

The Silver Lining

*In him was life; and the life was the light of men.
And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.*

John 1:4-5

December 2011

Sermon by Bro. Glen Steiner

Isaiah 9 & Matthew 1:16-25 & 2

We greet each one in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus. We are thankful to be together this morning. Christmas brings a host of many different thoughts to us, I guess. There is a layer of fresh new snow outside. We look around outside and we can see the pure whiteness of snow. We are reminded often when we see that, how God can, if we allow Him, wash away our sins and we can be whiter than snow.

But what will we do with this baby that was born, whose name was Jesus? We sang some songs before we came up on the pulpit; Oh come let us adore Him... (Oh Come All Ye Faithful, Hymns of Zion #40). Sometimes we sing songs so frequently during this time of year, we don't even think about the meaning of the words we are singing. What does it mean to adore our Lord and Savior Jesus? Do we adore Him in our lives; do we let that come forth out of our lives? Silent night, holy night..., ...the dawn of redeeming grace... (Silent Night, Hymns Of Zion #42); what does that mean? The dawn; there was a new dispensation of grace. We still have that time today. Are we allowing God's grace to be in our life? Do we use God's grace? There is a host of different thoughts we have on Christmas.

I was just thinking as we were reading this chapter; the first part of the chapter we read of the promises of the coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus, and how He is going to be the Counselor, the Wonderful, The mighty God. Then the last part of the chapter talked about different destructions against erring people. Isn't it like our life? Some days we are faithful to God, we have the right thought in our mind, and then other days the temptations of life come round about us. That's life! Every day we don't come to church, we have a sit-

uation, our life; whatever our work is and our station in life. But God is with us, we need to have that heart that we praise Him each day.

Many different thoughts come to mind but, the thought that came to me while reading here, especially toward the end is; how many times was there that communication between God and whether it was Joseph or Mary, telling Joseph what to do? Go ahead and take Mary to be your wife (St. Matthew 1:20). You need to rise up and go to Egypt (St. Matthew 2:13). You need to come back from Egypt (St. Matthew 2:20). What about us? Are we listening to God's Spirit? I don't know how long the account was - probably at least a year or two - from the time Mary first was found conceived with child, until they moved to Egypt, and then they came back, perhaps a couple of years. In that short time, God came and spoke to Joseph several times. We know that the angel Gabriel, we can read in different parts of the Scripture, came and talked to Mary. What about us today? Are we listening to God's leading as He guides us, His Holy Spirit as it talks to us? Are we allowing Him to teach us and be where He wants us to be?

What would have happened if Joseph wouldn't have been listening? It mentions several times as it was prophesied, "And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets..." St. Matthew 2:23. If Joseph wouldn't have been listening to God, then the first part of the Scriptures would not have come to past, would not have been fulfilled. So for God's plan to work together, Joseph needed to be listening, he needed to be following as God spoke to him.

In the very first part we read here in Matthew it talked about, "...so all the generations from

Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David until

Sermon continued on page 41

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*"A talebearer revealeth secrets:
but he that is of a faithful spirit
concealeth a matter"
(Proverbs 11:13)*

Light From The Word



Writings based
on God's Word

December 2011

Confidentiality

Confidentiality is the ability to handle with discretion information of a sensitive or privileged nature. All of us are faced with expectations of confidentiality in a variety of settings and relationships, including family, church, work and many others.

Families built on love and trust understand that many personal matters remain within the family circle. Experiences such as conflict, financial difficulties, academic struggles, health issues, correction and discipline and other personal matters can usually be worked out within the safety of the home environment or with appropriate counsel, but individuals can be severely hurt if personal information is shared unnecessarily.

A healthy, well-functioning church family is also built on love and trust, with Christ and His Word as the foundation. For instance, individual members sometimes fall into error to the point of needing loving church discipline. "And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it..." (1 Cor. 12:26). The close ties of brotherly love in the body will compel each member to help the healing process and protect the suffering member from the harm which would come from gossip or public exposure of the matter. Likewise, when someone needs spiritual counsel, he or she must be able to share personal matters with an appropriate individual (elder, minister or spiritual mentor) who can be trusted to maintain confidentiality. "That thou mayest regard discretion, and that thy lips may keep knowledge" (Prov. 5:2).

Every organization, including the church, must have leadership which is entrusted with various responsibilities. The Word identifies certain qualities for those who are called to spiritual leadership. They are to be just, holy, temperate, of sound doctrine and having a good reputation (trustworthiness) in the eyes of those outside the church (1 Tim. 3:7; Tit. 1:8-9). They must be able to handle sensitive, personal information and make sound, biblically-based decisions which may impact many lives. Such individuals are expected to honor their commitments of faithfulness and confidentiality life long, even if they are no longer active in their duties.

Confidentiality is based upon several biblical principles, including faithfulness, integrity and trust. "It is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful" (1 Cor. 4:2). God seeks out the faithful (depend-

able) individual for ever greater responsibility. "...thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things..." (Matt. 25:21). God gives great respect to the virtue of integrity. It exemplified the life of His beloved servant Job. (Job 2:3) "The just man walketh in his integrity: his children are blessed after him" (Prov. 20:7). Numerous Scriptures state the powerful truth of our being able to put unwavering trust in God. As a human example of this virtue, we read of the blessing of trust in marriage: "The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her..." (Prov. 31:11). This godly virtue has application in every valuable relationship we experience. Finally, the second of the two greatest commandments gives us the last word in this matter of confidentiality: "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself" (Matt. 22:39). Take a few moments to ponder how confidentiality is woven into the application of each of these Scriptural principles. Think about individuals who readily come to mind as someone you know can be trusted to maintain confidentiality. Are you one of those individuals in the eyes of others?

Many examples could be given of how confidentiality is violated and the serious consequences which may follow. We will cite several of them which are all too common among us.

Human relationships inevitably experience hurts and grievances of various kinds and degrees. When trespassed against, we are subjected to powerful temptations to get even and to tell others—to gain self-justification and discredit the name of the one who has hurt us. God's Word holds us to a much higher standard. "Debate thy cause with thy neighbor himself; and discover not a secret to another" (Prov. 25:9). Jesus, the ultimate peacemaker, taught: "Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone..." (Matt. 18:15). (See also James 1:26).

Teachers and ministers sometimes use a real life example to make a spiritual point, assuming that if they do not use names or other specifics they will not violate confidentiality. In some cases this may be harmless, but in others it has been very hurtful and embarrassing because it is easy to complete the picture and identify individuals. This simply confirms the importance of being circumspect and humbly seeking the inspiration of the Holy Spirit in all such endeavors. "For God doth instruct him to discretion, and

doth teach him" (Is. 28:26).

One of the most grievous breaches of confidentiality in our time consists of the inappropriate sharing of information about individuals and church matters in various forms of mass communication. Perhaps privileged information has been obtained from someone who is upset and feeling they were unfairly treated, and it is passed on in a biased, inaccurate form. Human emotions such as fear of losing something we value may embolden us to justify spreading information which has not been carefully checked for accuracy or which is clearly not meant to be public. We may convince ourselves that concern for the welfare of the church justifies our actions. Nowhere in the Word of God can we find that good intentions justify doing something that is wrong. Just how serious is it to violate the fifth commandment? "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor" (Ex. 20:16). Just how serious are the sins of slander (harming someone's reputation—Prov. 10:18) and sedition (undermining God-ordained authority—Gal. 5:20)? When we open our hearts to receiving such information or pass it on to others, we join the ranks of the talebearer. Once again, God holds us to a much higher standard. "A talebearer revealeth secrets: but he that is of a faithful spirit concealeth the matter" (Prov. 11:13).

We also need to consider the consequences of spreading information of a confidential nature which can be easily misunderstood and misapplied, because there is no opportunity for meaningful dialogue. Very likely this will generate fear, create discord and provoke irrational thinking. "Behold how great a matter a little fire kindleth!" (Jam. 3:5). Is this edifying and does it bring glory to God? "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind" (2 Tim. 1:7).

In an environment of Christ-like love and mutual respect, we will use appropriate avenues to express our concerns and present our questions to those who seek our spiritual welfare. "Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things" (Gal. 6:6). Let us strive diligently to re-build mutual trust and walk in the beauty of integrity as described by David in Psalm 26.

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

Whosoever Will Come After Me

When we face a potential danger, we quickly realize the things most valuable to us. When our very lives are endangered, everything else... money, comforts, entertainment, etc., becomes almost meaningless in comparison. We would gladly part with any of them to save our own lives, or to save our loved ones.

But is there something more valuable than our own lives... even than the lives of those we treasure most?

Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it. MARK 8:34-35

And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life. MATT. 19:29

But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God. ACTS 20: 24

The recent disturbing events in Ixtlán give opportunity for serious reflection about the value of human life, family, and the all-surpassing worth of Jesus Christ and His Gospel of salvation. The reports of violence in Mexico may also cause our U.S. brethren to have concerns about Ixtlán and other areas of Mexico.

Is it safe to visit Mexico?

Mexico is a huge country. Ixtlán and Morelia are located roughly 1,100 miles from Magdalena. Just because violence is happening in one area does not mean it happens everywhere. Organized drug cartels are currently a major problem in many parts of Mexico, but every region is different. Most of the violence has been limited to those involved in selling drugs, turf wars between different cartels, or battles between government forces and criminals.

Law-abiding people are usually not at risk. Millions of U.S. travelers go and come from Mexico each year, and there is no reason to believe that criminals specifically target U.S. citizens. Presently, we are not discouraging visitors to our churches in Ixtlán and Morelia (state of Michoacán). However, it is good for visitors to be aware of the situation and be willing to take a few normal precautions.

Recently a medical work team of U.S. brothers and sisters came to serve in Ixtlán for a week. They were a great blessing both to the church and the community. They knew there could be some risks in coming, but we didn't believe they would be in danger. They were respectful of the advice given by Ixtlán brethren, and took some precautions, but they didn't walk around in fear. Their stay here was enjoyable, though they were reminded by the sight of passing army trucks that things weren't normal.

Are our church brethren living in Ixtlán at risk?

Your brethren in Ixtlán do not live in daily fear, though there have been some frightening moments and tragic situations that have affected

the church. We have no reason to believe we are targeted by the drug cartel. The phone threat that Bro. Marshall received was most likely an extortionist posing as the drug cartel. Phone scams are very common, preying on people's fears to steal money from them.

However, there were reliable reports that the drug cartel had been forcing some local businesses to pay them "protection fees." This could be a legitimate risk, since the school, church buildings, vehicles, and Bro. Marshall's business venture could draw attention because they obviously require money to finance.

We are grateful for your prayers and ask you continue to pray for the situation here. When it comes down to it, the best place to be is right where God has called us to be, doing exactly what He has called us to do.

What good can come from this evil?

Could it be that God has moved our church to be involved in Mexico precisely for such times as these (see Esther 4:14)? As evil propagates, the need for the Gospel to transform lives seems especially urgent.

These events can help awaken us from spiritual lethargy, causing us to reevaluate what we really treasure and what we're willing to risk for Jesus. They can stir us up to fervent prayer and give us a greater desire and readiness to share the gospel. They can also challenge us to live blameless lives, so that if we suffer it is for well-doing, not for evil-doing. Thank you for continuing to kneel with us in intercession for Mexico, especially for the salvation of lost souls.



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

Delivering the Gospel Message in Vivid Color

Most of us remember Bible story time as toddlers or young children. Our parents not only had several Bibles, they also had Bible story books, with color pictures of our favorite Bible stories. At an early age, we recorded in our mind's eye vivid stories of Daniel in the lion's den, Joseph and his coat of many colors, Noah and the ark, Jesus calming the storm or healing someone, Jesus on the cross and the stone rolled away from His grave.

Child Sponsorship Bible story program

Recently, the World Relief Child Sponsorship program embarked on an ambitious program to provide Bibles and Bible story books to all of our more than 1,350 sponsored children in all five countries we currently serve: Haiti, Jamaica, Mexico, Guatemala and Zambia. The goal of this initiative is to make sure all of our sponsored children own a Bible and Bible story book that help bring the gospel message to life, visually imprinting some of the most memorable stories in their mind's eye forever.

About a year ago, Child Sponsorship made arrangements to provide "25 Favorite Bible Stories" to all of the children in schools where we sponsor children. Although we only sponsor around 650 Haitian children and 100 schools, approximately 15,000 children attend those schools. We made a decision to offer one of the books to every student.

What a treat it has been to see their eyes light up when they understand that this beautiful paperback Bible story book is their own to keep and

treasure. Each of 25 favorite Bible stories was illustrated with a large color picture on one page, with the text translated to Creole on the opposite page. Not only could they enjoy the pictures, but the stories were presented in their language!

New Testaments and "100 Favorite Bible Story" books

Thanks to the Mission Committee, the next step for Child Sponsorship is to provide New Testament Bibles and a hard-bound Bible story book, "100 Favorite Bible Stories" to all third and fifth graders in our program in every country. Plus, each teacher at one of our schools will also receive a New Testament and Bible story book for their personal benefit and as a teaching aid.



In many, if not most cases, the child's family does not own a Bible at all, let alone an illustrated translated Bible story book. You can imagine the joy on every face when they realize the significance of this gift. Even more satisfying, imagine the joy in Heaven when one of these young souls is moved by reading the Word or visualizing the miracles in the Bible to make a commitment to serve our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Surely, there can be no better education benefit

than directly receiving the gospel message. This program is one more way to deliver that message.

Some recent feedback

As this program was introduced in Guatemala, the director of the schools we sponsor recently sent an email with this encouraging message: "Thank you so much for all the Bible story books and New Testaments for the children. They will be so excited to receive their own books. In a country where many families struggle to feed and clothe their children, a beautiful book is a prized possession."

From two other schools we sponsor in Guatemala we received the following emails:

"As one of our fourth grade teachers said, 'These books are lovely, especially the content.' Many thanks. Be assured you are sowing in good ground and that our beloved Lord and God will give the growth."

"We appreciate the donation of the Bible story books for the sponsored students and for the K-6 classrooms. The students who received their New Testaments also wish to thank you. The teachers will use them during the next school year to increase the children's love for the Word of God."

You can get involved

If you want to be part of this program to provide a Christ-centered education to needy children in difficult environments, please write our Morton office at ACWR Child Sponsorship, P.O. Box 36, Morton, IL 61550 or call us at 309-266-6080. Or, apply online at www.acworldrelief.org and click on "Child Sponsorships" in the right-hand column.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

www.achh.org

As another year draws to a close, we consider the blessings of the Lord and His provision in meeting the needs in the lives of our residents, their families and the staff. We consider where we would be without a God, a Savior, a Church, or family and loved ones with whom to share our joys, burdens and sorrows.

This reminds me of a recitation at a Christmas Program when I was a child. It comes from a Christmas Card titled "If Christ had not come". It was based on the Savior's own words, 'If I had not come,' in St. John 15:22. The card pictured a minister falling asleep in his study on Christmas morning and then dreaming of a world in which Jesus had never come.

In his dream, he saw himself walking through his house, but as he looked, he saw no [evidence of Christmas], and no Christ to comfort and gladden hearts or to save us. He then walked onto the street outside, but there was no church with its spire pointing toward heaven. And when he came back and sat down in his library, he realized every book about our Savior had disappeared.

The minister dreamed the doorbell rang and that a messenger asked him to visit a friend's poor dying mother. He reached her home, and as his friend sat and wept, he said, 'I have something here that will comfort you.' He opened his Bible to look for a familiar promise, but it ended with Malachi. There was no gospel and no promise of hope and salvation, and all he could do was bow his head and weep with his friend and his mother in bitter despair.

Two days later he stood at her coffin and conducted her funeral service, but there was no message of comfort, no words of a glorious resurrection, and no thought of a mansion awaiting

her in heaven. There was only 'dust to dust' and 'ashes to ashes', and one long, eternal farewell. Finally he realized that *Christ Had Not Come*, and burst into tears, weeping bitterly in his sorrowful dream.

Then suddenly he awoke with a start, and a great shout of joy and praise burst forth from his lips as he heard his choir singing these words in his church nearby:

O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,

O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!

Come and behold Him, born the King of angels,

O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

From "Streams In the Desert"
by L.B Cowman

There are times that in the midst of our trial and tribulation we lose focus of Christ and the miraculous saving power that can be found in His shed blood on the cross of Calvary. We stand as it were at a manger, wondering how He could ever save us from our situation of sin.

In like manner, we often look at the needs of the residents, the hopeless situation of the State and Federal Governments and wonder how God will be able to meet all of the needs. He can, He could, He would, He did, and He does. Thanks to all who, as God has moved you, have volunteered, prayed, or donated time, products, or finances over the last year.

GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

**Brandon,
Gateway Woods Resident**

I have been a resident at Gateway Woods for 18 months and am about ready to graduate the program. The reason I am at Gateway is because I violated my probation by using pre-

scription pills at school and getting into a fight. I got suspended from school and my parole officer said that I couldn't leave my house for three days. However, while my mom was sleeping the next day, I snuck out. We messed around for a while and then I snuck back into my house. Apparently somebody saw us running around because a while later the police knocked on our door and took me to a juvenile detention facility. I went to court and was sent to Gateway.

When I got to Gateway I quickly learned that I was not the center of the universe. In the first few months I learned more about being a respectful and good young man than I had learned in my whole life. My Counselor helped me to work out and through my problems, instead of simply acting out. I found that these things were easy to learn, but hard to apply consistently.

When I came to Gateway I thought that I was doing great spiritually, though I eventually realized that I was very lost. I thought I was going to heaven. But in reality, while I was doing my devotions every night and going to church, I was still rejecting Christ in my heart.

Thankfully, through the work of my Counselors, Houseparents and the Spirit I began to realize my helpless state. I realized that I was a sinner and I deserved death, but there was a God sustaining me every second. He had sent His Son to die on the cross to cover all my sin. I felt heavily convicted and I talked to my Houseparent Dad. That night I repented.

It hasn't been an easy road since, and I still have my struggles, but I have been maturing and growing spiritually since that day. Soon I will graduate from the program here at Gateway and will probably move into foster care, but I know that wherever I go, God will be with me and I will be fine.

News:

- Gateway Woods welcomed six new residents to campus this past month. Please pray with us as these children become accustomed to their new homes. It can be a difficult adjustment for new residents as they discover a very different living situation than they have experienced before. We would also ask for your prayers for the Houseparents as they grow to know the new children in their houses.

- We are grateful to God for providing us with a wonderful Staff. We currently have three positions available. We have an opening for an Alternative Houseparent couple, an Administrative Assistant, and a Secretary. 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!

- Christmas Wish List

Gateway Woods depends on the generosity of our supporters to provide the funds we need for daily operation, as well as new and gently used items for our five group homes.

If you are interested in partnering with us by donating a wish list item or contributing funds towards a specific need, please contact Ross Feller at (888) 443-4283 to confirm the item and coordinate a drop-off date or mailing address. Thank you very much for your support!

Restaurant gift cards
Wal-Mart and Meijer gift cards
roasting sticks
portable or living room radio/cd

player/ipod dock
desktop or laptop computer
tennis racquets
tennis balls
basketball
football
volleyball
soccer ball
new or used adult bike
adult baseball glove
ping pong balls
card and board games (Settlers of Catan, Wits and Wagers, etc.)
new or used bike
knife set
craft items (scrap booking, stamps, etc.)
lemon zester
cheese grater
pots and pans
table settings (large and small plates plus bowls)
piano bench
roasting pan (16" x 12")
muffin tins
Razor scooter
hair clippers
two burner deep roasting pan
blender/smoothie maker
grill brush
bread knife
dish washer
elliptical machine

- 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, AL
Susan Koch**

Our themes for November were

being thankful and health/nutrition. It was interesting trying to convey the meaning of being thankful to some of the younger children. I learned a lot about how powerful rephrasing a question can be. As I struggled to find synonyms for thankfulness that the students could understand, I thought about the things I am thankful for and why I am thankful for them. I ended up asking the students which people they loved and what things they like. It was humorous listening to some answers (shoes, dessert) and touching listening to others (Mommy, Jesus). When I ask myself what I'm thankful for, I immediately think of people and things that I come in contact with frequently. Sometimes it's difficult to get beyond the material and dwell on different types of blessings like conflict or stress. I believe these can be just as beneficial to me as the "comfortable" blessings because they are causing me to mature emotionally and spiritually. The preschool is currently undergoing changes in staffing. I have been asked to fill in as coordinator after Melissa Oppman and her husband moved to Tennessee. Thanks, Melissa, for your support of the preschool and for being a mentor to me. And we would like to welcome Sis. Kalla Knobloch (Princeville, IL) down, as she will be teaching the four-year-olds. I would like to thank Sisters Louise Hall, Barbara Coulter, Kristy Moore, Becky Roberts, and Sara Edelman for their efforts in making this transition as smooth as possible. Your support is greatly appreciated!

**ALABAMA, ATHENS
Roger and Becky Roberts**

Our congregation was blessed with several groups of company this month. October 1-2 several car loads from U of I came and volunteered at

the preschool. We greatly appreciate their efforts. Also, the same weekend we were blessed to have ministering Bro. Paul and Sis. Loretta Zimmerman (Forrest, IL) along with several others. Saturday evening we enjoyed a chili supper and singing at the Tennessee Fellowship Area.

October 26, the World Relief Committee joined us for Wednesday evening church. Thank you to Bro. Chuck Kellenberger (Elgin, IL) for sharing God's Word and encouraging our youth.

The last weekend in October we had our annual Homecoming. Bro. Jeff and Sis. Ruth Grimm (Goodfield, IL) ministered to us this weekend. Many other churches were represented in church on Sunday. What a time of sweet fellowship.

We wish God's blessings to Olivia Coulter (Bro. David and Sis. Barbara) and Adam Mason (Sammy and Penny Mason) as they were wed November 5.

It was our privilege to have Bro. Dan and Sis. Ann Moser (Elgin, IL) and daughter Alyssa on November 6. Thank you, Bro. Dan, for teaching us from God's Word.

Please continue to pray for Janice Flanagan to feel God's healing hand.

If you are traveling through the area, we would welcome fellowship with you.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX

Up yonder in heaven 'tis well with
the soul,
if this we consider our courage will
grow,
There Jesus will bid us that king-
dom to share,
which God from beginning for us did
prepare.

Hymns of Zion #47

The funeral for our dear Sis. Connie Frautschi was November 2. We

sympathize with her husband, Bro. Ed, and children: Sis. Heather (Bro. Chris) Thorpe (Phoenix), Christopher (Laurel) Frautschi (Peoria, IL) and Stephanie (Tony) Williams (Cookeville, TN), and grandchildren: Dakota and Sierra Thorpe, Ryan Parsons, Wyatt Frautschi, Vicoria, Amber and Lydia Schlatter and Dillon Williams.

