

The Silver Lining

A bald eagle is shown in flight, wings spread wide, flying over a misty forest. The eagle is the central focus of the image. In the foreground, a stone tablet with a curved top contains a Bible verse. The background is a soft-focus forest with tall trees and a hazy sky. The title 'The Silver Lining' is written in a large, elegant, cursive font at the top of the page.

Blessed is the
nation whose God
is the Lord; and
the people whom
he hath chosen
for His own
inheritance.

Psalms 33:12

July 2012

Sermon by Bro. Fred Funk, Morton, IL

Joshua 20 and St. Matthew 13

We greet you all this morning in the name of Jesus Christ our risen Lord and Savior. It's in His name that we gather together to worship Him, to praise Him, and to thank Him for what He's done for us and to remember the price that was paid for you and me for salvation. We sang the song this morning, "Thy word, O Lord, forever is" (*Zion's Harp #142, Obedience to the Word*). Thy Word – so many times we sing about the Word of God and what it's for. Today we're going to look into the Word of God. We believe it is the truth and the true inspired Word of God that we stand on. Its doctrines and its teachings are pure. Today let's have an open heart that God will speak to us as we look into His Word together.

I don't know if I've ever considered it this way before, but in reading Joshua 20 this morning, the city of refuge reminds me of Jesus Christ. I don't know how good of an analogy this is. When someone would kill someone, either on accident or on purpose, they could run to the city of refuge, and they could find shelter and peace at least for a time. They could go somewhere, and they could be heard and would be protected. But, even though they came, there was still a trial. There was still a reckoning – you're safe here for now. What did you do? What happened? Let's get to the bottom of it.

What's interesting is they were judged by what their motive was. If two who never had any ill will between them were working together and as they were chopping wood, the head of the ax would fly off and hit one of the other workers and kill him, there was no animosity there. There was no malice there. There were no ill feelings there. That person was protected, and he was safe from the avenger of blood, from the family member who would take it upon himself to take exact vengeance, until the high priest died. Then he could go back to his home.

But, if he had a problem with that person in the past or if he harbored malice or hate in his heart for that person and it was just something that was possibly too coincidental – we know he never did like him; he was always looking for a chance to hurt him, and now look, he's dead – that person was judged, and he was put to death.

Jesus related in the New Testament that

there were those who were hypocrites, and they would follow the letter of the law. Thou shalt not kill. Thou shalt not steal. There were 'thou shalt not's', and they followed them. Jesus didn't condemn that. He said to do what they say, but don't do what they do. (St. Matthew 23:3) Jesus told them, "You plot to kill me. You're trying to kill me." They said, "What? We're trying to kill you? What are you thinking?" (St. John 7:19-20) They would never do it themselves, but they thought it. They wanted it. So many times we can read in the New Testament how they had plotted. They were planning to put Him to death. It's something they had already done in their mind.

To take our lives a notch higher, Jesus said, "you know it says thou shalt not kill, but I'm telling you if you hate your brother, you've committed murder." (St. Matthew 5:21-22) Jesus said, "you know it says, don't commit adultery, but I'm telling you, if you've looked on a woman to lust after her, you've already committed adultery in your heart." (St. Matthew 5:27-28) Where does this sin come from in our life? Is it from the actions we do or the deeds that are done? That's what the Pharisees thought – as long as I never did this, as long as I never carried this out personally, I was fine. Jesus said, no, it goes much deeper than that. He said you have to have a new mind. You have to be changed. (St. John 3:3) He raised the bar so high that we couldn't attain it.

Have we ever looked upon something that someone else had and wanted it very badly and even let our mind wonder how we could get it... if this or that took place, then that could be mine. It says thou shalt not steal. Thou shalt not covet. (Exodus 20:15,17) Have we done that? Then Jesus said we've sinned. That is sin. It is unrighteousness, and Jesus said if you have sin, you cannot enter into Heaven. But who of us can say we are without sin? If we've harbored feelings like that at one time or another, it's sin.

They asked who can be saved? Jesus said without God, it is impossible. (St. Mark 10:26-27). Only through the shed blood of Jesus Christ and by putting on Jesus' robe of righteousness can we stand before God. Our minds and thoughts are the hardest thing

Sermon continued on Page 47

The Silver Lining subscriptions are due from the following in August:

1. Altadena
2. Croghan
3. Ft Lauderdale
4. Lamont-Gridley
5. Milford
6. Minneapolis
7. Philadelphia
8. Wichita
9. Fairbury

Suggested donation: \$18/subscription.

Send all payments to:

Apostolic Christian Publications
805 W. Cruger St., P.O. Box 52
Eureka, IL 61530

**Correspondence
For August Issue**
(news from June 16-July 15)
Due: July 20, 2012

The Silver Lining (Vol. 67, #6)
1523 County Road 400N
Congerville, IL 61729

USPS 496780

Published Monthly by the Apostolic
Christian Church of America
Counselors:
Tom Stock, Rick Plattner

Official Apostolic Christian Church
Website:
www.apostolicchristian.org

Send correspondence to:
fellowshippromoter@gmail.com
(email is preferred)
The Silver Lining
1523 County Road 400N
Congerville, IL 61729
Ph: 309-965-2626
Fax: 866-389-9835

Periodical non-profit postage paid at Roanoke, IL 61561 and additional post offices. The subscription rate is a donation. Send zip number with address. Remember to send changes of address. Send both old and new addresses (with both zips). Postmaster send address changes to:

The Silver Lining
1523 County Road 400N
Congerville, IL 61729

"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart...soul...mind...and strength ...Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these."

(Mark 12:30-31)

July 2012

Light from the Word The Greatest Commandments



Writings based on God's Word

"And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these" (Mark 12:30-31). In another Scripture, Jesus said, *"On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets"* (Matt. 22:40). Given the emphasis our Savior has placed on these two biblical principles, let us study each of them to increase our appreciation and fulfillment of them.

"...With all thy strength." In this context, strength indicates the ability and power given to us by God. When we consider our imperfections, our strength might seem small, but when we exercise our God-given abilities to serve others, God is glorified (Prov. 24:10; 1 Pet. 4:11). We take encouragement from God's Word that He accepts our weak efforts when we apply them in sincerity. *"For if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not"* (2 Cor. 8:12).

"...With all thy mind." Our mind is our intellect, and it forms our reasoning, our desires, our opinions, and our memory. When we pattern our mind after that of Christ, we will be humble and modest about our own thoughts and ideas and esteem others higher than ourselves. *"Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus"* (Phil. 2:3-5). That which we think about or allow into our mind greatly affects who and what we are. *"For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he..."* (Prov. 23:7). If we truly desire to love God with our entire mind, we should make conscious effort to *"think on"* good things (Phil. 4:8).

"...With all thy soul." Our soul within us is immortal and possesses a deep desire to be with God, its Creator. *"As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth*

my soul after thee, O God. My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?" (Ps. 42:1-2). The knowledge that our soul will live forever in one of two eternal destinations motivates us to make sound, biblically-based decisions regarding right and wrong. *"And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment; That ye may approve things that are excellent..."* (Phil. 1:9-10). The truly converted soul rejoices in the promise of salvation: *"I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation..."* (Is. 61:10).

"...With all thy heart." Our heart is the center of our will, our purpose, and our passions. The Bible describes man's heart in many ways: we can have an honest and good heart, or an evil heart of unbelief, a willing heart, a hard heart, a proud heart, or a pure heart. The many descriptions of our heart in the Scriptures indicate that its condition is largely up to us. One way to test the condition of our heart is through an honest assessment of our priorities. Jesus said, *"For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also"* (Matt. 6:21). When our heart is right, our love will truly *"abound yet more and more"* for the One who *"first loved us,"* and *"sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins"* and has given us the *"gift of eternal life"* (Phil. 1:9; 1 John 4:19, 10; Rom. 6:23).

"...Thy neighbor as thyself." The account of the Good Samaritan exemplifies the second commandment given by Jesus (Luke 10:29-37). The Samaritan's attitude in this account is revealing. If the injured man was a Jew, he could easily have held a grudge against him since the *"Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans"* (John 4:9). However, the Scriptures tell us he immediately had compassion on the unfortunate man and went to much effort and expense to help him. *"Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I am the Lord"* (Lev. 19:18). In addition, the Samaritan had a more generous and optimistic opinion of the injured man in that he must have viewed him as being

worth saving because he was "half alive" instead of forsaking him because he was "half dead." Thinking of someone in genuine love and in the best possible light and having an unselfish concern for their welfare made the difference between life and death in this account.

"...All the law and the prophets" are fulfilled when we love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, and our neighbor as ourselves. Christ challenges us to love unconditionally, even when it is not returned: *"But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil"* (Luke 6:32-35). The love of God is our example for loving one another. *"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. 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? My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth"* (1 John 3:16-18).

Christian love is the pinnacle of spiritual growth described by the Apostle Peter: *"And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ"* (2 Pet. 1:5-8). Our adherence to these two biblical principles of love will greatly enhance our obedience to the entire Word; our gratitude to God for our deliverance; a deep concern for the spiritual and physical needs of our fellow man; and a sincere desire for the peace, unity and edification of all of our fellow believers in Christ. It will bring glory and honor to God.

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 fellowshippingpromoter@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

Bible Study Development

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

2 TIMOTHY 2:15

Although this quote uses the word “study,” the original meaning is an encouragement to readily and diligently show ourselves approved to God, in every aspect of life. Paul follows up that encouragement to diligence with the necessity of “rightly dividing the Word of Truth.” The depth of the exhortation in this verse is a good example of why we should develop a good understanding of the Word through diligent study.

In Psalm 1:2, it is suggested that one whose delight is in the law of the Lord will meditate on His Word. “*But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.*”

In Nehemiah 8:8, we see how God gave understanding of the Word. “*So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading.*” In the original language, this passage indicates a meeting together for the purpose of better being able to divide and understand the law of God.

New Bible studies

Personal study of God’s Word is encouraged and is considered to be an essential part of our Christian walk. Bible study outlines can serve to enhance the study experience in both individual and small group study. The Bible Study Development Committee was formed to develop new studies and

adapt current studies. In fulfillment of those duties, two finished studies have been released and can be downloaded for free from www.acpublications.org.

These studies are:

- **Jesus the True Vine** which focuses on John 15.
- **Communication in Marriage** which concentrates on the biblical principles of establishing effective communication in marriage.

Other studies

Additionally, three other studies have been developed and are available for download as well. They are:

- **Joseph: Looking at the Old Testament Through the Lens of Christ.** This study helps the reader see the correlation between the virtues of Joseph and being Christ-like.
- **Loving as One in Christ.** Written primarily for engaged men or husbands to learn the biblical principles of spiritual unity in marriage.
- **Church Establishment** which concentrates on establishing and supporting small churches.

These studies are considered to be pre-release and have not been finalized. It is encouraged that users of these studies also download a Bible Study Review Form to fill out and submit at the conclusion of doing these studies. Reviews are useful in improving the studies.

While the Bible Study Development Committee will continue to accept suggestions for the development of unique needs within the church, it also has plans to adapt existing studies

for use within the brotherhood. A large inventory of available studies has been accumulated and the committee will select studies from among them that best fit the requests of the congregations.

ACCFS contribution

A brother on the Apostolic Christian Counseling and Family Services (ACCFS) staff serves as liaison between ACCFS and the Bible Study Development Committee to ensure that Bible study topics are within established topical boundaries.

ACCFS will continue to develop and adapt studies that pertain to mental health and relationship topics such as marriage or forgiveness, while the Bible Study Development Committee will concentrate on spiritual topics and Bible book or character studies such as the study of Galatians or of Joseph.

Ongoing commitment

Brethren have benefitted from studying God’s Word together. Accountability is also enhanced within a small group, as demonstrated in Proverbs 27:17, “*Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.*”

It is the desire of the Bible Study Development Committee to continue to provide Bible study outlines for personal and small-group study according to the needs and requests of the brotherhood, and under the direction of the Elder Communications Committee. Questions or suggestions can be directed to any elder on the Communications Committee or to the ACCFS Bible Study Coordinator at (309) 263-5536.



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

More Blessed to Give Than to Receive

As we travel through life, we have numerous opportunities to extend a helping hand to those in need. Daily, we make contact with people who have suffered loss and are carrying a heavy burden; people in need of someone to help them through a difficult time in their life. How do we respond to these opportunities? Do we recognize them as our neighbor, the one we are to love as our self?

The Lord gave us the example of the good Samaritan, who saw the need of his neighbor and responded with loving acts of service, motivated by a heart of compassion. The Lord Jesus often responded to the needs of the people around him, being "moved with compassion." We too are called to have compassion toward those around us, to the neighbor we may have never met.

Throughout recent years, there have been abundant opportunities to show compassion for those who have suffered loss. Earthquakes, tsunamis, tornadoes, floods and wildfires have left scores of people in a helpless situation. With their earthly possessions destroyed in a moment, victims struggle to find a way to continue through life. Fear, despair, depression and helplessness often paralyze survivors.

Work team experience

The mission of World Relief is "To provide humanitarian aid and volunteer labor to alleviate human misery and suffering throughout the world, first to the household of faith, and then to others as much as we are able, in a way that is a Christian witness and brings glory

to God." It is our desire to be "Good Samaritans" and to serve those in need in Christ's stead.

The scripture is true. "It is more blessed to give than to receive." What a blessing it is to put the needs of others before our own selfish desires. Our God is faithful in giving back to us more than we have given when we are motivated by a heart of compassion. We can never out-give the Lord!

Earlier this year, the winter work projects in Cullman, Alabama and Bastrop, Texas provided various opportunities to serve. Many responded, lending their God-given talents to build and repair homes for victims of natural disasters. Young and old, tradesmen and unskilled joined together to share the love of Christ and give hope to the despairing. In the process, hope has been restored in the lives of those who suffered loss, and bonds were formed between volunteers, as well as workers and homeowners.

Cullman, Alabama

Tornadoes throughout the state of Alabama destroyed hundreds of homes leaving many families displaced and living in temporary housing. With the help of local relief organizations, needy families were evaluated and referred to World Relief as candidates for assistance.

Six families were selected. Approximately four hundred volunteers from sixty different congregations worked for three months to build six new homes. Additional work was done to repair several other homes.

The cost of materials for these homes was shared equally by World Relief and the local relief

organization. Tools, equipment and construction supervision were provided by World Relief and volunteers were housed at Stoney Creek Camp. Volunteer cooks served delicious meals to the hard working teams. Many opportunities for fellowship with other work team members was a great blessing.

Bastrop, Texas

Wildfires destroyed more than fifteen hundred homes in Bastrop County, Texas. This area is only a few miles from our Austin Apostolic Christian Church. Local brethren were quick to see the need and lend a helping hand to many of these fire victims. However, the scope of the need was far greater than the limited resources of the small congregation. A request for help from World Relief resulted in another work project for the winter of 2012.

In Texas, six more homes were constructed by approximately three hundred volunteers, representing sixty congregations. The cost of materials on this project was covered primarily by the homeowners. Many of these victims had received money from FEMA and possibly from insurance. In most cases, however, these funds were insufficient to hire a contractor to build a new home. With volunteers providing the labor, a great deal of savings was realized by the homeowner.

Volunteers were housed on the site of the Austin church. Tool trailers and vehicles were provided by World Relief, along with experienced construction supervisors. Delicious meals were prepared and served in the church kitchen and dining area. Many blessings were shared by those who came to serve in this project.

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

This spring, employees of Apostolic Christian Home for the Handicapped who are also college students, had the opportunity to apply for scholarship assistance. It is heartwarming to read their working experiences in the essays they are required to write to be considered for a scholarship award.

One of the applicants, who will be off to college for the first time this fall, wrote how the residents inspire her. She is in awe (beyond words) at the incredible strength observed in many of the people living here just to make it through each day. This employee has dreamed of being a nurse since she was a little girl. She used the word “blessing” freely and repeatedly to describe her DSP (resident aide) experience here at Timber Ridge.

Another person is working while pursuing a special education degree. She commented that the ACHH environment caused her doubts and fears (about going into that field) to vanish. She continues to work toward her goal of serving the DD population with faith and confidence that it is God’s plan for her life.

One essay conveyed the personal interaction with the residents that takes the direct care duties so far beyond the required tasks of the day. It goes from telling a joke just to see them smile, to praying with them concerning their needs and wishes.

While acknowledging the appeal of the economic rewards of gaining a higher degree, one applicant expressed how blessed and fortunate she is to already have the opportunity to be of service to her fellowman as she serves our residents’ many needs at ACHH.

A young nursing student expressed appreciation for the vision of Apostolic Christian Services as a great guideline at work. This applicant plans to keep the same mind set and guidelines in the future when working as a nurse.

Our Mission

- Serving According to God’s Purpose
- Believing God’s promises are true
- Directed by Christian values
- Believing we are called to serve
- Believing all people have dignity and potential
- Giving our best to help others achieve their best

**GATEWAY WOODS
APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
CHILDREN’S HOME**
**Chad and Kristy Kaeb,
Houseparents**

Three years ago, my husband and I, along with our three children, were living a content life in Roanoke, IL. Family was close by. Our children were thriving in school and in the community. My husband had a solid job working alongside a great co-worker. We were blessed! We were ‘safe.’ But within just a couple of months, God revealed to us that He no longer wanted us clinging to the ‘safe’ life where our days were normal and our jobs as provider and Home-Maker were becoming mundane. It was loud and clear. He desired us to leave our life of safety and re-plant our family at Gateway Woods. He sold our house in two weeks with only a for-sale-by-owner sign in our yard, in an extremely tough housing market! He no longer wanted ‘normal’ for us. He wanted to stretch us, challenge us, tear us away from our comfort zone, and allow us to grow!

It is staggering to realize how

many children, right in our back yards, are hurting, broken, and completely ignorant of the saving power and unconditional love of a Savior. As we welcome these children into our home, the hard part is getting through the uneasy feelings they arrive with, whether it’s anger, fear, resentment, or they are so ‘closed up’ that even a ray of light cannot peek into their heart. We invest time, love, discipline, joy and (at times) every ounce of patience we have within us. When the time comes that we watch them walk out that door and back into the lives they came from, the fear of not knowing what lies ahead for them is very real! We ask ourselves, “Did we do everything we could while they were in our care? Did we reflect Jesus’ love as much as we could have? Did we give them enough tools to overcome their past addictions, heartaches, and struggles?”

We’ve been serving here at Gateway long enough to witness that even if they seem to leave Gateway a ‘changed’ person, sometimes it doesn’t take long before their previous life takes hold. They are right back in the thick of temptations and sin. Sometimes that is what hurts the most. You see them repeating the same poor choices, and going through the hurt and consequences of their sin all over again. We have no choice but to surrender them to Jesus, and trust.

But, it’s these moments that we cling to: when a resident comes to us broken and says “I need to give my life to Jesus,” or when a boy, that has been so cold and closed to the Truth, begins to mouth the words to a song in worship to our great God. Or, when we receive a text from a former resident seeking wisdom because she’s hurting, and she “has

been thinking how she needs to go to church again". This is especially rewarding when she wanted absolutely nothing to do with Christ throughout her time here. These moments make this opportunity so real and worth every sacrifice. This is when we plead with Jesus that they will never forget! Please pray with us, that the seeds are planted DEEP. That God will continue to water them. That someday these children will fully surrender to Him and not continue their former life cycle.

If God is nudging your heart to leave your 'comfort zone' and serve Him in a different way than you had ever imagined, I would challenge you to open your heart and listen. Pray. Seek HIS perfect will for your life. Allow Him to use you to the fullest capacity possible to further HIS Kingdom!

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 time this summer toward working at Gateway Woods. We are searching for all types with all skills. So please prayerfully consider spending time at our campus. Build relationships with the children and families we serve. Please contact Tyler at (602) 410-1739 to volunteer.

It was a sad day for us as we said goodbye to Sis. Rachel Klopfenstein in June. Sis. Rachel has served in several roles at Gateway, most recently as a Foster Care Case Manager. We wish her the best and pray that God blesses her as she moves on from Gateway Woods.

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 three career positions available. We have openings for an Assistant Houseparent, an Illinois Adoption Manager, and a Foster Care Program Manager. For more information, please see the notice in the back of this issue 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 to serve Him in a ministry that is 'Turning Lives Around'. Perhaps this includes you!

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

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

Ahh...summer is upon us! During this time, we usually lose several students so they can spend time with older siblings who are out of school. We take it easy during the summer and give the students some fun summer activities to do

in place of school work. Each class goes swimming in our kid-sized pools once a week. On Thursday mornings, you can hear the ice cream lady's music as she rounds the bend and pulls into the parking lot. The kiddos absolutely LOVE the treats she gives them. We also like to have sprinkler days twice a month and a picnic lunch one a month. We recently had some sod installed to cover ruts from some work projects, so it was necessary to water it often. It was funny watching the kids stare longingly at the sprinkler wishing they could run through it. Then, last week they finally got their chance! Their favorite game was trying to outrun the water (when they weren't spraying teachers with the squirt bottles). On Friday, the students brought their own lunches and ate them on our picnic table on the playground. It's been a fun-filled summer so far, learning about other cultures, animals, and Jesus.

**ALABAMA, ATHENS
Roger and Becky Roberts**

We were blessed by many visitors for the annual Memorial Day sing. Also here that weekend to minister to us were Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Sis. Roberta, Smithville, OH), Bro. Roger Sauder (Sis. Judy, Fort Lauderdale, FL), Bro. Fred Funk (Sis. Diane, Morton, IL) and Bro. Ted Witzig Jr. (Sis. Donna, Morton, IL). We appreciate their willingness to share of their time and talents.

We cherish the time we were able to spend with the Atlanta, GA congregation June 1-3 when we met for Vacation Bible School. The theme this year was "The Wise and the Foolish man". What is your spiritual house built upon?

We continue pray for healing for Bro. J. R. Hall (Sis. Louise).

ARIZONA, PHOENIX

We have been blessed this past week to spend each evening with our church family at Vacation Bible School! The children's enthusiasm is sure to influence us all to a closer walk with Him. Our visiting ministers this month were also the Bible School speakers: Bro. Dave Obergfel (Sis. Cathy, Peoria, IL) and Bro. Corey Metzger (Sis. Jodi, Wichita, KS). We are so grateful they were willing to travel here during the hot season to minister to us! May God's rich blessings be with them and their families!

Those in need of prayers for health concerns are: Bro. John (Sis. Wilma)

Pulfer who has pneumonia, Bro. Ed Frautschi who has a medication resistant infection, and Patrick (Amy) Swain who had hip surgery.

