

The Silver Lining

A sailboat is positioned on the left side of the frame, its mast extending vertically. The background is a sunset scene with a bright sun low on the horizon, creating a long, shimmering reflection on the water. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and grey, with a few wispy clouds near the top. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

*It is of the Lord's Mercies
that we are not consumed,
because His compassions fail not.
They are new every morning,
Great is thy Faithfulness.*

Lamentations 3:22, 23

Sermon by Bro. Matthew Kaufmann, Bloomington, IL

Psalm 19 and St. Matthew 13

I greet you in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Lord and Savior. It is a blessing to gather in God's house, to turn in His Word and read from it. I echo the same sentiment that Paul did in Colossians 4:3,4 when he says, "Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds: That I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak." Pray that this day, that the Word of God would be spoken as it ought. That it would not be taken away from and it would not be added to but it would be His pure words. That we would have the heart of the Prophet Samuel when he was growing up in the Lord, that he let no words of God fall to the ground, not a scrap (I Samuel 3:19). I swept under our dinner table last night and there was quite a bit left on the floor. We weren't real efficient there, around our table, with getting all the scraps eaten. That was the mind of Samuel, not to let anything fall. Every little bit was precious.

The Psalms are considered to be poetry. It is part of the poetry section of the Bible. We are going to read probably some of the most poetic verses of Psalms in Psalm 19. Some of these verses may conjure up memory verses and some of them perhaps really lend themselves to memory, because they flow. This is a Psalm of David, a gift given to him. Let's be blessed by it. You are going to see a theme in this verse that God will be raised up on high. May that be our intent here today, to put God high. Can we put Him higher than maybe what we have put Him before? We will never get Him high enough, that is for sure. We will never get God high enough, but we will sure try.

It is so inspiring to see the heart of David. "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth

his handiwork." Psalm 19:1. So true! The heavens declare the glory. If you have looked in the night sky lately, what a glorious sight!

"His going forth is from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it: and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof." v.6. You see the expanse of God. Men are peering, peering, peering out into the darkness and we are making new discoveries of what lies beyond and they are finding galaxies and universes. Consider a moment that God is there! There is no limit, there is no end to Him.

There was an astronaut; Mr. Irwin I believe was his name, who was on the moon, one of the few men who had the privilege to stand on the moon. They interviewed him and asked him, "Astronaut Irwin, what impressed you when you were on the surface of the moon that surprised you?" He said, "God was there! I always knew it. I knew God would be on the moon with me. But when I was there, I felt His presence."

We can read in Psalm 139, "If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there." v.8. God is everywhere. There is no wall or door that can keep Him out. How big is our God! And the heavens declare it.

I love verse 7-10 of Psalm 19. What came to mind is these are the poetic verses. If there are any literature majors or English teachers, and I am not one of those but I guess I am an enthusiast, but you can enjoy the meter of these verses. "The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple." v.7. So we talk about the law of the Lord is perfect. David had such a high regard for the law of God, Sermon continued on Page 47

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"Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God."
Matthew 5:9

Light from the Word

Reconciliation



Writings based on God's Word

June 2012

Jesus Christ came to earth with the distinct mission of reconciling lost and sinful mankind to God. He was characterized by a "ministry of reconciliation" (2 Cor. 5:18) and He has committed to us, His followers, the "word of reconciliation" (2 Cor. 5:19). Jesus has set the example of the paramount principle of reconciliation. He was willing to pay the ultimate price of His life to fulfill His mission. As the pure lamb of God, He took upon Himself the sins of all mankind. "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him" (2 Cor. 5:21). This was the greatest act of love ever performed. He asks us to follow this example by willingly giving our all to live in harmony with each other here on earth. "Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren" (1 John 3:16).

We are taught in the Word that we cannot expect to be at peace with God unless we make sincere effort to be reconciled with our fellow men. Jesus taught the necessity of forgiving in order to be forgiven. "For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also for give you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses" (Matt. 6: 14-15). This is a critical initial step toward reconciliation. We are thankful that the Word acknowledges that we may not always be able to achieve complete peace if the other party is unwilling. "If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men" (Rom. 12:18). Jesus also made it clear that an intrinsic desire to work toward peace must be a cardinal attribute of a child of God. He said, "Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God" (Matt. 5:9). He knows our hearts and will be satisfied when we make sincere, concerted efforts toward genuine reconciliation.

We have a responsibility to work toward reconciliation whether we are the one who needs to forgive or the one who needs forgiveness. Jesus taught that there is no limit to our need to

forgive. "And if he (thy brother) trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him" (Luke 17:4). Jesus demonstrated that we are to forgive even if the trespasser does not repent. Looking down from the Cross to His cruel tormentors He said, "...Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34). Stephen demonstrated this same benevolent forgiveness when he cried out, "...Lord lay not this sin to their charge" (Acts 7:60). Jesus reminded us that if we know that our brother has something against us, before we can honor Him with our gift (worship, service, etc.), we need to address the matter. "...first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift" (Matt. 5:24).

The first step in the forgiveness/reconciliation process is to prayerfully search our hearts before God (Ps. 139:23-24), who will, through the Spirit's conviction, help us come to a humble acknowledgment of our error, when this is needful. This recognition of error (sin) should bring us into a state of godly sorrow and repentance (Ps. 34:18; 2 Cor. 7:9). It is to a humble heart that God will grant His abundant grace (1 Pet. 5:5) and mercy (Psa. 86:5), so that we can move forward with the necessary steps toward reconciliation--either with a person we have grieved or one who has hurt us.

We must offer a sincere apology to the one we have grieved, and it is best if this can be done in person. We should say something like, "I am very sorry for what I have done. This was wrong and I make no excuses." It can be very helpful if we also state clearly the wrong that we did, so there is no question about our full understanding of the seriousness of the error and our taking of responsibility for it. It is also important to sincerely offer to do what we can to make amends or restitution. If we are the party who was aggrieved, it is very important that we verbally acknowledge an apology and specifically state our forgiveness. It can be very helpful in the healing process if we can calmly talk through what happened and the struggles that were experienced, always keeping in mind the example of the Lord Jesus and the goals of putting the matter behind us and restoring our love.

Unfortunately we are often tempted to short-circuit this process of reconciliation. Simply saying the words, "I'm sorry," and expecting the matter to be forgotten is insufficient. This can leave many unanswered questions about sincerity as well as the level of desire for healing and reconciliation. Sometimes an attempted apology goes something like this: "I am sorry that you were offended or hurt by what I said (or did)." This is not an apology. It reflects self-justification and puts the blame on the other person for being hurt. Humility does not include self-justification. It involves seeing ourselves as God sees us. Another version of an ineffective attempt to apologize may go something like this: "I am told that I was wrong in what I said (or did). So I am sorry." This does not reflect a humble acknowledgement of error or a sincere desire for reconciliation. Unless we can break down the prideful desire for self-justification, we cannot hope to reach a true peace and reconciliation.

When the proper steps are taken toward reconciliation, we can experience a bond of love which is greater than if the infraction had never occurred. We can read in the Word of the beautiful example of the reconciliation between Jacob and Esau (Gen. 33:1-15). Another example is the reconciliation between Joseph and his brothers (Gen 45:1-15). After Jacob died Joseph's brothers feared he would seek revenge, and they pleaded for forgiveness (Gen. 50:17). Joseph replied, "...fear ye not: I will nourish you and your little ones. And he comforted them and spake kindly to them" (Gen. 50:21).

We need to recognize that we cannot expect to achieve genuine forgiveness and reconciliation without God's grace. If we depend upon human strength, we will fail. Satan will torment us with the accusations of not being sorry enough, thorough enough or having fully forgiven. Even though we are unlikely to forget such an experience, when we put our trust in God's strength, He will complete the work and allow peaceable fruits to come forth which are far beyond our expectation (Eph. 3:20-21).

An editorial committee of elders prepares articles for this section of Silver Lining to address some special needs of our times.

Suggestions for subjects are welcome and can be sent to:

Silver Lining Editorials, 1523 County Road 400N, Congerville, IL 61729 or fellowshippromoter@gmail.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

Charitable Giving

The Bible contains many spiritual directives for charitable giving. It helps us to understand when we should give, how much we should give, what we should give, to whom we should give and what our attitude should be when we give. In the Old Testament tithes and offerings were an obligation, but in the New Testament they are an opportunity to serve God, and are usually referred to as “giving” rather than “tithing.” Believers count it a privilege to be able to give, being exhorted *“to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, it is more blessed to give than to receive.”* (Acts 20:35)

Since we are simply stewards of what God has given us, all that we are and everything we have comes from, and belongs to, the Lord. Our earthly life and material possessions are temporal and will pass away. If we trust in our own strength and in uncertain riches, our faith is misplaced. *“Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not high minded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate...”* (I Timothy 6:17, 18)

Principles of giving

In giving, we are instructed to give early and regularly of our first fruits (I Cor. 16:2), during both prosperous and hard times. *“As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith”* (Gal. 6:10). If we plan to give of our first fruits, we will be certain to have laid up for the Lord so we will have something to give when

the opportunity arises. Waiting until the end of the year to give may be practical, but it certainly doesn’t satisfy the scriptural directive to give early.

In addition to material blessings, we should give of our time and talents. This is oftentimes more difficult because they are so valuable to us. We are to give to our Lord, to our Church, to our family, to our brethren, and to our community. We are instructed to give according to what we have and our ability. We are to give with simplicity, freely, regularly, responsibly, cheerfully, honestly and sincerely. Giving of our time and material blessings is important, but giving of our love is more important than any gift we could possibly give (I Cor. 13). Love for the Lord should be the primary motivation for all giving (Col. 3:23).

Opportunities for giving

There are many opportunities for giving near and far within the Apostolic Christian Church and its charities. Giving starts where needs are seen firsthand. *“But whoso hath this world’s good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?”* (I John 3:17) Through the Church, alms giving assists brethren, friends and others who are in need. Local Church contributions and volunteers also help with needs in their community.

Apostolic Christian Mission Committee and World Relief significantly broaden opportunities for volunteer activity and financial outreach, nationally and internationally (Eastern Europe, Mexico, India, Caribbean, and Child Sponsorship). Church Building Funds, Home for the

Handicapped, Gateway Woods, Counseling Services and church nursing homes further expand opportunities for giving.

Longer term gifting supplements current giving thru endowment funds of the Church and its charities. Long-term gifts provide the foundation for newly initiated or on-going Church projects, and are resources for disasters and unexpected Church needs. The Apostolic Christian Church Endowment Fund accommodates brethren and friends making lifetime or longer-term gifts for the benefit of the Church and related charitable organizations. It also facilitates anonymous gifting, giving to multiple church funds, and planning for gift enhancing opportunities.

A blessing

By giving bountifully, we shall also reap bountifully. It is an opportunity to receive a blessing from the Lord. We would not want to limit that blessing by restricting our giving to some specific amount of money, time or talent; for the gospel of Jesus Christ does not emphasize a percent of income or resources that we give. The blessing received may not be measurable in a material or earthly way; but we are promised there shall not be room enough to receive it if we prayerfully, and in faith, fulfill the gospel message by sharing what God has given us with those in need.

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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

Giving Hope in Guatemala More Sponsors Needed

When most of us think of the World Relief Child Sponsorship program, we think of Haiti, Jamaica and Mexico. This is likely because these three countries represent nearly 90% of the over 1,500 children we are currently serving with a Christ-centered education. But, in Guatemala, a country that is seldom in the international spotlight, the Child Sponsorship program is gaining significant momentum and is in need of more sponsors.

Working with only three schools from 2005 through 2010, our program has recently expanded to 135 children in ten schools. In fact, five new schools are in the process of being added in 2012, bringing many more sponsorship opportunities.

Guatemala is one of the most populous, and poorest countries in Central America. Social development indicators, such as infant mortality, chronic child malnutrition and illiteracy are among the worst in the region. Guatemala exhibits one of the most unequal income distributions in the hemisphere; nearly two-thirds of its 15 million people live on less than \$2 per day, with many involved in subsistence agriculture.

Education is important

The typical school year runs from January through October. Many Guatemalans do not attend school, but instead work at a young age to help sustain their families (per capita income is \$3,900 compared to \$48,100 in the U.S.). The educational structure is in need of an

overhaul as schools often don't have enough supplies to give children and some don't even have chairs and desks. Low teacher salaries contribute to a shortage of teachers. Only 2% of Guatemalans attend universities, while 70% of high school graduates in the U.S. go on to attend college.



With this background, educational success can be very difficult. However, WR Child Sponsorship now serves grade school and junior high children in ten Christian schools. Most of these schools only offer education through the sixth grade, but there has been a recent movement to add more junior high schools and extend a child's educational opportunity through ninth grade.

Some special challenges

Each of the ten schools has a special story. Here are a few of the challenges some of the schools face:

Community of Faith – Students are very poor and most live in one-room huts made of sheet metal or scrap wood with dirt floors, no electricity and no running water. During afternoon school (1:30 to 5:30), the children receive a substantial daily snack, which for some may be their main meal of the day.

Jesus Saves – As the only Christian school in its town and the surrounding 19 villages, *Jesus Saves* has faced fierce opposition from

government officials and other religious groups who have viewed a Christian school as a threat.

Prince of Peace – Because the level of education in the area is low (only 10% of the population had completed junior high school in 2004), the school plays an important role in the community.

Los Gozos Home – This is not only a school but also a home for special needs children.

Vida Christian – Located in one of Guatemala City's poorest areas, the school has an agreement with a local social organization to admit students whose parents are scavengers in the city dump. Even with a relatively low tuition, parents struggle to pay it. When funds are low, teachers are paid first and then directors, if money is available.



After a recent field trip by a few of our Child Sponsorship Committee members, the following observations were shared: "Teaching and reinforcing the Christian walk is evident. Each school is seeking to integrate Christ and devotions into their daily educational program."

At the *Community of Faith* school, the Director asked one of our committee members to have a prayer in each classroom. The students were very attentive during prayer time, confirming that students are being taught to respect the Lord. She thanked us many times for our financial and prayer support.

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

Charla Leman, Counselor

Recently I have been going through a lot of consideration of whether my job at Gateway Woods is my career, or a mission to be used as the Lord's vessel for His Kingdom work.

"And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come." Matthew 24:14

Recently I attended a *Perspectives* course with my husband in Bluffton. *Perspectives* is a 15 week long class in which a variety of different speakers come. Those that come to speak are heavily involved in mission work around the globe.

The creators of *Perspectives* explain the course as:

"Perspectives helps believers from all walks of life see how they can get threaded into God's story of redeeming people from every tribe, tongue, and nation to Himself. From Genesis to the prophets, Jesus Christ to the early church, and Constantine to today, you will see how God has been moving, how the global Church has responded, and what the greatest needs in world evangelization remain today. It isn't a class about missions, but a course on how every believer can be intimately woven into the story of God using His people to be a blessing to all the peoples of the earth." It was so good for my husband and I to take this class.

It really has caused us to evaluate how we need to be daily working to advance God's kingdom. When considering my work as a counselor at Gateway Woods, I often get into the pattern of viewing it as my job and being very focused on each individual crisis or struggle. I need to continually remind myself that this is God's plan and He is allowing me the opportunity to spread the

gospel and glorify His name. I praise God for this and am so thankful that He has a plan for the work of Jesus and is allowing me to be part of that plan.

Please mark your calendar for our 2012 Annual Benefit Auction on Saturday, August 4.

Calling all volunteers! Bro. Tyler Knochel, our Volunteer Coordinator, is searching for willing people to commit some of their time this summer toward working at Gateway Woods. We are searching for all types with all skills, so please prayerfully consider giving some of your time to come to our campus and build relationships with the children and families we serve.

Congratulations to Bro. Brock Williamson who has been brought on as our Top Quality Coordinator this summer. Brock has been attending Leo church and is excited to begin managing summer landscaping jobs for some of our most well-behaved children.

These last few weeks have been a bittersweet time for many of us at Gateway Woods as we have said goodbye to some dear brothers and sisters. Bro. Darren and Sis. Britni Eisenmann have moved out of their houseparenting role. Sis. Christy Wiegand has decided to move on from her teaching role. All of us wish them God's blessings as they move on to other things. We are grateful that Sis. Britni will remain on as a member of our Foster Care staff.

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

We are grateful to God for providing us with a wonderful staff. We currently have four career positions available. We have an opening for an Assistant Houseparent, an Illinois Adoption Manager, a Foster Care Program Manager and a Foster Care Child Placement Case Worker. For more information, please see the notice in this month's edition of *The Silver Lining* or visit the Career Opportunities page on our website at: www.gatewaywoods.org/supporters/career-opportunities. We trust that God will continue to provide qualified, mature brothers and sisters who will serve Him in a ministry that is 'Turning Lives Around'. Perhaps this includes you!

You are an important advocate to help us spread the word about God's work at Gateway Woods. Please continue to lift us up in prayer. Check our website www.gatewaywoods.org and our Facebook page at [facebook.com/gatewaywoods](https://www.facebook.com/gatewaywoods) often for updates, and make sure that you are on our mailing list. In an effort to be as efficient as possible, we are gathering as many email addresses as we can for our E-Post. Please send a message to mail@gatewaywoods.org.

**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
PRESCHOOL
ATHENS, AL
Susan Koch**

Our themes for May were review, graduation, and the colors black and white. We had our preschool graduation on May 18. It was so encouraging to see our assembly room packed with family and friends of the students. Each class got to perform a few songs/poems and everyone did an excellent job! It always amazes me how

kids will come out of their shells and do their very best when their families are watching them. It's been quite the year for the preschool as we went through a number of staffing changes. I'd like to thank Ms. Melissa for the hard work she did at the beginning of the year as our director and 4-5 year-old teacher. In December, Sis. Kalla Knobloch took over the 4-5 year-old classroom and has done an excellent job continuing the education of these students. Sisters Louise Hall and Barbara Coulter have been patient with all the changes and helpful in keeping the preschool routine intact as these changes occurred. Thank you so much for your patience! There was a vacant teaching spot from the time Melissa left and Kalla came, which was filled by our substitute teachers. Sisters Becky Roberts, Sara Edelman, and Kristy Moore did a wonderful job with this class and substituting for the other teachers throughout the year. Our seven graduates this year were Lauren, Alyssa, Madysen, Katie, Joseph, Shane, and Braylen. Congratulations to the class of 2012!

ALABAMA, ATHENS

Roger and Becky Roberts

We were thankful that the following ministers came and shared the word of life with us: Bro. Mark Ramsier (Sis. Alice, Sardis, OH), Bro. Dan Pfister (Sis. Sheri, Bluffton, IN), Bro. Duane Reutter (Rockville, CT), Bro. Marvin and Sis. Pam Zollinger and family.

We appreciate the work Bro. Duane and several other Rockville brothers did around the church while they were here.

Our hearts go out to Sis. Corrine Thomas' grandson and family who had a home fire. We love seeing her great-grandchildren in church.

Please remember to pray for Sis. Mae (Bro. Doug) Haggemaker, Bro. J.R. (Sis. Louise) Hall, Bro. David Art, and Bro. Ed Haggemaker who have all spent time in the hospital. We miss having them in church.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX

A graduation reception was held at the fellowship hall May 6. Our 2012 graduates are as follows: 8th grade - Janelle Huette, Jonah Steffen, High School - Bro. Derek Knochel, Katie Sutton, Bro. TJ Sutton, College - Lauren Meiss, Alyse Freed, Rachal Woodruff. We trust the Lord to watch over our young people as they move on to new phases in their lives!

We are thankful for our visiting minister this month! Bro. Jeff Neihouser (Sis. Sue, Morton, IL) and his family were in Phoenix on Mother's Day. Our hearts were saddened that day to hear of the tragic car accident of Toby Greenbank. He passed away on May 15. Toby attended Sunday School here in Phoenix for many years. Our sympathy and prayers are with the entire Greenbank family!

We want to welcome Steve Manz to our congregation. He has moved from OH and is working in the construction field here in the valley.

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT

Denise Steidinger

"Nothing in my hand I bring; Simply to your cross I cling." Rock of Ages

How often in the reality of life do we lose sight of the Gospel? What is the Gospel?

"For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the

third day according to the scriptures"
1 Corinthians 15:3-4

The Gospel is an act of God in history to save sinners by substituting his son Jesus Christ in their place, so that their sin is onto Jesus, and his perfect righteousness and obedience is onto us through faith. Christ loved me...Christ gave himself for me! The Gospel is motivating. Good deeds grow out of good news. May we have grace to remember that the Gospel is the foundation for every single thing we are and do.

We wish to sincerely thank the following brothers who came and ministered this past month: Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL), Bro. Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi, Alto, MI), Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sis. Linda, Sardis, OH) and Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich (Sis. Nancy, Phoenix, AZ).

Bro. Ned Stoller gave a topical presentation on a Saturday evening on personal evangelism, and challenged us all to share the Gospel with others. He said that the foundation of personal evangelism is a converted heart filled with the Holy Spirit. We thank him for his willing heart to serve and thank the Phoenix young group for coming up to join us for the weekend also.

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord." Luke 4:18-19

We are lifting up in prayer our dear Sis. Jane Hodges and the Greenback family in the passing of her nephew Toby Greenbank. May

God be their Comforter always.

If your summer vacation brings you to the southwest, please include worshiping with us in your travel plans!

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp

Our congratulations and prayers go out to Joshua Knapp, son of Bro. Jay and Sis. Lisa Knapp, who is graduating from high school on May 23. Josh plans to attend the University of Arizona this fall, so we are happy that graduation doesn't also mean farewell!

Our annual business meeting yielded the following results. Bro. Andy Knobloch agreed to be our song leader for which we are grateful and appreciative. Sis. Young Bauer was elected to be the Sunday School teacher for our younger children. Sis. Young had been serving out the remaining portion of someone else's term so we are thankful she is willing to begin her own two-year term. God's blessings to you both!

Not much else to report this month. Our winter visitors are gone and things are getting quieter in our little church. We have officially exceeded the 100 degree mark as we head into Memorial Day Weekend. Summer is indeed upon us.

We will take a break from our Wednesday evening services, Sunday School and Fellowship suppers until fall. We look forward, Lord willing, to Vacation Bible School in June.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

We're so thankful for the gorgeous, warm weather we've been blessed with and hope others will come out to take advantage also. The Altadena congregation is always grateful for visitors. This month, we

were blessed to have three visiting ministers: Bro. Arthur Ingold (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman, OH), Bro. Gary Anliker (Sis. Edith, Elgin, IL), and Bro. Ron Koehl (Sis. Carol, Sarasota, FL).