Our thanks to each of our visiting ministers this past month! They were Bro. Troy Leyse (Sis. Kelly, Bluffton), Bro. Barry Dietz (Sis. Rachel, Bradford), and Bro. Bill Waibel (Sis. Carol, Bay City). May you feel His richest blessings!

Sylvia Mitchell has peace with God and has expressed her desire to be baptized. We are rejoicing with the angels!

Those of our congregation needing our prayers: Sis. Heather Hinrichsen, who is now adjusting to the DBS procedure that was done to control her Parkinson's disease, and Bro. John Pulfer who has returned home following a stroke.

As the Christmas season is upon us, let us remember His goodness and mercy in coming to this earth to be our Savior and Redeemer. What an incredible gift, the very best gift of all!

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT

Denise Steidinger

We thank God for the willingness of our ministering brothers to travel to small congregations. Bros. Jim Meiss (Sis. Candy, Phoenix), Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich (Sis. Nancy, Phoenix), Barry Dietz (Sis. Rachel, Bradford), Bill Waibel (Sis. Carol, Bay City) and Brad Bauer (Sis. Sandy, Tucson) were with us this past month preaching the Word of God.

Bro. Matthew Rassi, Sis. Bridget and their family from Chicago spent Thanksgiving with us and we thank Bro. Matthew for having a

Thanksgiving service.

Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich and Bro. Herb Knochel (Phoenix) spent a Sunday with us and read the Memorandum.

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp

Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand was with us for a recent Sunday. We certainly thank him for his visit and care for us as well as for his service on the pulpit. We were able to share a meal with him at our monthly Fellowship Supper before he needed to leave. We are always thankful to hear he made it safely home.

We are enjoying some "fall" weather the past few weeks. We have had some wonderful rainfall and some cool, cloudy days which is such a nice change from all that sunshine – and so welcome after our long, hot summer. Outside my window it is sunny and 75 degrees today, November 15. In Tucson the sun is never gone for long, just hidden behind the clouds at times. Much like God is always there, but we allow our vision to become cloudy – hopefully we bounce back as quickly as the Arizona sun!

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Yasmin Koehl

We expect a bright tomorrow,
All will be well;
Faith can sing through days of sor-
row,
All, all is well.
On our Father's love relying,
Jesus every need supplying;
Or in living, or in dying,
All must be well.

Hymns of Zion #136

With love, Bro. Tibor Bozzay was laid to his eternal rest on November 18. Our prayers are with his dear wife, Sis. Pearl, and their children as they bid farewell to their beloved hus-

band, father and grandfather. With the strength of the Lord and by His grace, we can look forward to the glorious reunion with so many precious brothers and sisters whom we love and miss. May we all together strive to cling closer to the Word in obedience and humility so that “all will be well” with our souls when we meet our Savior face to face.

“On our Father’s love relying, Jesus every need supplying....” with this confidence we bid farewell to Bro. Jim, Sis. Hildy and their daughter Ashlee Koehl as they relocate to Morris, MN. We pray God’s blessings upon them as they begin a new chapter in their lives. We’re thankful for the many memories we’ve shared together over the years. We will feel the void of their absence, especially on the pulpit, but we know the Lord knows all things and trust “all will be well” if we abide near to Him.

**KITCHENER, ONTARIO
CANADA
Kim Leman**

“The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand forever.”

Isaiah 40:8

Several in our congregation are grieving the loss of loved ones. Paul (Sis. Susan) Kupa’s mother passed away in Toronto. Bro. Murray (Sis. Esther) Metzger’s grandfather was laid to rest, and Sis. Liz (Bro. John) Kralt’s father passed away in British Columbia. May God comfort grieving hearts and grant the peace that only He can give.

We are thankful for the visiting Brothers who served us on the pulpit this month. They were Bros. Todd Graf (Sis. Lydia, Akron, OH) and Warren Schlatter (Sis. Cindy, Junction, OH). May God reward them for their labors!

**REGINA SK
CANADA
Myrna Shipley**

We had a large group of visitors this month from Lester and Morris. On that Saturday the young people served us a delicious supper that they brought with them. It was a wonderful way to help us out. Elder Bro. Roy and Sis. Jenell Koehl and retired Elder Bro. Art and Sis. Sandra Nohl provided all of the lunch on Sunday. The ministers each took a turn teaching on the pulpit, of course. Thank you all for the food and service.

Now there was someone who donated about 20 new, good chairs to our church unanimously. We didn’t find out who this person was but we want to let you know that we appreciate your gift so much. The Lord has given you the money but we are glad that you used it to buy us chairs. May the Lord richly bless you... (“and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly.” Matt. 6:4)

**COLORADO, DENVER
Lily Zarkovacki**

“If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land.”

Isaiah 1:19

We are thankful for Elder Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Sis. Nancy, Forrest, IL) who made the effort to come out to assist our Elder Bro. Mike Leman in reading of the Memorandum. We appreciate his love and willingness.

It was also a blessed day for our congregation recently when we learned that Bro. Ed Stoller (Sis. Bonnie) was put in as our new minister; we are thankful for God’s clear direction. We pray God’s blessings on this dear family!

We were so happy to hear of the engagement of Bro. Jake Leman (Elder Bro. Mike and Sis. Deb) to Sis. Tifani Bahr (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Janice, Kiowa, KS). We pray for God’s guidance and direction in their lives!

“And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.”

I Timothy 1:14

**CONNECTICUT
ROCKVILLE
Bonnie Bahler
Laura Virkler**

“In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”

I Thess. 5:18

We certainly have many reasons to be deeply grateful for the blessings we enjoy! There is so much we have in abundance that it easily forgotten when times are good. Most of our congregation spent days on end without power at the beginning of the month when the region was hit with a nor’easter. Hot water, hot food, warmth and enough light seemed like a real treat! It was a good exercise in being thankful for the little comforts we don’t always notice. As Christmas time approaches, may those lessons learned keep us counting our blessings and being thankful for the greatest gift of all.

Two families were blessed with newborns this past month. Bro. Burt and Sis. Cherinne Wheeler welcomed baby girl, Abigail Rose. She joins seven big brothers and sisters in the Wheeler household. Grandparents are Bro. Daryl and Sis. Norma Luginbuhl and Burt Sr. and Sis. Margo Wheeler. Cheyenne Christine was born to Bro. Eric and Sis. Heidi Virkler, and she is welcomed by her

big brother Luke. Grandparents are Bro. Kevin and Sis. Jane Ballasy and Bro. Dan and Sis. Dorothy Virkler. May God bless these parents and others of our congregation that are parenting young children with the grace and strength to do so.

The engagement of Bro. Nathan Luginbuhl and Sis. Lydia Schneider was announced to the congregation. We wish them joy as they take this step in faith. May the Lord be with them in this step in their lives as He has been with them in the past. Parents are Bro. Rick and Sis. Sue Luginbuhl, and Bro. Tim and Sis. Dana Schneider.

November 4 was the wedding day of Everett Skinner Jr. and Kristin Valyo. We wish this couple and their family circles God's blessings as they move forward as husband and wife.

We want to remember those who are dealing with illness or injury and lift them up in prayer as they recover. Sis. Helen Kloter continues to recover in the nursing home after hip surgery and we look forward to the time she can assemble with us again, Lord willing.

Our sympathy is extended to the family of John Aberle, who passed away earlier this month. He leaves his sons, David (Khara), Jeffery (Josephine) and Brent; his sisters, Linette Murray (Dennis), Ruth DeCarli (Anthony), Heidi Ludwig (Bro. Gerald) and Emily Champ. May they each feel God's nearness in their time of loss. Our prayers and support also extend to the family of Sis. Alma Lanz who departed this life in the past weeks. Her children, Bro. Sherman Lanz (Sis. Joanne) and Susan Bigelow of Oregon and their families, will remain in our thoughts and prayers in the days ahead. Bro. Arthur Foote (Emily) and Bro. Paul Foote (Sis. Roberta) are also in our prayers and thoughts for the passing of their sister, Gwen Moseley.

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
WASHINGTON
Henrietta Meyer**

Our caretakers for the first part of November were Bro. Ralph and Sis. Diane Lanz (Rittman, OH). We're happy and thankful to report that our caretaker schedule is almost entirely booked for 2012. We look forward to meeting new caretakers each month, as well as reconnecting with caretakers who come for a second or third visit. We are beginning to book into 2013, so if this is something you are considering contact Sis. Doreen Steffen at 302-540-6574 or dkgsteffen@gmail.com.

Our ministers this month were Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern, KS), Bro. Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue, Detroit, MI), Bro. Ed Strahm (Sis. Ramona, Bern, KS), Bro. Kim Sutter (Sis. Vonette, Taylor, MO), Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Ruth Ann, Wolcott, IN), Bro. David Hartter (Sis. Beth, Sabetha, KS), Bro. Tim Ramsier (Sis. Jonell, Rittman, OH) and Bro. Mark Ramsier (Sis. Alice, Sardis, OH). Other visitors were from Elgin, IL; Bluffton and LaCrosse, IN; Latty and Rittman, OH; Sabetha, KS; Detroit, MI and Rockville, CT.

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
FT. LAUDERDALE
Renee Mangold**

Our visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL); Bro. Tim Hohulin (Sis. Cathy, Roanoke, IL); Bro. Justin Koch (Sis. Marcia, Washington, IL);

and Bro. Dale Zeltwanger (Sis. Rachel, Morris North, MN). We were grateful to have the visiting brethren join us in fellowship and in sharing God's Word. We pray for a blessing for them.

Congratulations to Melissa Gress (Bro. Rod and Sis. Sally) and Glenn Zebrowski (Leonard and Jeannine) on their marriage. We pray that the Lord will be their cornerstone and that they will be blessed throughout their life together.

**FLORIDA
NORTH FORT MYERS
Victor Beer**

Our hearts are strongly focused this month on thankfulness as we sing: "Thank ye the Lord, Give thanks to the Lord, for He is gracious, His mercy it endureth evermore."

We're especially thankful for the many brethren and friends that are returning to our area, many to their winter homes. We're especially blessed in our song service and the blessing of help to our local ministering brothers who so faithfully every week bring us the truths of God's Word.

Our visiting minister last month was Bro. Ron Heiniger (Sis. Kayleen, Bloomington, IL). Our thanks to Bro. Ron for his service and the time they spent with us.

News of the New Beginnings:

Jayleen Faith was welcomed by her two year old brother, Joel, on September 18. Jayleen's mother, Evelyn, is happy to add pink to her family's laundry. Evelyn is close to finishing her first semester at Edison State College in Fort Myers.

Our newest resident, Christina, is settling in with her five month old son, Desmond. Christina spends her week days attending school in Fort Myers.

Recently we had the privilege of

hosting two sisters from the Forrest, IL, congregation. Sisters Emily and Katie Wenger spent three days getting acquainted with the girls and their babies at the New Beginnings. Our girls at the New Beginnings are continuing to ask, "When are Emily and Katie coming back?" They so enjoyed the time they spent here.

On Sunday mornings we have a Sunday School class for our moms. We have started studying Genesis and have had some very interesting conversations. Sis. Rhea Steffen teaches our toddlers in Sunday School. We would like to thank each one who so graciously offered to care for the babies during the morning class.

FLORIDA, SARASOTA **Kim Ott**

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."

James 1:17

As another Thanksgiving holiday has arrived, we can look back on previous days with grateful hearts and count our blessings for everything that God has given us. This season for us in Sarasota also marks the beginning of the return of our northern snowbirds and we want to welcome all who would like to visit us in our congregation.

We were thankful to have Bro. Mark Steiner (Sis. Sue, Smithville, OH) share God's Word to us this past month. We also appreciated having retired Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Sis. Judy, Chicago, IL) assist our Elder Bro. Jeff Streitmatter with our fall Communion and the reading of the Memorandum.

We enjoyed having the Hands In

Praise Team from the Jamaica Caribbean Christian Center for the Deaf express songs of praise to God through the sign language of their hands. All who attended were truly blessed to witness their testimony of God's love.

Our prayers are with Bro. Schuyler Brown (Bro. Larry and Sis. DiAnne) as he has recently been hospitalized. We are thankful that Bro. Schuyler's gallbladder surgery was successful and that his recovery is progressing smoothly.

Our Sunday School auction is scheduled for Saturday, February 25, 2012. Everyone is welcome to join us for this day. Proceeds will benefit the Sunday School classes in their events throughout the year as well as other worthy causes.

Bro. Aaron and Sis. Kim Ott welcome home their daughter, Ayana Terefech, from Ethiopia. Big sister China is excited to have a new little playmate.

GEORGIA, ATLANTA

This fall, the Georgia Division of the Midwest Food Bank began operation! It has been an incredible encouragement to watch God work out each detail of its opening. In His perfect time, He provided a warehouse, food bank manager, and the opportunity to serve ten local agencies! This past month, Bro. John Brewer Sr. was helping move two large bookcases which had been donated to the food bank. Unfortunately, as the group of men lifted one of them, it slipped and fell on Bro. John's leg, leaving an awful break. He was rushed to the hospital and had surgery that same day. He is recovering well; his testimony of trusting God's plan is powerful and inspiring! We continue to lift him up to the Lord; as well as blessings over the food bank!

Bro. Tom Bolliger (Sis. Jane; Tre-

mont) and Bro. Mark Wettstein (Sis. Karen; LaCrosse) traveled many miles to minister to our congregation in November. We appreciate their willingness to travel and joy in the ministry so much!

One Sunday earlier last month, our church was able to assemble 60 shoeboxes after church. A group of all ages from our congregation volunteered at the Atlanta Operation Christmas Child Shoebox distribution center in late November. It was overwhelming, yet inspiring to witness the 101,000 shoeboxes which were processed through the warehouse that day. We worked in teams, sorting through the boxes which had been previously packed by individuals, and removing any inappropriate and breakable items. The boxes are headed across the ocean to children who may not otherwise ever receive a Christmas gift in their lifetime! In these other countries, the shoeboxes are used as tools by local missionaries to tell families about the Lord Jesus Christ. Over its many years of ministry, Operation Christmas Child has given a shoebox to over 86 million children. Yet, that is put in perspective when this is considered; if every single one of those 86 million boxes had gone to children in India, there would still be 300 million children, just in India, who would not receive a shoebox! The harvest truly is great!

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE **Doreen Moser** **Shayla Steffen**

I Tim. 4:12 ... gives us many ways to be a good example (one that serves as a pattern) whatever age we are ...but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

~In Word ~ In purity
Our visiting ministers this month

were Bro. Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN) and Elder Bro. Dave Steffen (Elgin, IL). The pure Word of the Lord never grows old and we are thankful for the Lord's servants on earth who proclaim His Word Sunday after Sunday.

~In Conversation - In Charity

The annual harvest party was held at the Mosers. Blessings were abundant to all who were in attendance. The Lord gave us a perfect day and we spent our time in fellowship, singing, putting together a project for the needy, and making precious memories.

~In faith - In Charity

We were surprised by our Elgin Sunday school teachers and Bible school class when they came to spend a day with us! Definitely charity/love in action. That afternoon the Bible class and teachers went to ACFY in Roanoke, IL. Such sweet fellowship with fellow believers here on earth.

~In conversation ~ In Charity ~
In faith ~ In spirit

Our annual Quilt a thon was held this month! Many quilts were made to keep others warm in body and hopefully in spirit. Those who worked to keep others warm were warmed themselves by fellowshiping with others and sharing their love with those that are in need.

~In conversation ~ In Charity

We were blessed with many visitors this month and enjoyed everyone who came to uplift our small congregation in spiritual conversations and singing praises to our Heavenly Father.

May Jesus be our pattern and our example every day and may we strive to show others who we are by following all the examples in I Tim. 4:12.

**ILLINOIS
BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL
Heidi Rinckenberger
Shelley Steffen**

We recently said farewell to Bro. Bob Huber (Sis. Doris) of Plantation, FL, who passed on to his heavenly home on October 10. Our sympathies are extended to his family, especially those in our Bloomington congregation, Bro. Ryan (Sis. Terri) Huber, Bro. Dave (Sis. Debbie) Huber and their families.

We also held the funeral of Sis. Dorothy Harsh. Sis. Dorothy had moved to the Eureka Home but had worshipped with us in the past. Our prayers go out to her family as well.

Bro. Rob and Sis. Marla Leman welcomed a sweet baby girl into their family. Ali Louise is being well cared for by her older brothers, Brock and Kyle. Grandparents are Gerald (Pooch) and Louise Martin of Princeville, and Sis. Helen (and the late Bro. O. William) Leman of Roanoke.

In November, the ISU Young Group held a benefit dinner. What a blessing to see young adults excited about sharing God's Word with those they come into contact with, whether it be across the globe or across the classroom aisle. We are always happy to support them in their endeavors.

A visiting minister this month was Bro. Matt Oesch (Alto, MI). We thank him for his message.

**ILLINOIS, BRADFORD
Sandi Joos
Roseann Stahl**

“Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him and bless his name.”

Psalm 100:4

This month as we celebrate Thanksgiving we recognize our many blessings – blessings that we have not only monthly but daily.

Among those blessings is the birth of two baby girls this past month. November 11 was the birth of Vivien Kate. She is welcomed by her parents, Bro. Greg and Sis. Kristin Johnson, along with siblings, Juri, Kenneth, Elvis, and Elsa. Grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Shirley Desmet (Lester, IA) and Lou and Joyce Johnson. The next day, November 12, Bro. Phil and Sis. Beth Endress became new parents with the birth of their daughter, Autumn Marie. Grandparents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Becky Endress and Bro. Kurt and Sis. Connie Christ (Princeville, IL).

We were also thankful to have Bro. Scott Schambach (Sis. Hope, Columbus, OH) with us to minister the Word.

Our prayers this past month have been with hospital and surgical patients, Samantha Kieser (Bro. Robert and Sis. Kelly) and Bro. Philip Nenadov (Sis. Donna).

Note of Thanks:

We want to thank everyone, far and near, for the beautiful cards, prayers, and kind expressions of sympathy at the death of our dear mother. At 97 ½ years old, mother was looking forward to her eternal home. May God bless all of you!

The Family of Sis. Lucille Kieser

**ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN
Sarah Drake**

The holidays are upon us again—the special time when we can reflect and be thankful for the rich blessings God has given us. This time of year also brings special opportunities for fellowship and service. On November 5, our Bible Class held a benefit dinner for its upcoming mis-

sion trip. The Detroit choir was here for the weekend and blessed us with a performance following the dinner. Many from our congregation, including the Bible Class students, parents, and teachers, put forth much effort to make the evening a success. Thank you to everyone who gave of their time, talents, and money to help make the mission trip possible, and a special thank you to the Detroit Choir for traveling here and sharing your God-given gifts.

Other service-related events this month included Operation Christmas Child (assembling gift boxes for children and families in need) and the annual Sunday School Thanksgiving basket deliveries. We are thankful for God's many blessings and for the opportunities we have to share our blessings with others.

On November 13 we enjoyed a housewarming singing at the home of Bro. Eric and Sis. Marissa Bahler. We are thankful to have Bro. Eric, Sis. Marissa, and their children, Elliot and Ivy, assembling with us in Champagn.

We appreciate the many visiting ministers who have shared God's Word with us. Visiting ministers this month included: Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Sis. Pam, Washington), Bro. Jesse Bedolla (Sis. Bonnie, Detroit), Bro. Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue, Detroit), Bro. Nathan Walder (Sis. Denise, Cissna Park), Bro. Marshall Heinold (Sis. Jan, Ixtlan), and Elder Bro. Brad Eisenmann (Sis. Cindy, Chicago). Thanks for your service!

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Rachel Meyer

Greetings from Chicago. We thank our visiting ministers, Bros. Frank Sauder (Roanoke) and Erik Givens (Princeville), for sharing God's Word this past month.

Our dear Bro. Dan Plattner has

been diagnosed with a type of lymphoma. We pray earnestly for God's healing hand on him and strength for him and his family, Sis. Deanne, Olivia, and their unborn child. "But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold." (Job 23:10)

Our sincere sympathy is extended to Sis. Cindy Eisenmann (Elder Bro. Brad), upon the passing of her grandmother, Sis. Lucille Kieser, from Bradford, IL. She passed away at our church home in Peoria. Praise God for our eternal hope!

October 28 we shared Communion and remembered the reason we do this. On October 29 was the Sunday School Weiner Roast. Fellowship, food, and fun ensued.

Recently a ministering brother shared a sign he saw while traveling. It read, "Genuine Fake Watches". If everything that comes our way – everything – was labeled that honestly, would we be more on guard? I can be a chameleon in the world but not a chameleon with God. "He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls." Proverbs 25:28

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

Marilyn Maul

Tina Walder

We appreciated the labors of love from ministering Bro. Clark Stoller (Sis. Cindy, Gridley) who willingly shared God's Holy Word. We were reminded of the horrors of hell, the wonders of heaven, and the worm that dieth not.

Grandchildren are a special blessing. Bro. Dennis and Sis. Sharon Walder are thankful grandparents of a new grandson, Ky Joshua Walder. He was born to Bro. Jess and Sis. Kelsey Walder of Silverton, OR. He is welcomed home by siblings, Stephen, Stephanie, and Kenton.

We pray for Sis. Sharon (Bro. Ken) Eisenmann and Sis. Myrna (Bro. Ken) Weerts as they have experienced health issues this past month. We pray God will strengthen them as only He can.

Children and parents alike enjoyed putting kits together for World Relief night on November 10. What a blessing to be able to work together.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

Holly Zobrist

We were blessed to hear the provings of our Nazarene brethren, Jack and Elizabeth Lutz, on October 29. It is always a blessing how God has worked in the lives of others. May God continue to draw them closer to Him.

We are thankful for the visiting ministers we've had with us in this past month. We were thankful that Elder Bro. Dave Graf (Sis. Barbara, Akron) was able to be with us for these testimonies. It was a blessing to have Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzell (Sis. Ellen, Sabetha) with us to assist Bro. Ben with the Memorandum. It was also nice to have Bro. Mark Zimmerman (Sis. Cheryl, Eureka) minister to our congregation as well.

We were blessed with two new births this past month. Bro. Ben and Sis. Rachel Currier have welcomed Brooke Lynn into their home on November 6. Welcoming him home is big brother Mahlon. Also thankful for his safe arrival are grandparents, Bob and Sis. Janice Stoller (Lamar) and Art and Sis. Mary Currier. Ezra Dale was born to Bro. Daniel and Sis. Jessica Uphoff. His two older brothers are Zeelek and Wyatt.

ILLINOIS, LEO

Amy Gasser

Miriam Gasser

Bros. Nelson Beer (Milford, IN), John Hartman (Fairbury, IL), Kevin

Knapp (Bloomington-Normal, IL), Dan Koch (Tremont, IL), and David Marquart (Taylor, MO) assisted our local brothers in the labors of the ministry, and we thank them.