There was much rejoicing when we heard of the safe arrival of Silas Jay to Nathan and Natalie Virkler on June 11th! His big sisters, Portia and Cosette are especially happy, along with thankful grandparents, Elder Bro. Herb and Sis. Laurie Knochel and Bro. Stan and Sis. Beth Virkler (Remington, IN).

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT

Denise Steidinger

God's Word blessed us this past month. Elder Bros. Jon Kokanovich (Sis. Nancy, Phoenix, AZ), Tom Klotzle (Sis. Jody, Altadena, CA), Herb Knochel (Sis. Laurie, Phoenix, AZ) shared along with Bros. Keith Hinrichsen (Sis. Tammy, Phoenix, AZ) and Don Manz (Sis. Connie, Junction, OH).

Our theme this year for VBS was "The Heart of a Servant". Bro. Bill Schick (Sis. Joan, Magdalena, MX) spoke on Friday evening. He asked, "What was the sin of Sodom?"

We normally think of sexual immorality. He shared this verse in Ezekiel 16:49, "*Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fullness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy.*"

These four sins were brought out: pride, excess food, prosperous ease and not aiding the poor and needy. We were also pointed to Galatians 4:1-7, "*Now I say, That the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all; But is under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father. Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world: But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.*" Bro. Bill taught that we are more than servants of God. We are sons (and daughters). It was a very encouraging, uplifting and challenging message (all in one). Following that, our Sunday school children presented a program of songs and verses they learned during VBS. It was a wonderful week. By God's grace and His Holy Spirit it will bring forth fruit in our lives as we serve others.

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp

Many, many thanks to Elder Bro. Herb Knochel (Sis. Laurie, Phoenix, AZ) who graciously ministered to our church on Memorial Day weekend. We would have been

without a minister due to vacation plans had he and his wife not been willing to come. We send our sincere appreciation and God's blessings to you.

We are so happy to welcome Bro. Gene and Karen Denick to Tucson. They have been winter visitors for some time and are now making Tucson their home. How wonderful for us! God continues to provide for our little church.

Lord willing, we will start Vacation Bible School next week. Our theme is "Humble Submission to God Yields Spiritual Fruit".

We are experiencing our normal summer weather for June, highs in the low 100's and lots of bright, unrelenting sunshine. At this point, we are normally praying for the monsoon season to bring some relief. Nothing new hear!

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

This month has been filled with ups and downs for our small congregation.

Our congregation celebrated the annual end of the year Sunday School picnic on May 20. As always, there were games and good fellowship, good food and camaraderie among all present. We even enjoyed viewing the solar eclipse while we were picnicking.

We rejoiced with Bros. Jonathan Sauder as he married Sis. Cali Zobrist (Ixtilan, MX) in Mexico on May 27, 2012. We eagerly await their return to our congregation and pray that God will bless their union with all goodness, hope and happiness.

We also rejoiced with our graduating senior, Anthony Neri (Maria Partida). His graduation from high school is just the beginning for this fine young man. We are blessed to have him as a part of our church family.

On a sadder note, we are praying for our Sis. Lydia Lira as she battles illness. She is home from the hospital, but is doing poorly. We are also praying for Bro. David Art as he recovers from a heart attack. We are continuing to pray for Bro. Laszlo and Sis. Maria Cser as they struggle with health concerns. And, we lift up Alan Crockett (Bro. Robert Crockett) as he is suffering from double pneumonia.

As this month's article went out, we learned of the loss of family to our church. We grieve with Sis. Janelle Klotzle (Bro. David) on the loss of her sister, Sis. Ruth Ann Leman (Bro. John, Wolcott, IN) in a car accident. Our prayers and love go out during this time of pain.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO
Yasmin Koehl

**CANADA, KITCHENER,
ONTARIO**
Kim Leman

"The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. 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 forever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward." (Psalm 19:7-11)

Our congregation appreciated the ministering brothers and their wives who served on our rotation. They were Bros. Nelson Beer (Sis. Minnie, Milford, IN) and Mark Zimmerman (Sis. Cheryl, Eureka, IL). May God

richly bless them!

Our hearts were deeply saddened to hear of the sudden, unexpected death of Virginia Schlauch, 31. Please pray for her family, Henry and Sis. Astrid, Dennis, Matthew, and April Schlauch. Also mourning her loss in our congregation are her grandparents, Bro. Walter and Sis. Margaret Fortenbacher and numerous aunts and uncles. May God give comfort as only He can.

Due to a broken water pipe in our church building, services on Father's Day Sunday were held at the home of Bro. Murray and Sis. Esther Metzger. We are thankful the Word of God can be preached freely, no matter where we gather.

Our annual Sunday School picnic was held this month at Heidelberg Park. It was a blessed time of fellowship and quality time spent with the children in our church family.

If God has moved your heart to consider supporting a small church, please consider Kitchener. There are many employment opportunities in our area. The rolling countryside is beautiful. The area is rich in culture. Please allow God to work in your heart and be open to the Spirit's prompting, should He lead you to consider supporting the Kitchener church.

**CANADA, REGINA,
SASKATCHEWAN**
Myrna Shipley

Though troubles assail and dangers affright, though friends should all fail and foes all unite. Yet one thing secures us whatever betide. This promise assures us, The Lord will provide! (Zion's Harp # 86)

The Lord provided two ministers and their wives for our church services in May and June. Bro.

Earl and Sis. Susie Beery came from Rittman, OH and Bro. Randy and Sis. Sue Gasser from Detroit, MI. Thank you for coming and God bless you.

COLORADO, DENVER
Lily Zarkovacki

"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:12)

We appreciate our visiting ministers this past month that were willing to share the Word. They include: Elder Bro. Brad Eisenmann (Sis. Cindy, Chicago, IL) Bro. Ronald Allenbach (Sis. Lois, Kiowa, KS) and Bro. John Reinhard (Sis. Pam, Bluffton, IN). We thank all our other many visitors that come and fellowship with us in Denver!

Our dear Sis. Ruth Pfeiffer has had some serious health issues lately. We pray that she will feel well enough to fellowship with us again soon.

On June 9, we held our annual young men's retreat. It was a blessing and encouragement to all young men and brothers who were able to attend.

Congratulations to our senior Josh Martin. We wish him God's blessings with his future endeavors.

Note of Thanks:

We wish to thank everyone who remembered our family with your prayers, cards, food and gifts. The loss of our loved one, Sis. Marlene Leman, is much easier to bear having been shared by so many. Bro. Tom Leman and family

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE
Sheila Gerber
Lauren Goric

God has moved the hearts of Bro. Kevin Gottier and Sis. Lauren Goric, as their engagement was announced

on June 17. Their parents are Guy and Sis. Beth Gottier and Bro. Bob and Sis. Lynette Goric. May the Lord richly bless them as they look forward to a life together in Him. Lord willing, their wedding is planned for July 29.

August and Sis. Linda Leite were blessed with a new granddaughter. Baby Amanda Sondra was born to Brian and Reanna Goodreau on June 17. She joins her big brother David.

Sorrow is often just as much a part of life as rejoicing, as some have experienced recently. Our love and prayers are with those who have lost a loved one this month. Rudolph Hany (June), father of Brian Hany (Sandra), passed away unexpectedly this month. He also leaves behind his sister, Sis. Ruth Kostuk (John). Also passing from this life was Tony Zutter, son of Bro. Alfred and Sis. Frieda Zutter (dec.), who attended our Rockville church many years ago. Tony was the cousin of Sis. Margaret Gottier (Bro. Warren).

"...Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." (Acts 2:38)

We rejoice with our dear friend, Seth Bahler (Bro. Ron and Sis. Bonnie), as he has turned to the Lord in repentance. May he look to God for guidance and direction.

"Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power. Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ." (Ephesians 3:7)

Two months ago our congregation was charged to prayerfully consider

adding a new minister(s). After seeking the direction of God and the sentiment of the church, on June 9-10, the responsibility was laid upon two brothers: Bro. Jeff Gerber (Sis. Carole) and Bro. Brent Walder (Sis. Naomi). We pray for much grace for these two new ministers of the Word of Life and their wives and children. We were thankful for the labors of two visiting elders: Elder Bros. Mark Masters (Sis. Jeanine, Mansfield, OH) and Dave Graf (Sis. Barbara, Akron, OH) to assist our Elder Bro. Kevin during this weekend.

"For ye shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace..." (Isaiah 55:12)

Andy Schneider (Bro. Doug and Sis. Jane) and Ben Wagenbach (Bro. Dale and Sis. Mary) have found peace with God and man. May these dear souls continue to look to the Lord as they walk this path of life. Lord willing, they will give their testimonies and be baptized July 14-15.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, WASHINGTON Henrietta Meyer

Our caretakers for May were Bro. Howard and Sis. Louise Getz (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.

"Rejoice with them that do rejoice and weep with them that weep." (Romans 12:15)

We rejoice with Delaney Steffen (Bro. Phil and Mona) as she graduates from high school. We extend our Christian sympathy to Sis. Holly and Bro. Joe Bohart as they mourn the death of her father Bro. Jim Barton (Detroit, MI).

Our ministers this month were Bro. Mark Ramsier (Sis. Alice) and Bro. Dana Indermuhle (Sis. Joy) both from Sardis, OH, Elder Bro. Rick Plattner (Sis. Mary, Fairbury, IL), Bro. Arlen Leman (Sis. Denise, Forrest, IL) and Bro. Jeff Fischer (Fort Scott, KS). Other visitors this month were from Rittman, OH, Congerville, IL, Lester, IA and Rockville, CT.

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. You will need an E-Z Pass or other electronic payment method. I-Pass 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 grateful to have two visiting ministers this past month. Visiting were Bro. Virgil Kaeb (Sis. Suellen, Sarasota, FL) and Bro. Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue, Detroit, MI). We pray for a blessing on these brethren that fellowship and share

God's Holy Word with us.

We celebrated Father's Day this past month. We are so thankful for our Heavenly Father and His plan of salvation for us. We pray for His blessings on all the earthly fathers and grandfathers. For those who have lost their earthly fathers, we hold close the knowledge that we will, Lord willing, see them again in Heaven one day.

Our prayers for David Mangold's (Bro. Mike and Sis. Renee) safety continue as he has now deployed overseas. Hopefully, he will have a chance to see his brother Josh Mangold, who is also over there. Lord, keep all those who serve in the military in Thy care.

FLORIDA, NORTH FT. MYERS Victor Beer

We were blessed again with visiting ministers. On Pentecost Sunday, May 27, Bro. Chris Huber (Sis. Sharon, Francesville, IN) blessed us with the Word. Also, our Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Sis. Jeni, Bluffton, IN) shared with us.

Children of our summer vacationers have given our Sunday School new life. They find plenty of warm weather here. Our beaches are fantastic, and other tourist attractions are numerous.

This week is the biannual time of the Henry-Alice Beer family reunion. Plans are for a four-day cruise to a Mexican coastal city. Over 50 relatives made plans to share this reunion together.

Update on "New Beginnings of Southwest Florida"

We at New Beginnings traveled to Bloomington, IL for the testimony and baptism of Robers Mesidor. We greatly enjoyed the fellowship. We welcome Robers as our new brother in faith and wish him God's grace as he walks with Him.

We are enjoying our time with sister Emily Wenger (Forrest, IL). She is here for the summer to help with our ministry here. She has been invaluable as she is bonds with our young mothers and teaches them some valuable cooking and shopping skills. The young mothers relate better with someone closer to their age.

Our community center and play area are coming together nicely. The sod is laid, the fence is installed, and the playground equipment is being built. Some bushes are planted next to the fence to give privacy and a barrier against the traffic noise.

Angelica is getting mostly A's in her summer class. We are proud of her for doing so well in a class that is not her favorite. Marta is enrolled for classes in the second part of summer and also this fall. A big "thank you" to Lydia Masters. She gets the girls enrolled and gets their paperwork in order.

We appreciate the support of the Sarasota church. We had visits from several young families on Sundays. We realize it is not small effort to pack up children and take them out of their routine on a Sunday. This is an encouragement to the young mothers who are in the same stage of life.

Bro. Joel and Sis. Erin Drayer (Bluffton, IN) visited. We enjoyed getting acquainted and having more children to interact with ours.

We still need a mentor or mentors to live at the apartments. Sis. Emily will be leaving at the end of July. This is a very satisfying and rewarding missionary work that can be accomplished right here in the U.S. It is a chance to help break a generational chain of dysfunction and affect future generations for God's plan and glory. We can't possibly see all the results of the

changes made by one person. One changed life intersects with dozens of other lives. 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. Moreover, the vision is to reach hearts for Jesus.

If you feel God touching your heart for this ministry, please call Bro. Bill at (309) 824-3981.

FLORIDA, SARASOTA Kim Ott

"... Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord." (Matthew 25:21)

Our theme for Vacation Bible School this year was "Counting the Cost". The Sunday School students were taught that the money that they have in their possession on this earth is not really their own. It is God's and He has entrusted each of us to be stewards of His money. Students were instructed on how to earn, give, and invest their money, with each principle being supported by Biblical stories and teachings. Thank you to everyone involved in another successful VBS.

We grieved to hear of the passing of Sis. Lynne Streitmatter's father, Bro. Lyle Fischer (Fort Scott, KS). Our prayers are with Elder Bro. Jeff, Sis. Lynne and their four sons, Jeff, Gabe, Caleb, and Josh. We are grateful for God's faithfulness, not only hear the prayers offered for Bro. Lyle's family, but to answer with His provision of comfort and peace for each new day.

"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart...soul...mind...and strength ... Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these." (Mark 12:30-31)

GEORGIA, ATLANTA

The first week of June, at the dawning of summer, is the weekend of the annual Atlanta-Athens Family VBS Weekend! Our theme was "The Wise and Foolish Builders", whom Jesus spoke of in the last few verses of the Sermon on the Mount. Challenged by the question, "*On what is your foundation built?*", we studied the Lord's words: "*Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock.*" (Matthew 7:24) It was a wonderful weekend of rich teaching, fellowship and food!

Another anticipated summer event is the Camp family's potluck, fondly known as "Camp's Cabin." All ages enjoy the day of sunshine, fellowship, and food at the lake side cabin!

We are so thankful for the willing hearts of these ministers who spoke God's Word of Truth to our congregation this month: Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Sis. Jeannine), and Bro. Curt Walder (Sis. Elizabeth) Mansfield, Ohio. Bro. Matthew Manz (Toledo, Ohio, with his wife Sis. Deanna), Bro. Ron Kipfer (and his wife Sis. Linda, Bluffton, Indiana), and Bro. Dan Koch (Tremont, Illinois, with his wife, Sis. Julie).

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE

Doreen Moser
Shayla Steffen

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." (Prov. 2:6)

This is our instruction from the Bible for the children in our care, whether we are grandparents, parents, or even single. Godly wisdom with a focus on Solomon was the instruction for our younger

kids during our summer VBS. We thank the sisters who helped to instruct our children about wise decisions, listening to God's instruction and keeping our hearts clean from worldly enticements. We pray, as we continue to train up our Sunday School children in that way they should go, that they will one day heed the instruction that we have provided.

"For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many." (Mark 10:45)

Although no man can give up so much, for so many, we do thank the ministers who give of themselves Sunday after Sunday to preach the word of God. We thank our home and visiting ministers for this sacrifice. This month, we thank visiting Elder Bros. Dave Steffen (Sis. Linda, Elgin, IL) and Lynn Stieglitz (Sis. Leonda, Leo, IN). We thank them for being willing to be led by the Spirit in bringing forth God's Word for instruction, correction and reproof.

ILLINOIS, BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

Shelley Steffen
Gina Hodel

We recently held our first Community Share Day. The purpose of the day was to give of our excess to help those in need. Gently used items were brought in and people were asked to give a 'pay what you can' donation to the Midwest Food Bank. One encouraging story was of a family who came to the Share Day and gave a donation for the items that they wanted. They were thrilled to hear that the money would be going to the Midwest Food Bank, as they had received food from them just a short time ago. It was a full-

circle moment for their family.

Visiting ministers this month were: Bro. Tim Hohulin (Sis. Cathy, Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Mark Bahr (Sis. Bev, Detroit, MI). We thank these brothers for taking the time to share God's Word.

The Senior Breakfast was held on May 20. Elder Bro. Mark encouraged the seniors to remember the phrase 'Got Milk'. Whenever they are unsure of a situation or need guidance to get back to the spiritual milk of God's Word. And those who have already done that should go on to 'Get Meat'. Two simple phrases, easy to remember, which can serve us all well in this life. High school graduates were: Anna Eastman, Rachel Houska, Tiffany Masters, Sis. Larissa Metz, Sis. Taylor Nazarczuk, Sis. Stephanie Sauder, Joe Terrini, Bro. Bryce Wegman, and Lydia Zimmerman. Our college graduate was Sis. Sarah Maurer. We congratulate all of the students.

We rejoice as God continues to work in the hearts of souls. Memorial Day weekend we were blessed to witness the testimonies and baptisms of our new Bros. Evan Greiner (Bro. Doug and Sis. Jean) and Robers Mesidor (Ft. Myers, FL).

Babies are always a wonderful blessing! Alli Elizabeth Kaufmann was recently born to Brant and Kyli Kaufmann. She is welcomed by grandparents Bro. Jim and Sis. Nancy Kaufmann and great-grandparents Bro. Don and Sis. Glady Kaufmann.

Several in our congregation are grieving the loss of a loved one. Sis. Wilma (Bro. Dave) Kieser lost her brother, Richard Stork of Chatsworth, IL. Sis. Ann (Bro. Jim) Kellenberger said goodbye to her mother, Sis. Eunice Unsicker of Peoria, IL. Sis. Charlene (Bro.

Clyde) Knobloch also lost her mother, Sis Violet Hohulin of Goodfield, IL.

June 4 was the funeral for Bro. Ralph Knapp who passed on to his heavenly home. Our love and sympathy are extended to his wife, Sis. Verena, and his sons who attend our church: Bro. Keith (Sis. Kay) and Bro. Kevin (Sis. Dixie). May God continue to comfort each of these families.

Our annual Vacation Bible School was held June 4-8. Our theme for the week was "Growing Godly Character". The children learned many lessons revolving around the "Fruit of the Spirit". They were also able to plant flowers, make blankets, and pack goody bags for a local health clinic that serves the less fortunate. The adults were blessed with great instruction as well. A heartfelt "Thank You" to all the brothers who took the time to visit. Bro. Craig Martin (Princeville, IL) spoke on "Preparing the Soil". Bro. Mark Streitmatter (Bloomington, IL) continued with "Planting the Seed". Bro. Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL) spoke on "The Growing Season". Bro. Jedd Rocke (Goodfield, IL) talked about "Harvesting. Finally, Bro. Dave Zehr (Gridley, IL) tied it all together nicely with "Enjoying the Bounty". He encouraged us to be a telescope for God. Our calling as Christians is to magnify God: to feel, to think, and to act in a way that makes God look and appear as great as He truly is.

"I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify him with thanksgiving." (Psalm 69:30)

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD

Sandi Joos

Roseann Stahl

Sharing God's word with us this past month were Bro. Curt Rassi

(Sis. Kathy, Tremont, IL) Bro. John Rassi (Sis. Heather, Tremont, IL), and Bro. Greg Rassi (Sis. Carla, Chicago, IL).

We extend sympathy to Sis. Sherrill Stoller (Bro. Nate) and their family in the loss of her mother, Betty Stahl (Lloyd). May they feel the comfort of the Lord at this time of loss.

Being called to teach Sunday School is Bro. Tyler Joos (Sis. Tonya) and Sis. Cheryl Kupferschmid (Bro. Brad). We would like to thank Bro. Ralph Joos (Sis. Jenny) and Sis. Rosalie Wiegand for their time and efforts in teaching our youth.

Shannon Gudeman(Bro. Brad and Sis. Teresa) spent a few days in the hospital. We pray for the healing hand of the Lord.

A thought to leave as summer has begun and along with it summer vacations. As we are out and about in our travels, let's make sure we don't go on a "spiritual vacation". Let's take the charge Paul left for Timothy, to be "*instant in season, out of season.*" (2 Timothy 4:2)

ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN

Laura Tucker

We continue to be blessed with our temporary place of worship as our church remodel project continues. On Sundays, our congregation meets at the Messiah Lutheran Church at 1401 W. John St. in Champaign. In lieu of Wednesday night services, we enjoy gathering in the homes of local members for our all-church Bible study on "Forgiveness". Occasionally, we have a potluck or singing. If you would like directions or information about our schedule, please contact Bro. David Eisenmann at [\(815\) 848-7363](tel:8158487363).

Construction was not limited to our own church building this

month. This year's Vacation Bible School theme was "Building God's House". The result was the transformation of Messiah Lutheran into our second work site as we combined Bible lessons with activities and work projects. Our Sunday school year ended on June 24 with the annual picnic.

June has been a month of goodbyes for our congregation. We will miss Tina Huang as she ends her English studies and returns to Taiwan. Alex, an exchange student who stayed with Bro. Jim and Sis. Beth Walder for the past school year, will also be missed as she returns to her native Germany. Finally, Sis. Sydney Eisenmann is relocating to St. Louis for work. We are sad that she is leaving, but trust that she will be a blessing at her new job as well as to the St. Louis church.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Rachel Meyer

Greetings from Chicago. We thank the following brothers for sharing God's Word with us this past month: Bro. Alan Schambach, (Remington, IN), Bro. Loren Schrenk, (St. Louis, MO), and Bro. Steve Baner, (Gridley, IL). Bro. Steve presented a Topical Bible Study entitled, "Redeeming Our Time." We thank each one for the effort put into making the trip to Chicago. May God be your rewarder.

As the months pass, the need for prayer continues for some of our loved ones with ongoing medical situations. Please join us in praying for Bro. Dan Plattner and his family, Bro. Steve Hofstetter and his family, and our dear friend Peggy Ryan and her husband, Mike. We love each one.

Our dear Sis. Christine Eckel's husband, Ken Eckel, passed away

rather suddenly although he had been experiencing some medical issues for a while. Sis. Christine faithfully tended him and we extend our sympathy to her as well as her children Janet, Fred, and their extended family. May God comfort during the lonely hours.

Some of our congregation was able to travel to Taylor, MO for the wedding of Bro. Greg Eisenmann and Sis. Diana Wagenbach. Bro. Greg is the son of our Elder Bro. Brad and Sis. Cindy Eisenmann. We are happy now to welcome them both back from Champaign and Taylor as a newly-married couple. May God bless their union.

Our Sunday School picnic was a wonderful success. We thank all involved in the planning and execution. Ian Knapp, son of Bro. Randy and Sis. Heather Knapp, has graduated from high school and has been accepted to college in the fall. We pray a special blessing on him as he makes this move.

