class held their Sunday school picnic. These young folks do so much to enhance our Valpo church, so whoever can willingly supports them. They stand up front each Sunday noon, with Bro. Tim Bucher and Bro. Joe Feller, their teacher, and substitute teacher, and sing every song from their hearts. It's beautiful to see the rapport between all of them. One of their group will be keenly missed as Logan Weiss starts his college year at Purdue. We wish him God's blessings, as he pursues his career because he has blessed us.

Our Valpo church has been extremely blest this past month because each week we had visiting ministers who shared the Word with us. They were: Elder Bro. Herb Knochel, Jr. (Sis. Laurie, Phoenix, AZ); and Bros. Mark Gerber (Sis. Barb, Bluffton, IN), James Koehl (Sis. Hildegard, San Diego, CA), Doyle Frauhiger (Sis. Jane, Bluffton North, IN), and this past Sunday we were pleasantly surprised to have Bro. Mark Wettstein (Sis. Karen, LaCrosse, IN). Bro. Mark told us they attended the small Belvidere, IL, church before moving to LaCrosse and he experienced, first hand, how glad they were when visitors came to enlarge their attendance. We know God will bless them all, as their visits have blest us.

Personally, I experienced the loss of a dear sibling this past month. My younger sister and my Sister in Faith, Mary Fiechter (Bro. Carl), went to be with her Lord after battling A.L.S. I

don't want to take away from the Bluffton congregation news, but having her gone from this earth has made Heaven look even brighter to me. Mary lost her voice during her illness so she couldn't "talk the talk", but she "walked the walk" in a way that spoke louder than anything. We communicated by e-mails during this time and I value and will save every word she wrote. She also bequeathed her family some thoughts she had during her quiet time. I want to share one with you. "Not going to tell you how to grieve, but after a while look around you and help the lonely, unsure, tempted, struggling (you know) and you'll feel much better." I hope to be a more loving Christian by following her suggestion. I thank God for her influence in my life. I know she will live on in her very large circle of family members. They cared for her so lovingly.

I noticed something beautiful when I walked into church last Sunday. Actually, I've seen it before but it made such an impression on me this time. We're small in number and people were talking in small groups. As my eyes scanned the room, I saw each one of them smiling. I couldn't wait to join them. The thought hit me that our Heavenly Father must be pleased to see His children happy as they gather in their house of worship. Psalm 144:15 says, "Happy is that people, that is in such a case, yea, happy is that people whose God is the Lord."

Several of our brothers have experienced cataract surgery within the past few months. All of them had good results and speak about how they see much more clearly than before. We're trying to get used to seeing them without glasses. It makes us thankful that the Lord, Who made the blind to see, can influence medical people today, to help those who needed to have their vision im-

proved. A doctor told me once, when I thanked him because he helped my pain: “Marguerite, without the grace of God, I could do nothing on my own.”

If you have time to visit us, please remember that we are just 2 ¾ miles S. of US 30 on SR 49. We’d love to see you walk in our door.

**INDIANA
WEST LAFAYETTE**

**Katie Widmer
Beth Tonner**

July 24, Bro. Blake Widmer and Sis. Tashi Bent were married. We rejoice with them as we see two lives become one. They had a US reception in Leo, IN, on August 6. They will continue serving in ACWR ministries in Jamaica.

Bro. Gerry and Sis. Marcia Waibel also celebrated in seeing a son get married on August 6: Austin Waibel and Karis Viars.

Bro. Nick and Sis. Suzanne Gutwein and their entire family have our prayerful support, as he will be serving our church as Deacon. We appreciate Elder Bros. Curt Frank, Dan Kilgus, and Kevin Ryan and their wives as they supported us through the weekend.

We had our Sunday school picnic on Sunday, August 14.

Our church is excited to welcome a large group of incoming Purdue students, along with our returning PYG members. We look forward to a year of spiritual growth where both groups can benefit each other.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

**Sasha Kyburz
Donita Edleman**

What an amazing thing it is when the Lord calls a soul to repentance. We are rejoicing with Wanda Prohosky for the Lord has called her to serve her life for Him. Wanda

started coming to church with her grandson, Bro. Ryan Schleman (Sis. Kim). We will continue to pray for Wanda as she begins her journey with the Lord.

A bundle of joy has arrived! Bro. Bob and Sis. Luann Gerber are proud new grandparents to a granddaughter, Ava Rose Johnson (Bro. Josh and Sis. Bethany, Lacrosse, IN). We hope they enjoy their precious little bundle of joy!

As I sit down to write this, our annual all church Turkey Run trip is fresh on my mind. A group of us gathered together for a fun day of food, trails and games. What a memorable blessing it is when we are able to make fun memories with our church family. We are so blessed to have such a close knit church family. The weather was beautiful and it was a very blessed day. Thank you to all who attended and helped out for the day!

IOWA, BLOOMFIELD
Rachel Stoller

The time flies on and death draws
nigh;

Unite us, Lord, with Thee on high!
Prepare us now to live with Thee
Forever in eternity!

Zion’s Harp #188

As in this earthly life the “time flies on”, we find ourselves nearing the end of summer. The schoolchildren are soon ready to begin their studies. We wish them God’s protection and nearness as they return to school. We also look forward to a new season of Sunday School starting. We wish each of the teachers and students God’s blessing, for we know without His guidance all would be in vain.

Although we didn’t have any visiting ministers this past month, we did enjoy several visiting brethren and

always enjoy visitors of any kind.

Also, may we remember that the time for Heaven is closer each day, and that we need to live our lives so we may enter the portals.

IOWA, ELGIN
**Maria Rocke
Brianna Strahm**

“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above...”

James 1:17

Tanner John Knoblock was born on July 21 to Bro. Andy and Sis. Abby of Lester, IA. We rejoice with them along with Tanner’s grandparents, Bro. John and Sis. Janet Schupbach and Bro. Terry and Sis. Elaine Knoblock (Lester, IA).

We also rejoice with Bro. Phillip and Sis. Kristin Wyss as they welcomed another precious girl, Sarah Lou, into their hearts on July 26. Giving her a warm welcome were sisters, Naomi, Rachel, Anna and Esther. Sarah’s grandparents are Bro. Bruce and Sis. Donna Wyss and Bro. Mark and Sis. Tammy Roth (all of Congerville, IL).

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

Proverbs 3:6

The engagement of Bro. Ben Frieden (Bro. Floyd and Sis. Jan) to Sis. Traci Hoerr (Bro. Mark and the late Sis. Carolyn, Eureka, IL) was made known on August 14. We wish them God’s blessings as they plan for their life together.

We are thankful to have had Doug Schupbach (Jill and John Butikofer, Gridley, IL) with us for the summer.

Our thoughts were with Alex Callahan (Jeff and Tammy) as he had a short stay in the hospital this month.

We held our annual Sunday school election on July 27. Our appreciation goes to Bro. Phillip Wyss (Junior Bible class) and Sis. Sue Schneider (Primary class) for their labors over the past two years in teaching the youth of our congregation. May God bless their efforts. Bro. Dean Rocke (Junior Bible class) and Sis. Lisa Strahm (Primary class) were elected to fill these positions, and we wish them God's blessings and guidance in their teaching duties. Bro. Wade Halverson was re-elected to serve as usher and Bro. Caleb Knobloch will serve as parking attendant. We thank Bro. Charles Schneider for his years of labor as parking attendant.

Bro. Mike Ursu (Sis. Barb, Kitchener, ON) shared a Sunday evening with us this past month. We thank him for his labors in bringing forth God's Word.

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE **Laura Funk**

The shield of faith be thine in every
conflict,
And from this precious treasure
never part.
Though fiery darts around thee here
are falling,
The shield of faith shall quench each
fiery dart,
The Spirit's sword and helmet of sal-
vation
Shall shield thee in each trial and
tribulation.

Zion's Harp #115, vs. 3

Visiting our congregation and bringing God's teachings this month were Bro. Nathan Walder (Cissna Park, IL) and Bro. Kent Getz (Elgin, IA). Our congregation is very thankful for the visitors that accompany these Brothers.

We have been blest with timely rains from Heaven. We have had hot dry weather with temperatures in the high 90's and high humidity, then

rain. Our crops and lawns are green and lush! Only in southern Iowa.

May God be near each and every one!

IOWA, IOWA CITY **Diana Butikofer**

We wish to thank the Forrest congregation for their efforts in serving us at the Brotherhood Conference. We are also thankful for the Elder Brothers for their work and prayers on behalf of the Church.

Our prayers are with our newly elected Sunday School teachers—Sis. Joyce (Bro. Brad) Eland, Sis. Ruth Gerst and Bro. Ben (Sis. Wendy) Weyrick—and thank our current teachers for teaching and serving our children this past year.

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

A precious little boy, Tanner John, was born July 21 to Bro. Andy and Sis. Abby Knobloch. His grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Janet Schupbach (Elgin, IA) and Bro. Terry and Sis. Elaine Knobloch. We certainly wish these new parents God's blessings as they raise their son.

Bro. Max Knobloch (Bro. Denis and Sis. Jackie) has graduated from Riddle Aeronautical University, Prescott, AZ. We wish him our best and God's direction as he seeks his employment.

August 13 was the wedding day of Chalsea Knobloch (Bro. Vern and Sis. Chalea) and Tristan Kuenzi (Bro. Todd and Sis. Melissa, Silverton). We wish them God's blessings as they establish their home in Oregon. We will miss them here in Lester, but wish them God's nearness.

On August 14, we bid "farewell" to Sis. Emily Knapp. She has made the decision to move home to Congerville. We will miss Sis. Emily's

pleasant countenance. We look forward to visits she will make back here to Lester, and wish her God's blessings as she heads back to Illinois.

Jason Knueven (Sis. Trela) has returned home from his tour-of-duty in Afghanistan. We welcome him and are so thankful God has kept him safe. May we always remember, in prayer, those who serve this country to keep us free so we may freely serve our Lord.

Bro. Elmer Metzger (Sis. Mariann) and Sis. Eleanor Popkes have spent some time in the hospital. We want to remember them with our prayers. Our hearts go out to those who have great suffering and burdens to carry. May God wrap His loving arms around them and their families and hold them close to His Father-heart. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.

We wish to thank our visiting ministers who have shared God's Word with us this past month: Bro. Brian Waibel (Champaign), Bro. Mark Schmidgall (Oakville), Bro. Dean Messner (Winthrop), Elder Bro. John Wiegand (Silverton), Bro. Wayne Fehr (Portland) and Bro. Duane Metzger (West Bend). We appreciate our ministering brothers, and may God continue to bless them for their efforts.