Walter and Natalie Miller announced the birth of Trinity Ann Marie on October 25. Among her adoring relatives are her brother Mason and her grandparents, Bro. Jeff and Sis. Sara Dietz. Grayson Paul was born November 4 to John and Alison Sweet, whose parents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Karen Weiss. Someday, Grayson will be a playmate for his older brother Tayden.

Olabisi Iyiola will be relocating his family to the Peoria vicinity for temporary employment. We wish him, his wife Victoria, and son Nathaniel success in their new endeavor.

Sis. Louise Steffen has moved to The Vines at Countryside, where her address is 971 Bode Rd, Room 22, Elgin, IL 60120. Her new phone number is 847-888-0099.

Sis. Lenora Steffen remains in her home at 625 Eastview St., Elgin. Please remember them as they deal with various infirmities.

Mary Kay Smithberg (Roger) had surgery, from which she has made a good recovery.

After preparatory transplant care at the University of Chicago, Sis. Maria Steffen (Bro. Dave and Sis. Linda) received her brother Daniel's donated bone marrow on November 11. Sis. Maria's health has been stable while she and her family wait and pray for the new marrow to begin its work. They have been counting their blessings and appreciate everyone's love and prayers.

Sis. Dorothy Harsh, Bro. Dave Rinkenberger's sister, passed away November 16 at the age of 89. She had been a resident of the Apostolic Christian Home in Eureka.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

**Dee Baer
Jodi Blunier**

We appreciated Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA) assisting our Elder Bro. Steve in reading the Memorandum. "The Truth remains forever; unchanging, sure, it does impart a comfort to the poor in heart." (ZH 113:2)

Bro. Jason and Sis. Jill Carr welcomed David Ryan to their family circle. Reuben, Caleb and Caroline are rejoicing along with grandparents, Bro. Tim and Sis. Donna Carr and Carlesta and Deanna Kelly. Bro. Colin and Sis. Kyla Knapp became first time parents with the birth of Dalyah Shea. Grandparents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Lori Knapp and Bro. Keith and Sis. Nadine Edelman. "Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God." (Luke 18:16)

Bro. Ed and Sis. Donna Kupferschmid are enjoying a new granddaughter, Tessa Elizabeth. Her parents are Kent and Becki Kupferschmid of Washington, IL.

We are thankful to share engagement announcements. Sis. Katie Wiegand (Bro. Andy and Sis. Vicki) was announced to Bro. Reilly Wagenbach (Bro. Colin and Sis. Barbara, Oakville, IA). Sis. Marissa Hoerr (Bro. Norm and Sis. Connie) is engaged to Bro. Kent Kraft (Bro. Doug and Sis. Judy, Lamont-Gridley, KS).

Recuperating from hospitalizations are Bro. Bruce Martin (Sis. Sheri) and Bro. Eldon Rocke (Sis. Ida Mae).

Other ministering Brothers sharing the pulpit have been Bro. Galen Rokey (Bern, KS), Bro. Dale Stoller (Fairbury), Bro. Don Manz (Junction, OH), Bro. Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO), Bro. Tony Manz (Junction, OH) and Bro. Arlen Leman (Forrest).

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

**Angela Herr
Kay Steffen**

We rejoice with Bro. Matt and Sis. Dana Knapp in the birth of a daughter, Paige Noel, born on November 17. Lexi, Seth, Megan, Micah, Joshua and Caleb are happy for a new sister. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Donna Banwart and Bro. Charles and Sis. Paula Knapp (Bloomington, IL).

Our thoughts and prayers are with those recovering from recent surgeries including Sis. Elizabeth Fehr (William and Helen) and Wade Steidinger (Bro. Wes and Sis. Erinn). Also spending time in the hospital were Bro. Ben Lorch (Sis. Marguerite), Bro. Perry Virkler (Sis. Carol), and Bro. Merle Kaisner (Sis. Marge). We trust the Lord will heal and provide for each one of these dear loved ones, as well as others who have had recent health concerns.

We appreciate each visiting minister who has been willing to share God's Word with us this past month. May God bless Bro. Tom Schambach (Elgin, IL), Bro. Kenneth Dietz (Bradford, IL), Bro. Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL), Bro. Mark Zimmerman (Eureka, IL), Bro. Les Kaeb (Francesville, IN), Bro. Todd Sinn (Latty, OH), and Bro. Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL) for their labors among us.

ILLINOIS, FORREST

**Lisa Aberle
Lynn Dotterer**

How happy when relieved we'll be
From toils and cares of mind,
And in that holy land so free
Eternal rest we'll find,
Eternal rest we'll find.

Hymns of Zion #224, verse 8

Sis. Kathryn Steidinger passed away on November 13. We extend our sympathy and prayers to her husband, Bro. Ivan, and her children: Bro. Ray and Sis. Shelly, Bro. Dan and Sis. Kathy Banwart, Bro. Glen and Sis. Holly, Bro. Bob and Sis. Linda Anliker, Lyle and Sonia, and Bro. Roger and Sis. Sheila. Sis. Kathryn has many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, and nephews in our congregation who will miss her.

Bro. Eric Bachman (Bro. Larry and Sis. Donna) has found employment in the Rochester, MN, area, and he will be assembling with the Minneapolis, MN, congregation. We wish Bro. Eric God's blessings! Sis. Brenda Bachtold (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Mary) has felt God's leading to assemble with the congregation in Croghan-Naumburg, NY. We will miss Sis. Brenda, but trust she will feel welcomed and at home in New York.

We are always thankful for visiting ministers who are willing to preach the Gospel. Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi (Lamar, MO), Bro. Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL), Bro. Michael Wagenbach (Wolcott, IN), Bro. Dale Banwart (Congerville, IL), Bro. Jerry Bauman (Rittman, OH), Bro. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI), Bro. Ron Bollier (Indianapolis, IN), Bro. John Hartman (Fairbury, IL), Bro. Dennis Rassi (Austin, TX), Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Mark Zimmerman (Eureka, IL), and Bro. Dale Stoller (Fairbury, IL) ministered to us this month.

We are thankful Tyson Stork (Bro. Reuben and Sis. Devra), Matthew Coffey (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Denise), and Mitchell Lanz (Bro. Troy and Sis. Kathleen) have answered God's call to repentance!

We rejoice with Sis. Amber Stork (Bro. Reuben and Sis. Devra) and Bro. Josh Coffey (Bro. Kevin and Sis.

Denise) as their engagement was announced.

Jared and Jenna Stork welcomed their first child, Taylor Renee. Her thankful grandparents are Bro. Lloyd and Joyce Honegger and Bro. Paul and Sis. Dawn Stork. Bro. Brad, Sis. Shannon, and Blake Brown welcomed Molly Marie into their family circle. Molly's grandparents are Bro. Gary and Sis. Jane Brown and Bro. Ivan and Sis. Cinda Fehr (Fairbury, IL).

Sis. Velma Jean Ifft and Bro. Leroy Koehl (Sis. Janita) spent time in the hospital this month. Roman Mueller (Bro. Ron and Sis. Vicki) had surgery. We are thankful he is home and recovering! Bro. Brad and Sis. Shannon Brown's little Molly will have an extended hospital stay. We will keep them in our prayers!

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD Melissa Rokey Kayla Wiegand

"Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins."

Col. 1:12-14

We rejoice with Kasey Roth (her husband David is also a convert and his parents are Bro. Alan and Sis. Joanne) and Austin and Rachel McClure as they have come by faith with a broken repentant heart. Austin is the son of Bro. Jeff and Sis. Marilyn McClure (Congerville, IL) and Rachel is the daughter of Bro. Gary and Sis. Linda Folkerts (Washington, IL). We are so thankful that God is still calling souls unto Him in repentance.

On November 12-13 our congregation witnessed the testimonies and baptisms of Norm Ricketts (Sis. Barb), Kim Zimmerman (Jason), and Fritz Hinrichsen (Bro. Mike and Sis. Gerri). Elder Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Sis. Nancy, Forrest, IL) and Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL) assisted Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL) in the weekend. We are so thankful for each of them and trust that God will continue to work in each of their lives.

We extend our heartfelt love and sympathy to dear ones in our congregation who have bid farewell to loved ones this past month.

Sis. Kathy Zimmerman (Bro. Morrie) bid farewell to her mother, Sis. Eunice Martin (Peoria, IL). Sis. Brenda Hinrichsen (Bro. Chuck) bid farewell to her brother, Terry Moore (Delavan, IL). Bro. Matt Thornton bid farewell to his stepfather, Louie Maneno (Pekin, IL). Bro. Loren Zeltwanger (Sis. Rhonda) likewise bid farewell to his mother, Sis. Edna Zeltwanger (Morris North, MN). We lift them and their families up to our Heavenly Father for comfort during this time of mourning.

We want to remember those who have been hospitalized this month. They include: Cole Steffen (Bro. Dirk and Sis. Deb), BJ Hinrichsen (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Brenda), Sis. Lydia Hohulin (Bro. Bill), Sis. Sarah Melton, Bro. Steve Wiegand (Sis. MaryEllen), Bro. Wes Knapp (Sis. Millie) and Sis. Paula Stoller.

We bid farewell to Bro. Joe and Sis. Abby Tabor and their children, Brennan and Natalie, as they have moved and will now assemble in Champaign. We will miss them assembling with us but we trust that God will bless them.

We want to thank Bro. Randy Mogler (Sis. Evie, Washington, IL) for bringing forth God's Word to our congregation in a topical Bible study.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

Perry A. Klopfenstein

We are thankful (to God) for our visiting ministers. They were Bro. Craig Stickling (Peoria), and on Thanksgiving Day we had Bro. Ron Bollier (Indianapolis, IN) and Bro. Mark Wettstein (LaCrosse, IN).

Indeed we are blessed as God feeds us by humble men who have the faith to open God's Word, and with the Holy Spirit's prompting, speak from this divine Spirit. This is an edifying means of being inspired by the truths of God. We should perhaps all be more thankful for humble men of God who are willing to stand and speak from the pulpit.

Recently, a minister was speaking about giving thanks to God. The Bible makes reference to the fact that we are to give thanks in everything. Included in this truth is the teaching that giving thanks is the will of God. So the minister posed this question to the listeners: "If whatever you have today is based on what you gave thanks to God for yesterday, how much would you have (today)?" The subtle implication was that if you didn't thank God for much on the previous day, you may not have much today!

For me personally, it was a provocative question, and one that has prompted me to focus more on giving of thanks to God, and if one is true to a proposal to thank God more, then one's prayers become more specific in thanks for a multitude of daily provisions, many of which we take for granted. The giving of thanks for a host of blessings is enriching, and makes prayer more meaningful. Likely, as we pray more, and thank God more, He (in heaven) is pleased. I am thankful that the minister asked that question.

Sis. Marilyn Schieler was hospital-

ized for a stroke. She is doing much better. God was with her as she laid on the floor for a long period of time until someone found her.

Bro. Paul Klopfenstein suffered a perforated bowel while in Branson, Missouri, and was hospitalized at a local hospital. His condition became dire on Sunday, November 13, when prayer was requested after church was dismissed. As brethren were fellowshipping in the church hallway(s), a minister took a microphone and announced that Bro. Paul was near death, and that a prayer for his welfare would be given. There was silence immediately, and a sincere appeal in prayer was made to God's father heart to spare him, if it was His will.

Those who were with Bro. Paul indicated that following that prayer, his condition did not deteriorate further, and gradually his condition improved, however minimally — and as time progressed he improved to where doctors indicated they thought he would live. At this writing he is doing better, and may soon be moved to a hospital closer to central Illinois to treat this specific ailment. Thanks to God for His mercy, and intervention. May God help where the help of man cannot reach.

We offer our condolences to Sis. Mary Ann (Kieser) Wettstein over the loss of her grandmother, Sis. Lucille Kieser, of the Bradford congregation.

A son, Blaze Gavin Hodel, was born on September 29 to Bro. Doug and Sis. Erin Hodel. His grandparents are Bro. Daryl and Sis. Deb Hodel, and Bro. Curtis and Sis. Norma Witzig, all of our Gridley congregation.

Cal Joseph Moore, son of Corey and Brittany Moore, was born on July 31. He is a grandson of Sis. Carolyn and John Yoder, Gridley.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

Annette Tanner

Julie Bahr

Our church deeply appreciated visiting ministering Bro. Craig Stickling (Sis. Jackie, Peoria) for giving our Family Worship topic "Bearing One Another's Burdens". We appreciate our other visiting ministers also: Bro. Howard Plattner (Sis. Kristen, Alto), Bro. Dean Steffen (Sis. Carol, Belvidere), Bro. Keith Hinrichsen (Sis. Tammy, Phoenix), Bro. Glenn Dill (Sis. Marilyn, Tremont), and Bro. Randall Beer (Sis. Deb, Milford).

Our love and support goes to Sis. Jennifer Rassi and Bro. Josh Furrer who were united together in Christ on November 6. Parents are Bro. Gary and Sis. Deb Rassi and Bro. Troy and Sis. Lisa Furrer (Wolcott). They will reside in Wolcott.

On November 20, Sis. Whitney Braker and Bro. Brent Dill became "Thus United"! Parents of the happy couple are Bro. Todd and Sis. Wendy Braker and Bro. Dave and Sis. Ann Dill (Tremont).

Our church extends our love and sympathy to Bro. Denny Wells (Sis. Debbie) in the loss of his dear father, Joe Wells.

Our sympathy also to Sis. Valerie Steffen (Bro. Jim) in the loss of her mother, Sis. Ellen Koehl, who passed on to her Heavenly Home on November 21.

Congratulations to happy grandparents, Bro. Roger and Sis. Margie Ackerman as they welcome a new grandbaby girl, Alayna Ann. Parents and siblings are Bro. Doug and Sis. Kary, Alexa and Brayden Mangers (St. Louis). Parental grandparents are Bro. Denny and Sis. Cheryl Mangers (Champaign).

On November 24, little Jovie Rose entered the home of first-time parents, Bro. Alan and Sis. Natalie

Zimmerman. Excited and grateful first-time grandparents are Bro. Doug and Sis. Jane Zimmerman. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Jean Martin (Elgin, IL).

Best wishes to Bro. Stan and Sis. Carol Schick as they welcomed another grandbaby into their lives. Mason Randall was born to CJ and Steph, and Austin Randall on November 13. Praising God for His magnificence of creation!

Fellowship Hall Information Now Available on Church Website

Fellowship Hall information is now available from the Morton AC Church Website. To access this information, look at the left-hand column on the 'Welcome' page and "click" where it reads FH Information and Usage Guidelines. No login is required. Our church web address is www.mortonacchurch.org.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA
Pam Fritzenmeier

The weekend of October 22-23 is now a very special memory for two young people who shared their testimonies and were baptized: Sis. Tori Stickling (Bro. Craig and Sis. Jacki) and Bro. Josh Ginzl (Bro. Geoff and Sis. Angie).

We were blessed with many visitors again on October 30 for invite-a-guest Sunday, including ministering Bro. Jedd Rocke (Sis. Marsha, Goodfield). Other visiting ministers include Bro. Brad Metz (Sis. Karen, Bloomington) on November 9, and Bro. Bill Schick (Sis. Joan, Magdalena) on November 13.

God's blessings to Sis. Lillian Koehl who celebrated her 100th birthday on October 29!

Saturday, November 5, our young group hosted the Senior Citizen Dinner. This outreach is much appreciated by our church senior citizens.

It's a blessing to witness the energy and enthusiasm of our youth!

The pre-k, Kindergarten, and 1st grade Sunday School classes and the men's group, Amazing Love, sang for and with us at our monthly hymn sing November 6. Thank you for sharing your love of Jesus through music.

Many families in our congregation have lost loved ones this month. Sis. Mary Jane (Bro. Norb) Schneider's father, Robert Orwig, passed away October 15. Retired Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer's wife of 59 years, Sis. Marian, passed suddenly into eternity on October 21. Bro. Vernon (Sis. Marie) Hohulin passed away October 24, and Bro. Dean Martin's mother, Sis. Eunice Martin, passed away October 25. We pray God will comfort each one.

Please do remember in prayer also our local missionary families: Bro. Jonathan and Sis. Bere Aupperle, and Bro. Zach Knobloch, Magdalena, and Bro. Tim and Sis. Joan Reinhard and family and Sis. Janelle Grassi, Haiti.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE
Linda Joos
Gloria White

On Saturday, November 5, Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT) assisted our Elder Bro. Jim Plattner in reading the Memorandum to our congregation, as well as serving us on Sunday. We are thankful for their love and concern for us. Other visiting ministers this month have included Elder Bro. Tim Funk (Peoria, IL), Elder Bro. Mark Streitmatter (Bloomington, IL), Bro. Ken Schneider (Remington, IN), Bro. John Grimm (Columbus, OH), Bro. Glen Steiner (Winthrop, MN), Bro. Ed Sauder (Roanoke, IL), and Bro. Fred Witzig (Washington, IL).

Thanksgiving Day was the announcement of Sis. Heidi Schick (Bro. Stan and Sis. Margie) to Bro.

Loren Kaeb (Bro. Curt and Sis. Luanne) of Alto, MI. We wish them God's nearness in the future as they plan and make many decisions.

St. Luke 15:7, "I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth..." We are thankful Alisha Knobloch (Bro. Keith and Sis. Lisa) has made a beginning. We wish her God's grace as she begins to walk in this new way of life.

First-time grandparents, Bro. Kurt and Sis. Connie Christ, welcome Autumn Marie, born to Bro. Phil and Sis. Beth Endress (Bradford, IL). Bro. Alan and Sis. Mary Ann Knobloch and Bro. Allan and Sis. Rose Herrmann welcome Nicole Ann born to Bro. Michael and Sis. Raquel Herrmann. Gerald and Louise Martin were thankful for the safe arrival of their grandchild, Ali Louise, born November 3 to Bro. Rob and Sis. Marla Leman (Bloomington, IL). We wish them much wisdom in training up a child in the way they should go.

Sis. Margaret (Bro. Earl) Feucht was our hospital patient this month. May God grant her healing and strength.

Our love and prayers go to Sis. Bertha Jean (late Bro. Harry) Herrmann, Sis. Jane (Bro. Marvin) Leman and Sis. Shirley Kieser (late Bro. David) as they bid a final farewell to their dear mother and mother-in-law, Sis. Lucille Kieser, on October 23. Our hearts were saddened at the very sudden loss of Bro. Earl (Sis. Ann Lou) Grimm on November 22. His children are Jay (Darlene) of Cortland, IL, Bro. John (Sis. Julie) of Columbus, OH, and Sis. Jaron (Bro. Adrian) Montgomery of Chicago, IL. Let us be prayerful for these families in the near future.

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE
Jamie Hodel
Judy Sauder

Isaiah 9:6: "For unto us a Child is

born, unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His Name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince Of Peace.” How thankful we can be once again this Christmas season for the King of Kings who abundantly blesses us and supplies our every need.

On October 23, Bro. Matt Steffen (Princeville) shared the Word with us. Bro. Bill Schick (Magdalena) was here November 9, and Bro. Dan Beer (Milford) shared with us on November 13.

Matthew 5:4: “Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.” Our prayers are with the family of Bro. Vernon (Sis. Marie) Hohulin (Peoria), who passed away on October 24. He was a brother to Bro. Mel (Sis. Shirley) Hohulin.

October 26 was our monthly topical Bible study. It was a presentation from local brothers about various World Relief projects.

On October 29 our Young Group raked leaves for the elderly in our congregation. Then, on October 31 the Young Group hosted the annual Harvest Party for our youth. We are so thankful for the loving acts of service our young people give to our congregation.

Our Bible class hosted a Benefit Dinner on November 5 to support their upcoming work trip this spring.

Our Roanoke congregation held ACYF for the Illinois churches on November 6 & 13. What a blessing for us to be able to host these young people and hear them lifting their voices in praise to God.

We rejoice with Bro. Mark and Sis. Stephanie Rieke in the birth of another daughter, Avery Grace, born October 22. Avery is also welcomed by older sister Sophia, and grandparents, Bro. Steve and Sis. Shirley Leman and Dean and Julie Rieke

(Jackson, MI). We also rejoice with first-time grandparents, Bro. Fred and Sis. Cheri Janssen in the birth of their grandson, Tucker Daniel, born to Troy and Jennifer Janssen on October 31. Maternal grandparents are Beth Pelz of El Paso, and Dave and Tammy Pelz of Tiskilwa.

November 19 was the wedding day of Emily Martin (Bro. Tim and Sis. Linda) and Chris Miller (David and Bonnie) of Eureka.

Our congregation welcomes Bro. Matt Thornton, formerly of Goodfield, and Bro. Fred and Sis. Jodi Leman, formerly of Denver. We pray each can feel welcome as they begin worshipping with us.

Our Thanksgiving Family Hymn singing was held Sunday, November 20.

Philippians 4:6: “Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.” We continue to lift up in prayer Sis. Ann Hodel, Bro. Rich (Sis. Janet) Knepp, Sis. Denise (Bro. Curt) Knepp, and Sis. Carol Schwab.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT Teresa Rowell Janice Sauder

Our congregation would like to thank our visiting ministers this past month. They are: Elder Bro. Tom Stock (Cissna Park, IL), and Bros. John Steiner (Oakville, IA), Fred Funk (Morton, IL), and Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL). They visited for different reasons, but their service in our behalf was a blessing!

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

Romans 5:1

We rejoice with our two new sisters in Christ, Sis. Tori Kaiser (Bro. Tim and Sis. Ruth) and Sis. Emily

Wagenbach (Bro. Ron and Sis. Liz), as they were baptized on Sunday, October 23. May God continue to guide their paths into the future. We pray that many more dear souls can experience this peace with God in their hearts soon.

Our sympathy is extended to the family of our Bro. Emil (the late Sis. Wilma) Aberle, as he has been called home to his reward on October 30. Surviving are two foster daughters, Cindy (Bro. Dick) Miller and Sandra Johnson, both of Tremont. Also two brothers from our Tremont congregation, Bro. Walter Aberle and Bro. Ernie (Sis. Frieda) Aberle, and many nieces and nephews.

It is always a joy to report new babies, and we have several this time! Bro. John and Sis. Jamie Dill welcome Isla Nicole to their family, along with siblings Parker, Brody, Grayson and Mia. Bro. Glenn and Sis. Marilyn Dill and Bro. Ken and Sis. Amy Koch are happy for another granddaughter. Bro. Todd and Sis. Beth Stuber welcome another grandson, Xavier Alan John. He is the son of Travis and Elizabeth Stuber (of Tremont) and baby brother to Warren and Wyatt. Also grandparents again are Bro. Terry and Sis. Christine Koch, with the birth of twin granddaughters. Vince and Lindsey Beeney, and big brother Logan, welcome Aimee Elizabeth and Anna Marie to their family! Another new little baby girl, Hanna LaRae, has come to join Bro. Dale and Sis. Meg Koch’s family. Big sister, Maria, and her grandparents, Bro. Dave and Sis. June Koch and Bro. Dewayne and Sis. LaRae Dill (Minneapolis), welcome her arrival. God bless all these little ones and their families.