We have had many hospitalizations this month including: Bro. David Art, Bro. Laszlo (Sis. Mary) Cser, Sis. Lydia Gutierrez and Alan Crockett (Bro. Bob). May Christ's hand be upon all who are sick and also support those who care for them.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Yasmin Koehl

*By their love His members are united,
In a union Godly and devout;
All who love their holy vows have
plighted;
All who do not love belong without.
In their love this blessed meal is
taken,
In their love they shall abide
unshaken;
Many members are as one arrayed,
As from many grains one bread is
made. Zions Harp #26*

Together we commemorated Holy Communion. We thank elder Bro. Tom Klotzle (Altadena, CA) for his assistance to our elder Bro. Peter Petrovic.

Among our visitors were ministering Bros. Mike Rieker (Sis. Carol, Peoria, IL), and Gary Anliker (Sis. Edith, Elgin, IL). Our heartfelt desire is that the Lord will continue to move ministering brothers by His Holy Spirit, that the truth may never be hindered and always spoken with true sincerity and love. How thankful we are for ministering brothers who are not ashamed to speak the truth so many more can find their soul salvation through a sincere repentance. May the Lord's richest blessings be upon them.

*Lead me, Lord, as Thou best knowest,
How before thee I should live;
If but Thou my footsteps guidest,
Joy and blessings I receive.
If in grace with Thee I'm standing,
Dangers fade at Thy commanding;
Guided by Thy hand alone,
Thine and not my will be done.»
Zions Harp #93*

We pray and trust that the words we sing above, are echoed in the hearts of our college graduates, Sis. Linda Fulop and Sis. Brittney Wagenbach as they complete one phase in their lives and enter into a new one. May the Lord ever guide your footsteps and draw you closer unto Him. Our prayers and love are with you.

CANADA, KITCHENER, ONTARIO

Kim Leman

*"Strength and honor are her clothing;
and she shall rejoice in time to come.
She openeth her mouth with wisdom;
and in her tongue is the law of
kindness." Proverbs 31:25, 26*

The women in our congregation were blessed to have the men do the lunch dishes on Mother's Day Sunday. It is a blessing to work together and show love and respect to each other. May God help us all to have a servant heart.

Bro. Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue, Detroit, MI) ministered to us when he was here for our Invite-a-Guest weekend. We also appreciated Bro. Jesse Bedolla (Sis. Bonnie, Detroit, MI) serving on our minister rotation. May God richly bless both of these brothers and their families for coming to serve our small church.

"Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God." Matthew 5:9

**CANADA, REGINA,
SASKATCHEWAN**

Myrna Shipley

This month we were thankful to have a minister here and other young people that came along from Lester and Elgin IA. God bless our minister Bro. Floyd Frieden and his wife Sis. Jan from Elgin IA.

This is our anticipated schedule of ministers coming from these churches; Detroit- June 3, Bern-June 17, Princeville- July 1, Forrest- July 15, Congerville- Aug. 5, Lester - Sept. 2, Sabetha - Sept. 16, Silverton - Oct. 7, Bloomington/Normal - Oct. 21, and Morris - Nov. 11.

COLORADO, DENVER

Lily Zarkovacki

"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." Psalm 23:6

This past month, we suffered the loss of our dear Sis. Marlene Leman (Bro. Tom). Her kind and gentle personality will be greatly missed! We pray for God's comfort on the Leman family.

We shared Holy Communion on Saturday evening, May 19. It was a blessing to be reminded of our Lord's suffering death on the cross and victory over the grave!

We warmly welcome Sis. Lisa Frauhiger from Bluffton, IN. She will be spending the summer months with us here in Denver.

Our thanks to visiting Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Ruth Ann, Wolcott, IN) for his willingness to share the Gospel with us this past month.

"Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord" Psalm 127:3:

We rejoice with Bro. Mike and Sis. Sherice Reinhard as they welcomed little Bennet Simon to their family

on May 13. He is welcomed by big sister Erica and brother Caleb. His grandparents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Delores Reinhard and Bro. Lowell and Sis. Karla Bahler.

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE

Sheila Gerber

Lauren Goric

"Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth." Luke 15:10

We are thankful that Victoria Koch (Bro. Joe and Sis. Sandy) has begun her repentance. May the Lord grant her grace as she begins her walk with Him.

Our congregation has been blessed with the birth of two baby girls. Emma Lynn was born to Bro. Bruce and Sis. Laura Gottier. She joins big brother Jonathan and grandparents Guy and Sis. Beth Gottier and Bro. Scott and Sis. Luanne Hills. Bethany Moise was born to Bro. Jake and Sis. Ashlee Virkler. She is welcomed by big sister Anna. Grandparents are Bro. Terry and Sis. Cindy Virkler and Ken and Sis. Karen Hunt. We wish these two families the Lord's direction and help as they strive to raise their children in the ways of the Lord.

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
WASHINGTON**

Henrietta Meyer

Our caretakers for April were Bro. Gene and Sis. Joyce Strunk (Morton, IL). The caretaker calendar for 2012 is filled except for the last two weeks of December. 2013 has only four months taken, so if this is something you are considering, please contact Sis. Doreen Steffen at 302-540-6574 or dkgsteffen@gmail.com. We look forward to meeting new caretakers each month, as well

as reconnecting with caretakers who come for a second or third visit.

Our ministers this month were Bro. Greg Stieglitz (Sis. Lisa, Indianapolis, IN), Bro. Keith Hinrichsen (Phoenix, AZ), Bro. Bob Knochel (Sis. Rhonda, Bay City, MI), Bro. Dan Goric (Rockville, CT) and Bro. Merlin Meyer (Sis. Marilyn, Lester, IA). We missed Sis. Tammy when Bro. Keith was here, but we were very glad that Bro. Joe came back to visit us. Another special visitor this month was Ken Belsley. We are glad he now lives close enough to come for a half day occasionally. Other visitors this month were from Toledo and Rittman, OH, Morris, MN, and Wolcott, IN.

The highway/toll road is now open behind the church (even if your GPS or internet map says it isn't). It will save time, miles and stress as you travel from I-270 to the church. There are no toll booths, but you will need an E-Z Pass or other electronic payment method (I-Pass also works). If you have another multi-state device, check with your provider to see if it works in Maryland. If you use the highway without such a device, you will receive a bill by mail with a service fee added.

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

We were thankful to have two visiting ministers this month: Bro. Harvey Kuenzi (Sis. Jennifer, Silverton, OR); and Bro. John Rassi

(Sis. Heather, Tremont, IL). We pray that God will bless them for their service.

We recognize and appreciate our mothers so very much all year long, but especially on Mother's Day.

*"Who can find a virtuous woman?
For her price is far above rubies.
Strength and honour are her clothing;
and she shall rejoice in time to come.
She openeth her mouth with wisdom;
and in her tongue is the law of
kindness.*

*She looketh well to the ways of her
household, and eateth not the bread
of idleness.*

*Her children arise up, and call her
blessed; her husband also, and he
praiseth her.*

*Many daughters have done
virtuously, but thou excellest them
all.*

*Favour is deceitful, and beauty is
vain: but a woman that feareth the
LORD, she shall be praised.*

*Give her of the fruit of her hands;
and let her own works praise her in
the gates." Proverbs 31:10, 25-30*

FLORIDA, NORTH FT. MYERS

Victor Beer

Hymns of our faith sometimes have meanings that are beyond divine description, especially when we need thoughts to uplift our spirits. This is one to try.

O Glorious Love

*In my darkness Jesus found me,
Touched my eyes and made me see.
Broke sin's chain that long had bound
me,*

Gave me life and liberty.

Chorus

*O Glorious Love of Christ, my Lord
Divine*

*That made Him stoop to save a soul
like mine. Through all my days and
then in heaven above*

*My song will silence never, I'll
worship HIM forever
And praise HIM for His glorious love.*

We're always glad to see any of our folks back in church after a time in the hospital. Our Sis. Carolyn Siegle has now returned to share in our fellowship after some days in the Cape Coral hospital. She radiates her normal joyous personality.

We were blessed recently by visiting ministers: Bro. Kevin Knapp (Sis. Dixie, Bloomington, IL) and Bro. Jon Zeller (Sis. Christy, Morton, IL). We truly thank them for bringing the Word to us in worship.

New Beginnings! We are happy to report that Angelica is getting A's so far in her summer class. Marta is anxiously waiting for her proof of residency so that she will be able to start her classes at Edison College. Both girls have experienced some manual labor as Mr. Bill had them help him get the yard ready for the sod to be laid.

We are so appreciative of the support that we received from our Sarasota church. We have had visits from several of their young families in recent Sundays. It is such an encouragement to our young mothers to be able to relate to someone who is in the same stage of life and parenting as they are.

We had another great meal and evening of fellowship and games at Bro. Ray and Sis. Jeannie Haerr's. Our thanks go out to them once again.

Bro. Joel and Sister Erin Drayer and family came to visit and we enjoyed getting to know them and having more children to play with the ones we have here.

We are still in need of mentors to live at the apartment. We have space for two young mothers, but will not admit more than we feel we can handle. It is a very satisfying

and rewarding work. If you feel God's calling to work such as this and have questions, please call Bro. Bill Masters at 309-824-3981. This ministry is designed to help young mothers turn their lives around and get an education so that they are qualified to get a job to support themselves and their children.

FLORIDA, SARASOTA

Kim Ott

*"And ye shall know the truth, and the
truth shall make you free...If the Son
therefore shall make you free, ye shall
be free indeed." John 8:32 - 36*

As Memorial Day arrives once again this year we take time to especially remember the men and women who have served our country. We are so thankful for the lives of the people who have given for us so that we could enjoy the many freedoms in this land. Not only are we grateful for the freedoms in this country, but we also are thankful for the freedom that the blood of Jesus Christ made possible so that our sins could be forgiven and that we could have a hope of eternal life. We thank God and our Saviour Jesus Christ first of all for making possible this plan of salvation. Secondly, we sincerely thank our veterans for helping to achieve our liberties, including freedom of religion. We know that the freedom to worship God freely is not the case for many believers around the world and we pray for the many Christians who struggle under persecution for their faith. We are so thankful that wherever there is bondage, as Christians, our freedom comes from God's truth and this truth will set us free.

***"Be still and know that I am God"
Psalm 46:10***

GEORGIA, ATLANTA

With joy, we congratulate our 2012 graduates, Bro. Drew Waldbeser and Sis. Lydia Lindberg! As they close this season of their life and anticipate the journey ahead, may they continue to purpose to serve Jesus Christ through every challenge!

“And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, even as we do toward you: to the end He may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His Saints.”

1 Thessalonians 3:12-13

In early May, we shared Holy Communion together. Elder Bro. John Jackson (Bay City, MI) served with Elder Bro. Tom Waldbeser. It was a very special time. We are so thankful for the servant hearts of Elder Bro. John and Sis. Peggy Jackson, traveling many miles to come serve us!

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE

**Doreen Moser
Shayla Steffen**

“Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.”

Psalm 1:1-3

We wish many blessings on our graduates Jill Anliker and Bro. Derek Wettstein as they graduated from high school. Graduating from

college is Heidi Moser. As they go forth to further their educations or start a career, may they take this Psalm and write it on their hearts and show it in their daily walk of life.

We were blessed to have Bro. Tom Schambach (Elgin, IL) mediate on the Word this month. If we truly did meditate on the Word day and night, wouldn't our spiritual lives be much richer and our churches be much stronger? The devil would surely have less of a chance to cause divisions. We have much to strive for to attain our heavenly home and walk in unity here on earth. May we all be firmly planted by the rivers of water and may our roots go deep as we grow in the Lord. Does our fruit show? May we not be as chaff that the wind driveth away?

The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away.

Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.

For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish. Psalm 1:4-6

ILLINOIS, BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

Shelley Steffen

Gina Hodel

“Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus: That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Romans 15:5

On April 21 we were blessed to share in Holy Communion. We were able to have our thoughts focused on Jesus and the events in His life leading up to His death and

resurrection. It was very special for our congregation to have our retired elder Bro. Everett Hari assist Bro. Mark in serving.

“Seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”
Matthew 6:33.

We rejoice with Megan Edelman (Bro. Alan and Sis. Wendy), Ashlyn Gramm (Sis. LuAnn Gramm) and Aaron Kaeb as they have decided to serve the Lord and answered the call of repentance. May God's grace and peace fill their hearts as they begin a new walk with Him. We welcome Aaron Kaeb to Bloomington as he is living and working in the area.

The Sunday School and church are preparing and praying for the upcoming VBS in June.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD

**Sandi Joos
Roseann Stahl**

“I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me.”

Proverbs 8:17

We rejoice and pray for Juri Johnson as he is seeking the Lord in repentance. He is the son of Bro. Greg and Sis. Kristin Johnson.

“Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”

Matthew 28:20

This past month we have had several graduates who are moving on to the next stage of their life. As they move on, may they always remember the teachings of God's Word. We have six graduates from high school this year. They are: Caleb Dietz (Bro. Barry and Sis. Rachel), Jonathan Ehnle (Bro. John and Sis. Sara), Taylor Endress

(Kevin and Marina), Jenifer Kieser (Joe and Jeri), Leah Knobloch (Bro. Daryl and Sis. Deb), Stacy Wagenbach (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Sara), and Sarah Winkelmann (a foreign exchange student from Germany who is living with Bro. Kevin and Sis Sara Wagenbach).

ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN Sarah Drake

As our beloved church building undergoes remodeling, May has been the first month in our temporary location. The transition has been fairly smooth, thanks to the Godly patience, teamwork, and flexibility demonstrated by so many. As a reminder, our temporary Sunday location is the Messiah Free Lutheran church building at 1401 W. John St. in Champaign. Wednesday nights we are having either picnics, singings, or Bible studies in homes.

Visiting ministers in May included Bro. Dewayne Dill (Sis. LaRae, Minneapolis, MN), Bro. Alan Schambach (Sis. Sarah, Remington, IN), and Bro. Mark Wettstein (Sis. Karen, LaCrosse, IN). We are thankful for God's work through these brothers.

Through God's grace, Caleb Plattner (son of Bro. Darren and Sis. Sue) has testified to a changed life, and he has expressed a desire for baptism in our church. We offer Caleb prayers and encouragement as he takes this step.

Shay Michelle Fehr was born on May 29 to Bro. Tom and Sis. Sarah, and big brother Trace Fehr. Grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Barb Fehr (Iowa City, IA) and Bro. Wayne and Sis. Gloria Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL). We join the family in rejoicing over the arrival of this precious little girl.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO Rachel Meyer

Greetings from Chicago. We thank Elder Brothers John Wiegand (Silverton, OR) and Tom Klotzle (Altadena, CA) for ministering to us this past month. May God be your reward.

Treatments and sincere prayers continue for our friend Peggy Ryan, Bro. Dan Plattner and his family, and Bro. Steven Hofstetter and his family. May they feel His nearness.

We have just received news of the passing of Sis. Pauline Schrenk. She and her dear husband, the late Bro. John, worshipped in Chicago for many years. May God be near to this grieving family. Sis. Pauline was living at Elgin Resthaven. What a joy it must be to be walking the streets of gold!

Bro. Blake, Sis. Christine, and Alexander Stahl are missing sweet Avanti, a sweet boy who was in foster care with them for a time. He stole the hearts of many of us, certainly theirs, and we pray for him as he becomes settled into a new foster family and for the Stahl's as they feel his absence.

Two from our congregation, Sis. Betty Schlatter and ministering Bro. Matthew Rassi, had the opportunity to travel to Haiti on work teams. We are thankful they were able to serve in the name of the Lord and that they returned to us safely.

A special thank you is in keeping to all who helped with the Annual Church Cleaning. May God bless your efforts.

On May 13, Bro. Greg Eisenmann (Elder Bro. Brad and Sis. Cindy) graduated from The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign with a Masters Degree in Mechanical Engineering. Congratulations! May God bless and lead your future.

I currently have an inquisitive

little client at work. She likes to ask me over and over, "Where's your mom, where's your dad?" "Where's your kid?" Sometimes she is unable to hold my answer in her short-term memory bank...so the questions will return. We're working on asking, listening with intent, and then remembering.

"And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive." Matthew 21:22

I don't know where you are in regard to needs in your life and asking God for help. It's not the asking that is the problem for me. It is the *believing* that is my challenge...especially as the days turn into months and the need has not yet been met. I am thankful for the Spirit that groans for me at times when I don't know even what to say anymore. Thank God He does not leave us, even when we feel abandoned and alone.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK Marilyn Maul Tina Walder

Rejoicing in the arrival of a new grandson is Eric and Luann Kaeb. Kowen Todd was born May 14th to John and Tresa Hartter.

The young Sunday School students were delighted to deliver flowers to the residents at the Heartland Health Care on Sunday, April 29th. The children also enjoyed singing a few songs to the residents. It was a blessing to see the smiles on the children and resident faces alike.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Doris Knapp as her sister Marie Thompson passed away. Our sympathy goes out to this family.

Sis. Bonita Frank and Sis. Marilyn Knapp had health issues this past month. We pray that they can regain full health once again. Our prayers

are also with our friends Marvin Martin and his wife Dorothy, as he is having ongoing health issues related to a previous stroke.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE
Rachel Currier

We rejoice with the family of Bro. Derek and Sis. Rebekah Rassi as God has blessed them with another daughter, Natalie Jean. She is welcomed home by older siblings Bonnie, Emily, Beau, and Thadd. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Diane Rassi (Austin) and Bro. Greg and Sis. Jill Stoller (Forrest).

Two wedding engagements have recently been made known to us. Bro. Michael Roth (Bro. Mark and Sis. Tammy) is to be married to Sis. Whitney Wagenbach (Bro. Colin and Sis. Barb) in Oakville and Sis. Molly Hartman (Bro. Bob and Sis. Lisa) is engaged to Bro. Jaylin Teubel (Bro. John and Sis. Lavonne) of Forrest. May the Lord continue to be with these couples as their lives are joined as one.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to several in our congregation who have recently lost loved ones. Bro. Bruce Martin (Sis. Annie) lost his father, Bro. Roland Martin (Sis. Delores, Eureka, IL). Also Sis. Glenna Rinkenberger (Bro. Jake) lost her father, David Marquardt. Bro. Ed and Sis. Gail Leman and Bro. Ben and Sis. Marge Bauman lost their mother, Sis. Marlene Leman (Bro. Tom, Denver, CO). May the Lord comfort each one in their time of sorrow.

Visiting ministers this past month include Bro. Steve Baner (Sis. Donnalou, Gridley, IL), Bro. Kevin Fehr (Sis. Lonnie, West Bend, IA), and Bro. Dennis Rassi (Sis. Diane, Austin, TX). We appreciate their willingness to bring forth God's

Word to us.

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding." Proverbs 3:5

We remember those who are finishing a time of earthly schooling. High School graduates this year are Joseph Anderson, Bro. Nathaniel Craig, Jared Knapp, Blake Remmert, and Dale Wettstein. May they look to the Lord to provide for their future.

Note of Thanks:

We are truly humbled for the out pouring of cards, love, and gifts we received for our 60th wedding anniversary. Many thanks and blessings to each one of you for such kindness. The Lord be your rich rewarder.

Bro. Andy and Sis. Maxine Virkler

ILLINOIS, ELGIN

Amy Gasser
Miriam Gasser

Two events that recently brought many visitors our way were an Apostolic nursing home seminar on April 26 and a special elder meeting held May 12 at the Fellowship Center. The Wednesday evening before the seminar, Bros. Jerry Bauman (Rittman, OH), Matt Steffen (Princeville, IL), and Curt Walter (Mansfield, OH) shared the services.

Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Sis. Jeni, Bluffton, IN) spent the weekend of May 12 and 13 in Elgin, and he ministered to us on Sunday afternoon. Other ministers who lent themselves during the month were Bros. Ron Kipfer (Bluffton, IN), Tim Leman (Taylor, MO), and Matt Rassi (Chicago, IL). May God bless these brothers for their labors.

We are encouraged and thankful that Anthony Eason (Bro. George

and Carole) was given grace to begin his repentance. May he find that burdens are truly lifted at Calvary.

"In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."
Prov. 3:6

We wish the best for our high school graduates: Heidy Cruz, Anthony Eason (Bro. George and Carole), Dillon and Taylor Kellenberger (Bro. Greg and Sis. Debbie), Nathan Kellenberger (Glen), Austin Knobloch (Bro. Brent and Sis. Michelle), Jarod Schieler (Bro. Eric and Sis. Nancy), Kiernan Schock (Dwayne and Jayne), Alexis Smithberg (Roger and Mary), and Timothy Steffen (Elder Bro. Dave and Sis. Linda).

It is good to see Bro. Howie Schifferer (Sis. Pat) in our midst again, since his pacemaker replacement surgery. Sis. Marie Hugh is at home regaining her strength. Sis. Kathy Stefan is looking forward to returning to her home soon. We are thankful for the progress each has made and pray for their continued recovery.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

Dee Baer
Jodi Blunier

High School graduates were honored at a dinner to recognize their milestone: Bro. Kurt Cottrell (Bro. Brent and Sis. Darla), Samuel Cottrell (Bro. John and Sis. Gloria), Bro. Abram Frank (Bro. Scott and Sis. Elaine), Convert David Getz (Bro. Gary and Sis. Gail), Derek Hartter (Bro. Ron and Sis. Janet), Sis. Caitlin Leman (Bro. Kent and Sis. Chris), Jacob Leman (Bro. Ed and Sis. Ruth), Convert Krista Rocke (Bro. Dave and Sis. Eva), Bro. Zach Schmidgall (Bro. Mark and Sis. Lisa), Seth Schumacher (Bro.

Dale and Sis. Lavonne), Bro. Ryan Streitmatter (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Deonne) and Convert Julie Wiegand (Bro. Andy and Sis. Vicki).

Prayers have been with Sis. Linda Frank who recently was hospitalized and has ongoing health concerns.

Our friend Phil McCanless (late Wilma) passed away. Left to grieve are three sons, Kent (Peoria, IL), Tim (East Chicago, IN), Chris (Martinsville, IL) and one daughter, Raven Stirling (Boulder, CO).

Visiting us on the pulpit this month were Bro. Craig Stickling (Peoria, IL), Bro. Jeff Grimm (Goodfield, IL), Bro. Dan Stoller (Remington, IN), Bro. Darren Fehr (West Bend, IN) and Bro. Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH).

Note of Thanks

Thank you for your cards, prayers, words of comfort and support, and the many deeds of kindness shown to us. We appreciate the love of the brotherhood. May God bless you. The family of Bro. Roland "Swifty" Martin

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

Angela Herr

Kay Steffen

"In days of youth seek ye the Lord....." We are thankful for new converts. Wes Kaeb (Sis. LeAnn and Leon), Lee Waldbeser (Sis. Renae and Jim), and Kayla Melvin have answered God's call and made a beginning in repentance. We pray that each one can build a firm foundation as they begin their walk with the Lord.