It is with saddened hearts, we bid our final "farewell" to our dear Sis. Twyla Bajema. She passed away on August 22, at the age of 52. Sis. Twyla was a loving wife, mother, daughter, sister and friend, and we appreciate her steadfast example of our faith. When Sis. Twyla was diagnosed with cancer, she expressed, "Either way I win." She has won her reward. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to her dear family, Elder Bro. Rod, and their children, Sis. Tami Lanz (Bro. Dave), Sis. Heidi Frank (Bro. Ryan), all of Oakville, Wendi Crawford (Lance) of Minneapolis, Kelli Kolander (Bryce),

and Micah; ten grandchildren; her mother, Sis. Esty Metzger; and her siblings, Bro. Tom Metzger (Sis. Deb, Sis. Beth Hartter (Bro. Dennis, Sabetha), Bro. Mark Metzger (Sis. Audrey), Bro. Kevin Metzger (Sis. Dawn), Sis. Diane Larson (Tedd) and Sis. Luann Schmidgall (Bro. Aaron, Oakville); nieces and nephews, and a host of relatives. We pray that God will wrap His unending grace around this dear family, and comfort them in their times of need. Our prayers are with them all. Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville) and Elder Bro. Paul Messner (Winthrop) were here to conduct the funeral, along with a host of ministering, Elder and retired Elder brethren giving their support to Elder Bro. Rod. May God bless them all for their compassion and service in His name.

IOWA, OAKVILLE
Sharla Wiegand

It is a blessing to have visiting ministers share the Word with us. Bro. Bruce Frank (Cissna Park IL), Bro. Phil Schulz (Burlington IA), Bro. Dan Stoller (Rockville CT) and Bro. John Hartman (Fairbury IL) allowed themselves to be used by the Spirit.

Bro. Ken Grimm passed away July 25. We extend our sympathy and prayers to his wife, Janice, and daughters, Rhonda Peters, Kay Rash and Annette Grimm.

It was a delight to hear the engagement announcement of Bro. Joel Steiner to Sis. Abigail Sinn from Silverton, OR. Their parents are Bro. Tom and Sis. JoAnn Steiner and Bro. Mark and Sis. Elsie Sinn.

IOWA, WEST BEND
Janet Fehr
Leona Fehr

After seeking the Lord's direction, Bro. Ben Braker (Bro. Roy and Sis.

Judy, Lamar, MO) and Sis. Heidi Zaugg's (Bro. Pat and Sis. Julie) engagement was announced on July 24. May God bless this couple with His presence in their lives as they prepare to unite as one in Him.

I place myself in Jesus' hands
And there abide forever;
No griefs, no joys, shall loose the
bands,
Nor yet your union sever!
Zion's Harp #177, vs. 1

Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, LaCrosse, IN) and Bro. Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy, Portland, OR) also shared the Holy Word with us on this day.

Then on August 10, we were blessed to have Bro. Jim Koehl (Sis. Hilde, San Diego, CA) in our presence to preach the Gospel with the help of the Holy Spirit. We pray God's nearness be with each one as they continue to lean on Him for words to speak.

Hospitalized this past month was Irene Banwart. We are thankful she has returned home and is feeling good again.

JAPAN, SHIODA
Carrie Ito

Our dear faithful 80+ year old friend, Iwama-san, had an accident on her motorbike and broke both of her legs. She is hospitalized and receiving rehabilitation. We pray she can heal quickly and again assemble with us.

We miss Kotaro Furuya, our convert, as he is doing a homestay in the States with various brethren. God bless all who showed him love and hospitality during his stay.

We had a business meeting recently and have decided to start planning to rebuild our church. We pray and ask for prayers that this process could go smoothly.

JAPAN, TOKYO
Jana Klaus

July 29-30 was our annual summer church gathering (Shuyokai.) This year it was held at a place near Mt. Fuji, and in addition to wonderful food and fellowship, we also enjoyed the beautiful scenery. The theme for the Bible study time was "Having an open or welcoming church" chosen by Kotaro Furuya of Shioda church as he wishes for all of us to be aware of how we can be useful in helping the church to grow. Bros. Toru Saegusa and Akihiro Ito spoke on this theme throughout the two days, and we also sang many hymns together.

One never knows who will show up at the church door from Sunday to Sunday. Both the Shioda and Tokyo churches get people who come in from all walks of life and for many different reasons. Recently in Tokyo, we had two high school juniors join us for morning service and lunch as they are attending a Christian high school and had a summer homework assignment to attend a church service somewhere and report on it. It is always our prayer that anyone who comes, no matter what the reason, will sense the love of Jesus and thus feel truly welcome.

We received word that Sis. Shizuko Urushino's mother passed away, although Sis. Shizuko is not aware of it herself as it is felt she is not in a state of mind to be able to take it. We pray for comfort for her family and for God's continued nearness upon Sis. Shizuko as she remains hospitalized.

Recently I had the opportunity to go up to Miyagi-ken in northeastern Japan to the earthquake/tsunami disaster area. This was my first experience to go to such a place because back in high school and college when I was living in the States, I had not

joined any work teams like so many young people do these days. What struck me and touched me the most was how open the people were to talking of their experiences, readily taking supplies, and even accepting and giving hugs. This is not typical Japanese cultural behavior, but it just seems to naturally come out in time of need. It was a blessing to meet in person several of the people my husband had written about and who had been in my thoughts and prayers. My heart was very full after even just five short days and I thank God for the experience, even though it was very difficult emotionally. I praise God that He continues to be at work in the hearts of men.

KANSAS, BERN
Sheri Edelman
Jill Meyer

“Oh how lovely tis to be with our Lord in unity...”

Zion's Harp # 181

The Lord continues to call and thankfully another soul has answered that call! Amanda Rokey (Bro. Dwight and Sis. Anita) has begun her repentance. We rejoice with her and hope many more will turn to the Lord as well!

Bro. Dan and Sis. Tami Coughlin and their children, Kaeb and Zoe, have moved to the Toledo, OH, area for Dan's continued schooling. We wish them God's blessings as they move.

We thank Bro. Kevin Banwart (Sis. Sandy, West Bend, IA) for ministering to us this month. It's a blessing to have others worship with us!

Bro. Ryan and Sis. Tiffany Menold welcomed home Jake Ryan on August 10. Big brothers, Kellen, Nate, and Kade, as well as big sister, Laney, are happy for a little brother! Jake's

maternal grandparents are Bro. Brad and Sis. Teresa Kellenberger (Sabetha, KS) and the paternal grandparents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Kathy Rokey.

New grandparents in our congregation are Bro. Elwin and Sis. Mary Strahm. Elise Arosa was born July 3 to Todd and Katie Harris. May God bless this growing family.

Ruth Meyer had knee replacement surgery. We pray for God's healing hand on her during the recuperation time!

We welcome Maria Perez who is an exchange student from Bolivia. She will be staying with, and experiencing the warm hospitality of Bro. Duane and Sis. Holly Meyer and family during the coming school term.

KANSAS, KIOWA
Janice Bahr
Jenny Stewart

“I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”

Philippians 4:13

Many trials come upon us. Is it not wonderful that Christ is by our side to help us through, and what a stronger person we become because of it!

We would like to thank the visiting ministers that came and shared with us this month. Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Sis. Jane, Lamont-Gridley), Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern), and Bro. John Steiner (Sis. Carol, Oakville) shared the Word with us.

“Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.”

Psalms 37:4

KANSAS
LAMONT-GRIDLEY
Sarah Somerhalder

Our best wishes and prayers are with Heidi Zimmerman and Tyler Heil as they begin their married life together. Their parents are Bro. Tim and Sis. Barbara Zimmerman and Keith and Kelly Heil (Overland Park, KS).

Hannah Luthi (Elder Bro. Jay and Sis. Jane) had a tube put in her ear and her adenoids taken out.

KANSAS, SABETHA
Sally Strahm
Carrie Grimm

My heav'nly home is bright and fair,
 Nor pain nor death can enter there:
 Its glitt'ring tow'rs the sun outshine;
 That heav'nly mansion shall be mine.

My Father's house is built on high,
 Far, far above the starry sky;
 When from this earthly prison free,
 That heav'nly mansion mine shall be.

...I'm going home to die no more!
Hymns of Zion #247 vs. 1,2

On August 6 we laid our dear Sis. Lois Meyer to rest. Sis. Lois is survived by her children, Sis. Shelby Meyer (late Bro. Dale), Bro. Steve Meyer (Sis. Kaye), Sis. Nancy Rokey (Bro. Galen), Sis. Jana Strahm (Bro. Faron), all of Bern, KS, Bro. Richard Meyer (Sis. Joni), Sis. Sharlyn Huber (late Bro. Gordon) and Cynthia Strahm (Rod) of Sabetha, KS, and Sis. Marcel Huber (Bro. Eric) and Sis. Lanette Meyer of Denver, CO. May the Lord be near these families and strengthen them during this time of loss.

We are thankful for visiting ministers, Bro. Dale Zeltwanger (Sis. Rachel, Morris North, MN) and Bro. John Baumgartner (Sis. Lori, Bern, KS).

Bro. Brad and Sis. Teresa

Kellenberger welcome a new grandson into their hearts. Jake Ryan was born to Bro. Ryan and Sis. Tiffany Menold (Bern, KS) on August 10. May they look to the Lord for guidance and strength as they raise their dear children in the fear and admonition of Him.

Our earnest prayers have been with Bro. Erik Hertzell (Sis. Shelli), Bro. Tom Strahm (Sis. Carrie) and Bro. Virgil Hartter (Sis. Marie) as they have battled conflicts of the flesh. May they feel God's nearness and gain strength through His power.

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

Our Sunday School is taking a summer break for the month of August and will resume on September 4. We pray the Lord will work through each Sunday School teacher as they bring forth the Truth to each of the young and tender hearts of our children. May the seeds they plant bring forth fruit.

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

Psalms 143:10

Note of Thanks:

We would like to thank everyone that helped us during the time that Erik was in the hospital. The prayers, cards, and visits from our local church and all over the country made it bearable. May we never stop having hearts that care and are willing to reach out to those that are hurting!

Many thanks from Bro. Erik and Sis. Shelli Hertzell and all our family

KANSAS, WICHITA

Emma Miller

Our friend, Dwayne Reeves, has been hospitalized for several weeks and is in need of healing. And we praise the Lord every time we see the Bowers family bring Bro. Phil and his mother, Sis. Lillian, to church. They make the effort in spite of the obstacles.

Bro. Clint Beyer from Sabetha was our most recent visiting minister.

When we arrived at the church one recent Sunday, we noticed a big truck in the parking lot. Bro. Erik Bachman from Forrest, IL, was on a business venture and took the time to worship with us. We have room for more big trucks in our parking lot and plenty of empty benches for those who come.

Sis. Sally Funk has been an angel of mercy, as she spent time with her sister, Juanita Cowan. Juanita is undergoing intensive treatments that leave her in much pain. The Lord provided for the family ties in the Wullsleger family years ago as they grew up in Wichita. Sis. Sally was able to visit with her son Derek's family on her way back to Wichita. Derek's work assignment includes time overseas and the grandparents do what they can to fill in the void.

MEXICO, IXTLAN

Matt Gerber

"Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you: And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all men have not faith. But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil."

II Thess. 3:1-3

Our hearts have been heavy for the AviZa family. Just several months ago they were grieving the death of one of the unconverted sons in the family who was killed by a drug cartel. Three weeks ago, three others in the family were abducted by the same group. One of them was Salvador Sr., the wife of Sis. Luz, and another was Javier, formerly a member and husband of Sis. Rosie. Sis. Luz's son Pedro was also taken. We haven't heard anything about their status, and with each passing day it's harder to stay hopeful. We ask for your prayers for God to comfort the family. In addition, please pray that God would use these difficult times and events that are happening in Mexico to open people's hearts to the Gospel and bring many into the kingdom of God.