We always want to remember dear ones who have illness or surgery. We especially have prayed for Bro. Alvin (Sis. Carol) Beutel, Bro. Chris (Sis. Ruth) Pfloderer, and Sis. Joanna

(Bro. Dave) Sauder, as they recover and find increased strength each day. May we all find much to be thankful for through good days and hard times alike.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

**Linda Folkerts
Nancy Leman**

Thank ye the Lord! Give thanks to the Lord,

For He is gracious, His mercy it endureth evermore.

Bless ye the Lord! O bless ye the Lord!

My soul, remember His goodness and His gifts bestowed on thee.

Psalm of Praise

– *Hymns of Zion #245*

Thank ye the Lord! As we anticipate Thanksgiving Day approaching, we thank and praise our dear Lord above for the many blessings of this past year and pray for His continued grace and peace for the coming year.

It is with thanksgiving in our hearts that we welcome two precious babies who have come to bless the homes of our loved ones. Bro. Phil and Sis. Jessica Fritz and their children, Amber, Holly, Benjamin and Wesley, welcomed Summer Ann into their hearts and home on November 8. Happy grandparents are Bro. Tom and Sis. Carol Schick and Bro. Ed and Sis. Sally Fritz. And likewise, we rejoice with Bro. Trent and Sis. Jenae Leman as they welcomed a new son, Crey Jacob, on November 17. Big brother, Tate, and grandparents, Bro. Dan and Sis. Tina Sutter (Taylor) and Bro. Larry and Sis. Marilyn Leman are also delighted he has arrived.

We are thankful for the dear ministering brothers who have come to share the Word with us this past month. They include Bro. Tim Leman (Sis. Amber, Taylor), Bro.

Marshall Heinold (Sis. Jan, Ixtlan), Bro. Willis Ehnle (Sis. Lois, Peoria), Bro. Bill Schick (Sis. Joan, Magdalena), Bro. John Baumgartner (Sis. Lori, Bern), and Bro. Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha). May God bless these dear ones for their service in the Lord.

We welcome Sis. Barb Johnson who has recently moved to our area and has made Washington her home church. We are prayerful for her as she completes cancer treatments and for God to grant her recovery with renewed strength. We also lift up in prayer our Sis. Frieda Mogler and our Bro. Rich Dreeste as they also face health concerns. May these dear ones feel our love and prayers.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

**Kim Meyer
Suzie Fiechter**

...I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead. Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God. Remember therefore, how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent.

Rev. 3:1-3

Are we “walking dead men”? We can look good and act alive, yet be spiritually dead! While we may fool man, we can never fool God. “He knows what dead looks like.” Our congregation was challenged by visiting Bro. Jeff Waibel (Sis. Margo, Leo) to repent and to allow Christ to fill us with His life and His ways. Then we will truly be alive! Thank you to Bro. Jeff, as well as to our other visiting ministers and their wives: Bro. Seth Gerber (Magdalena), Bro. Tom and Sis. LuAnn Troxel (LaCrosse), Bro. Steve and Sis. Jane Stieglitz (Leo), Elder Bro. Curt and Sis. Lylla Frank (LaCrosse), Bro. John and Sis. Mar-

cia Laukhuf (Latty), Bro. Randy and Sis. Becky Gudeman (Francesville), Bro. Dennis and Sis. Bonnie Kaufmann (Bloomington), Bro. Ron and Sis. Edie Bollier (Indianapolis), Bro. Brian and Sis. Jacki Huber (Francesville), and Bro. Matt and Sis. Rebekah Kaufmann (Bloomington). Most of these couples joined us in celebrating the marriage of Sis. Leah Gerber (Bro. Mark and Sis. Barb) to Bro. Ross Feller (Bro. Joe and Sis. Jacki, LaCrosse). Bro. Ross and Sis. Leah plan to make Leo their home. We wish them God’s blessings!

“Because thou hast kept the Word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.”

Rev. 3:10

We appreciate the example of humble faithfulness our Bro. Herman Baumgartner has displayed over many years, and especially during his recent illness. Our Bro. Zach and Sis. Jenny Bertsch continue to teach us by word and example of faith and trust in our loving Heavenly Father. We surround their young family and parents, Bro. Mike and Sis. Carmon Bertsch and Bro. John and Sis. Janice Rufener (Rittman), with our love and prayers as Bro. Zach battles cancer.

“Behold I come quickly: hold thou fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown. Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out...and I will write upon him my new name.”

Rev. 3:11-12

Christ has come quickly and taken several of our loved ones Home. Bro. Vernon (Sis. Luella) Geisel passed into eternity. Their children are Tim

(Donna), Jeff (Denise), Tadd (Heidi), and Shauna (Rod) Roesler. We mourn with our Sis. Lucille Frauhiger as she buried her son, Lonnie. Bro. Tom (Sis. Marilyn) Baumgartner has a new body. Rejoicing for him, yet grieving for their loss, are Bro. Lynn and Sis. Jenny Frauhiger, Rick and Deb Fiechter, Shane (Kathy, dec.) Houser, and Mark and Grace Baumgartner. Another "pillar in the temple of God" is now our dear Sis. Helen (Bro. Alvin, dec.) Gerber. She reached the age of 99 years and is survived by Bro. Leon and Sis. Mary Kay Gerber, Bro. Jim and Sis. Jeanne Rinkenberger, Bro. Jay and Sis. Deb Gerber, Bro. Mark and Sis. Barb Gerber and many grandchildren and great grandchildren. We were blessed with the life of dear Sis. Nova (Bro. Carl, dec.) Kipfer for 94 years. Her son, Walter Fiechter, and stepchildren, Bro. Ron and Sis. Linda Kipfer, Al and Bev Hodel, Bro. Dave and Sis. Joleen Sinn, grandchildren and great grandchildren rejoice in her beautiful example and life well lived!

"He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches."

Rev. 3:13

As we all strive to hear and obey the voice of the Spirit, we pray that our children will also hear and follow. The gift of new life from the Father's hand brings great rejoicing along with great responsibility. May God grant much grace and wisdom to our new parents. Kam Anthony Raber was born to Bro. Tony, Sis. Nichole, Chase and Addison. Grandparents are Bro. Brian and Sis. Deb Fiechter and Bro. Bruce and Sis. Mary Raber. Bro. John and Sis. Sue Kipfer welcomed grandson, Luke Maxwell Painter, son of Jim and Rachel. Phillip and Jamie Steffen, along with

grandparents, Bro. Craig and Sis. Jean Steffen, are thankful for little Taryn Marie. Addison Jennie Gerber arrived to bless the home of Chris and Laura, children of Bro. Lee and Sis. Jennie Gerber. Bro. Steve and Sis. Renee Reinhard are thrilled with another granddaughter, Emma Renee, born to Logan and Abby Aschliman. Paternal grandparents are Bro. Kelly and Sis. Lisa Aschliman of Bluffton North.

"As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent."

Rev. 3:19

None of us enjoys being rebuked or chastened, yet we are so thankful that God loves us enough to do it through His Word and His servants. We thank our dear Elder Brothers, Ed and Lynn, for continuing to lay down their lives to serve God through serving us. They read the Memorandum on November 13, which included some conviction and much encouragement. We pray that God will continue to grant strength and wisdom to all of our Elder brothers, who serve us so faithfully and selflessly. And we also pray that we can respond in loving, joyful obedience!

"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him and will sup with him, and he with me."

Rev. 3:20

Two souls have opened their heart's door in response to Christ's knocking: Andrew Reinhard (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Jodi) and Andrew Eisenmann (Bro. John and Sis. Trudy). Testimonies and baptisms were held on November 5-6 for Luke Kaehr (Bro. Jon and Sis. Julie), Holly Bertsch (Bro. Tom and Sis. Brenda),

Caleb Carrico (Bro. Bill and Sis. Heidi), and Taylor and Cordin Gerber (Bro. Ked and Sis. Joanne). Thank you, Elder Bro. Steve and Sis. Myra Ringger (Bluffton North), for again joining us – you are a blessing!

"Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown... To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in His throne."

Rev. 3:11, 21

**INDIANA
BLUFFTON NORTH
Jamie Longenberger
Amy Moser**

"In thee, O Lord, do I put my trust: let me never be put to confusion. Deliver me in thy righteousness, and cause me to escape: incline thine ear unto me, and save me."

Ps. 71:1-2

We rejoice with Bro. Zach and Sis. Julie Reinhard as they welcome their first child. Bree Ann was born on October 6. Grandparents are Bro. Gene and Sis. Darlene Reinhard and Bro. Marvin and Sis. Robin Beer (Mansfield, OH).

**INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE
Mildred Clauss
Jacki Huber**

As I prepare this article, we are looking forward to Thanksgiving. We have had a blessed week, as last Wednesday evening we gathered for the annual Thanksgiving Program, and many inspiring songs and inspirational thoughts were shared. We have so much to be thankful for; above all, that Christ shed His blood for the remission of our sins. On Sunday evening, we gathered to-

gether for Holy Communion to remember what Jesus has done for us! We are thankful that Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Remington, IN) was with us to assist in serving Communion.

We are also thankful for Brothers and Sisters who come to visit, and among those visiting this past month were ministering Bros. Alan Schambach (Sis. Sarah) and Dan Stoller (Sis. Deb), both from our Remington, IN, congregation, and Bro. Brad Gudeman (Sis. Teresa, Bradford, IL). God's Spirit was among us, and we thank God once again for His faithfulness to us.

On a recent Sunday, we were blessed to witness the baptisms of four loved ones. Sharing their testimonies, and partaking in baptism were Sisters Diane Clevenger (Jon) and Raquel Gutwein (Bro. A.J.), and Bros. Trevor Putt (Bro. Brian and Sis. Tami) and Thomas Putt (Bro. Mike and Sis. Donna). Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL) was here to assist with the testimonies of our dear loved ones, and we are so thankful that they took the time to share the evening with us.

Our prayers are with Bro. Jan and Sis. Val Gutwein and their dear children as they have returned to Haiti where they are serving in the Lord's vineyard. We treasure the times when our loved ones from afar come "home" to be with us, and pray for their safety, and continued nearness to and blessings from God as they serve Him abroad.

Dear ones who have had health concerns or have been hospitalized recently are Sis. Annabelle Messer (Bro. Carroll), Sis. Terri Pelsy (Bro. Dale), Bro. Ellsworth Pelsy (Sis. Luella) and our dear Sarah Johns, daughter of Bro. Earl and Sis. Stephanie Johns.

On a recent Wednesday evening, Bro. Les Kaeb (Sis. Christine) shared

a topical on "The Kingdom of Heaven". The Kingdom of heaven is within our hearts, and is evidenced by the fruit of the Spirit in our lives. Our thanks to Bro. Les for sharing with us.

**INDIANA
INDIANAPOLIS
Sandy Lichtle
Penny Schroder**

Our Fall Outreach weekend was held the weekend of October 28. Many young people, from various congregations, and our local families gathered to work on projects throughout Indianapolis. While the physical labors were greatly appreciated by the residents, we pray the message of Jesus Christ was of greater impact. Friday evening, Bro. Keith and Sis. Emily Schambach (Leo, IN) shared of their experiences while serving in Magdalena, MX. Bro. Jeff Neihouser (Sis. Sue, Morton, IL) encouraged the group on Saturday evening. He was also with us on Sunday and shared from God's Word. We pray for a blessing on all who were involved in serving that weekend.

October 30 was the ordination service for Bro. Ken Wuethrich (Sis. Lyn), in the position of Ordained Deacon. This was a special time for our church family. Elder Bros. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Char, Champaign, IL), Ron Messner (Sis. Pam, Washington, IL), Steve Gutwein (Sis. Linda, Francesville, IN) and Steve Ringger (Sis. Myra, Bluffton North, IN) shared encouragement with the church, Bro. Ken's family and Sis. Lyn, on how we can each support and love Bro. Ken in his new role. We continue to pray for Bro. Ken and are thankful for God's provision in our church.

Sis. Kristen Fiechter was engaged to Bro. Nick Hoerr from our Taylor, MO, congregation on October 30.

Their parents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Shari Fiechter (Bluffton, IN) and Bro. Mark and the late Sis. Carolyn Hoerr (Eureka, IL). Since their engagement, Bro. Nick has found employment in Indianapolis and has relocated to our area. We welcome him to our church and look forward to having them stay with us following their marriage.

The following Sunday, November 6, Sis. Kaitlin Bahler was engaged to Bro. Sam Kaufman of Leo, IN. Their parents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Annette Bahler (West Lafayette, IN) and Joel and Sally Kaufman (Toyama, Japan). We rejoice with each of these couples and pray for God's blessings as they build their relationships together, in an effort to glorify God.

We welcome Mark and Grace Zeller back to Indianapolis. They have returned from being in Texas for several months, but have decided to relocate back to our area. We pray that their adjustment will go smoothly and they will feel welcome.

On Sunday, November 20, we worshipped together during our Thanksgiving Program. Several members shared of their experiences during short-term mission trips throughout the world. They related how God is faithful to reach lives in all corners of the earth. We were also encouraged to be thankful for all He has given to us.

In addition to the Brothers listed above, we appreciated the efforts of Bro. Tom Bolliger (Sis. Jane, Tremont, IL) and Bro. Fred Witzig (Sis. Nancy, Washington, IL) during their recent visits to Indianapolis. We pray for God's blessing on each of them.

**INDIANA, LACROSSE
Julie Roche
Meagan Frank**

Our thoughts and prayers have been with little Noah Gudeman, his

parents, Bro. Glen and Sis. Kerri, and big sister Abrey as they all adjust to the sudden change in their lives. Several weeks ago, Noah suffered major injuries, particularly to his lungs, in a swing set accident, and is now in the midst of a lengthy recovery. We are rejoicing and thankful that the most recent report was very positive and his family is again being blessed by his sweet smile. We continue to pray for the Lord's healing, wisdom, and peace for Noah, his doctors, and his family as they take one day at a time.

With joyful hearts we witnessed the marriage of Bro. David Virkler (Bro. Denny and Sis. Gayle, Congerville, IL) to Sis. Betsy Dettwyler (Bro. Loren and Sis. Marlene, Silvertown, OR). Although many here were not able to attend the wedding in Silvertown, we were with them in thought and prayer, and feel so blessed to have Sis. Betsy become a part of our LaCrosse family.

We have had several brethren come and go this past month. We thank Bro. Chris Wuethrich (Sis. Carla, St. Louis, MO) for ministering the Word to us, and bid farewell to our Sis. Mary Ann Feller who has begun her winter stay in Florida.

With mixed emotions we heard Bro. Don Gudeman announce his retirement from the ministry. We thank Bro. Don, his wife Sis. Mary, and their family for their faithful years of love and service to our LaCrosse congregation. May the Lord be their rich rewarder.

INDIANA, LEO Kirby Reutter

Due to the busyness of life, my dear spouse and I were out of state for four out of the past five weekends. Thus, I started feeling even more inadequate than usual to write the next Leo Silver Lining article. But then I remembered that enough happens at

Gateway in a single day to fill the entire Silver Lining from cover to cover...

So for this article, I would like to simply relate some of the conversations I have had with coworkers over the past month. One of the first things that struck me about Gateway Woods when I accepted a position here at the "Home" was how much the staff cared for each other. This month was another textbook case of this phenomenon. "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." (John 13:35)

Perhaps you remember from a previous article that our dear Sis. Maria Steffen (recently hired Assistant House Parent at the Maple House) was suddenly stricken with an unusual blood condition. A few weeks ago Gateway employees received the following memo: "Just wanted to send out a link to active updates on Maria's health while she is in the hospital with the bone marrow transplant. She has had to have several days of chemotherapy to prepare her body for this surgery, and her body has had quite a difficult reaction to it. The transplant is scheduled for tomorrow morning. Her birthday was also this week. Please join us in bringing her before our Father's throne during this faith-building time for her and her family." Although this notification will probably arrive two months out-of-date, you can keep abreast of Maria's condition at: www.caringbridge.org/visit/mariasteffen/journal. (Reprinted with permission.)

Just this morning, Gateway employees received another round of emails...this time regarding "Grandpa Joe". Although Bro. Joe Beer Senior is not on the official Gateway staff directory, he is nonetheless the resident grandfather for the entire Gateway campus. Joe's son and

daughter-in-law (Bro. Joe Junior and Sis. Heather) are Fulltime House Parents at the Pine House, while his dear wife (Sis. Janice) puts her secretarial talents to good use for the Gateway Foster Care Department. Grandpa Joe can be found just about anywhere on campus interacting with the residents, who absolutely adore his attention.

Thus, we were alarmed when we received the following memo: "Grandpa Joe came to the office this morning and was suffering from short term memory loss and confusion. At Dr. Dearth's suggestion, Janice took him to Parkview North ER for testing. She just called to say he is regaining some of his memory and the doctors are running further tests to see what is going on. I asked for her permission to email the staff and request prayer and she said 'certainly.' Please pray that God will reach His All Powerful hand down and bring strength and healing for Grandpa Joe and be the 'God of All Comfort' for Janice as she is called to sit and wait."

Hours later, we received this email response from Sis. Janice: "THANK YOU to all who offered prayer for us during our little time of 'drama' this morning! What a wonderful comfort to have co-workers who pray for us. After a series of tests, it was determined that Grandpa Joe probably had a TIA, or mini-stroke. The doctors said that the period 24-48 hours after a TIA holds the most potential for another one. So please continue to pray for him! At the moment, he is feeling good; and extremely grateful that the confusion has passed. Thanks again for your support in prayer. We appreciate each one of you." (Reprinted with permission.)

In addition, our dear Sis. Diane Wieland-Gerber, who does a little bit of everything at Gateway, had another eventful month: She lost her

precious mother, Sis. Elizabeth Schlatter Wieland, who would have turned 97 on December 3. Sis Elizabeth worshiped for many years at our beloved Latty congregation, where Sis. Diane also attends. When Sis. Diane returned to work after a long week, she stopped by my office and told me this amazing story:

“The doctor had been in earlier in the day and stated it would probably be 24 to 48 hours, but only God knew for sure. She had been sleeping a great deal the last several weeks. My daughter, Leslie, who is a cardiology nurse, realized it would not be long before Grandma’s passing. We were sitting across from each other by her bed crying when Leslie said: ‘I think we should sing a hymn.’ Several minutes later, from down the hall, we heard this beautiful instrumental rendition of ‘Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling’...and then it just stopped. We just looked at each other in awe. Even when I asked around, I could not identify the source of music. When I talked to the night nurse later, I told her about the music and she said, ‘You maybe won’t believe it, but there was a man outside her room during the night.’ (Her window faced a courtyard and there was no way for anyone to get in.) The nurse further stated she had even gone out into the courtyard, but could find nobody.” (Reprinted with permission.)

Apparently, Jesus had called her home.

It is also newsworthy to mention that two indispensable secretarial staff members from Gateway Woods have announced their upcoming departure in December: our extremely beloved Sis. Patsy Stoller and our very dear Sis. Olivia Wuthrich. Sis. Patsy came to Gateway in 1998 to house parent; three years later she started working in the office, where she has remained ever since. Sis. Olivia came to Gateway almost two

years ago. Although we are sad to see Olivia leave so soon, she keeps coming back to the same excuse: marriage proposal. When either of these sisters is absent for just a few hours, the entire office turns to disarray and we hardly know how to function—so it is particularly difficult to think about the permanent departure of both these servants from this ministry. However, we can always claim God’s promise to Abraham: “The Lord will provide” (paraphrased from Genesis 22:8).

There is so much more that happened in Leo this month which will not receive adequate coverage. Perhaps just a few quick highlights will suffice. We praise the Lord for three more converts, swelling the Leo Young Group to more than 40 young believers. Two of these more recent converts come from a Gateway background. Perhaps more information will ensue in a subsequent article. In addition, our dear Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington) was kind enough to offer the Leo congregation a presentation regarding the Apostolic Christian Home for the Handicapped.

Finally, despite an exhausting month, it was SO refreshing to be home for Holy Communion. Although our dear neighboring Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction) was originally slated to serve at the Lord’s Table, we were just as fortunate that our other dear neighboring Elder Bro. Lynn Fiechter (Bluffton Country) was able to step in on short notice. Bro. Lynn so poetically reminded us of the cost, the calling, the commitment, and the contentment of the Christian life. In addition, Bro. Lynn further reminded us that Communion represents the commemoration of Christ’s perfect consummation at the cross.

May the Lord watch between us until we meet again.

INDIANA, MILFORD

Janie Price

Paula Haab

We were privileged to have Bro. Daren Metz (Sis. Rita, Gridley, IL) and Bro. Chris Laukhuf (Sis. Rachel, Latty) share our pulpit on November 20 and feed us the Living Word. We thank them and ask God to bless them.

We were able to meet the newest grandchild of Bro. Rich and Sis. Kathy Schlipf, namely Lincoln Cody, son of Bro. Chris and Sis. Katy Stoller (Bluffton North) when they visited Milford recently.

Needing our prayers for healing is Bro. Fred (Sis. Pat) Beer as he has been in and out of the hospital a few times for an ongoing lung problem.

It is snowing tonight and it reminds me that God is making His presence known in the changing of the seasons. This also means a New Year is upon us. In these uncertain times, may we keep our eye on the Solid Rock, Jesus Christ, and allow Him to lead and guide us.

INDIANA, REMINGTON

Jenni Honegger

Marcella Tyler

We have been abundantly blessed with several visiting ministers this past month. Bro. Todd Stoller (Sis. Pam, Latty) spent a Sunday with us. Bro. Jeff Waibel (Sis. Margo, Leo) came for a Wednesday night topical Bible study. Elder Bro. Ted Steffen (Sis. Sandra, Alto) helped us with the reading of the Memorandum. And we had several visiting ministers for our annual Invite-a-Guest weekend: Bro. Chuck Kellenberger (Sis. Debbie, Elgin), Bro. Barry Dietz (Sis. Rachel, Bradford), Bro. Ron Isch (Sis. Jane, Lamont-Gridley), Bro. Nathan Walder (Sis. Denise, Cissna Park), and Bro. John Grimm (Sis. Julie, Co-

lumbus). We are sincerely thankful for each one's efforts and fellowship. What a blessing when brethren from far and near can worship together in unity and love!

We are thankful and excited to report that Bro. Trent Bahler (Bro. Tim and Sis. Lynette) and Sis. Katie Furrer (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Pam) from Wolcott have heeded the Lord's will for their lives and have announced their engagement. We pray that they may grow together in love for each other and for the Lord during this special time as they prepare to become one in Him.

We welcome Bro. John Waibel (Sis. Mary Sue and the late Bro. Clyde) back to Remington as he has found work in our area. We are thankful that he is once again a part of our congregation.