This past Sunday we welcomed Sis. Rebekah Hoffman from Roanoke to our church family. She is here for a 6-week internship. We include Andrew Klopfenstein in that welcome as well as he has returned to the Chicago area for another 9-week internship. Each one is a blessing no matter the time spent with us. Welcome to Chicago.

I am typing this at 4 A.M. because I have not been able to sleep for the last two hours. I am sure I am not the only one who has awoken at night due to worry, doubt, frustrations, even anger toward God for seemingly unanswered prayer. The list goes on. Subsequently, we cannot get back to sleep. I was worrying about events out of my control. Stewing in my mind with "what ifs," wondering if God has been listening to my prayers these

last few months, and mentally planning for work "tomorrow". Then I reminded myself just to get on my knees in prayer. I was beyond overwhelmed. But as I prayed, I started to realize I was asking for the same thing over and over again. I was reminded of a recent sermon in Chicago that affected me strongly. The setting was the wedding where Jesus performed His first miracle. We were reminded that His mother went to Him and simply stated the need of wine. She did not repeatedly return and remind Him, nor did she beg and plead with Him to take care of the situation. She stated the need in faith. Then she simply told the servants to do as He instructed.

Her example is one to follow even though it goes against our human nature to want to control circumstances. God knows our need, but certainly welcomes us, even asks us, to bring our cares to him. I opened my Bible and thanked God for His faithfulness and kindness toward me as I read:

"I waited patiently for the Lord; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry. He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my foot upon a rock, and established my goings."
(Psalm 40:1-2)

Most comforting to me was His validation that He has been and will continue to hear my prayers. That tells me His will is going to be accomplished. No longer need I walk around with concrete feet, barely getting one foot in front of the other due to circumstances out of my control. Now my challenge is to continue to remind myself of this promise and hold onto this comfort.

Perhaps this scenario resonates with you. If so, I hope you are able to find strength in this time of need.

"Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it." (1 Thessalonians 5:24)

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

Marilyn Maul
Tina Walder

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

Rachel Currier

"This God-made union then shall never more be broken, Where faith and love have been the holy covenant's token..."
(Zion's Harp 79 vs. 4)

Bro. Brandon Stickling (Bro. Scott and Sis. Jan) was united in Holy Matrimony to Sis. Corin Wagenbach (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Bonnie) on June 10 in Oakville, IA. We wish them God's grace and peace as they begin their marriage. We welcome Sis. Corin to our congregation.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN

Amy Gasser
Miriam Gasser

We thank ministering Bros. Earl Beery and Wayne Hartzler (Rittman, OH), Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH), and Troy Leyse (Bluffton, IN) for teaching us through the inspired Word. On May 19, Bro. Troy also presented a Bible study on "Spiritual Adoption."

Bro. Greg Anliker and Sis. Shaena Dietz were selected as new Sunday School teachers and will have our prayerful support. May God bless Bro. Jason Schambach and Sis. Renee Schambach for their years of faithful service to our students.

Sis. Pauline Schrenk was called to her eternal home on May 18. She lived to be 99 and was an example of one who both hoped and quietly waited for the salvation of the Lord (Lam. 3:26). Her daughters are Sis. Nancy (Bro. Ron) Schambach, Sis. Carol (Bro. Ed) Troxel of Hanna,

IN, and Bonnie (Paul) Reeb of Muscatine, IA.

Sis. Kathy Stefan is thankful to be home and on the road to recovery. It is encouraging to see both her and Sis. Marie Hugh in church again. Bro. Bill Kinsinger (Sis. Sandy) had knee replacement surgery and is recovering well.

Our prayers continue for Bro. Gary Anliker (Sis. Edie), who has experienced some retinal damage, and for Sis. Cindy Hann (Jerry), who was hospitalized with a serious lung condition.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

Dee Baer

Jodi Blunier

We were thankful for the engagement of Bro. Blake Hoerr (Bro. Mark and the late Sis. Carolyn) and Sis. Caitlin Leman (Bro. Kent and Sis. Chris). We know the Lord is true.

Bro. Chance, Sis. Shelly, Mia and Eli Knapp welcomed Titus Drew to their family. Grandparents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Lori Knapp and Bruce and Joetta Hinrichsen and Cathy and Ernie Appleyard. Bro. Jacob and Sis. Julie Rocke became parents as Malia Gabriel was born. Grandparents are Bro. Rob and Sis. Jan Rocke and Bro. Dan and Sis. Diane Fehr. Bro. Matt and Sis. Lisa Schmidgall added Malachi James to their family. Trenton, Marlyse and Maria are happy with their new brother. Grandparents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Kary Schmidgall and Bro. Rich and Sis. Maribeth Kupferschmid.

Sympathy has been shared with Bro. George and Sis. Thelma Saathoff in the death of their grandson, Nathaniel Fischer (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Debbie, Roanoke,

IL). Sis. Jean Knapp (Bro. Bob) lost her sister Edith Roemersberger. Bro. Leland and Sis. Barb Zimmerman said farewell to their son-in-law, Bro. Fred Leman (Sis. Brenda, Forrest, IL).

Sis. Gladys Schmidgall and Bro. Roy Hangartner (Sis. Norma) are recovering after brief hospitalizations.

Visiting ministers this month were: Bro. Tony Manz (Junction, OH), Bro. Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA) and Bro. Kevin Banwart (West Bend, IA).

Note of Thanks:

We want to thank everyone for cards, gifts, thoughts and prayers at the death of my sister, Edith Roemersberger. God Bless you all. Bro. Bob and Sis. Jean Knapp

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

Angela Herr

Kay Steffen

Our Sunday School enjoyed Vacation Bible School the week of June 4-8. We were thankful to have Bro. James Fehr (Tremont, IL), Bro. Scott Wegman (Taylor, MO), and Bro. Fred Witzig (Washington, IL) minister to our Bible class students.

Other visiting ministers this month were: Bro. Todd Sinn (Latty, OH), Bro. Dennis Rassi (Austin, TX), Bro. John Grimm (Columbus, OH), Bro. Matt Kaufmann (Bloomington-Normal, IL), Bro. Nathan Walder (Cissna Park, IL), Bro. Jerry Wagenbach (Oakville, IA), and Bro. Nelson Beer (Milford, IN). We thank these brothers for their willingness to share the truths of God's Word.

Haste and seek your soul's salvation; heed the word of God today! Haste to flee His condemnation; seek the straight and narrow way. Evil are the

worldly pleasures, leading to eternal fire; seek the everlasting treasure, ere the day of grace expire. (Zion's Harp # 52, vs. 1)

We are thankful that Katie Schaffer (Lynn and Becky) is seeking the Lord in repentance. Our prayers are with her as she begins her walk with the Lord, and, in faith, learns to trust Him to direct her path.

We are also thankful Bro. Marvin Maier was able to be sprinkled with the baptism of Jesus Christ on June 14 before he peacefully slipped away from this life into eternity on June 16. May God comfort and be near his family. We pray many more, young and old, will heed God's call and surrender to Him in a true repentance before it is forever too late.

We also bid farewell to our Bro. Vernon Hartman who passed away on May 27. May God comfort and be near his dear wife, Sis. Pat, and his children, Bro. John (Sis. Rosemary) and Sis. Donna Banwart (Bro. Dale), as well as his many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Bro. Wayne Davis (Sis. Verla), Bro. Harvey Schieler (Sis. Jan), Aidan Teubel (Bro. Nathan and Sis. Jennifer), and Sis. Rosemary Hartman (Bro. John) have often been in our prayers as they recover from surgery. May God's healing hand be upon each one.

While we weep with those who weep, we also rejoice with those who rejoice. On June 17, we rejoiced with the engagement of Sis. Brooke Miller (Bro. Roger and Sis. Crystal) to Bro. Nathan Kuntz (Bro. Rollyn and Sis. Brenda, Forrest, IL). May God bless and be near them as they prepare for a life together.

We also rejoice with Bro. Nic and

Sis. Lori Roth as they welcomed Lucy Lynn into their family circle on June 19. Ty, Mya, and Madilyn are happy to have another little sister to love. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Walt and Sis. Rosetta Edelman and Bro. Ken and Sis. Deb Roth (Forrest, IL).

June 24 was our annual Sunday School Picnic which marks the end of the Sunday School year. We would like to thank Bro. Kevin Moser (Sis. Kara) and Sis. Joan Zehr (Bro. Quinn) for their years of service in our Sunday School and pray that God will bless them for their labors of love. We give our support to Bro. Karl Steidinger (Sis. Carrie) and Sis. Judy Hartman (Bro. Mark) who are the new teachers.

ILLINOIS, FORREST

Lisa Aberle

Lynn Dotterer

We were blessed with visiting ministers this month. We thank Bros. Ken Schneider (Remington, IN), Byron Stoller (Gridley, IL), Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL), and Chris Wuethrich (St. Louis, MO) for speaking the truth in love. We also had four ministers come to our Vacation Bible School week. They were: Bros. Ned Bahler (Fairbury, IL), Willis Ehnle (Peoria, IL), Ed Sauder (Roanoke, IL), and Mark Schmidgall (Eureka, IL).

Bro. Troy and Sis. April Slagel are our new brother and sister in the Lord. Elder Bro. Rick Plattner (Fairbury, IL) helped our Bro. Marvin with their testimonies and baptisms.

Bro. Nate, Sis. Paula, Heidi, Zachary, and Travis Kelson welcomed Denver Lee to their family. Denver's grandparents are Bro. Paul and Sis. Sherri Kelson and Bro. Marvin and Sis. Mary Bachtold.

We also congratulate Bro. Nathan

Kuntz (Bro. Rollyn and Sis. Brenda) as his engagement to Sis. Brooke Miller (Bro. Roger and Sis. Crystal, Fairbury, IL) was announced.

Philip Kleiss (Tom and Barb, Tolono, IL) and Heidi Schaffer (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Martha) were married on June 9. Also married on June 9 were Ruston Edelman (Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Carol) and Carlyn Seeman (Doug and Carol, Chenoa, IL).

Our Sis. Carol Leman (Bro. Ernie) has completed her term in Sunday School. Sis. Martha Schaffer (Bro. Kevin) was selected to take her place.

In the midst of many joyous occasions, our congregation also experienced sadness this month. We extend sympathy to Harriet Farney who lost her husband, Dale. Also, Bro. Fred Leman passed away on June 21. He leaves behind his wife, Sis. Brenda, and his sons, Bro. Caleb (Sis. Shannon), Bro. Seth (Sis. Renee), and Bro. Reuben (Sis. Krystle). Also mourning his death are his mother, Sis. Donna, and his siblings: Chuck (DiAnn) of Athens, TN; Sis. Elaine Dotterer (Dale); Sis. Beth Mogler (Bro. Chuck) of West Bend, IA; Bro. Ernie (Sis. Carol); Bro. Phil (Charlotte); Earl (Krista); and Bro. Ben (Sis. Lori).

Molly Brown (Bro. Brad and Sis. Shannon), Sis. Janita Koehl (late Bro. Leroy), Sis. Stefani Schmidgall (Bro. John and Sis. Janet) and Don Stephens (Marjorie) all spent time in the hospital this month.

Note of Thanks:

We would like to express our sincere thanks for each prayer, kind deed, and expression of sympathy shown to our family during the illness and passing of our loved one, Sis. Velma Jean Ifft. We could certainly feel God's goodness and

love through you. May He bless you and keep you close to His heart. Bro. Gary and Sis. Peggy Ifft, Bro. Marvin and Sis. Nancy Dotterer, Sis. Sherri Schlatter, Keith Ifft and families.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

Melissa Rokey

Kayla Wiegand

Our congregation is glad to welcome Dawson Shay Rocke, who was born May 28 to Bro. Adam and Sis. Maribeth Rocke. He is welcomed home by his sister Fiona and brother Donovan. His grandparents are Mark and Connie Rocke and Mike and Peg Moens (Secor, IL).

"The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth." (Psalm 145:18)

We give thanks to God as he has worked in the hearts of Tyler and Abbie Getz (son of Bro. Tim and Sis. Kim and daughter of Mark and Connie Rocke) as they have begun their walk with Christ and turn their back on the world.

We witnessed the testimonies and baptism of Austin and Rachel McClure (son of Bro. Jeff and Sis. Marilyn McClure, Congerville, IL and daughter of Bro. Gary and Sis. Linda Folkerts, Washington, IL) and Jon Hohulin (Bro. Ross and Sis. Heather) on the weekend of June 9 and 10. We want to thank Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL) who assisted Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL) with the testimonies.

We are blessed to share the conversion of two dear souls that have felt the power and presence of the Holy Spirit in their lives, have come by faith, and expressed peace with God and man. They are Mallory Bauman (Bro. Andy and

Sis. Rita) and Paula Hartman (Bro. Mike). We are planning on June 30 for testimonies and July 1 for baptisms.

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.” (Colossians 3:16)

We had a wonderful week of Vacation Bible School June 4 thru 8. Special thanks to all who taught the children, the visiting ministers, singing groups, and the committee who planned the week and provided us with snacks afterwards. We felt the nearness of the Holy Spirit throughout the entire week.

Speaking on “Finding your place in the service of the Lord” was Bro. Matt Feucht (Sis. Jennifer, Roanoke, IL). Bro. Matthew Steffen (Sis. Deanna, Princeville, IL) covered “Making Extra-ordinary Witnesses out of Ordinary People.” Bro. James Fehr (Sis. Brenda, Tremont, IL) spoke on the topic of “Standing up for Jesus in Today’s World.”

Bro. Ryan and Sis. Liz Knapp are moving to Phoenix, AZ. We wish them God’s blessings as we bid them farewell. They have four children: Cade, Emrie, Ayla and Lincoln. We love them and wish to thank them for everything they’ve done for our Goodfield church family.

Blessed hope that in Jesus is given, In our sorrow to cheer and sustain, That soon in the mansions of Heaven, We shall meet with our loved ones again. (Gospel Hymns #135)

We sorrow with those in our congregation who have recently experienced the loss of a loved one. Sis. Bethany Wyss (Bro. Caleb) said goodbye to her grandmother Sis. Marie Hartter (Bro. Virgil,

Sabetha KS) on June 5. Sis. Lois DesCarpentrie, the mother of Bro. Russ DesCarpentrie (Sis. Jane), passed away June 15. She was a grandmother to Sis. Lindsay Wiegand (Bro. Kevin), and great-grandmother to their children: Taylor, Karly, Austin, and Aubrie. Please remember these families in prayer.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to those who have been suffering health concerns. Our Sis. B. J. Hinrichsen (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Brenda) spent time in the hospital recently. Our dear Roy Roth (Sis. Corrine) had a successful knee replacement surgery and is in the nursing home for physical therapy. Please remember them in prayer and support.

We sincerely express thanks to Bro. Curt Walter (Sis. Elizabeth, Mansfield, OH), Bro. Tim Drayer (Sis. Gwen, Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Chuck Kellenberger (Sis. Debbie, Elgin, IL), Bro. Dean Steffen (Sis. Carol, Belvidere, IL), Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Sis. Clara, Bloomfield, IA) and Bro. Steve Baner (Sis. DonnaLou, Gridley, IL) for sharing their time and ministry with us recently.

Note of Thanks:

We want to express our sincere thank you to all who have remembered us by your calls, visits, cards, gifts, and most of all, by keeping us in your thoughts and prayers during Bro. Larry’s surgeries and while recuperating. It is very encouraging to have such a support group! Please continue to keep us in your prayers as he continues to heal! God bless you all. In Christian Love, Bro. Larry and Sis. Betty Bauman

Note of Thanks:

I want to thank everyone for the

cards and prayers I received for my 90th birthday. I am so blessed to have a wonderful church family. May God bless each one. Bro. Wilbur Heinold

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

Perry Klopfenstein

It was a joy to witness the baptisms of four souls. Now in the fold of Christ Jesus are Bros. Cory Funk and Bret Fehr; and a married couple, Bro. Josh and Sis. Wendy Schick. This is the work of God. We surely pray that His Spirit is working in many souls and drawing the lost to redemption.

Visiting ministers were Elder Bro. Ron Messner and Bro. Ed Fritz of Washington, IL; and Bro. Gerald Wagenbach, Oakville, IA. May God richly bless them for their efforts.

As always, there are souls who have health issues. Gerry Sievers broke her ankle and is at the Meadows Home for recovery. Bro. Paul Klopfenstein was in a nursing home, but is now back at his residence. Sis. Sarah Hock has recovered from surgery. James Howell is undergoing medical testing.

We were saddened to learn of the death of Sis. Marlene Stoller Leman of Denver, CO. She grew up in Gridley. She was a sister of Sis. Marge Meiss and Sis. Dorothy Ringger of Gridley, to whom we extend our sympathies.

During Vacation Bible School we had five speakers who spoke on “Leadership”. They were Bros. Craig Stickling (Peoria, IL), Kevin Knapp (Bloomington-Normal, IL), Rustin Meister (West Lafayette, IN), Randy Gudeman (Francesville, IN), and Ed Sauder (Roanoke, IL).

In the latter portion of June, the corn and soybean crops were in need of rain. Subsoil moisture

was keeping the crops growing. In spite of the blistering sun and high temperatures, the crops were surviving. There is a correlation here to our spiritual lives. We need to keep our spiritual lamps full so when difficult times and challenges appear, we can draw on our God-given inner resources, much like corn and soybean plants draw on subsoil reserves. And, just like subsoil moisture has to be replenished, so too do our inner lives need to be replenished by reading Gods Word and praying.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

Annette Tanner

Julie Bahr

We experienced a blessed week of God's teachings during our Adult Vacation Bible School week. On Monday, Bro. Scott Schafer (South Bend, IN) taught on the "Crown of Life". Tuesday, Bro. Fred Witzig (Washington, IL) taught on the "Crown of Incorruption". Wednesday, Bro. Dennis Kaufman (Bloomington-Normal, IL) taught us on the "Crown of Rejoicing". Thursday, Bro. John Lehman (Wolcott, IN) taught on the "Crown of Righteousness". On Friday, Bro. Tim Lehman (Taylor, MO) taught on the "Crown of Glory". *All Hail Redeemer Hail...Crown Him with Many Crowns...Thy Praise shall never, never fail throughout all Eternity! AMEN!*

Our deepest love and sympathy is shared with dear Bro. John Lehman (Wolcott, IN) as we learned of the tragic death of his dear wife, Sis. Ruth Ann, soon after serving us here in Morton. Our thanks and appreciation goes to each minister for their faithfulness to God's Holy Word. We also want to thank ministering Bro. Tim Hohulin (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL).

Bro. Ted Witzig Jr. (Sis. Donna) gave our Wednesday evening Family Worship topic "God's Promises to the Believer". God's Word is so awesome in the way that it intertwines every aspect of our lives, whether crowns or promises. He is faithful to deliver to all those seeking Him!

On June 10, we witnessed the union of Sis. Courtney Kaiser to Bro. Colin Hodel (Roanoke, IL) in Holy Matrimony. Sis. Courtney is the daughter of Bro. Allen and Sis. Brenda Kaiser. Bro. Colin is the son of Bro. Curtis and Sis. Janell Hodel (Roanoke, IL).

Our church family shares our love and prayers with Bro. Oscar and Sis. Norma Weisser in the tragic loss of their dear son, Michael Weisser (Fresno, CA). We also share in the grief of Sis. Mavis Hermann in the death of her brother, Bro. Charles Grimm (Wichita, KS).

On June 19, baby girl, Kinsley Marie, entered the home of Bro. Travis and Sis. Morgan Leman (Roanoke, IL). Thankful first-time grandparents are Bro. Allen and Sis. Brenda Kaiser and Bro. Wayne and Sis. Julie Leman (Roanoke, IL).

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Pam Fritzenmeier

Sis. Samantha Ginzl and Bro. Seth Kieser, Princeville, were united in holy marriage on May 27. Parents are Bro. Geoff and Sis. Angie Ginzl and Bro. Tim and Sis. Denise Kieser, Princeville. Elder Bro. Jim Plattner (Sis. Marlene), and Bro. Craig Martin (Sis. Terri), both of Princeville, shared God's Word with us on the joyful couple's special day.

Our annual Vacation Bible School was held June 4-8. Grades pre-K through 7th enjoyed Bible stories and crafts downstairs, while the 8th through young group profited from

the wisdom of God through nightly speakers. These included Bro. Jeff Neihouser (Morton, IL), Bro. Brad Metz (Bloomington, IL), Bro. Randy Mogler (Washington, IL), Bro. Tim Reinhard (Haiti), and Bro. Willis Ehnle.

The Bible Class left June 8th for a week of service in Magdalena.

Please pray for the George Hoerr family. Tommy Hoerr, 21, son of Mark and Shelli Hoerr, was killed in a tragic accident.

Those with health issues needing our prayers include Bro. Melvin (Sis. Margaret) Getz, Bro. Loris (Sis. Pat) Knobloch, Sis. Lori (Jack) Kinney, and May Thomas.

We are thankful to have Bro. Tim and Sis. Joan Reinhard and family and Sis. Janelle Grassi home from Haiti for a time. Please remember them and those in Magdalena, Bro. Zach Knobloch and Bro. Jonathan and Sis. Bere Aupperle, in your prayers as they serve the Lord far from home.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

Linda Joos

Gloria White

We are very thankful for our visiting ministers, willing to share the Living Word to us. This is one of the precious benefits of our denomination. Bro. Ken Schneider (Remington, IN), Bro. Troy Leye (Bluffton, IN), Bro. Joe Gerst (Iowa City, IA), and Bro. Jim Butikofer (Iowa City, IA) were with us recently. May God bless them for their labors.

Sis. Caroline Banwart, Bro. Herb Rumbold and Peyton Martin have been in our prayers as they were recent hospital patients. May God bless them with returning good health.

Bro. Seth Kieser (Bro. Tim and Sis. Denise) married Sis. Samantha

Ginzel (Bro. Geoff and Sis. Angie, Peoria, IL) on May 27 at our Peoria, IL church. May God bless their marriage. We welcome Sis. Samantha.

Sis. Michelle Martin (Bro. Ed and Sis. Gladys) married Bro. Luke Gerst (Bro. Joe and Sis. Connie, Iowa City, IA) on June 17. We wish them the Lord's blessings and hope they will visit often.

Vacation Bible School was the week of June 18-22. Bro. Matt Feucht (Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Craig Stickling (Peoria, IL) spoke to our Bible Class students. May God bless the words spoken. We appreciate their willingness to share the Holy Word with our youth.