The first day of school is August 22. This year there will be first through third grades, with a total of approximately 45 students. We give thanks to the Lord for providing qualified teachers and other personnel with experience and willingness to serve. Please pray that we could glorify Christ in at that is done through the school, and for the children and their parents to be receptive to God's Word.

MICHIGAN, ALTO

Listyn Oesch

Melissa Blough

Blest be the tie that binds
Our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds
Is like to that above.

Before our Father's throne
We pour our ardent prayers;
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are
one
Our comforts and our cares.

We share each other's woes,
Our mutual burdens bear;

And often for each other flows
The sympathizing tear.

When we asunder part,
It gives us inward pain;
But we shall still be joined in heart,
And hope to meet again.

This glorious hope revives
Our courage by the way;
While each in expectation lives,
And longs to see the day.

From sorrow, toil and pain,
And sin, we shall be free,
And perfect love and friendship reign
Through all eternity.

Hymns of Zion

There was a farewell singing for
our dear friends, Bro. Ryan and Sis.
Terry Huber. Their beautiful family
will be missed here in Michigan but
we wish them God's blessing in Illi-
nois.

Our congregation was blessed
with many visitors this month. We
would like to thank Elder Bro. Tom
Klotzle (Altadena, CA), Elder Bro.
Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH), Bro.
Chris Wuethrich (St. Louis, MO),
Bro. Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH)
and their families for their fellowship
and labors of love.

“For by wise counsel thou shalt
make thy war: and in multitude of
counsellors there is safety.”

Proverbs 24:6

We have been very prayerful this
past week while the Elder confer-
ences were being held and we look
forward to hearing the various topi-
cal presentations from our Brethren.

Bro. Mike Baumann's father, Bro.
Mike Baumann, Sr. from Mansfield,
OH, went to be with our Heavenly Fa-
ther so we would ask you to keep Bro.
Mike, Sis. Lilly and their family in
your prayers.

“But I would not have you to be ig-

norant, brethren, concerning them
which are asleep, that ye sorrow not,
even as others which have no
hope. For if we believe that Jesus died
and rose again, even so them also
which sleep in Jesus will God bring
with him.”

I Thess. 4:13-14

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

Sarah Knochel

Janelle Ramseyer

Our area has been blessed with a
beautiful summer and with that a
good number of visitors to our con-
gregation and we thank our Heav-
enly Father for these blessings.

Bro. Howard Plattner (Sis.
Kristin, Alto, MI) visited our congre-
gation on a recent Wednesday eve-
ning as he was working in our area.
We are always thankful for Bro.
Howard's visits and we pray that the
Lord will bless him for his efforts.

Our prayers are with those who
have spent time in the hospital over
the past weeks. They include Bill
Bateson (Lori), Helen Knochel
(Fred), Sis. Marian Knochel (Bro.
Floyd), and Sis. Blanche Wieland. We
trust that God's healing powers
would be extended to each one.

Bro. Greg Munsel (Sis. Lynette)
was selected for a three-year Sunday
School term. He is replacing Bro.
Alan Schlatter (Vicki) whose term
has been completed. May God's bless-
ings be with each of these brothers.

In a few short weeks, our young
people will be returning back to
school and we pray for safety for each
one. We trust that God will guide and
protect each one as they go upon life's
way.

“Seek ye the LORD while he may
be found, call ye upon him while he is
near.”

Isaiah 55:6

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

Manuela Denes

Kay Rauhe

“I am the vine, ye are the
branches, he that abideth in Me; and
I in him, the same bringeth forth
much fruit...”

John 15:5

Vacation Bible School, which was
held this year from July 18-22, was
very enjoyable for the children and
adults as it was a wonderful time to be
together, to fellowship, and to learn
more about the fruit of the Spirit. A
great, big thank you to everyone in-
volved, and may God richly bless all of
you for your efforts. Everyone
learned a lot about the National
World Relief efforts when Bro. Stan
Virkler (Sis. Beth; Remington, IN)
spoke to us at the conclusion of VBS.

Our middle and high school stu-
dents enjoyed a weekend together as
they recently traveled to Mansfield,
OH, for Youth Day. It was a definite
blessing for everyone—what a won-
derful way for our young people to get
to know each other!

We were so thankful for answered
prayers and happy to hear that Sis.
Linda Shaw is out of rehabilitation
and now back home where she is re-
cuperating. We will continue to pray
for her. Sis. Lois Belsley was hospi-
talized for a short time, and she is
now home at Woodhaven where she
is resting and planning to worship
with us soon.

Our heart-felt thanks goes to visit-
ing ministers, Bro. Jeff Bahler (Sis.
Heidi; Wolcott, IN) and Bro. Dan
Koch (Sis. Julie; Tremont, IL) for
sharing the Word with us. We sin-
cerely appreciated their willingness
to “serve the Lord with gladness.”
(Psalm 100:2)

We were surprised to hear that
Sis. Manuela Denes will be moving to

Tokyo, Japan in late August where she will become a Librarian for the Canadian International School. She has felt the Lord's guiding hand, and we send her off with love and peace knowing that she will be blessed by our Tokyo and Shioda churches and that she will be a blessing to them. "Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of My righteousness." (Isaiah 41:10)

Two young men who were with us for summer jobs will be heading back home. We will miss Bro. Matt Gerber and Nick Schlatter and pray that they seek the Lord in their future endeavors.

Thankful grandparents, Bro. Tom and Sis. Cindy Hitz, were happy to announce the birth of their grandson, Logan James Kondratek, born on August 3 to first-time parents, Joe and Trisha, from Jupiter, FL. His paternal grandparents, Gary and Melodie Kondratek, both reside in Michigan. May Logan always be cradled in love, surrounded by family, and blessed with happiness.

"For Thou wilt light my candle: The Lord my God will enlighten my darkness."

Psalm 18:28

Our deepest sympathy, continued prayers, and love to Sis. Bonnie Popp on the recent death of her niece, Amy Ryder. We would also like to convey our love and sympathy to Amy's husband, Troy; her children, Molly and Hunter; her mother, Carol Popp; her sister, Kirsten Ollis; her two brothers, Richard Popp, Jr. and George Christopher Popp; and many other family members and friends. The wonderful memories you have of her will be treasured in your heart all your life. Praying the Lord will com-

fort all of you with His strong, loving arms, and surround you with His peace and love during this difficult time.

Our Elder body gathered this month in Forrest, IL, and our Elder Bro. Mark Bahr sincerely thanked us when he returned home as he was profoundly aware of our fervent prayer support while he was there.

We are grateful for the blessings of God's grace in Cody Baran's life (Craig and Sis. Pat) to begin his repentance. We pray daily that God will bless him with strength, peace, and great joy as he lives his life for Christ. "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths." (Proverbs 3:5 and 6)

"...If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and His love is perfected in us."

I John 4:12

**MINNESOTA
MINNEAPOLIS
Tim McMillan**

We started the month with Romans Ch. 14. "For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God, (vs. 11). Let us not therefore judge one another anymore: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumbling block or an occasion to fall in his brothers' way, (vs. 13). Hast thou faith? Have it to thyself before God. Happy is he that condemneth not himself in that thing which he alloweth," (vs. 22). We are allowed to make individual decisions that we will individually stand before the Lord and answer to. We cannot have each individual bring what they allow into their own home into the church and retain order. We thank the Lord for such guidance and teach-

ing as the Elders gathered this month to review our church and the path that we are walking!

Our invite a friend supper was held this month. It is a joy to see so many brethren share their time with us. Such visits are cherished by those of us who are older and, hopefully well remembered by the children when they grow older. We also had a group of brethren visit during their vacations. As a small church we appreciate having such blessings to fill our benches as we join in praising the Lord in song!

The beginning stages have taken place on a home in Rochester to provide lodging for brethren and families who may need to visit the Mayo clinic. We ask your prayers for those who are giving of themselves to bring this project to a successful conclusion. With the help of the Lord all things are possible.

When Jesus comes to reward His servants,
whether it be noon or night,
Faithful to Him will He find us
watching,
with our lamps all trimmed and
bright?
If, at the dawn or the early morning,
He shall call us one by one,
when to the Lord we restore our talents,
will He answer thee - "Well done"?
Oh can we say we are ready, brother?
Ready for the soul's bright home?
Say, will He find you and I still
watching,
waiting, waiting when the Lord shall
come?
*Tabernacle Hymns three #229 vs.
1 & 2*

**MINNESOTA, MORRIS
Susie Wulf
Kim Feuchtenberger**

We have had quite a few visiting ministers this month. Bro. Joe Dotterer (Sis. Rose, Bloomfield, IA),

Bro. Justin Koch (Sis. Marcia, Washington, IL), Bro. Jim Koehl (Sis. Hildegard, San Diego, CA), Bro. Kevin Fehr (Sis. Lonnie, West Bend, IA), Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Sis. Julie) and Bro. Mark Schmidgall (Sis. Sally), both from Oakville, IA, Bro. Dale Zeltwanger (Sis. Rachel, Morris North, MN), Bro. Dale Wulf (Sis. Becky, Lester, IA) and Bro. Clint Schmidt (Sis. Magdalena, Winthrop, MN). We are always thankful when the Word of God is brought forth through the prompting of the Holy Spirit.

Bro. Matthew Wulf (Bro. Stan and Sis. Pam) and Sis. Tara Fehr (Bro. Randy and Sis. Lori, Morris North) were united in Holy Matrimony on August 14. May God grant them much grace and strength as they begin their lives together.

Bro. Kenny Feuchtenberger (Sis. Sally) and Bernice Luthi have spent some time in the hospital recently. May God place His healing hand upon them, if it be His will.

We are very thankful that the call of God is still going forth and that there are souls that are hearing and answering His call. Larissa and Melinda Schmidgall (Bro. Paul and Sis. Shawn), Paul Domnick (Bro. Mike and Sis. Marci), Aaron Rokey (Bro. Galen and Sis. Nancy, Bern, KS) and Lafe (Bro. Rodney and Sis. Arlene Grimm, Sabetha, KS) and Kristen (Merle and Jean Spohr) Grimm have all begun their repentance. May God help them to build on a firm foundation and root out all sin, evil and unrighteousness from their lives. We rejoice with them and their families as they make a beginning in the Lord.

Thou, Jesus, canst alone Deliver me
from sorrow;
The strength to overcome From Thy
strong hands I borrow.
The longings of my heart Will bring

me naught but pain,
Unless the grace to live Anew from
Thee I gain.
Zion's Harp #45, vs. 4

**MINNESOTA
MORRIS NORTH
Lois Schmidgall
Wanda Gramm**

Greetings in the name of Jesus!

We know that when Christ comes, we will be like Him because we will see Him as He really is.

Of all the blessings of heaven, one of the greatest we pray will be you! You will love with a perfect love. You will worship with a radiant face. You will hear each word GOD speaks. Your heart will be pure. Your words will be like jewels., Your thoughts will be like treasures. At last we will be like JESUS and GOD'S work will be completed.

