

The Silver Lining

*Trust in the LORD with all thine
heart; and lean not unto thine
own understanding.*

*In all thy ways acknowledge him,
and He shall direct thy paths.
Proverbs 3:5,6*

August 2012

Sermon by Bro. Randy Beer, Milford, IN

2 Samuel 24 and 2 Corinthians 8

I would like to greet each one of you this morning. It certainly is a privilege to come around God's Word. The thought came to me this week that at times I find myself trying to fix something, and I wish I had a manual because I'm kind of a poor mechanic. I have to think that as Christians we have a tremendous blessing because we have the manual for life – it's right here in God's Word. There are many different struggles we can have in life – concerns, need of direction, maybe even need of help to be all we should be in the service of our God. It's all in God's Word.

I do business with and buy stuff from a man, and his son is one of the engineers for the company that he sells equipment for. Whenever I have a problem, and he doesn't know the answer, he can call his son because his son helped design it. I thought we are in the same position. Through the new covenant that God made with us, the veil of the temple was rent. That means we have direct access to the heart of God, the One who created and designed each one of us in His image. He created each one of us as individuals.

So today, let's come with anticipation of what God would provide through His Word. Hopefully with open hearts and minds, we would allow the Spirit to work in each one of us today to bring about that which would be pleasing in His sight, would be needful for our undying soul, and would prepare us so we would be ready to meet Him when He comes to claim His own.

We read what is maybe a familiar chapter to most of us (1 Samuel 24), and yet there are good precepts and things to think about. David was a

man after God's own heart, wasn't he? I hope each one of us have a desire to be a man or a woman, a boy or a girl, whatever our lot would be, after God's own heart – to have that desire to be blest of God, not of our own righteousness or because we are good, but because of the grace that God gives that we can be righteous in His sight. We see the example of David, and even as we discussed last night, what do we do when we fall short of God's perfect will in our life? What do we do? How do we handle it?

I have a little struggle with the first verse. I'm not sure I totally understand when it says the Lord "... *moved David against them to say, Go, number Israel and Judah.*" We read in God's Word that God does not tempt us with evil. It says every man is drawn away of his own lust and enticed (James 1:13-14). It comes from us allowing Satan that little foothold in our life. David asked Joab to go number the people. Joab questioned if he was sure, and David told him to go number the people (v.2-3). We read it took nine months and twenty days (v.8).

I have to think, "Why did David want to number the people?" We have to examine our own life. What is it that we trust in? What is it we stand on that gives us confidence in life? Do we have to number what we have to feel secure? Do we have to have something that we can see, touch, and be proud of, maybe? Are we willing to lay our hands in the hand of God and trust He will provide, He loves His own, He's going to care for His own, and put a foundation there that cannot be shaken if we

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The Silver Lining
1523 County Road 400N
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Ph: 309-965-2626
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*"And these things we write unto you, that your joy may be full."
(1 John 1:4)*

August 2012

Light from the Word

The Joy of Overcoming



Writings based on God's Word

*"In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."
(John 16:33)*

Jesus has overcome the world! We may have tribulation in the world. We may face temptations and trials. We may feel weak and sometimes overcome by the world, helpless to defeat Satan by ourselves. But be of good cheer, Jesus has overcome the world. If we die with Him, we can overcome, and shall live with Him also.

*"It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him."
(2 Tim. 2:11)*

No matter what we label them, habitual sins and shortcomings keep us from living in real joy. Overcoming is only possible when deep down inside we reject sin with a finality that says we are done with it. It includes a complete rejection of all sin--from Adultery to Zealotry. There is little joy in overcoming only the obvious sins. James reminds us that if we commit any sin, we are guilty of all the law (Jam. 2:10-11). Praise God for mercy and forgiveness to the repentant soul (Heb. 4:16, 1 John 1:9-10; 2 John 2:1-2), but how much greater joy when we do not allow sin to have dominion over us, because we are not under the law, but under grace (Rom. 6:14).

There is a reason that the Lord God Almighty gave the law to Moses and the Israelites. The actions that were forbidden are sources of hurt and pain. Consider any of the works of the flesh, and it is clear that each is considered sin because it hurts someone. Greed motivates one to benefit at the expense of others. Sexual sins pollute one's own body (1 Cor. 6:18). Telling lies, or even just partial truths, leads to mistrust. Thinking the worst of others leads to broken relationships and is the fruit of believing imaginations and lies that we tell ourselves (2 Cor. 10:5). These are just a few examples of the many different ways that not overcoming leads to sadness and hurt.

On the other hand, overcoming these sins changes everything and brings real joy.

*"And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full. This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: 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. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us."
(1 John 1:4-10)*

In His letters to the seven churches Jesus promised eternal joy to "*him that overcometh*" (Rev. 2 & 3).

There is no greater joy than to know that through Christ Jesus, the Living God has enabled victory over temptation (1 Cor. 10:13). In overcoming sin and self, we find ourselves serving instead of striving, giving instead of taking, loving rather than rejecting, extending mercy rather than judging, and confessing rather than covering up. If we fail, recognizing and confessing our sins and turning away from them is the first step toward restoring joy.

James writes that it is our selfish desires that lead to sin and strife (Jam. 1:14-15; 4:1). If it is our own lusts that lead us to sin, then overcoming can only become reality if we are dead to our own lusts. This is the preaching of Christ. This is the preaching of the Cross. It may seem too simple, but it isn't. If we die to self, we overcome our desires. If we indulge our self, we foster and promote sin. If we sin, we lose our joy. The "good news" is not only that Jesus died for our sins, but that if we die with Him; we shall also reign with Him. It is in dying to self that we obtain the power to live--and to live with joy! This is the second step toward joy.

"For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God." (Col. 3:3) "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness;

but unto us which are saved it is the power of God." (1 Cor. 1:18)

Some of us may justify our errors by counting our service to others as a counterbalance to sin. Others may justify a lack of service to others by emphasis on withdrawing from the world. The fullness of joy comes not only through dying to self, but also through loving and serving others for the right reasons. As believers we are called to *fill* our lives with love and service to others, if we hope to experience the full joy of salvation. This is in stark contrast to the man who cleaned out his house and left it swept, garnished, and empty, permitting the evil spirit who had been cast out to return and bringing seven others with him (Matt. 12:43-45). Replacing the empty self-motivated works of the flesh with fruitful Spirit-motivated love and service is the third step toward joy.

It will not bring joy to simply re-label greed as "good stewardship," judgment as "holiness," nor apathy as "tolerance and love." Purity of heart blooms most readily when we are engaged actively in serving others as directed by the Holy Spirit. If we serve, we will have little time for selfish pursuits. Abundant self-indulgence enabled by prosperity along with failure to help the poor was the sin of Sodom (Eze. 16:49).

The joy of the overcomer is found through: recognition of sin, confession, dying to self, turning away from sin and serving others. Such joy fosters even more joy and provides the strength to go on in the face of difficult tests of faith--and even through persecution. Paul concludes two of his letters with similar thoughts: "*Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might*" (Eph. 6:10)

*"Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you, to me indeed is not grievous, but for you it is safe."
(Phil. 3:1)*

Perhaps he knew that overcoming brings joy, and joy brings strength, and strength overcomes, and that "*The joy of the Lord is your strength*" (Neh. 8:10).



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

Jamaica Update

Vision

God is glorified by our obedience and love for each other and by transformed lives resulting in a healthy indigenous body of believers and the praise and thanksgiving of those we minister to in His name.