Flourishing youth, thou our hope and our fond expectation, Hark to the voice that is calling in kind invitation! (Zion's Harp #168)

Bro. Devon and Sis. Leah Knobloch welcome their first child, a precious daughter, Paisley Jenae, born June 18. Bro. Keith and Sis. Lisa Knobloch and Bro. Craig and Sis. Jacki Stickling (Peoria, IL) are thankful grandparents. Bro. Bill and Sis. Kathy Stoller have been blessed with a new grandchild, Clay William, born March 30, to Bro. Jason and Sis. Rebekah Stoller (Washington, IL).

Bro. Fred and Sis. Nancy Menold welcome a little grandchild, Abrie Grace, born June 11 to Bro. Jamin and Sis. Whitney Ringger (Gridley, IL).

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Jamie Hodel

Judy Sauder

On May 23, Bro. Fred Funk (Morton, IL) led our monthly topical Bible Study on Micah 6:8: "*He hath showed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require*

of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?" We thank him for his timely exhortations to us.

"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints."
(Psalm 116:15)

Sis. Lena Wiegand went to be with the Lord on May 24. Her survivors include four sons: Morris of Valparaiso, IN, Bro. John (Sis. Mary), Bro. Jim, Bro. Roger (Sis. Kathy) of Gridley, IL, seven grandchildren and four great grandchildren. On May 26, Sis. Velma Ifft of Forrest, IL went to her heavenly home. She was a sister to Sis. Virginia Blunier. Also on May 26, Ruth Ott of Chicago passed away. She was a sister to Bro. Bob Ott (Sis. Marilyn). Rose Wettstein of Eureka went to her eternal home on June 5. She was the mother of Dean (Mary Jane) Wettstein. Then on June 15, Nathan Fischer went to be with Jesus. He is survived by his parents Bro. Bruce and Sis. Deb, his brother Sam (Erica) of Roanoke, his sister Emma, and his grandparents Bro. George and Sis. Thelma Saathoff of Eureka, IL and Sis. Clara Fischer. Finally, we laid Sis. Lois DesCarpentrie to rest on June 20. Her survivors include three sons: Lloyd (Julie) of Hancock, VT, Bro. Russ (Sis. Jane) of Goodfield, IL, and Bro. Stan (Sis. Jane) of Washington, IL. She also leaves one brother, Bro. Bill Fehr, one sister, Sis. Bena Mae Rocke of Eureka, IL, seven grandchildren and 22 great grandchildren. We extend our love and deepest sympathy to these dear families and ask that our Lord comfort them in their bereavement.

We rejoice with Bro. Jonathan Sauder (Bro. Frank and Sis. Kathy) and Sis. Kali Zobrist (Bro. Mike and Sis. Susie, Congerville, IL) who were

wed on May 27 in Magdalena, MX. Then on June 10, Bro. Colin Hodel (Bro. Curt and Sis. Jenell) and Sis. Courtney Kaiser (Bro. Alan and Sis. Brenda, Morton, IL) pledged their lives to one another. We are so thankful that these couples have first chosen to walk with the Lord.

"...and a threefold cord is not quickly broken." (Ecclesiastes 4:12)

We pray for God's blessings on these dear couples as they begin their lives as one.

"...and they came and were baptized."
(John 3:23)

On June 2-3, Mindy Bradle (Bro. John and Sis. Jill) and Jenna Moser (Bro. Brian and Sis. Beth) gave their testimonies of faith and were baptized. Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger, Bro. Jedd Rocke, and Bro. Jeff Grimm, all of Goodfield, IL, were our guest ministers for the day. Also, John Luginbuhl (Bro. Andy and Sis. Kim) and Jacob Fehr (Bro. Jon and Sis. Jill) have turned to the Lord in repentance. We are so thankful for the Lord's redeeming work in the hearts of men and women and ask that God would continue to strengthen and encourage these dear ones.

We were privileged to host Vacation Bible School June 4-8. Our younger students attended "Camp Solid Rock" in the church basement. The Bible Class students and adults listened to speakers throughout the week with this same theme. Bro. Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL) opened the week by speaking about "Building with God's Power". On Tuesday, we heard from Elder Bro. Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO) whose topic was "A Shelter in the Time of Storm". Wednesday, Bro. Justin Koch (Washington, IL) exhorted us on "Facing the Peter in You". Bro.

Matt Kaufman's (Bloomington-Normal, IL) topic on Thursday was "No Shadow of Turning". And Bro. Matt Steffen (Princeville, IL) wrapped up the week by explaining to us that "I See the Hole in the Ground, but Why Do We Have This Foundation?" We thank these brothers and all those who made it a blessed week of learning, encouragement and exhortation. May God bless each one!

The Bible Class Senior Breakfast was held Sunday, June 17 at the Fellowship Hall. It was a blessed time of reflection on the High School seniors by their parents and Sunday School teachers.

We rejoice in the birth of Kinsley Marie who was born June 19 to Bro. Travis and Sis. Morgan Leman. Her thankful grandparents are Bro. Alan and Sis. Brenda Kaiser (Morton, IL) and Bro. Wayne and Sis. Julie Leman. We pray for God's blessings on this dear family as they raise their precious daughter in the ways of the Lord.

"O Lord, my strength, and my fortress, and my refuge in the day of affliction..." (Jeremiah 16: 19)

We continue to pray for God's healing powers on Bro. Rich Knepp (Sis. Janet), John Luginbuhl, Bro. Gene Hangartner (Sis. Evie), Sis. Ann Hodel, Sis. Marge Fehr (Bro. Gene), Bro. Wilmer Blunier, Bro. Dan Plattner (Sis. Deann, Chicago, IL), and Bro. Steve Hofstetter (Sis. Tammy, Washington, IL). God is faithful to hear and answer our prayers! To Him be all glory, both now and forever.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

**Teresa Rowell
Janice Sauder**

Our visiting minister this month was Bro. Dennis Rassi (Sis. Diane,

Bastrop, TX). He was with us for a topical lesson on a Wednesday night. We thank him for coming all that way to be with us. May God be his rich rewarder.

The engagement of Sis. Lynelle Fehr (Bro. James and Sis. Brenda) and Bro. Colin Steidinger (Bro. Ray and Sis. Shelly, Forrest, IL) was this month. We wish them God's blessings as they take this big step in their lives.

Little Tyra Mae joined the family of Bro. Brent and Sis. Janelle Sauder. She is welcomed home by big sister Londyn, and grandparents Elder Bro. Steve and Sis. Mary Sauder and Bro. Todd and Sis. Rita Kilgus.

Those who have been hospitalized this month are Sis. Ann Steiner (Bro. Richard) and Sis. Sarah Lennington (Bro. Shawn). We are thankful they are on the mend and assembling with us again. We also want to continue to pray for Bro. Derek Sauder (Sis. Leann) as he begins chemotherapy.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

**Marlene Prather
Jodi Fehr**

*"...there shall be showers of blessing."
(Ezekiel 34:26)*

We rejoice with several couples that have recently announced their engagements. Sis. Wendi Pfaffmann is engaged to Bro. Daniel Leman of Roanoke, IL. Parents are Bro. Max and Sis. Mary Pfaffmann and Bro. Dennis and Sis. Karen Leman of Roanoke, IL.

Bro. Layne Steffen is engaged to Sis. Heather Wulf of Burlington, IA. His parents are Bro. Scott and Sis. Marvella Steffen and her parents are Bro. Leroy and Sis. Carolyn Wulf of Burlington, IA.

We extend our prayers and sympathy to Bro. Stan (Sis. Jane)

DesCarpentrie, whose mother, Sis. Lois DesCarpentrie of Roanoke, IL recently went to be with the Lord.

We also continue to lift those up in prayer who have been hospitalized including Bro. Steve Hoffstetter, Sis. Charla Huber, and Bro. Elliot Yudenfriend.

We appreciate the ministers who came to share with us this month including Bro. Glenn Steiner (Sis. Rachel, Winthrop, MN), Bro. Ken Wuethrich (Sis. Lyn, Indianapolis, IN), and Bro. Willis Ehnle (Sis. Lois, Peoria, IL).

Both the students and those teaching and helping recently enjoyed a week of Vacation Bible School. The theme was "The Armor of God" and the collection went to purchasing clothing for those in need. We extend our thanks to the ministering brothers who came to share God's Word for High School VBS including Bro. Mark Streitmatter (Sis. Sara, Bloomington-Normal, IL), Bro. Trent Meiss (Sis. Lucy, Eureka, IL), Bro. Craig Stickling (Sis. Jacqueline, Peoria, IL), Bro. Jeff Grimm (Sis. Ruth, Goodfield, IL), and Bro. James Emch (Sis. Gina, Phoenix, AZ).

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

**Kim Meyer
Suzie Fiechter**

What a blessed month we have had here in Bluffton. We just finished our two weeks of Bible School. The theme verse was Philippians 4:8 *"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."* I feel that this is how our past month

has gone. We have simply been able to think on joyous times and rejoice in things that are pure, just, lovely and praiseworthy.

We have eight families rejoicing in the birth of healthy little babies. Bro. Mitch and Sis. Dana Aschliman are thrilled to have given birth to twin girls, Iyla Ann and Emalyne Jo. Their grandparents would be Bro. Keith and Sis. Kay Gerber and Bro. Kevin and Sis. Beth Aschliman. Bro. Krent and Sis. Amber DeHoff embraced their first child on May 22. They had a little girl, Alaya. Her grandparents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Maureen Reinhard of Bluffton North and Bro. Scott and Sis. Rita DeHoff. Bro. Jim and Sis. Jan Schwartz are thankful to welcome another grandson into their family. Their daughter Jill and her husband, Aaron McCormick, gave birth to Abel on May 25. Ryder Lindblom was born to Jeff and Rachelle Lindblom and he is the grandson of Bro. Todd and Sis. Lori Reimschisel. Scott and Janel Franks welcomed into their arms a little girl, Elsa. Her maternal grandparents are Bro. Herb and Sis. Nancy Frank. Bro. Jason and Sis. Ashley Gerber had a little boy, Jarrett Michael. He will join his big brother Braxton and be loved by his grandparents Bro. Gene and Sis. Becky Gerber and Bro. Brian and Sis. Deb Fiechter. Bro. Joel and Sis. Erin Drayer rejoice in the birth of their little girl, Ella. She will join her older siblings, Brett, Emily and Lynne. Her grandparents are Bro. Herman and Sis. Julie Drayer and Bro. Dean and Sis. Holly Frauhiger. Bro. Chandler and Sis. Rachel Gerber gave birth to their first child, Shiloh. Her grandparents are Bro. Todd and Sis. Michelle Gerber and Bro. Terry and Sis. Jean Neuenschwander. Bro. Alan and Sis. Sheryl Ringger are blessed to

welcome another granddaughter into their family who was born to Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Sally Frauhiger. Her name is Elsa and her older siblings are Sis. Livia, Sis. Kaitlyn, Breanne, Quinn, Clay, and Addison. Elsa's paternal grandparents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Irene Frauhiger of Bluffton North. As each of these little babies grow and add another dynamic to their families, may the Lord grant the parents wisdom and love to raise them to be bright beacons of Light to a dark and hurting world.

Bro. Justin Dubach (Bro. Ken Dubach and Jodi Holloway) and Sis. Sarah Gerber (Bro. Nathan and Sis. LeAnn) began their walk as one as they were united in marriage on May 27. We were thankful to hear from ministering Bro. Don Manz (Sis. Connie) from Junction, OH. Later in the month, we were blessed also to have Bro. Joe Sprunger (Sis. Tara) visit from Indianapolis, IN.

Bro. Doug and Sis. Tonia Isch rejoice with their daughter, Sophie, who began her repentance. I can't think of a better Father's Day gift than to hear that your child has opened her heart to Jesus and embraced the gift of salvation.

Our prayers continue to be 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. We also are thankful to have Bro. Dick Clark recovering and back in church with us as he had vertebrae surgery done a few weeks ago. Our hearts also go out to Bro. John Lehman (Wolcott, IN) and his family as they grieve the sudden loss of their wife and mom, Sis. Ruth Ann Lehman. Bro. John's mother grew up in Bluffton, so they have many loved ones here.

I don't know in what circumstance

of life this article finds you, but my prayer is that you remain faithful and obedient to our wonderful Heavenly Father. Praise His Holy name!

INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH
Jessie Longenberger
Amy Moser

"In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." (1 Thess. 5:18)

Our dear Bro. Nile Bucher (Sis. Phyllis) has retired from the pulpit ministry. We have certainly appreciated his labors of love and ministry over the years. May God richly bless him and his wife for serving our congregation.

"Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow". (Isaiah 1:18)

We are rejoicing with God's angels. Ella Stettner (Bro. Graig and Sis. Corinne) has made the decision to turn her life to the Lord in repentance.

"And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness...for when I am weak, then am I strong."

(2 Corinthians 12: 9-10)

Those hospitalized this month were: Bro. Dick Clark and Bro. John Lantz (Sue). May the Lord Jesus provide His strength and grace sufficient for each one to bear his cross throughout this life. Many of these dear ones are again enjoying good health. May we continue to pray a prayer of healing and comfort for those whose health continues to be a daily struggle.

"Thus saith the LORD that made thee, and formed thee from womb..." (Isaiah 44:2)

There is always much joy when a new life is brought into this world. We are excited to welcome several new additions to our church family. On May 11, Bro. Ryan and Sis. Mandy Schwartz welcomed Caleb Mitchel into their family. Grandparents of Caleb are Bro. Gary and Sis. Nancy Schladenhauffen and Bro. Scott and Sis. Patti Schwartz (Bluffton). Bro. Steve and Sis. Irene Frauhofer and Bro. Alan and Sis. Sheryl (Bluffton) rejoiced with the birth of their granddaughter, Elsie Joy, on May 15. Parents of Elsie are Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Sally Frauhofer. Elsie joins Livia, Kaitlyn, Breann, Quinn, Clay, and Addison at home.

On May 22, Alaya Nicole was born to Bro. Krent and Sis. Amber Reinhard. Alaya is the granddaughter of Bro. Roger and Sis. Maureen Reinhard and Scott and Sis. Rita Dehoff (Bluffton). Also welcoming a grandchild, Bro. Dan and Sis. Jacki Kershner and Bro. Scott and Sis. Patti Schwartz (Bluffton) said hello to Joel Bradley on May 24. Joel is the son of Bro. Kyle and Sis. Kyann Schwartz. Joel joins sister Delaney at home. We are so thankful for the witness that new life brings to our church and community.

Creation

All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small. All things wise and wonderful the Lord God made them all. He gave us eyes to see them and lips that we might tell, how great is God Almighty who has made all things well.

(Hymns of Zion #207 vs. 1&5)

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE

Mildred Clauss

Jacki Huber

*“Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it”
(Psalm 127:1)*

The theme of our VBS for 2012 was “Steps to Your Heavenly Home”. It has been edifying and encouraging to hear our visiting ministers elaborate on the various aspects of building your house on the Solid Rock!! Our congregation is indeed grateful to the following ministers who came to serve us: Bro. Dave Zehr (Sis. Vicki, Gridley, IL), Bro. Clark Stoller (Sis. Cindy, Gridley, IL), Bro. Joe Sprunger (Sis. Tara, Indianapolis, IN) and Bro. Chris Laukhuf (Sis. Rachel, Latty, OH). On Friday evening, Bro. Brian Huber gave a summary of the weeks’ lessons and the Children’s Program was presented.

Bro. Jeff Neihouser (Sis. Sue, Morton, IL) came to visit on Father’s Day. We were blessed by his timely message.

We look forward to baptisms in the near future as two young converts have been announced as having peace with God. They are Salome Huber (Bro. Bob and Sis. Joy) and Rodney Pelsy (Bro. Roger and Sis. Lily)

Sis. Val Gutwein and children have returned from Haiti for a few months’ stay. Bro. Jan will join them here in the near future.

The engagement of Cecelia Neihouser (Bro. Brad and Sis. Barb) and Dane Harper (Mike and Janelle Harper) of Wheatfield, IN has been announced. We pray for the Lord’s direction as they make plans for their life together.

Several from our congregation have been in the hospital: Sis. Sandi Ward (Bro. Roger), Stacy Metzger (Austin), Sis. Ruth Wuethrich (Bro. Chris Lee) and Bro. Andre Neihouser (Sis. Lois). Bro. Wayne Putt (Sis. Paulette) continues to make progress with therapy following a recent surgery. We sincerely pray that our loving Lord,

who is able to heal and restore, will be very near to each of them and grant the blessing of a good recovery.

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS

Katy Frantz

Sandy Lichtle

The engagement of Bro. Philip Bertsch (Bro. Lonnie and Sis. Patricia Bertsch and the late Sis. Rebecca Bertsch, Bluffton North, IN) and Sis. Jaimie Oppermann (Henry and Debra Oppermann, St. John, IN) was announced on May 20. We rejoice with them and pray for God’s blessings to be with them as they plan a fall wedding.

On May 30, Sis. Katie Schwab gave a presentation on her recent medical mission trip to Togo, Africa. She shared with us how she used her medical skills at a hospital, but more importantly how she witnessed God’s power and experienced His faithfulness as she shared the Gospel with the patients. Also, our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Katie as she moves to Gainesville, FL for her work.

On June 3, we honored our three high school graduates: Bro. Seth Bollier (Bro. Ron and Sis. Edie), Sis. Megan Gudeman (Bro. Tim and Sis. Mim), and Sis. Teryn Leuthold (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Doreen) at a senior breakfast. All three graduates plan to attend IUPUI this fall. We pray that God’s grace, peace, and wisdom will be with them as they begin a new chapter in their lives.

Our Vacation Bible School was held the week of June 4-8. The children learned that they can always depend on Jesus and His promises. It was a blessing to see the enthusiasm of the children as they listened to the Bible stories and sang praises to our Lord.

June 12 was a special day for

Bro. Glen and Sis. Nancy Pfeifer as their granddaughter, Brynn Kiernan Pfeifer, was born. Brynn's parents are Bart and Mollie Pfeifer (Lakewood, CO). We rejoice with the Pfeifer family.

We have been studying the books of the New Testament on the second and fourth Wednesday evenings of each month. On June 13, Bro. Dave Roberts (Sis. Jan) led a study on the book of Galatians. Some key verses discussed were Galatians 2:16 *"Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ ..."* and Galatians 5:13 *"For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another."*

We appreciate the servant heart and labors of love of Bro. Dale Stoller (Sis. Sandra, Fairbury, IL) who shared the Word with us this month.

INDIANA, LACROSSE

**Julie Roche
Meagan Frank**

*There shall be showers of blessings:
precious reviving again; Over the hills
and the valleys, sound of abundance
of rain.*

*Showers of blessings: Showers of
blessing we need:*

*Mercy drops round us are falling, but
for the showers we plead.*

This song came to mind tonight as the sounds and smells of a summer rain shower permeate the air. What a blessing to hear and sense the refreshing showers to water the dry earth. Just the same, or maybe more so, is the blessing of the refreshing that God sends to our souls through His Word.

We appreciated the services of several visiting ministers this month. Elder Bro. Ted Steffen

(Sis. Sandy, Alto, MI), Bros. Chris Wuethrich (Sis. Carla, St. Louis, MO), John Lehman (Sis. RuthAnn, Wolcott, IN), Joe Gerst (Sis. Connie, Iowa City, IA) gave of themselves in service to us throughout the month.

We also wish to thank the brothers who prepared and spoke at our Vacation Bible School on June 11, 13, and 15. Bro. Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue, Detroit, MI) began our week with the topic of "Faith in Action". Wednesday evening was "Hope in Action" presented by Bro. Nick Gutwein (Sis. Suzanne, West Lafayette, IN). Bro. Chuck Kellenberger (Sis. Debbie, Elgin, IL) finished the week with the topic of "Love in Action". We really enjoyed having our hearts and minds stirred up regarding these three precious traits and how we are to put each of them into action in our lives.

June 10 was our Sunday School Picnic at a local County Park. It turned out to be a beautiful evening in spite of the hot weather. We enjoyed the fellowship, food and singing while appreciating God's incredible creation.

The new Sunday School teachers are Bro. David Virkler, Bro. Brendon Messner and Sis. Kendra Stoller. We extend special thanks to Bro. Ben Stoller, Bro. Eric Heinold and Sis. Evie Heinold, our outgoing teachers.

We remember the graduates this month as the school year finishes up. We have one high school graduate, Kaleigh Schneider (Bro. Calvin and Sis. Jeannie). May she seek God's direction for her future. For in doing so, there will be many blessings.

Sis. Connie Knobloch has recovered sufficiently to reassemble with us again! What a blessing to meet and greet her again at church. God has been faithful in providing needed healing.

"A time to be born, and a time to die;" (Ecclesiastes 3:2)

Our hearts experienced the range of emotions this month, from joy in the birth of new babies, to the sorrow of losing a loved one, whether young or old.

Sis. MaryAnn Feller was blessed with two new great-grandbabies this month. Matthew and Jessica Braham (Colorado) received their first-born bundle of joy from heaven on May 23 in the form of a little son, Liam Kenneth. Bro. Rudy and Sis. Rosario, Nathan and Marianna Troxel welcomed Olivia Lily into their hearts and home on June 15. Thankful grandparents are Sis. Bertha Gonzales (Ixtlan, MX) and Bro. Tom and Sis. Luann Troxel.

Our hearts go out to those of our congregation who have lost loved ones this month. Sis. Carol (Bro. Ed) Troxel's mother, Sis. Pauline Schrenk went to her heavenly home on May 18. Sis. Nicole (Bro. Owen) Gudeman's grandfather, James Dahlhauser (Iowa) passed away. With shock and heartache, we heard that Sis. Ruth Ann Lehman (Bro. John, Wolcott, IN) was received into glory on June 11. She grew up in our congregation, repented and was married here. We always enjoyed when she and Bro. John came "home" to visit. Our prayers are with the Wolcott congregation as well as her family, especially her parents, Bro. Elvin and Sis. Jan Nuest, her brother Bro. Ron Nuest, and her sister, Sis. Karen (Bro. Mark) Wettstein who assemble with us here in LaCrosse. When asked why it still hurts so much when we know a loved one has gone onto heaven, the reply was "Because we are still here". The hope of heaven carries us through these times. We are thankful when we know those we love are ready to be called home.

Whether it seems to our minds the “right” time or not, we stand firm in the reassurance that God’s time is perfect.

INDIANA, LEO **Kirby Reutter**

A visiting minister recently stated: “Leo is vibrant with youthful energy.” Here are a few of the reasons.