This past month our congregation was blessed to have the following ministers share God's Word with us: Bro. Gary Maibach (Sis. MaryAnne, Smithville, OH) and Bro. Tom Schambach (Sis. Connie, Elgin, IL). We appreciate the love shared to us.

Our prayers are with Bro. John Zeltwanger who was hospitalized and is recovering from a fractured pelvis and Bro. Carl Moser who was hospitalized and recovering from back surgery. We pray for God's healing upon them.

Two dear souls who joined their hearts in marriage were Sis. Tara Fehr (Bro. Randy and Sis. Lori) and Bro. Matthew Wulf (Bro. Stan and Sis. Pam). Our prayers to them both for a blessed marriage.

A new school year and maybe a new beginning. Whether our children are just starting kindergarten, entering high school, or leaving the nest for college, our hearts and hopes go with them. May our Heavenly Father be their Guide.

Plans are in the making for an blessed fall event. Those of us in Minnesota have a special appreciation for the fall season before we hunker down for the long winter season! One of the signs of the approaching fall season at the Morris North church is preparation for our second annual fall Harvest Supper to be held on October 29. The Harvest Supper is an evening spent together in fellowship, worshipping God and thanking Him for providing for our needs in the past year. We also find it to be a wonderful opportunity to share notes of written encouragement and appreciation for others in the church body who have touched and enriched our lives. The power of a written note of love can be life impacting! We also spend part of the evening holding a silent and live auction of donated items to raise funds for the local World Relief and Goodwill funds.

Submitted by Bro. Keith Schieler

**MINNESOTA, WINTHROP
Lindsay Schmidt
Heather Steiner**

The Sunday school is our delight; we
love it more and more;
'Tis here we learn to do the right and
live forever more.

We hear the truth, so pure and clear,
of Jesus' love so sweet and dear;
There we are taught to lift our eyes
to Him who lives on high.

Hymns of Zion #73

Sunday school has started for another school year. The students, both new and returning, are so excited and energetic! Our thoughts and prayers are with the teachers as they guide these little ones in the way of the Lord. The Sunday school also enjoyed their annual picnic in the park. The picnic was a success because it was enjoyed by all!

Word which God has spoken, word of
peaceful token,
Gospel of the Lord!
Fount of benediction, comfort in af-
fliction,
Holy Spirit's sword!
Source of might, of life and light!
Joyful message of God given,
sent to us from heaven!
Zion's Harp #97

Our congregation was privileged to have a visiting minister. We wish to extend our gratitude towards Bro. Doug Moser (Sis. Dawn, Morris North, MN) for willingly sharing the Gospel of the Lord with us. May God richly bless all those that so willingly serve us Sunday after Sunday.

Thou, Shepherd, hast each one en-
treated
To work and do with diligence Thy
will;
Ne'er shall Thy love in us be waning,
And as it bound the saints, so bind us
still.
It gives us hope where we in fear
would groan,
Leads us to trust in Thy good help
alone.
Zion's Harp #192, vs. 3

Once again, brethren across the lands have gathered together for the Brotherhood Conference. Several from our congregation traveled to Forrest, IL, to attend and have expressed many encouraging thoughts and accounts from the day. We want to thank all of the Elders for the love and effort that you put forth on behalf of the Church. We want you to know that we appreciate you and pray for you. We would also like to thank the Forrest congregation for their labors in preparing and hosting the Conference. May God richly bless your congregation.

We are engaged in mortal combat;
A coward soon despairs, turns back
and flees,

But he whom Christ gives sword and
armor,
Will persevere and gain eternal
peace.
Then Joyfully, O brethren, ever on;
For after victory we'll wear the
crown.
Zion's Harp #192, vs. 6

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY Brittany Fehr

We are grateful for the labors of Bros. Philip Schulz (Sis. Kelli, Burlington, IA), Glen Funk (Sis. Sally, Wichita, KS) and Tim Zimmerman (Sis. Barbara, Lamont-Gridley, KS), who were our visiting ministers recently. May God richly bless them.

We rejoice with Aaron and Rebekah Roberts, who are the new parents of little Danny Lee! Ron Smith and Sis. Diane Smith are Danny's grandparents. May God lead and bless Aaron and Rebekah as they raise their son.

Sis. Kaitlyn Meiss recently returned to her home in the Phoenix, AZ, area after completing an internship in Kansas City. May God bless and direct her in the next steps of her life.

MISSOURI, LAMAR Rebecca Dotterer Venetta Banwart

Our prayers were with the Elders as they met for the annual Conference held in Forrest, IL. May they feel God's rich blessing for their love and service to lead us in the straight and narrow way.

Our sympathy goes out to Sis. Laura Braker (Bro. David) and Sis. Crystal Braker (Bro. Evan) in the passing of their Grandma, Sis. Beulah Ehnle (Bro. Dave) of Princeville, IL. May they each feel God's nearness in this difficult time.

May God richly bless our visiting ministering Brothers this month for

their efforts of love: Bro. Greg Stoller (Forrest, IL), Bro. Dale Frank (Oakville, IA), Bro. Don Braker (Kansas City, MO), and Bro. Bob Dotterer (Sardis, OH).

We rejoice with and wish Bro. Ben Braker (Bro. Roy and Sis. Judy) and Sis. Heidi Zaugg (Bro. Pat and Sis. Julie, West Bend, IA) God's richest blessing in their engagement. A September 4 wedding has been planned.

We rejoice with Kristi Braker (Bro. Roy and Sis. Judy) as she has started her repentance in the Lord. May she feel God's guiding and directing hand to find true peace with God and man.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS Kary Mangers

Our congregation was blessed at the end of July to have a group from the Bluffton and Bluffton North single group come and do some projects to our church. The youthful zeal they showed while serving us gave us yet another reason to praise the Lord. This summer also brought us many visitors from our brotherhood. We are always thankful for the additional fellowship. As the school year begins, our prayers go out to the children, parents, and those of you who are teachers that your love for Jesus shines wherever you go.

Note of Thanks:

We would like to thank all those who have lifted us up in prayers and with notes/cards in this time of mourning our twin daughters. We have been reminded again what a blessing our church family is to us.

Nathan, Michelle, and Ashton Rassi

MISSOURI, TAYLOR Melissa Reiman

With Labor Day approaching and hopefully a much needed break from

work, let us not forget how much Jesus labored for us. Jesus preached every day so that we could hear the Word of our Father. What would it be like today if Jesus had not labored to spread the Word and had remained silent all of those years? What about His disciples and the martyrs that died for His name? Are we doing everything in our power to labor and serve Christ?

We were blest to have our July Bible studies and we are so thankful to all the ministers and their families that came to share the good news with our church. The theme this month was about peace. We thank Bro. Mike Moore (Sis. Pam, Athens, AL), for his efforts. Bro. Mike explained what the meaning of peace is. Peace is the state of quietness, security in the midst of strife and terror. Isn't it wonderful that we have a God that can grant us peace at the exact time that we need it? Bro. Brian Huber (Sis. Jackie, Francesville, IN) talked about peace in the direction Christ has chosen for our lives. He asked the congregation if peace only shows up in their life when it is calm or if it shows up when it is stormy? Bro. John Rowell (Sis. Nelda, Burlington, IA) came for our August Bible Study and talked about the value of Sunday School. Bro. John talked about the three reasons why Sunday is so valuable. Sunday School is the first time that we are exposed to the Word of God, we first feel the love of God, and the value of committing Bible verses to memory. Can we imagine what it would be like to not be allowed to go to Sunday School as a child and not be able to hear about the beautiful promise of Jesus Christ?

We would also like to thank Elder Bro. Wayne Grimm (Sis. Rose, West Bend, IA), and Bro. Joe Dotterer (Sis. Rose, Bloomfield, IA) for bringing the Word of God to our church.

We rejoice that Zach Sutter (Bro.

Jim and Sis. Kris) and Annalynn Knochel (Bro. Eric and Sis. Penny) have found peace with God!

We weep with Sis. Ellen Gehring (Bro. Brad) with the loss of her father, Wayne Fynquist (Burlington, IA). We pray that God will give her and her family the strength through this trying time in their lives.

Our hospital patients this month include Bro. Jim Gottman (Sis. Sally), and Elder Bro. Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan).

It is so wonderful to hear the cry of a newborn baby! Bro. Tim and Sis. Amber Lehman celebrate the birth of their baby boy, Cruz Michael Lehman. Grandparents are Elder Bro. John and Sis. Connie Lehman (Bern, KS) and Elder Bro. Kent and Sis. Jan Heimer.

NEW YORK CROGHAN/NAUMBURG Hope Graves

We held our annual church meeting on July 25 and are thankful for each who carry out additional duties throughout the year.

Our church picnic was held at Happy Hollow Campgrounds on Saturday, August 6. God provided us with a beautiful day to fellowship together.

We rejoice with Lansing and Marcy Petzoldt in the birth of their second son. Little Eli Lansing was born on August 7 and joins big brother Carl at home. He is the grandson of Allen and Kathy Farney.

Our prayers go out to Gary Rivers and family in the loss of his wife, Geneva. Her funeral was held at our church on Wednesday, July 27. We are thankful for those that traveled here from Rockville, CT, to help with the funeral singing. We also pray for Sis. Alice Farney and family in the death of her brother, Dr. Kenneth Everard, on August 4. Paul Merz also

passed away on August 14.

OHIO, AKRON Erika Gal

We are thankful that Mike (Sis. Sheila) Carder, Amanda (Bro. Don and Sis. Nan) Steidl, and Anna (Bro. Les and Sis. Judi) Steidl have answered God's call to repentance. We pray that they may each build a firm foundation as they begin to walk with the Lord.

On August 15, Don Graf passed from this life into eternity. We wish to extend our sympathy to his remaining brothers, Bro. Bob, Bro. Carl, and Bro. Leon, in their loss.

Two baby girls have joined our church family this month. Chloe Elizabeth joined the family of Bro. Adam, Sis. Jeni, and Elsa Henico on August 17. Her grandparents are Bro. Greg and Sis. Sarah Henico and Bro. Bob and Sis. Shirley Klotzle (Smithville). On August 19, Bro. Ryan and Sis. Coleen Gasser welcomed home their firstborn baby, Lela Jane. Her grandparents are Bro. Andy and Sis. Vera Demrovsky and Bro. Fred and Sis. Mary Gasser (Rittman). We stand in awe of God's love and power when those we love are blessed with precious, healthy newborn babies.

The weekend of August 27-28, we welcomed Bro. Steven Greenbank into the fold. He is the son of Bro. Glen and Sis. Joan Greenbank. We especially want to thank Elder Bro. Steve Martin for his labors of love that weekend.

Our other visiting ministers this month include Bro. Tom Bahler (Rockville) and Bro. Ted Luginbuhl (Smithville). We certainly thank each one for visiting and pray that God will bless them.

OHIO, COLUMBUS**Esther Saurer**

The Columbus congregation welcomes another new baby! Leah Grace was born to Bro. Kyle and Sis. Christine Germann on July 27. May God continue to bless the Germann family as they begin this new journey.

We would like to also welcome Bro. Eric and Sis. Whitney Indermuhle, and their two daughters, as they are here for a short three month job opportunity.