Mission

- To live and share the gospel and make disciples with emphasis to the deaf community.
- To aid the destitute and helpless and teach the whole counsel of God following the command and example of Christ. (MATT 28; ISA 61)

About Jamaica

With a difficult history and continuing poverty and suffering, Jamaica is also defined by a beautiful landscape, wonderful people and innumerable assets. World Relief is focused on serving the physical and spiritual needs of the deaf, orphaned and indigent. This is being done through schools, health service facilities, deaf ministries, and community outreaches.

Discipleship with the deaf

Basic Biblical truths of the gospel, like faith, forgiveness, and justification can be especially challenging to communicate as we conduct Bible studies and discipleship programs for the deaf in Jamaican Sign Language (JSL). Please pray the Holy Spirit will continue to lead and bless these endeavors.

Helping the helpless

Blossom Garden Orphanage

Provides care and protection for about seventy children, up to the age

of about seven, who are wards of the state. World Relief assists in this work by providing material aid such as rice, beans, bedding, personal hygiene products, cleaning supplies and other common use items.

Infirmaries – (Manchester, St. James, and Trelawny)

Jamaica has an infirmary for each parish charged with caring for the indigent. The infirmaries typically serve between 70 and 100 residents. The government's goal for the infirmaries is to ensure that physical, mental, recreational, and spiritual needs are met. World Relief assists in this work by providing rice, beans, bedding, personal hygiene products, cleaning supplies, and other common use items. These items are prepared by the brethren at WR distribution centers.

Developmental programs

Waldensia Primary School

This public school serves the rural community of Sherwood Content. The school and students are served through school supplies and personal hygiene items.

Caribbean Christian Center for the Deaf (CCCD)

There are three CCCD schools in Jamaica that were established to minister to the deaf and those with limited hearing. They are located in Kingston, Knockpatrick, and Montego Bay. World Relief sends aid and work teams to help the schools.

Jamaica Deaf Village

As part of CCCD, the concept for the deaf village is to provide a place for the adult Christian deaf to be able to grow in their walk with the Lord. If there is a need, they also help find a place to work and live.

Rehabilitation programs

Granville Place of Safety

A government-run institution located in Falmouth that serves as a holding facility for girls who cannot return home to their parents. These girls have committed offenses, have been abandoned, have been abused or have gone beyond the control of their parents. World Relief serves this school by providing school supplies and personal hygiene products.

New Beginnings Boys School

New Beginnings ministers to street children and children with difficult beginnings. The school is committed to giving boys with a difficult childhood a new beginning. They operate a remedial school and a residential mentoring program. World Relief has provided material aid for the school for several years.

Work teams

Historically, teams have worked primarily at CCCD to assist in building or remodeling campus structures at their deaf schools and Jamaica Deaf Village (JDV). As a result of better health care, student enrollment has declined. And as CCCD's need for construction continues to diminish, there are new opportunities for construction work teams at the infirmaries and orphanages being supported by our material aid programs.

Gratitude

On behalf of the brothers and sisters serving in Jamaica, we express our appreciation to the brotherhood for supporting the ministry in Jamaica with their prayers, funds, and work team participation.

Thank you and God bless you.



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

Progress, Potential and Ongoing Needs in Eastern Europe

Just as the warmth of springtime replaced a very difficult winter in Eastern Europe, Nazarene believers there rejoice as new converts grow roots of faith, and church construction progresses to make room for those who would believe and worship. Nonetheless, ongoing needs are evident as families struggle to provide.

Progress in Ukraine

Thankfully, the believers in Ukraine are not currently experiencing religious persecution and are blessed to assemble freely to worship. God is also blessing their congregations with growing numbers. They are thankful for the new church building at Dimca where there are twenty-eight converts.

Other Ukrainian congregations are also experiencing spiritual growth with many converts and have numerous unconverted people attending their services. The glorious gospel of salvation is being proclaimed in this land where it was previously suppressed. Plans are also underway for a new church building at Cahor and remodeling at Mahala.

Economic conditions in Ukraine, however, continue to deteriorate even as many other European economies spiral downward. Unemployment is very high making it difficult for brethren to find work. As a result, many young families find it hard to provide for their needs. Some go to other countries to work and send money home to their families. The past winter was

especially brutal (40 below zero for a month), but they are thankful all the believers survived. Much of the winter wheat failed due to the extreme cold and needed to be replanted with financial help from World Relief.

As a result of the World Relief special collection last year, funds were made available to purchase much needed farm equipment, which is shared within congregations. Working with the brethren to come up with an equitable plan, funds were provided to purchase three new ear corn pickers and repair three old ones. However, due to the rising prices of quality used combine harvesters, funding was provided to repair rather than replace these aging machines used to harvest wheat and soybeans.

They also requested funds to buy a new corn planter and a used corn head for a combine. This equipment, provided through your donations, enables them to grow their own food, raise cash crops, and also raise livestock. They have requested their sincere appreciation be expressed to the brethren in the US for their generous support.

Aid to Romania

In Romania, the economic situation for many believers also continues to worsen. A growing majority there are elderly for whom pensions of approximately \$100/month are inadequate to provide even the basic needs of life. The products they need to buy cost as much as they would here in the US and the taxes are very high. They deeply appreciate the alms assistance and medical supplies from World Relief and hope that those willing to help will continue to assist as the Lord

provides. World Relief continues to provide monthly food packages which are helpful to elderly and dependent believers in Romania, along with numerous small animal projects and self-help projects.

Clothing distribution provides assistance to believers across Eastern Europe, with the greatest need being that of children's clothing and for elderly brethren. The latest sea container of clothing procured in the USA at discount prices and packed at Rittman was recently shipped. There was much joy among the brethren, young and old, as they worked together to restock the clothing distribution facility.



Auxiliary building needing renovation

A request has also been received for assistance in renovation of an old former church structure at Arad, Romania. Currently used for storage, this would provide needed fellowship space for meals and church-related activities.

Nazarene believers across Eastern Europe extend greetings to the brethren in the US and convey their great appreciation for the aid being provided through World Relief. May God bless all for their loving generosity in supporting these needs. It truly does make a difference.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

www.achh.org

The greatest weakness of all weaknesses is to fear too much to appear weak. Jacques Benigne Bossuet

I recently came across this quote and found it thoughtful. As it's written, it doesn't seem like it is completely accurate. Our greatest weakness could be described as the sin-filled nature we possess. Even still, perhaps this quote can be further inspected. In life, it seems we have an inherent desire to never "appear weak" or at least to always have an answer to each question. Sometimes it seems it's unfortunately difficult to say, "I don't know".

When I see our residents, for the most part, I don't see them struggle with this particular "weakness". I don't see them strive to appear superiorly knowledgeable on this or that. In our world today, there is often a need for a caveat when presenting a strong statement. So it seems important to state, "there is no dishonor in striving for understanding, knowledge and wisdom". To the contrary, it is a paramount desire of each Christian to understand truth and seek God's wisdom. So therein is the challenge many a man face. The desire to understand truth and grow in wisdom, while battling a human nature which desires us to not appear "weak." And further, the quote contains an additional word, "fear", and specifically states "to fear too much to appear weak." Where there is fear, there is self-focus and an absence of trust.