For starters, five of our Bible Class students recently graduated from high school. These precious individuals include the following: Jordan Reimschisel (Bro. Troy and Sis. Bonny), Whitney Stieglitz (Bro. Steve and Sis. Jane), Eric Schrock (Todd and Carol), Kacie Klopfenstein (Loren and Sis. Rita), and Allison Rager (Bro. Kent and Sis. Jill).

In addition, two more engagements were announced. First, Bro. Zachary Schumacher and Sis. Abby Freed are now betrothed in the Lord. Zachary’s parents are Sis. Tina and Bro. Jeff Schumacher, the latter of whom continues to serve as the long-standing administrator of Gateway Woods. Abby’s parents are Bro. Steven and Sis. Kelly Freed from Phoenix, AZ. Abby currently serves as an Assistant House Parent at the Pine House, but will soon transition to her new role as a Social Studies teacher at the Gateway School. Abby will be replacing Sis. Christy Wiegand who diligently served many years in this capacity.

Secondly, Bro. Seth Steffen and Sis. Laura Gerber (both from Latty, OH) are also looking forward to sealing their marriage covenant. Sis. Laura will continue to serve as our English teacher at the Gateway School. It is quite amazing indeed to have two of our single sisters get married—and then still remain at Gateway! We are thankful for every blessing we

get, and both sisters are definitely a blessing.

Furthermore, the Leo congregation recently selected another five precious individuals to serve our beloved Sunday School children: Sis. Charla Leman, Bro. Ross Feller, Bro. Jason Kilgus, Bro. Brian Knudstrup, and Bro. Trent Regier (who seems have multiple gifts, since he is now looking for someone to replace him as an usher).

In addition, Leo continues to be blessed with visiting ministers of the gospel. Recent visitors include the following dear brothers: Bro. Ron Bollier (Indianapolis, IN), Bro. Justin Koch (Washington, IL), and Bro. Ron Koehl (Sarasota, FL). All of these brothers have relatives within the Leo fold. In particular, the last Ron is a father to Sis. Mandy Hodel, who serves as a Main House Parent at the Hickory House.

Finally, precious Lily Marie Kline (six pounds, 12 ounces, and 19.5 inches) was born June 5 to Bro. Joey and Sis. Holly Kline. Joey is originally from Bluffton, IN. I first met him at a singing many years ago all the way in Rockville, CT. Now we worship together in Leo. What a fellowship!

Speaking of Rockville, my thoughts turn to the upcoming Brotherhood Conference, which will take place where I grew up, attended Sunday School, and learned the Gospel of a saving faith in Jesus Christ. Let’s be prayerful for our precious Elder Brethren as they seek to follow the Chief Shepherd and Bishop of our souls.

We can be thankful to God’s sovereign providence that not just Leo, but our entire fellowship, remains vibrant with the rejuvenating energy of the Spirit. Case in point: My wife and I were

recently in the small congregation of South Bend, IN. As I looked around the pews, it occurred to me that there was one brother from Puerto Rico, one sister from South Korea, and another sister from Mexico, all worshipping at the same time. This is the Spirit amongst us.

INDIANA, MILFORD **Janie Price** **Paula Haab**

“Watch and Pray” was the theme for vacation bible school. Each night, God’s direction filled our hearts (through the speaker) with a desire to press on. We have a thankful heart for the abundance of joy, knowing God’s mercy is there for us. We were given much direction on placing guard rails in our daily walk, preparing for the bridegroom, facing the Peter in our lives and the challenges facing our youth.

Our congregation extends a special thank you to the four brothers and their wives for the efforts put forth to share the stores of God’s love. Bro. Clark Stoller (Sis. Cindy, Gridley, IL), Bro. Darren Plattner (Sis. Sue, Champaign, IL), Bro. Chad Gerber (Sis. Jami, Bluffton, IN), Bro. Justin Koch (Sis. Marcia, Washington, IL) all gave of their time to share their God-given talents with us. We also extend a Christian thank you to the committee for their efforts to bring the program to us. Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily) also spent Father’s Day with us and shared the stories that bring peace to our hearts.

INDIANA, REMINGTON **Jenni Honegger** **Marcella Tyler**

We have been blessed with several visiting ministers this month. Bro.

Neal Widmer (Sis. Kris, West Lafayette, IN) came for a Topical Bible study one Wednesday night. In addition, Bro. Willis Ehnle (Sis. Lois, Peoria, IL), Bro. Tim Drayer (Sis. Gwen, Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Mark Schmidgall (Sis. Sally, Oakville, IA), and Bro. Chris Laukhuf (Sis. Rachel, Latty, OH) all came to share the Word of truth with us at our VBS this past week. The theme was "Greatness" and we were reminded of the greatness of our God, the great ways in which we fall short of His perfection, the greatness of His salvation, and what a great day it will be when He comes again in glory. We are thankful to each one for making the effort to minister to us and pray God's blessing on them all.

Bro. Micah Zehr (Bro. Nelson and Sis. Amy) of Fairbury, IL is visiting us this summer as he has an internship in the area. We welcome him to Remington and are thankful for his presence among us.

Sis. Marge Pitman was in the hospital again this month. At present, she is at Monticello Assisted Living Health Care. Her new address is: 1120 N. Main St., Monticello, IN 47960. We miss her in church and pray for her healing.

Bob Schini was in a severe motorcycle accident this month. He is recovering, but the extent of permanent damage resulting from his injuries is still unknown at this time. We are so very thankful his life has been spared and that he has been given more time to fully surrender himself to His Saviour. We covet your prayers for him. His children Michael, Alexis, Marisa, and Kaiden and their mother, Heather, need your prayers as well during this difficult and confusing time for them.

Sis. Ruth Ann Lehman (Bro.

John) of Wolcott, IN was tragically killed this month in a car accident. Although she was not part of our congregation, since we share such close ties to the Wolcott brothers and sisters, we here in Remington are all deeply affected and grieved by her death. She was a wonderful example of Christ's love in action and she will be sorely missed. We are praying for her beloved husband Bro. John and her children Bro. Randy and Takara. May the arms of God wrap them in His comfort and bring them peace in the midst of their sorrow. As we grieve for the loss of Sis. Ruth Ann, it is comforting to know that her big wonderful smile is looking into Jesus' face even now!

This coming weekend is Father's Day. As I reflect on all the men who have shaped my life, I am so very thankful for each one. The father who loved and nurtured and taught me as I grew up, the father who was a wonderful example to my husband and brought him up to be a man of God, and the father of my children who supports us with his hard work and dedication – each one is a blessing. But, all pale in comparison to our wonderful Father in Heaven who loves us even more than all of the others combined!

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

Joshua Martinez

"His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord." (Matthew 25:21)

We were informed of the tragic accident in which Sis. Ruth Ann Lehman (Bro. John Lehman, Wolcott, IN) was killed. Bro. John and Sis. Ruth had planned on

fellowshipping with us on Sunday. Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. John's family at this time of sorrow in their lives.

The Lord blessed us with precious fellowship time with the Milford, IN church this month!

Bro. Nelson Beer (Sis. Minnie, Milford, IN) served us from the pulpit and shared a small taste of the spiritually nourishing Bread of Heaven. That same week our children enjoyed VBS with the Milford Sunday School. May the Lord bless the efforts of the teachers and parents. To God be the glory great things he has done!

"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

I work at the local library with a wonderful woman who is about as selfless and positive as is possible. She's seen her family through some very rough times and always finds time to whistle quietly while she works. She and her husband have both worked hard to keep their family together. More than once, we have talked problems over and decided that prayer was the best avenue we had to address them. Within the past month, he went to the doctor for something quite routine and mentioned he had a hip that was bothering him. One thing led to another. X-rays and tests were performed and the dread news came back that it was cancer. They are now embarking on a new phase in their life. He can't do the heavy work he did as a contractor and they have no insurance. She still whistles while she works, but shows a lot of strain.

The other day I saw her sitting at her computer with her head bowed and her hands folded. It was a quiet time and I quickly joined her in prayer for their welfare. I know we all have many acquaintances for which we pray. But, if you have time, please remember Dot and Greg and their family. They are truly deserving.

We have had visitors on two Sundays this month. It's been enriching to have them. Two sets of sisters decided to meet halfway from their homes in Fairbury, IL and in Bay City, MI. Their church "halfway" church was Valpo. They made our day brighter with their visit and enhanced our singing. We loved having them. May God bless them for thinking of us.

Later on this month, the Marvin Stieglitz family spent their worship time with us. They were having a reunion in Portage, IN. Bro. Marvin, who is now deceased, would have smiled to see over 40 of his family members gathered together. Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Sis. Leonda, Leo, IN) is his son. He richly shared from the pulpit. Sis. Joanne, their Mother and Grandmother, was with them. I have known Joanne for many years and it was a blessing. They enhanced our fellowship and worship time. We enjoyed hearing young children's voices and the beautiful singing from the adults.

Our dear friend, Latoya Thomas has completed her high school studies and has graduated. She's the youngest daughter of our minister, Bro. Mike Thomas and Sis. Claudia. She's been so faithful in church and Sunday School attendance and has endeared herself to all of us. She will be attending school in Vincennes, IN for further EMS training. We wish her God's blessings and

direction as she makes plans for her future. We love, appreciate, and congratulate her.

Sis. Natasia Weiss, daughter of Bro. Dennis and Sis. Marsha Weiss has received her nursing degree from Valparaiso University. It's been interesting to talk with her during her studies and to hear about some of her experiences. We're happy for her and know she will be very capable in her new profession. Our hope is that she finds a job near to home, because we would miss her. Congratulations, Tasia.

Andy Bucher (Bro. Tim and Sis. Julie) was married in Colorado this month to Brigitte Anderson in Pine, CO. We send our love and congratulations to the happy couple. We look forward to the times when they come home to be with his family.

Summer, without visitors, finds our little congregation even smaller, because families are taking vacations, going to weddings, etc. and visiting relatives while school is out. We find that we even value these times because it allows us to touch hearts with everyone who is here. We can feel the love flow between us. We would love to have our little group grow larger, simply because that would mean we would have more people following the Lord. However, there is something very special about a small group and the intimacies it creates. We have always felt God's presence in our little Valpo church ever since we came here 11 years ago. We value each person.

I think you would enjoy visiting our little group. If your travels bring you near us, please remember we are just 2 ¾ miles south of US 30 on State Road 49. We welcome you.

INDIANA, WEST LAFAYETTE

Ben Stoller

Katie Widmer

If our quivers had buttons, they would be busting in West Lafayette! We are so thankful and give praise to God for the healthy births of three new babies. Bro. Matt and Sis. Christine Ginzel and Anna welcomed sweet baby Julia Arden born May 17. Bro. John and Sis. Brooke Widmer and little Jersey were surprised with a handsome little Judah John, born May 23.

Bro. Cameron and Sis. Amanda Walder gave birth to their first child, a perfect little girl, Kinley Victoria born June 2.

We celebrate along with Sis. Andrea Furrer, our High School graduate, as she is led into her next stage of life.

We will miss Robert Baum as he returns to Germany. He was the exchange student of Bro. Russ and Sis. Darlene Walder and returned on June 21.

We mourn the loss of Mike Shidler, brother of Sis. Mara Leman. He passed away June 24. Our prayers are with the family.

We had the opportunity to learn about Daniel's courage in captivity during a captivating trip back to Babylon. The children and adults alike had the experience of tasting, touching, and hearing Babylonian culture including a few roars from the lion's den. Through it all, we were encouraged to have faith in our God through change and hard times and to give thanks in all things.

This month's featured poet is David.

"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. Happy is the man that hath

his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate.”
(Psalm 127:3-5)

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Sasha Kyburz
Donita Edelman

IOWA, BLOOMFIELD

Rachel Stoller

“And I will make them and the places round about my hill a blessing; and I will cause the shower to come down in his season; there shall be showers of blessing. And the tree of the field shall yield her fruit, and the earth shall yield her increase, and they shall be safe in their land, and shall know that I am the LORD, when I have broken the bands of their yoke, and delivered them out of the hand of those that served themselves of them.”
Ezekiel 34:26-27

After a dry spell here in southeast Iowa, we are thankful for the refreshing rains sent from Heaven. But even more so are we thankful for the showers of spiritual blessings, mostly the deliverance from our sinful life.

Bro. Paul and Sis. Charlotte Teubel are thankful for the birth of a grandson, Dmitri Stewart, born June 1 to Ruth Teubel.

We are pleased here of the engagement of Sis. Kendra Wuthrich (Bro. Roger and Sis. Deann) to Bro. Tad Meyer (Bro. Denis and Sis. Jill, Lester, IA). May the Lord be near as they begin to serve Him together.

As a church, we are thankful for the many visitors the summer brings. Bro. Trent Meiss (Sis. Lucy, Eureka, IL) shared the pulpit with us one Sunday. May God reward him. We enjoy the fellowship of our

company, and welcome all to spend a Sunday with us.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Marilyn Anderson
Monica Eisenmann

Our thanks to Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA) for preaching the Word when he came for our Sunday School election on June 3. Bro. Leo Banwart was elected to replace Bro. Leroy Wulf and Sis. Karla Gerst was chosen to replace Sis. Monica Eisenmann for teaching Sunday School.

Our annual Sunday School picnic was held on Sunday, June 10.

The engagement of Sis. Heather Wulf to Bro. Layne Steffen of Washington, IL was made known. We wish them God's blessings!

On Father's Day, Bro. Myron Knobloch (Lester, IA) and Bro. Dale Frank (Oakville, IA) ministered to us. We appreciate their visit very much!

IOWA, ELGIN

Maria Rocke
Brianna Strahm

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE

Laura Funk

*The Lord's Supper
To break Thy bread we now have gathered,
In covenant to drink Thy wine;
As brethren we unite together,
That unto death we might be Thine.
This promise we, with heart and will;
Give grace our promise to fulfill.
(Zion's Harp #25 vs. 2)*

In the stillness of the Sanctuary we were served Holy Communion by Elder Bros. Doug Schock (Bloomfield, IA) and Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO). This bite of bread and sip of wine we partook of is

more fulfilling and meaningful than the grandest feast on earth. I can't comprehend God's love for His children.

Other ministering brothers and wives that visited Garden Grove this past month were Bro. Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL), Bro. Brian Metzger (Lester, IA), Bro. Ryan Schock (Bloomfield, IA) and Elder Bro. Mike Leman (Denver, CO).

*What God Hath Done
God took the strength of the mighty oak,
The steadfastness of the mountains tall,
The warmth of the rising sun-
He used them one and all.
He took endurance from the hardy pine,
Love vast as the rolling sea,
Peace from the mountain stream,
And the heart of the dogwood tree.
He took from spring her promise,
From summer the beauty of life,
Courage from the winter's struggle,
And added faith to meet the strife.
He took the soul of the twilight hour,
The rich mellowness of the fall,
The depth of the quiet lake,
And the mystery of the wild bird's call
A Father God molded from these things
To lead each home aright
Down the path the Savior trod,
Out of darkness into light.*

Jean Jones

Thankful the Heavenly Father has bestowed our earthly fathers with wisdom and love to direct and guide our paths to Heaven.

I was involved in a hit and run accident today. This inspired the thought that Satan hits and runs, which can deceive and confuse us.

IOWA, IOWA CITY**Diana Butikofer**

Visitors to Iowa City this month included Bro. Gary Endress (Sis. Evie, Bradford, IL). We thank him for coming to minister to us and pray God will bless him for his efforts.

We pray also for our Lord's wisdom and guidance as our brethren meet for the Brotherhood Conference in August.

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

"Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip." (Hebrews 2:1)

We certainly appreciate the willingness of our ministering brethren to preach the gospel message. Our visiting ministers this month were Bros. Klint Beyer and Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS), James Knapp (Congerville, IL), Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL), Jim Butikofer, (Iowa City, IA), Bruce Frank (Cissna Park, IL) and Leland Plattner (Zapata, TX).

"For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come." (Hebrews 13:14)

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Jerome and Sis. Gail Hartter and family in the passing of his mother, Sis. Marie Hartter, (Sabetha, KS), and also to several grandchildren from our congregation. May the Lord grant comfort and peace as they go through this time of sorrow.

We are thankful Lorna DeSmet (Bro. Bob and Sis. Shirley) has turned her life to the Lord and we trust God will grant her the grace she needs for each step of the way in her repentance and conversion.

Bro. Paul and Sis. Stacey Messner welcomed Joanna Mae into their family on June 4 (along with big sister Bethany and happy grandparents, Bro. Henry and Sis. Charlene Messner and Bro. Bob and Sis. Shirley DeSmet).

Little Trissa Meyer (Bro. Merlin and Sis. Marilyn) was a hospital patient following a broken arm and is recovering quickly. We remember all who have had physical afflictions and pray God's healing hand be upon them.

Our best wishes go out to two couples as they were united in marriage. Michael Leuthold (Bro. Bob and Sis. Cindy) and Ashley Hansen's wedding day was May 26. Laura Molitor (Bob Molitor and Carol Molitor) and Brad Schneider (Bro. Charles and Sis Sue, Elgin, IA) were married on June 9. May both of these couples enjoy God's rich blessings.

The betrothal of Bro. Tad Meyer (Bro. Denis and Sis. Jill) and Sis. Kendra Wuthrich (Bro. Roger and Sis. DeAnn, Bloomfield, IA) was announced on June 3. We rejoice with them as they begin to make plans for their future life together in the Lord.

IOWA, OAKVILLE**Sharla Wiegand**

"How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!" (Romans 10:15)

Bro. Dale Wulf (Lester) blessed us by sharing the Word on May 20.

Bro. Trent and Sis. Laura, Allison, Orrin, Emily and Abe Kuntz welcomed Hannah Ruth into their family on June 9. Thankful grandparents are Bob and Edra Kuntz and Bro. Tom and Sis. JoAnn Steiner.

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

June 10 was the wedding day of Sis. Corin Wagenbach (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Bonnie) and Bro. Brandon Stickling (Bro. Scott and Sis. Jan) of Congerville IL. There were many visitors for this special occasion including Elder Bro. Rick Plattner (Fairbury, IL), Elder Bro. Ben Walder (Congerville, IL), Bro. Craig Stickling (Peoria, IL) and Bro. Michael Wagenbach (Wolcott, IN).

Note of thanks:

Greetings of love in Christ!

We are deeply humbled by your outpouring of love and support since Brian's stroke.

May God richly bless you for your prayers, visits, cards, and every anonymous act of kindness shown to us. They have encouraged our hearts and strengthened our faith and trust in the One Who so surely grants us grace for each day.

We ask for your continued prayers in the months ahead as we strive to joyfully walk whatever path He has so wisely chosen for us.

Least Ones in Christ,

Bro. Brian and Sis. Lorna Knapp

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

The weekend of June 3 was encouraging for our congregation. We heard the testimonies of three dear souls and witnessed their covenant with God to remain true and faithful to Him. Colton Zaugg (Bro. David and Sis. Melissa), Callie Gerber (Bro. David and Sis. Diane), and Erica Fehr (Bro. Mark and Sis. Janet) have come out from the world. We rejoice to know souls are still allowing God to convert their

hearts. We pray they will always be still enough to hear the Holy Spirit speaking. Elder Bro. Rod Bajema (Lester, IA) and Bro. Dale Moore (Sis. Cheryl, Elgin, IA) were with us to share labors during the weekend.

On June 9-10, West Bend hosted our annual Sunday School Youth Fellowship weekend with our regional churches. Ministers present were: Bro. Rod Bajema (Lester, IA), Elder Bro. Duane Rocke (Sis. Bonnie, Minneapolis, MN), Bro. Mark Schmidgall (Sis. Sally, Oakville, IA) and Bro. Dale Zeltwanger (Sis. Rachel, Morris North, MN).

Our dear Sis. Matilda Fehr (Bro. Elmer) was hospitalized for a short time this month and is now residing in the care center. May the Lord be near all those experiencing change in their lives.

Our prayers and sympathies are extended to the family of Bro. Ken Dahlhauser (Sis. Ellen). His father, James, passed from this life on June 8. May God give peace to all grieving hearts.

“..for He hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.”
(Hebrews 13:5)

JAPAN, SHIODA

Carrie Ito

We were thankful that Bro. Doug Wagenbach from San Diego stopped here in Japan on his way home from a business trip in Malaysia. We were privileged to have him in Shioda to minister to us this time.

Other exciting news is the arrival of Kenji Willis Ito to our family (Bro. Akihiro and Sis. Carrie). Big brother Tomoki, though hesitant at times, is pretty excited about it too. We can't help but think that his late grandparents, Bro. Charles and Sis. Miriam Sauder are rejoicing with us

from heaven above. We are thankful for Grandma and Grandpa Ito who have been a great help and blessing to us at this time.

We continue to advance on our church rebuilding plans. The architect put out strings in the old playground of the kindergarten and garden to show us where the new building will be. Please join us in praying for God's direction as we proceed.

JAPAN, TOKYO

Manuela Denes

Marie Inoue

June signals the start of the rainy season. While there have been many wet days (even a typhoon!), I sit here writing at the end of a beautiful summer day. The sky is blue and the sun still hasn't set in the sky and it's lovely to feel the cool breeze blowing in through the balcony door.

We were so thankful to have Bro. Teruo Sanada back in church with us this past Sunday. May God's healing mercies be upon him as he continues to recover from a heart procedure.

It has been wonderful to have visitors from the States over the past few weeks. Sis. Javon Steffen from Bluffton, IN has been living here for a few months while studying Japanese. We were blessed that she brought her family to spend a Sunday in Tokyo. This past week also brought us Bro. Aaron Gerber from Bluffton, IN. He and Sis. Javon are seeking God's will in possibly coming to Japan. We have recently had discussions on our will versus God's will. I also went through a similar decision-making process. As I turned my calendar to June, this was the scripture that was printed on the page:

“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)

No matter what struggles or decisions we face, may we have the blessed assurance that our God of hope will fill us with joy and peace that we can attain by *believing* in Him.

It is hard to believe that I'm nearing the end of my first year here. It has been a busy time, filled with challenges, but even more blessings. As I leave this Saturday, my prayer is for the Lord to continue working in this country and to bring more souls to Him. May He watch over our dear brothers and sisters until we meet once again this fall. Thank you for your continued prayers and love!

KANSAS, BERN

Sheri Edelman

Rita Menold

A special thank you is extended to Bro. Tim Lehman (Sis. Amber, Taylor, MO) for preaching God's Word to us this month.

Sis. Leigha Rokey (Bro. Dwight and Sis. Anita) has graduated from high school! May God bless her and direct her paths!

We are excited for the birth announcement of Ava Tamra Coughlin to Bro. Dan and Sis. Tami on June 17. Her older siblings are Kaeb and Zoe. Maternal grandparents from our Bern congregation are Bro. Paul and Sis. Joan Kaeb.