We extend our congratulations to those who have graduated this month. They include Kent Fehr (Bro. Charles and Sis. Kathy), Bro. Timothy Hartman (Bro. Mark and Sis. Judy), Nelson Kaeb (Sis. LeAnn and Leon), Sis. Brooke Miller (Bro.

Roger and Sis. Crystal), Sis. Damaris and Silas Moser (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Kara), Walter Moser (Sis. Julia and late Bro. Doug), Ashley Nestor (Frank and Joyce), Sis. Abby Rinkenberger (Bro. Doug and Sis. Beth), Anna Steidinger (Bro. Doug and Sis. Dixie), Bro. Kirk Steidinger (Bro. Martin and Sis. Trish), and Abram Zehr (Bro. Nelson and Sis. Amy). Also, Sis. Laura Zehr (Bro. Nelson and Sis. Amy) has finished her college studies and graduated. We pray each of these graduates will seek the Lord's guidance and direction in their lives.

Our prayers are with Bro. John and Sis. Eunice Stork in the loss of his brother, Richard Stork (Susie) of Chatsworth. We also extend our sympathy to Randy and Hope Perry and sons, Lucas and Jacob, in the loss of their mother and grandmother, Juanita Perry of Streator. May God comfort and provide for each one who has lost a loved one.

Visiting ministers serving our congregation this month were Bro. Dennis Rassi (Austin, TX), Bro. James Fehr (Tremont, IL), Bro. Al Schambach (Remington, IN), and Bro. Les Kaeb (Francesville, IN). We thank each of these brothers for sharing God's word with us and pray He will richly bless them.

Notes of thanks:

Our family sincerely thanks each one for the prayers, love, support and generosity shown to us during Bro. Perry's illness and at the time of his passing. May God richly bless each one.

Sis. Carol Virkler and family

With all humbleness and gratitude I would like to thank my dear family and friends for their many deeds of love and kindness following my heart surgery and since returning

home. It was all deeply appreciated. May God bless you. Joan Gaston

ILLINOIS, FORREST

Lisa Aberle

Lynn Dotterer

"For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife" Mark 10:7

Bro. Jaylin Teubel (Bro. John and Sis. Lavonne) and Sis. Molly Hartman (Bro. Bob and Sis. Lisa, Congerville, IL) have announced their engagement and approaching marriage. We also extend congratulations to Bro. Colin Steidinger (Bro. Ray and Sis. Shelly) and Sis. Lynelle Fehr (Bro. James and Sis. Brenda, Tremont, IL) as they announce their engagement. We wish these couples God's richest blessings!

Ashley Koehl (Bro. Jim and Sis. Diane) and Brad Haab (Rob and Kathy) exchanged wedding vows. May God bless them as they begin their life as one.

Bro. Gary, Sis. Betsy, and Peter Leman welcomed Paige Kathryn into their family circle. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Glen and Sis. Holly Steidinger and Bro. Phil and Charlotte Leman. Ryleigh Anne Rudin joined Bro. Joe and Sis. Rhonda Rudin's family. Her grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Lavonne Teubel and Bro. Craig and Sis. Trudy Rudin.

We thank Bro. Chad Leman (Kitchener, ON), Bro. David Eisenmann (Champaign, IL), Bro. Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL), Bro. Steve Pamer (Akron, OH), and Bro. Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL) for sharing the Word with us this month. Bros. Virg Metzger (Chicago, IL), Tom Bolliger (Tremont, IL), and James Knapp (Congerville, IL) joined us for ACYF Day. We thank these

brothers for being willing to teach our young people.

Our prayers are with those who have spent time in the hospital. We pray God will provide continued healing for Bro. Lynn (Sis. Kathy) Slagel, Sis. Dorothy Zimmerman, Bro. Glen Zimmerman (Sis. Mildred), and Molly Brown (Bro. Brad and Sis. Shannon).

We extend our love, prayers, and sympathy to Bro. Gary Ifft (Sis. Peggy, Ziway, Ethiopia), Sis. Nancy Dotterer (Elder Bro. Marvin), Sis. Sherri Schlatter, and Keith Ifft (Peoria, IL) at the passing of their mother, Sis. Velma Jean Ifft. We offer sympathy to her sisters, Sis. Virginia Blunier (Roanoke, IL) and Sis. Joyce Gasser (Akron, OH); and the many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, and nephews who will miss Sis. Velma Jean. May God comfort all of your hearts!

Congratulations to the graduating seniors! May you always look to God for guidance and direction in your lives. Our seniors are: Bro. Daren Anliker (Bro. Bob and Sis. Linda), Evan Dotterer (Bro. Dan and Sis. Kathy Banwart), Sis. Elizabeth Kaeb (Brenda Mueller and Morris Kaeb), Sis. Kara Kaeb (Bro. Eldon and Sis. Stephanie), Sis. Brooke Kilgus (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Denise), Naomi Knapp (Bro. Harlan and Sis. Jean), Zoë Koehl (Bro. Joe and Sis. Marie), Bro. Ben Kuntz (Bro. Rollyn and Sis. Brenda), Sis. Kyla Kupferschmid (Bro. Todd and Kim), Trevor Lanz (Bro. Troy and Sis. Kathleen), Alex Ricketts (Bro. Allen and Sis. Alisa), Bro. Joel Steidinger (Bro. Roger and Sis. Sheila), Shannon Teubel (Bro. John and Sis. Lavonne), Sis. Amanda Zimmerman (Bro. Kent and Sis. Paulette), and Bro. Philip Zimmerman (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Stephanie).

“Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.” Proverbs 3:5, 6

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

**Melissa Rokey
Kayla Wiegand**

“He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.” Mark 16:16

We were thankful to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of four dear souls on May 5 and 6. We welcome Sis. B.J. Hinrichsen (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Brenda), Sis. Allison Hinrichsen (Bro. Mike and Sis. Gerri), Bro. David and Sis. Kasey Roth (Bro. Alan and Sis. Joanne Roth and Loren and Lori VanScyoc) into our brotherhood. We want to thank Elder Bro. Steve Sauder (Sis. Mary, Tremont, IL) who assisted Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL) with the testimonies.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with Bro. Morrie Zimmerman (Sis. Kathy) as he was hospitalized this past month.

We continue to lift up Bro. Larry Bauman (Sis. Betty) in our prayers as he continues to heal. We pray for God’s healing mercy and may we remember He is “A shelter in the time of storm”.

“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct thy paths.” Proverbs 3:5-6

The senior breakfast was held Sunday, May 20. The seniors this year include: Lexi Bauman (Bro. Rick and Sis. Stacie), Drew Bauman (Bro. Dan and Sis. Holly), Jacey Hartman (Bro. Jim and Sis. Ree),

Kyle Hinrichsen (Bro. Rod and Sis. Lynda), Sis. Tiffany Hinrichsen (Bro. Mike and Sis. Gerri), Bro. Clayton Schumacher (Bro. Dan and Sis. Heidi), Cole Steffen (Bro. Dirk and Sis. Deb), Gabe Swords (Bro. Kris and Sis. Heather), Ty Taufer (Bro. Ted and Sis. Kenda), Emily Wiegand (Bro. Greg and Sis. Jenny), and convert Katie Wood (Doug and Lori). We wish each graduating student God’s grace and nearness. We pray that they will trust in the Lord and look to Him for all decisions they will encounter.

“Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened.” Matthew 7:7

We rejoice with Bro. Russell Wiegand (Bro. Art and Sis. Pam) and Sis. Andrea Ruegsegger (Bro. Lee and Sis. Alice) on their engagement on May 20. We trust that God will bless them as they have sought out His will for their lives.

We want to thank the visiting ministers Bro. Justin Koch (Sis. Marcia, Washington, IL), Bro. Keith Hinrichsen (Sis. Tammy, Phoenix, AZ) for their willingness to be used in the Lord’s service by sharing the Word with us this past month.

Note of Thanks:

The family of Sis. Vi Hohulin would like to thank everyone for the love, prayers, and acts of kindness during her illness and passing. One of her greatest pleasures was coming to church and being with her church family. May God bless you for your kindness.

**“Be still and know that I am God”
Psalm 46:10**

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY**Perry Klopfenstein**

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Dick Gilmore, 62, who died on May 2 from an injury. He fell from his haymow. He lived in rural Downs, Illinois, and is the son of Sis. Alyce and Donald Gilmore and a sister to Sis. Kathy Kinkade all of Gridley, IL. Our sympathies are offered to this family.

Also, we are sorry to report the death of Bro. Roger Wiegand's mother. She is Sis. Lena Hodel Wiegand, 95, of Roanoke, IL. We pray the Lord will comfort her offspring.

Bro. Mark Wettstein (LaCrosse, IN) was a visiting minister on Sunday, May 20. We surely thank him for his God-inspired efforts.

Sis. Carol Klopfenstein had an appendectomy on Saturday, May 12. She has recovered, thanks to God. We can surely be thankful for the doctors and medicines that are used in treating illnesses and alleviating medical setbacks.

We have several graduates this spring. Finishing high school were graduates Quinton Brown, Alison Kinkade, Bro. Adam Schifferer, Joanna Wellwood, Jonathan Ferneau, Chloe Meiss, Dustin Stoller, and Bro. Taylor Wettstein. College graduates are Sis. Kristen Kaeb (ISU) and Sis. Victoria Stoller (ICC).

Perilous times persist in our nation. Uncertainties and economic instabilities can drag us down, but only if we don't rely on God and His watching over us. Surely, we are to trust in Him, daily and hourly. There is a Scripture that is compelling in its simplicity. "*Draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you.*" James 4:8 As we draw nigh to the Lord, it follows that the distresses and uncertainties that

plague society will not over burden us. God's presence in turmoil is a wonderful gift from Above.

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

Proverbs 16:9 and Colossians 3:2 give clear direction for setting our priorities in Life. Biblical way of thinking clearly looks to the way of Christ, rather than to our achievements. WE SEEK HIM, not success. We do however, sincerely congratulate our graduating seniors: Sis. Holly Funk (Bro. Fred and Sis. Diane), Macy Grimm (Tracy and Missy), Bro. Michael Leman (Bro. Tim and Sis. Beth), Bro. Gabe Meiss (Bro. Curt and Sis. Cassie), and Sis. Jessa Stoller (Bro. Todd and Sis. Marcy). Bro. Jon Zeller (Sis. Christi) gave our Wednesday Evening Family Worship message addressed to the Graduating Seniors. Our thanks and appreciation also goes to visiting minister Bro. Scott Schafer (Sis. Gigi, South Bend, IN).

Congratulations to thankful grandparents Bro. Gary and Sis. Deb Rassi as they welcome grandbaby boy Kipton Daniel. Baby Kipton was born into the family of Aaron, Bree and Kaylee Rassi on April 25.

Our Morton Church Family has experienced the loss of many loved ones this past month. Each one would surely covet your prayers! Doris Frank passed away April 23 leaving her two daughters Peggy Sauder, Tremont, IL and Dotty Harinck, Colorado. Our Sis. Grace Ziegler went home to be with the Lord leaving her sister, Sis. Alice (Bro. Maurice) Schaefer, two sons Jerry and Alan Ziegler, and one daughter Carole Wolpers. Our sympathy also goes to Bro. Jim (Sis. Joann) Fischer in the passing of his brother, Bro. Lyle Fischer

(Fort Scott, KS), also survived by another brother Eli Fischer. Lillian Mathis passed from this life on May 6. Lillian is survived by three daughters, JoAnne Knapp, Sandra Emrick, and Susan Atwell. Our love and sympathy goes to our Bro. Mike Kaiser (Sis. Joyce) who laid his mother to rest in the arms of Jesus. On May 8, Sis. Lorraine Kaiser (late Bro. Lloyd) passed away. She is also survived by another son, Daniel (Jane) Kaiser. Tears are a language that God understands as our Sis. Jackie Barton mourns the loss of her father, Bro. Jim Barton (Sis. Vi, Detroit, MI). Our Bro. Alan Unsicker lay to rest his dear mother, Sis. Emma Unsicker of Peoria, IL. Please be prayerful for each of these grieving families as prayer is definitely no small thing!

ILLINOIS, PEORIA**Pam Fritzenmeier**

Sunday, April 22, we celebrated the wedding of Bro. Jesse Hoerr and Sis. Joanna Kummer. Their parents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Myrna Hoerr and Bro. Chris and Sis. Patty Kummer. Bro. Matt (Sis. Jennifer) Feucht, Roanoke, was our guest minister that special day.

Bro. Frank (Sis. Kathy) Sauder, Roanoke, spent Wednesday evening, May 2, with us. We thank each minister for continuing to speak the Truth in love.

The Peoria Choir Benefit Dinner was held Saturday, April 28, at the Fellowship Hall. We are thankful for each one who participated and give all praise to God.

Peoria hosted ACYF Day May 6. A large group of Bible Class students from Bradford, Fairbury, Roanoke, and Peoria spent the day listening to and studying the Word together. They blessed us with singing after church. That afternoon, Apostolic

Christian Skylines hosted their 100th anniversary open house. Then in the evening was our monthly family hymn sing. Our 6th, 7th, and 8th grade Sunday School classes and trio, Kindred Spirit, sang for and with us. To God be the glory!

Several from our church family have laid a loved one to rest this month. Sis. Marlene (Bro. Tom) Leman, Denver, was the sister of Sis. Doris (Bro. Bob) Meiss, and Bro. Herb (Sis. Nancy) Stoller. Sis. Eunice Unsicker, Sis. Sara (Bro. Ed) Dingleline and Bro. Gary Unsicker's mother, passed away May 17. Sis. Hattie Hoerr passed away May 19.

Others are struggling with health issues: Bro. Loris (Sis. Pat) Knobloch with severe back pain, Sis. Ilene (Bro. Bob) Haefli, recovering from a fractured pelvis, Sis. Lori (Jack) Kinney had surgery, and Bro. Mel (Sis. Margaret) Getz.

Our local brethren serving as missionaries far from home include Bro. Jonathan and Sis. Bere Aupperle, and Bro. Zach Knobloch, Magdalena, MX and Bro. Tim and Sis. Joan Reinhard and family, and Sis. Janelle Grassi, Haiti.

Please remember all these dear ones in your prayers...for comfort, healing, strength, and wisdom.

It's graduation season and we congratulate 16 high school graduates this year and honored them with a Senior Breakfast May 20. They include Jenny David (Sis. Nanette David and Jim David), Sis. Annie Davidovics (Bro. Fedi and Sis. Ruth), Sis. Alexandra Elsasser (Bro. Brian and Mary), Dustin Fritzenmeier (Mark and Sis. Pam), Bro. Alex Funk (Elder Bro. Tim and Sis. Debi), Bro. Brett Hoerr (Bro. Carle and Sis. Debby), Sis. Danae Hoerr (Bro. Don and Sis. Jackie), Mitchell Hoerr (Bro. Joel and Sis. Tania), David Hofstetter (Bro.

Ralph and Sis. Karen), Sis. Andrea Leuthold (Bro. Steve and Sis. Lois), Rebecca Moser, (Bro. Matt and Sis. Aimee), Brooke Nelson (Bro. Breck and Sis. Janie), Sis. Hannah Roecker (Bro. Tim and Sis. Diane), Caleb Stickling (Chris and Sis. Marsha), Sis. Chelsea Streitmatter (Bro. Doug and Sis. Cindy), and Sis. Brenna Waibel (Bro. Mike and Sis. Rose).

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

Linda Joos

Gloria White

We are always thankful for our home ministers who bring us the word of life from week to week. In addition we have been visited by Elder Bro. Brad Eisenmann (Chicago, IL), Elder Bro. Ted Steffen (Alto, MI), Bro. Nathan Steffen (Alto, MI), Bro. Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO), Bro. Randy Mogler (Washington, IL), and Bro. John Grimm (Columbus, OH).

New babies are a gift from above. Bro. Gene and Sis. Kay Siebenthal are thankful grandparents for a baby girl born to son Ryan and Rosie. Baby Taliah Rose was welcomed home by big brothers Caleb, Benjamin and Jeremiah. Bro. Jim and Sis. Marlene Plattner are also thankful for Jeremiah James born to their son, Bro. Chad and Sis. Laura Lee (Tremont, IL).

Our hospital patients this month are Kassie Stahl (Bro. Rod and Sis. Cathy), Bro. Vernon (Sis. Bernice) Stoller, Sis. Edith Stahl and Bro. Tim (Sis. Denise) Kieser. We wish them a speedy recovery. We also want to remember Bro. Ed (Sis. Frances) Knobloch in prayer with his health concerns.

We rejoice with Bro. Alan and Sis. Mary Ann Knobloch as their daughter, Kendra has sought the Lord in repentance. We wish her God's guidance and directions in

her life.

We wish to congratulate our many high school graduates and wish them God's blessings as they pursue their futures. Sis. Lynelle Berchtold (Bro. David and Sis. Leann), Mallory Blunier (Bro. Darin and Sis. Keri), David Braker (Bro. Glen and Sis. Audrey), Sis. Amber Ehnle (Bro. Phil and Sis. Barb), Joshua Feucht, (Mark and Sis. Paula), Dallas Herrmann (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Renee), Larissa Herrmann (Bro. Roger and Sis. Darlene), Sis. JayLyn Knobloch (Bro. Jay and Sis. Deanne), Sis. Olivia Steffen (Bro. Matt and Sis. Deana), Alivia Stoller (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Mary), Braden Streitmatter (Bro. David and Sis. Crystal) and Courtney Wagenbach (Curt and Marybeth).

Our sympathies go to Sis. Mary Lynn (Bro. Steve) Streitmatter in the loss of her dear mother, Sis. Eunice Unsicker of Peoria.

On May 16, Bro. Ryan Hoerr and his wife, Sis. Joy, were welcomed into the ministry. Our prayers and support are with them as they undertake this most high calling.

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Jamie Hodel

Judy Sauder

We rejoice with many in our congregation who are welcoming new babies into their family circles. Bro. Steve and Sis. Jill Aeschleman welcomed twin granddaughters: Ellison Jo Lynne and Charlotte Emma Beth, born on April 23 to Scott and Alisha Aeschleman of Kansas City, MO. The girls are also welcomed by maternal grandparents, Bruce and Marsha Sanders of Lee's Summit, MO. Reagan Jayne was born on May 4 to Bro. Jeff and Sis. Bethany Knobloch (Taylor, MO). Reagan's older brother

is Will, and grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Mary Wiegand and Bro. Bill and Sis. Ellie Knobloch (Tremont, IL). Paisley Grace came to bless the home of Bro. Dustin and Sis. Mandy Hodel (Leo) on May 9. Paisley's older brother and sisters are: Liberty, Caden, and Josie. She is also welcomed by grandparents: Bro. Ron and Sis. Carol Koehl (Sarasota, FL) and Bro. Brad and Sis. Patty Hodel.

On April 25, Bro. Craig Stickling (Peoria) presented a topical Bible Study to our congregation: "The Battle for Young Believers." We are thankful for his willingness to serve us.

On April 29, The Bible Class juniors, seniors, and parents gave a slide presentation on their recent work trip to CVE at Magdalena, MX.

"For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock." Psalm 27:5

We continue to hold up in prayer those in our congregation who have lost loved ones. Bro. Lyle (Sis. Lillian) Fischer (Ft. Scott, KS) passed away on April 29. He was a brother to Sis. Arlette (Bro. Walt) Fehr. Kelly (Booner) Zimmerman of Heyworth passed away May 6. She was a sister-in-law to Sis. Linda (Bro. Steve) Pfister. We also extend our sympathy to Sis. Martha Braker, in the loss of her mother, Mary Marjorie Sheetz, of Remington, IN on May 11. We pray each of these loved ones could feel God's nearness in time of trouble.

"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28:

We are so thankful that Hannah Sauder (Bro. Frank and Sis. Kathy)

has begun seeking the Lord in repentance.

On the evening of May 3, the Prairie Choristers, the Youth Choir, a trio of sisters, and a men's quartet, provided an evening of prayer and hymns commemorating the National Day of Prayer.

We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Kent Heimer (Taylor) minister to us on May 13.

On Sunday, May 20, a Baccalaureate service was held for our high school graduates. Those graduating were: Tyler Barth, Kaylea Blunier, Jason Bradle, Bro. Brandon Durand, Jacob Fehr, Nick Fehr, Rachel Fehr, Samantha Harris, Elissa Hodel, Claire Isaia, Kendall Knapp, Bro. Jason Moser, Tjark Rients, and Taylor Sauder. Our prayer for each of them is "*The lord bless thee, and keep thee: The lord make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The lord lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.*" Numbers 6:24-26

We rejoice with Bro. Daniel Lemman (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Karen) who is engaged to Sis. Wendi Pfaffman (Bro. Max and Sis. Mary) of Washington, IL.

We recently voted for Sunday School teachers. Our new Intermediate teachers will be Bro. Brock Gerber and Bro. Jeremy Knepp. Our Bible Class teachers will be Bro. Russ Lemman and Bro. Scott Luginbuhl. We pray each of these Brothers would feel God's love and nearness as they teach our children.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT Teresa Rowell Janice Sauder

Our congregation again has many visiting ministers to thank. Bros. Dale Stoller (Fairbury, IL), Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL) and Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL) were here

as 'Invite a Family' guests. Bro. Ted Hirstein (Morton, IL) came for a Family Night topical lesson, and used I Thessalonians 5:11-23 as his basis for a 'Checklist for Encouragers'. On Sunday, May 6, Bro. Justin Koch (Washington, IL) returned to Tremont for church services, after participating Saturday afternoon as one of the speakers at the Singles Focus Weekend. May God bless each one of you!

Congratulations to Bradley Koch and Lori Barry, as they have announced their engagement. His parents are Bro. Philip and Sis. Diane Koch and her parents are Jim Barry and Sandy Barry of Morton. May God bless them as they plan for marriage.

Our sympathy and prayers go to Bro. Mike and Sis. Michelle Oswald at the death of his grandfather, Don Oswald of Tremont. May many precious memories comfort you at this time of loss.

Bro. Nelson and Sis. Mary Koch welcome home their new son, Samuel James (born 3-29-11). His siblings are Micah, Abigail, Rachel and Rebekah. Grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Ellie Knobloch and Bro. Cleo Koch (the late Sis. Nancy).

We are all reminded of our adoption into the family of God, as we observe the adoption of this dear little boy into his new family. Bro. Chad and Sis. Lauralee Plattner have another precious son, Jeremiah James. Happy for a new brother are Jesse, Javan, Jared, Jolene, Jubilee, Jonas and Johanna.