As we consider our residents, they don't "fear too much to appear weak". God made those we are called to serve in a manner in which

they inherently look to others for direction and care. It seems they have a God-given nature of trust. It is necessary that in life we have individuals we can trust to lead us and provide safe guidance. A blessing God has given to those of us who work at ACHH is that we have the ability to observe and learn from those we serve. As our residents lead lives of utter trust, the lack of fear, the lack of self-focus and the lack of wanting to appear all-knowing are perhaps a few of their greatest strengths.

May we look to God to help us grow our strength out of our weaknesses.

"Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong."
(2 Corinthians 12:10)

GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

**Jenny Bertsch,
Adoption Case Worker**

"But now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine."
(Isaiah 43:1)

When I think of the word Redemption, I think of exchanging the broken pieces of our lives for the cause of Christ. I praise God that He gave us the ultimate redemption through Christ who died on the cross to redeem us from our sins. If we are honest with ourselves, we must all admit that we have bad things in our lives that we need to exchange for Christ's higher purposes. Maybe we were abused as a child, maybe we experienced

a pregnancy outside of marriage, maybe we were focused on drugs, money, or our own selfish desires, maybe we experienced an accident or serious illness, maybe someone caused us great hurt and we struggle with forgiveness. Satan wants us to be discouraged by the pain of our past and by our present trials. He tells us that we do not have worth before God because of the choices we have made. He tells us that God cannot use us because of our illness, disability, or weakness.

God's message is so different. He wants us to give Him our pain so He can give us His healing and forgiveness. He often allows us to experience trials to motivate us to get our eyes off ourselves and focus on His higher calling for our lives. As we focus on redemption, we must remember that God does not call the qualified, He qualifies those He calls. May all of us follow Christ in such a way that His name can be glorified and others can be drawn to a relationship with Him.

At Gateway Woods Family Services, we challenge the children and families we serve to move beyond their broken pieces. We work to show Christ's love, forgiveness, healing, and redemption. We encourage them to exchange their sin for an overcoming life in Christ. We praise God that He continues to use us for His work.

News:

Our 36th Annual Auction will have come and gone when you read this. We are very thankful for all the great donations and wonderful support we receive from all who attend and contribute to this great event for our on-going work with at-risk children. Look for more news in the next issues of The Silver Lining and The Gate Post.

We are always sad to see all of our volunteers leave after the auction is finished. We are so thankful for those that give their time and talents to help us better serve children and families. We would like to say a special thanks to Bro. Tyler Knochel, Bro. Brock Williamson and Sis. Christa Gasser for volunteering as our summer staff this year.

As many of you know, we said farewell to Bro. Tim Sauder at this year's auction. Bro. Tim has decided to leave Gateway Woods and move on to other things. He has served for 27 years at Gateway, both as Administrator and in Public Relations. His wisdom, experience and insight will surely be missed. We were sad to say goodbye to Sis. Lisa Zaagman at the end of July. Sis. Lisa has served as the Assistant Houseparent in Maple House and has decided to move on from Gateway. We wish Lisa the best and will miss her presence on campus.

We are very excited to welcome Sis. Sarena Wahl and Sis. Abbie Wiegand as Assistant Houseparents! Both joined the Gateway team in late July. Sis. Sarena is assisting in the Pine House, while Sis. Abbie is joining the Maple House. We are grateful to God for providing us with a wonderful Staff. We currently have two career positions available. We have an opening for an Illinois Adoption Manager and a Foster Care Program Manager. For more information, see the notices in this month's edition of The Silver Lining or visit the Career Opportunities page on our website at: www.gatewaywoods.org/supporters/career-opportunities. We trust that God will continue to provide qualified, mature brothers and sisters who will serve Him in a ministry that is 'Turning Lives Around'. Perhaps this includes you!

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

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

July 2012 seemed to fly by. I can't believe we're going to begin the school year in just a few short weeks. We've had a decently hot summer here in Alabama with the beginning of the month averaging around 103 degrees (not including the heat index). Then we had a solid week of rain which rejuvenated everything. The grass and gardens are green once again.

We have had some visitors this month from IL: Sis. Deb Blunier and Whitley (Eureka) and Sis. Margie Heintz (Champaign). The kids enjoyed spending time with these ladies. Thank you so much for your hard work and the love you've shown us here at the preschool.

Ms. Kalla's students are still travelling the world learning about different cultures. Usually they get to sample food and watch videos of the traditional customs from each place. Ms. Louise's class is practicing reviewing the skills they learned throughout the year via fun art projects. They have made butterflies, sea shells, and many other projects. I love looking in

their cubbies at the end of the day to see what they made. My kids are taking a break from learning about different animals (fish, frogs, alligators, crocodiles, big cats, bears, etc.) and are now learning about the ecosystems where they live. We have covered the tropics and are now learning about the desert. Ever since our graduation, the students love to sing the same songs over and over. One of these songs is "Deep and Wide", so Ms. Becky taught them another verse to the song. Now whenever we sing it, the kids ask to sing the "Hmm and hmm" verse too!

**ALABAMA, ATHENS
Roger and Becky Roberts**

We welcomed three new sisters into our church family this past month. Those who were baptized were: Sis. Jessica and Sis. Amber Edelman (daughters of Bro. Kerwin and Sis. Sara) and Sis. Rhoda Roberts (Bro. Roger and Sis. Becky). Here to share in this blessed weekend were Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH), Elder Bro. Tom Waldbeser (Atlanta, GA) and their wives, and Bro. Mark Wettstein (LaCrosse, IN) and his family.

We always appreciate visiting ministers. We were thankful to have ministering Bro. Bob Dotter and Sis. Laura (Sardis, OH). Bro. James and Sis. Brenda Fehr (Tremont, IL) brought many who helped with a small project at church, thank you for your labors of love.

**ARIZONA, PHOENIX
Lynn Wiegand**

"Ring the bells of Heaven, there is joy today..." (Tabernacle Hymns # 202)

Our church family is rejoicing that Nathan Huetter (Bro. Doug and Sis. Jill) has answered the call of

repentance! Our prayers are with him as he seeks God's will in his life.

Another joyful event was the engagement of our dear Sis. Abby Freed (Bro. Steve and Sis. Kelly) to Bro. Zach Schumacher (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Tina, Leo, IN). We look forward to their wedding here in Phoenix!

We are thrilled to welcome the Knapp family from Goodfield, IL to our congregation! Bro. Ryan, Sis. Liz, Cade, Emrie, Ayla and Lincoln have moved here recently. We wish them God's rich blessings as they adjust to their new home.

Along with the joys comes some sorrow. Bro. John Pulfer (Sis. Wilma) passed from this life to eternity peacefully on July 14. We are thankful he can rest in the Lord! He is survived by his wife, Sis. Wilma, and children: Shane and Janeen Pulfer and Ron and Monica Bandelier.

Our visiting minister this month was Bro. Marshall Heinold (Sis. Jan, Ixtlan, MX). We are thankful he could visit and serve us on the pulpit.

Those continuing to need our prayerful support are: Sis. Heather Hinrichsen, Bro. Ed Frautschi, Sis. Ruby Barna, Ruth Finley, Bro. Allan and Edith Freed, Sis. Shirley Mohrman, Bro. Kenny and Sis. Mary Jo Schmidgall, Sis. Louann Klopfenstein, Sis. Deanna Beyer, Dakota Thorpe, Bro. Jim Beres, Bro. Jacob Hoerr, Sis. Bertha Miller, Bro. Rudy Bertschi, Carl Steffen, Bro. Robert Baum. How thankful we are to pray for one another!