Sis. Verona Strahm's (Bro. Wilfred) mother, Sis. Marie Hartter (Bro. Virgil, Sabetha, KS) passed into eternity this month. We offer our sincere support for the family as they say earthly farewells to someone so special.

Vacation Bible School was held the week of June 11. The topic was "Called for a Lifetime". We thank each person who offered their time, help and prayers for a successful week of teaching. Now we ask God to give the blessing and increase in our lives.

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT

Teresa Bahr

KANSAS, KIOWA

Janice Bahr

Jenny Stewart

Sis. Marie Tucker was in the hospital this past month. Our prayers go out to her for strength and healing.

"But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content." (1 Timothy 6:6-8)

KANSAS, LAMONT-GRIDLEY

Congratulations to Bro. Bill and Sis. Susan Emch as they have a new grandson. Milan Perry was born to Ministering Bro. Brandon and Sis. Maria Emch (Kansas City, MO). Siblings Anna, Timon, Jesse and Alice welcomed him home. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Perry and Sis. Carol Klopfenstein (Gridley, IL).

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis Jane Isch (Bro. Ron) and Sis. Judy Kraft (Bro. Doug) in the passing of their mother, Sis. Marie Hartter (Bro. Virgil, Sabetha, KS).

KANSAS, SABETHA

Belinda Kellenberger

Sally Strahm

"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your

heart be trouble, neither let it be afraid." (John 14:27)

Our convert, LaVon Wenger (Sis. Erma), believes he has been granted peace from God and desires baptism. We pray he will continue to seek out God's will and that he may feel the Holy Spirit guiding him.

On June 13, a baby girl joined the family circle of Bro. Wayne and Sis. Carrie Grimm. Estie Lois is welcomed home by sisters Elsie, Sadie and Emmie. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Rodney and Sis. Arlene Grimm and Gary and Marilyn Edelman.

We are always thankful for those that preach the true Word of God. Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Galen Rokey (Sis. Nancy, Bern, KS), Bro. Ron Isch (Sis. Jane, Lamont-Gridley, KS), Bro. Kevin Banwart (Sis. Sandy, West Bend, IA), Bro. Dale Moore (Sis. Cheryl, Elgin, IA) and Bro. Tim Zimmerman (Sis. Barbara, Lamont-Gridley, KS) May God bless them for their labors of love.

We gathered together for our annual Sunday School picnic on June 2. It is a blessing to be together as a church family. We thank those who give of their time to teach our children Sunday after Sunday. Let's make sure that first our children are being taught at home of Jesus and His commandments. Then it will be a good reminder in Sunday School of what the Bible expects of them.

The weekend of May 5-6, our Junior Bible Class had the opportunity to travel to Kansas City. We thank those who had a part in the weekend and pray that God's name was glorified.

May we always have a prayer on our hearts for those that struggle with afflictions of the flesh. Our hospital patients this month were Sis. Ruth Hertzell (Bro. Frank), Sis.

Lucille Kellenberger and Bro. Larry Bailey (Sis. Linda).

On June 5, Sis. Marie Hartter finished her earthly race and entered into the realms of eternity. She left behind her husband, Bro. Virgil, 12 children, and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Her children are as: Bro. Roger (Sis. Ilene), Bro. Bob (Sis. Chris, Roanoke, IL), Sis. Verona (Bro. Wilfred Strahm, Bern, KS), Bro. Dennis (Sis. Beth), Sis. Jane (Bro. Ron Isch, Lamont-Gridley, KS), Bro. Jerome (Sis. Gail, Lester, IA), Doug (Millie, Lancaster, KS), Sis. Judy (Bro. Doug Kraft, Lamont-Gridley, KS), Bro. Timothy (Sis. Charleen), Sis. Teresa (Bro. Brad Kellenberger), Bro. David (Sis. Beth), and Bro. James (Sis. Sandy).

*Farewell, farewell, I waited long
For this glad hour and bright,
When through earth's night
victoriously
Breaks heaven's morning light.
Farewell, farewell, let me go on
That endless rest to share;
Be faithful till the Saviour calls,
Farewell, till we meet there!
(Hymns of Zion #194, vs. 2, 4)*

KANSAS, WICHITA

Emma Miller

We have reasons to be thankful that the Lord saw it was time for Bro. Charlie Grimm to depart from his sickbed and to enter his heavenly mansion. He died June 2 at age 87 and leaves to mourn his wife, Sis. Gail, daughters Carla and Teresa, a son Gregg, seven grandchildren, four brothers and a sister. He was preceded in death by his parents and a daughter, Debbie. Charlie devoted much time helping the less fortunate.

We usually feel fortunate if we have ripe homegrown tomatoes by the fourth of July. Imagine the

thrill of picking them now! Local weathermen have said this is the warmest spring since they have been keeping records on such!

Elder Bro. Ted Witzig (Sis. Cindy, Morton, IL) and Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Sis. Jane) served Holy Communion to our small group June 3. We appreciate their willingness to serve us in spite of our small numbers.

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON

Barb Huber

“For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.” (Romans 8:18)

We have indeed felt indebted to our visiting ministers, their families, and those who travelled with them, for their efforts and labors of love to come from many miles around and share the wonderful Word of God. Each Lord’s Day, we have gathered and warmed ourselves as around a fire, receiving much encouragement and admonition, being *“strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man.” (Ephesians 3:16)* Ministers were: Bros. Nathan Steffen (Sis. Susan, Alto, MI), Ned Bahler (Sis. Anna, Fairbury, IL), Warren Zahner (Sis. Bonnie, Rockville, CT), David Eisenmann (Sis. Jackie, Champaign, IL), Steve Pamer (Sis. Arliss, Akron, OH), Larry Bahr (Sis. Julie, Ft. Scott, KS), John Lehman, (Wolcott, IN); Elder Bro. Tom Stock (Sis. Karol, Cissna Park, IL). Truly God is to be honored and we are thankful how we were blessed. May the Lord bless and reward each of you for your faithfulness to serve Him and further His kingdom here on earth.

Other visitors who blest our fellowship were represented from the following churches: Bradford, Congerville, Tremont, IL; Bluffton, IN; Rittman, OH; and Taylor, MO. It

was a real joy to have you assemble with us.

We extend a warm welcome to anyone who may be in our area or traveling through to worship with us at Lexington. You may contact Bro. Lester Huber (859) 745-2541. Church services are held at 3938 Becknerville Rd., Winchester, KY. Directions to the church are in the minister’s book.

MEXICO, IXTLÁN

Matt Gerber

“They that are whole need not a physician; but they that are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.” (Luke 5:31-32)

“Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven...For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost...Even so it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish.” (Matt. 18:10, 11, 14)

The church gave a farewell to Sis. Christy Stoller (Gridley, IL). She returned to the U.S. upon completion of her medical studies in Guadalajara. Sis. Christy had become a regular part of the Ixtlán church family during the past four years and she will be missed.

Another school year comes to a close. We are thankful for the continued growth of the school. Each year brings new challenges and opportunities for improvement. God demonstrated His faithfulness again during this current year. Please pray that the end-of-the-year program for parents and community representatives could clearly communicate the Christian

focus of the school.

A prayer request for the Ixtlán church is that we would have Christ’s heart to seek the lost and preach the gospel, whether through home Bible studies, or at the drug-alcohol rehab center, or simply in everyday interactions. At the same time, that God would give us grace to balance outreach with meeting the needs of the believers for nurture and discipleship. We don’t want to neglect either evangelism or nurture, since it seems that a healthy church will have both functioning strongly.

MEXICO, MAGDALENA

We can feel the prayers of the Church here in Magdalena. These past months have been full of the joy of the Lord. We have felt this joy throughout the storms and sunny days of life. Our church family, along with the family at Casa Vida y Esperanza, has faced many trials, but thankfully we can see more of God’s hand through it all. Even though we are in the desert, the spring has come and all the growth in the nature around us is greening up.

On May 27, we celebrated the wedding of our Sis. Kali Zobrist to Bro. Jonathan Sauder (Altadena, CA) here in Magdalena. The children looked forward to the day. They were remembering the first wedding we celebrated here at our church of Bro. Joel Rinkenberger to our Sis. Stephanie Bahr last June. Sis. Kali has been here caring for our girls since 2008. Their parents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Susie Zobrist (Congerville, IL) and Bro. Frank and Sis. Kathy Sauder (Roanoke, IL). Many family members came from California and the Midwest. The CVE family and guests enjoyed a reception at Café Sed. We appreciate

the love and passion Sis. Kali has shared with our CVE family for these past years. We wish them the best as they reside in the Altadena, CA area.

The weekend of June 3, we welcomed our brothers from Zapata, TX and Forrest, IL as our dear friend Alisha Ramirez shared her testimony of faith in the blood of Jesus, and of a converted life, and was baptized here at our church. Sister Alisha has been on a spiritual journey that has led her to Nuevo Laredo, MX with her husband Endi, and Juana, their infant daughter. All were thankful to have the family and friends of Sis. Alisha here to witness this work of faith. The guests were from Zapata, Forrest, Portland, and Denver. Bro. Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata, TX), and Elder Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Sis. Nancy, Forrest, IL) shared the weekend. Our Elder Bro. Mike Leman and his dear wife, Sis. Deb, were able to stay for both the weekend of the wedding and for the baptism. They also visited their son, Bro. Joel Leman, his wife, Sis. Kristi, and their sweet little granddaughter, Soraya.

We welcome Sis. Marce Salceda from Ixtlán, MX. She serves with the Aupperle household while also assisting our cook, Nora, in the main CVE kitchen. We are enjoying her talents in the kitchen! We hope that she will feel the blessing of serving alongside each of us.

Sis. Maria Sauder (Morton, IL) has come to volunteer with the school for five weeks. She has blessed us with her flexibility and joy. It is difficult to get things done without talented volunteers like her. As summertime approaches, we thankfully welcome our summer volunteers who will serve throughout the school vacation. Bro.

Jason Grassi (Peoria, IL), Bro. Brock Wiegand (Gridley, IL), Sis. Sarah Drake (Champaign, IL), and Sis. Lisa Aschliman (Bluffton, IN) make up this year's volunteers. Their work will involve summer school classes at CVE as well as our vacation Bible school in August. The summer work teams will begin in June with teams from Peoria, Morton, and Taylor Bible Classes. Along with maintenance, and building two smaller homes, the relationships they will form with our children will not be forgotten. May God bless each one who serves God through their time at CVE, and above all in lifting the Magdalena church and community up to the Father in prayer.

MICHIGAN, ALTO

Listyn Oesch
Melissa Blough

"But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him." (1 Thessalonians 4:13-14)

"His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord." (Matthew 25:23)

Our hearts and prayers go out to the Steffen and McCormick families as they are coping with the loss of a loved one. On June 11, the Lord took his good and faithful servant Ruth Anne Lehman (Bro. John, Wolcott, IN). She was a sister to Sis. Sandra Steffen and a cousin to Sis. Maria McCormick. We pray that God would comfort the families and

give them peace within their hearts, knowing that our Lord is also both good and faithful.

We also have a prayer request for Bro. Curt Kaeb. He appears to have viral meningitis and is in intensive care at Metro Hospital.

We were so thankful this month for all the volunteers for Vacation Bible School. The children had a fantastic time of fellowship and praise while learning about the Bible and our Lord Jesus.

We had a farewell singing for Bro. Bill and Sis. Judy Gerst as they have moved to Iowa. We wish them safe travels and hope they visit us soon.

Thank you to all of the ministers and their wives that visited our congregation this month to share in their labors of love: Bro. Greg Lehman (Sis. Mary-Beth, Wolcott, IN), Bro. Matt Steffen (Sis. Deanna, Princeville, IL).

We rejoice with these high school graduates of 2012: Cammeron Steffen, Spencer Plattner and Michaela Blough.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

Sarah Knochel
Janelle Ramseyer

We are thankful that ministering Bro. Jesse Bedolla (Sis. Bonnie, Detroit, MI) spent Father's Day with us.

Our prayers are with Sis. Ileen Wackerle as she spent an extended time in the hospital and is now recuperating at home. We trust that God will continue to provide healing and restoration all according to His will.

"...I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." (John 10:10)

June 18-22 was Vacation Bible School. This year's theme was "Living the Abundant Life in

Christ". We had about 90 students for our day program and were blessed to have visiting ministers for two evening programs. Bro. James Emch (Sis. Gina, Phoenix, AZ) spoke on Wednesday evening about "Committing our Way to God", and Bro. John Bradle (Sis. Jill, Roanoke, IL) spoke Friday evening about "Promises of God".

Even though we are a smaller church, we are very blessed to have the majority of the congregation join hands and hearts together to share God's love with the youth.

*Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.*

*Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Savior am happy and blest,
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love. (Hymns of Zion, #288)*

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

Krista Wieland

Another month has passed already! I don't know about you, but at times the days can seem long but the years seem to fly by! I was reminded of this again when my oldest nephew graduated from high school. As we all grow older, it's good to be reminded that at the end of our lives, our relationship with our Savior and our relationships with people are what truly matter.

Our congregation has two high school graduates this year. We wish to congratulate Sis. Carrie Ramseyer and Meredith Lanski who have both completed their high school education. They both plan to start college and we wish them God's blessings in this new chapter of their lives.

Also, Katie Lanski will be leaving to study in France as part of her education and we pray she will have a safe trip.

*"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)*

Visiting minister this month was Bro. Ken Wuethrich (Sis. Lyn, Indianapolis, IN). We appreciate his service to us.

Continue to keep Sis. Linda Shaw, Sis. Krista Wieland, Dorothy Leman, Sis. Linda Reardon, Sis. Sheryl Maibach, Virginia Smiley, Sis. Eloise Bahr, Sis. Crystal Frank, and Sis. Mira Matejin in our prayers for ongoing health issues.

We had a farewell picnic for Bro. Marc, Sis. Stacie, Chase and Max Knepp who are moving back home to Roanoke, IL. We will greatly miss their wonderful family at our church. We wish them well and support them in God's leading.

We enjoyed our semiannual mother-daughter tea this month. We appreciate each one who came and also those who planned it.

Our 7th Annual All-Michigan sing was held May 20 and was enjoyed by all. Thank you to all who traveled from our Bay City, Alto, and Toledo congregations to attend.

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](tel:734-513-5907) or spbahr@yahoo.com for meal planning purposes July 4.

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS

Tim McMillan

MINNESOTA, MORRIS

Kim Feuchtenberger

Annie Wulf

When we walk with the Lord, In the light of His Word, What a glory He sheds on our way! While we do His good will, He abides with us still, And with all who will trust and obey. (Hymns of Zion #186)

We want to thank our visiting ministers this month, Elder Bros. Bill Schlatter, Junction, OH, Andy Stoller, Smithville, OH, and Paul Messner, Winthrop, MN, Bro. Darren Fehr (Sis. Nora) West Bend, IA, Bro. Wes Moser (Sis. Esther) Lester, IA, Bro. Bill Dotterer (Sis. Sharon) Lamar, MO, and Bro. Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL).

We are happy for Bro. Adam and Sis. Rachel Bjerketvedt along with Titus, Tabitha and Asher as they welcome little Silas Thor into this world. Grandparents are Bro. Aldean and Sis. Charlotte Luthi and Ted and Gloria Bjerketvedt. Cody, Holly and Laura along with Bro. Andrew and Sis. Kara Messner are also rejoicing with the safe arrival of Jill Marie. Grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Nancy Wulf and Bro. Tony and Sis. Nancy Messner.

Our prayers are with Sis. Vi Wulf and Ray and Lila Watson as they have spent time in the hospital. We pray that they may regain their strength. May we all press on toward Heaven where we will have a new body with no aches or pains!

Note of Thanks:

Greetings dear brethren across the land,

We want to sincerely express our deep appreciation and thanks for the prayers, cards, calls and many

deeds of love and kindness shown to us during Beirne's recovery after his accident. The prayers and concerns of the brotherhood truly did carry us through some difficult days.

May God richly bless each and everyone one of you.

Humbly,

Bro. Beirne and Sis. Joyce Messner

MINNESOTA, ROCHESTER

Mark Stork

Eric Bachman

We were blessed by those willing to share God's Word with us. Elder Bro. Paul Messner (Sis Jan, Winthrop, MN) visited us on our Wednesday gathering. Elder Bro. Duane Rocke (Sis. Bonnie, Minneapolis, MN) was here for our Sunday services. We are thankful for the instructions we receive from God's Holy Word. Our next Sunday services are scheduled for July 29 and August 26.

We have again enjoyed the fellowship that those visiting the Guest House have brought to us. We pray that we can encourage one another in our daily walk, realizing that everyone has different trials and struggles. May our focus be on Jesus Christ and our eternal home. We have openings at the Guest House for those interested. Contacts for the Guest House are Bro. Mark and Sis. Sandy Stork (507) 288-0072.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

Lindsay Schmidt

Heather Steiner

"But he said, Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it." (Luke 11:28)

Our congregation was blessed with a visit from Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Sis. Pam, Washington, IL). We wish to thank him for sharing God's Word and teachings to us.

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

We want to congratulate our high school graduates: Sis. Lena Steiner (Bro. Glen and Sis. Rachel), Elliot Braulick (Marlyn and Sis. Becky), and Raija Eskuri (Walter and Sis. Bonnie). We wish God's blessings on them. May they feel God's direction as they start a new chapter of life.

"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." (1 John 1:7)

Our 8-12th grade students and teachers were invited to West Bend, IA for the Youth Fellowship weekend. We want to thank the West Bend Church and Sunday School teachers for their efforts in hosting. Hopefully many memories and friendships were formed over the weekend.

"Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding." (Proverbs 4:1)

Every year, we honor our earthly fathers on Father's Day, but indeed their impact on our lives is an honor every day! We can think of the blessings we've shared with our fathers and the memories and examples we have to cherish. May we also be thankful for our Heavenly Father and His love and blessings He bestows on us each day!

"O LORD my God, I cried unto thee, and thou hast healed me." (Psalm 30:2)

Our hospital and surgical patients this month were: Darren Messner (Bro. David & Sis. Bethany), Idabell Witt (Donald), Sis. Hazel

Schmidt (Bro. Elmer), and Bro. Paul Messner (Sis. Jan). We pray for their continued healing and strengthening.

Notes of Thanks:

I would like to thank everyone for their thoughts, prayers and cards during my surgery and recovery. Sis. Lois Messner (Bro. Marlyn)

I want to thank all who remembered me with cards, phone calls, and a special thanks for all the prayers. God's blessings to all. Love, Idabell Witt (Donald)

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY

Brittany Fehr

Bro. Brandon and Sis. Maria, Anna, Timon, Jesse, and Alice Emch recently welcomed little Milan Perry to their family! Milan's grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Susan Emch (Lamont-Gridley, KS) and Bro. Perry and Sis. Carol Klopfenstein (Gridley, IL). We are thankful for Milan's safe arrival and for the addition to our church family! Also, Bro. Willie Hoffstetter (Peoria, IL) is living and working in the area for the summer, so we welcome him to our congregation, as well.

Austin Fehr (Bro. Joe and Sis. Joan) recently graduated from high school. Bro. Brady Strahm and Sis. Lauren Meyer graduated from college. May God bless, direct, and provide for each graduate as they enter a new stage of life. May each seek and obey His will moving forward.

Bros. Mark Schmidgall (Sis. Sally, Oakville, IA), Brad Strahm (Sis. Michelle, Bern, KS) and Roger Aberle (Sis. Lavonne, Sabetha, KS) were our visiting ministers recently. We appreciate their labors on our behalf. Bros. Mark and Brad were in Kansas City the weekend our

congregation hosted the area youth fellowship gathering. We know that God uses His servants to plant and water the seed. We look to God to give the increase.

MISSOURI, LAMAR

Lisa Stoller
Venetta Banwart

We were blessed to have several ministers with us last month. Elder Bro. Peter Petrovic (Sis. Marian, San Diego, CA) was here to help with the testimony and baptism of our new Sis. Kristi Braker (Bro. Roy and Sis. Judy). Bros. Mike Ursu (Sis. Barb, Kitchener, ON), Pat Zaugg (Sis. Julie, West Bend, IA), Bro. Beirne Messner (Sis. Joyce, Morris, MN), Bro. Greg Stoller (Sis. Jill, Forrest, IL), and Larry Bahr (Sis. Julie, Ft. Scott, KS) were also with us. May the Lord bless each one for their labors.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

Kary Mangers

Our prayers go out to those suffering through the wildfires. The Lord does so much through the disasters in life, whether through natural disasters or sickness or loss. He gives us opportunities to help others. He helps us to count our many blessings and not to take anything for granted. He shows us who really is in control. He shows us where our treasures are laid up. The list goes on. As we pray and help those suffering in this life, may we each surrender all to Jesus that unbelievers can see the hope and treasure only found in Him and believers can be edified through the body of Christ.

Our thanks to Bro. Scott and Sis. Dawn Wegman (Taylor, MO) and Bro. Dan and Sis. Deb Beer (Milford, IN) for sharing the hope found in God's Word during their

visits. We welcome Bro. Phil Dreeste of Washington, IL, who is doing an internship, and Bro. Jeff McAfee of Bluffton, IN, who is doing a project in the area. They are worshipping with us for several months.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Kathy Eberhardt

We rejoice with Sis. Diana Wagenbach and Bro. Greg Eisenmann as they were united in Holy Matrimony on June 3. Parents of the couple are Bro. Dave and Sis. Charlene Wagenbach (Oakville, IA) and Elder Bro. Brad and Sis. Cindy Eisenmann (Chicago, IL).

Bro. Jeff and Sis. Bethany Knobloch and big brother William are enjoying their new baby girl, Reagan. May God bless this dear family.

We had three members move this month to be closer to family. Sis. Roberta Bostrom moved to be near her children in New Jersey and Delaware. Sis. Jane Reiman and Sis. Janet Schaer relocated to be near Sis. Jane's daughter, Edie, in Springfield, MO. We wish them all God's blessing's as they are further in distance but still close to our hearts.

We have had many visiting ministers with weddings and Bible studies recently. Bro. Dean Steffen (Sis. Carol, Belvidere, IL), Elder Bro. Brad Eisenmann (Sis. Cindy, Chicago, IL), Bro. Tom Lanz, (Sis. Mary, Oakville, IA), Bro. Greg Rassi (Sis. Carla, Chicago, IL), and Bro. Virgil Metzger (Sis. Mary, Chicago, IL).

We appreciate all the visiting ministers that have had topics on Wednesday evenings. They include Bro. Randall Gasser (Sis. Sue, Detroit, MI), Bro. Klint Beyer (Sis. Kara, Sabetha, KS) and Bro. Randy Gudemann (Sis. Becky, Francesville, IN).