We extend sympathy to Bro. Ralph and Sis. Helen Waibel on the passing of Bro. Ralph's sister, Mabel Buschman. Mabel was also a sister-in-law to our Sis. Mary Sue Waibel. Our thoughts and prayers are with the whole Waibel family during this time of sorrow.

We also want to be prayerful for Sis. Lynette Bahler (Bro. Tim) and her family on the passing of her grandmother, Sis. Eunice Martin from Eureka. May God who knows all of our sorrows bring each one comfort and peace in Him.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO **Marguerite Hoerr**

The month of November, 2011, started out on a very positive note when we all enjoyed a potluck at Bro. Garry and Sis. Lois Bucher's lovely home in the country. Bob and I hadn't been out very often during that time and we thoroughly enjoyed seeing those in our membership again. We visited during the delicious meal and had Christian fellowship with folks

again because we had both been ill. We weren't completely cut off from them because we had loving phone calls and also several meals brought in. Someone recently observed it's more blessed to give than to receive. This time we were on the receiving end and it was a true blessing. We thank all those who gave us so much love.

We had a gift through the mail when Sis. Lois and Bro. Willis Ehnle sent us two tapes from long ago so we could share them. One was of her father delivering a Mother's Day sermon; and the other was a sermon from 1952 that my father delivered. Bros. Henry Beer and Theo Beer worked side by side on the pulpit in Milford, IN, for many years. Henry's wife, Sis. Alice, and my mother, Sis. Naoma, were not only sisters-in-law, and sisters in faith, but Christian friends, too. This made a close bond between our families that still exists.

Our hearts are saddened over the death of Bro. Joe Wiegand from the Burlington, IA, congregation. Joe and Bob were together in Camp Barkley, TX in WWII during basic training days. Many of our 'boys' were there in 1944 and 1945; at that stage of the War it was mainly a Medical Replacement Training Center. A strong friendship developed between the two of them. We think of Sis. Lois and all of their family and share our heartfelt sympathy with them. Joe was a loving and kind brother in faith and Bob has shared many memories with me over the years of the times they spent together.

Our grandson August, son of Fred and Marty Hoerr, was in a rollover accident on a toll road near their home in Auburn, AL. We're thankful he wasn't hurt severely and is recovering at this time. God has given us this special blessing.

It's almost time for several loved ones from our congregation to move to their homes in the sunnier and

warmer parts of the country. We'll miss them but we wish them safe traveling and will be glad to welcome them back when they return. We know they will bless the churches they attend during this time, as they have blest ours. May God go with them as they travel.

Thanksgiving Day is upon us and when you read this issue we will be looking forward to celebrating our Lord's birth. May you all be blest as we celebrate these wonderful holidays.

Remember to stop in at our Valpo church if you are in the vicinity. We're located just 2 ¾ miles S. of US 30 on SR 49. We would welcome you with open arms.

INDIANA **WEST LAFAYETTE** **Beth Tonner** **Katie Widmer**

Thanks to all the visiting ministers we have enjoyed on Wednesday evening services. We look forward to the Christmas season as we celebrate God's divine plan to send His Son to save us all. The Christmas program will take place, Sunday, December 11.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

John 3:16

INDIANA, WOLCOTT **Donita Edelman** **Sasha Kyburz**

We were very thankful for our visiting minister this month, Bro. Nile Bucher (Sis. Phyllis, Bluffton North, IN). Thank you for your willingness to serve; it is such a blessing and comfort knowing that when we travel around to other churches in our faith and walk through the doors, we are

greeted with an out pouring of love, friendship and a familiar atmosphere.

First-time grandparents, Bro. Troy and Sis. Lisa Furrer, are thankful for the safe arrival of Blake Gerald Earney. Blake is the son of Bro. Tyler and Sis. Michelle (Bluffton, IN). May God grant wisdom and guidance in the rearing of this precious bundle of joy He has entrusted into their care.

We are approaching the Christmas season and with that in mind, it is my wish for all of us that we are able to remember the TRUE meaning of Christmas and are able to bring glory to our Lord God Almighty. Let us be thankful for the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ!

True Christian Christmas

Christmas isn't showy gifts, or glittering decorations,
It's honoring our Savior Jesus Christ, in humble adoration.
It's serving those less fortunate, serving their needs before our own;
It's making sure at Christmas time that no one is alone.
It's taking what you would have spent, on things that no one needs,
And using it to help someone, with service and good deeds.
Our Savior showed us how to live, with charity, faith and service,
It makes the holidays a joy, more peaceful and less nervous.
So let's remember that Christmas is about our Savior's birth;
That's the way to happiness, the way to peace on earth.
—*Joanna Fuchs*

IOWA, AMES Jacob Schulz

We had visiting ministers two Sundays and one Wednesday night this month. We would like to thank Bro. Mark Schmidgall (Sis. Sally, Oakville, IA), Bro. Pat Zaugg (Sis.

Julie, West Bend, IA), and Bro. Kent Getz (Sis. Betty, Elgin, IA) for their time and efforts. We also thank everyone else that took the time to come this month.

IOWA, BLOOMFIELD Rachel Stoller

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

Psalm 127:3

The Lord blessed our congregation with two baby boys this past month. Bro. Alan, Sis. Bethany, Emmy and Olivia Wettstein welcomed Cole Marshall into their home. Grandparents are Bro. Jake and Sis. Mary Wettstein and Bro. Art and Sis. Pam Wiegand, all of Goodfield, IL. God also blessed Bro. Tim and Sis. Laurie Dotterer with Joel Edward, but He saw fit to bring little Joel home to heaven with Him. Grandparents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Rose Dotterer and Bro. Gary and Sis. Melody Schulz (Burlington, IA). We extend our love and sympathy to this family.

We are thankful for our visiting ministers this month: Bro. Willis Ehnle (Sis. Lois, Peoria, IL), Bro. Dale Moore (Sis. Cheryl, Elgin, IA), and Bro. Philip Schulz (Sis. Kelli, Burlington, IA). Bro. Willis also spent a Saturday evening with us and told of some of his experiences in Japan. May the Lord be near each one to strengthen them on their way.

IOWA, BURLINGTON Marilyn Anderson Karla Gerst

He will gather,
He will gather,
The gems for His kingdom;
All the pure ones, all the bright

ones,
His loved and His own.

Like the stars of the morning,
His bright crown adorning,
They shall shine in their beauty,
Bright gems for His crown.

TH #332, vs. 2 & chorus

Our prayers and sympathy are with the family of Bro. Gary and Sis. Melody Schulz as their infant grandson was taken Home. This precious jewel was little Joel Edward, the son of Bro. Tim and Sis. Laurie Dotterer (Bloomfield). Sis. Laurie is the daughter of Bro. Gary and the late Sis. Karen.

We appreciated having several visiting ministers this past month. Bros. Ken Dietz (Bradford, IL), John Steiner, and Tom Lanz (both of Oakville) all shared the Word with us. May God reward them for their diligence in His service.

IOWA, ELGIN Maria Rocke Brianna Strahm

Bro. Ben Frieden (Bro. Floyd and Sis. Jan) and Sis. Traci Hoerr (Bro. Mark and the late Sis. Carolyn, Eureka, IL) were united in holy matrimony on October 23. We welcome Sis. Traci to our congregation and wish them the Lord's blessings as they begin their life together.

On November 1, Ben and Kami McCready were blessed with the birth of their daughter, Kaydee Grace. Welcoming their little granddaughter into their hearts are Bro. Jim and Sis. Marcy Knobloch and Julie McCready.

We're thankful Bro. Beirne Messner (Sis. Joyce, Morris, MN) could be with us to share from God's Word this month. May God continue to provide for each one who ministers the Word.

May now the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
The peace and love of God,
The fellowship of His Holy Spirit
Abide with us all, Yea, with us all!
Amen.
Zion's Harp #213

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE

Laura Funk

Greetings to all!

Welcoming their first grandchild are Bro. Tom and Sis. Dawn Moser. Lydia Marie was welcomed into Chris and Britany Braun's home on November 12.

Visiting ministers the past few weeks include Bro. Paul Kilgus (Fairbury, IL), Bro. Myron Knobloch (Lester, IA), Bro. Jeff Wiegand (Goodfield, IL) and Bro. Mark Schmidgall (Oakville, IA). We are thankful for the servants that bring Thy teachings.

So now again Thou hast
To us a blessing given.
Our handiwork is blest
By Thy good Word from Heaven.
Thou blassest food and drink
Our needs to satisfy.
Therefore, we give Thee thanks;
Our song shall rise on high.

Thy living Word is sent
Our souls to feed and nourish.
Thou wilt that in our hearts
Thy love and praise we cherish.
Thou sheddest light and pow'r
Upon our pilgrim way,
And lead'st us by Thy hand
To heaven day by day.

We sing our heartfelt thanks,
Thy truth and love adoring.
For guidance and for light
Thy spirit we're imploring.
Our hearts we offer Thee
For life and ev'ry day,
That with Thy grace we tread
The straight and narrow way.
Zion's Harp #13, vs. 2,3,4

IOWA, LESTER

Polly Metzger

Gloria Moser

All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
The Lord God made them all.

Hymns of Zion #207

We are thankful for the safe arrival of three new babies in our congregation. Bro. Colin and Sis. Katie Moser were blessed with a daughter, Emily Kay, on October 27. Little Emily was welcomed home by big brother, Matthew, and grandparents, Bro. Bruce and Sis. Harriet Metzger and Bro. Rick and Sis. Lori Moser. Kinley Grace was born on October 30 to Collin and Cheri Leuthold. Ty and Gavyn are excited for a new sister to love. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Mardi Leuthold. On November 12, Bro. Dana and Sis. Kary Metzger, Jeremy, Daniel and Heidi welcomed Lena Marie into their family circle. Bro. Jerome and Sis. Gail Hartter and Bro. Marvin and Sis. Joleen Metzger are the happy grandparents. May God richly bless these parents as they strive to raise their children in the fear and admonition of the Lord.

Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Bro. Phil Schulz (Burlington, IA) were our visiting ministers this past month. We are thankful for their willingness to share God's teachings with us.

Kaitlyn Ter Wee (Chad and Sandi) and Bro. Denis Meyer (Sis. Jill) spent time in the hospital. We pray that God will provide strength and healing as they both recuperate at home.

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Silas and Sis. Edith and Sis. Vera Knobloch as they mourn the passing of their brother and brother-in-law, Bro. Vern Hohulin. We likewise remember Dale and Sis. Mary Ellen

Knobloch in the loss of their brother-in-law, Clifford Edelman.

Note of Thanks:

Our family appreciates all who helped us through Bro. Verlyn's illness and who were there for us during his death and since. The many family and friends from our church and other congregations would have humbled Verlyn, but we counted it a blessing for all the cards, gifts and support.

"Memory is one gift of God that death cannot destroy."

Sis. Linda Kellenberger and family

IOWA, OAKVILLE

Sharla Wiegand

A bundle of joy, Abigail Rose, was welcomed into the home of first-time parents, Bro. Orrin and Sis. Christa Lanz, on October 19. Abigail's grandparents are Bro. Monte and Sis. Kelly Lanz and Randy and Cathy Smith.

We were thankful for visiting ministers, Bro. Michael Wagenbach (Wolcott, IN) on October 23 and Bro. Paul Zimmerman (Forrest, IL) on October 30.

Our new church building is progressing very nicely. We have been blessed with many clear weather days and expect to have it closed in before winter.

IOWA, WEST BEND

Janet Fehr

Leona Fehr

We are thankful that we can report our congregation has been healthy this past month, and we also have the joyful news of two precious little bundles! Welcoming home Kendra Ann are her parents, Bro. Karl and Sis. Denise Fehr, and her big brothers, Damon and Clint. Grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Sharon

Fehr and Bro. Dave and Sis. Yvonne Bruellman. Little Kendra was born on November 3.

Karyn Allie Montag, born November 13, will be lovingly cared for by her siblings, Katelyn, Megan, Colin, Landon, Addison, and Trevin. Thankful parents are Bro. James and Sis. Sara Montag. Karyn's grandparents are Bro. Pat and Sis. Julie Zaugg and Ed and Luann Montag.

Sis. Phyllis Banwart lost a brother-in-law, Clifford Edelman, of Sabetha, KS. We extend our prayers and sympathy to the grieving family.

As the season approaches when we commemorate the birth of our Lord and Saviour, may we contemplate it with the same awe and wonder as the wise men and shepherds of old!

When Christ was Born

Oh, sleeping town of Bethlehem
Beyond your hills afar,
There sounds the holy angels' song
And burns the shining star!
What wondrous gift has blessed this
night,
What brought this celebration?
The birth of Christ the King it was,
The dawning of salvation!

Kate Watkins Furman

JAPAN, SHIODA

Carrie Ito

We enjoyed a visit from Elder Bro. Mark and Sis. Bev Bahr for Communion. We appreciated so much their support and encouragement. It isn't many congregations where each person can meet with their shepherd—I guess that is one of the benefits of a small congregation! We ask, though, for prayers that our congregation could grow—both in numbers and in Spirit!

JAPAN, TOKYO

Manuela Denes

Marie Inoue

The fall season is underway here

in mid-Japan. The colors of leaves in our area are not so brilliant as I remember those in mid-west, but as you go into the mountain areas, their beautiful hues are more evident.

Our news this month centers around our visiting Elder Bros. Mark Bahr (Sis. Bev, Detroit) and Ed Schwartz (Sis. Jeni, Bluffton). We so appreciated Bro. Ed's ministry on Sunday morning, October 30.

As the suggested age for retirement of Eldership duties is 70 years, our Bro. Akito Inoue has retired from his duties, and Bro. Mark, anointed of the Lord for this work, will replace him. Bro. Mark, along with his wife, Sis. Bev, make this long distance trip twice a year to care for the needs here. Akito and his family was thanked for their labors, patience, and love. The Lord taught us alot, and we thank Him for this experience and a loving congregation to work with. Bro. Akito will continue in the ministry. We are thankful that Bro. Mark and Sis. Bev are willing to take care of our flock and hope that we will not be burdensome for them.

The Shioda church so ably hosted our Fall Fellowship meeting on November 5, at Budo ga Oka, located at the top of a large grape growing area in Katsunuma not far from the Shioda church. In the morning Bro. Mark spoke of 7 ways to bring forth fruit in our Christian lives. For new and older believers, it was timely to be reminded of these valuable teachings. In the afternoon there was a memorial/sharing service in memory of our dearly departed Elder Bro. Ben Maibach who was very helpful in starting/mentoring our churches here. Several told of their spiritual memories of his visits and guidance. At least two of those present mentioned that they began their repentance at his preaching. We all look forward to meet again if we can remain faithful until the end of our

lives.

We have many blessings to be thankful for at this season and always, so "Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving..." (Psalm 95:2).

KANSAS, BERN

Sheri Edelman

Jill Meyer

Leigha Rokey (Bro. Dwight and Sis. Anita) gave her testimony to the church and was baptized in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost at the end of October. It is such a blessing to see one more soul give their life to the Lord!

On November 5, Cliff Edelman (Sis. Barb, Sabetha, KS) died. Our sympathy goes to all of his family, including his son, Bro. Rod and Joleen and their children.

We offer a special thank you to Bro. Clint Beyer (Sis. Kara, Sabetha, KS) and Bro. Clark Stoller (Sis. Cindy, Gridley, IL) for ministering God's Word to us this past month at our services. Bro. Clark also gave a Bible Study about Hospitality on a Saturday night. We appreciate his admonition and encouragement, too! Thank you!

Benola Bieri continues to suffer with cancer. We remain prayerful for her.

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT

Martin Hohulin Jr.

I would like to start this month on a personal note. On October 27, my younger brother, Bro. Vernon Hohulin, went home to be with his Lord and Savior. Our son drove us and our daughter, Sis. Becky Hohulin, to Peoria, IL, for the visitation and funeral. Our prayers are with his widow, Sis. Marie Hohulin, and the rest of his family.

On November 9, Elder Bro. John

Lehman (Bern, KS) brought Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Lamont-Gridley, KS) and Elder Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City) to help read the Memorandum. At the end of the evening, Bro. John spoke of retiring his Eldership of the Fort Scott congregation. The members were polled whether they would support Bro. Randy as their new Elder and the vote was a unanimous yes. We look forward to having him as our Elder and trust God will stand by his side.

Bro. Larry and Sis. Julie Bahr hosted an all church wiener roast at their home this month. Bro. Tyler and Sis. Tina Banwart hosted a Sunday night singing in their home. Good fellowship was enjoyed by all at both events.

The Sunday School children and teachers met at Bro. Trenton and Sis. Kristi Banwart's house to fill shoe boxes for 'Operation Christian Child'. They filled twenty boxes with candy, toys, and personal items to distribute for Christmas. May God richly bless their efforts.

At the nursing home singing, everyone was reminded of the joy and innocence of little children when 18-month old Nadia Banwart, daughter of Bro. Tyler and Sis. Tina, began making her way through the residents to shake their hands. The look of joy on their faces as she approached them was evidence of the blessings of the evening. May God richly bless the little children.

Bro. Lyle Fischer has been admitted to the hospital in Kansas City. We trust him to the healing hands of our Lord.

KANSAS, KIOWA
Janice Bahr
Jenny Stewart

Love, of all gifts, is the greatest
 which the Spirit does bestow.
 Though I had a voice like angels,

lacking love, I truly know
 That I'd be a tinkling cymbal or a
 wretched sounding brass;
 For although the sound were present,
 lifeless through this world
 I'd pass.

O, Thou Spirit which has given to
 me grace to seek my Lord,
 Teach me strive for love of heaven
 and to love Thy precious Word!
 Love has mercy and is patient; hasty
 ways it does not own;
 Humbleness of mind is present;
 with true peace it has its home.

Love is of a friendly nature, does no
 selfish thought possess;
 Love is not a sin partaker, and is
 free from bitterness.
 Love is truthful, not deceitful, does
 here ev'ry burden bear;
 And, enduring, is so fruitful in all
 trials joy to share.
Zion's Harp #37

Bro. Jake Leman (Elder Bro. Mike and Sis. Deb, Denver, CO) and Sis. Tifani Bahr (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Janice) have through the leading of the God they both love and serve, chosen to take the second most important step in their lives, and become one in Christ. They plan to be married in January, and it is our fervent prayer that the home they share may be a reflection of the love of God, and ever be open and welcoming to all who would enter there.

Count your blessings, name them
 one by one;
 Count your blessings, see what God
 hath done;
 Count your blessings, name them
 one by one;
 Count your many blessings, see
 what God hath done.
Hymns of Zion #116 (chorus)

What do Thanksgiving and
 Christmas really mean to you? Are
 they just two more holidays to eat and

shop and gather with family and friends? Or are they what they really should be: one special day to be truly thankful for all the blessings God has so graciously given to us, and one very special day to celebrate the birth of the Son of God, Who was born in a lowly stable, lived and loved and healed and taught us about His (and our) Father in Heaven. And then, went willingly to a cruel Cross to die for our sins, and then rose again to go before us that some day we, too, might rise and forever live with Him in His heavenly kingdom. May we never, ever, forget how very blessed we are, and always keep our "Thanks in Thanksgiving" and our "Christ in Christmas"!

Thought for the New Year: Today is the first day of the rest of our lives. Rejoice in the Lord and be happy!

KANSAS
LAMONT-GRIDLEY
Sarah Somerhalder

Our congregation was blessed with many visitors this month and we appreciate each one. We were thankful to have visiting ministers, Bro. Brandon Emch (Sis. Maria, Kansas City, MO), Bro. Cory Metzger (Sis. Jodi, Wichita, KS), and Bro. Dale Frank (Sis. Tina, Oakville, IA) assemble with us. May the Lord bless them for their willingness in preaching the Word of Life.

Congratulations to Faye Kraft on the arrival of her second great-grandchild. Turner Jacob was born November 15 to Jessica and Ash Allen (Kansas City, KS). Turner Jacob was born on his great-grandfather's (the late Bro. Glenn Kraft) birthday.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Eileen Bahr in the passing of her sister-in-law, Sis. Ann Greiner (Wichita, KS).

KANSAS, SABETHA
Carrie Grimm
Sally Strahm

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

Ecclesiastes 3:1

Our visiting ministers this past month were Bro. Brian Metzger (Sis. Angie, Lester, IA) and Bro. Brad Funk (Sis. Laura, Garden Grove, IA). May God bless these brothers for being willing servants.

We rejoice with Bro. Rick and Sis. Komari Aberle, along with their children, Mara and Krae, as they welcome Selah Marie into their family circle. Grandparents are Bro. Roger and Sis. LaVonne Aberle and Samroeun Neal of Moundridge, KS. May God grant them guidance and direction as they raise their little family.

We are thankful God has blessed Bro. John and Sis. Betsy Strahm with a baby boy, Hanston John. Big sister, Marlys, will enjoy a playmate. Grandparents are Bro. Curt and Sis. Ellen Strahm and Bro. Butch and Sis. Kathy Doorneweerd of Lester, IA.

Bro. Gale and Sis. Belinda Kellenberger welcome Jesse Samuel on November 19 into their family circle. Toby and Ellie are excited for another playmate. Grandparents are Sis. Marian Kellenberger (late Bro. Eugene) and Bro. Darrel and Sis. Gloria Stoller of Bern, KS.

We give our heartfelt sympathy to the extended family of Cliff Edelman in his sudden passing. Surviving is his wife, Sis. Barbara, and children, Randy Edelman (Cindy) of Sabetha, Bro. Rodney Edelman (Sis. Jolene) of Bern, KS, Sis. Pam Wulf (Bro. Stan) of Morris, MN, and Brad Edelman (Teresa) of Sabetha. May God comfort the hearts of each one as only He can.

We also extend our sympathy to Bro. Harvey Wenger (Sis. Arleta) in the passing of his brother, Clyde Wenger, of Sabetha, KS.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Harvey Wenger (Sis. Arleta) and Bro. Art Kellenberger (Sis. Joy) as they have been in the hospital this past month.

Our church hosted an Invite-a-guest the weekend of October 29-30. We thank those who came to visit us. It was a blessed weekend.

We had our annual Thanksgiving meal which was held at the Fellowship Center on October 6. It was a blessed evening of singing and fellowship.

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.”

Luke 2:14

KANSAS, WICHITA
Emma Miller

My last Silver Lining article was mailed in mid October. Then on Wednesday, October 19, my sister, Sis. Ann Greiner, went to meet her Maker. We had been in church Sunday, October 16, and I visited with her by telephone at 9:00 that evening. Later in the night she called her son for help. Her 94 year old body was ready to release her to her Maker. She died early Wednesday morning. Ann was preceded in death by her husband, George, two infant children, her parents, Sam and Lydia Bahr, a sister, Dorothy Brown, and brothers, Sylvan, Lester, Ernest, Rudolph, Franklin, and David. She is survived by a son, Frank, and his wife, Anna; granddaughters, Jennifer Malcom and Lora Squier; and one great grandson; three sisters, Elsie Hemphill, Leona Herr, and I. Funeral services were held on Saturday in Wichita and burial was the

next day in the Gridley Apostolic Cemetery.