Visiting ministers this month were: Bro. Bob Knochel (Sis. Rhonda, Bay City, MI), Bro. Ben Manz (Junction, OH), and Bro. Mike Walder (Sis. Susie, Smithville, OH). We are so thankful to be able to hear the Word of God preached each week!

OHIO, JUNCTION**Vicki Boroff**

We were thankful to have several visiting ministers this month: Bros. Matt Manz (Sis. Deanna, Toledo); Bill Brake (Sis. Miriam, Sardis); Bruce Frank (Sis. Bonita, Cissna Park); and Larry Wenninger (Sis. Joyce, Latty).

Our prayers go out on behalf of Bro. Sam and Sis. Linda Schlatter. Sis. Linda's brother, Lloyd, passed away recently.

Likewise, our prayers go out to all of our hospital patients this month.

OHIO, LATTY**Mindy Stoller****Carmen Eisenmann**

We were privileged to have several visiting ministers this month. They were Bro. Greg Stieglitz (Sis. Lisa, Indianapolis, IN), Bro. Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue, Detroit, MI), Bro. Erik Givens (Sis. Debbie, Princeville, IL), and Bro. Vic Bauman (Sis. Brenda, Smithville, OH). We thank these brothers for serving our congrega-

tion.

OHIO, MANSFIELD**Tami Griffey**

The 39th Ohio and Michigan Youth Day was held July 24. "In times like these, we need a Saviour" was the theme for the weekend as 7th through 12th graders spent times of fellowship and spiritual learning at the Rittman Fellowship Hall Saturday evening, and Sunday at the Pleasant Valley Ranch near Mansfield. May God bless the developing friendships and the fundamental truth that we all need the Saviour, Jesus Christ. Our thanks and appreciation is extended to all who helped during the weekend and may God bless you for your willingness. We would also like to thank Bro. Scott Schambach (Sis. Hope, Columbus, OH) who shared God's Word with us.

Recently hospitalized loved ones who have our prayers include: Bro. Philip Keiper, Sis. Marcella Sauder, and a Sunday School student Matthew Dawson. May they feel God's comfort and healing touch in their lives.

My heavenly mansion, beyond the sky,

Where they who enter shall never die;

There would I journey this very day,
And with my Jesus forever stay.

Hymns of Zion #77, vs. 4

We grieve at the death of Bro. Michael Baumann, but rejoice that he has a heavenly crown awaiting him. We will miss his presence in our congregation, remembering the many years he served as a minister of the Gospel. Our prayers and love are extended to his wife, Sis. Florina; three children; Bro. Mike (Sis. Lilly), Bro. Dave (Sis. Lucy), and Sis. Esther; five grandchildren and surviving siblings and relatives.

Lloyd Morrison Sr. passed away on August 12. He was the son of deceased Bro. Robert and Sis. Catherine Morrison. He was the nephew of Sis. Dorothy Durkin; and brother of Sis. Linda (Bro. Sam) Schlatter (Junction, OH). Our sympathy and prayers are offered to the family.

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

Zion's Harp #52

We rejoice with our loved one, Nicole Baumann (Bro. Dave and Sis. Lucy), who has made the wonderful decision to become a child of God, seeking out her soul's salvation through Jesus Christ. May she feel our prayers and God's guidance in her life.

OHIO, RITTMAN**Jenny Rupp
Marge Stoller**

We were blessed to have several visiting ministers with us in Rittman this past month, and would like to thank the following brothers for allowing themselves to be a conduit of God's Word by standing at the pulpit. They were: Bros. Erik Givens (Princeville, IL), Todd Stoller (Latty, OH), Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH), Jerry Isch (Philadelphia, PA), and Elder Bros. Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT), Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH), and Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN).

July 16 was the wedding day that united Dustin Riggenbach to Audrey Hostettler. Dustin's parents are Joe and Sis. Karen.

The first couple of the month to become engaged was Bro. Brad Hartzler (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Bev) and Sis. Tami Manz (Bro. Les and Sis. Karen, Junction, OH). We pray this would be a blessed time for Bro. Brad and Sis. Tami as they prepare for their wedding and marriage.

Writing the engagement an-

nouncements this month took a personal turn for this reporter as she shares the engagement of Sis. Jenny Rupp (Bro. Ken and Sis. Carol) to Bro. Zach Pertee, son of Ron Pertee and Bro. Dave and Shelly Colvin (Smithville, OH). I believe I can safely say the couple appreciates all the well-wishes they've received so far during their engagement.

Also sharing the news of their engagement was Sis. Laura Bauman (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Martha) and Bro. Joel Isch (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Linda, Philadelphia, PA). We are very happy for Sis. Laura and Bro. Joel and wish them the best as they look forward to marriage.

Rittman again has new converts this month, and we extend our heartfelt best wishes to Julia Zollinger (Bro. Arlyn and Sis. Barb), Cody Baran (Craig and Sis. Pat), and Ben Ault (Bro. David and Sis. Kathy). We are always so thankful for new converts, and pray that they will receive as much encouragement from us who rejoice in their repentance as we do from them.

On August 1, Bro. Mike and Sis. Heather Katanic welcomed Westyn Paul into their world. Westyn's siblings are Emily, Kaden, and Trace, and his grandparents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Beth Pelfry. Anisa Joy was born to Bro. Marvin and Sis. Sue Hartzler on August 7. Her welcome committee included older siblings, Mason, Baylor, Tory, Kya, Bennett, Rustin, Ariel, Sage, Cyrus, and grandparents, Sis. Erma Stoller (Latty, OH) and Bro. Vince and Sis. Jane. Steve and Lisa Widmer had a little girl on July 26. Elin Kennedy's older sisters are Parker and Eilash, and she is the granddaughter of Bro. Darrell and Sis. Alice. On August 3, Lexi Brielle was born to Bro. Scott and Sis. Rachel Hartzler (Austin, TX). Her older sister is Summer and her grandparents are Sis. Karen and

Dick. Bro. Jerry and Sis. Martha Bauman became grandparents again, as Grant Thomas was born to Bro. Andy and Sis. Mary Steidl (Akron, OH) on July 26. Grant's older siblings are Maya, Naomi, Gwen, and Amos.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Nathan and Sis. Michelle Rassi (St. Louis, MO) whose newborn twin girls, Amelia and Brooklyn, went to be with Jesus at birth. Amelia and Brooklyn's grandparents are Bro. Walt and Sis. Linda Beery.

Several people have recently spent time in the hospital, and we pray for comfort and recovery to Sis. Kim (Tim) Hanzie, Sis. Mary Jane (Bro. Andy) Winkler, Bro. Ed Riggerbach (Sis. Anita), and Sis. Vi Baltic.

OHIO, SARDIS Faith Beard

Toward the end of July our jr. high and high school Bible classes traveled to the Rittman and Mansfield areas for the annual Ohio/Michigan Sunday School Youth Day. These students had a wonderful time with old and new friends, and came back sharing happy memories. We thank those at the Rittman, Smithville and Mansfield churches who gave so much of their time and effort to make this possible.

Our congregation has had several hospitalizations and/or surgeries this past month. We remember in prayer Bro. Bill Brake (Sis. Miriam), Bro. Eric Indermuhle, and little Logan Brake (Bro. Matt and Sis. Dawn).

We may all say that we give ourselves up utterly and completely to our Lord Jesus Christ, but when it comes down to all our tests in life, do we really? This beautiful poetry, attributed to a Christian poet living in 8th century Ireland, has convicted me time and again: we own nothing, we

are only stewards of what we have, and all our "things" and "events" that are so important to us will mean nothing to us once we enter Heaven's portals!

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art.
Thou my best thought by day or by night;
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.
Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word;
I ever with Thee and Thou with me Lord;
Thou my great Father, I Thy true son;
Thou in my dwelling, and I with Thee one.
Be Thou my battle shield, sword for my fight;
Be Thou my dignity, Thou my delight,
Thou my soul's shelter, Thou my high tow'r;
Raise Thou me heav'n-ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance, now and always:
Thou and Thou only first in my heart,
High King of heaven, my treasure Thou art.
High King of heaven, my victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE Gina Brake Lydia Dotterer

We have had several ministers who traveled to our area this past month. Bro. Ned Stoller (Alto), Bro. Steve Frauhiger (Bluffton), Bro. Justin Koch (Washington) and Bro.

Dana Nieman (Remington) came to visit us.

Two souls, Philip Maletich and Caitlin Marks, have recently begun on the path of repentance. It is not an easy path, but it is full of blessings the Father showers down upon those who humbly seek Him.

Bro. Zach Pertee (Bro. Dave and Shelly Colvin and Ron Pertee) and Sis. Jenny Rupp of Rittman (Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Carol) were announced to be married. May they look to God each day as they together walk the pathway Heavenward.

Bro. Jason and Sis. Whitney Indermuhle are thankful for the arrival of Kezra Nicole on July 19. Big sister, Aniya, and grandparents, Bro. Dennis and Sis. Shari Indermuhle, also welcome the precious little girl into this world.

We would like to remember Sis. Carol Schuster (Bro. George) and Jim Gasser in our prayers as they recently were hospitalized. Certainly there is power in prayer, when we humbly bring our petitions to the Father.

OHIO, TOLEDO
Teresa Rywalski
Deanna Manz

What a blessing it was to have many visitors join us for a day of worship and our Sunday School picnic. Among them, bringing God's Word to us from the pulpit were Bro. Curt Walter (Sis. Elizabeth, Mansfield) and Bro. Tony Manz (Sis. Denise, Junction). May the Lord bless them for their willingness to serve us.

"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."

St. John 14:27

It was made known to our congregation that Linda Harmon (Bro. Doug and Sis. Lanna) has found peace with God and man. We rejoice with her, and pray that she will feel God's nearness as she looks forward to her baptism.

Congratulations to Sis. Shari Harmon as she has completed her college education, earning a Bachelor's degree in Nursing.

We said good-bye to Bro. Willy Hofstetter (Peoria) as he has completed his summer internship in Toledo and returns to Illinois. We were thankful for his presence in our congregation, and look forward to his return visits.

OREGON, PORTLAND
Rebekah Jones

We had several visiting ministers this month that came to share the Word with us: Bro. Harvey Kuenzi (Sis. Jennifer) and Bro. Chris Kuenzi (Sis. Mary), both from Silverton, Bro. Joe Klotzle (Sis. Sue, Altadena, CA), and Bro. Frank Sauder (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL). We were very grateful for their labors and pray that the Lord will bless them for their efforts.

OREGON, SILVERTON
Deb Roth
Kris Luthi

We were again blessed by our local ministering brothers and ministers from away. They taught the Gospel story and refreshed our spirits. We were exhorted to stay on the true way and provoked to greater love and to good works. We want to thank visiting ministers, Bro. Mike Rinkenberger (Sis. Pat, Congerville, IL), Bro. Todd Graf (Sis. Lydia, Akron, OH) and Bro. Jim Vierling (Sis. Linda, Eureka, IL) for being willing to preach the Word to us. "This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that

God is light, and in him is no darkness at all." (1 John 1:5)

The last weekend in July our Bible Class families hosted other Bible Class families from our congregations across the land. It was a blessing to meet brethren and their families and also to renew friendships from the past. What a wonderful opportunity to encourage each other along the way and to create bonds of friendship among our children. We are grateful for the efforts of so many loved ones to travel this far to fellowship with us. "Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God..." (Ephesians 2:19)

On July 31, our Sis. Abigail Sinn (Bro. Mark and Sis. Elsie) was announced to marry Bro. Joel Steiner (Bro. Tom and Sis. JoAnn) from Oakville, IA. We ask for God's blessings as they plan for a January 15 wedding.