Another newborn son is Connor Holden Hooley. His parents are Chad and Sarah, big brother and sister are Michael and Olivia. Grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Amy Koch. May each of these little ones learn about Jesus and serve Him someday.

We wish God's blessings to Bro. Tom Koch, as he has moved to the Tucson, AZ area for work. We'll look forward to see him in Tremont when he visits his family!

We also hope Bro. Aaron and Sis. Katie Ehnle feel God's continued guidance and blessings, as they have moved to the Edelstein, IL area. We've enjoyed them in Tremont the last five years; and were blessed to hear their testimonies of faith and baptism, rejoice with them at the birth of their two daughters, Brianna and Ali, and get to know their niece, Victoria. The congregation in Bradford, IL will be happy to have them assemble with their church family in the future.

"This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success." Joshua 1:8

We certainly wish our high school graduates a prosperous way and good success! They are: James Bolliger (Bro. Tom and Sis. Jane), Lucas Kaiser (Bro. Mark and Sis. Renee), Brett Koch (Bro. Phil and Sis. Diane), Sis. Brittany Koch (Bro. Earl and Sis. Marsha), Sis. Elsie Koch (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Cathy), Jake Mjelde (Jeff and Heather Wagenbach), Caleb Oswald (Bro. Mike and Sis. Michelle), Danielle Rollins (Bro. Marty and Sis. Karla), Sis. Willow Sauder (Bro. John and Sis. Misty), Drake Sinn (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Gail), Sis. Tori Steiner (Bro. Todd and Sis. Val), and Kelby Wallace.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

Marlene Prather

Jodi Fehr

"Who can find a virtuous woman?"

For her price is far above rubies. The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil." Proverbs 31:10,11

As Bro. Fred Witzig shared with us on Mother's Day, we are to honor and encourage our mothers and wives. We are thankful for our Christian mothers who have given us so much in our lives, but more importantly for their direction in helping us to trust in the Lord.

A Christian Mother

*God gives us many gifts
But far above any other
The first and best He gives us
Is the gift of a Christian Mother.
Her head bows over the scriptures
Teaching children from God's word
Her hands are always busy
Doing service for her Lord.
Whenever her children need her
They know she's always there,
Her beauty in the strength of faith
That she daily finds in prayer
Her children love and bless her
And in their lives we see
The lessons of the savior
That were learned at mother's knee*

Author Unknown

Visiting ministers who served us this month are, Bro. Marshall Heinold (Sis. Jan, Ixtlan, MX), Bro. Clark Stoller (Sis. Cindy, Gridley, IL), Bro. Brent Kellenberger (Sis. Beth, Kansas City, MO), Bro. Greg Lehman (Sis. MaryBeth, Wolcott, IN), Bro. John Zeller (Sis. Christy, Morton, IL) and Bro. Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha, KS). We thank these brothers.

From the beginning God revealed to us that marriage was a special union between man and a woman. On Mother's Day, we rejoiced as the engagement of Bro. Matt Wyss (Bro. Ed and Sis. Kathy) to Sis. Lena Steiner (Bro. Glen and Sis. Rachel

of Winthrop) was shared. Galen Rocke (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Janine) was engaged recently to Alyssa Scott (Mark and Andra) of Eureka. We praise God for the blessing of marriage and wish these couples rich blessings and guidance as they plan their weddings.

We rejoice with Bro. Grant, Sis. Martha Hangartner and sons, Brodie and Crew, as God has blessed their family with Damon Gray. May they feel God's richest blessings.

Our Bible Class hosted ACYF May 6. We were blessed to have the young people with us for the day. May God bless the ministers and teachers who helped to make that a special day.

Our congregation wants to extend sympathy to Sis. Beth Unsicker. Her mother Eunice Unsicker of Peoria, IL passed away. We also extend sympathy to Bro. John Cox. His mother-in-law, Sis. Verna Woodward of Oakville, IL passed away. May these loved one take comfort in knowing that God is faithful.

We also congratulate our 2012 high school graduates. They are Samantha Feucht, Daniel Hofstetter, Brice Knapp, Clayton Leman, Jamie Schick, Rosie Schumacher and Nick Steffen. May God direct these dear young people as they make decisions for their futures.

May we continue to be prayerful for Sis. Sue Ruppert, Bro. Steve Hofstetter, and Sis. Barb Johnson who continue to battle serious health issues.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

Kim Meyer

Suzie Fiechter

*"And be not conformed to this world:
But be ye transformed by the
renewing of your mind,
That ye may prove what is that good,*

*and acceptable,
And perfect will of God."*

Romans 12:2

Coming out of the world and into Christ through repentance and conversion is the first step to not being "conformed to this world". But how are we to be transformed? How do we renew our minds? It is a lifelong process beginning with God and His power. He changes us, converts us, and molds us into the image of Christ. We either help or hinder the process by our choices: how we spend our time and our money, what we think about and desire, who we look to as role models. I am challenged as I ponder the questions: Who is my hero? Do I want the praise of men or of God? Do I want to be entertained or do I want to serve? Do I want to look and act like Christ or like the world? Do I want to spend the next hour in the Word or on the computer?

We rejoice with the angels in Heaven that Charles Zorio has taken that first step in coming to the Lord in repentance.

God uses the many circumstances of life to work in us and transform us. Sometimes the work is painful, yet it brings Him glory. Our prayers have been with Sis. Becky (Bro. Cris) Stucky, Sis. Josephine Schwartz, Bro. Bob (Sis. Janet) Herring, Bro. Craig (Sis. Jean) Steffen, and Bro. Zach (Sis. Jenny) Bertsch as God is working in their difficult situations.

Times of joy also strengthen us in His ways. Bro. Lyndon Kaehr (Bro. Keith and Sis. LuAnn) and Sis. Kinsey Kershner (Bro. Dan and Sis. Jacki, Bluffton North) were united in marriage on April 22. May God bless their home!

Treeva Rae Gerber was born to Wes and Dixie. Grandparents are

Bro. Larry and Sis. Pauline Gerber and Bro. Dale and Sis. Rachel Zeltwanger of Morris North, MN. Bro. Brady, Sis. Kristen, Max, Myles and Abby Kaehr welcome Nala Jo into their home. Nala's grandparents are Bro. Lyle and Sis. Connie Kaehr and Bro. Ken Dubach and Jodi Holloway. Rejoicing in the birth of their first child, Caleb Mitchell Schwartz, are Bro. Ryan and Sis. Mandy, along with grandparents, Bro. Scott and Sis. Patty Schwartz and Bro. Gary and Sis. Nancy Schladenauffen. May God be with each of these families as they teach and train their children and grandchildren in His ways!

Our minds are made new in Christ as we hear and meditate on the Word of God. We are so thankful for the blessing of fellowship within our church family at home and across many miles. "Invite-a-Friend" weekend brought many visitors to Bluffton, including ministering Bros. Calvin Schneider (Sis. Jeannie, LaCrosse, IN), Greg Lehman (Sis. Mary Beth, Wolcott, IN), and Dale Zeltwanger (Sis. Rachel, Morris North, MN).

Time spent with our brothers and sisters in Christ help us to "prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God". Our young group hosted a dinner and singing for all widows, widowers and singles for a blessed time of connection across the generations. All ages of sisters enjoyed an evening of encouragement in living a spirit filled life during a LIFT (Ladies In Fellowship Together) gathering.

*"Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
That ye may abound in hope,
through the power of the Holy Ghost."
Romans 15:13*

INDIANA, BLUFFTON-NORTH

Jessie Longenberger

Amy Moser

"He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed". Isaiah 53:5

Our Sunday School had a lovely Easter program on April 1st. We were reminded of our dear Savior's death and glorious resurrection as our Sunday School students brought forth the message of hope. We always enjoy hearing the children's voices praising our Savior. Bro. Tom (Sis. LouAnn) Troxel of LaCrosse also joined us in sharing God's word on this day.

Bro. Jon and Sis. Beth Ringger are requesting prayers as they head to Ethiopia to see their new son, Josiah, and appear at a court hearing regarding the adoption. They will need to make another trip in May or June to bring Josiah home. They would appreciate the prayers to their church family during this time.

Sis. Javon Steffen (Bro. Mark and Sis. Lori) will be in Japan from April 19th to July 17th. She will be attending language school and helping out the local Apostolic Church. Prayers from her local church family will be greatly appreciated. You can follow her experiences through her blog: onegreenbicycle.blogspot.com.

Let us continue to hold up Bro. Chandler and Sis. Rachel Gerber as well as the Schwartz family in prayer during this very difficult time which resulted in the death of three children from the Schwartz family. The burden is too heavy for any of them to carry alone, so let us come alongside interceding on their behalf. *"Pray without ceasing"*
1 Thes. 5:17

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE

Mildred Clauss

Jacki Huber

*All for Jesus, All for Jesus! All my
being's ransomed powers:
All my thoughts and words and
doings, All my days and all my hours.
Let my hands perform His bidding,
Let my feet run in His ways;
Let my eyes see Jesus only, Let my lips
speak forth His praise.
Since my eyes were fixed on Jesus, I've
lost sight of all beside;
So enchained my spirit's vision,
Looking at the Crucified.
Oh, What wonder! How Amazing!
Jesus, glorious King of kings,
Deigns to call me His beloved, Lets
me rest beneath His wings.*

Tabernacle Hymns #3

On Wednesday evening, May 16th, we were blessed by inspirational thoughts, stories, and songs directed toward our graduates. We pray that they will each surrender their lives to Jesus, and as the words of the song suggest, give their all to His service.

High school graduates who received Bibles this year are Lexi Gudeman (Bro. Randy and Sis. Becky), Bro. Kirk Huber (Bro. Gene and Sis. Sherri), Sis. Keelin Isch (Bro. Burt and Sis. Karlene), Evan Neihouser (Bro. Marty and Sis. Angie), Kirby Neihouser (Bro. Brad and Sis. Barb), Sis. Felicia Nuestr (Bro. Dan and Sis. Kathy), Sean Pelsy (Bro. Dale and Sis. Terri), and Alicia Tanner (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Gina).

It was mentioned in the graduation program, "Don't let the dust of familiarity dim the brilliance of the truth". Sometimes we can get so familiar with going to church and hearing the truth that we do not appreciate it as much as we should. Hopefully we will all appreciate the

light and splendor of Jesus' love and sacrifice for us.

Our dear Bro. Ellsworth Pelsy (Sis. Luella) has had health problems recently, and was relieved of his earthly pain and suffering, as He went home to be with the Lord. Bro. Ellsworth's life reflected the love of Jesus, and we are so thankful for the testimony of faith in His life that was evident to all that knew him. We express our sympathy to his dear wife, Sis. Luella, sons, Bro. Dale (Sis. Terri), Bro. Roger (Sis. Lily) and Doug (Katrina), as well as to his grandchildren and extended family. We will all miss him.

Bro. Nick and Sis. Sandra Waibel are happy to welcome a little girl, Ellie Mae into their home! Ellie was born on April 23rd, and has three older brothers, Elijah, Caden and Liam. Grandparents are Bro. Gerry and Sis. Marcia Waibel from West Lafayette, IN and Bro. Jerry and Sis. Janice Gutwein from Francesville.

Hospital patients have been Sis. Maxine Novotny (Bro. Art) and Sis. Carol Gutwein (Bro. Phil). Our prayers continue for their full recovery.

We were inspired by the testimony and baptism of our Bro. Mark Wuethrich (Mark 11), son of Bro. Mark and Sis. Lynne Wuethrich. It is wonderful to hear how the Holy Spirit continues to call and draw all men unto the Lord! John 12:32, "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me."

Our prayers are with Sis. Leah Kaeb (Bro. Les and Sis. Christine), as she is in Tanzania for several weeks at this time, for a study abroad program.

**"Be still and know that I am God"
Psalm 46:10**

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS

Katy Frantz

Sandy Lichtle

Two weddings on May 6 made church attendance small, but the Indy congregation continues to grow. We pray Colossians 1: 9-10 for our church as it matures, wanting Christ to use us for his purposes and for his glory.

On May 6, Sis. Minnie Baltic married Bro. Alan Manz in Rittman, OH. They will attend church in Junction, OH, but we hope they will visit Indianapolis as often as they can. We share in the joy of their parents, Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty Baltic and Bro. Paul and Sis. Sandra Manz.

Sis. Kaitlin Bahler and Bro. Sam Kaufman also married the same day. Many in Indy celebrated the wedding in West Lafayette, IN with Bro. Ed and Sis. Annette Bahler and Joel and Sally Kaufman. The new couple will be living in the Indianapolis area at 227 Cranston Ave. Carmel, IN 46032.

Another new couple has been welcomed to Indianapolis. Bro. Eric and Sis. Jodi Strassheim moved to Indy from Detroit, MI, along with their four children: Tatton 9, Landon 7, Selah 4, and Keira 2. They will be living at 11677 Sweeping Ridge Drive, Zionsville, IN 46077.

Bro. Ken Wuethrich and Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign, IL) led us in communion on May 19. It was a time of contemplation on Christ's sacrifice for sin and our own need for his daily cleansing and renewal of our hearts. We are thankful we can draw closer to God through confidence and faith in Christ Jesus.

"Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way,

which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; And having an high priest over the house of God; Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith.” Hebrews 10:19-22

INDIANA, LACROSSE

**Julie Rocke
Meagan Frank**

*O blessed are they
In holy array
Who with eager mind
Salvation in Jesus
Did seek and did find
Zion's Harp #141*

We rejoice with our convert Jackson Troxel (Bro. Tom and Sis. LuAnn) who has been announced as having found peace with God and man, and desires to erect a covenant with God in the waters of baptism. Our prayers will be with him as we look forward to hearing his testimony in the near future.

As we marvel over the miracle of marriage by faith, our prayers are also with Bro. Joel Troxel (Bro. Ed and Sis. Carol) and Sis. Amy Gerst (Bro. Joe and Sis. Connie, Iowa City, IA) as their engagement was recently announced. We rejoice with them and look forward to welcoming Sis. Amy to LaCrosse.

Our annual Ladies Spring Luncheon was enjoyed by our sisters and friends. The theme was “Shoes”; no matter what kind we are wearing in life, the Lord has made them for us, and we cannot judge one another unless we have walked in each other's.

Sis. LuAnn Troxel (Bro. Tom) recently had surgery on her shoulder, and we are thankful she is healing well. We also rejoice that Sis. Connie Knobloch has recently been moved closer to home and continues heal.

Bro. Steve and Sis. Anna Marie Stoller welcome a new granddaughter into their family. Little Arielle Angelique was born to Bro. Ed and Sis. Michelle Ramsey. Big sister Clarice also welcomes her home. Our prayers are with Joe and Karina Hulse as their baby daughter, Vaila Faith experienced complications at birth and has spent time in the NICU. Thankfully, she appears to be doing well now. Her grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Carol Troxel and her big brother is Joseph.

We would like to thank Bro. Chris Wuethrich (Sis. Carla, St. Louis, MO) for ministering to us this month. And also, as we remember our mothers this month, we thank them, and our Lord for blessing us with their love to show us His.

INDIANA, LEO

Kirby Reutter

“He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me was love” Song of Solomon 2:4

Between Leo, Latty, and Junction, a total of six converts all testified to a new life in Christ on the same evening of April 28, 2012. Since my wife and I live right in the middle of these beloved congregations, and since we have very dear friendships in all three locales, the following is a typical “dilemma” which we face on a regular basis: Where should we worship the LORD this weekend?

Now factor in seven more Apostolic congregations just in Ohio, eleven more Apostolic congregations just in Indiana, three more Apostolic congregations just to the north of us in Michigan...

This particular weekend, we decided to attend Latty church on Saturday evening for testimonies, and then Leo church on Sunday for baptisms. During the testimonies

in Latty, both converts reported that they were called to repentance after participating in Apostolic mission trips on the foreign soil of two different countries (Mexico and Jamaica). During the baptisms in Leo, a total of nineteen greetings were extended from all over the nation, including visiting ministers from the following two locations: Goodfield, IL (Bro. Jeff Wiegand) and Phoenix, AZ (Elder Bro. Herb Knochel).

Now factor in the dozens of other Apostolic congregations scattered throughout the midwest, not to mention the rest of the country from coast to coast, not to mention Apostolic congregations in other parts of the continent, not to mention other continents...

The secular world likes to use fancy words such as synergy, interdependence, systems theory, social networking, and globalization. However, the Bible has a simpler way of describing these concepts: *“Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular” I Corinthians 12: 27.* Sometimes the sense of community, camaraderie, and connectivity of being a part of a national and international fellowship of believers is simply overwhelming. We truly do need each other!

Speaking of new life, not to mention the incredible workings of the body, we rejoice with Bro. Dustin and Sis. Mandy Hodel regarding the safe arrival of Paisely Grace. Paisely was especially welcomed by the following siblings: Liberty 6, Caden 5, and Josie 2. Paisely was also welcomed by maternal grandparents Bro. Ron and Sis. Carol Koehl (Sarasota, FL) and paternal grandparents Bro. Brad and Sis. Patty Hodel (Roanoke, IL).

With Mother's Day in the rearview

mirror, and Father's Day just on the horizon, perhaps it is fitting to briefly reflect upon the role of Gateway house parents. No house parent is looking for worldly recognition, but on the same token, no house parent is likely to decline your prayers either. Bro. Dustin and Sis. Mandy are simply one example of one couple that is currently rearing four of their own children (including a newborn baby), while simultaneously raising as many as seven troubled adolescents under one roof. Since I work with these beloved frontline soldiers on a daily basis, I know firsthand that days are sometimes long and nights are sometimes sleepless. Sometimes it is very difficult to claim the promise:

"But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint." Isaiah 40:31

So on this upcoming Father's Day, as we fulfill our Biblical mandate to render honor to whom honor is due (Exodus 20:12; Romans 3:17), may we also remember to lift up those in prayer who have accepted the Spirit's call to selflessly minister to children and families during their times of affliction (James 1:27).

"That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another" (I Corinthians 12: 25).

INDIANA, MILFORD

Janie Price

Paula Haab

Rejoice! Four families have welcomed new babies. Our Bro. Fred and Sis. Pat Beer became happy grandparents when Tucker Dane was born on Apr. 21st to their son,

Bro. Regg and Sis. Bev in Ixtlan, MX. They were able to travel safely to meet Tucker. On May 6th, Bro. John and Sis. Pam Lehman's family increased when their son, Kevin and Samantha had Parker Xavier. He has Hunter and Jaxon to help take care of him. This little fellow has had to have bowel surgery with complications. We pray for his recovery and return back home. Arriving on May 19 was Josiah Benjamin, the first child of Bro. Jose and Sis. Norma Terrazas. His grandparents are Jack and Emelda Lopez. We'll get to watch Josiah grow from Sunday to Sunday while grandma will no doubt be holding him. Bro. Marc and Sis. Jodi Beer are the parents of a daughter. Jenna Michelle was born March 24. She has three big brothers to share their love with. Grandparents are Bro. Rick and Sis. Dawn Dotterer and Bro. Lee and Sis. Sandy Beer. We share their excitement of having a daughter in their family. We pray that these parents will be able to train up these little blessings in the way that they should go so that they will not depart from it when they are old.

Our Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter took time from his busy schedule to have our monthly Bible Study. We looked at works related to salvation. It was a blessed weekend when several from Bloomfield traveled to Milford. On Sunday, Elder Bro. Doug Schock willingly shared the message of Jesus Christ. Mother's Day brought families together. Among them were Bro. Daren (Sis. Rita) Metz, Gridley, IL and Bro. Chris (Sis. Rachel) Laukhuf, Latty, OH; who paid tribute to our mothers through God's Word. We appreciated all of these brothers and hope they felt our love and support and God's blessings.

At the end of the school year, we have a promotion program at church. Each one in the Bible Class receives one of the various hymn books used in our services. Eight grade graduates receive a Bible with their name engraved on it. Getting those this year were: Aaron Beer (Bro. Randy and Sis. Deb) and Austin Beer (Bro. Brent and Sis. Pam).

June 7th will mark a milestone in the life of Sarah Lehman. She will graduate from High School. Her parents are Bro. Dean and Sis. Mary Lehman. We wish her goodness in all she does and pray she will ask God to direct her path.

June 17th is Father's Day. Most of us had earthly fathers we can honor, which is what is meant on the calendar. It is more important to honor our Heavenly Father every day. He wants to be a father to everyone and is no respecter of persons. Oh, that those who haven't known the love of an earthly father would reach out and learn to know The Heavenly Father.

INDIANA, REMINGTON

Jenni Honegger

Marcella Tyler

We thank the ministers and their wives and families who visited us this month. Bro. Ryan Schock (Sis. Melanie, Bloomfield, IA) and Bro. Todd Stoller (Sis. Pam, Latty, OH) were both here visiting family recently and we were privileged to have them minister to us. In addition, Elder Bros. Rick Plattner (Sis. Mary Anne, Fairbury, IL) and Jay Luthi (Sis. Jane, Lamont-Gridley, KS) helped share in our solemn, yet heart-gladdening celebration of Holy Communion. We are grateful to each one's efforts.

Little Cowen Edward arrived to bless the home of Bro. Jesse and

Sis. Maura Stoller on April 21. His thankful grandparents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Deb Stoller and Bro. Stan and Sis. Norma Knobloch of Lester, IA. We pray the Lord will bless Cowen and keep him and that Bro. Jesse and Sis. Maura will feel the Lord's nearness as they raise this little one to know his Savior.

We offer sincere congratulations to Gabe Isabell (Bro. Phil and Sis. Diane) as he announces his engagement to Brandy Perry (Chris and Debbie Miller and Bill Perry). We pray they can seek the Lord's guidance as a couple and that their marriage will be blessed by Him. They plan a September 13, 2013 wedding.

Sis. Anna Bahler (Bro. Tim and Sis. Lynette) is graduating from high school this month. As she contemplates and makes plans for the future, we pray that she will follow the path that the Lord would choose for her life.

Sis. Marge Pitman has again been hospitalized. We miss her in church and pray for her recovery. Also, a hospital patient this month was Ken Thompson, father of our Sis Tammy (Bro. Dean) Waibel. Ken was in a motorcycle accident and is now home recovering. We ask you to pray for him as well.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

Joshua Martinez

"The Lord bless thee, and keep thee: The Lord make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The Lord lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace."

Numbers 6:24-26

We are thankful for the safe return of our Bro. Robert Beebe (Sis. Sue) from his most recent mission trip to Haiti. Our prayers continue for the relief efforts and the medical

ministry at Hospital Lumiere.