During our Bible topics, we were reminded to stay aware of our post. Two questions that we should ask ourselves are "Who am I" and "What am I doing". The answers are: "I'm an adopted child of God" and "I'm following the footsteps of Jesus". We are thankful for all who made the effort to travel the miles to our church on the levee.

NEW YORK, CROGHAN-NAUMBURG

Hope Graves

We pray for God's guidance in the lives of our children, especially when they begin upon new pathways in their lives. This year's high school graduates are Brianna and Skylar Farney, Jaclyn King and Dylan Stocking. College graduates are Justin Hirschey and Ryan King.

Our prayers go out to Sis. Alice Farney and family in the death of her granddaughter at age 25.

"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. The Lord is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him. The Lord is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him. It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the Lord."

(Lamentations 3: 22-26)

OHIO, AKRON

Erika Gal

We are rejoicing with Bro. Brad and Sis. Amanda Gasser in the birth of little Zion Glenn on June 19. He is welcomed home by his big sisters, McKenzie and Josie. His grandparents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Sue Gasser (Junction, OH) and Gary and Sis. Susan Murray (Rittman, OH). What a precious blessing!

On June 23-24, we welcomed Sis. Amanda Steidl into our church family. She is the daughter of our ministering Bro. Don and Sis. Nan Steidl. We wish to thank Elder Bro. Steve and Sis. Mary Sauder (Tremont, IL) for traveling to be with us and laboring throughout the weekend. We also appreciate Bro. Jerry Bauman (Rittman, OH) for being with us.

Our thoughts and prayers are with our dear Bro. Leon (late Sis. Janet) Graf as he is recovering from surgery. He is currently at the Rittman Apostolic Christian Home for a time of therapy and recuperation. We trust he can feel our love and God's strengthening presence during this time.

OHIO, COLUMBUS

Lauren Rufener

OHIO, JUNCTION

Vicki Boroff

OHIO, LATTY

Carmen Stoller

Mindy Stoller

Greetings of love! We wish to thank our visiting ministers who were with us this month. They were Bro. Floyd Frieden (Sis. Jan, Elgin, IA), Bro. Steve Stieglitz (Sis. Jane, Leo, IN), and Bro. Dale Wulf (Sis. Becky, Lester, IA). May God bless these brothers for their efforts.

Our 2012 high school graduates are Andre and Victor Greutman (Bro. Greg and Sis. Kristy), Beth and Bekah Klopfenstein (Bro. Lee and Sis. Desma), Gary Klopfenstein (Bro. Roy and Deb), Bro. Derek Plummer (Bro. Rick and Sis. Denise), Carlee Sinn (Bro. Tom and Sis. Kim), and Reuben Stoller (Bro. Craig and Sis. Ruth). May God bless these graduates with his grace and guidance as they enter into a new

phase in life.

Barry and Tricia Grant were united in Holy Matrimony on June 15. Barry is the son of Bro. Phil and Sis. Gloria. We pray that God's blessings will be upon this couple as they begin their walk of life together.

OHIO, MANSFIELD

Tami Griffey

With joy and love we announce the birth of two precious babies! Cruz Benjamin Ramsey entered this world on May 18. He is the cherished son of Bro. Nathaniel and Sis. April Ramsey and brother to Cole, Drew, Quinn, and Jack. Grateful grandparents are Bro. Edward and Sis. Laura Ramsey and Bro. Bob and Sis. Mardel Dotterer (Rittman, OH).

Chloe Layne Tucker was delivered safely on May 22 to blessed parents Bro. Archie and Sis. Amber. Anna, Thomas, and Landon welcomed their sister home. Thankful grandparents are Dan and Sis. Barb Tucker and Bob and Trisha Tschantz.

Vacation Bible School was held June 11-15. We appreciate all the time, love, and effort each teacher and preacher showed to the students and adults. The topics and visitors for the week included: Bro. Bill Brake (Sis. Miriam, Sardis, OH) "Self-Examination", Bro. Larry Wenninger (Sis. Joyce, Latty, OH) "Choices and Their Consequences", Bro. Wayne Hartzler (Sis. Camille, Rittman, OH) "Church Services", Bro. Michael Walder (Sis. Susie, Smithville, OH), "Modern Technology (Spiritual Dangers)", and Bro. Matthew Steffen (Sis. Deanna, Princeville, IL) "Tale Bearing". We are thankful for additional visiting ministers over the last month: Bro. John Grimm

(Sis. Julie, Columbus, OH) and Bro. Matthew Feucht (Sis. Jennifer, Roanoke, IL).

On April 15, Lanae Sauder (Bro. Dan and Sis. Pam) was married to Lane Hartzler (Richard and Sis. Karen, Rittman, OH). We rejoice with their families and pray God will bless their lives in San Antonio, TX.

We bid farewell to Bro. Jason and Sis. Nora Sabo and their children: Sophie, Joseph, Anna, and Michael. A farewell potluck and singing was held June 3. May they feel our prayers as they relocate to Morris, MN.

Sis. Sarah Rice was hospitalized and has our prayers. May she feel God's comfort and nearness during her time of need.

OHIO, RITTMAN

Jenny Pertee

Anna Bauman

We were again blessed to have visiting ministers this month and are thankful to each one for giving their time and effort to teach us more about God's Word. They were Elder Bros. Rick Plattner (Fairbury, IL), Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN), and Bros. Randy Beer (Milford, IN), Chris Laukuf (Latty, OH), and Bill Brake (Sardis, OH).

It was with great joy to hear about Rittman's most recent converts, Jacky and Kelly Barker, and Luke Rufener (Bro. Dave and Sis. LeAnn). May they feel much grace and many blessings during this time.

Many little additions have joined our congregation this past month. Grandparents Bro. Bob and Sis. Mardel Dotterer received another grandchild into their family when Cruz Benjamin Ramsey, son of Bro. Nate and Sis. April (Mansfield, OH), was born on May 18. Bro. Dave and

Sis. Lynne Steiner also received a new grandchild as Kenton Lane Steiner was born on June 5 to Bro. Isaac and Sis. Brittany (Smithville, OH). Joash Aaron was born to Bro. Aaron and Sis. Deb Gasser on May 26. Joash joins siblings Kayla, Charity, Brittany, Josiah, Lily, and Adrya. His grandparents are Bro. Virgil and Sis. Lois Gasser, and Bro. Ken and Sis. Jane Hartzler. Also on May 26, first-time parents Bro. Nate and Sis. Lynn Steiner welcomed Asher Nathan. Asher's grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Sara Steiner, and Bro. Jeffrey and Sis. Millie Stoller (Smithville, OH). Bro. Chad and Sis. Katie Beery are also new parents with the birth of their son, Cayden Timothy, on June 1. Cayden's grandparents are Bro. Walt and Sis. Linda Beery, and Bro. Tim and Sis. Joni Ramsier. On June 7, Ella Kaye Gasser became the newest member of the family of Jason and Brandi, Jaxson and Cole. Ella's grandparents are Bro. Dale and Janet Gasser, and Teri Eshler.

Sis. Lorena Riegenbach passed away on June 15. She is survived by her four sons and one daughter. Her husband, Bro. Lester, preceded her in death. Sis. Lorena's life was one century's worth of memories and experiences.

Sis. Marian Hartzler (Bro. Joe, deceased), Sis. Marjorie Boltz (Bro. Bob), Sis. Bev Moore (Randy), Cayden Beery (Bro. Chad and Sis. Katie) and Joash Gasser (Bro. Aaron and Sis. Deb) have each spent time in the hospital. They continue to be in our thoughts and prayers as we wish them comfort, peace and recovery.

OHIO, SARDIS

Faith Beard

*Jesus calls us o'er the tumult
Of our life's wild, restless sea,
Day by day His sweet voice soundeth,
Saying, "Christian, follow me."
Jesus calls us from the worship
Of the vain world's golden store,
From each idol that would keep us,
Saying, "Christian, love Me more,"
Jesus calls us: by Thy mercies,
Savior, may we hear Thy call,
Give our hearts to Thine obedience,
Serve and love Thee best of all.
Gospel Hymns #313*

We are joyful to report that three of our friends have heeded that call and have turned their hearts to Jesus. We rejoice and prayerfully lift up Kelly and Dan Fisher (Bro. Dave and Sis. Val) and Thad Indermuhle (Bro. Dana and Sis. Joy), as they work on converting their hearts into sister and brothers of Christ.

The end of the school year brings several graduates. Maggie Morrow (Jeff and Rebecca), Mariah Indermuhle (Eric and Sis. Lisa) and Staci Indermuhle (Bro. Allen and Sis. Janet) have completed their high school education and now work toward all the decisions that must be made in career and life as an adult.

We have been blessed with two visiting ministers this month. Serving us from the Word of God were Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Sis. Jeni, Bluffton, IN) and Bro. Clint Beyer (Sis. Kara, Sabetha, KS). We have confidence they will be eternally blessed for their efforts.

*In our dear Lord's garden planted
here below;
Many tiny flowers in sweet beauty
grow.
Christ the loving gardner, tends these
blossoms small,
Loves the little lilies, as the cedars
tall. The Children's Harp, #5*

A sweet, innocent baby often feels like the closest thing to Heaven. Bro. Jeb and Sis. Kristy Joos, Wyatt, Reagan and Colson are thankful for the safe arrival of their littlest daughter and sister, Macey Danee, on June 5. Grandparents are Bro. Denny and Sis. Doris Miller and Bro. Ralph and Sis. Jenny Joos (Bradford, IL).

Our annual New Martinsville, WV memorial service took place once again this June. We thank Bro. Ted Luginbuhl (Sis. Stephanie, Smithville, OH) for lending himself as our visiting minister for the weekend. In addition to our worship service on Sunday, we heard a history of the beginnings of the New Martinsville Church, one of the first Apostolic Christian Churches in the United States.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE

Lydia Dotterer

Gina Brake

We have had several visiting ministers and elders this month. Elder Bros. Curtis Frank (LaCrosse, IN), Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH), Dave Graf (Akron, OH), and Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) assisted in selecting a candidate to be interviewed at the Rockville conference and, Lord willing, to serve Smithville as an ordained deacon. Bro. Vic Bauman (Sis. Brenda) was chosen. Bros. Ned Stoller (Alto, MI) and John Hartman (Fairbury, IL) also visited.

Several dear ones were hospitalized this month: Bro. Darrel Indermuhle, Bro. Herb Bauman, Sis. Bonnie Maibach, Jared Miller. We are always thankful when the Lord's Will is to heal the sick and hurting.

Bro. Nathan and Sis. Lynn Steiner became first-time parents to Asher Nathan on May 26. First-time grandparents are Bro. Jeff and Sis.

Millie Stoller and Bro. Jim and Sis. Sarah Steiner (Rittman, OH).

Bro. Isaac, Sis Brittany and Koriana Steiner welcomed Kenton Lane on June 5. His grandparents are Bro. Brian and Sis. Bev Indermuhle and Bro. Dave and Sis. Lynn Steiner (Rittman, OH).

Grandparents Bro. Ken and Sis. Jane Hartzler, were thankful for the arrival of Joash Aaron Gasser. He was born to Bro. Aaron and Sis. Deb (Rittman, OH) on May 25. Kayla Charity, Brittany, Josiah, Lily and Adrya are his siblings.

OHIO, TOLEDO

Deanna Manz

Anita Schlatter

We always appreciate those who give of themselves to preach the Word. Visiting us this month was Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Sis. Jeannine, Mansfield, OH). We thank Bro. Mark for his willingness to serve us.

“Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.”
(Romans 12:15)

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Jim and Norma Harmon. Norma's brother Donald Covrett and brother-in-law Danny Lawecki both passed away this month. May the Lord be near them during this difficult time.

Congratulations to Sis. Tricia Bauman and Bro. Jared Bauman for completing their Physical Therapy Assistant degrees. We have enjoyed the time they have worshipped with us, and will miss them as they return home to Rittman, OH.

Several in our congregation have experienced health concerns recently. Tyler Manz (Bro. Matt and Sis. Deanna) was hospitalized. We are thankful he returned home in good health. Bro. Joe Croy (Sis.

Mary) had a visit to the ER, and is now recovering at home. Bro. Aaron Masters is receiving ongoing medical treatment. We continue to lift him up in prayer.

OREGON, PORTLAND

Rebekah Jones

We were blessed with the ministry of our Elder Bro. John Wiegand (Sis. Jane) and Bro. Chris Kuenzi (Sis. Mary, Silverton, OR), and Bro. Jeff Bahr (Sis. Janice, Kiowa KS).

We rejoiced in the wedding of Bro. Lee Jones (Bro. Ron and Sis. Liz) to Sis. Chelsie Bahr (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Janice, Kiowa, KS). We are thankful for the union they share in Christ. We are blessed to have Sis. Chelsie in our congregation. May they feel the Lord's nearness.

OREGON, SILVERTON

Kelsey Walder

Ann Kuenzi

Graduating from high school this month are Morgan Dettwyler (Gary and Sis. Tami), Austin Knecht (Bro. Allen and Jennifer), Christa Kuenzi (Bro. Todd and Sis. Melissa), Jared Kuenzi (Bro. Jason and Sis. Jo), Lorraine Kuenzi (Bro. Harvey and Sis. Jennifer), Wendi Roth (Bro. Jim and Sis. Deb), Sis. Christina Sinn (Bro. Don and Sis. Linda), Erika Sinn (Bro. Dean and Sis. Heidi), Tressa Sinn (Bro. Mark and Sis. Elsie), Eleanora Von Flue (Bro. Dan and Sis. Becky), Sis. Jenna Wiegand (Bro. John and Sis. Jane), and Lindsey Zollinger (Bro. Todd and Sis. Michele). We wish them God's blessings in their endeavors.

Cheyenne Luthi spent time at the hospital being stitched up after her head came in contact with a large fan blade. Thankfully she is healing nicely. Sis. Peggy Young (Bro. Terry) has been battling an illness that the doctors are having difficulty

diagnosing. Sis. Carol Wackerle (Bro. Greg) is recovering from gall bladder surgery. Bro. Lewis Kuenzi is declining in health and has his family, as well as Hospice, caring for him. Prayers would be appreciated for all of them.

We always appreciate visiting ministers. This past month Bro. Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy) and Bro. Ron Jones (Sis. Liz), both from Portland, OR, shared the word with us.

PENNSYLVANIA, PHILADELPHIA

We had many reasons to be thankful this month. We were blessed with a number of visitors to our church. Elder Bro. Dave Graf (Sis. Barb, Akron, OH) were included in these visitors. We appreciated his willing service on our behalf. Our church really enjoys the fellowship and may God bless each one for their love and for being with us.

Our prayers were with Pella (Dave) Naffin and Connie (Ed) Baer as they had medical procedures this month. We trust that the Great Physician will continue to heal as they are now home with family.

Finally, we send our prayers with Bro. Adam and Sis. Jami, and their children, Simon, Reigan, and Evan, as they will be attending the Nashville, TN church for a time. We have been blessed by their service and fellowship on our behalf. We will miss them while they are gone.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE

Mike and Monica Fritz

We are thankful for the strength we have been given from God's Living Word this past month through the willing service of our visiting ministering brothers: Bros. Barry Dietz (Sis. Rachel,

Bradford, IL), Ron Palitto (Sis. Lynell, Akron, OH), and Tony Manz (Sis. Denise, Junction, OH). We have also been blessed by the fellowship of brethren and friends visiting from Bradford, Chicago, Congerville, Eureka, Forrest, and Princeville, IL; and Akron, Junction, and Rittman, OH.

If you are traveling to or through the Nashville area, please plan to worship with us. The following churches are scheduled for services in the near future: Lamar, MO (7/22/12); Rockville, CT (7/29/12); Taylor, MO (8/5/12); LaCrosse, IN (8/12/12); Oakville, IA (8/19/12); Goodfield, IL (8/26/12). 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 p.m. 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

“Let, I pray thee, thy merciful kindness be for my comfort, according to thy word unto thy servant.”
(Ps. 119:76)

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Scott and Sis. Rachel Hartzler on the passing of Sis. Rachel's grandmother, Sis. Velma Jean Ifft (Bro. Harvey-deceased, Forrest, IL).

We appreciate the ministers who preach the Word. This month we hosted Elder Bro. Randy

Kellenberger (Sis. Karen, Kansas City, MO), Bros. Leland Plattner (Zapata, TX), Ken Wuethrich (Sis. Lynn, Indianapolis, IN), Bob Beebe (Sis. Sue, South Bend, IN), and Jerry Baumann (Sis. Martha, Rittman, OH). We also had visitors from Peoria, IL.

The following is the minister schedule for August: 08/05/12 - Peoria, IL, 08/12/12 - San Diego, CA, 08/19/12 - Minneapolis, MN, 08/26/12 - Magdalena, MX.

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

TEXAS, DALLAS-FORT WORTH

As we just commemorated Father's Day, we are reminded of how blessed we are if we have had fathers that brought us up in the ways of the Lord. The greatest thing a father can do for his children is to love their mother.

We are thankful for our Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart who served us on June 10. Lord willing, we have service scheduled July 8 and August 19. 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 either: 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

TEXAS, ZAPATA Mary Plattner

We have reason to rejoice with Sis. Alisha Ramirez as we were able to travel to Magdalena, Mexico for her baptism. Alisha still lives in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico and worships with us in Zapata. Her husband Endy and daughter Juana were able to travel to Magdalena. This was special as Endy has not been able to come to Zapata for services. We thank the congregation at Magdalena for all the kindness and love shown to us while we were there.

Please notify us in Zapata if you are coming to South Texas. Most of our congregation is traveling during the summer months. There are not always services in Zapata as we travel to join those in Austin or McAllen.

VERMONT, NORTH CLARENDON

Nathan and Miriam Reutter

We express our gratitude and thankfulness for the ministers and their dear wives for being willing to minister in Vermont during May. Thank you to: Bro. Warren Zahner (Sis. Bonnie), Bro. Duane Reutter (Sis. Kay), and Bro. Dan Goric (Sis. Mary Lou) all from Rockville, CT. May is a time for remembering our dear mothers and all they do/did for us. Thank you moms!

Thank you for praying for and encouraging us on after the tragic loss of our dear niece, Virginia Lynn Schlauch (1980-2012). Virginia was the beloved daughter of Henry and Sis. Astrid Schlauch of Kitchener, ON, and granddaughter of Bro. Vladimir and Sis. Margaret Fortenbacher and Wilhelm and Elsie Schlauch. All who loved her

sadly miss her.

Our visiting ministers in June have been: Bro. Dan Goric (Sis. Mary Lou), Bro. Tom Bahler (Sis. LaNae), both of Rockville, CT; and Bro. Daren Metz (Sis. Rita, Gridley, IL). On the weekend that Bro. Daren and Sis. Rita were here, we enjoyed a blessed Saturday evening dinner and singing together.

On Tuesday, June 26, we hosted the first of this year's summer midweek services in our home. It was a blessed effort represented by four different churches! We thank Bro. Dan and Sis. Mary Lou Goric for coming to minister that evening. May God's blessing be with all our ministers who come to serve us. We are thankful for the dedication and commitment this takes on your behalf.

If you are interested in fellowshiping with us here in Vermont, and would like information about dates of services, please contact Bro. Chad and Sis. Jenny Virkler (802) 293-2724. We love fellowship with believers, whether it is during the week or on the weekend. Please let us know if you are planning to be in our area so we can accommodate you.

Service times:

Mid-week services (Contact local brethren)

Sunday Morning Service: 10:10 AM

Sunday Afternoon Service: 12:15 PM

Sunday school is held during morning service.

"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."

(Philippians 4:8)

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

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

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

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.

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

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

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.

Name _____
 Mr. Mrs. Miss
 Spouse _____
 Address _____
 City _____ St ____ Zip _____
 Home Ph _____
 Cell Ph _____
 Email _____

Please check preference:

- Haiti Guatemala
- 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

Visite Us Online at: www.acpublications.org



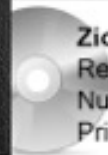
Bibles and Other
Christian Resources



805 W Cruger St, PO Box 52
Eureka, IL 61530
Office Phone: 309.467.3611

Zion's Harp

1999-2004



Zion's Harp CD 3 & 4
Recording of Zion's Harp Hymns
Numbers 33 through 64.
Price: \$15.00 per CD

Store Hours
Monday - Friday
8:30am - 11:30am (CST)

Order online, by phone or
fill out an order form at you
local church

Jamaica - Caribbean Board Projects

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

Data updated from www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-caribbean June11, 2012.

Project	Year 2012	Coordinator	Capacity
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 June11, 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@citiznet.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 June11, 2012.

Project	Year 2012	Coordinator	Capacity
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

PROBLEM SOLVING FOR CHALLENGES

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

BIBLICAL BASIS (what does God say about this topic?):

Proverbs 16:20 "He that handleth a matter wisely shall find good..."

Psalms 22:24 "For he hath not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted; neither hath he hid his face from him; but when he cried unto him, he heard."

What purpose does this concept have in the parenting wheel?

Challenges Have Occurred in Families from the Beginning: A by-product of living in a fallen world is that there are times when our children and families struggle with issues that aren't resolved through the normal channels of proper communication, discipleship, and instruction alone. These factors are important, but sometimes not sufficient to overcome all the challenges we endure over the course of our life. Families should not feel alone in these challenges.

- **Identify Resources:** Nehemiah was presented with the challenge of rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem (*Nehemiah: 1-6*). He faced lack of resources, resistance to change, and limited help. He didn't just blindly run into the city with some tools. Rather, he sought the Lord and then planned ahead by receiving support, materials, and insight on those who could help.
- **Go To the Power Source:** We must rely on the working of the Holy Spirit and His power to resolve challenges. Without tapping into the power that we have as followers of Jesus Christ, all attempts to overcome will ultimately fall short.
- **Keep Perspective:** Keeping a proper perspective when addressing challenges is one of the keys to victory. Consider Paul's perspective in *II Corinthians 4:16-18*, "For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal." God wants to draw us nearer to Him and to glorify His name through chal-

lenges while Satan desires for them to cripple and destroy us. Consider the passage below and how it relates to trials and God's desired outcome of challenges compared to Satan's desired outcome for them.

The battle between God and Satan during

times of trial: *I Peter 5:6-11*, "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you. To him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen."

This passage of scripture clearly shows that God is not absent through trial. Unfortunately, our adversary, Satan, is not absent through our trials either. Emotionally, we may feel alone, isolated, even abandoned at times. However, the truth of the Word tells us that God is present, aware, working, and giving us grace to overcome. Remember God's promise found in *Hebrews 13:5*, "...I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."