Ginger (Ron) Lichty has been struggling with health concerns and we want to encourage her and remember her in prayer. May God be close to her heart and give her comfort.

Bro. Joel and Sis. Laura Metz are thankful to have another healthy baby girl in their home. Lexi Donna was born August 16 and is warmly welcomed home by Josiah, Lanah and Jayna. Little Lexi's grandparents are Elder Bro. Art and Sis. Betty Metz (Portland, OR) and Bro. Gary and Sis. Beth Metzger (Lester, IA).

PENNSYLVANIA
PHILADELPHIA
Emily Wiegand

"Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fullness of joy; at the right hand there are pleasures forever more."

Psalm 16:11

It is with great pleasure that we announce the engagement of our Bro. Joel Isch (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Linda) to Sis. Laura Bauman (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Martha) from Rittman, OH. We pray God will grant them much happiness and contentment as they prepare to be joined together as one in Holy Matrimony.

We enjoyed the fellowship of all visitors the weekend of July 30-31 during our Invite-a-friend weekend. It was also a privilege for us to have Bro. Don Manz (Sis. Connie, Junction, OH) minister the Word and we would like to thank him for his service.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE**Mike and Monica Fritz**

Shelly Beth Getz (Mansfield, OH Nazarene), who has been pursuing her education in Nashville, has felt the Lord's leading to attend a school back in the Mansfield area. We sadly bid her farewell, but we are thankful for the time she spent with us, and pray that the Lord will continue to lead, guide, and direct her.

We have been encouraged from the Living Word, shared with us by our recent visiting ministering brothers: Bros. Brian Metzger (Sis. Angie; Lester, IA), Tim Gerber (Sis. Wendy; Mansfield, OH), and Chris Wuethrich (Sis. Carla; St. Louis, MO). We are also thankful for the fellowship of brethren and friends visiting from Rockville, CT; Congerville, Morton, and Roanoke, IL; Lester, IA; St. Louis, MO; and Akron, Mansfield, Rittman, and Smithville, 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: Washington, IL (9/18); Rittman, OH (9/25); Peoria,

IL (10/2); Congerville, IL (10/9); Smithville, OH (10/16); Bluffton, IN (10/23), and Bradford, IL (10/30). 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. Also, we typically meet on Wednesday evenings at 7:15 p.m. for singing or call-in services and would welcome any midweek visitors. Contacts are Bro. Don and Sis. Faye Sauder, (615) 373-8928; Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica Fritz, (615) 866-5543 (fritzmb.family@gmail.com); and Sis. Gwen Leuthold, (615) 356-5755.

TEXAS, AUSTIN**Serenity and Jasmine Ringger**

"O sing unto the Lord a new song; for he hath done marvellous things..."

Ps 98:1

It's such a blessing when a baby is born. On August 3, Lexi Brielle was welcomed by her parents, Bro. Scott and Sis. Rachel Hartzler, and her sister Summer. Grandparents are Sis. Sherri Schlatter (Forrest IL), Sis. Karen Hartzler (Rittman OH) and Richard Hartzler.

Bro. Lynn and Sis. Valerie Kipfer are pleased to announce the birth of their new grandson, Micaiah James, to Bro. Caleb and Sis. Laura Schafer (South Bend, IN). Micaiah was born on July 27.

Ministers who came to preach the Word were: Elder Bro. Merle Hartzler (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman, OH), and Bros. Greg Braker (Sis. Wendy, Lamar, MO), Pat Zaugg (Sis. Julie, West Bend, IA), and Tom Troxel (Sis. Luann, LaCrosse, IN).

We were glad to have visitors from San Diego and Latty with us.

The following is the minister

schedule for October: (2) Sabetha, KS; (9) Congerville, IL; (23) Indianapolis, IN; (30) Minneapolis, MN.

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

**TEXAS
DALLAS/FORT WORTH**

We have been prayerful for Bev (Ralph) Riggensbaugh's mother who has been experiencing declining health. We have missed seeing Ralph and Bev as they have spent time in Ohio with her.

Services are being held generally the 2nd Sunday of each month at the Holiday Inn Express, 4450 W. John Carpenter Freeway, Irving TX. There are many that have Apostolic Christian ties in the area. Please inform your relatives and acquaintances that may have interest.

"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." (Matt. 9:37-38). We humbly request your prayers that God may grant the increase.

Please call ahead to verify. Leland & Mary Plattner 956-265-0351 or Dennis & Diane Rassi 512-321-2345.

**TEXAS, McALLEN
Joyce Nohl**

Summer is coming to an end and the children will be going back to school. We are thankful for a safe and blessed summer for each of us in our small congregation.

We look forward to listening to the Conference tapes and are grateful for our shepherds who so willingly give of their time. We need to remember to pray for our Elder brothers.

Our visiting ministers for the past couple months were Bro. Les Kaeb (Sis. Christine, Francesville, IN), Bro. Matthew Steffen (Sis. Deanna,

Princeville, IL) and Bro. Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata, TX). May God richly bless each one for their efforts and kindness. Due to vacations, we don't hold as many services as we normally do.

Services are scheduled for Sept. 4, Remington, IN; Sept. 25, Morris, MN; Oct. 2, Bluffton North, IN; and Oct. 16, Bern, KS.

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

We appreciate advance notice when possible to help us plan for meals and fellowship.

TEXAS, ZAPATA Mary Plattner

As the seasons change, our congregation changes as well. Our winter residents are again returning and we anticipate a steady increase in our congregation the next few months. It is good to be able to go to church and see those who have come from various states to spend some of their winter in Zapata. We have appreciated the brethren who have traveled to

Texas this summer as those from Zapata have been able to travel to McAllen or Austin to worship with the congregation there.

We welcome anyone coming to South Texas this fall and winter to visit.

VERMONT, CLARENDON Nathan and Miriam Reutter

"And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat upon the house..."

Matthew 7:25

By now many of you have heard of the devastation of the Northeast due to Hurricane Irene. Unfortunately, Vermont has been devastated and crippled by washed out roads and bridges, making travel difficult, if not impassible, throughout. It will take many months to rebuild, and in some places years. Please keep all those who have experienced loss in your prayers. They are many. From what we know, brethren and friends have not incurred significant personal damage. We are thankful for the Lord's provisions over us during this past week keeping the brethren and friends safe.

Thankfully, spiritual rain was showered upon us in a more gentle

fashion by our visiting ministers this past month. They were Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Sis. Cheryl) on August 7 and Bro. Warren Zahner (Sis. Bonnie) on August 21. Both are from Rockville, CT. On the 14th, those who did not attend the Conference listened to a CD service. Church was cancelled on the 28th due to the hurricane.

Our surgery patient this month was Claire Fellows (Emery). Our thoughts and prayers are with her for a quick recovery. We are thankful that she is up on her feet already.

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 contact us if you are planning on traveling in our area and would like to worship together.

Service times are as follows:

Mid-week services

(Please contact local brethren)

Sunday Morning Service

10:10 AM

(Sunday school held concurrently)

Sunday Afternoon Service

12:15 PM



Sermon continued from page 2

probably had that experience. However, think about this. When we disobey God, we are the goldfish that jumps out of the water. You know the lifespan of that goldfish lying on the table beside the aquarium is very, very short. I believe that is the same intensity that God is talking to us human beings. Because we have inherited the sin nature, we cannot be of God and we are dying. The wages of sin is death. (Romans 6:23) It's very simple. Just as a little kid needs to be right there to grab that goldfish and put him back in the water, Jesus Christ through the Word He is speaking today is as intensely and in such a time constraint saying, Come to me. I am the way, the Truth, and the Life. No man comes unto the Father but by me. (John 14:6) Do we see the intensity of the message that God is telling us that we can have eternal life through Him? Recognize Him as absolute sovereign. There is no other. Then we need to give Him our entire life.

Then in Psalm 100, "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands." v.1. This is global for all people every place. It doesn't matter if we are red, brown, yellow, black, or white like that song we used to sing. It's for all mankind.

Then here is David's advice. "Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing". v.2. Why wouldn't we be glad? He has given us life eternal. "...come before his presence with singing. Know ye..." v.2-3. Know ye. Didn't we read that in the New Testament? "For we know..." is how II Corinthians 5 starts out. Let's see how that ties in a little bit later. Let's go with the first 'know ye' here. Know ye – this is fact – 'Know ye that the Lord he is God...' Psalm 100:3. If we don't know that, God in His love will give us some pretty hard lessons so we will know that. He only does that because He loves us. We can get so self-confident when things are going well.

Not 'God is God, but I'm doing just great' but 'God is God, and I am nothing without God'. By the grace of God, He will teach us a lesson that we come to the point where we know He is God.

"Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture." v.3. He has bought us. Know ye that ye are not your own. Jesus Christ has bought us back from the devil, literally - from the power of Satan, from that shackle of Egypt, the slavery that they had put the Israelites in. God freed them. It says that God hardened Pharaoh's heart that He could show the world His power. With a strong arm He brought His chosen people out, and with a strong arm He pulls us out of the captivity of Satan. That is through Jesus Christ. With a strong arm He raised Jesus Christ from death because His righteous did not change. He could by rights do that because He paid the debt of sin for us. Think about the righteousness of God. He actually paid it, and He is just and true to pull us out. So how are we going to respond to God for that? We are His people and the sheep of His pasture. How I need that clarity.

"Enter into his gates with thanksgiving..." v.4. – the gates of His kingdom, the Kingdom of God. That would be a good Bible study, I believe – the Kingdom of God. We hear that theme through all the Bible. The Kingdom of God. The place of His sovereignty. Know ye that the Kingdom of God is within you? So I have to ask the question. Is God sovereign in my life? I kind of like that word sovereignty – total, absolute control. "Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the Lord is good..." v.4-5. There is no question. God is good all the time.

"...his mercy is everlasting..." – so thankful for that – "...and his

truth endureth to all generations." v.5. You cannot change truth. That is a characteristic of truth. It does not change. Think about that – endureth to all generations. As parents, let's take the privilege to teach truth to the generations that we are entrusted with. It was just a little slim up here this morning. Didn't we notice that? It feels so much fuller when we hear the chatter as the Sunday school kids and the teachers come up. We miss you. That is the truth that we are telling to the next generation.

Now we come to Chapter 5 of II Corinthians. "For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." v.1. That rolls us into John 14 – "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you." v.1-2.

This seems like he's really becoming truthful here: "For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven". II Corinthians 5:2. We will rise, and we will have a new immortal body. Just as the seed of corn that is planted and the corn stalk look a little bit different, we are sown mortal people, and we will rise immortal.