A heartfelt thanks to our visiting ministers this month. May the Lord bless Bro. Thomas Troxel (Sis. LuAnn, LaCrosse, IN) and Bro. Walter Rager (Sis. Sharon, Toledo, OH) for sharing their time and God-inspired talents with us.

"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen." 2 Corinthians 13:14

INDIANA, VALPARAISO

Marguerite Hoerr

In last month's news we were praying for Bro. Art Heinold's safe return from Florida because he had been ill. Our prayers were answered. He did arrive home safely to his home in Valpo with his sister, Sis. Mary Ann Feller. He worshiped with us one Sunday and then was temporarily moved to "Life Care", a convalescent home. We are grateful he is back in the area with us and thank God for prayers answered in the affirmative.

We held our annual Spring program early this month and were made so happy by the visit of Bro. Nile Bucher (Sis. Phyllis) from Bluffton North, IN. Adding to our program and to our enjoyment was the quartet, "Psalm 100." We were reminded that their first time of singing before an audience was in Valpo in the early 1990's. Since that time three of them married and brought their families with them. We love to hear the sound of little children in our church during worship. These are not ordinary sounds during our services and there were intermittent smiles on the faces of many of us when we heard them. Need we say that we were extremely blest by every single

person, whether an adult or a child, who journeyed from Bluffton North congregation that Sunday?

I left out mentioning one person who came who added to my own particular blessing that day. It was Sis. Carolyn Yergler. Carolyn and I knew each other during the time when we were young members in our church and we became friends. Bob and I were able to attend her wedding when she married Bro. Bob Yergler of Bluffton, IN. Carolyn and I had not seen each other to visit since that time, and what a joy it was to walk in our church that Sunday morning to see her. She was so recognizable, even 60 plus years later! You can only imagine the joy we felt in seeing each other; and to know that our friendship has existed for all those years. She has lost Bro. Bob to illness and has moved into Christian Care where she is content and thankful to be. I have special thanks in my heart to Bro. Nile and Sis. Phyllis Bucher for inviting her to accompany them. Maybe the next time we see each other will be in Heaven and I am so grateful to have seen her and that we were given the opportunity to visit together.

My mother was from Bluffton and was a member of the Ben and Eliza Speheger family. My Dad loved going to Bluffton when he and Mom accumulated their family because he said, "that is where I met your Mom. She is all I ever wanted and more than I deserved." I think it embarrassed her but she must have liked it, too. Because of this, our trips to Bluffton meant a lot to me, too.

The third Sunday in May we were privileged to be served Holy Communion by our Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus and by Bro. Garry Bucher. Sis Jenna accompanied Bro. Dan and her smile is always a joy to behold.

It's a special experience to take part in this service, but this time seemed to be the most special of all to me. I became a member at the age of 17 and I remember the joy that accompanied it. This time, a deeper feeling came over me because I could remember that our Lord has stood beside me for nearly 70 years. The feeling inside me was even more meaningful than the first time.

Ministering Bro. Mike Thomas had the misfortune of losing a brother recently. We didn't know him but we do know what losing a sibling means to us, so we extend him and his lovely family a deep sympathy.

We have one graduation to celebrate this year. She is Latoya Thomas, daughter of Bro. Mike and Sis. Claudia. Latoya has endeared herself to all of us because she is one of the few and important young people that we have in our Bible class. She is a regular attendant and we always look forward to meeting her. As she graduates after four years of high school, she is also trained to be an EMT. She will be one of the people on a rescue team that will be deeply appreciated by anyone who needs them. Congratulations, Latoya, from your Valpo congregation.

I have another poem to share with you that was given to me by Sis. Rachel Feller. This time as she gave it to me, she gave it to me with this wish. "I wish that you will say I can't write these poems if God doesn't give them to me first. Yes, I 'write' them but it's only after God has inspired me to write them, and after my Dad helps me to write them correctly." Rachel, we hear and believe you. Here is another one of her inspirations from God:

*A Reason for Life
Before I came to know the Lord, life
was a hollow song.
I would often ask myself, who am I
and where do I belong?
Life had no significance except to live
and die.
But I have found a reason to live, and
this is why.
One man came to earth, and He gave
this world His love.
He left his home in Heaven and His
Father up above.
This Man, of course, is Jesus, and He
lived without transgressions.
He suffered in a sinful world, and
taught us many lessons.
He lived to die and shed His blood
that the world might see His story.
He rose again that all who believe,
could live with Him in glory.
Now I have a joyful reason for life, no
matter what it may bring
To believe in Christ and to serve
Him, as the child of the King.*

Rachel Feller

INDIANA, WEST LAFAYETTE

Ben Stoller

Katie Widmer

Warm and summery greetings we bring you from the hills and dales of West Lafayette. Many other greetings were brought to West Lafayette on May 6 during the blessed union of Bro. Sam Kauffman (son of Joel and Sally) and Sis. Kaitlin Bahler (daughter of Bro. Ed and Sis. Annette). We wish them God's blessings as they begin their lives as one.

Though the departure of some of our students has brought us great sorrow, we would like to welcome new comers. Bro. Troy Fiechter (son of Elder Bro. Lynn and Sis. Ronda) who infuses our group with energy and we are excited to have him around as he pursues an

internship this summer. We are also thankful that Bro. Brent Fiechter (one of our seniors, and son of Bro. Doug and Sis. Jill) is staying around for the summer working as an "Applebuddy," (a waiter at Applebees) and boy is he our buddy!

Our prayers are with all of the other PYG members as they travel abroad (England, Italy, Haiti, Jamaica, Tanzania, South Dakota, Idaho, Cincinnati, and Brookston). And now it is time for our moment of poetry:

*Look beyond the hazing sunset,
To see the glistening dew,
Now look heavenward into the blue,
To find Who can help you.
And you will find Psalm 121:1-2.
I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills,
from whence cometh my help. My
help cometh from the LORD, which
made heaven and Earth.*

Troy Fiechter

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Sasha Kyburz

Donita Edelman

We are thankful for the visiting ministers we had on Mother's Day. Bros. Ron Isch (Sis. Jane) Lamont-Gridley, KS and Frank Sauder (Sis. Kathy) Roanoke, IL. May the Lord richly bless them for being willing to be used in His service.

We have several new little boys to report. Although only one of them attends church here, we are happy for them all. Chris and Brook Cleefman have added Bryton Joseph into their family circle. Also welcoming Bryton home are siblings Lauren, Emily, Landon, Sawyer, Maddie and Owen. How fun to have a baby brother. Bro. Lowell and Sis. Karla Bahler have welcomed two baby grandsons into their family circle. Don and Jill Bahler have added Bowyn Jacob

to their family and Bro. Mike and Sis. Sherice Reinhard (Denver, CO) have added Bennett Simon to their family. May God guide and direct each of these parents in raising their precious children to love and serve Him.

We sympathize with Sis. Marge Hofstetter in the passing of her sister Wanda Robinson from Fowler, IN. Separation by death is often times hard to accept. Yet we know we all must be face it. Continue to lift Sis. Marge up in prayer so she may feel the comfort, not only our church family, but also our loving Savior.

We are updating our book, "Through the Decades", here at Wolcott. It would be helpful and appreciated if anyone that has attended Wolcott church in the past would send an email to Sis. Donita Edelman at donita@nwiis.com and let her know the dates you attended Wolcott church so our book can be accurate.

IOWA, BLOOMFIELD

Rachel Stoller

"Flourishing youth, thou our hope and our fond expectation...Hark to the voice..." Zion's Harp #168 vs. 1

We wish to remember and offer our congratulations to our graduates. Graduating from high school are Sis. Kendra Wuthrich (Bro. Roger and Sis. Deann) and Kari Wuthrich (Bro. Ken and Sis. Lora). Sis. Meredith Klotzle (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Jane, Akron, OH) graduates from college. We wish each one the Lord's guidance.

Bro. Paul and Sis. Charlotte Teubel would like to announce the marriage of their daughter Amy to Andrew Helton. They were married April 20, 2012. May the Lord be near them.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Wilma Teubel upon the death of her brother, Bro. Lyle Fischer of Ford Scott, KS.

Thanks to Bro. Brad Funk (Sis. Laura, Garden Grove, IA) for sharing the pulpit this month.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Marilyn Anderson

Monica Eisenmann

We were privileged to have Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Bloomfield, IA) join Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA), in serving Holy Communion April 21, as we remembered the Lord's death for our sins.

Visiting minister Bro. Glen Steiner (Winthrop, MN), brought the spoken word to our congregation May 6. May the lord richly bless these Bros. for their willingness to serve.

May is the month we remember our Mothers for all they have done for us over the years. The love of a Mother is a blessing.

We extend congratulations to the 2012 High School graduates: Andrew Schulz, Bro. Mahlon Steiner and Sis. Heather Wulf. May they always look to God for their guidance for life ahead.

May those who have lost loved ones this past month and who have health issues feel God's nearness.

IOWA, ELGIN

Maria Rocke

Brianna Strahm

Another little blessing has joined Bro. Brent and Sis. Brianna Strahm's family. Rebekah Joy was born on April 30. Glad to welcome a new little sister are sibling Kathryn, Carolyn, Isaac, Naomi, Daniel and Olivia. Rebekah's grandparents are Bro. Richard and Sis. Edie Strahm (Bern, KS) and Carol Wilson

(Gresham, OR).

Alyssa Moyle, daughter of Steve and Peggy Moyle, will be graduating from high school this year. We wish her many blessings as she pursues her future.

We thank Elder Bro. Wayne Grimm (Sis. Rose, West Bend, IA) for coming and being used in God's service here in Elgin. We appreciate all his efforts on our behalf.

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE

Laura Funk

As I sit here to write this message, my mind wanders to Mother's Day and graduation. The following song kept coming to my mind. This song talks of a Mother's never-ending love even as a child graduates and sets out into the world.

*Hold Fast to the Right
Kneel down by the side of
your mother my boy,
You have only a moment I know,
But stay till I give you this parting
advice,
It is all that I have to bestow.
You leave us to seek your
employment my boy,
By the world you have yet to be tried,
But in the temptations and trials you
meet,
May your heart to the Savior confide.
I gave you to God in your cradle my
boy,
And I've taught you the best that I
knew,
And as long as His mercies permit me
to live,
I shall never cease praying for you.
You will find in your satchel, a Bible,
my boy,
It's the book of all others the best,
It will help you to live and prepare
you to die,
And will lead to the gates of the blest.
Hold fast to the right,
Where ever your foot-steps may
roam,*

*O forsake not the way of salvation,
my boy,
That you learned from your mother
at home.*

Bringing God's message to our congregation was Bro. Galen Rokey (Bern, KS). We appreciate all who support our small congregation. If you can't physically visit us in Garden Grove, we appreciate and covet your prayers.

IOWA, IOWA CITY **Diana Butikofer**

We are happy to hear of another engagement this month. Sis. Amy Gerst (Bro. Joe and Sis. Connie) and Bro. Joel Troxel (Bro. Ed and Sis. Carol) of LaCrosse, IN have our prayers as they prepare to begin their life together.

Our high school graduates this month are: Bro. Jesse Snodgrass (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Becky) and Sis. Ruth Gerst (Bro. Joe and Sis. Connie). Sis. Ruth has also finished classes at Kirkwood Community College and plans to attend Wartburg College in Waverly, IA this fall. Sis. Rachel Snodgrass (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Becky) recently received her Associate Degree in Nursing and plans to pursue a Bachelor Degree. We pray the Lord will bless their future plans as they seek His will.

We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Tom Stock (Sis. Karol, Cissna Park, IL) with us for Holy Communion on a recent Saturday evening and Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Sis. Julie, Oakville, IA) the following Saturday evening for the reading of the Memorandum. We appreciate these brothers' willingness to serve us both on Saturday and Sunday and trust the Lord will continue to bless their love for Christ's flock.

IOWA, LESTER **Joyce Moser** **Gloria Moser**

We welcome two precious baby boys into our church family. Lincoln Cole was born on May 4th to Bro. Troy and Sis. Gwen Metzger. Chloe and Maria are very excited for a new brother. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Charlotte Metzger and Bro. Doug and Sis. Jeryl Grimm (Sabetha, KS). On May 19th, Bro. Willis and Sis. Joann Nester welcomed Truman Gene into their family. Ava, Adria and Ahna are the happy big sisters. Grandparents are Bro. Pat and Sis. Twyla Meyer and Sis. Shirley Nester. May they experience God's joys and blessings as they raise their children.

Loved ones that have spent time in the hospital in the past month include Bro. Melvin Knobloch (Sis. Wilma), Sis. Marie Knobloch (Bro. Ezra), Luke Lemman (Bro. Cory and Sis. Rachel), Sis. Gladys Knobloch, Bro. Tom Metzger (Sis. Deb) and Bro. Larry Knobloch. May they lean on the Great Physician for strength and healing.

*"Strive aright when God in mercy
His compassion turns to you,
That your soul so long o'er-burdened,
Freed from sin might live anew."
Zion's Harp #47*

We are so thankful that Tristan and Chalsea Kuenzi have found the needed grace from a merciful Heavenly Father and have turned to God in repentance. Their parents are Bro. Vern and Sis. Chalea Knobloch and Bro. Todd and Sis. Melissa Kuenzi (Silverton, OR). May we prayerfully support them as they build a firm foundation on Jesus Christ the Solid Rock.
To Our Graduates:

*You've come to the end of one path,
And now it's time to explore
New dreams and distant horizons
More challenges than before.
The road won't always be easy
It may get rocky and rough.
But keep on going, don't turn back:
In God you'll find strength enough.
Always trust in Him for guidance
And give nothing but your best,
Then your journey throughout this
life
Will be by Him richly blessed.
Author Unknown*

Our desire is that our young people will look to God for guidance and direction as they start employment or go on to schools of higher learning. Our high school graduates include: Nichole Barber (Mike and Sis. Donna), Sis. Shannon DeSmet (Bro. Bob and Sis. Shirley), Alison Klostergaard (Brad and Sis. Linda), Kenneth Knobloch (Bro. Lynn and Sis. Joni), Brent Leuthold (Bro. Doug and Char), Joshua Metzger (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Dawn), Drew Mogler (Bro. Dwight and Sis. Donna), Caleb Moser (Bro. Wes and Sis. Esther), LaChelle Moser (Bro. Brad and Sis. Gloria), Katie Popkes (Bro. Greg and Sis. Lori) and Dalton Ver Beek (Tim and Sis. Becky). Our college graduates are Nick DeHaan (Bro. Tim and Lois), Lucy Larson (Tedd and Sis. Diane). Adam Leuthold (Bro. Doug and Char) and Tyler Moser (Bro. Brad and Sis. Gloria).

IOWA, OAKVILLE **Sharla Wiegand**

The annual Sunday School election was held and the new teachers are Bro. Dan Frank, Bro. Keith Lanz, Bro. Troy Massner, Sis. Nola Gerst and Sis. Melody Steiner. We are thankful for the service of the teachers who have completed their terms: Bro. Walt

Gerst, Bro. Brian Knapp, Bro. Dave Lanz, Sis. Kim Massner and Sis. Sharla Wiegand. It is a precious responsibility to teach our youth about God and His love for us.

Visiting ministers this month included Bro. Bruce Frank (Cissna Park, IL), Bro. Michael Wagenbach (Wolcott, IN) and Bro. Phil Schulz (Burlington, IA). May the Lord be their rich rewarder.

Leia Kate joined the family of Bro. Kent and Sis. Megan Schmidgall on April 23. She was welcomed home by older siblings, Grace and William, and grandparents, Elder Bro. Jon and Sis. Julie Schmidgall and Bro. Brad and Sis. Teresa Kellenberger of Sabetha, KS.

Believing through faith that the Lord has brought them together, the engagement of Sis. Whitney Wagenbach (Bro. Colin and Sis. Barb) and Bro. Mike Roth (Bro. Mark and Sis. Tammy) of Congerville, IL was announced on April 29.

JAPAN, TOKYO

Manuela Denes

Marie Inoue

The month of May is lovely here in Japan. There are botanical gardens near the church that have 5,200 stalks of roses this year which are now in full bloom. They are lit up at night at this season for a good view. Even more beautiful is the opportunity to gather with loved ones on a Sunday and hear the inspired message of the Word. We were glad Bro. Akihiro (Sis. Carrie) could come and speak the Word to us.

In the countryside one of the church ladies in Shioda told me the farmers are very busy preparing the trees so they will produce the best fruits. In another area, an elderly grandmother was weeding her

broad bean patch. She mentioned the rabbits come at night and help themselves. But she doesn't mind as they also have to eat and feed their young. So she plants enough for both!

We are enjoying a visit from Sis. Javon Steffen, Bluffton North. She is here for 3 months of study/fellowship. May she enjoy her visit as she strives to be a light to fellow students and in our assemblies. One of our shut-in sisters, Urushino-san, was transferred back to her long-term care facility in Higashi Totsuka from the hospital as her fever has subsided. Even though she cannot speak, her family says she brightens up when church folks visit her bedside.

We are thankful to have our yearly business meeting this month. We mostly kept the same jobs with a few more added. May we fulfill our duties with joy as when we serve the brotherhood, we serve our dear Lord. We enjoyed having Bro. Andrew, and two of their children, Sis. Hannah and Caleb with us that afternoon. We remember them often in thought and prayer.

KANSAS, BERN

Sheri Edelman

Rita Menold

We so much appreciate having visitors assemble with us! Among our visitors this past month were ministering Bro. Brandon Emch (Kansas City, MO) and Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Lamont-Gridley, KS). Thank you for serving us!

Bro. Perry Klopfenstein (Gridley, IL) shared a presentation to our church on "Our Spiritual Heritage".

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

thy paths." Proverbs 3:5. This is our prayer for all our graduates, as they close one chapter in life, and open a new one. Our high school graduates this year are Jessalyn Strahm (Bro. Faron and Sis. Jana), Benji Stoller (Bro. Arden and Sis. Dar), Jordan Rokey (Bro. Galen and Sis. Nancy), Darren Meyer (Bro. Jim and Sis. Kristen) and Malerie Strahm (Bro. Mike and Sis. Diane). Bro. Brady Strahm (Bro. Ed and Sis. Ramona) has completed nursing school and is now an RN! He has accepted a job at Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City. Sis. Sheila Strahm (Bro. Kyle and Sis. Peggy) has also completed her schooling and is now an LPN. Whether we are in school, the work place or at home, let's always remember to let the joy of Jesus shine through us!

We said good-bye to several foreign exchange students this month. Gino Zavalloni, from Wohlen, Switzerland and Guillaume de Moclin from Paris, France were exchange students staying with Bro. Jay and Heidi Baumgartner. Maria Rivero from Santa Cruz, Bolivia spent the past several months with Bro. Duane and Sis. Holly Meyer. Bella Pacheco, from Munich, Germany, made her American home with Bro. Faron and Sis. Jana Strahm. It is always interesting learning the cultural differences when we get to know those from across the many miles!

Sis. Kaye Meyer had surgery on her foot. We pray that she will have a speedy recovery and be up and about soon!

We warmly welcome anyone traveling through for summer vacations to stop and worship with us! It is such blessing to travel from church to church and feel such a common bond with our brothers and sisters!

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT**Teresa Bahr**

“And the disciples did as Jesus had appointed them; and they made ready the Passover.” Matthew 26:19

Our Elders, Bro. Randy Kellenberger and Bro. John Lehman traveled to be with us on April 18 to serve Holy Communion.

Our graduates from high school are convert Joseph Fischer (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Gloria) and Nathan Lemons (Robin Lemons); from college is Kailey Lemons (Robin Lemons); and from 8th grade is Heather Bahr (Bro. Larry and Sis. Julie).

His earthly suffering over, God took Bro. Lyle Fischer home quietly Sunday evening April 29. Our sympathy and prayers are to his wife, Sis. Lillian, and to his children Edwin (Carol), Stephen (Jan), Bro. Jeff (Gloria), Sis. Lynne Streitmatter (Elder Bro. Jeff, Sarasota, FL), grandchildren and extended family. Visiting ministers conducting the funeral services were Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS), Elder Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO), Bro. Fred Funk (Morton, IL), and Bro. Klint Beyer (Sabetha, KS).

Sis. Juanita Sinn is recovering from surgery and Sis. Betty Lemons (Bro. Bob) still has health issues. We pray God to be near them and restore their health according to His will.

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

Sis. Chelsie Bahr (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Janice) and Bro. Lee Jones (Bro. Ron and Sis. Elizabeth, Oregon) were joined in marriage on May 6 here in Kiowa and will make their home in Dallas, Oregon. To watch God work to bring two lives together according to His will, is a beautiful mystery

in comparison to Christ and His Bride the church. It is our fervent prayer that God will continue His work in their lives and bless their home with His Grace, Love and Guidance. We would like to thank the Elder and ministering brethren who shared the pulpit and the Word of God with our congregation this special weekend and also all who traveled from a distance to enjoy the occasion with us. Christian friendships are a precious treasure to us. We would also like to thank everyone who helped with the food, cleanup, housing, etc. We could not have done it without you. May God richly bless you all.

“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him; and He shall direct your paths.” Proverbs 3:5,6

It is so hard to believe that Joshua Stewart (Bro. Kelly and Sis. Jenny) and Blake Wagenbach (Bro. Ken and Sis. Laura) are graduating from high school and are ready to take the next step in their lives. Our young people have been the heart of our church here in Kiowa. We really miss them when they go away. But we understand that God knows best and has a plan for their lives. So, we pray for them and hold them up to God to bless and keep them in all they achieve. We also pray for Alysson Stewart (Bro. Kelly and Sis. Jenny). She graduated from 8th grade.

We have had several hospital patients this month: Sis. Helen Farney, Sis. Marie Tucker, Bro. Joe Frieden-surgery, and Sis. Janice Bahr-surgery. It is our fervent prayer that God will lay His healing hand on each one and see them through to health again.

Do you have a Godly father and

mother who have brought you up in the fear and admonition of our Lord? May we never forget to let them know how much we appreciate them!!

KANSAS, LAMONT-GRIDLEY

Funeral services were held on Monday, May 7, 2012, for Sis. Dorothy Young (the late Bro. Ephraim). Our sympathy is extended to her daughters, Sharyl Ellis (Bill) and Lanette Bazil (Kavin) in the loss of their mother. Sis. Dorothy had been in the rest home for the last three years.

Congratulations and best wishes to our graduates this year. Graduating from 8th Grade is Layke Edelman (Bro. Victor and Sis. Hope) and graduating from high school is Preston Adams (grandson of Bro. Jeff and Sis. Debbie Frieden).