Bro. Howard Warner was relieved from pain and went to be with the Lord on November 5. Bro. Howard and his wife, Sis. Anna Marie Young, lived in the Hutchinson area and seldom missed driving to Wichita for church functions. Bro. Howard developed a talent as a song leader and Sunday school teacher. Besides his wife, he is survived by the following children: Gwendolyn and husband Tom of Escondido, CA, Don and Becky Warner of Arlington, Cynthia Warner of Austin, AR, Roiann and Scotty Brome of Fort Worth, TX, and Kevin and Gloria Warner of Hutchinson. A daughter and two sons preceded Bro. Howard in death.

Pray for our Wichita Church that it will continue to be a place of truth and that our numbers will grow.

Visitors from the Sabetha area were in town the weekend of November 13. That was also the date of the Sunday School picnic which Bro. Max and Sis. Judy Reimschisel so graciously provide for a country outing. Bro. Clint Beyer shared in the ministry for the day.

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON
Barb Huber

“But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.”

Psalms 86:15

The Lord opened the windows of heaven and the pages of His Holy Word through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. What a blessing to be in tune to His Word as a child of God, so that He may reveal His purpose to us! We are thankful to the following ministering brothers who lent themselves to be used in His service this

past month: Bro. Dennis Kaufmann (Sis. Bonnie, Bloomington-Normal, IL), Bro. Paul Kilgus (Sis. Carmen, Fairbury, IL), Bro. Rex Frieden (Sis. Vera, Lamar, MO), Bro. Steve Pamer (Sis. Arliss, Akron, OH), and Bro. Daron Price (Sis. Monica, Milford, IN). May the Lord bless you, dear servants, and all who traveled with you, from far and near, to worship with us. We appreciated all your efforts and labors of love.

Christian fellowship is always an encouragement and blessing; we do extend a warm welcome to all who may be in our area or traveling through to worship with us. You may contact Bro. Lester Huber (859) 745-2541. Church services are held at 3938 Becknerville Rd., Winchester, KY. Directions are in the ministers' book.

MEXICO, IXTLAN Matt Gerber

“Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”

Acts 2:38

What a joy it is to hear and observe a newborn babe in the faith whose life has been transformed by Jesus Christ. It often takes us back in our minds to when we were converted, and makes us want to recover that fresh love and zeal that new believers have, but unfortunately can so easily be lost as time passes.

Our hearts were stirred up as we heard the sincere testimony of Sis. Carmen Garcia and witnessed her baptism and public profession of faith in Jesus. Elder Bros. Mike Leman (Denver, CO) and John Wiegand (Silverton, OR) were present for the weekend of the testimony and baptism, and also shared Communion

with the church.

Meet Sis. Carmen...

Sis. Carmen Garcia was baptized on Sunday, November 13. As Carmen grew up, she participated in the idolatrous practices of her religion, being ignorant of the teachings of the Bible. One day she was invited to church by one of the Ixtlán sisters. When she came she immediately felt welcomed and sensed the love of the sisters toward her. Initially her husband didn't want her to come to church, but she prayed to God and her husband consented. Eventually her husband and son even started attending church as well.

As Carmen's understanding of the Christian faith grew, she repented of her past life and confessed her sins. She wanted to consecrate her life to Jesus Christ. However, due to a difficult family problem, Carmen wasn't able to attend church for a several-year period. During that time, she had a longing to keep coming to church and to learn the teachings of God's Word. Several sisters from church would visit her at home and encourage her, helping keep her faith alive until she was able to start attending again.

When Carmen was able to return to church, her hunger for the things of God was evident. She is characterized by a strong faith, a gentle spirit, and compassion toward others. Even before being baptized, Carmen had a burden to minister to the children in her neighborhood. Since their parents wouldn't allow them to come to church, she started teaching them Bible stories in her home. At times her house has been filled with 30 children, anywhere from age three to thirteen.

Sis. Carmen has a fervent desire for all of her family to be converted and to follow Christ. She and her husband read the Bible together and pray every day, and he is very pleased with

the positive changes in her life. He also attends church with her and has expressed a desire to follow her example. Please pray for the salvation of Sis. Carmen's husband, their son, and other relatives.

MICHIGAN, ALTO Listyn Oesch Melissa Blough

“Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: but rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.”

I Peter 4:12-13

We all have trials, we all have pain but in the body of Christ, in the bond of Faith we have been blessed with the power of prayer and unconditional love. This month prayers have been lifted for several families experiencing difficult times.

There are many things in life
We cannot understand,
But we must trust God's judgment
And be guided by His hand...
And all who have God's blessing
Can rest safely in His care,
For He promises safe passage on
The wings of faith and prayer.

~*Helen Steiner Rice*

Our hearts ache with the Huber family at the loss of their beloved father and grandpa, Bro. Bob Huber (Ft. Lauderdale). We are thankful we can find hope in the loss through Christ. On our knees we ask the Lord to heal the holes left in the hearts of daughter, Sis. Laurie Steffen, and her family (Bro. Terry, Bro. Derek, Sis. Carrie, Cameron).

Cassy and Trevor Ross welcomed their first child, Ryker Jay, into their

lives on October 21. With this joyous event also came some sorrow with health complications. We continue to pray that Ryker will gain strength at home. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Julie Sanders.

Two from our congregation have recently had surgeries. We lift them and their families up in prayer as they continue to heal. Titus Plattner (Bro. Aaron and Sis. Rebekah) as well as Laurie Blough (Gary).

Prayers also are raised for Bro. Joe Oesch (Sis. Melva) who recently spent time in the hospital. We are thankful he is now at home healing and regaining strength.

Denny Koehl has recently moved to a nursing facility. We pray for a smooth transition and despite the changes around him, may he find comfort in our never changing God.

Amongst all the trials, God continues to call souls and bring great joy to our Alto congregation. In recent months we have had three souls seek the Lord in repentance. Cameron Steffen (Bro. Terry and Sis. Laurie), Levi and Zachary Steffen (Bro. Nathan and Sis. Susan). Pure joy rings in our hearts as we see God at work in such young hearts. We pray the victory of Jesus lights their paths now and always.

The Banks family has moved to Alto from Columbus, OH, this month. We welcome Casey, Rachel, Luke, Caleb, Silas, and Corrina. We feel very blessed to have another family join our assembly. We pray they feel God's love surrounding them in this time of adjustment and change.

With Thanksgiving approaching, let us remember to take time to praise God for His many blessings. Let's count our many blessings and name them one by one before our Lord.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

Sarah Knochel

Janelle Ramseyer

Greetings of love in the Saviour's name!

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Neil Mosher on the passing of his sister, Sis. Marlene Mosher. Even though Sis. Marlene was not able to attend services for quite some time, it was always a blessing and encouragement to go and visit her.

We pray for continued healing for those who have spent time in the hospital recently. We trust God's healing strength will be with Bill Bateson (Lori), Dale Meylan, Sis. Helen Ramseyer, and Sis. Evelyn Wieland (Bro. Rod).

We rejoice with Bro. Chad and Sis. Rebekah Wieland as they welcomed a son, Austin Jay, into their family circle. Big sister, Tess, is also excited to have a new little brother. Grandparents are Bro. Merle and Sis. Elaine Wieland and Bro. Glen and Sis. Maria Ruegsegger.

We rejoice with Natasha Schlatter (Bro. Jay and Sis. Carola) as she has turned to the Lord in repentance. We pray that God will continue to work in her heart and many others who are dear to our congregation.

It is so hard to believe that the year is coming to a close and that the Christmas season is quickly approaching. May God's Spirit guide us towards the true meaning of Christmas.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

Kay Rauhe

"May the Lord watch between me and thee, when we are absent from one another."

Psalm 31:49

We tearfully said goodbye to Sis. Barb Johnson as she has moved to Eureka, IL, to continue with her can-

cer treatment, and we prayed that she would feel God's nearness as He reaches into her heart and lets her know that she is loved and missed!

Our heartfelt sympathy, continued prayers, and love to Sis. Suzanne and Pauline Sabados on the death of their beloved sister, Sis. Anna Sabados. Anna was a very caring and loving person and also a hard worker who will be greatly missed and fondly remembered. "Peace I leave with you. My peace I give unto you." (John 14:27) Our deepest sympathy, prayers, and love to the rest of her family and praying you're all comforted by memories and held close in God's love as you grieve.

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

James 1:17

We are excited to announce the birth of Elijah Daniel Harmon born on October 28 to first-time excited parents, Bro. Ben and Sis. Sarah Harmon. Happy grandparents are Abraham and Sarah Nolan from Livonia, MI, and Bro. Doug and Sis. Lanna Harmon from our Toledo, OH, congregation. May little Elijah always be cradled in love, surrounded by family, and blessed with happiness.

We were so privileged to have visiting ministering Bro. Howard Plattner (Sis. Kristen; Alto, MI) with us on November 1 and on November 13. We always learn so much from his sermons and certainly appreciated his willingness to share the Word and to "serve the Lord with gladness." (Psalm 100:2). In between the above-mentioned dates, they spent time with the Residents at Woodhaven Retirement Community. Thank you so very much, Bro. Howard and Sis. Kristen!

On November 5 and 6, our choir

traveled to Champaign, IL, to worship, to fellowship, and to praise the Lord with song. Everyone had a wonderful time and look forward to being with our loved ones there in the near future.

We were encouraged to remember Sis. Florence Wieland in our thoughts and prayers as she was in the hospital, and we missed worshipping and fellowshiping with her. Sis. Bonnie Popp has requested our prayers as she was in the ICU at Henry Ford Hospital after she passed out and learned that she has a pulmonary embolism. A few days ago we heard that she was out of the ICU, then a few days later released from the hospital and now is resting at home. She was so very thankful for all of our prayers. How wonderful it is to once again see both of our dear Sisters in church...God is so good!ow exciting is was to see both of our dear Sisters

As Thanksgiving quickly approaches, let's remember to count our blessings and be thankful for ALL that God has given us. "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; His mercy is everlasting and His truth endureth to all generations." (Psalm 100:4-5)

We were so thankful that our prayers were answered when Elder Bro. Mark and Sis. Bev Bahr returned safely home from their trip to Japan. The two congregations there are so grateful for the Lord being so real in their lives. God's grace and truth..."For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ." John 1:17...are evident in the lives of dear friends, converts, and brethren. Even as angels rejoice over one convert...adding one new Christian there is so moving and has such a huge impact and, therefore, hope for the future. May we all be

bound together in the Saviour's love, and a great way to do that is to mention them often in our prayers.

A warm and hearty thank you to everyone who came and were a part of the Saturday, November 12, Apostolic World Relief Meeting. We appreciated learning about all of the recent updates and other valuable information. We very much enjoyed the fellowship of brethren from various churches, along with a Saturday evening singing and then Sunday with the privilege of worshipping together!

When thanking the ladies at church for making sandwiches for those in need in an earlier article, it was mentioned that our gentlemen are also busy helping, so our thanks to them for being willing to take some time out of their day to help others.

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

1 John 4:12

MINNESOTA MINNEAPOLIS

Tim McMillan

We began November reading Joel 2:1, "Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain; let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the Lord cometh, for it is nigh at hand." I know I could sound my trumpet louder, longer, and more often. May the Lord give us all the strength and wisdom to do so for the sake of all men and the glory of God!

We are thankful to the Elder body for their work in keeping the church on the righteous path. We spent time reading the Memorandum this month. Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Remington, IN) was kind enough to visit and assist in the reading. He shared the Word the following

morning along with visiting Bro. Duane Metzger (Sis. Ruth, West Bend, IA). May the Lord keep all our ministering brethren strong in spirit.

Again we are faced with joy and sorrow this month. Joy in the arrival of a brother moving to the area. We welcome Bro. Eric Bachman from Forrest, IL. He has moved to Minnesota and will be joining us in worship. The sorrow is in the announced retirement of ministering Bro. Don Miller (Sis. Bernadine). Bro. Don's grandfather and father ministered unto the church. He stated that with his retirement, 90 years of continuous preaching has come to an end in his family. We are thankful for the sermons Bro. Don has spoken over the years and hope for the best for him and Sis. Bernadine. May their rewards be many in Heaven.

We also read from Colossians to begin this month. Would you please take a moment to refresh your memory on the importance of singing by reading Ch. 3 vs. 16?

They above are ever singing anthems God has taught to them, and He faileth not in teaching us to sing and praise His name. He hath now our hearts inspired, with a true and fervent love, gifted us with voice and talents, thus to praise His name above.

Hymns of Zion #1, vs. 2

MINNESOTA, MORRIS Kim Feuchtenberger Susie Wulf

We were very thankful to have visiting brethren on the pulpit with us. Bro. David Hartter (Sis. Beth, Sabetha, KS), Bro. Ron Isch (Sis. Jane, Lamont-Gridley, KS) and Bro. James Koehl (Sis. Hilde, San Diego, CA) ministered God's Word to us.

We are thankful Michael Joos (Bro. Harv and Sis. Deb) and Troy

Backman (Bro. Steve and Sis. Cathy) found the need and grace to turn to God in repentance. "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise as some men count slackness; but is long suffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." (II Peter 3:9)

Three new babies were added to our congregation. On November 11, Benjamin Scott was welcomed home by Bro. Scott, Sis. Alyssa and big sister, Allison Wulf. Kaley Mae was born to Bro. Derek and Sis. Annie Knapp on November 15. Big sister Kelsey will be a big help. Also on November 15, Milan Levi was born to first-time parents, Bro. Levi and Sis. Anna Koehl. May God be with each family as they raise their children in the fear and nurture of God.

Our Bro. Kenny Feuchtenberger continues to spend time in the hospital. May we still remember Kenny and his family in prayer.

Note of Thanks:

A sincere thank you for all cards and gifts on my 95th birthday. May God bless and keep you.

Lotsa love,

Sis. Thelma Dogotch

**MINNESOTA
MORRIS NORTH
Wanda Gramm
Lois Schmidgall**

"Harvest.....a time for Preparation" was the theme for our 2nd annual church harvest supper. We so enjoyed working together to make this evening an evening of praise to our God, and fellowship with our church family and the many visitors that joined us. We were thankful that our Elder Bro. Paul Messner (Sis. Jan, Winthrop) could join us for this event and that Bro. Paul could share scriptures and thoughts on "The Time for Preparation". We were also encouraged to accept

the invitation to apply our 2011 Harvest Supper theme, "A Time for Preparation" ...to continually prepare our hearts to be a sanctuary that is:

- A Sacred Place
- A Consecrated Spot
- A House dedicated to Worship of God
- A Place where Divine Service is preferred
- A Sacred and Secure Refuge
- And a Place of Shelter and Protection

The question being— Will you accept the invitation to "prepare"?

Our church enjoys joining in raising our voices unto God and once a month visits the shut-ins. This month we visited the West Wind Village.

The Scripture reminds us to "Study to Shew Thyself Approved" and we are so thankful for Bible studies such as Crown Financial and other marriage Bible studies that we are able to take part in. Thank you to those Brothers who are giving their time to institute these Bible studies that have been such a blessing to us.

We appreciate our visiting Brothers, who have come to serve us this past month: Elder Bro. Paul Messner (Sis. Jan, Winthrop, MN), Bro. Dean Messner (Sis. Wanda, Winthrop, MN), Bro. Scott Wegman (Sis. Dawn, Taylor, MO), Bro. Merlin Meyer (Sis. Marilyn, Lester, IA), Bro. Kevin Banwart (Sis. Sandy, West Bend, IA), and Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger (Sis. Peg, Goodfield, IL). Thank you to our visitors and also our home Brothers, Bro. Dale and Bro. Doug, for giving of yourselves for the furtherance of the Word. May the true Spirit of God be with you.

Sunday evening many of us got together to pack shoe boxes for the needy. It is such a rewarding time to see how the love from young to old

reaches out to those who are in need. After we packed 102 boxes, we enjoyed a chili supper/potluck meal, and fellowship. The Word tells us that it is so much better to give than receive.

Our Sis. Joan Schmidgall recently returned from a work trip to Haiti. We are thankful that she could use her talents to help those in need and are thankful that she has returned safely.

God has reached down and taken a new angel from our church family. Sis. Edna Zeltwanger passed away November 13. She is survived by three sons, Bro. Dale (Sis. Rachel), Morris North, Bro. Loren (Sis. Rhonda), Goodfield, IL, and Rollyn (Jody) of Hancock, MN, and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. We will miss her but will look forward to meeting again in the heavens above.

We are thankful for God's healing power in those who have spent time in the hospital: Bro. Floyd Schmidgall, Sis. Josie Esterling, Sis. Brenda Knobloch and Deb Gunderson.

Sunday, November 20, our church enjoyed its Thanksgiving Dinner together. Such a rich heritage is ours; we have so many blessings and need to remember those blessings not only on Thanksgiving week, but the whole year through.

Thank you to all of you who have come to visit us this past month. We so appreciate your love and fellowship and want to invite any that may be in our area to come and visit us.

"Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make His paths straight."

St. Mark 1:3

**MINNESOTA, WINTHROP
Lindsay Schmidt
Heather Steiner**

"Many are the afflictions of the

righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.”

Psalm 34:19

Our prayers have been with Bro. Elmer (Doc) Schmidt (Sis. Hazel) as he experiences afflictions of the body. May God grant him strength and healing.

“For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith. For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.”

Romans 12:3-5

We have again voted for our trustee board. We extend our thanks to Bro. Glen Steiner (Sis. Rachel) as he finishes his term as treasurer, and give our support to Bro. Brett Messner (Sis. Becky) as he takes on this responsibility. We also thank Bro. John Elder (Sis. Joleen) for his past efforts as a trustee, and for being willing to serve another term.

“O God, thou hast taught me from my youth: and hitherto have I declared thy wondrous works.”

Psalm 71:17

Our Sunday School students hosted the annual 55 and Over Supper. Guests shared their memories of first jobs and activities as youngsters. The reflections shared by the guests were greatly appreciated. Thank you to the students and teachers for their efforts in making this a memorable evening.

“Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth

through us thanksgiving to God.”

II Cor. 9:11

In this season of Thanksgiving, we pause to reflect on the abundant and various blessings God has given us. May we each thank God with our mouths, but more so by living in service to Him!

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY **Brittany Fehr**

Several from our congregation were recently able to travel to Bay City, MI, for the wedding of Bro. Nate Smith and Sis. Ann Jacobs. We pray that God will bless this couple as they begin their life as one in Him, and we welcome Sis. Ann to our congregation here in Kansas City!

Our recent visiting ministers include Bros. Glen Funk (Sis. Sally, Wichita, KS), Brad Strahm (Sis. Michelle, Bern, KS), Larry Bahr (Sis. Julie, Fort Scott, KS) and Dave Hartter (Sis. Beth, Sabetha, KS). Also, Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Sis. Jane, Bluffton, IN) was the visiting minister during our Single Group invite weekend. May God richly bless these brothers for their efforts. We have appreciated a large number of other visitors lately, as well, including those who were present for our annual church wiener roast and those who came for our Single Group and all-church invite-a-guest weekends.

It is truly a joy whenever a soul comes to the Lord in repentance, so we are rejoicing with our new convert, Blake Meyer (Bro. Devere and Sis. Michelle), and his family! We continue to pray for Blake and ask God to provide for him as he strives to overcome temptation and turn away from the pleasures of this world. When souls turn their hearts to the Lord in repentance, we are reminded again of the gift of salvation God offers each of us; may we all strive to live obediently

in order to demonstrate our thankfulness.

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

Our thoughts and prayers go to Bro. Charles and Sis. Alice Marti as they mourn the passing away of his sister, Sis. Eunice Martin (the late Bro. Ray) from Eureka. May God comfort them and their families.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS **Kary Mangers**

October's visiting minster was Bro. John Rassi (Sis. Heather, Tremont). We appreciate their support as well as the families that joined them. We pray that each of you took time to count your many blessings as you celebrated Thanksgiving. May each of us keep this attitude as we head into the Christmas season.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR **Melissa Reiman**

Merry Christmas. I had a thought the other day, I wonder what people think about when they hear “Merry Christmas”? Do they think about santa claus, Christmas trees, presents under the tree, and oh my, I forgot to get a present for Cindy? When I think of Christmas, my mind goes back to the sound of little children singing Christmas carols about a little baby that was born in a manger so many years ago who would become our risen Savior. It's like I can almost hear the angels that sang to the wise men, Glory to God in the Highest! So this Christmas, if you are running to the stores to finish up last minute shopping, turn the radio off, put the car in park, and remember the greatest gift ever given to us, Jesus Christ.

Bro. Josh Furrer and Sis. Jennifer Rassi were united in marriage on No-

vember 6. Congratulations to you and may God richly bless your marriage for many years to come.

Bro. Nick Hoerr is engaged to Sis. Kristen Fiechter (Bro. Mike and Sis. Shari) from Indianapolis, IN. We are happy for you.

We would also like to thank the HIS Ranch staff members that have left to go back home. We will definitely miss Sis. Annelise Hoerr (Phoenix, AZ), Sis. Ruth Virkler (Remington, IN) and Bro. Ben Lindberg (Atlanta, GA).

We had two sisters that were in the hospital this past month. They were Sis. Tricia Banwart and Sis. Diane Sutter. We are thankful they are back home and doing well.

**NEW YORK
CROGHAN-NAUMBURG
Hope Graves**

We enjoyed the chance to celebrate the recent marriage of Bro. Jacob and Sis. Emily Farney. A home reception was held here at the Croghan Fire Hall on Saturday, November 5. There were many visitors from away, including Emily's parents, Bro. Curt and Sis. Ellen Strahm, from Sabetha, KS. It was a blessed opportunity for us to meet some of her family as we welcome her to our congregation. A singing was held that evening at church and we were blessed to see the seats so full!

Our prayers went out to Sis. Anna Mellnitz who was hospitalized this past month.

As the Thanksgiving season is again upon us, may we remember to always have a thankful heart for the many blessings in our lives each day.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise Him, all creatures here below.
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

Hymns of Zion # 95

**OHIO, AKRON
Erika Gal**

“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

Our thoughts and prayers have been with our Sis. Lynell (Bro. Ron) Palitto during her surgery and hospitalization. We are so thankful to have her smiling face with us again at church.

We are always thankful for our visiting ministers. This month we especially want to thank Bro. Jerry Bauman (Sis. Martha, Rittman) and Bro. Ted Luginbuhl (Sis. Stephanie, Smithville). May God continue to use these dear brothers in His service.