It seems like the Zion's Harp really expresses the battles of life. Sometimes I wonder in our particular time zone right here in America how we can really relate to those battles. It worries me because some of these songs were really deep in their thought of Christians who are really being tested for their faith. I cringe at my lukewarmness. I can't think of a better word.

"For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven: if so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked." v.2-3. Naked is in opposition to God. What is the first

thing Adam and Eve realized after they disobeyed God? They hid behind a tree because they knew they were exposed, and they were not in unison with God. (Genesis 3:7-8) That's the first thing. Think about it. It's shameful. It's embarrassing. To this very day it's a shameful position to be in.

"For we that are in this tabernacle..." – this is our physical body. This is, I believe, kind of reminiscent of the physical tabernacle that the Jewish people built – "...do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life." II Corinthians 5:4. We look to our goal, our vision. The Corinthian people were in a very tough environment as we can read of a little bit in history. Maybe it is not much different than what we are in today.

"Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit." v.5. Now what does that verse say? Now he that wrought us for the selfsame thing is God. He has given us a mission. He has put us here on this earth. It is His choice not to translate us into heaven after we become converted. However, as we have these tasks on earth to do, He also hath given us the earnest of the Spirit. He has given the Holy Spirit to reign in His kingdom, which is in our heart, to rule our lives because He is sovereign. The Spirit of God has sovereignty in our life. Think about that. We are traveling through this world, and there's a prince of the power of the air. There is spiritual warfare, but we in God's kingdom, which He says is within our heart, are given the Holy Spirit to be sovereign. Let's not offend the Holy Spirit. Let's not be rebellious against the Holy Spirit. Let's not let an insurgency of Satan come into God's kingdom, which is in our heart, but most importantly, let's give our heart over to God's sovereignty. Let's invite Jesus in. Jesus

said recognize me, then repent for your sins (Mark 1:15), and then be converted. Let God fill our hearts totally and completely.

"Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord." II Corinthians 5:6. There is coming a day. ("For we walk by faith, not by sight."), v.7. Faith – so critical. If we had our druthers, verse 8 says, we'd rather be absent from the body and be present with the Lord.

"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ: that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad." v.10. Where do we want this judgment to take place? Now there's some theology that goes beyond my ability here. But we are in the day of grace, and we can put what we have done before God now in the day of grace. We can take the blood of Christ, that payment, and let our sin debt be paid. This is the intensity of that time zone. We're that fish flopping beside the aquarium, remember, and how long can a fish live outside of water? I don't know but not real long. This is our lifespan outside of the grace, outside of the blood of Jesus Christ. We can't live very long. The average lifespan in America is 70-some years. It seems long, but it's not. Some of us may not walk out of this building. Some may live over 100. But the point is without Jesus Christ we are the fish outside the aquarium flopping on the table. Jesus is saying, 'Come, come quickly' because we will appear before the judgment seat of Christ. Let's voluntarily go before Jesus Christ while we are in the day of grace and not the day of judgment.

"For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead:" v.14. It is kind of interesting. If Jesus Christ died for all of us, then we were all dead, and that dovetails with Romans. "For

all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23. So we know we're there. We've verified that. "And that He died for all..." - you and I – "...that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again." II Corinthians 5:15. We can't really do that unless we realize how sovereign God is and that He died for all. Let's not be a respecter of persons because a person's not fun, in a different social class, or in a different place in life. No, God died for every one of us. He looks at all of us as equals.

Henceforth – from here forward – "Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we him no more." v.16. He is gone. He is risen.

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold all things are become new." v.17. That has an impact. "And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation" v.18. – spreading forth the Gospel, to witness - "To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation." v.19. So he's telling the Corinthians here, old things are passed away and become new (v.17). I believe he is telling the Corinthians, 'You are converted. You are a child of God, and you have a job to do.' Listen to this job and let's take note of this. All things are of God who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ. We have our salvation. We are reconciled to God through the salvation that is in Jesus Christ. And hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation. Is that a job description? A minister is someone who serves. We have different ministries in govern-

Sermon continued from page 41

ments. It's a servant that does good things. So we have the job to serve of getting out the message of reconciliation.

What is the message of reconciliation? To wit – I am going to use the word 'witness' there. This is our message of reconciliation. That God was in Christ. Christ was born. He is real. He was the Son of God reconciling the world unto Himself. The world is the fish flopping. All of us are dying, and God sent Jesus Christ that He could put us back in His presence, in the fish tank, so we could live. He's reconciling that to us through Jesus Christ. In real terms, that's so we can have forgiveness of sins – that we can be reconciled back to God because sin is a wall between us and God.

So the witness – we need to tell this, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them. Not imputing our trespasses unto us. I don't want to take too much liberty here. For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). And hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. That's a responsibility.

God has given us the responsibility. His Spirit is within us, and we are in His kingdom. His Spirit is sovereign within us and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation which we just read in the verse above that.

What is that story of reconciliation? Can we give a testimony in a moment of time? You're in an airport and you are walking by and you have ten seconds by somebody. Can you give a witness to them of reconciliation of God? Brothers and Sisters, we shouldn't be fumbling for words. That should be our life. We should understand it. It should be ingrained in us. Now some of us have different talents. I agree. Some are verbal. Some are not verbal, but we should, in a moment's notice, be able to witness the story of God's reconciliation to us through Jesus Christ. There are some points in life with which we should not fumble or flounder. This is the truth. This is the mandate according to these verses God has given us. Are we taking that seriously? We can get diverted. What are we going to do tomorrow? Any of you have a job list? Some things you have to worry about? Some things you have to take care of? Is it

instantly on our tongue – that message of reconciliation? Knowing it is not of us. It is from Him.

"Now then we are ambassadors for Christ..." – we are His representative – "...as though God did beseech you by us..." – God is sending this message to you, which are the Corinthians, by us, which is Paul and the Apostles – "...we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God." II Corinthians 5:20. Be ye reconciled to God. What's that reconciliation? We know it's through Jesus Christ. Let's have it on our tongue. Let's be able to verbalize it in a moment's notice. Let's be able to live it 100% of the time.

This is the clincher probably – verse 21 "For he..." – God – "...hath made him..." – Jesus Christ – "...to be sin for us..." Jesus – "...who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him" – Jesus. That's the story of reconciliation. We should probably memorize that verse. We could probably rattle it off in about ten seconds. I believe God has given us a mandate to live and to express the story of our reconciliation to God through Jesus Christ. Let's make sure that we are reconciled to God.

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

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

Apostolic Christian Home of Eureka Director of Nursing

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

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Apostolic Christian Home of Eureka
P.O. Box 128, 610 W. Cruger, 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.

The pleasure of your company is requested on the occasion of the
Annual Eastern Regional World Relief Conference
Hosted by the Detroit Apostolic Christian Church

Nov. 12-13, 2011

9:00 – 4:00

*Saturday meeting to be held at the Canton High School Auditorium
also known as the DuBois Little Theatre
8415 Canton Center Rd. Canton, MI 48187*

All are welcome to spend the weekend.
Please R.S.V.P. by 10/15/11 for overnight accommodations and meals
by contacting **Crystal or Lucas Frank**
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Please plan on meeting your Friday night hosts
at the Church 29575 Wentworth St. Livonia 48154 (734) 422-1840 7-9 p.m.

Please extend a special invitation to your Young Group, too!



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Counseling and Family Services

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

Update On ACCFS Services

We are thankful for the opportunities that God has given us to serve. We feel privileged to be able to encourage the spiritual, emotional, and relational growth of those we come in contact. While some of our services are directed toward those who are struggling, over time, more and more of our services are geared toward spiritual and personal growth, enrichment, and prevention. This month this column will be devoted to informing you about the current status of our services. But, first, we would like to share a staff update:

New Staff Member: ACCFS would like to welcome Sis. Whitney Indermuhle (Smithville) to our staff. She, her husband Jason, and their 2 daughters, Aniya and Kezra, plan to move to Central Illinois in October. She plans to start work at ACCFS on October 24th and will be working 3 days / week. Her areas of focus will primarily be depression, body image and eating disorders, marriage counseling, career counseling, and substance abuse. Welcome Whitney!

Overview of ACCFS Services: It is common for us to hear people say, "I didn't know that ACCFS offered that!" Therefore, we would like to remind you about the types of services that ACCFS offers.

Website: Our website (www.accounseling.org) is intended to make helpful information available whenever it is needed. The site provides information on mental health, relationships, and personal growth. Under each topic you can find helpful information to read, download, or print. Individuals can learn about how to find help for themselves or for loved ones. Online ordering of brochures and books is available. Information is being added to the site regularly. You can also subscribe to periodic informational emails.

Clinical and Discipleship Counseling: ACCFS provides individual, marital, and family counseling for those who can travel to the office at 515 E. Highland in Morton, IL. Hours are by appointment only. The clinical counselors are trained mental health professionals who provide counseling from within a Christian framework that supports the doctrine and traditions of the Apostolic Christian Church of America. The discipleship counselors are brothers and sisters with spiritual gifts involved in counseling, such as exhortation, teaching, and mercy. They provide discipleship, mentoring, teaching, and counseling based on biblical principles and in support of the doctrine and traditions of the

Apostolic Christian Church of America. Many people choose to come to ACCFS because they have the assurance that their faith background will be respected and protected. Fees for counseling are based on a sliding fee scale based on annual family income. No one will be denied services because of inability to pay.

Consultations with a Clinical Counselor: People calling ACCFS can receive a free 30 minute triage consultation with one of the clinical counselors. Calls are received from people needing assistance for themselves, family members of those struggling, and from elders/ ministers who are assisting people. Counselors can help callers understand mental health issues and relationship problems and develop a plan of action to deal with these issues. This service is available to all of our churches by calling ACCFS at 309-263-5536 or our toll free number 877-370-9988.

Counseling Referral Information: People calling ACCFS can request information regarding counseling resources in their area. ACCFS maintains a database of mental health professionals located near Apostolic Christian Churches throughout the United States. Our goal in providing this service is to help struggling people find mental health professionals who are located near the caller's home area, have strong clinical skills and good credentials, and will be respectful of their client's religious beliefs and faith backgrounds. The ACCFS referral database includes counselors, psychologists, psychiatrists, specialty clinics, and support groups. In the event we do not have any referral sources in the caller's area, we will help the caller to find one.

Education: ACCFS counselors can provide presentations to churches or to smaller groups (such as the ministers of a church or Young Groups). Presentations may cover mental health, relationships, personal growth, or more specific issues for the ministers. ACCFS has books, brochures, and handouts available (screened or created by staff) covering mental, relationship, and personal growth. These can be obtained by calling ACCFS or by going to our website. Some of the print materials are specifically intended for support of elders and ministers as they work with individuals.

Financial Stewardship (Crown Program): ACCFS has been given the responsibility of overseeing the ongoing development of the financial stewardship program (Crown

Program) in the Apostolic Christian Church of America. Print materials that have been specifically modified for our church and are available through the Apostolic Christian Publications website (www.acpublications.org). ACCFS is available to help implement the Crown program in their local churches.