KANSAS, SABETHA**Belinda Kellenberger****Sally Strahm**

“Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward.” Psalm 127:3

We rejoice with grandparents, Bro. Brad and Sis. Teresa Kellenberger, as another granddaughter Leia Kate Schmidgall joined their family circle. Leia's parents are Bro. Kent and Sis. Megan Schmidgall of Oakville, IA.

Grandparents, Bro. Doug and Sis. Jeryl Grimm, are also rejoicing over another grandson Lincoln Cole. Lincoln's parents are Bro. Troy and Sis. Gwen of Lester, IA.

Bro. John and Sis. Teresa Hartter are rejoicing over their little boy bundle from Heaven, Kowen Todd. Kowen's grandparents are Bro. Eric and Sis. Luann Kaeb of Cissna Park, IL and Bro. Tim and Sis. Charleen Hartter. May God be with all these

families as God has entrusted these precious little ones into their care.

Bro. Ned Bahler (Sis. Anna, Fairbury, IL), Bro. Brandon Emch (Sis. Maria, Kansas City, MO), Elder Bro. David Steffen (Sis. Linda, Elgin, IL) and Bro. Galen Rokey (Sis. Nancy, Bern, KS) were our visiting ministers this past month. May God bless you for your willing labors.

Our Holy Communion was May 4 with Elder Bro. David Steffen assisting our Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzell. May God bless you for your kind exhortations throughout the weekend.

*Anew, Lord, we are bound to Thee
Through Thy blest sacrament, which
we
Partook, that joined in heart and
hand;
To Zion's realm and holy land
We journey on.
Lord, lead us then by Thy strong
hand
As pilgrims through this desert land;
We are pursued by many foes;
Deliver us from all our woes;
For we are Thine.
Zions Harp Hymn #200 vs. 5, 6*

May God be with our graduates from High School. They are: Jacob Kaster (Eldon and Lana), Lydia Meeks (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Christy), and Sis. Rose Hartter (Bro. Tim and Sis. Charleen).

KANSAS, WICHITA **Emma Miller**

Bro. Dennis Kaufmann (Sis. Bonnie, Bloomington, IL) was on our small church schedule for May. He used examples from the Bible to describe the two kinds of mothers that existed then and still exist today. We enjoyed their visit.

Our annual Mother/Daughter banquet theme for this year was KIS (Keep It Simple). Some of our guests

see us only on this annual event, so it is a happy occasion.

Our dear Bro. Phillip Bowers answered his Heavenly Father's call to come to his heavenly rest. Phil became paraplegic at age 13 and has been cared for by his loving family. He became a blessing to countless Wichita State University students when he earned his Master of Education Degree and was Assistant Director of TRIO Disability Support. He was preceded in death by his father, Bro. Milton Bowers. Phillip is survived by his mother: Sis. Lillian Bowers; four brothers: James, Paul, Ben and Mike Bowers; and eight sisters: Jackie Farney, Cecily Holliday, Patti Miskimon, Sarah Krehbiel, Priscilla Frank, Phyllis Long (his twin), Lois Hallberg and Julie Beck. I have special memories of his mother going to classes with him and taking notes for his studies.

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

Tractors in the fields, no frost on the windshields, bugs crawling across porch swings...all signs that the season has changed. We are thankful with this change comes our beloved snowbirds. Many have returned after a winter in the South. Our congregation is very blessed when all are home.

A welcome reception took place for Bro. Loren and Sis. Heidi Kaeb. It is a beautiful thing to see God's love plan in action. We pray for the young couple and are thankful for their presence in our congregation.

"And as they did eat, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and break it, and gave to them, and said, Take, eat: this is my body." Mark 14:22

Remembering Christ's blood and

suffering for our sakes... We took part in Holy Communion. Thankful for Elder Bro. Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan, Taylor MO) for assisting Elder Bro. Ted Steffen in the work.

*Temple of the Heart
It pleases God to have new temples
grow
Within the hearts of those that love
Him so;
And when these temples rise so strong
and true,
Endowed with faith through grace
anew;
A spiritual fragrance fills the air,
A chapel has been built through
prayer.
Then God looks down on those below
And all His love He doth bestow,
As shadows close the day so fair
These hearts find peace and solace
there.*

Audrey McDaniel

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

We are thankful that God is continuing to call souls unto repentance. We rejoice with Shawn Curtis (Jim and Laurel) and pray that God will continue to work His good and perfect will in Shawn's life.

Elder Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Sis. Nancy, Forrest, IL) traveled to Bay City at the end of April to assist with Holy Communion. Bro. Steve Stieglitz (Sis. Jane, Leo, IN) and Bro. Jeff Waibel (Sis. Margo, Leo, IN) both spent Mother's Day with our congregation. We are thankful that all three of these brothers were willing to be used by the Holy Spirit to bring forth the Gospel message.

We wish to remember Sis. Mabelle Wackerle as she spent time in the hospital recently. We are thankful that she has been able to assemble with us again.

We have four high school graduates this year. They are Janessia Henderson (Natalie Henderson and Jeremy Henderson), Faleasha Knochel (Norm and Sis. Linda Andrzejewski), Seth Schlatter (Bro. Ken and Sis. Pam) and Taylor Whyte (Diana Whyte and Jeff Whyte). Our prayer is that each of these students will seek the Lord's direction for their future.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT Krista Wieland

Today I planted my flowers and I laid them out in the places I wanted to plant them before I actually started digging holes. The ones that were in the sun the longest had dried some before I got to them. I knew I needed to plant them as soon as possible. I thought about a spiritual application to my dry flowers. My flowers weren't in the soil where they could be nourished and protected from the sun, so they dried out. If we aren't in the safety of our spiritual soil of God's Word enough, we also will dry out spiritually. The good thing is that our spiritual soil of God's Word is there and will bless us, but just as the flowers had to go to the soil, we need to choose to go to the Word.

"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven" Ecclesiastes 3:1

We were reminded of this verse as our dear Bro. Jim Barton (Sis. Vi) passed away to his eternal home in heaven. We want to extend our deepest sympathy to his family. His children are Sis. Holly Bohart (Bro. Joe), Sis. Charlotte Barton, Sis. Jackie Barton, Sis. Gail Gasser (Bro. David), and Bro. Brian Barton (K.C.).

Our church was recently blessed to take part in the Zion's Harp song

recording of several songs.

We want to keep praying for Sis. Crystal Frank (Bro. Lucas), and Sis. Vi Barton who are recovering from injuries. We also want to be prayerful for Sis. Linda Reardon (John) who recently had surgery, and Sis. Linda Shaw who is continuing chemotherapy treatments.

We are thankful to Bro. Bill and Sis. Carol Waibel (Bay City, MI) who came to conduct church services to our Woodhaven residents.

Our 7th Annual All Michigan sing is scheduled for Sunday evening May 20 at the Woodpointe Independent Living Community, adjacent to the church. New for this year is a 5:30 pizza dinner, which will precede the 6:30 singing. This event includes the Alto, Bay City and Detroit, MI churches, as well as the Toledo, OH church.

The 24th Annual Choir Benefit Dinner and Program is scheduled for Saturday, July 14 at the church. The dinner will be at 5:00 and the Choir Program will begin at 7:00. Feel free to invite friends and neighbors. Please R.S.V.P. to Jamie or Scott Bahr at (734) 513-5907 or spbahr@yahoo.com for meal planning purposes by the 4th of July.

We warmly welcome Bro. Andre Gutwein who is here from Purdue for a summer internship. We are glad to have you!

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS Tim McMillan

We began May reading from Romans Chapter 8. Verses 3, 16-17 seem to speak out. *"For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh."* Verses 16-17 *"The Spirit*

itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: and if children then heirs: heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ: if so be that we suffer with him, that we may also be glorified together." When reading the chapter, we learn that only by denying the flesh, and the sins thereof that were exposed by the law, can we be an heir, or child of God. Ask if one can suffer with Christ if one is freely pursuing desires or ways of the world? May God keep watch over all of us that we suffer with our Lord.

We look forward to the coming summer months in Minneapolis as the time usually brings a multitude of brethren visiting us up north on vacation trips. The boundary waters is said to have some of the most peaceful places in Minnesota to reflect upon our Creator. We hope for many visitors this year.

Betty Lindwall, one of our beloved converts (Ron Lindwall, dec.), has lost a very close relative this month. We pray for her and share in her sorrow. May the Lord keep the family in His watch that they may know of His joy.

Brethren be ye not affrighted, God is yet among you here; you are still with Him united, and His grace is ever near. His corrections prove His love, Showered on us from above. Let this be your consolation! Why despair in tribulation! Zion's Harp #38 vs. 1

MINNESOTA, MORRIS Kim Feuchtenberger Annie Wulf

O Holy Spirit, who with gentle prompting Dost comfort, chasten, and impel to prayer! Who perfect peace and holy understanding, Faith, hope and love from God to me doth share! O govern me; impress on me

the likeness Of Jesus and the seal of brotherhood. O, fill my heart with peace and prayerful silence, A holy temple of the living God.

Zion's Harp #180 vs. 3

Visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Mike Leman (Sis. Deb) Denver, CO, Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi (Sis. Becky) Lemar, MO, Elder Bro. Duane Rocke (Sis. Bonnie) Minneapolis, MN, Bro. John Steiner (Sis. Carol) Oakville, IA, Bro. Pat Zaugg (Sis. Julie) West Bend, IA, Bro. Dale Banwart (Sis. Melissa) Congerville, IA, and Bro. Clint Schmidt (Sis. Magdalena) Winthrop, MN. May God bless each one for their efforts in laboring in God's Vineyard.

Heather Sauder (Bro. Verle and Sis. Christa) is engaged to Eldon Norby (Kerkhoven, MN). We wish them the very best as they plan for a summer wedding.

Graduation season is here and among those graduating from high-school are: Tony Domnick (Bro. Jim and Sis. Penny), Brady Koehl (Bro. Byron and Sis. Julie), Olivia Koehl (Bro. Chris and Sis. Shelly), Jacob Moser (Jon and Lori), Julia Sauder (Bro. Paul and Sis. Marie), Kendra Schmidgall (Bro. Rob and Sis. Kathryn), Paul Domnick (Bro. Mike and Sis. Marcy) and Larissa Schmidgall (Bro. Paul and Sis. Shawn).

We thank you loving teachers too, For all your love and care. You teach us of the heavenly home, How we may enter there. And when we leave our father's house, And journey thru this world of strife, Oh may your loving counsel then, Show us the path of life.
Hymns of Zion #73 vs. 2

"Be still and know that I am God"
Psalm 46:10

MINNESOTA, ROCHESTER

Mark Stork

Eric Bachman

We would like to thank Elder Bro. Duane Rocke (Sis. Bonnie, Minneapolis, MN) for sharing God's Word on a Wednesday evening. Bro. Dean Messner (Sis. Wanda, Winthrop, MN) was here for our monthly Sunday worship. We are thankful for the instructions we receive from God's Holy Word. Our next scheduled Sunday services are for July 1 and July 29. Our next Wednesday evening service is scheduled for June 20. We would invite all who would be in the area to worship with us.

We bid farewell to Bro. Josh Wettstein as he has finished his internship and moved back to Eureka IL.

For anyone interested in staying at the Guest House, the contacts are Bro. Mark and Sis. Sandy Stork. The phone number is (507) 288-0072.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

Lindsay Schmidt

Heather Steiner

*Only He is called a brother
Whom the tie of love does bind;
And the love of God, the Father,
Filleth soul and heart and mind.*

Zion's Harp #237 vs. 3

In remembrance of what Jesus did for us our congregation gratefully partook in Holy Communion. This time of thankfulness, self-examination, and a unity of the brethren is a wonderful blessing. Elder Bro. John (Sis. Connie Lehman, Bern, KS) willingly assisted in this sacred work. We thank them for their willingness to come and share this special time with us.

*Now thank we all our God
With heart, and hands and voices,*

*Who wondrous thing has done,
In whom the world rejoices,
Who from our mother's arms
Has blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
And still is ours today.*

Zion's Harp #236 vs. 1

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

These souls betrothed before Thee stand;

*Thy blessing we implore;
Unite Thou them in heart and hand,
And guide them evermore.*

Hymns of Zion #286 vs. 2

Trusting in God's leading Sis. Lena Steiner (Bro. Glen and Sis. Rachel) and Bro. Matt Wyss (Bro. Ed and Kathy, Washington, IL) have announced their engagement. We wish God's blessings on their engagement.

*Take courage, way worn pilgrim!
Tho' mists and shadows hide
The face of Him thou lovest,
He's ever at thy side.
Reach out thy hand and find Him,
And lo, the clouds have flown;
He smiles on thee who promised
Never to leave thee alone.*
Hymns of Zion #127 vs. 3

Our thoughts and prayers will be with Sis. Heather Steiner (Bro. Glen and Sis. Rachel) as she leaves for Haiti for several months. She will be helping in the work at Hospital Lumiere in Bonne Fin. We pray that God will be with her, bless her, protect her, and guide her.

How gentle God's commands!

*How kind His precepts are!
Come, cast your burdens on the Lord,
And trust His constant care.
Hymns of Zion #9 vs. 1*

Our surgical patient this month was Sis. Lois Messner (Bro. Marlyn). We pray that God will bless her with healing and a quick recovery.
Note of Thanks:

Sis. Dorothy Jacobson extends her sincere appreciation to all those that visited, sent cards, called, and prayed for her during her illness and recovery. May God bless each one.

MISSOURI, LAMAR

Lisa Stoller

Venetta Banwart

We were thankful and privileged to partake of Holy Communion on May 6. We appreciate Elder Bro. Bruce Endress (Bradford, IL) for being here for the weekend and serving us in the Lord's work.

We are also thankful and blessed to have two visiting ministers this month, Bro. David Hartter (Sabetha, KS) and Bro. Ron Isch (Lamont-Gridley, KS). May they both feel God's blessings for feeding us from God's Holy Word.

Congratulations to our graduates: Kristi Braker (Bro. Roy and Sis. Judy), Sis. Jessica Luthi (Bro. Calvin and Sis. Jodi), Kelsey Rutledge (Karla) and Sis. Elizabeth Schmidgall (Bro. Larry and Sis. Marcy) as they graduate from high school. May they each feel God's nearness and look to the Lord to guide the future.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

Kary Mangers

May started out with the special event of Communion. Thank you Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, Lacrosse, IN) and Elder Bro. Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan, Taylor, MO) for

joining us for this occasion. Bro. Kent also took this time to share the Memorandum with us. We appreciate each time Bro. Kent and Sis. Jan are able to fellowship with us and we feel the love they have for us. Bro. Kent shepherds our congregation. We would also like to thank Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign), Bro. Kevin Fehr (Sis. Lonnie, West Bend, IA), and Bro. Paul Kilgus (Sis. Carmen, Fairbury, IL) for each of their visits.

For anyone who will be visiting St. Louis and joining us for worship, we have obtained a special corporate rate with the Drury Inn and Suites located off I-270 and Olive. It is approximately 10-15 minutes from church and offers breakfast and a hot supper to their guests. You must call this Drury Inn and Suites direct at (314) 989-1100 and tell them you are visiting the Apostolic Christian Church to receive the established rate.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Melissa Reiman

What is your favorite memory of your father? Father's Day is coming soon, and it is a time to remember our fathers! Have you ever thought about how blessed we are to have two fathers? Not only do we have an earthly father that reared us and cared for us, but we also have a Heavenly Father who watches over us and loves us unconditionally! There is a Bible passage that I would like everyone to read: St. Luke 15:11-32. It is the story of the prodigal son; and while you are reading it, I want you to ask yourself if you would do the same thing that this father did when he saw his son coming from afar.

We recently had our "invite-a-guest" weekend, and we thank all

the people who invited guests to our church for the weekend. We thank our guests who came to be with us. Also, we thank all the "servants" who did their part to make the weekend so special!

Bro. Cole Sutter and Sis. Tinslee Tuley were united in marriage on May 6, and we rejoice with them as they begin their new walk together with Jesus Christ! We wish them God's blessing and much happiness.

We thank Bro. Doyle Frauhofer (Sis. Jane, Bluffton North, IN) and Bro. Clark Stoller (Sis. Cindy, Gridley, IL) for coming and preaching the Word of Jesus Christ to our congregation.

Bro. Tim Hohulin (Sis. Cathy, Roanoke, IL) had a Bible Study on "Stop, Look, and Listen"; and we thank them for making the trip to Taylor. He asked people to stop and look at important events in their lives and then to listen to what God wanted them to get from that experience. So what is the important event in your life for which God is trying to get your attention?

We are saddened by the passing of Bro. Lyle Fischer of Fort Scott. He was a brother-in-law to Sis. Emma Hoerr and Sis. Ruth Hoerr of Taylor. We weep with his family and pray that God will help them through this trying time.

MEXICO, IXTLÁN

Matt Gerber

"Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: AND THE FRUIT OF THE WOMB IS HIS REWARD. As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth." Psalm 127:3-4

God brought two more "blessings" into our church families. Bro. Regg and Sis. Bev Beer became parents of Tucker Dane on April 21, and

Bro. Matt and Sis. Ruth Gerber welcomed Abigail Faith on May 15. We are thankful that both the mothers and babies are healthy and getting along well. Please pray that the Lord would give the parents grace and wisdom to bring these children up in the nurture and instruction of Christ.

A special fellowship weekend is being planned for June 29-July 1. The brethren from Barra Vieja, Morelia, and Querétaro have been invited to Ixtlán to share time together with the church here. Your prayers are appreciated for the Holy Spirit's guidance in the planning and topics for the weekend, as well as for safety for those who will be travelling.

Prayers are asked for Bro. Lalo Ugalde and his family who are living in Querétaro; recently he has experienced some health problems.

We are currently looking for an additional teacher for the grade school for next year. We would be grateful if you would pray for God to direct someone to us who can be a responsible teacher and a good example to the children.

NEW YORK, CROGHAN- NAUMBURG Hope Graves

We partook of Holy Communion together on Saturday evening, April 28th. A potluck dinner was shared together first, followed by the communion service. We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzell and Sis. Ellen with us for the weekend from our church at Sabetha, KS. We thank Bro. Gerry for his many labors of love and for remaining to bring forth the Word to us on Tuesday evening.

“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go

ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” Matthew 28:18-20

Many were able to help out with our annual church cleaning on Monday evening, May 7th. It always reminds us that “many hands make light work.”

We remember Betty Widrick in our prayers after the death of her brother, Merrit Reed, at the age of 78. We extend prayers for healing to Joe Bush and Loren Virkler who have been hospitalized.

O I love to talk with Jesus, for it smooths the rugged road. And it seems to help me onward, when I faint beneath my load. When my heart is crushed with sorrow, and my eyes with tears are dim. There is nought can yield me comfort, like a little talk with Him.

Hymns of Zion #80, vs. 1

AKRON, OHIO Erika Gal

“And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, even as we do toward you: To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.” 1 Thes. 3: 12-13

We are thankful that our convert, Amanda Steidl, has found peace with God and man. We look forward to her proving and baptism in the near future. Her parents are Bro. Don and Sis. Nan Steidl.

With sadness, we bid farewell to Sis. Christa Gasser. She has been

a ray of sunshine and a blessing to our congregation while she has been studying at the University of Akron. We pray that she will always feel the Lord's direction and blessing in her life.

Our prayers have been with Bro. Al (Sis. MaryAnn) Weigele as he has dealt with some health struggles. We are thankful to see him in church again and trust he will continue to feel God's healing and strength.

It was quite a privilege to listen to a sermon by our Bro. Johann Szemmelroth from Linz, Austria. He has been visiting his sister, Sis. Ilona (Bro. Gaius) Laubli for a few weeks. It is precious to find the same Spirit and faith in our brethren from far away. We also wish to thank Bro. Mike (Sis. Barb) Ursu from Kitchener and Bro. Mark (Sis. Sue) Steiner from Smithville for sharing the Word of Life with us this month. We pray that our Heavenly father would reward them richly.

OHIO, COLUMBUS Lauren Rufener

This past month we have appreciated visiting minister Bro. Todd and Sis. Lydia Graf (Akron, OH) for sharing God's word with us.

OHIO, JUNCTION Vicki Boroff

May has been an eventful month for Junction. While some events were welcomed and anticipated, others were not. And yet, we have much to be thankful for at the end of the month.

We enjoyed the weddings of Bro. Alan Manz (Bro. Paul and Sis. Sandra) to Sis. Minnie Baltic of Rittman (Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty), and Bro. Travis Schlatter (Bro. Denny and Sis. Laurie) to Sis. Lilly Manz (Bro. Russell and Sis. Vera). We wish both couples God's many

blessings as they begin the rest of their life together.

Bros. Todd Sinn (Sis. Pam, Latty, OH) and Matt Manz (Sis. Deanna, Toledo, OH) ministered to us during our Junction wedding weekend. We appreciate our visiting and home ministers.

Our high school graduates this year are: Jake Bauman (Peg Fehl), Jenna Gasser (Bro. Roger and Sis. Sue), Kelli Schlatter (Bro. Ed and Sis. Cheryl), and Sis. Sarah Schrenk (Bro. Steve and Sis. Linda). We wish them the best as they move into the next phase of their life.

We pray for those that had automobile accidents this month. We are thankful for those that didn't meet with injury, and prayerful for those that did. Kelsi Manz (Bro. Les and Sis. Karen) and Bro. Ed Schlatter (Sis. Cheryl) were both transported via LifeFlight. We are thankful that Kelsi was released the same evening as her accident. We continue to hold Bro. Ed and his family in our thoughts and prayers as he remains hospitalized after his accident. He has a long road ahead of him and has expressed his appreciation for prayers.

**OHIO, LATTY
Carmen Stoller
Mindy Stoller**

"Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward." [Psalm 127:3](#)

We were blessed with the birth of two precious babies this past month. Bro. Thad and Sis. Kara Sinn welcomed Tylan Michael on April 22. Thankful grandparents include Bro. Todd and Sis. Janet Sinn, and Bro. Doug and Sis. Judy Kraft (Lamont-Gridley, KS). Bro. Brian and Sis. Mackenzie Wenninger welcomed Madelyn Bess on May 4.

Excited siblings include Breanna, Meagan, Bella, and Malachi. Grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Deb Wenninger, and Ed and Jackie Scarbrough. We wish both families showers of blessing as they raise their little ones in the fear of God.

We know the angels in heaven are rejoicing as Abram Klopfenstein (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Cherry) has turned his life to the Lord. We are thankful God's call is still going out.

We enjoyed a blessed weekend April 28-29 as we witnessed the testimony and baptisms of siblings Bro. Derek and Sis. Ashley Plummer (Bro. Rick and Sis. Denise). It was encouraging to hear of God's work in their lives. Retired Elder Bro. Ray Sinn assisted Bro. John and we are thankful for his service.