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT

Denise Steidinger

We are thankful for the many visitors that have come to Prescott during the past month. Those who came to preach God's Word were Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich (Sis.

Nancy, Phoenix, AZ) and Bros. Jim Meiss (Sis. Candy, Phoenix, AZ), Mike Reiker (Sis. Carol Anne, Peoria, IL) and Seth Gerber (Magdalena, MX).

We also want to thank Bro. Jake Hoerr from Phoenix for coming up and doing a Bible study on the Biblical and Scientific connection between the mind and heart.

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp

Our Vacation Bible School was a big success. Many thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make it all happen. We learned a lot about submitting to God by displaying the Fruit of the Spirit.

Our love and appreciation to Elder Bros. Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA) and Mike Lemman (Denver, CO) for their efforts on a Sunday. We enjoyed fellowship at a church dinner on Saturday evening.

Our summer monsoon storms have been entertaining as always. We are enjoying the relief from the heat that the storms bring with them. We are glad to see those triple digits go away for a while!

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

Summer has come to Altadena, and we have been blessed with gentle weather throughout most of the month.

We rejoiced with Bro. Jonathan Sauder and Sis. Cali Zobrist Sauder in a celebration of their marriage at a reception on July 8, 2012. Our church was filled with visitors who were eager to share in the celebration of this union. Visiting ministers assisted with the services. Bros. Bill Schick (Sis. Joan, Magdalena, MX) and Bros. Frank Sauder (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL) graciously shared the pulpit.

We continue in prayer for Sis.

Lydia Lira and her family as she progresses in illness. Likewise, we continue to pray for Bros. Laslow and Sis. Maria Cser as they continue to experience health issues.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Janelle Brewer

We are always thankful for our home ministers who bring forth the Gospel each week. It's also an added blessing when we have visitors who proclaim the Word to us. We were blessed by Bro. Kevin Banwart (Sis. Sandy, West Bend, IA) and Bro. Justin Moser (Sis. Robin, Altadena, CA). We appreciate their willingness to serve our congregation!

We recently held the Sunday School Picnic as our summer recess has begun. It is always a joy to see our youth and their energy. We pray that as the seed is planted in their tender hearts, it will bring forth fruit someday. We are also mindful of the teachers and the time and effort they put into teaching our children. May God richly bless them for their love.

The Sunday School is our delight. We love it more and more; 'Tis here we learn to do the right and live forever more. (Hymns of Zion #73 vs. 1)

Congratulations to our high school graduate, Kainoa Yen (Casey and Sis. Anne-Marie)! We wish you God's blessings as you move on to the next chapter of your life.

We were thankful to recently witness the wedding vows of Linda Fulop (Bro. Denes and Sis. Joy) and Nick Cikos of the Nazarene Church. We rejoice with them and pray that God will richly bless them as they begin their walk as one in the Lord!

Last month we held our business meeting and voted on church offices. We are prayerful for those called to fill these positions: Bro.

Clint Dotterer, Sunday School Superintendent, Sis. Cassandra Yen, primary Sunday School teacher, and Bro. Levi Wuethrich, Trustee. We also want to thank those who finished their terms: Bro. Doug Brewer, Sis. Maggie Bozzay, and Bro. Denny Fulop.

**CANADA, KITCHENER,
ONTARIO**
Kim Leman

“Deal bountifully with thy servant, that I may live, and keep thy word. Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.” (Psalm 119:17, 18)

We rejoice with the angels in heaven that Charity Ursu (Bro. Mike and Sis. Barb) has made a beginning in repentance. May God be with her and her family as she allows the Lord to convert her heart.

Although our church building is still under construction due to the water damage it suffered, we are grateful to be meeting at church again after having services in our homes for several weeks. How much we take for granted!

We appreciated the services of Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Sis. Bev) and Bro. Lucas Frank (Sis. Crystal), all from Detroit, MI, as they ministered to us from God’s Word. May the Lord richly bless them for travelling to be with us.

**CANADA, REGINA,
SASKATCHEWAN**
Myrna Shipley

“A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another; as I have loved you. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.”
(John 13:34-35)

We have seen this love shown to us by the three ministers and their

wives that came to Regina this month. They were Bro. Glen and Sis Audrey Braker from Princeville, Bro. Clint and Sis. Magdalena Schmidt from Winthrop and Bro. James and Sis. Lisa Knapp from Congerville. We appreciate the time you spent with us and wish you God’s blessings because you have done what God has asked each of us to do - edify each other. Romans 14:19

We’re looking forward to future ministers coming from: Lester - September 2, Sabetha - September 16, Silverton - October 7, Bloomington/Normal - October 21 and Morris - November 11.

COLORADO, DENVER
Lily Zarkovacki

“In days of youth seek ye the Lord, His love and truth with one accord, Go offer Him they youthful days and walk within the Saviours ways. Go offer Him they youthful days and walk within the Saviours ways”
(Hymns of Zion, #135)

We held Vacation Bible School the week of June 25. It was a blessing and an encouragement to all that were able to participate. We would also like to thank all who assisted in making the week successful. We appreciate all that goes into planning as well as the actual VBS week.

The visiting ministers this past month include Bro. Justin Koch (Washington, IL), Bro. Gary Endress (Bradford, IL) and Bro. Brent Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO). We thank them for their willingness to share the Gospel.

On the weekend of July 14, some of our young sisters and middle school girls held their annual “Kanorado” camping trip, this included some girls from

our Kansas churches. It was a blessing to all that were able to participate!

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE
Sheila Gerber
Lauren Goric

Children are a precious gift from the Lord. We rejoice with first-time parents Nathan and Ashley Carlson as their son, Logan Guy, was born on July 8. Grandparents are Bro. Wally and Sis. Judy Carlson, Thomas and Monique Burns, and Wendy Deprey and Ted Vonasek.

Also welcoming a new baby to their heart and home were Bro. Ben and Sis. Amber Rocke. Carmen Esther was born on July 15 and joins big brother and sisters: Tristan, Myra, and Meredith. Grandparents are Bro. Robyn and Sis. Jan Rocke (Eureka, IL) and Bro. Duane and Sis. Kay Reutter.

On the weekend of July 14-15, we were blessed to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of two dear souls. Bro. Ben Wagenbach (Bro. Dale and Sis. Mary Wagenbach) and Bro. Andy Schneider (Bro. Doug and Sis Jane Schneider) were welcomed into the fold. We heard throughout the weekend how patient and merciful our Heavenly Father is toward his children.

“But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved...)” (Ephesians 2:4-5)

On July 29, Bro. Kevin Gottier (Guy and Sis. Beth) and Sis. Lauren Goric (Bro. Bob and Sis. Lynette) were united in marriage. We wish them God’s many blessings as they begin this new walk together with Him.

“And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.”
(Ephesians 5:2)

Our dear Raymond Champy, who had assembled with us for many years, passed away last month after a brief illness. We pray that the Lord will provide comfort to his family and friends.

We are blessed to have Sis. Christy Stoller (Gridley, IL) assembling with us for the next year as she completes her schooling in New Rochelle, NY. We pray that God will be near unto her and that she will feel the love of the Rockville church.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, WASHINGTON Henrietta Meyer

Our caretakers for June were Bro. Ron and Sis. Donna Hodel (Bloomington, IL). The caretaker calendar for 2012 is filled except for the last two weeks of December. 2013 has only four months taken, so if this is something you are considering, please contact Sis. Doreen Steffen at (302) 540-6574 or dkgsteffen@gmail.com. We look forward to meeting new caretakers each month, as well as reconnecting with caretakers who come for a second or third visit.