**OHIO, COLUMBUS
Esther Saurer**

We have been blessed with a new addition to our Columbus congregation! We welcome Dominic Wade who was born to Bro. Scott and Sis. Hope Schambach on Friday, October 21. May God continue to bless the Schambach family as they grow.

We would like to thank our visiting ministers for their service in the ministry this month: Bro. Tom and Sis. Connie Schambach (Elgin, IL), Bro. Ted and Sis. Stephanie Luginbuhl (Smithville, OH) and Bro. Chris and Sis. Rachel Laukhuf (Latty, OH). We appreciate you traveling to our congregation and sharing God's love with us.

Our prayers are with Bro. Casey and Sis. Rachel Banks and their family as they have moved to the Alto, MI, church. We will miss them in Columbus. Bro. Nathan Knochel will also be

missed here as he has recently moved to the Austin, TX, area.

**OHIO, JUNCTION
Vicki Boroff**

Our congregation was blessed to observe the wedding of Sis. Tami Manz (Bro. Les and Sis. Karen) to Bro. Brad Hartzler (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Bev) of Rittman, on November 13. We wish them God's many blessings as they begin their life together.

That same Sunday, we were additionally blessed to have several visiting ministers: Bros. Art Ingold (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman), Gary Sinn (Sis. Paulette, Latty), and Todd Stoller (Sis. Pam, Latty). Bros. Fred Domka (Sis. Connie, Mansfield), and Matt Manz (Sis. Deanna, Toledo) also blessed us with their service.

After many faithful years of service to our congregation (more than forty-two years!), Bro. Ben Manz (Sis. Carolyn) has decided to retire. We are thankful for his service.

We pray for our hospital patients and those that have need of a healing hand.

Bro. Ben Manz (Sis. Carolyn) is pleased to announce that his granddaughter, Brittany, and her husband had a baby boy, Carson Benjamin, on November 10. On November 20, Sis. Sue and Bro. Roger Gasser welcomed a new granddaughter, Mailey Kate, born to Sis. Mindy and Bro. Caleb Stoller (Latty).

Bro. Chris and Sis. Erica Manz welcomed home two very special bundles this month. Twins Jalen Opiyew and Jordan Uchan Manz, 3 years of age, arrived home from Ethiopia on November 17. We look forward to welcoming them, and hope that all of the changes aren't too overwhelming as they adapt to their new home.

OHIO, LATTY
Carmen Eisenmann
Mindy Stoller

My soul rejoices to pursue the paths
of truth and love,
Till glory breaks upon my view in
brighter worlds above.

Hymns of Zion #16

We met together this past month to hear the Memorandum exhortation given by our Elder Bro. John Laukhuf (Sis. Marcia) and Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Sis. Clara, Bloomfield, IA). We shared a blessed evening and were so thankful for our Brothers' efforts.

Visiting ministers this past month include Bro. Nelson Beer (Sis. Minnie, Milford, IN), and Bro. Justin Koch (Sis. Marcia, Washington, IL). As always, we are so thankful for their service to us!

Bro. Trent and Sis. Jodi Stoller welcomed home a little boy, Kolson Craig, on October 25. Excited siblings include Abbie, Kyle, Addison, and Aubrie. Grandparents include Bro. Craig and Sis. Ruth Stoller. We rejoice with them and pray for God's blessing and guidance as their family circle grows!

We laid our dear Sis. Elizabeth Wieland to rest recently. Her children include Sis. Diane Gerber. May the family feel our love and prayers during this difficult time.

Many of our loved ones have been hospitalized or undergone surgery recently for various reasons. Bro. Tom Grant (Sis. Delores), Sis. Lillian Schlatter, Sis. Renee Sinn (Bro. Walt), Dwight Stoller (Sis. Lori), Bro. Delmar Stoller (Sis. Marguerite), and Bro. Bruce Laukhuf (Sis. Vickie) have been in our thoughts and prayers. We pray the Lord will bless, comfort, and heal them.

OHIO, MANSFIELD
Tami Griffey

With joy, Bro. Curt and Sis. Elizabeth Walter are thankful for the safe arrival of their daughter, Aliya Helen, who was born October 17. Excited siblings, Jadon, Raya and Shiloh, welcomed her home. Grateful grandparents include: Elder Bro. Mark and Sis. Jeannine Masters, and Bro. Charles and Sis. Karen Walter (Silverton, OR).

The Memorandum letter reading was October 29 and Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Remington, IN) assisted Elder Bro. Mark Masters in this work. We thank Bro. Dan and his wife for their labors of love on our behalf. We thank God for His continued guidance and direction in our church and lives. Bro. Matthew Manz (Sis. Deanna, Toledo, OH) shared God's Word with us Sunday.

October 30 was the annual Fall Outing and our Sunday School students gathered together for activities with their classes followed by a potluck supper and singing for all.

Invite a friend weekend was hosted November 12-13. A potluck supper and singing were held at the Fellowship Hall and we thank all who participated in the weekend. Visiting ministers included Bro. Wes Moser (Sis. Esther, Lester, IA) and Bro. Paul Zimmerman (Sis. Loretta, Forrest, IL).

Sis. Sue Sauder has our love and prayers as she recovers after a recent outpatient surgery.

Our prayers are extended to Sis. Theresa Keiper (Bro. Phil) whose sister, Louise Kemp, passed away on November 1.

In closing, a Sunday School teacher summarizes the Christmas story using the Sunday School song titles our children sing: "O, Come All Ye Faithful" back to that "Silent Night" long ago. Where "Once in David's Royal City", "While Shepherds

Watched Their Flocks by Night", as "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear" that "Angels From the Realms of Glory" sang out "The First Noel". While "The Beautiful Star of Bethlehem" shone above, the "Angels We Have Heard on High" told those same shepherds to "Tiptoe Softly to the Manger" and see "The Babe of Bethlehem". For Jesus was born "Away in a Manger" because there was "No Room for the Savior" at the inn. So "Little Children Can You Tell?" and "Ring Your Little Christmas Bell" for "The Birthday of a King" who brought "Joy to the World" in "The Story That Never Grows Old." (by Sis. Melinda Matuch)

OHIO, RITTMAN
Jenny Rupp
Marge Stoller

Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty Baltic welcomed another grandchild into the family on November 7. Emil and Angie Baltic (Clearwater, FL) became the parents of little Emma Joy. Big brother Owen is happy for a sister. Bro. Eric and Sis. Lisa Gasser, along with siblings, Caleb, Clara, Corbin and Calvin, were delighted to add Carsten Eric to their family on November 8. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Ellen Gasser and Bro. Richard and Sis. Pat Steiner. November 14 was the birthday of Coulter Nicholas born to Nate and Whitney Sample. Happy and blessed grandparents are Terry and Dorothy Sample and Bro. Steve and Sis. Mary Lynn Stoller. We rejoice with these families with new babies.

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

Matthew 5:4

We mourn with the families that lost loved ones. On October 23, Ruth Aebi (Gerhart, dec.) passed into eternity. Surviving are a daughter, Pat

(Dave) Graham, and two grandchildren, Gregory (Gina) Graham and Shannon (Scott) Darnell.

Robbie Darnell and Laya Marie Barker, newborn twins of Kelly and Jacky Barker, died November 6. Grandparents left to mourn are Greg and Deborah Blough, Sis. Peggy and Greg Tieche, and Wilbur and Brenda Barker.

Then on November 11, Bro. Dale Everhard went to his eternal rest. Surviving are his wife, Sis. Margaret, and his children, Ken (Sarah) Everhard and Sis. Kathy (Bro. Jeff) Ryan, and grandchildren, Sis. Jennifer Ryan and Katie and Joshua Everhard. Our prayers are with all those in bereavement that God may comfort and sustain them in their hour of need.

Three couples were united in marriage this month. On October 23, Bro. Joel Isch (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Linda, Philadelphia, PA) and Sis. Laura Bauman (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Martha) became husband and wife. November 4 was the wedding day of Brandon Kipfer (Bro. Jon and Sis. Suzanne) and Stacey Buchwalter. Then on November 13, Bro. Brad Hartzler (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Bev) and Sis. Tami Manz (Bro. Les and Sis. Karen, Junction) were wed in Junction, OH. We pray for God's guidance and blessings in their lives.

We are so happy to report that we have a new convert, Nolan Gasser (Mary Lou Gasser, mother; and Sis. Lucy Gasser, grandmother {Bro. Albert, dec.}). May he earnestly contend for the faith.

A major change has come to our church in Rittman. Our dear Elder Bro. Merle Hartzler (Sis. Bonnie) is retiring from the ministry and as our Elder. Bro. Merle was given duties as a minister in 1985 and then ordained Elder of Rittman Church in 1999, serving our beloved church for 26 years. We are most appreciative of his

humble love of God and the church. We are also appreciative of his many faithful labors and sacrifices on behalf of the church. On November 6, an Appreciation Singing was held at the Rittman church for Elder Bro. Merle and Sis. Bonnie and their family. An estimated 1000 people attended, even overflowing into the balcony. May God reward and bless him with peace and His nearness.

Hospital patients this month include Bro. Ed (Sis. Marilyn) Trent, Bro. Lawrence (Sis. Mary, dec.) Stoller, Bro. Bob Dotterer (Sis. Mardel), Walter (Betty) Marquart, Sis. Elverna (Alvin, dec.) Zollinger, and Sis. Vi (Bro. Mitch) Baltic. We pray the Lord will heal and strengthen each one as He sees best.

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Jerry Isch (Philadelphia, PA), Bro. Mark Rufener (Mansfield, OH), Elder Bro. Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL), Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT). We often lift up our ministers in prayer.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE

Lydia Dotterer Gina Brake

Our prayers are with those who have lost loved ones recently. Bro. Dick and Sis. Marie Beery's sister-in-law, Ruth Aebi, passed away on October 23. Sis. Mary Ann Zollinger (Bro. Dave) lost her brother, Walt Ritzman, on November 1. May each of these families feel God's nearness.

We also remember in prayer those who have spent time in the hospital. Bro. Gary Maibach (Sis. Mary Ann), Sis. Sue Steiner (Bro. Mark), Jim Gasser, Nathan Beery (Bro. Dwaine and Sis. Shelly), and Sis. Gail Rigggenbach (Bro. Don) have all been hospitalized recently. May God be with each one and their families.

“Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”

Acts 2:38

We were so thankful to witness the baptisms of four souls on October 30. We pray for God's continued grace upon Bro. Wayne Stoller (Bro. Dan and Sis. Kim), Bro. Nelson Stoller (Bro. Scott and Sis. Charlene), Sis. Bethany Indermuhle (Bro. Brian and Sis. Bev), and Sis. Marcy Stoller (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Millie). Assisting on the pulpit that weekend were Elder Bro. Ted Steffen (Sis. Sandra, Alto, MI), Bro. Don Manz (Sis. Connie, Junction, OH), Bro. Mike Ursu (Sis. Barb, Kitchener, Ontario), Bro. Don Steidl (Sis. Nan, Akron, OH), and Bro. Clark Stoller (Sis. Cindy, Gridley, IL).

November 5 was the reading of the Memorandum in Smithville. Elder Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Sis. Nancy, Forrest, IL) was here to assist with that work. We pray for God's guidance for all those who speak His Word.

We rejoiced with Bro. Craig Stoller (Bro. Ed and Sis. Verla) and Sis. Lynelle Stoller (Bro. Scott and Sis. Charlene) as their engagement was announced on November 13. May God bless this couple as they prepare for marriage.

OHIO, TOLEDO

Teresa Rywalski Deanna Manz

“Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season, reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.”

II Timothy 4:2

We wish to thank Bro. Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue, Detroit) and Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emmy, Junction)

for preaching the Word of God to us this month. How grateful we are for their willingness to be used in God's service.

We are thankful for the safe arrival of another precious baby! First-time parents, Bro. Ben and Sis. Sarah Harmon, welcomed Elijah Daniel on October 28. Elijah's grandparents are Bro. Doug and Sis. Lanna Harmon, and Abraham and Sarah Nolen.

OREGON, PORTLAND

Rebekah Jones

We were privileged this month to have the Word shared with us from visiting ministering Bro. Todd Zollinger (Sis. Michelle, Silverton, OR). Elder Bro. John Wiegand (Sis. Jane) also shared the Lord's message with us, as well as the Communion exhortation. We were reminded to examine ourselves and prepare our hearts for the upcoming Communion. May we always be ready to take part in the Lord's suffering.

OREGON, SILVERTON

Kris Luthi

Deb Roth

"And He took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me."

St. Luke 22:19

Elder Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen, Kansas City, MO) assisted our Elder Bro. John Wiegand in the giving of Holy Communion this month. We thank Bro. Randy and his wife for spending the weekend with us and joining us for this special occasion. It is good to pause and examine our spiritual life in preparation for this time, and to then be able to partake in what the Lord has provided

for us.

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

Ruth 1:16

Sis. Betsy Dettwyler (Bro. Loren and Sis. Marlene) and Bro. David Virkler from LaCrosse, IN (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gayle, Congerville, IL) were joined in holy matrimony on November 6. Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, LaCrosse) was here to assist in the marriage ceremony, and we enjoyed many other visitors from across the land. While we will miss Sis. Betsy as she makes her new home in Indiana, we look forward to her visits in the future. We wish them the Lord's richest blessings as they begin their life together.

Two families have been blessed with little ones in their homes. Bro. Jesse and Sis. Kelsey Walder welcome Ky Joshua. Ky's excited siblings are Stephen, Stephanie and Kenton. Grandparents are Bro. Terry and Sis. Ann Kuenzi and Bro. Dennis and Sis. Sharon Walder (Cissna Park, IL). Heidi, Caleb, Nathan and Meredith Dettwyler are happy to welcome home Matthew Loren. Bro. Kevin and Sis. Jill Dettwyler are Matthew's parents, and grandparents are Bro. Loren and Sis. Marlene Dettwyler and Bro. Jim and Sis. Joan Dietrich. We wish both of these families the grace and wisdom of the Lord as they raise their families to know and serve Him.

Sis. Kellie Kuenzi (Bro. Monte) was a surgical patient this month, and Bro. Rich Kuenzi (Sis. RosaLee) is experiencing some health concerns. We lift them up in prayer that the Lord will restore health and they will be feeling better again.

PENNSYLVANIA PHILADELPHIA

"Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace"

Ephesians 4:3

We were blessed to have Elder Bro. Paul Messner (Sis. Jan) with us this month to help our Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand read the Memorandum. There were many sound and principled instructions for us as God's children that will show the Father how much we love Him by keeping His commandments. We have been called to a more excellent way, and are thankful for the kind and loving examples that were shared with us. May God bless these brothers as they labor on the walls of Zion.

We are thankful that Bro. Jamin and Sis. Lauren Steffen's twin boys (Reuben and Eli) are doing better after a time in the hospital due to viral infections. We are reminded to be grateful for each day that the Lord blesses us with - and for the many prayers that are offered on behalf of those in need.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE

Mike and Monica Fritz

We have been strengthened by God's Living Word, shared to us so ably by our recent visiting ministering brothers: Bros. Chad Gerber (Sis. Jame; Bluffton, IN), Tom Troxel (Sis. LuAnn; LaCrosse, IN), and Tony Manz (Sis. Denise; Junction, OH), and Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Sis. Leonda; Leo, IN). We have also appreciated the fellowship of brethren and friends visiting from Bluffton, Francesville, LaCrosse, and Leo, IN; and Junction, OH.

Bro. Don and Sis. Faye Sauder have headed south to Zapata, TX, for the winter. We trust that the Lord will be with them, and all the brethren there.

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: Latty, OH (12/18); Indianapolis, IN (1/8); Francesville, IN (1/15); Sardis, OH (1/22); and Tucson, AZ (1/29). We do not have a visiting minister scheduled for 12/25 or 1/12, but if there are local brethren in the area, we will plan to meet to listen to a tape or call-in service. 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 call-in services and would welcome any midweek visitors. Contacts are 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**

“And the Lord turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends: also the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before.”

Job 42:10

In a recent exhortation the minister shared this thought about Job. When Job prayed for his friends, he received a blessing. Even though he was praying for someone else, the Lord blessed him.

When we pray for someone, we don't expect something good to happen to ourselves, but to the person we are praying for. But if the Lord blesses us when we pray for someone or something else, we shouldn't be looking for material blessings, but spiritual. What a blessing to have a double portion of grace!

Ministers who came to preach the Word were: Elder Bros. Peter

Petrovic (Sis. Marian, San Diego CA) and Duane Rocke (Sis. Bonnie, Minneapolis, MN), and Bros. Leland Plattner, Joe Gerst (Sis. Connie, Iowa City, IA), Ken Wuethrich (Sis. Lyn, Indianapolis, IN), and Trent Meiss (Sis. Lucy, Eureka, IL). We also had visitors from Forrest, IL; Bluffton North, IN; Columbus, OH; Rittman, OH; West Bend, IA; and Lester, IA.

The following is the minister schedule for January: (8) Milford, IN; (15) Altadena, CA; (22) Morris, MN; (29) Phoenix, AZ.

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

TEXAS, McALLEN **Gloria Walder**

Recent reminders of how God was working behind the scenes in Bible times and He still can do so in our lives were among the many good teachings we have received through the Holy Spirit in our visiting ministers. We sincerely thank Bro. Wayne Leman (Sis. Julie, Roanoke, IL), Bro. Dan Stoller (Sis. Deb, Remington, IN), Bro. Paul Schmidgall (Sis. Shawn, Morris, MN), Bro. Steve Frauhiger (Sis. Irene, Bluffton North), Bro. Brad Strahm (Sis. Michelle, Bern, KS), Bro. Troy Leyse (Sis. Kelly, Bluffton, IN), Bro. Warren Zahner (Sis. Bonnie, Rockville, CT), and Bro. Jeff Bahler (Sis. Heidi, Wolcott, IN).

Other visitors from Morris and Bluffton added to the blessings of our gatherings.

Services are scheduled for December 18 – Fairbury, IL; January 15 – Peoria, IL; January 22 – Remington, IN; January 29 – Bradford, IL; February 5 – Winthrop, MN; February 12 – West Bend, IA. We also meet on Wednesday evenings at the home of Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Joyce Nohl. Please call them if you can join us.

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 1½ 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**

Our love and prayers go to Leo and Sis. Hedy Ormesher (Mansfield) in the passing of their daughter, Christina Naething of Kansas City.

Bro. Gary Domnick (Morris) has been a hospital patient this month. We have witnessed God's healing hands as Bro. Gary is recovering.

Thanksgiving services were held followed by a dinner at church. Our midweek services have started and we will have Wednesday evening services at 7 p.m. throughout the winter months.

We are thankful for those who have traveled south for the winter months. Anyone coming to South Texas is most welcome to spend some time in Zapata and worship with us.

VERMONT, CLARENDON **Nathan and Miriam Reutter**

“And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.”

Colossians 3:15

We have been reminded this past week of the many reasons we have to be thankful. As we celebrate Thanksgiving, let's encourage each other to a greater level of daily thankfulness for the abundant blessing we

enjoy!

Our visiting ministers this month were: Bro. Duane (Sis. Kay) Reutter, Bro. Dan (Sis. Diane) Stoller, and Bro. Warren (Sis. Bonnie) Zahner, all of Rockville, CT. May God's blessing rest upon each of these dear Brothers and their wives for their continual service of ministering here in Vermont.

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



Secretary Position Available



Gateway Woods is excited to announce an opening for a Secretary. Qualifications include a good organizational skills and knowledge of proper telephone system techniques and etiquette, have a good understanding of word processing, spreadsheets, database maintenance, etc. 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. 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.

Jeff Schumacher
Executive Director
PO Box 151
Leo, IN 46765
1-888-443-4283

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

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

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the carrying away into Babylon are fourteen generations; and from the carrying away into Babylon unto Christ are fourteen generations." St. Matthew 1:17. I was talking with a brother in church; from the time of Jesus until now has been perhaps two thousand and some years. How many generations is that? We were thinking about it a minute and we thought it has to be less than a hundred generations. If you take fourteen times three it is forty two generations here in this time. But God's people were here in the time of Christ, the early church was born, believers started living out their life, their service towards God, and then that was passed down from generation to generation. To this day, we still follow the same Scriptures, we still let God talk to us, lead our lives. Are we passing that down to the next generation coming after us? How do we pass that down? What are we passing down? Guess it is a thought that each one of us needs to have from time to time. We need to worry about ourselves first, I guess, our service to God. But as we do that then the generations following us will learn and see our examples as well.

We think about the different people in this story we read. "... as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child, . . ." v.18. We think about that today, how many of us as young men, if our fiancée would be pregnant, and it wasn't our child, we would be upset. But Joseph was given a dream, and the angel said "... fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife; for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost." v.20, and Joseph believed God.

How often as different occurrences happen in our lives, do we have the faith to believe that God is leading and God is the one that takes us through these different

things, whatever it would be? Every situation in life is different; everybody's life is a little bit different. But whatever situation we face, do we really have the faith to believe that, if we are following in the footsteps that God wants us, this is supposed to be for our lives? Or do we fight it, do we challenge it, do we wrestle with God? Do we try to go against what He wants us to do? I was just thinking of the story of Balaam and Balak, and how the donkey spoke to Balaam. He wasn't listening to God, and finally God had to get his attention (Numbers 22:28-30). There are different places in the Bible that we can read about that. Are we listening to God, are we following Him, or are we trying to go our own way?

Then the angel went on to say, "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins." St. Matthew 1:21. This is the promise, this is the opportunity that we have. This little baby that was going to be born - at this time he was not born yet - it was prophesied and it was told to Joseph and Mary, He is going to save the people from their sins. Today, do we believe that? Many of us were raised in a church family - not everybody - but many of us were brought to church as babies in our parents arms. We were taught at home, from before we can even remember, about the Christmas story, about Jesus and about the Easter story. It has just always been there, it's always something we have known, that Jesus was born to save us from our sins. What about people that are not exposed to the Word of God, not exposed to Jesus at a young age? Maybe they are a grown up and some preacher comes to town and teaches them, or they first hear about it when they are an adult. They have the opportunity to decide right there on the spot. We that grow up in a God fearing home, we are constantly exposed to God. Our parents read the

Bible every day perhaps, to us. It is not something new that we all of a sudden are exposed to. But as God moves our heart, as God teaches us, as we get older, as we come to the age of accountability, we come to know Jesus. We have been taught that the purpose of Jesus coming was to save us from our sins. But then, one day, by God's miraculous work, all of a sudden we come to realize God came to save ME from my sin. That time of accountability, all of a sudden we realize that this is not about everybody else, it's about us individually. Jesus came to save me from my sin.