Many thanks go to Bro. Earl Beery (Sis. Suzy, Rittman, OH) and Bro. Justin Koch (Sis. Marcia, Washington, IL) for visiting us and sharing the Word with us this past month. We know it is a sacrifice on their part and we appreciate it greatly.

Notes of thanks:

Dear Ones in Christ,
We want to express our gratitude for all the cards, gifts, and especially the prayers on our behalf over the last few years and in the passing of our dear husband and father, Raymond. Feeling your love and care was truly a comfort and encouragement. May God bless you as only He can.

Sincerely, Sis. Catherine Klopfenstein and Family

Bro. Harlan Riggenbach, 87, went to be with the Lord on April 7th. Surviving are his wife, Sis. Dolores, daughters, Sis. Patricia (David) Gerber, and Bonnie Gehman, (Jim deceased), 6 Grandchildren, Sis. Laura, Bryant, Sis. Kelsey Gerber

and Bethany, Adriana, and Natalie Gehman and a sister, Lucille Treece. We would like to thank everyone for all their love, kindness, and help. The Harlan E. Riggenbach Family

**OHIO, MANSFIELD
Tami Griffey**

We rejoice with Bro. Edward II and Sis. Michelle Ramsey at the birth of their daughter Ariel Angelique Ramsey on May 1. Her sister Clarice welcomed her home. Thankful Grandparents include Bro. Edward and Sis. Laura Ramsey, and Bro. Steve and Sis. Anna Marie Stoller (LaCrosse, IN).

We recognized our graduating high school seniors Caleb Boliantz (Bro. Doug and Sis. Connie), and Danielle Boor with a breakfast. May they entrust their lives to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

On the weekend of April 28, we enjoyed many visiting brethren from Congerville, IL. It was a blessing to host them and enjoy times of fellowship together. With us on the pulpit were Elder Bro. Ben (Sis. Juanita) Walder and Bro. Dale (Sis. Melissa) Banwart, both of Congerville, IL.

Recently hospitalized loved ones include Bro. Rex Beer, and Bro. Aaron Masters. Our prayers for healing according to God's will are with each one.

**OHIO, RITTMAN
Jenny Pertee
Anna Bauman**

"In everything give thanks for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." [1 Thessalonians:5:18](#)

We had much to be thankful for this month. Our converts Jeremy and Danelle Vanni are particularly thankful for the arrival of David Edward on April 15. Grandparents

are Dana Vanni and Deberah Mazala and Dan and Sis. Anita Pope. Bro. Tony and Sis. Mary Beth Stoller were blessed with the safe arrival of Heather Renee on April 28. Grandparents are Bro. Rob and Sis. Joanne Stoller and Bro. Jon and Sis. Emily Rufener. Bro. Andrew and Sis. Esther Raifsnider also welcomed Isaac James on May 2. Thankful grandparents are Sis. Diana Raifsnider and Bro. Jim and Sis. Sharon Rupp.

This month several young people graduated from high school. They are Evan Beery, convert Cody Baran, Brad Gasser, Heath Gerber, Mason Hartzler, Sis. Wendy Hartzler, Mark Hilty, Thomas Hilty, Joshua Kipfer, Steven Klotzle, James Lanz, Treg Rufener, Bro. Jeremy Steiner, convert Mary Tieche, and Sis. Julia Zollinger.

Bro. Alan Manz (Junction, OH) and Sis. Minnie Baltic became one in the Lord on May 6. Their parents are Bro. Paul and Sandra Manz (Junction) and Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty Baltic. May God continue to be with them and their families.

In the hospital this month were: Sis. Dorothy Zollinger, Sis. Lorena Riggenbach, Bro. Ron Christian (Sis. Joanne), and Sis. Marilyn Trent (Bro. Ed). Our prayers are with them.

Visiting Ministers this month were: Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH), and Bros. Mark Rufener (Mansfield, OH), Glen Braker (Princeville, IL), Tim Gerber (Mansfield, OH), and Dana Indermuhle (Sardis, OH), and Mark Ramsier (Sardis, OH). We are thankful to these brothers for their willing service.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE

Lydia Dotterer

Gina Brake

April 29 was the wedding date of Bro. Adam Gasser (Bro. Neil and Sis. Donna) and Sis. Jackie Hartzler (Dwight and Beverly). We wish them God's blessings as they begin their lives together. Visiting ministers for the weekend were Elder Bro. Dave Graf (Sis. Barb, Akron, OH) and Bro. Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue, Detroit, MI). Rittman minister Bro. Bob Riggenbach (Sis. Lorie) also visited Smithville this past month.

Hospital patients this month were Bro. Jeff Gasser (Sis. Deb), Sis. Carol Schuster (Bro. George), Bro. Fred Winkler, Sis. Martha Marty (Bro. Dean) and Bro. Darrel Indermuhle (Sis. Janet). May God be with them and provide healing according to His will.

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

Matthew 6:3

We pray that our graduates will seek God's direction for the many decisions ahead. Those graduating this year are Jordan Bauman, Claudia Fetzer, Bethany Gasser, Courtney Gasser, Spencer Gasser, Teeka Hartzler, Alexa Jarrett, Natalie Maibach, Rebecca Maibach, Bethany Marty, Nicole Steiner, Sis. Marcy Stoller, Evan Walder, Jason Widmer, and Austin, Jackie, and John Wilson.

"Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God." Matthew 5:9

OHIO, TOLEDO

Deanna Manz

Anita Schlatter

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

I Corinthians 11:26

On April 21st we gathered together as a congregation to partake in Holy Communion. Elder Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Sis. Nancy, Forrest, IL) assisted our Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH). Bros. Marvin and Bill also served us from the pulpit on Sunday. We thank them and their wives for serving us and pray the Lord would bless them for their efforts.

Our prayers are with Bro. Aaron Masters as he recently had surgery. May God grant him healing as he recovers.

Another year of school has come and gone. Congratulations to our college graduates! Sis. Kristi Baran, Sis. Leah Gasser, John Harmon and Brenna Dunham have all finished their collegiate studies. We wish them God's blessings as they each enter new phases in life. We will miss Sis. Leah as she moves back home to Smithville.

OREGON, SILVERTON

Kelsey Walder

Ann Kuenzi

We are happy to hear of the engagement of Clinton Kuenzi (Bro. Jim and Sis. Barb) to Ellie Martin (Stuart and Phyllis). They are planning a Sept. wedding.

We are always excited for new babies and Silverton was blessed to have two. James and Shari Klopfenstein have a new daughter, Adessa Rose. Grandparents are Harry and Deloris Klopfenstein and Leonard and Cheryl Schurter.

"Be still and know that I am God"
Psalm 46:10

Bro. Brent and Sis. Laura Sinn have a new daughter as well, named Alyssa Marie. Her grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Linda Sinn and Maximino Jiminex and Angeles Lozada.

Drew Kuenzi (Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Kristy) had surgery on a cut tendon in his hand. He is recovering nicely with a big cast on his hand and arm.

This month we were thankful to have two visiting ministers, Bro. Dale Wulf (Sis. Becky) from Lester, IA, and Bro. Mike Leman (Sis. Lisa) from Portland, OR.

PENNSYLVANIA, PHILADELPHIA

We were very thankful to have Elder Bro. Ted Witzig (Sis. Cindy, Morton, IL) with us for Holy Communion on April 28. It was good to remember Christ's suffering for us. It was also a blessing to greet one another and share in the blessings of our precious brotherhood. Also visiting us this month was ministering Bro. Jerry Bauman (Rittman, OH). We are thankful that these brothers were willing to share the Word with us.

Our prayers are with Sis. Char Barton as her father Bro. Jim Barton has passed on to life eternal. We lift up Sis. Char and her family in prayer, while rejoicing that God has called another one of His children home.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE Mike and Monica Fritz

We have been blessed this past month from the Living Word of God, brought to us so ably by our visiting ministers: Bros. Tim Hohulin (Sis. Cathy, Roanoke, IL), Greg Stoller (Sis. Jill, Forrest, IL), Byron Stoller (Sis. Carol, Gridley, IL), Trent Meiss (Sis. Lucy, Eureka, IL), and Brian Waibel (Sis. Wendy,

Champaign, IL), and Elder Bro. Mark Streitmatter (Sis. Sara, Bloomington-Normal, IL).

We have also been strengthened by the fellowship of brethren and friends visiting from Washington DC; Bloomington-Normal, Bradford, Champaign, Chicago, Congerville, Eureka, Fairbury, Forrest, Roanoke, and Princeville, IL; Indianapolis and LaCrosse, IN; Lester, IA; Bern, KS; and Kansas City, MO.

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: Kansas City, MO (6/24); Remington, IN (7/1); Princeville, IL (7/8); Chicago, IL (7/15); Lamar, MO (7/22); and Rockville, CT (7/29). If you plan to worship with us, please call ahead to confirm our schedule.

Often we gather on Saturday evenings for fellowship. All are heartily welcome. Also, we typically meet on Wednesday evenings at 7:15 PM for call-in services and would welcome any midweek visitors. Contacts are Bro. Don and Sis. Faye Sauder (615) 373-8928; Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica Fritz (615) 866-5543 (fritzmb.family@gmail.com), and Sis. Gwen Leuthold, (615) 356-5755.

TEXAS, AUSTIN Serenity and Jasmine Ringger

"And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity." I Corinthians 13:13.

Our best wishes to Lane and Lanae (Sauder) Hartzler as they exchanged wedding vows on April 21. Their parents are Sis. Karen Hartzler (Rittman, OH) and Richard Hartzler, and Bro. Dan and Sis. Pam Sauder (Mansfield, OH.)

Sis. Cassandra Yen from San Diego, CA has been assembling with us for a couple of months, while working in our area. We appreciate her fellowship.

Our Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) and Bro. Leland Plattner (Zapata, TX) served us Communion last month.

"And he said unto them, With desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer:"

Luke 22:15.

"And he took bread, and gave thanks, and break it, and gave unto them, saying,

This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you." Luke 22:19-20

Bro. Jim Vierling (Sis. Linda, Eureka, IL) was also here for services and we enjoyed other visitors from Rittman and Mansfield.

The following is the minister schedule for July: July 1, Oakville, IA; July 22, Congerville, IL. Please refer to the minister's directory for directions and contacts.

TEXAS, DALLAS-FORT WORTH

"Her children rise up and call her blessed, her husband also, and he praiseth her."
Prov. 31:28

May we by God's grace raise up our daughters to love their husbands, to love their children.

We are thankful for Bro. Ron Schambach (Sis. Nancy, Elgin IL) who were able to serve on May 13 in bringing the Word to those that gathered.

The next services are scheduled

for June 10 and July 8. Services are being held generally the second Sunday of each month at the Holiday Inn Express, 4450 W. John Carpenter Freeway, Irving TX. There are many that have Apostolic Christian ties in the area. Please inform your relatives and acquaintances that may have interest. Please call ahead to verify. Leland and Mary Plattner 956-265-0351 or Dennis and Diane Rassi 512-321-2345.

“Now the city was large and great, but the people were few therein, and the houses were not builded.”
Neh. 7:4

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

TEXAS, MCALLEN

Joyce Nohl

Our visiting ministers this month have been Bro. Gary Maibach (Sis. Mary Ann, Smithville, OH) and Bro. Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata, TX). We thank these brothers for their time and effort to serve us.

Due to vacations taken in the summer months we have fewer scheduled services. For July we have July 15, Bern, KS, August 5, Princeville, IL, and August 19, Phoenix, AZ. These dates could be changed, so please verify if you plan to visit. If you plan to come for a Sunday that services are not scheduled, please contact us and we will be happy to get together for fellowship and worship.

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 US-83 and go 1½ blocks south. Please see the ministers' directory for local contact information. We heartily welcome anyone spending time in south Texas to worship with us, and appreciate advance notice when possible for planning meals and fellowship.

TEXAS, ZAPATA

Mary Plattner

We extend a sincere welcome to anyone who may come to South Texas this summer to worship with us. Most of our congregation have plans to travel to the Midwest to visit their families and friends at different times this summer. We encourage you to contact us if you do travel to South Texas

Christian Guesthouse and Worship Services in Rochester, MN

Accommodations for Mayo Clinic outpatients and families:

Three bedrooms with private baths, laundry, kitchen and family room area.

Sunday Service: (held monthly at guesthouse residence) 10:00 AM and 12:30 PM

For schedule, see: www.acmission.org/minister-rotation

For information and reservations, contact caretakers:

Bro. Mark and Sis. Sandy Stork

4733 Birdie Lane NW

Rochester, MN 55901

(507) 288-0072

Mid-week Service: (held on 3rd Wednesday in Rochester area)

For information, contact:

Bro. Jim and Sis. Deb Tilbury

(507) 281-2875

Summer Worship Services in Colorado

Lord willing, in addition to our regular worship schedule in Aurora, CO, we plan to hold services July 22 and July 29 at the following location:

Comfort Inn and Suites
276 Dillon Ridge Rd.
Dillon, CO 80435
Ph: (970) 513-0300

www.comfortsuites.com/hotel-dillon-colorado-CO001

Dillon is located in Summit County with good access to Interstate 70. It is within 90 minutes of Granby, Glenwood Springs, Denver, and Buena Vista. The hotel has provided a special room rate of \$84.99 per night.

Morning song service begins at 10:15 AM. Worship service begins at 10:30 AM. Lunch and afternoon service follow. Ministers from Denver congregation are responsible for the services. However, we welcome and encourage visiting ministers to support this effort if your travel plans bring you out west this summer. The intent of these services is to alleviate some of the crowding that we experience during the busy summer travel season. *(We don't want to all of our visitors to avoid Aurora!)* We welcome all visitors and deeply appreciate the fellowship that we share in Christ, whether in Aurora or at the optional location. For more information, and to help us plan more effectively, please contact Bro. Tom Leman if you will be attending services on any of these dates. (303) 696-1540 Email: lemantom@comcast.net

Please be our guest for a weekend of glorifying and praising God.

24th Annual Livonia Apostolic Christian Benefit Dinner and Choir Program

To support the ministry of the

Woodhaven Retirement Community

at the
Apostolic Christian Church
29575 Wentworth St.
Livonia, MI 48154

Saturday, July 14, 2012

5:00 Dinner

7:00 Choir Program

Sunday, July 15, 2012

10:15 Morning Worship

12:30 Afternoon Worship

For overnight accommodations, please contact (by July 4):

Scott or Jamie Bahr, (734) 513-5907 spbahr@yahoo.com

Suggestion for nearby day trip: Greenfield Village www.thehenryford.org

Foster Care Child Placement Case Worker Needed

Gateway Woods has a need for a full-time Foster Care Child Placement Case Worker. This position provides the opportunity to work with foster families and foster children. We would prefer a Bachelors Degree in Social Work, but would accept a Bachelors Degree in a related field such as Guidance, Sociology, or Psychology.

Please prayerfully consider our need and contact Bro. Jeff Schumacher or Bro. Lynn Stieglitz for more information concerning this position. This is an opportunity to make a real difference in the lives of children.

Foster Care Program Manager Needed

Gateway Woods has an opening for a brother or sister to manage our Foster Care Program. We are seeking someone who desires to serve in a ministry that serves troubled and broken children and families. The Foster Care Program Manager is a key full-time position that offers responsibility, management and creativity. If you have a dedicated interest, love and sensitivity for youth and families, at least a bachelor's degree in social work, counseling or a related field, and possess good motivational, organizational, teaching and communications skills, please contact one of the brothers listed below for more information and a job description.

Jeff Schumacher
P.O. Box 125
Leo, IN 46765
(888) 443-4283
jeff.schumacher@gatewaywoods.org

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

Assistant Houseparent Needed

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

Ed Graf
Residential Program Director
P.O. Box 151
Leo, IN 46765
(888) 443-4283
ed.graf@gatewaywoods.org

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

Director of Nursing Needed

Country Inn Enhanced Living Center near Latty, OH is seeking a Director of Nursing for its 40-bed assisted living facility. DON would assist current administration and medical director to ensure excellent care is maintained for residents. Candidate must be currently licensed as LPN or RN and able to obtain Ohio licensure. Please contact Paula Nuest, Administrator at (260) 348-8001 or countryinn@live.com for complete job description.

Country Inn Enhanced Living Center is committed to providing loving care and a tranquil environment in harmony with Biblical principles.

Child Placement Manager (Illinois) Opening

As Gateway Woods expands our Christian Adoption Services into Illinois, we are in need of an IL Child Placement Manager. Applicants for this job must:

1. Be a member in good standing of the Apostolic Christian Church with approval of his/her local elder.
2. Have at least a Master's Degree in Social Work from an accredited school and three years work experience in social work administration OR a Master's Degree in a human services field from an accredited school and five years of work experience in human services administration.
3. Have a dedicated interest, love and sensitivity for youth and families.
4. Possess good motivational, organizational, teaching and communications skills.
5. Have ability to establish positive working and interpersonal relationships and use a team approach.
6. Have treatment philosophy compatible with the mission of Gateway Woods - Apostolic Christian Children's Home.
7. Have commitment to ongoing personal and professional growth.

This position offers a competitive salary and generous benefits. For further information and a job description, please contact:

Jeff Schumacher
Administrator
P.O. Box 125
Leo, IN 46765
(888) 443-4283 (GATE)
jeff.schumacher@gatewaywoods.org

Light from the Word

*Now available by downloadable PDF from the Apostolic Christian Publication website:
www.acpublications.org*

After entering the website, click on the item located at the left hand frame entitled, "Light from the Word Reprints". The entire set of editorials are available in a complete download (*June 1987 to current*).

Interested in receiving a printed sermon?

To order, contact:
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Fairbury, IL 61739
(815) 692-3616
printedsermons@gmail.com

Important Notice to Americans Crossing the Canadian Border by Land

All adults will need just **ONE** of the following documents:

1. Regular U.S. passport
2. U.S. passport card
3. **Enhanced** driver's license
4. Any Trusted Traveler Program (for example, Nexus card)

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

Used Bible, Bible Story Book, and Song Book Distribution

We currently have outlets for Bibles, Bible Story Books, Hymns of Zion, Zion's Harp, Gospel Hymns, and Tabernacle Hymns. The cost of sending books airmail to foreign countries is greater than what new books could be purchased. We are currently working with organizations (such as Christian Aid Ministries) that send materials to foreign countries by sea container, which is more reasonably priced. Some of the books are also used by U.S. churches and missions. Thank you for providing these materials and for those who help repair them.

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

Bible Distribution Sharing the Word in Love

Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he. Prov 29:18

Bibles in English and other languages, plus Bible Story Books approved by the Apostolic Christian Mission Committee, are available for those who wish to distribute them in the name of Jesus Christ. The inventory is computerized. These materials can be drop-shipped do nearly any address.

To order, contact:
Apostolic Christian Church
Bible Distribution
P.O. Box 30
Bluffton, IN 46714
Ph/Fax: (260) 824-5587
biblelist@adamswells.com

Short Term Service Opportunity at Hospital Lumiere

The Hospital Lumiere Governing Board is seeking an individual (or couple) to assist at the hospital in Bonne Fin, Haiti with on-site renovation support and coordination. This position is an opportunity to serve short term (8-12 weeks) through the intern program to provide project support for renovation work teams.



Responsibilities will include preparing for the arrival of work teams and providing coordination and support when a work team is present. The individual will assist the stateside Facilities Support Team Coordinator in planning for construction/renovation projects, distribution of materials and providing guidance for work teams at the hospital. An individual with some general construction background is preferred. The time period for this opening is 8-12 weeks beginning in May 2012. The opportunity may extend through August, if desired. You will reside on the Hospital campus with other brethren and missionary families.

For more information contact:

Daryl Luginbuhl ❖ 484-433-1205 ❖ darylluginbuhl@gmail.com



Give a Child Hope

Child Sponsorships

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



The goal of this program is to provide an education to help these children

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

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

To sponsor a child

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

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 Mr. Mrs. Miss
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Please check preference:

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- Mexico Jamaica
- Zambia Wherever needed

If possible I would prefer:

- Boy – Age _____
- Girl – Age _____
- No Preference

Cost: \$25.00/month

For details: www.acworldrelief.org

Send to:

ACWR Child Sponsorship
 PO Box 36
 Morton, IL 61550
 Phone: 309-266-6080
 Fax: 309-266-5281
 E-mail: childsponsorship@acwr.org



USA World Relief Committee

Contacts for area work or disaster projects			
Brother	Position	Home Church	Cell Phone
Kent Heimer	Counseling Elder	Taylor, MO	(573) 248-5701
Chuck Kellenberger	Chairman	Elgin, IL	(224) 629-6531
Bill Leman	Treasurer	Roanoke, IL	(309) 241-0257
Les Schambach	Administrator/Secretary	Elgin, IL	(630) 247-5271
Tom Neuenschwander	Consultant	Bluffton, IN	(260) 307-6026
Ray Slagel	Consultant	Fairbury, IL	(815) 848-3714
Paul Kaeb	Consultant	Bern, KS	(785) 547-5269



Newly Released Zion's Harp CD #3

Recording of Zion's Harp Hymns numbers 33 through 48.

Price: \$15.00



This CD is the third in a series of recordings done in a capella fashion. The CD includes a 24-page booklet describing the history of the hymnal, songs, authors and composers.

The Zion's Harp is the official, cherished hymnal of the Apostolic Christian Church. It has been part of the church since the denomination was established. It contains hymns written as far back as the 15th century and hymn tunes written as late as the 1990's. Powerful, vivid, and meaningful lyrics combined with beautiful four-part harmony written for men and women forms a book that is loved and deeply appreciated.

To order, contact:
 Apostolic Christian Publications
 805 W Cruger St, PO Box 52
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 Hrs: Mon.-Fri. 8:30-11:30AM (CST)
 Online: www.acpublications.org
 Email: office@acpublications.org
 Order blanks also available at each church,
 the website, or by phone or email.

Jamaica - Caribbean Board Projects

If you are interested in sponsoring a work team to Jamaica,
contact Loren Dettwyler at lmzettwyler@gmail.com.

Data updated from www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-caribbean June 11, 2012.

Project	Year 2012	Coordinator	Capacity
Knockpatrick School CCCD	Jun 23-30	Peter Webel (419) 564-5691 wpw47@aol.com	Ohio SS
Montego Bay School CCCD	Jun 23-30	Steve Gerber (260) 437-1670 srgerber@live.com	Bluffton SS
Knockpatrick School CCCD	Jul 7-14	Calvin Teubel (217) 552-6515 cbteubel@hotmail.com	Champaign SS

Haiti - Caribbean Board Projects

If you are unable to contact the coordinator for Haiti, contact Bro. Jon Zeller (309) 266-9009 jonzeller@comcast.net.