Our ministers this month were Bro. Fred Witzig (Sis. Nancy, Washington, IL), Bro. Eric Givens (Sis. Deb, Princeville, IL), Bro. Mark Ramsier (Sis. Alice Sardis, OH), Bro. Tim Ramsier (Sis. Jonell, Rittman, OH) and Bro. Dewayne Dill (Sis. LaRae, Minneapolis, MN). Other visitors this month were from Rittman, Junction, Latty, and Smithville, OH; Congerville, Cissna Park, and Morton, IL; Oakville, IA; and Morris North, MN. Thanks to everyone who has

made Washington, DC part of their vacation this year.

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 visiting ministers for this month. They were Bro. Fred Witzig (Sis. Nancy, Washington, IL) and Bro. Erik Givens (Sis. Debbie, Princeville, IL). We pray that God will bless them for their efforts in sharing the Lord's Word with us. We would appreciate any visitors this summer to help encourage and support our Ft. Lauderdale church.

FLORIDA, NORTH FT. MYERS Victor Beer

All fifty of the Henry Beer family reunion cruise to Cozumel, MX were glad to arrive in Tampa, FL after cruising back during tropical storm Debbie. Despite the added hours of travel, no one seemed to get very seasick. We were blessed by the customary church service as Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle (Sis. Lois)

ministered to us. There was a strong mutual agreement to continue the semi-annual family get-together some place in the United States.

New Beginnings of Southwest Florida

A farewell meal was hosted by Bro. Ray and Sis. Jeanne Haerr for our dear sister Emily Weinger who has finished her internship here. To say that we will miss her is an understatement. Only those of us who attend a small church truly understand what an integral part each person plays in our fellowship. Not only will our church family miss her, but we at The New Beginnings will sorely miss her as we have begun to depend on her helpful hands, listening ears, and her good advice. We wish her the very best in her continuing studies at college.

We were blessed by a visit from Marta's family. Marta's mom fixed a delicious supper for all of us. We enjoyed the food and fellowship.

A special big thanks goes to Bro. Denny and Sis. Beth Mott from Morton, IL. They were gracious enough to come down and oversee the happenings at The New Beginnings while Bro. Bill and Sis. Mary Masters went to Bloomington, IL to be with their family over Independence Day. We truly appreciate the break that gave us and the valuable input they provided.

About 14 from the Sarasota church joined us in Cape Coral for a barbeque on a Saturday night. We thank Bro. Matt and Sis. Emily Koehl for planning the event and being willing to make the effort to show us their support. We also enjoyed seeing our dear Bro. Art and Sis. Marie Keller once again with the group that came.

We enjoyed a visit from Bro.

Eric and Sis. Deb Givens and their daughter from Princeville, IL. They were on their way to minister at Ft. Lauderdale and stopped to share with us and to tour our facility. Sisters Elda, Mary & Vera Martin from Sarasota and their niece Lisa Martin were with them.

Our young ladies at The New Beginnings are rounding out their second session of summer school at Edison State College in Ft. Myers. We are pleased to see them setting into a school routine and getting geared up for the fall semester.

FLORIDA, SARASOTA

Kim Ott

“And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding.” (Job 28:28)

We were grateful to have Bro. Erik Givens (Sis. Debbie, Princeville, IL) minister to us the inspired Word of God. We are always thankful for our visiting ministers and pray that they would be blessed for their efforts.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Linda Sabo (Bro. Doug), Sis. Mardell Ott (Bro. Glenn), and Mary Ellen Ebach (J.C.) as they have recently encountered illnesses. We pray God would add His healing touch to their lives and that soon they would make a full recovery.

GEORGIA, ATLANTA

This month, Bro. Brian and Sis. Jackie Huber (Francesville, IN) traveled south to minister God's Word to our church. We are so thankful for their willingness to come and serve!

“That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:

The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to usward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power” (Ephesians 1:17-19)

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE

Doreen Moser

Shayla Steffen

“Revive us again; fill each heart with thy love; May each soul be rekindled with fire from above.” (Hymns of Zion #290 vs. 4)

Revive us again...

This summer has been very hot and we have received very little rain. Our prayer requests are raised to the Lord for rain to revive the land. We know the Lord will send the rain in his perfect timing. As we wait for refreshing rain, our prayer requests have also been for the Lord to revive our churches and restore our unity, if it is His will.

Fill each heart with thy love...

Our hearts have been filled with love of the brethren with visitors who stop to spend a Sunday with us. Bro. Virgil Metzger and his precious wife, Sis. Mary (Chicago, IL) preached the word in Love. It is very uplifting to have extra voices to sing, to offer prayer, to offer encouragement. Our small congregation appreciates each one who chooses to be part of our worship service. Thank you!

May each soul be rekindled with fire above...

A precious soul, Krista Anliker (Bro. Brian and Sis. Peg), has answered the call of the Lord. It certainly rekindles our hearts and congregation to know the Lord is still calling and loved ones are still

answering. We pray all of our hearts can be on fire to serve our Heavenly Father and be a light to this dark world.

It is our desire that we all in unity be able to sing across the land,

*“Hallelujah! Thine the glory~
Hallelujah! Amen;
Hallelujah! Thine the glory, revive us AGAIN!”*

ILLINOIS, BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

Shelley Steffen

Gina Hodel

“I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.” (Psalm 40:8)

Our church family said goodbye to Bro. Andy and Sis. Marla Hodel and their 4 daughters: Kaitlyn, Abigail, Nicole, and Jocelyn as they are moving to Nashville, TN for a new job opportunity. We pray God will continue to lead them as they settle into a new home and community. We will miss them and hope they come home to visit often.

We are happy for Bro. Mike and Sis. Annie Balch as they welcome home Joanna Marie. She was born May 30 and has brought much joy to their family. Grandparents are Mildred Balch and Beda Fulgarinas.

On June 23, Bro. Michael and Sis. Mindy Anliker welcomed home Alaysia Wibalem Mae from Ethiopia. Older brothers Noah and Levi are excited to have a little sister to love. Grandparents are Bro. Rollie and Sis. Carol Rumbold (Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Wendell and Sis. Carol Anliker, (Francesville, IN).

Merle and Elsie Eisenmann are thankful to have a new granddaughter, Phoebe Shalome, born June 18. Parents are Bro. Lee and Sis. Shalome (Knobloch) Hoffman of Morton, IL.

Bro. Curt and Sis. Elma Fleming along with Brenda Howerton are also glad to have a new grandson, Archer Christian, born on June 8 to Evan and Rachel Fleming.

We extend our sympathies to the following who have lost loved ones. Bro. Roger (Sis. Janet) Farney's brother, Dale Farney (Forrest, IL), passed away June 11. Sis. Ruth Lowery's granddaughter, Sis. Ruth Ann Lehman (Wolcott, IN), died June 11 in a car accident.

We welcome Dewey and Dawn Beck and their daughters, Rachael and Hannah, from Bloomington to our church family. We are glad to have them worship with us.

Bro. David Marquart (Sis. Lori, Taylor, MO) was a visiting minister and as always we are thankful he came to share the Word with us.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD

**Sandi Joos
Roseann Stahl**

"Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls: Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation. The Lord God is my strength, and he will make my feet like hinds' feet, and he will make me to walk upon mine high places." (Habakkuk 3:17-19)

Though there may be a drought in our area, we have great reason to rejoice in the God of our salvation. We are reminded of this daily through many avenues including the preaching of God's Word.