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

- **Problem-Solving Approach:** There are many ways to solve problems that our children may encounter. As parents, we want to seek wisdom to do the best we can for our children in times of need. The following are some helpful steps to apply during a problem-solving intervention.
1. **Seeking God Together:** When facing challenges, parents have the opportunity to model seeking God's guidance through prayer and reading the Word.
 2. **Being aware:** We need to be aware of what is going on within ourselves and the environment around us.
 3. **Defining the problem:** Define what the problem is concretely enough that it could be understood by an outside observer.
 4. **Identifying roles:** We engage in various roles through the week (work, family, church, etc). Once a challenge in the family has been defined, we can work to identify the individuals who will be involved in the problem-solving process and what each of their roles will be.
 5. **Looking at alternatives:** Begin to identify ways to address the problem. These usually aren't broad and general concepts, but more

specific actions to try. For example:

- I will call _____
- I will faithfully bring my burden to the Lord in prayer with the desire to accept the Lord's will and solicit His help and guidance.

6. **Giving up on the "silver bullet:"** When frustrated, overwhelmed parents sometimes have the tendency to jump from solution to solution chasing from one supposed "cure" to the next.
 7. **Planning:** Develop a plan of action. It can be helpful to write down the plan and date it.
 8. **Doing:** Carry out the decided action. Remember that most challenges didn't develop "overnight," so don't expect "overnight" success either.
 9. **Studying:** Look at the results of how the plan is going and determine if adjustments need to be made.
 10. **Taking Additional Action:** If what we are doing has not brought some relief to the situation or things have gotten worse, it is time to use what has been learned and begin a different intervention.
- **Some Challenges Persist Despite Taking Action:** Taking the right steps and following wise counsel does not guarantee that we will get the results we are hoping for. We live in a fallen world and some parents will have to grow towards worshipping and giving God glory in situations that cannot be fully understood or changed. In these situations, consider these principles from the Word:
 - It is Ok to Hurt: *Matthew 26:37-39, John 11:35*
 - Cry out to God: *Psalms 13, I Samuel 1:9-18*
 - Acceptance: *Philippians 4:11, II Corinthians 12:8-9*
 - Thankfulness: *Hebrews 13:15, I Thessalonians 5:18, Ephesians 5:18-20*
 - Encouraging Others in Similar Circumstances: *II Corinthians 1:3-4*
- How does this concept benefit children?**
- **Teaching Them Problem Solving Skills:** Working through challenges in the family is a way that parents can (and should) teach children how to apply biblical principles in their everyday lives.
 - **Pointing Them to Christ Through Trials:** God provided a bridge for our sin (a challenge we couldn't overcome on our own) through Jesus Christ. It is imperative that parents model Christ-likeness and become a bridge for helping their children deal with their challenges.

Sermon continued from Page 2

for us to contain. We can stop our hands from doing things, we can stop our feet from going places, but can we control our minds? That is what's important because that's where it originates. Most things don't happen on a spur of the moment. It's because we've allowed our mind to wander, and then an opportunity arises. In this case, someone dies. Oh, I've thought about it...but I never did it... and now it's happened. Jesus was the place they ran. A city of refuge is where they ran. Jesus is where we run and plead for forgiveness, and Jesus, through His mercy, will forgive us. The cities were there for them to go for refuge. Jesus is where we go for refuge.

Jesus started out in Matthew 13, and He gave the parable of the sower. He talked about the seed being sown, and we know who the sower is. The sower is Jesus Christ. The sower is the ministers on this pulpit. The sower is the Sunday school teachers in your church. The sower is you mothers who are teaching your young children. The sower is you fathers who are spiritually directing your home. Whoever is sharing the Word of God is a sower of the Word. It makes us all farmers, doesn't it? We are given the ability. Jesus said to take the gospel to all the world (St. Mark 16:15). In Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the uttermost parts of the world – that is our job! The missionaries are sowers. What are they sowing? What are we sowing? What are you sowing? There's a song, *"Seeds of goodness we are sowing in the hearts of man today. Bless it, Lord, that it may prosper, and bear fruit for harvest day."* (Hymns of Zion #46, *The Golden Harvest*). We are, or should be, sowing the Word of God.

I'm not a farmer, and I don't understand everything a farmer does. But, if a man came to you as a farmer and told you he has a seed you can sow, and this seed, let's just say it's corn, will produce five hundred bushels to the acre. That's how good this seed is. You plant this seed, and you'll get five hundred bushels to the acre. The problem is your ground. You need to work with your ground. You need to fertilize it and to till it. You need to plow it. You need to harrow it. You need to knife it – whatever farmers do to their ground. He said there's nothing wrong with this seed. This seed is perfect! It is pure! Brothers and sisters, this Word, the seed, is perfect. "The Word of God is perfect converting the soul" (Psalm 19:7). This

seed is perfect! Our job is to share it and to spread it.

So Jesus said the sower went out, sowing the seed, sharing the Word. That Word went out, and it fell on the wayside, it fell on stony places, it fell among thorns, and it fell on good ground. It fell on better ground, and it fell on best ground. What made the difference? The Word was identical. The Word was the same. It was the ground it fell on. This morning before you came to church, did you prepare your heart to receive the Word? Do we take time before we read the Bible to have a prayer? "God, I'm about to open Thy Word. I know it's pure, and I know it's true. Prepare my heart and my mind to receive it." That's what makes the difference.

You will never find the Word is bad, that the Word is poor, or the reason I don't have much fruit is because the Word is just not doing its job. That seed is perfect! The problem is the ground in our heart and in our mind. It needs to be dug up. It needs to be turned over. It needs to be dethatched – whatever it is we're working with. Jesus said our heart is what makes the difference in everything. It's not what enters into a man it's what comes out of a man – that's where it all is (St. Matthew 15:17-20). Oh, He used so many different analogies for how our heart has to be: clay, moldable, the potter should be able to spread, press, mold, and shape our heart. A farmer is able to go in, cultivate it, prepare, fertilize, and get the ground ready to receive God's Word.

The disciples asked what it meant, and Jesus said when the seed falls on the wayside, basically it falls on the sidewalk; it falls on the road. There's no earth, and the birds see that seed. They just fly down, take it, and they fly away. (v.4) That's what Satan does. That's why we can sit in church, sometimes for years, and it's just like when the seed falls and bounces right off. Then Satan sees it lying there, and he grabs it and pulls it away. We wonder sometimes how could this person sit in church for twenty years or forty years and never receive the Word! It's because the ground is not prepared. It's just like throwing it on a concrete sidewalk. Satan pulls it away; that seed has no chance of penetrating the ground, that soil, that sidewalk.

Next he said there's the stony ground. There's little soil, very little soil there. (v.5) Maybe over the course of weeks or months or years, a little bit of dirt has fallen on top

of some rocks, and that's where the seed fell. It got underneath just a little bit of dirt. As soon as it starts to grow, the roots can't penetrate; there are rocks directly underneath the soil. That little guy will spring up really quickly because it gets warm fast, but as soon as the sun comes up, it falls over and dies.

Is that how sometimes we are or have been in the past? Maybe we'll go somewhere, and we have, not to make light, a religious experience. I don't want to make fun because it's not, but sometimes you hear it was a really neat time; I accepted Jesus; it was the most wonderful weekend! But, they never got in and dug up that ground! It was great; it was neat – they spring up, but as soon as the sun comes out – I didn't buy into this. This isn't what I was thinking. All of a sudden, that little plant just falls over.

I would imagine you could go out to any field anywhere and throw seeds down, but if you haven't cultivated that field, raked it, plowed it, prepared it, and made sure it has at least a foot or two – I don't know much good soil you need to have under plants – but that's what we have to do, and so sometimes it can fall on ground that looks good. There's a little bit of dirt on there, but there's just no way for it to penetrate because the heart hasn't been prepared. It falls apart. He hath no root and persecution arises and he's offended (v.21).

Then there's that which is thrown among the thorns (v.7). Brothers and sisters in Christ and friends of the Truth who are here today, I think this relates so much to you and me living in the United States of America. It falls among the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, all the clutter we have in our lives. Oh, it can grow there! The soil's been prepared for the most part, but you have so many other things growing right next to it. I remember as a little boy in Gridley, IL, where I was raised until I was nine or ten, we'd go out in the fields, and the biggest thing I'd seen in the field sometimes was a milkweed. You'd go out, break it over, and you'd get this sappy stuff all over your hands. It grew bigger than the stuff next to it. Jesus said "...the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches..." v.22. Brothers and sisters, if there's deceitfulness of riches, it's right now and it's right here in the United States of America.

Sermon continued on Page 48

Sermon continued from Page 47

One of the biggest problems I think we have is the deceitfulness of riches. I can pretty much do everything. I'm covered. I have life insurance. I have health insurance. I have car insurance. I have home insurance. I have malpractice insurance. You have insurance that can pretty much cover anything. My kids have insurance. We have school insurance. I have insurance so if I buy a car and I die before the car is paid off, someone will pay it off.

We get up in the morning, we have a home, we have food in abundance, and we have basically whatever we want! All of a sudden our days start filling up with more and more things. The center plant in our life, that should be Jesus Christ and where His Word is growing, has all these other things growing around it – the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, all the stuff, all the baggage we start piling on ourselves. They choke the Word, and it becomes unfruitful. Are there things in your life, brothers and sisters, that are choking the Word? We have a duty and a responsibility to take care of our families and ourselves. May God give us wisdom to know where that stops and where the cares of this world start.

We can't say don't do this and don't do that and don't go here and don't go there and put up all these barriers. There are guidelines we should live by, yes, but there are things we have to do in life to get by. In the United States, we can hardly get by without a house. We can hardly get by without a car. There are some things that you have to have, and you have to work to be able to afford those things. You have to have food. So we just need to pray that God will give us wisdom to know when it's too much and when we have to say no.

What do we say "no" to? I have to go help somebody because they need help. Oh, but I'm supposed to go to this event for whatever. Well, I'm not going to be able to help anybody because I have this other thing I have to do. May God give us wisdom to make the right choices in our life.

Then He gets to the seed falling on the good ground (v.8). There's good news. God's seed, His Word, will not return void. He said it falls on some ground, and some ground brings thirty fold. What's that? It triples? Some ground brings sixty fold, and some brings a hundred fold. Maybe that is thirty percent, sixty percent, and one hundred per-

cent. Whatever it is, He's saying that not everybody is going to produce the same. He's given talents to every person.

Everyone has received a talent. Everyone has a duty in the body of Christ. You might not be the ear, the eye, the hand, or the foot. You might be a toe or a fingernail. Whatever it is, we've been given a job to do in the body of Christ, and the body cannot operate without us. I don't know how we'd get by without our fingernails. I use mine for so many things. You open up something. You try to peel something. What part of the body are you? When you aren't there, how much are you missed? If you ever drop something on the end of your finger, you are happy for your fingernail. It protects your finger.

We all have responsibilities, and as a body, when ones of us hurts don't we all hurt? Or should? Do you ever get something stuck under your fingernail? If it goes in a little ways the rest of your body knows it pretty quickly. We protect each other, don't we? What does the hand do when it sees trouble coming to the eye? A rock is thrown by a mower. Somehow, and I have no idea how, our eye sees it that fast. The next thing you know, your hand is up there taking the force of the blow that would cripple our eye. Why? Because we're a body of Christ.

Our body works together to protect itself. When I get hurt, I go to the wound. Brothers and Sisters, we need each other. When we're hurt, we jump to the aid of each other. We're willing to throw ourselves in the line of fire to protect an injured part of our body or a part that would get injured. That's the body of Christ! Jesus is the head, and we are the members. Some of us produce a hundred fold, some sixty fold, and some thirty fold, and that too is not the seed, it's the ground. Some of us work more diligently at preparing our hearts than others. Some maybe work more diligently in keeping the weeds out, keeping the fertilizer there, and continuing to put more seed into the ground. Jesus told them that's what it was.

Then He told them about how the tares and the wheat grew together, and they will until the Lord comes back again. There's always going to be sin in this world. There are going to be unbelievers in this world, and there are going to be believers. Jesus said when I come back again will I find faith on the earth? (St. Luke 18:8) I sure pray that He does. Yet He said let them grow together. Sometimes we ask, "Lord why don't you just

come and get rid of all the evil people?" How much nicer it would be for us who are Christians, for us who are the body of Christ. You know, at one point, you were not a part of the body of Christ. At one point, we were the evil people.

I think of how the Apostle Paul persecuted the church. He said himself He did everything within his power to stop the name of Jesus Christ from being preached. He persecuted people to the point of death, and wouldn't the believers at that time have said, 'God, get rid of Saul! Kill him! Make him go away! He's destroying the church! He's destroying the family of God!' That's not how God works – fortunately for us. Even after Paul was converted, the believers were tentative. We've heard what he's done. Barnabas was there, brought him in, and introduced him. God changes people. He changed you and me.

So instead of wishing someone would go away or get out of our life, or saying, "Lord, how much easier my life would be if this person just did not even exist," what does God say? Pray for those who spitefully use you (St. Matthew 5:44). How do you know if five years from now that person isn't going to be one of the greatest Christian speakers or witnesses for Christ in the world? That's what happened to Paul. God converts us. We love each other. We pray for each other. We pray God can turn around those who spitefully use us the same way He turned us around.

He said *"...The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened."* v.33. They tried stamping out the name of Christ. They tried snuffing it out, and yet still souls are turning to Jesus Christ two thousand years later. It's being taken to foreign countries. It's being taken to the uttermost parts of the world. The Word has been translated into I don't know how many hundreds of languages. God's Spirit and His Word are reaching the people of this world, drawing them to Jesus Christ, showing them there is a Savior who is the Son of God. It's growing: the good seed, the field, and the tares.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field." v.44. How much do you own? How much do I own? If we put everything

we own together, does it amount to fifty dollars? Does it amount to fifty thousand? Does it amount to fifty million dollars? How much would a man give in exchange for his soul? Jesus said the kingdom of heaven, salvation, and eternity with me and my Father in heaven forever is like taking everything you have and selling it or giving it away (St. Luke 18:22). Everything! That's just not financially. That's your heart, soul, mind, and all! Give it to Him. If you do that then you'll get this treasure –this pearl of great price.

There was a saying years ago – when you can't breathe, nothing else matters. Think about that! When you can't breathe, nothing else matters. There is nothing more important to you than your next breath when you have none. When it's our time to die – be it in a traffic accident, heart attack, stroke, old age, cancer – at that moment or just before you die, there is nothing else more important to you than the salvation of your soul. Nothing! Nothing and no one! That could sound cold, but it's not. When it comes down to it, Brothers and Sisters, it is you and Jesus Christ and the relationship you have with Him. There is nothing that matters more. Someday we will be asking, "What will He do with me?"

We have an opportunity now to prepare our heart to receive God's Word. We have an opportunity now to fall on our knees before Him and declare Him our Lord and Saviour. We have an opportunity now to shout to the world or to stand in the waters of baptism before a church and say 'I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. I believe He died on the cross for my sins and the sins of all mankind' – a testimony that Jesus Christ is your Lord and your God. When that day comes we have a relationship with the Saviour. Can you imagine what that day will be?

But, as Jesus put out the tares, can you imagine what the day will be if we've never bowed the knee to Christ, if our ground was too shallow, if we allowed the cares of this world to choke out the Word, or if our ground was never tilled at all?

May Jesus and the Holy Spirit of God work with us and give us the grace we need so the soil of our heart can be good, God's Word can be planted, we can bring forth sixty, some thirty, or some one hundred fold, and that our relationship with Jesus Christ would be strong so that when we see Him, we hear those words, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

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:
Printed Sermons
102 Lake View Drive
Fairbury, IL 61739
(815) 692-3616
printedsermons@gmail.com

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.co



REMEMBERING

Our Spiritual Heritage

The life story of former Elder Earnest Graf, Sr., continues. He was an Elder at the Akron, Ohio church for many years.

Working on the Farm

As there was then no work to be obtained in factories, I hired out for a year to a farmer on Copley Road named Nathaniel Roush. My wages were \$ 180 per year. This was a dairy farm, and as there were no milk cooling facilities the milk was peddled two times a day in the summer months. During this period we milked at 4:00 in the morning and at 2:00 in the afternoon. Milk was sold for 5 cents a quart. Although people told me that Mr. Roush was the hardest man (far and near) to work for, I really did not find him so.

He took a liking to me because I never argued with him about work, but tried to do it just as he said. The horses and mules must be curried and brushed every morning and every part of their body gone over whether they worked or not. He had two other hired men, six horses and four mules.

Business Partnership

As Mr. and Mrs. Roush were getting old, they proposed to rent out the upland, dairy, and pasture to a tenant, and the muck land to such as wished to raise vegetables. So I, in partnership with Bro. Sam Baumgartner, took about eight acres of this kind of ground on a share basis -- Mr. Roush to furnish ground and equipment, and we the labor.

As we were inexperienced in growing and marketing, times were hard and money was scarce. Thus, our returns for the year were barely

sufficient to pay our expenses. We were boarding at my sister Elizabeth Roth's. So I concluded I could earn just as much by working as a gardener, and earn some money besides.

A Day Laborer Again

A place was offered me at Louis Lehmann's, whose residence was in town on the corner of West Buchtel and Water Streets. Here I boarded and slept along with two other hired men, and every day we walked or drove out to the gardens. Daily wages were from 35 cents to \$ 1.25. I was soon placed in charge of field operations, and thereafter received \$ 22.00 per month. The work day was from 5 a.m. until 9.00 p.m. except Saturday, when work was stopped at 5.00 p.m.

Other evenings, the time after supper was spent bunching and tying vegetables which had been brought in on the big wagon for the next day's sales. Mr. Lehmann spent almost his entire time peddling on the streets of Akron. During the winter I was the only hired help, devoting the time to working in the Green House. Mr. Lehmann was considerably older than his wife, and they were Catholics without any children. I saved money and applied them on a lot in South Akron which I had bought while working for Mr. Roush. I worked here for something over two years. It was not a home-like place, merely a place to eat and sleep and work. A longing came over me for a home of my own where love and peace would dwell. Having been among strangers for a long time, I knew I would be happier in such a

home.

Seeking A Wife And Family

One day while prayerfully dwelling on this theme, the way was shown me plainly how this could be brought about with Sis. Mary Vongunten as the central figure. Since I felt it was of the Lord, I went about taking the necessary steps, waiting only long enough to ask and receive approval of my sister Elizabeth Roth, who had always been like a mother to me.

In a few weeks I received a favorable response (to my proposal), and we were married on May 9, 1897, by Elder Henry Schweir. I was exactly 23 years and six months old on that day. Mr. Lehmann agreed to give me work by the day, but allowed me a week's vacation after our wedding. We spent it visiting relatives and members in Wayne County. Bro. Joseph Hartzler had a horse and buggy at his shop at Five Points, and this he offered me the use of on this wedding trip which was a very simple one, although I doubt whether any couple, rich or poor, were ever happier than we were.

We returned with the buggy full of presents which consisted of food articles for our new household. By this time I had my lot paid for and a little over \$200 in the bank. The only house I could find near my work was one with nine rooms and eight acres of ground on Copley Road and Grace Avenue, but part of it had been torn down. We furnished four rooms and in order to get full use of the land, I bought a cow.

Edited by Bro. Perry Klopfenstein

Next Issue: Bro. Graf tells of his newly-married life.



The Light of Hope

The Mind

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

The mind is a very important part of the human body. One definition of the word "mind" is "the processes which originate in the brain". The mind is the means by which we think and make decisions. Proverbs 23:7 tells us, "For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he". It is very important what we think, and how we use our minds.

In Nehemiah 4:6 we read, "So built we the wall; and all the wall was joined together unto the half thereof: for the people had a mind to work". At that time the people were thinking, "We're going to get this wall built. By the grace of God no one will be able to stop us." With that kind of thinking going on in the minds of the people, the wall was built.

"But we have the mind of Christ," is written in I Corinthians 2:16. The more we can think as Christ thought, the better off we will be. From the Scriptures we understand that He was always thinking, "I am here to do the Father's will".

What influences that which we think? Is it not what we see, hear, read and write? Let's be very careful so that what we do is for our edification, or our increase in spirituality. I have in mind that even our secular work can be for our edification, if we have a mind to make it so.

In Paul's farewell to the church at Corinth he wrote, "Be of one mind, live in peace". (2 Corinthians 13:11) It isn't likely that Paul meant we must all think the same about everything. Possibly it means that we must all agree to live by the Bible in accordance with New Testament teachings. What do you think?

"In lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves." (Philippians 2:3) How and what we think has to do with humility. A part of humility is to have the tendency to think highly of others and to give God the glory for anything we can do or have done.

"For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." (2 Timothy 1:7) God has given us the ability to think and make wise decisions. How wonderful that is. Let's use our minds to think good thoughts and to do good things, which brings peace of mind and a closer relationship among the brethren in the church.

The first and great commandment is "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind". (Matthew 22:37) Here the word "heart" indicates the seat of emotions, the word "soul" indicates the non-physical part of man, and "mind" indicates your thinking process. We should love God with feeling, spiritually, and by the way we think. We should show our love for Him by the way we live.

It has come to my mind that at the present time while we are still living here on earth, our mind or our thinking processes are carried out by our brains. It is through our brains that we are cognizant of what is going on around us. I have come to believe that when we die or are separated from our bodies, we will somehow by the power of God, be given a spiritual brain to carry out the processes of the mind.

In Corinthians 12, Paul writes

about a man above 14 years ago which was caught up to the third heaven, which is above the stars where God is. He writes that he doesn't know whether this man, who was Paul himself, was in the body or out of the body but we can be quite sure that he was out of the body when he had this experience. It is interesting to note that Paul writes of what he heard on this trip to the third heaven. He writes in verse 4, "How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter". If he was not in the body at that time, he did not have use of his physical brain, the source of his mind, but still he heard unspeakable words. He could hear and I believe he could also see. There must be some incredible way in which God gives us a mind even when we are not in the body. This interests me, it comforts me, and encourages me. It should encourage us to use our minds in a good way, for the glory of God and the Lord Jesus Christ. Our minds are very important and should be carefully maintained and controlled. Our minds are the seats of our emotions, the means by which we make decisions, and the control panel for repentance and living for Christ. Let's guard our minds with all diligence.

"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." (Philippians 4:8)

The Silver Lining
1523 County Road 400N
Congerville, IL 61729

*If my people, which are called by my name,
shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my
face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will
I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin,
and will heal their land. 2 Chronicles 7:14*