Apostolic Christian Way of Purity: ACWP is a 60-lesson biblically-based accountability program for individuals struggling with sexual temptation, pornography, etc. Each participant is assigned to a mentor who provides support, feedback, and guidance. The participant completes daily Bible study lessons which are then emailed or faxed to a mentor. Anyone wanting to enroll in the ACWP program needs to get the approval of their home elder. If you have questions about the program, call ACCFS or send an email to acwp@accounseling.org.

Mentor Training Program: ACCFS developed a Mentor Training Program for members of the Apostolic Christian Church of America. The mentoring program focuses on teaching individuals and couples the skills of effective mentoring. Elders identify brothers and/or sisters in their local congregation to send to the mentor training available through ACCFS. The mentors then work under the direction of the local elder.

Mental Health Forum: The counselors at ACCFS provide information, guidance, and mentoring to members and friends of the Apostolic Christian Church of America who work in or are interested in going into a mental health related field. Our goal is to offer encouragement while promoting spiritual integrity and accountability. We maintain a directory of the individuals on the Forum to encourage networking and support. If you know of someone in or going into a mental health related field, please encourage them to contact us!

Funding: A sliding fee scale based on annual income is used for counseling and consultations. No one is refused services based on inability to pay. There is no fee charged for using the website. The remainder of the funding is from churches and individuals who want to support the work of ACCFS and from churches that have received services and choose to make donations to cover the cost. Once again we thank you for your prayers and support.

We appreciate the prayers of the church on our behalf. This is the Lord's work, and we desire to glorify Him in everything we do.

Important Notice to Americans Crossing the Canadian Border by Land.

All adults will need just one of the following documents:

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

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

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

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

We currently have outlets for Bibles, Bible Story Books, Hymns of Zion, Gospel Hymns, and Tabernacles. **We also have a special request for used Zion's Harps.**

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

Jerry and Arlene Banwart, 307 First St, Congerville, IL 61729
(309) 265-0857

Light From The Word
now available by downloadable PDF from the
Apostolic Christian Publication web site
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After entering the web site, click on the item located in the left hand frame entitled, "Light from the Word Reprints". The entire set of editorials are available in a complete download (*June 1987 through September 2011*).

BIBLE DISTRIBUTION

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but he that keepeth the law,
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 of the Mayo campus)*

Contacts:
 Bro. Jim and Sis Deb Tilbury
 (507)281-2875.

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

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



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

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

To sponsor a child

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

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Mr. Mrs. Miss

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Address _____

City _____ St _____ Zip _____

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Wherever needed

If possible I would prefer:

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Morton, IL 61550

Phone: 309-266-6080

Fax: 309-266-5281

E-mail: childsponsorship@acwr.org



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
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www.acworldrelief.org

Interested in Houseparenting?



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

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

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

"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

CARIBBEAN BOARD PROJECTS - 2011

All volunteers should contact the project coordinator. Should you not be able to contact the coordinator, for Haiti direct your inquiry to Bro. Rich Bertschi, Ph. 309-467-6110, E-mail lemangm@mtco.com.

HAITI

Data updated from the Apostolic Christian World Relief web site as of September 10th, 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 September 10th, 2011 -www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-caribbean/

Project	Year 2012	Coordinator	Capacity				
Kingston School CCCD	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 September 10th, 2011 -www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-mexico/

Location	Year 2011	Coordinator			
Reynosa Medical	Oct 5-12	Cheryl Herrmann cherrmann@frontier.com	Magdalena Construction	Nov 19-26	Rod Schmidt 303-774-7913 rschmidt@acosta.com

Haiti and Jamaica Work Team Code Definitions

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

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

USA World Relief Committee

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

* Bro. Kent Heimer	<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

Director of Operations Job Opening at Hospital Lumiere

As the Lord opens the hearts, we are searching for a Director of Operations who will be acting as the Chief Operating officer for Hospital Lumiere at Bonne Fin, Haiti. Under the direction of the hospital board, the director 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





This issue of Remembering will center on the Minister's Book, a publication that has been published periodically since 1945 — and serves to list ministers, elders, and data reflecting the location of local congregations. Membership totals of the churches along with attendance and the number of students in Sunday school give a glimpse of activity across the Apostolic Christian Church. Excerpts are taken from the second edition of Marching to Zion, published in 2008.

The “Minister’s Book”

Bro. Orel Steiner of Oakville, Iowa, had published a booklet entitled *Apostolic Christian Churches and Ministers* (referred to as the *Minister's book*) which listed the various churches in America, Canada, and Japan. This handy book has proven very useful, both as a reference guide and in providing cohesion and familiarity among the churches.

The first issue of this book was published in 1945. Two hundred copies were printed with only the churches and their ministers listed. At that time there were approximately 55 churches, 143 ministers and 17 elders. By 1980, it had been revised and updated eleven times. By 2006, a total of 14,300 books were distributed.

The idea to publish a book of this type was born in 1936 when Bro. Orel Steiner, then of Morton, Illinois, and Bro. Ervin Rokey of Morton, but formerly of Sabetha-Bern, Kansas, used to visit after mid-week services in the apartment of Ira and Carolyn Rokey in Morton. The idea of compiling a list of all the Apostolic Christian

Churches and ministers was suggested to them. They were not married and had the time to devote to this project. In the winter of 1936, they began gathering data. Minister Ben Heiniger of Morton, an uncle to Bro. Orel, helped them.

In 1939, Bro. Orel Steiner married Sis. Rose Thomas and moved to his father's farm near Oakville, Iowa. He took his notes and materials with him. Getting married and moving to a new location likely deterred his attention from his book on the church's statistics. It was not until the fall of 1944 that he began organizing his materials and then sent them to a printer in Burlington, Iowa.

The various editions have been favorably received. Over the years, many brethren have made helpful suggestions to make the book more useful and factual. Elder Joe Klopfenstein, Gridley, Illinois, was remembered by Bro. Steiner as one who was helpful in offering ideas for the book. Too, Elder Emil Schubert, Peoria, Illinois, who baptized him, was appreciative of the book.

The book was printed every three years until 1994 when publication was changed to every other year. As time unfolded, members across the land have eagerly looked forward to the new updates.

The offspring of Bro. Orel Steiner continue to help produce this book. This includes ministering Bro. John Steiner (Oakville, Iowa), Bro. Tom Steiner (Oakville, Iowa), Sis. Elaine Eisenmann (Burlington, Iowa), and Sis. Martha Wiegand and Sis. Patty Steiner (Oakville, Iowa). The widow of Bro. Steiner, Sis. Rose Thomas

Steiner (Oakville, Iowa) also helped with the proofreading. Beginning with the 1992 issue, the book was produced on a computer by Sis. Martha Wiegand.

The *Minister's Book* is used extensively when traveling (on vacations, business, etc.) as travelers can find the nearest church in which to worship. Also, on a local basis, if anyone needs information about a church, a minister, or an elder, they can access this book.

And because each minister and elder is listed, it surely adds a profound sense of familiarity across the brotherhood. From an analytical-historical basis, this book serves as a binding agent among the brethren. If it did not exist, our level of being familiar with our many churches and ministers/elders would be much lower than it is today.

Two improvements were made in the 1990s. In addition to the 5 1/2 x 8 1/2 book, a pocket-sized one was also published (4" x 6"). The books were then printed with a spiral binding, and this made the pages much easier to turn.

Essentially, this book serves as a handy informational tool, and those who produce it are to be commended, and God is to be thanked.

By Perry A. Klopfenstein

Note: *Historical information pertaining to our church heritage is welcomed. Especially, we are looking for biographical data. Send information to Remembering, P. O. Box 404, Pontiac, IL 61764*

The Light Of Hope

“Counting The Cost”

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

Jesus talked about counting the cost when contemplating becoming His disciple. “And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it.” Luke 14:27, 28

Was Jesus uninformed about salvation being a free gift? He knew that He would die for us and then rise three days later. This He explained to His disciples but still He talked about the cost of being His disciple.

In evangelical circles the cost of becoming Jesus’ disciple, or the cost of being saved, is rarely if ever spoken about. Why is that? Something that the Lord Jesus Christ spoke about so earnestly, and warned that if you don’t first count the cost you may not be able to finish the task of being Jesus’ disciple, should be shared with everyone who might be a candidate for repentance and conversion.

It may be that this is not usually spoken of because it is considered to be counter-productive if you want many people to make a profession of faith. That profession doesn’t take very long and doesn’t cause any inconvenience or self-denial. The rewards promised for a profession of faith are great and eternal so many may jump at the opportunity to have “all this and heaven, too.”

Yet, Christ taught us to count the cost. What does our salvation cost? First and foremost, it cost Christ His own life’s blood, after suffering much abuse and ridicule. That is a very high cost for the gift of salvation for you

and me.

What does the gift of salvation cost us? It costs us ourselves. If we really believe and desire to be Christ’s disciple, which indicates that we have received the gift of salvation, we should follow Paul’s exhortation in Romans 12:1, “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.” The cost to us is our bodies as a living sacrifice.

Part of the cost to us is that we are called to obedience. If we refuse to obey what God’s Word teaches us, is that not an indication that there may be something wrong with our faith? God will be the judge but it is a concern. Romans 1:5 reads, “By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name.” According to this verse, after conversion we have received grace, not for salvation but for obedience. Obedience to God’s Word is not always convenient. However, it is the best way to live.

Other verses also indicate that there is a cost for being Christ’s disciple, or for salvation. Matthew 16:24 reads, “Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.” This verse teaches us that self-denial is part of the cost of being Christ’s disciple.

You or I might say, “I don’t want to be a disciple, I just want to be saved.” Is that possible? Let’s not take a chance on that one. I understand that when Christ spoke of being His disciple He equated that with being saved.

Another aspect of the cost of being saved has to do with service. Jesus did teach that as children of God we are to be servants. Matthew 20:27, “And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant.”

Supposing God gives you the conviction to help spread the Gospel to another country. There is the cost of learning a foreign language and of adjusting to a different culture. That may not be so easy. There is a cost. There is also a cost of time and patience to visit the sick and needy in your own local church. You are not your own, you are bought with a price, the blood of Jesus Christ.

Believers are called upon to have unity and to speak the same thing. That does not come without cost. You must lose yourself, you must be humble. Even if you are humble, there may not be unity as we would desire for it to be. People are different and differences arise. Even Paul and Barnabas had their differences. “And the contention was so sharp between them, that they departed asunder one from the other.” Acts 15:39. There is a price to pay for unity and harmony among God’s children. The cost is humility and a willingness to take the short end.

Jesus said we should count the cost before we start to build our spiritual house. It will cost us our own selves but strangely enough, a life of obedience to God’s Word is the best life to live. We can rest in the Lord, we can have a deep joy and peace. Count the cost and go for it. We are no good at running our own lives anyway.

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THE SILVER LINING
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Zions Harp #184 vs. 3,5

*Thou precious Lamb, what great things Thou hast promised!
Words of eternal truth didst Thou declare,
No wolf shall pluck a sheep out of my bosom:
No foe shall even bend a single hair!
I count myself among Thy blest:
I know Thy wounds have gained for me eternal rest.*

*But dare I make such hasty declaration?
Perhaps this is too great a claim for me?
Yea, should I trust my own imagination,
I would not dare so confident to be.
But now I cling in faith to Thee:
And trust that Thou, Almighty One, my strength will be.*