We were thankful to have several visiting ministers with us this month. They included Elder Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Sis. Nancy, Forrest, IL), Bro. Virgil Metzger

(Sis. Mary, Chicago, IL), and Bro. Kenneth Eisenmann (Sis. Sharon, Cissna Park, IL)

Our sympathy is with Ron and Sis. Deann Baer in the passing of Ron's sister, Sis. Barb Johnson of Washington, IL.

We bid farewell to Sarah Winkelmann (a foreign exchange student from Germany who was living with Bro. Kevin and Sis. Sara Wagenbach). As she returns home to Germany, our prayers go with her.

ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN

Laura Tucker

As we close out the month of July, we look forward to our last month worshipping at Messiah Lutheran at 1401 W. John St. in Champaign. In September, we plan to be back into our newly remodeled church. If you would like directions or information about our schedule, please contact Bro. David Eisenmann at (815) 848-7363.

The New Student Welcome Picnic is scheduled for September, instead of the traditional August, so that we will be back into our own church building. All new and returning students and their families are invited to join us at Crystal Lake Park on Sunday, September 16 at 4pm. We also hope that you will join us for Sunday services earlier that day.

Our Bible Class had the opportunity to go on a mission trip to Jamaica with some from Remington and Wolcott on July 7-14. We are very thankful that this trip was blessed and have enjoyed hearing about their experiences.

The Champaign Church has been prayerful for Bro. Brian and Sis. Wendy Waibel's family this month. We are excited that their daughter Leah is repenting, and will pray for

her as she moves to Bloomington, IL for college in the fall. Bro. Brian and Sis. Wendy's oldest daughter and her husband, Bro. Grant and Sis. Hannah Herrmann, have recently left their home in Princeville to serve the Lord in Ixtlán, Mexico. We are praying for them as well.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Rachel Meyer

Greetings from Chicago. We thank Elder Bro. John Jackson and Bro. Bill Waibel (Bay City, MI), along with Bro. Tim Hohulin (Roanoke, IL), for ministering to us this past month. May God be your reward.

On June 18-21, we held our Vacation Bible School. We felt a collective blessing and thank all who were involved in making VBS run smoothly. Our VBS theme was "The Four Pillars of Our Church". We extend a special thank you to the following ministers for their topical presentations: "Present the Gospel" - Bro. Dennis Rassi (Austin, TX), "Nurture the Believer" - Bro. Dewayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN), "Preserve Sound Doctrine" - Bro. Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL), "Serve Mankind" - Elder Bro. Tom Waldbeser (Atlanta, GA).

We rejoice with Bro. Bryce Westfall (Bro. Dave and Sis. Julie) and Sis. Andrea Giltner from Bluffton North, as they became one in the Lord on June 24. May God be with this dear couple.

We welcome two new little ones to our congregation! Little Samaria Lois Rassi was born on July 6 to Bro. Matthew and Sis. Bridget Rassi. She is welcomed by family and friends alike, especially her seven siblings: Carl, Manna, Emmaus, Quartus, Philemon, Jerusalem, Theophilus and grandparents: Bro. Greg and Sis. Carla Rassi.

We also rejoice to have sweet Simon Mark Lindberg with us! He was born on July 9 to loving parents Bro. Mark and Sis. Laura and has a big sister, Zoie. Thanks to God for His unspeakable gifts.

Another baby with Chicago connections is little Morgan Elizabeth Rassi born on July 18 to Bro. Nathan and Sis. Michelle Rassi from St. Louis, MO. Her big brother is Ashton. Chicago grandparents are Bro. Greg and Sis. Carla Rassi.

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things unseen.” (Hebrews 11:1)

Wherever you find yourself today may the above verse sustain you.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

Marilyn Maul

Tina Walder

We are thankful for our visiting ministers willing to share the Word of God. Bro. Dan Moser (Elgin, IL), Bro. Duane Ruetter (Rockville, IL), and Bro. Dave Obergfel (Peoria, IL) were with us recently. We also appreciated Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL) being with us to help with the testimony of our new Bro. Steve Miller.

Vacation Bible School was held in June and enjoyed by all that helped and attended. We appreciated the ministers who had topics and spoke to the Bible Class students. Bro. Dana Nieman (Remington, IN) had the topic “Benefits of the Church”. Bro. Arlen Leman (Forrest, IL) talked on “Marriage by Faith”. Bro. Bruce Frank spoke on “Temptation.”

We all enjoyed the annual Sunday School picnic at the park. It was a blessing to be together. It was a beautiful day; a break from the hot, humid weather.

“Now thank we all our God with heart, and hands and voices, who

wondrous things has done, in whom the world rejoices, who from our mother’s arms has blest us on our way with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.” Zion’s Harp # 236

Bro. Josh and Sis. Tina Walder welcomed little Kenna Rae, born June 11. Her siblings are Hannah, Isaac, and Janae. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Sharon Walder and Bro. Roger and Sis. Janet Knobloch (Lester, IA). Bro. Dan and Sis. Pam Walder were blessed with Elise Danielle on July 12. Welcoming her home is Joanna, Abby, Katrina and Heidi. Grandparents of Elise are Bro. Kenny and Sis. Sharon Eisenmann and Sis. Wilma Walder. Bro. Rod and Sis. Beth Steffen were blessed with a little granddaughter, Zion, born to Brett and Olivia Steffen. Bro. Melvin and Sis. Marilyn Young welcome grandson Titus Matthew, born to Matthew and Jennifer Young. Bro. Wayne and Sis. Gloria Laubscher welcome Shay Lachelle, born to Bro. Tom and Sis. Sarah Fehr (Champaign, IL). A very happy, first-time great-grandma is Sis. Dorothy Walder. Her new great granddaughter is Kinley, born to Bro. Cameron and Sis. Amanda Walder (West Lafayette, IN).

Bro. Ralph Knapp (Bloomington, IL) passed away recently. Our sympathy goes out to Bro. Wayne and Sis. Delores Knapp and Sis. Doris Knapp in the loss of their brother. Our sympathy also goes out to the family of our Bro. Marvin Hari, who has gone to his reward also.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

Rachel Currier

“Baptized, I feel His grace My sinful mind subduing; And look in all

distress To God, my faith renewing.” (Zions Harp #43 vs. 3)

We are thankful that two more souls have been brought into our brotherhood recently. Bro. Jared Knapp (Bro. James and Sis. Lisa) and Sis. Lana Wettstein (Bro. Larry and Sis. Marilyn) gave their testimonies and were baptized the weekend of July 7 and 8. We rejoice with them and their families and wish them God’s continued grace.

Our thoughts and prayers have also been with Jason Walder (Bro. Ben and Sis. Juanita) as he went through heart surgery. May the Lord heal and provide for them in this time, as only He can.

We rejoice with the family of Bro. Doug and Sis. Lynette Knepp as their daughter, Ivy, has turned to the Lord in repentance. We are thankful that God has drawn another soul to Him in repentance, and wish Ivy much grace at this time in her life.