Then the next promise, "... and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us." v.23. How do you take that? Do you take that to mean that God is with the people that are ministers of the church, or the elder of the church, or our parents? When we come to that time of accountability, and if we can turn our heart over to God, then we realize that God is with us individually. We have the opportunity that God can be near unto me, near unto you, personally. So then what do we do with that? Do we allow that thought, that knowledge, to spring forth and bring us fruit in our life? Even as you plant a seed in the field in the right time of year - if you planted a seed in the field today, it wouldn't do much, would it, for several months - but when the conditions are right, when the time is right, you plant that seed in the field. In the spring time when the soil is just right and moisture is just right, then it can bring forth and the plant can grow. It can be quickened, it can be made alive, and a new plant springs up. So God is with us. Let's let that come up in our lives and help us to be a spiritual creature.

"Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the

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Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife: And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and called his name JESUS." v.24-25. So they did as the angels had commanded them; they named him Jesus.

One other thought here, about the wise men; they had that desire to go search out this new child that was born, this new King of the Jews. They came to Herod and they were diligently seeking him. How diligently do we seek after God or after God's presence? It wasn't just handed to them on a golden platter, the wise men. They were studying, they were praying to God, they saw the star and they followed the star. "When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy." St. Matthew 2:10. Are there times when we feel God is leading in our lives? We're praying and praying about a situation, we are trying to understand how to handle this situation or that situation. Finally we feel God's leading, God's prompting, and we are thankful for that and we rejoice.

"And when they were come into the house, (so this was a little while if they were no longer at the stable, but at the house) they saw the young child with Mary his mother and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh." v.11. Even as we sang in Oh, Come All Ye Faithful, come let us adore Him (Hymns of Zion #40); this thought of bringing a gift, what do we bring unto God? What is it in our time, what do we adore? Do we adore the right thing? Do we really adore God, do we really adore Jesus and

are we bringing Him gifts? What is the gift we are bringing Him? What are we doing with our life?

Just a thought, God wants to dwell in our hearts. He wants to dwell right in the center of our being. He wants us to love Him more than anything else in the world. As we bring Him our heart, as we give Him that love, that's what we can bring God. Here the wise men brought gold, frankincense and myrrh. That's good, they brought what they could. Today, we as people, even as a parent wants the love of their child, God wants our love towards Him. He is not satisfied to be in second place in our life. He's not satisfied if we love this other thing, whatever it would be, more than we love Him. He wants our whole heart, our whole mind, our whole strength. He wants us to love Him more than anything else. If we do that, then we are going to be listening to His spirit as He leads and guides us. We are going to be like Joseph and Mary. We are going to have those opportunities where God does speak to us. He'll help us to understand the places we need to go and the decisions we need to make, even as Joseph and Mary had to go to Egypt because Herod was going to become wrathful. He was going to destroy all the children in the land of Bethlehem. God wanted to protect Jesus, so He needed to get Him out of there. So Joseph and Mary listened to God and were moved to pick up and go to a different country. Then, after a while, they came back.

I'm thinking that, "My Lord an offering do I bring, my heart I give to thee" (The Covenant of Grace, Zion's Harp #163) that's what we can give to God; we can give our heart to God. We can give Him ev-

erything we have about us; the abilities of our use, the talents of our use, whatever God gives us, we can give unto God. That's what He wants. He wants our love, He wants our heart. That's what we can give to God.

So in this Christmas day, let us remember that it is the story of Jesus. Jesus did come to save His people from their sins. Jesus came to be with us; God with us. And then, what are we going to do with that? Do we understand that to be a personal message to us, individually? It is for us. It's for me He came. God can be with us. Then how do we let that shape and mold our lives? Are we a good disciple for our Lord and Savior Jesus? Are we being a good child of God? Are we listening to where God leads us, guides us and directs us, even as Joseph and Mary did? This is how we can come and adore our King, this is how we show forth praise to Him. In the end, what is our goal? Our goal is to be in heaven with Jesus. Again, Jesus is sitting on the right hand of God. To be there with Jesus and God, that's our goal.

We pray that each one of you would have a blessed day today. Even though we are with our family and our friends, it's a time of acquaintances. We can renew our old ties; we can see how each other is doing. See how the year went, perhaps if we don't get to see each other very often. Let's remember that it's more than just the food we eat. It's our relationship with other people. Christmas time is a story about our Lord and Savior Jesus and how He came here. He wants to help us so that we can have peace in our hearts. We can have that hope of life eternal in Heaven.



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Jeff Schumacher
Executive Director
PO Box 151
Leo, IN 46765
1-888-443-4283

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

Director of Culinary Services

Apostolic Christian Skylines is looking for a professional who is highly motivated and interested in creating a superior restaurant dining experience for the elderly of our long term care community. An individual with hotel or restaurant culinary skills is preferred. Responsibilities would include:

- Plan, organize and supervise daily operations.
- Direct and coordinate the work production for our kitchen, dining room and café.
- Maintain proper production, safety and sanitation standards.
- Direct and participate in the daily preparation of standard and gourmet food items.
- Maintain proper inventory controls for food, supplies and equipment.
- Control revenue and expenses to ensure financial goals.
- Have a passion for customer relations and creating a superior dining experience for the elderly.

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Please contact Matt Feucht at 309-683-2512 if you are interested.



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Healthy Boundaries - Part 3

(referencing "Boundaries")

by John Townsend & Henry Cloud)

Biblical examples: Adam and Eve.

Boundaries in our lives are necessary, and the Bible is full of boundary examples of every kind along with the consequences of either respecting or disrespecting them. Perhaps the first examples in Scripture of boundaries are physical ones: God's separation of darkness and light, land and sea (Genesis 1:3-7). However, we soon read of more boundaries and the consequences of not respecting them. We don't read of any physical boundaries around the Garden of Eden except for the bordering rivers (Genesis 2:10-14). Adam and Eve knew their home and were free to move about as they pleased. The only restriction was not to partake of the fruit of a certain tree (Genesis 2:17). We find Satan trying to manipulate Eve, and because her boundaries were not strong enough, she conceded and ate of the forbidden fruit. She didn't respect Adam's boundaries either and offered him some fruit which he ate, violating his own boundaries (Genesis 3:1-7). Of course, they reacted in shame and tried to hide from God (Genesis 3:9). Not only did their behavior violate God's boundary and cost them dearly, but their sin nature was passed on to all generations.

Young man in Proverbs 7.

We find more violated boundaries in the account of the young man in Proverbs 7 who is described as being simple and without judgment. He is tempted to spend the evening with a woman whose husband has left for a time. Because he has placed no boundaries upon his impulses and desires, he fails to see the consequences of his sinful behavior and is caught like a bird in a snare. The woman didn't respect the young man's boundaries and was a manipulator to get what she wanted. She also didn't respect her marriage boundaries and was interested only in serving her own desires.

Joseph.

An excellent example of someone establishing and maintaining his own boundaries as well as respecting the boundaries of others is the account of Joseph in Genesis 37-47. Although his brothers seriously violated his boundaries when they sold him into slavery, Joseph had faith and re-

spect for God's boundaries and accepted God's will in his life. He also maintained his personal boundaries in various situations throughout his life, such as when Potiphar's wife tried to coerce him into sinful behavior, while spending years in prison for a crime he didn't commit, his interactions with Pharaoh, and how he treated his brothers.

The Good Samaritan.

The account of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10 illustrates how healthy boundaries can be employed in our lives. The priest and Levite that passed by the injured man were exercising rigid boundaries because of their position and/or a misapplication of God's Word. Maybe they had urgent business and feared becoming unclean by touching someone wounded and possibly dead, which would have required them to undergo a lengthy cleansing ritual. This kept them from offering love and assistance to one in need. The Samaritan was also a busy man going about his day, but he opened the gate of his time boundary to offer assistance. He put the injured man on his donkey, opening yet another personal property boundary in an appropriate way. When he brought the man to the inn, however, he didn't stay there. The Bible doesn't record their conversations, but we can imagine that the injured man could have been reluctant to see his benefactor leave. However, the Good Samaritan exercised his own boundaries and after having done what he could, he went on his way with the promise that any additional expenses would be covered at a later time. He established a boundary. Suppose the injured man had asked him to stay, and the Samaritan had relented and stayed for a week. He would have been guilty of not respecting his own boundaries and his need to get on with his journey by allowing the injured man to infringe upon his resources. This would also be an example of the injured man not being respectful of his benefactor's boundaries, taking advantage of the Good Samaritan's benevolence, and maybe even sending him on a guilt trip to make him stay. Helping the injured man too much may have limited his ability to fully heal and to bear his own burden as much as possible.

Setting limits.

We may not always think of the limits that we set as boundaries, and some of the

terminology may be new to us, but we can understand the concepts of taking control of our behaviors and attitudes and bringing them into compliance with the Word of God. A list of appropriate boundaries is found in the Ten Commandments. The Sermon on the Mount is also filled with directives on how to establish biblical boundaries in our lives and in our relationships with others. God expects us to help others, to develop and maintain healthy relationships, and to grow in spiritual maturity.

2 Peter 3:8 "But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ."

Boundary laws.

The "Boundaries" book identifies ten boundary laws. Some of them may seem like simple common sense and yet these concepts are powerful and very significant in establishing and maintaining healthy boundaries.

The Law of Sowing and Reaping – we will reap what we sow.

The Law of Responsibility – each is responsible for himself or herself.

The Law of Power – by God's grace we have the power to change ourselves but not others.

The Law of Respect – we accept the boundaries of others.

The Law of Motivation – first we are to seek our own freedom from personal fears, and then we are to serve others.

The Law of Evaluation – accept that our boundaries may cause pain to others.

The Law of Proactivity – for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction, but proactive people make their decisions ahead of events instead of reacting to events.

The Law of Envy – defines that which we don't have as "good" and that which we have as "not good," and it is a sign that we are lacking something and need to take action to change the situation.

The Law of Activity – boundaries can only be created by asking, seeking, and knocking.

The Law of Exposure – boundaries need to be communicated openly.

Next month: We will explore the resistance to boundaries as well as the need for self-examination and personal application in the conclusion of this four-part series.

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
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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
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Proverbs 29:18*

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

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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

Spouse _____

Address _____

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E-mail: childsponsorship@acwr.org



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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 - 2012

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

Project	Year 2012	Coordinator	Capacity				
Dumay Lifeline Construction	Jan 10-17	Jim Koehl 309-377-3201 jmkoehl@yahoo.com	12	Puits Sales Palm Grove Construction	Mar 5-13	John Aberle 785-459-2423 jraberle@hotmail.com	12
Puits Sales Palm Grove Construction	Jan 16-24	John Aberle 785-459-2423 jraberle@hotmail.com	12	Les Cayes MEB SH Maintenance	Mar 9-16	Jon Zeller 309-266-9009 jzeller@mtco.com	12
Dumay Lifeline Construction	Jan 17-24	Jim Koehl 309-377-3740 jmkoehl@yahoo.com	12	Les Cayes FRW Vocational School	Mar 9-16	Rick Wuethrich 219-567-9488 rick@wuethrichfarms.com	4
Les Cayes FRW Simone Orphanage	Jan 20-27	Rick Wuethrich 219-567-9488 rick@wuethrichfarms.com	12	Les Cayes MEB SH Construction	Mar 16-23	Rich Bertschi 309-467-2351 lemangm@mtco.com	12
Dumay Lifeline Construction	Jan 24-31	Jim Koehl 309-377-3740 jmkoehl@yahoo.com	12	Les Cayes SEED Agricultural Aid	Mar 23-30	Larry Kaufmann 815-716-6018 ljkaufmann@juno.com	12
Les Cayes MEB SH Construction	Jan 27-Feb 3	Rod Wieland 989-671-0404 rhwieland@speednetllc.com	12	Les Cayes AWA Water Aid	Apr 6-13	Maurice Schaefer 309-925-3740 schaefs2@gmail.com	4
Les Cayes SEED Agricultural Aid	Feb 3-10	Dale Frank 319-766-3661 dtfrank@louisacom.net	12	Les Cayes MEB SH Haiti Support	Apr 13-16	Rich Bertschi 309-467-2351 lemangm@mtco.com	WR-CC
Les Cayes MEB SH Construction	Mar 2-9	Rodney Menold rminpeoria@hotmail.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 December 9th, 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	Montego Bay School CCCD	Mar 31-Apr 7	Tim Wiegand 260-627-8019 twiegand@blackhawkchristian.org	Leo SS
Knockpatrick Schl CCCD	Jun 6-9	Keith Herrmann 309-639-4349 krgreetings@winco.net	Princeville SS	Jamaica Deaf Village CCCD	Jun 8-16	Ted Hirstein 309-266-8769 hirstein@mtco.com	40

Haiti and Jamaica Work Team Code Definitions

CCCD=Caribbean Christian Center for the Deaf

MEB SH = Missions of Evangelical Baptists of South Haiti

Palm Grove = Mission of Haiti

S.E.E.D. = An Agricultural School & Extension Service

TBA = To Be Announced

Palm Grove = Mission of Haiti

A.W.A. - B. = Apostolic Water Aid/Bluffton

A.W.A. - FRW = Apostolic Water Aid/Francesville, Remington, Wolcott

A.W.A. - T = Apostolic Water Aid/Tremont

(*) = Changes or additions since last issue

()** = Spring Break Timeframe

MEXICO

If anyone is interested in leading a team to Mexico, contact Bro. Mike Fiechter at 260-597-7330 or mfiechter@onlyinternet.net
Data updated from the Apostolic Christian World Relief web site as of December 9th, 2011 -www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-mexico/

Location	Year 2012	Coordinator			
Magdalena Construction	Feb 11-18	Jon Blomgren 712-470-0173 jtb@alliancecom.net	Magdalena Construction	Mar 31-Apr 7	Curt Hodel Roanoke Bible Class 309-923-8091 cjhodel@gmail.com
Magdalena Construction	Feb 18-25	Jon Baner 309-747-4085 baner@gridcom.net	Magdalena Construction	Jun 9-16	Steve Leuthold Peoria Bible Class 309-249-2141 sleuth@speerbank.com
Magdalena Construction	Feb 25-Mar 3	Jim Barth 309-367-2098 barthlings6@juno.com	Magdalena Construction	Jun 16-23	Andy Sauder Morton Bible Class 309-263-9965 andy.sauder@gmail.com
Reynosa Medical	Mar 7-14	Todd Drayer 260-273-3112 todd.drayer@gmail.com	Magdalena Construction	Jun 23-30	Jeff Roche Taylor Bible Class 573-231-5849 jeff@rocksolidcustombuilders.com
Magdalena Construction	Mar 10-17	Lance Martin Illinois State University isuyounggroup@gmail.com	Magdalena Construction	Jul 21-28	Rick Kaisner Chicago Bible Class 847-942-1174 rick@kaisner.org
Magdalena Construction	Mar 24-31	Jeff Leman Bluffton Senior Class 260-565-3815 jeffleman62@gmail.com			

USA World Relief Committee

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

* Bro. Kent Heimer	<i>Counseling Elder</i>	Taylor, MO	Cell# 573-248-5701
* Bro. 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

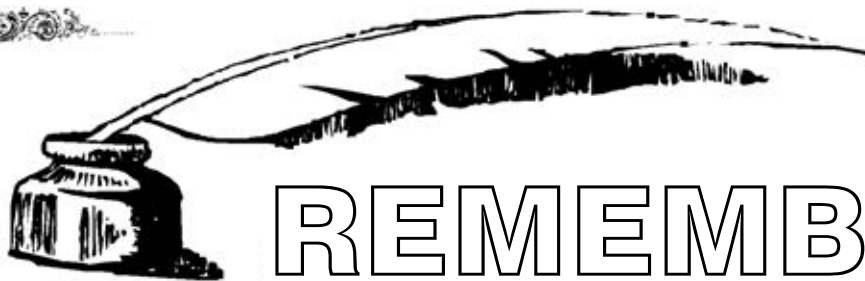
As the Lord opens the hearts, we are searching for a Director of Operations who will be acting as the Chief Operating officer for Hospital Lumiere at Bonne Fin, Haiti. Under the direction of the hospital board, the director is to enable the hospital to provide, in a Godly way, the best care possible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





REMEMBERING

Our Spiritual Heritage

We are continuing the autobiography of Elder Ernest Graf of Akron, Ohio. He served as an Elder at the Akron congregation from 1922-1948, and was a leader in the national church as well. He passed away in 1948

An Ailing Mother

As time went on, my mother's health became more and more feeble. I only recollect one occasion that I saw her outside the house. She could sit up in an easy chair almost daily until I was about six years old. Father employed various physicians, and I have a vague recollection of a carriage or ambulance drawing up in front of the house, and she was taken to some hot springs or sulphur bath for a few weeks, but returning again without having received much benefit.

The last 12 or 15 months of her life she never left her bed. Sometimes before dressing in the morning I would slip in bed with her for a half an hour. On such occasions she would hug me to her heart and kiss me while the tears streamed down her cheeks. I used to wonder why she wept, but I understand it now. She knew she would not be with us long. She was a devout woman and read the Bible and prayed much.

Mother's Death

As the summer of 1881 advanced, her strength vanished and she could not speak much above a whisper. The whole household was cast down. On the morning of June 20, she received in a wonderful way the strength to speak. She summoned us all to her bedside and told us the time

for her departure had come. She first spoke to Father, exhorting him to set us a good example and to care for the children.

Then, she called each child in turn, beginning at the oldest, and each in its turn knelt at the bedside to receive her blessing and admonition, according as she knew our nature and disposition. I was the last one, and when she had finished she lay back upon her pillow, with a rapt look on her face, and said, "The Saviour is lighting the way." Those were her last words, and in a few minutes she was dead. The burial followed two days later. I still have a copy of the funeral sermon. She was something over 49 years old, and I was at that time 7 years and 7 months.

Life Goes On

As my oldest brother grew to manhood, my father began to interest himself with public affairs. He had a fair education and was popular with the people of the village. He was first elected to be the village treasurer, and later became "Geminde-Schreiber" or clerk. My brother John, who had sustained an injury to his left hip, was for some time in a hospital in the city of Schaffhausen. He was brought home in a plaster paris cast, and had to keep his bed for a long time. It became my lot to stay with him as a companion while the rest of the family worked either in the field or in the vineyard. After he was free of his cast, father used him in his office a greater part of the time. About once a year, usually in summer, father took us boys for a trip on the train to a distant city or town resort. This was of course a great treat.

Our Village

The houses in our region were all built of stone with a kind of rough stucco over the outside. They were warm in winter and cool in summer. One end of the building was the dwelling house, the other end the barn with a wall between. On each floor, however, there was one or more doors leading from one to another, so that the barn work could be done without going outside the building. The streets and alleys were irregular and crooked. The church, school house and main tavern were close together. Besides the latter there were several other saloons or drinking places visited only too often by many inhabitants, especially in the evenings.

Once a year there was a celebration akin to our July 4th, when there were firecrackers, music and dancing. there were also "Saengerfests" where choirs from a number of towns and villages gathered and competed for prizes. these prizes were awarded for the best singing by judges who carefully weighed merits and demerits. One year the female choir of our village won second prize. Two of my sisters, Elizabeth and Salome, were members of this choir.

Edited by Bro. Perry Klopfenstein

Next Issue:

The Graf Autobiography will be continued and will include the account of the Graf family coming to America.

The Light Of Hope

“Doing The Father's Will”

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

It's the time of the year when we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, God's Son. Why did He come “Out of the ivory palaces into this world of woe?” Let's examine why Christ came.

In Matthew 20:28 Christ is quoted as saying about Himself, “Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.” We quickly conclude that the reason Christ came to earth in the form of a human being is so that He could die for us, giving us the opportunity to be reconciled with God the Father. For this we are forever grateful.

In John 6:38, Christ is quoted as saying about Himself, “For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.” In this case also, we conclude that Christ came down from heaven to do the Father's will, and it was His will that Christ give His life a ransom for many.

In I John 2:6 we find these words which were written by John, Christ's disciple, “He that sayeth he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.” Here we are instructed to walk as Christ walked.

Since I am to be like Christ, as much as possible, how about me giving my life as a ransom for you? I might, under certain circumstances, be able to give my life for your physical life. For instance, I might be able to grab you away from in front of an oncoming, speeding car, only to lose my own life by getting in the way of the speeding car. However, so far as me becoming a ransom for you, to buy you back from the devil and make you a member of

the family of God, I am woefully unqualified. I cannot walk down that road as Christ did. He went all the way to the cross.

In the second Scripture quoted above, Christ informs us that He came to do the Father's will. In the next Scripture from I John we are told that we ought to walk, even as Christ walked, and He walked to do the Father's will. In the garden of Gethsemane, Christ said, Mark 14:36, “Not what I will, but what thou wilt.”

How about us doing the Father's will, the best we can understand it from what is written in the Bible? Surely that is what John meant for us to do when he wrote that we should walk as He walked.

This year, while celebrating the birth of the Son of God, let's try to do the Father's will. We will be happier and more joyful if we can do better in doing the Father's will. The Bible teaches us that we should be humble. If we want to do His will, that's one place we can start. Christ had to take the short end, too. In fact it was very painful, beyond words, because He suffered spiritual death, or separation from the Father, for us.

After humility, we can think about obedience. It is written about Christ, Philippians 2:8, “And be found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.” We are to walk as He walked.

This Christmas as we celebrate the angel's message to Mary, the angel's message to the shepherds, the birth of Christ in the stable, and visit of the wise men from the East, let us crumble


ourselves before the majesty of the Son of God, and be willing to do the Father's will as Christ was willing to do the Father's will. It is nice for us to have all the blessings God pours upon us, but perhaps we can improve in our showing of appreciation by being more willing to do the Father's will.

The angel, Gabriel, told Mary that she would have a son, conceived by the Holy Spirit; God told Joseph in a dream that he should not fear to take unto himself Mary, his espoused wife; God guided the wise men to Bethlehem, to the house where Mary and the young child were; and He guided Joseph to take the young child and His mother to Egypt to escape King Herod. What is God guiding us to do? Perhaps we can be more loving and more obedient. We are called upon, much as Christ was, to do the Father's will. The devil would like for us to set our own standards and do what we want to do, but God does not want us to do our own selfish will. He wants us to make His will our will. That's what we want to do.

The poet has written, “Tis not the manger but the cross, that sets the spirit free.” It is fitting that we celebrate Christ's birth because He was born to set us free from the curse of sin. May God enable us to be the kind of people who show joy, gratitude, and a humble willingness to obey God's Word and our risen Lord. Our prayer is that God will show us through His Word what is His will, in our worship services and in our daily walk of life. When He shows us, let's be willing and anxious to do the Father's will.

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THE SILVER LINING
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*Our song of praise to God ascend,
And there with angels' voices blend.
The day of gladness now is here;
Sing hallelujah with good cheer.
Hallelujah!*

*From heaven, in the dark of night,
He came and brought eternal light.
Behold now how this light divine
Throughout this pilgrim's dale doth shine.
Hallelujah!*

Zions Harp #7 vs. 1, 2