Data updated from www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-caribbean June 11, 2012.

Project	Year 2012	Coordinator	Capacity
Bonne Fin, Haiti Hospital Lumiere Facility Renovation	Jul 14-21	Daryl Luginbuhl (484) 433-1205 darylluginbuhl@mail.com	12
Hospital Lumiere MEBSH Construction	Sept 15-22	Daryl Luginbuhl (484) 433-1205 darylluginbuhl@mail.com	12
Hospital Lumiere MEBSH Construction	Oct 19-26	Daryl Luginbuhl (484) 433-1205 darylluginbuhl@mail.com	12
Les Cayes MEBSH Haiti Support	Oct 26-30	Jon Zeller (309) 266-9009 jonzeller@comcast.net	ACWR-CC
Les Cayes AWA Water Aid	Nov 2-9	Maurice Schaefer (309) 253-9003 schaefs2@gmail.com	4
Les Cayes MEBSH Construction	Nov 30-Dec 7	Ted Habegger (260) 341-7273 tjh@citnet.com	12
Les Cayes FRW Vocational School	Dec 10-18	Rick Wuethrich (219) 863-4163 rick@wuethrichfarms.com	4

Mexico

If you are interested in leading a work team to Mexico,
contact Bro. Mike Fiechter (260) 597-7330 mfiechter@onlyinternet.net.

Data updated from www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-mexico June 11, 2012.

Project	Year 2012	Coordinator	Capacity
Magdalena Construction	Jun 23-30	Jeff Roche (573) 231-5849 jeff@rocksolidcustombuilders.com	Taylor Bible Class
Magdalena Construction	Jul 21-28	Rick Kaisner (847) 942-1174 rick@kaisner.org	Chicago Bible Class

Code definitions: CCCD=Caribbean Christian Center for the Deaf
MEBSH=Missions of Evangelical Baptists of South Haiti
AWA=Apostolic Water Aid
FRW=Francesville, Remington, Wolcott



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN

Counseling and Family Services

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

DISCIPLESHIP

Spoke 5 of 6 from the Parenting
with a Purpose Parenting Wheel

Biblical Basis: *Deuteronomy 6:6-7, "And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart; and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up."*

What purpose does this concept have in the parenting wheel?

As parents, our calling and responsibility is to guide and influence our children towards the gift of redemption through the blood of Christ and grow as a disciple of Christ. To be grafted into the vine of Christ and to bear the fruit of the Spirit, our children need to know:

- Who Christ is and their need for salvation through Him. *John 14:6, "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."*

- What the way of salvation is. *Mark 1:15, "And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel."* *Romans 5:1, "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:"*

- What living a sanctified Christian life looks like. *Galatians 5:22-23, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."*

What does this concept look like in "real life?"

- Discipleship as Christ Modeled:** Effective discipleship of our children requires that we follow the Word and provide them with Holy Spirit-inspired leadership. As parents mature spiritually and grow together in unity, their leadership in the home will grow.

- The Importance of Parents Following Christ:** It is vital that parents model Christ-like behaviors to their children. Like Paul in *Philippians 3:17*, parents need to be able to say to their children, "...be followers together of me..." as we seek to follow Christ. Even at a young age, children are quite adept at noticing whether a parent's

words match their actions. Since most children tend to be visual learners during their formative years, they will often believe what they see over what they hear. Therefore, it is important to be a disciple of Christ and become more conformed to His image every day (*2 Peter 3:18*).

- Discipleship is a Developmental Process Over Time:** We are to diligently teach God's commands to our children. How we teach those truths to our children is part of the discipleship process. How parents carry out this process will vary, depending on the ages of the children. By using *Deuteronomy 6: 6-7* as a model, we can glean some specific discipleship opportunities: "*And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart; and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.*" These verses teach us that discipleship opportunities are around us virtually all of the time. This also means that the parenting tasks that seem mundane or insignificant can actually be the springboards to teach our children valuable lessons.

- Discipleship in Everyday Life:** Along with taking into account the age and maturity of each child, discipleship is a lifestyle that permeates all avenues of life. Below are some ideas about discipleship in day-to-day interactions. Essential discipleship activities not listed below included: Bible Reading, Family Devotion, Scripture Memory, and Prayer.

- Focused Attention:** Making time to play with and listen to each child strengthens his ability to trust in the parent's teaching.

- Family Time:** By learning to grow and enjoy the rewards of family fellowship, they are much better prepared for the joy of worship in a church fellowship.

- Adjust Your Expectations for Young Children:** With very young children, a formal devotional time can often be hectic or chaotic. However, even a short Bible story and singing some Sunday School songs will help to set important precedents in the home and teach the child about family values.

- Show Interest in Each Other's Lives:** As the children get older, the supper table should be a place to "download the day" and share about the good, bad, funny, etc. in the day.

- Have Fun Together:** Laughter can be a lubricant that keeps family members looking forward to time together.
- Serving Together:** Serving together as a family is another great opportunity for disciple building. Serving together models the teaching of being a "doer of the Word" (*James 1:22*) and focusing on the needs of others (*Matthew 25:40*).

How does this concept benefit children?

- Discipleship helps fulfill the Great Commission to raise up disciples (*Matthew 28:19*).
- Grace and peace will be multiplied to those in Christ Jesus (*2 Peter 1:2*).
- A child growing up in a home that is built on love, honor, and respect will experience the blessings of security and stability.
- They can have the joy and peace of salvation in Christ as they learn to place their trust in Him.
- It promotes future stability for families, church, and society.

Personal REFLECTION: (How am I doing in this area?)

1. To whom are you a disciple? Are your priorities consistent with the priorities of your Teacher?
2. The answers you gave to question #1 show where you are leading your children. Are you leading them where you want them to go? How does your current leadership style reflect biblical or secular values? Do your actions show the fruit of what your words say are your priorities?
3. What is one thing you can do to more effectively lead your children toward the image of Christ?
4. As *Deuteronomy 6:5-7* instructs us to teach the way of the Word to our children, what are some ways that your family can accomplish that?
 - a. Individually with each child:
 - b. As a family unit:
5. What are some road blocks or barriers to fostering this "disciple-building" time with your children/family?

Sermon continued from Page 2
 such a high regard! We could turn to Psalm 119. Devoted in that entire, very lengthy chapter, every verse is embedded with an appreciation for God's Word! In Psalm 119:9,10 we read, "*Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word. With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments.*" Listen to the heart of David and his love for God's Word. "*Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee. Blessed art thou, O Lord: teach me thy statutes.*" Psalm 119:11,12. Read all of those verses in Psalm 119 to get an appreciation for God's law. He echoes it here; "*The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring for ever...*" Psalm 19:8,9. Then we can go to Proverbs and read about the importance of the fear of God, that first, the beginning of wisdom is the fear of the Lord (Proverbs 9:10). That is echoed here; enduring forever.

"...the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether." Psalm 19:9. So now David is lifting high the judgments of God as God is Judge and righteous Judge. You see, these are things that we don't know about. We have good judges, yes. But we don't have a righteous judge on earth. God is righteous and God is Judge. In fact, we can read of God's judgment in Romans 2:2. "*But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things.*" God's judgment is according to truth. David knew that and he is exalting God as Judge.

In Psalm 19:10, we are going to hear the heart of David here. "*More to be desired are they...*" What are they? They are God's statutes, God's words, God's laws. "*More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.*" Are God's words more

precious than gold to you? Are God's words much more precious than gold to you? In fact I think if we kept reading in Psalm 119, we would see this again. David makes this analogy, this metaphor very clear. He says in Psalm 119:14, "*I have rejoiced in the way of thy testimonies, as much as in all riches.*"

So what would be the real test of this in our life? If this spring, when you turn the sod over in your garden, you find a gold piece, a little bit of gold or you pull that up and take it into whoever the expert is and they say, this is indeed pure gold, of very fine gold, would you plant your garden? I think we would dig up the whole back yard and we would dig deep and we would dig until it was gone. Do we have the same approach with God's Word? Do we go to God's Word and can you not get enough of it? This is the heart of David; I can't get enough! Just like I can't stop digging in my yard until it is all exhausted. We see a David who strives hard after God. Out of that flows all of these verses.

We read in the New Testament about a man who finds a pearl in a field and he sells all that he has to buy that field (St. Matthew 13:46). It is the exchange of everything for something that is so precious. We understand exchange. We understand economics. We understand the exchange of one thing for another, don't we? That is the metaphor that Christ brings. That God's Word is worth the tradeoff of everything. Sell all that you have to buy the field so the pearl will be yours.

"Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward." Psalm 19:11. Now we are going to see David's heart and his sensitivity towards sin. He does not want to violate. He says, "*Who can understand his errors? cleanse thou me from secret faults.*" v.12. Secret faults; those faults that nobody knows. I have faults that people

know because they interact with me and they know that is a fault of him. Certainly there are a series of faults that maybe my wife understands that are kept from your eyes. And if we be honest with ourselves, we know there are faults that lie within us that God Himself knows. David is so clear about rooting out all the sin that might be in him. He says, convict me even of these secret faults. He pens this in Psalm 139 as well. "*O Lord, thou hast searched me, and known me. Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off.*" v.1,2. "*For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O Lord, thou knowest it altogether.*" v.4. "*Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.*" v.23,24. We see a David, we see a heart that strives hard after cleansing, being cleansed by God.

"Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression." Psalm 19:13. We know that David's life was not perfect. We know the sins of David. That is part of the example that we have in David. We have a man who is so forthright with his longing to be right with God and his longing to love God and to love His words. But we see David's faults. Aren't we glad they were not kept from us?

Then we can read Psalm 51 where he repents of the sin with Bathsheba and the killing of Uriah. You can read it for yourself. You know it well, Psalm 51, his repentance.

Then finally the last verse in Psalm 19, verse 14. This I believe would be a good memory verse. Many of you know it already. "*Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer.*" As we exit the house every day, *Sermon continued on Page 48*

Sermon continued from Page 47
if those could be on our heart and our lips, that covers it all, doesn't it? Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable unto God.

In St. Matthew 13, we are reading red words; I love the red words. We find ourselves in the Gospels. Does it warm your heart when we read the Gospels? I just put it to our hearts; does it warm our hearts to read the Gospels? Mankind, we struggle with center. What I mean by center is by what is most important. We find ourselves reading about the life in the words of Christ. This is center. We go day by day to our places of work and our places of commerce and all of these things. Center is Christ Jesus. So we are going to sit under the teachings of Jesus Christ Himself.

"Who hath ears to hear, let him hear." St. Matthew 13:9. Do we have ears to hear this morning? It is put to us, then let us hear. Jesus talked in parables often. One particular reason I really like the parable of the sower is because Jesus offers an explanation. So you don't have to listen to my feeble interpretation of this. We are going to just turn and go to a couple of verses here. His disciples say, what do you mean by this and Jesus explains it to them from verse 18.

What we have here in Christ's explanation is that the sower is sowing the Word of God. This has been very well set up with David's high regard for the Word of God. So if you now think about Psalm 119 and that was the seed that David was rejoicing in; the Word and the testimonies and the judgments of God. In Psalm 119, a complete chapter full of high regard for this seed now that the sower is casting out. You know this parable better than I. We throw it and some of it lands on hard ground and it is immediately snatched up (St. Matthew 13:4). Some falls on what would appear from the outset, to be good soil, except it has no depth of root there,

so it springs forth for a little time and then withereth (v.5,6). Then there is the lot that is full of tares and full of thorns and it grows up and is choked and dies (v.7).

We might look at each of those soils and say one is better than the other. But at the end of the day, we have no fruit in any of them. All of them are a waste of the farmer's time. It is a waste of the good seed. Then we have over here, the good soil with depth of root and it springs forth and it brings forth fruit (v.8). That is the lot that we wish to be in.

But the challenge that I believe we must take as we consider this parable is, at the end of the day, beloved, what is it that brings the fruit in our life? What is the mechanism that brings the fruit? Two answers, according to this parable.

Number one; the seed. It is the Word of God. The Word of God brings about fruit in our life. The Word of God must be a mainstay of our diet. Jesus Christ Himself says, I don't live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God (St. Luke 4:4). Is that our understanding, is that our pursuit as well? In order for that to take place, we must be conversant in the Word of God. We must read the Word of God and allow the Word of God to settle upon our hearts.

We can read in James about the hearer of the Word and the doer. The difference between the hearer and the doer is in James 1:23,24. *"For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was."* He looks in the mirror, sees a problem, doesn't do anything about it.

"But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty..." and here is the key word. This delineates between a hearer and a doer. That is the seed.

That is what David was praising God about, the testimony of God. *"... and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work..." James 1:25.* Sometimes when I peer into the mirror in the morning, I might see a problem. In order to remedy the problem, I need to linger a bit longer in the mirror. You know what I mean? That is what we are getting at. That is what James is saying. We need to linger a bit longer in the Word of God for it to have its revitalizing benefit. We are too brief. We open the Scriptures and say yes, oh I see that I... Then out the door I go. But David is holding a very high regard; one of gold and silver; one that you mine and do not stop mining. That is the Word of God.

The fruit of our life is a derivation of the Word of God. If we want to bring change into our heart, if we see we need change in our life, it will be via the Word. James also says this; we are to engraft the Word of God into our life (1:21). Anyone in horticulture knows what that means. You snip off what is bad and you engraft what is good. What you have engrafted now bears the fruit of itself. In like manner, we must be engrafting God's Word. If we have a problem with love, engraft the love chapter, I Corinthians 13. If we have a struggle with faith, we need to snip off the bad faith and we need to engraft Hebrews 11 and so on and so forth. This will bring change in our hearts and our lives because it is the Word of God.

The second indicator of bearing fruit here in this parable was what; the preparation of the soil. Notice that there was no rebuke, there was no changing of the farmer. The farmer didn't do anything different. But so many times when we are not bearing fruit in our lives, it is easy for us to point a finger and say, well I am not getting this, or I am not getting that. I am not being taught this or I am not being taught that. This says, Jesus did not pull the sower aside

and say, let me tell you something, you need to do this or that different. It was all in the preparation of the soil. That preparation is the cultivating of our hearts.

We can read in Hebrews where it says, don't let your heart get hard. Don't let your heart get hard. So every time we come and we hear God's Word, some of us have heard God's Word for five, ten, fifteen, twenty, twenty-five, thirty, forty-five, fifty, eighty years, we hear God's Word. We hear the sower is going forth. We are so blessed in this land! Why so little change often? Why so little difference often? How can we come and hear God's Word day after day and year after year and still not be changed? It is because our heart is hard, because the seed cannot penetrate and this is the work of the Spirit

of God, beloved. We must pray beloved, and seek God's Holy Spirit to run the plow through our heart and get it deep, get it deep.

And don't think the field likes it this spring when you run the equipment through it. It rattles, it is noisy, it tears it all up! It would be much more comfortable to be a field that is fallow, to be a field that is overgrown with tares. It is constant, it is consistent and it is comfortable. But that is not the lot of the Christian. The soil in the Christian's heart is turned over often. The soil in the Christian's heart is tore up by God's cultivating humility and humbleness. So we ask Him to do it and it will be painful. But when it is done, God's high and holy Word, God's high and holy testimonies, God's high and holy judgments are going to get scattered. They are

going to get scattered when you read the Scriptures in the morning. They are going to get scattered when the brothers throw it on Sundays and Wednesday nights. It is going to get scattered when you are in conversation with the believers. Then that seed is going to rest itself on ground that has been tilled over by the Maker, by the Spirit of God. Then He is going to do His thing. He is going to do what you can't do, what I can't do, what nobody can do to germinate a seed. It is going to send forth a root and it is going to send forth a shoot and it is going to bring forth fruit and your life is going to be fruitful. Because of you? No! No! Because of me? No, not close! But because of the seed and the preparation of the soil, which is the work of the Spirit of God. Let this be our aim and prayer.

***“Blessed are the
peacemakers: for they shall
be called the children of
God.” Matthew 5:9***

***“Be still and know
that I am God“
Psalm 46:10***

REMEMBERING

Our Spiritual Heritage

We are continuing the autobiography of Elder Earnest Graf of Akron, Ohio.

The Call To Repentance

I went to work for Chris Roth, my sister Elizabeth's husband. He now took the opportunity of working for Sam Steiner at clearing his swamp, while I did the farm work. I was now 16 years old and had reached my full height. As fall developed into winter a change took place which has affected my whole life. In these two years since coming to Ashtabula, I had again access to the church which held my affection ever since I lived with the Hilty family, as mentioned before.

I had always intended to become a member, but now something stirred and awakened in me which I recognized as a call from the Lord to repent and give Him my heart.

It took me a whole week to decide between this and a worldly career which opened to me at the same time. I thank the Lord that I chose the better part with God's people to endure the reproach of the world, rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season. I was led to repentance, spent several weeks in conflict with the evil one and in earnest prayer. Finally, I won the victory, and grace and peace filled my heart.

My Baptism

On Christmas Day in 1889, I was baptized by immersion in a brook by Elder Henry Schwier who had come from Mansfield. I felt that in this new birth I had become a child of God, and still feel so. Ever since

then I have taken an active part in all church work, beginning as a substitute teacher in Sunday School. Although we had no church building there were eight families who took turns in hosting church meetings in their homes.

Jobs As a Farm Hand

I finished my year at Roth's and then hired out to a Yankee farmer named Ed Woodruff for eight months at \$100 and board. He had a married son named Vinton who lived on the same farm. I slept at the old folk's house, but ate at the young folk's table. They were Methodists, and the old man and I had many disagreements about our respective faiths, but the son was always pleasant.

The Yankee cooking did not taste quite as good as what I had been used to, but at the age of 17 when working hard a young man is not choicy. Out of the \$100 I saved seventy. During the four winter months I worked alternately for my board at Roths and Zollingers at sawing wood. I also took a trip with Bro. and Sis. Meyer to Mansfield, Wayne County, Akron, and Girard. The following spring Bro. Zollinger rented a larger farm near Austinburg and hired me for eight months at \$15 per month which was then the average wage for a farm hand. Here there was plenty of work for two men, with 15 milk cows and 120 acres of farm land. The summer passed swiftly and then I had another four months without wages.

The next summer I worked for Bro. Zollinger at \$ 16 per month. By fall a

certain restlessness and a desire for better opportunities came to possess most of the members. The place for this seemed to have been found by Bro. Meyer at Akron. This place was said to be surrounded by excellent farm land and to have mills and factories which gave employment to as many as wished to work therein.

Moving To Akron

So the majority of the families made plans to move to Akron the following spring. But as two of Bro. Meyer's sons were to go and find jobs already that fall, and his daughter Mary was to go and keep house for them, I was also induced to cast my lot with them. Consequently, on the first day of October, 1892, I came to Akron where I have lived ever since.

I obtained work at the Empire Mill of the American Cereal Co. which is now the Quaker Oats Company. Here I worked until spring when a large number of hands were laid off. Conditions changed materially and all who are old enough to remember the "panic of 1893 and '94." I went back to Ashtabula to help Zollingers move to Akron. They and Roths, Moyers, Rupps and both families Von Gunten came here, while Jake Kaufmans moved to Wayne County. Sam Steiners and Carl Tschanzas stayed a few years longer in Ashtabula. Joe Stolls moved to Geauga County.

Edited by Bro. Perry Klopfenstein
Gridley, Illinois

Next Issue: The Graf autobiography



The Light of Hope

Study To Be Quiet

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

This Scripture is found in I Thessalonians 4:11 and it stimulates our thinking as to just what is meant by it. The word “study” may indicate that it takes effort to be quiet, at least for some people who have a tendency to talk a lot.

The Japanese translation renders this phrase to mean that we should live a quiet life. This would be a life with as little conflict as possible. To practice the golden rule helps to avoid conflict. Luke 8:31 “*And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise.*”

If someone disagrees with me, I would like for them to tell me in a loving way why they disagree with me. If conflict develops we may become emotional and it is difficult to be emotional and spiritual at the same time.

The Apostle Paul wrote to Timothy, “*I exhort therefore, that, first of all supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.*” I Timothy 2:1,2. The Bible really does teach us to live a quiet and peaceable life. Conflict destroys the joy and peace we have in the Lord. Is conflict unavoidable? It may be that the devil makes us think so. Conflict has been on the earth since the time of Cain and Able.

In I Peter 3:8 we read, “*Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous.*” The Japanese translators rendered the word courteous to be a Japanese word that means humble and modest. If we are

humble and modest, we are more apt to be courteous and to have proper etiquette.

We are taught in Ecclesiastes 3:1 as follows: “*To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.*” I believe we can say there is a time to be quiet and a time to speak. Peter tells us in I Peter 3:15, “*But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.*” In a case like that we need to speak up and answer the inquiry with the words that Christ is the Son of God, who died for us and rose again, and that we should repent and serve Him.

When should we be quiet? I have been told that the most important part of counseling is to be a good listener. James writes in 3:19, “*Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, and slow to wrath.*” It is always good to be a good listener and that requires being quiet.

Psalms 46:10 tells us, “*Be still and know that I am God.*” If there are children in a home it may be that the only time the home is quiet is when the children are asleep. Hopefully, the children can learn in time to be quiet in certain places, such as in the sanctuary of the church. We adults should be completely quiet in the sanctuary during worship. Otherwise, how are we going to know that God is God. If people talk to each other during a sermon, it is very distracting to the speaker and it interferes with the work of the Holy Spirit. Common courtesy

tells us that the sanctuary should be completely quiet except for a crying baby on occasion.

The church is our House of Prayer and the sanctuary is similar to the Holiest of Holies in the Old Testament. At least the pulpit is where God’s Word is taught so that surely must be the most holy place. Where the people sit and listen is in the same room as the pulpit and it should be treated with great respect, not just for God’s house but for God Himself. It can be said that I also worship in my home so what’s the difference? The difference is that your home is first of all, a place to live. The church is first of all, a place to worship.

“*Be still and know that I am God.*” Let’s be sure not to visit with the person beside us during a worship service. At such a time and place, there are some things that are proper and some things that are improper. It is proper for us to study to be quiet and it is improper for us to talk, laugh, or make noise. The unconverted may not understand this but surely the converted understand and humbly comply in showing respect for God.

I am reminded of a Polish professor of World History under whom I once studied. He said with much emphasis. “My classroom is not a tea parlor.” Let us humbly remember that the sanctuary in our churches is not a tea parlor. It is where God’s Word is preached and where the living God and His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, are honored and respected.

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*May we also Love each other
May our motive be so pure
That each member for his brother
Death and torture can endure
So did JESUS love us truly,
when He shed for us His blood;
You will grieve His heart unduly
If you seek your selfish good.*

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