We appreciate the labors of several visiting ministers. They include Bro. Tom Leman (Denver, CO), Bro. Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA), Bro. Paul Kilgus (Fairbury, IL), Bro. Mark Schmidgall (Eureka, IL), Bro. Michael Wagenbach (Wolcott, IN), Bro. Dennis Rassi (Austin, TX) and Bro. Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL). May the Lord reward them.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN

Amy Gasser

Miriam Gasser

We appreciated the inspired messages brought to us by ministering Bros. Alan Schambach (Remington, IN), Scott Schambach (Columbus, OH), Ted Schock (Belvidere, IL), and Mark Zimmerman (Eureka, IL).

On June 30, Matthew Schmidgall (Rick and Sis. Cindy) married Sarah Crutchfield of Wilmington, IL. They now reside in Wayne. Our wish is

for a deep, enduring union blessed by God's presence. It was good to see many visitors who came for this occasion, as well as for the recent Schambach Reunion.

We are thankful that Sis. Cindy Hann (Jerry) has been healing and is able to assemble with us again. Bro. Don Stettner would appreciate our prayers, since he was a recent hospital patient.

During this summer's drought, many scripture passages have taken on new meaning. Isaiah 58:6-14 describes the type of fasting that God desires and provides wonderful promises to those who obey.

"...the Lord shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not." (Isaiah 58:11)

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

**Dee Baer
Jodi Blunier**

Three families are enjoying new babies. Bro. Jake, Sis. Janel, Ernie, Lester, Charlie and Kary Fehr welcomed two-fold blessings with Annie Grace and Sophie Grace. Grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Sandy Fehr and Bro. Tim and Sis. Donna Carr. Eliza Anne was welcomed by Bro. Dean, Sis. Becki, Hannah, Charity, Amos, Roy, Benjamin and Josiah Martin. Grandparents are Sis. Deloris and the late Bro. Roland Martin and Bro. Lester and Sis. Ruth Martin. Adam Wayne made first-time parents of Bro. Doug and Sis. Eva Bradle. Grandparents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Ila Bradle and Zolton Toth (Serbia) and Sis. Maria Toth (Kitchener, ON).

Grandparents Dale and Sis. Freidora Wiegand welcomed a new

grandson, Anders David, son of David and Regina Park (Boston, MA).

Sorrow was shared with Sis. Mary Baer in the death of her daughter, Sis. Barbara Johnson (Washington, IL).

Sis. Barb Meiss (Ed) is recovering from a recent hospitalization. We are thankful for God's restoring powers.

Elder Bro. Duane Rocke visited and shared the pulpit with our ministers. God's Word fitly spoken brings comfort to our hearts.

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

**Angela Herr
Kay Steffen**

We rejoice with the angels in Heaven as we hear of souls coming to the Lord in repentance. Ruth Hartman (Bro. Ryan and Sis. Lori) and Faith Blunier (Bro. Dave and Sis. Kara) have felt God's grace to answer His call. Our prayers are with them as they leave the world behind, and in faith, trust in the Lord to direct their path.

Our prayers are also with Sis. Dianne Steidinger (Bro. Tom), Bro. Henry Steffen (Sis. Lola), and Bro. Jerry Kaisner (Sis. Donna) as they are recovering from recent surgery. May they each feel God's nearness as He heals and provides for them.

We were blessed to have Bro. James Fehr (Tremont, IL) minister to us this month. May the Lord continue to inspire our ministers as they bring forth God's Holy Word.

We extend our love and sympathy to the family of Bro. Ben Lorch who passed away on July 16. May God comfort and be near his wife, Sis. Marguerite, and three children, Mary Jane Traub (John H., Mandeville, LA), MaLinda Hillman, (Scott, Flanagan, IL), and Michael (Linda, Lexington, IL) as well as his

grandchildren, as they mourn the loss of their loved one.

Our love and prayers go with our dear Bro. Rollin Nussbaum as his employment has relocated him to the state of Washington. He will be assembling with our brethren in the Oregon churches. Even though the miles separate us, we trust he continues to feel God's love and nearness, and comes back to visit us often.

Note of Thanks:

We wish to extend our thanks for the prayers, food and memorials at the passing of our loved one. Vernon Hartman family

ILLINOIS, FORREST

**Lisa Aberle
Lynn Dotterer**

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

We rejoice with Kyle and Carissa Knapp (Bro. Harlan and Sis. Jean Knapp, Bro. Lynn and Sis. Kathy Slagel), Shea Kilgus (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Denise), Zoë Koehl (Bro. Joe and Sis. Marie), Shannon Teubel (Bro. John and Sis. Lavonne), and Beth Ifft (Bro. Duane and Sis. Mary) as they have turned to the Lord in repentance. May each one look to God for His grace and guidance.

Bro. Alex Dotterer (Bro. Dan and Sis. Kathy Banwart) and Sis. Carmen Edelman (Bro. Ken and Sis. Carol) are engaged to be married. Also, Mark Kuntz (Bro. Rollyn and Sis. Brenda) and Emily Kraft (Dan Kraft and Andrea Kraft) have announced their engagement. We wish these couples God's blessings as they prepare for their life together!

God blessed Bro. Troy and Sis. April Slagel with a precious son,

Tristan Matthew. His thankful grandparents are Bro. Lynn and Sis. Kathy Slagel and Will and Jaunita Kaeb (Arrowsmith, IL).

May God grant comfort and healing to our convert, Beth Ifft (Bro. Duane and Sis. Mary), as she was in the hospital this month.

We are always thankful for brothers willing to bring God's word to us. We thank Bros. Jacob Kuntz (Croghan-Naumburg, NY), Leland Plattner (Zapata, TX), Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH), Dale Stoller (Fairbury, IL), John Hartman (Fairbury, IL), and Floyd Frieden (Elgin, IA) for ministering to us this month. May God bless you!

We extend our sympathy to Marjorie Stephens and her children, Tarry Knauer (Fairbury, IL), Melanie Gillett (Warren, Fairbury, IL), Pam Weeks (Fairbury, IL), Sam (Patsy, Fairbury, IL), Doug (Cindy), and Candy (San Francisco, CA) at the death their husband and father, Don Stephens. May they feel God's comfort during this time of sorrow.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

Melissa Rokey
Kayla Wiegand

Sunday, June 24, was our Sunday School picnic and all church potluck at the fellowship hall. We were truly blessed to spend time with our youth and church family again at the close of another Sunday School year.

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way, When sorrows like sea billows roll; Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say, It is well, it is well with my soul.

(Hymns of Zion #55 vs. 1)

We are so thankful to announce that Mallory Bauman (daughter of Bro. Andy and Sis. Rita) and Paula Hartman (wife of Bro. Mike) have come by faith in God with

broken, repentant hearts. They have expressed peace in their hearts with God and man. We witnessed the testimonies and baptisms of these two dear souls on June 30 and July 1. Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Sis. Pam, Washington, IL) assisted Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL) with the weekend.

Bro. Wilbur Heinold spent several days this past week in the hospital. We are thankful that he has been able to return home.

Sis. Melita Hodel shattered her leg just below her knee cap. Doctors are waiting for the swelling to go down before they can do surgery. She has been staying at the Eureka Home until she can have surgery. We pray that she can feel God's nearness and comfort during this time of waiting.

Sis. Phyllis Rokey (Bro. Kenny) also spent time in the hospital this past month. We trust that God would be with her while she heals.

O! Lord look in mercy on me, Come, O come and speak peace to my soul: Unto whom shall I flee, Dearest Lord but to Thee, Thou canst make my poor, broken heart whole. That will I do! That shall I do! To Jesus I'll go and be saved! (Hymns of Zion #58 vs. 4)

We are so thankful that three souls have come with broken, repentant hearts by faith and have begun their walk with Jesus Christ. They are: Julia Martin (daughter of Sis. Jill), Kaitlyn Rocke (daughter of Bro. Jedd and Sis. Marsha) and Whitney Wiegand (daughter of Bro. Brad and Sis. Karen).

We appreciate visiting ministers: Bro. Ted Hirstein (Sis. Joyce, Morton, IL), Bro. James Knapp (Sis. Lisa, Congerville, IL), and Bro. Virgil Kaeb (Sis. Suellen, Sarasota, FL) who have been with us and shared God's Word and teachings.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

Perry Klopfenstein

"...thy counsels of old are faithfulness and truth." (Isaiah 25:1)

Entwined in all the counsel of the Word of God is the concept of faithfulness. Closely attached to the precept of faith is "faithfulness." Not only do we have faith in Christ, it is our calling to be faithful to the Word and its teachings. The Lord Jesus said we should not only be hearers of the Word, but doers as well. In his third epistle general, John wrote, "*Beloved, thou doest faithfully whatsoever thou doest to the brethren and to strangers.*" (3 John 5). And when we make a covenant with God to stay true and faithful, it surely is a promise to pledge our ongoing faithfulness -- until the end of our life.

Sis. Shelby Steidinger was engaged to Bro. Johnny Wellwood. She is the daughter of Bro. Ryan and Sis. Lori Steidinger. His parents are Jim and Jackie Wellwood.

Sis. Brittany Kiefer was married to Bro. Dustin Huber (Bloomington, IL). She is the daughter of Bro. Rich and Sis. Gale Kiefer. He is the son of Bro. Dave and Sis. Debbie Huber (Bloomington, IL). We wish them much happiness, now and in the years ahead.

Bro. Paul Klopfenstein has returned to his home after a health setback. Gerry Sievers, who is recovering from surgery, is now back at home. Sis. Joanne Aupperle is recovering from surgery.

At our business meeting, Bro. Jon Baner was named the new Sunday School Superintendent. New teachers selected were Sisters Bethany Yackley, LeaAnn Ringger, Nicole Witzig, and Michelle Cornell. New brothers instated as teachers were Bros. Josh Stoller, David

Ringger, Kyle Hangartner, and Ryan Stoller. We surely wish them much grace in their teaching duties -- so that impressionable young hearts can be grounded in the truth of God's word.

A girl, Abrie Grace Ringger, was born on June 11 to Bro. Jamin and Sis. Whitney Ringger. Grandparents are Bro. Stan and Sis. Coleen Ringger and Bro. Fred and Sis. Nancy Menold (Princeville, IL). May God be with these parents as they nurture this new baby, their first.

Visiting ministers were Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN), Bro. Steve Stieglitz (Leo, IN), Bro. Dennis Kaufman (Bloomington, IL) and retired Elder Everett Hari (Bloomington, IL), who helped solemnize the wedding of his granddaughter, Sis. Brittany Kiefer.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

**Annette Tanner
Julie Bahr**

Our Morton Church finds ourselves seeking the Fathers Face in more fervent prayer; especially during these tumultuous times facing mankind! As Satan desires to have many souls, God's plan is to reach down and hold us in His Righteous Right Hand! Isaiah 41:10 is a precious reassuring scripture!

A special thank you to Bro. Curt Rassi (Sis Kathy, Tremont, IL) for giving us our Family Worship topic on "Trust". In our humanness, we realize the strength to practice trust is entirely dependent on God's Divine Power.

On May 13, baby girl, Sienna Brooks, brought great joy into the home of Brad and Jenna Kahler and also grandparents Roger and Connie Kahler of Morton.

Bro. John and Sis. Cheryl

Knobloch welcome a new granddaughter, Phobe Shalome, born to Lee and Shalome Hoffman. Siblings are Mycah, Sydni, Sariah and Abe.

Bro. Gary and Sis. Debbie Rassi are the blessed grandparents of two new grandsons! On May 29, baby boy, Andrew Brian, entered the home of Seth, Sarah, Haley and Will Webb. Paternal grandparents are Brian and Jayne Webb.

On June 29, baby boy, Caleb Alan, blessed the home of Bro. Trent and Sis. Heather Barth. Bro. Jim and Sis. Julie Barth (Washington, IL) are the paternal grandparents.

Our congratulations to Jon Zimmerman and Nicole Kilgus as they were joined together in marriage on July 14. Jon's parents Bro. Michael and Sis. Sue Zimmerman. Nicole's parents are Bro. Todd and Sis. Rita Kilgus (Tremont, IL).

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Pam Fritzenmeier

Sunday, July 1, we witnessed the marriage of Bro. Brian Schwind (Roanoke, IL) and Sis. Rebekah Davidovics. Parents of the happy couple are Bro. Dan and Sis. Donna Schwind (Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Fedi and Sis. Ruth Davidovics. Bro. Frank Sauder (Sis. Kathy) and Bro. Matt Feucht (Sis. Jenniffer), both from Roanoke, were with us for the wedding and ministered to us.

On that same day, July 1, Sis. Monica Fritzenmeier was engaged Bro. Karl Kirsch. Parents are Mark and Sis. Pam Fritzenmeier and William and Martha Kirsch of Noblesville, IN. We praise God for His leading in the lives of these two dear couples.

Our church family enjoyed the annual Sunday School picnic at the Fellowship Hall on June 24.

Two families laid dear ones to rest this past month. Sis. Wilma Hoerr passed away June 30. She was the mother of Sis. Darlene Hoerr (Bro. Ken), Sis. Lori Kinney (Jack), Susi Herman (Roger), and Bro. Joe Hoerr (Sis. JoAnne). Eldora Young also passed away in this last month. We extend our prayers and sympathy to these families.

Those dealing with health issues and needing our prayers include Sis. Chris Erkert and Bro. Dave Ginzel (Sis. Mary).

Please pray for our local church family in the mission field far from home. Bro. Jonathan and Sis. Bere Aupperle, Bro. Zach Knobloch, and Bro. Jason Grassi serve in Magdalena. Bro. Tim and Sis. Joan Reinhard and family and Sis. Janelle Grassi serve in Haiti. Also, Sis. Kelsey Klopfenstein left for Port-au-Prince, Haiti, to spend the next year teaching music.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

**Linda Joos
Gloria White**

On the weekend of June 30 and July 1, we were privileged to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of four precious souls. They are our new Sis. Mikaela Wieland (Bro. Brian and Sis. Renee), Sis. Laura Herrmann (Bro. Dean and Sis. Dawn), Sis. Hannah Schick (Bro. Stan and Sis. Margie) and Sis. Hannah Martin (Bro. Larry and Sis. Tiffany). May God's grace be with these dear ones. Elder Bro. Ben Walder (Congerville, IL) was with us to assist our Elder Bro. Jim Plattner. Other visiting ministering brothers were Bro. Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL) and Bro. Dale Stoller (Fairbury, IL). Bro. Craig Stickling (Peoria, IL) also ministered to us this past month.

Bro. Bruce and Sis. Mary Stoller

are thankful grandparents of a healthy baby boy, Cade Charles, born to Bro. Matt and Sis. Rachael Ringger (Indianapolis, IN) on June 25. Bro. Stan and Sis. Margie Schick are first-time grandparents to Ave Marie, born July 20 to Andy and Victoria Schick of Morton, IL.

Those needing hospital care this month were Bro. Herb Rumbold, Sis. Janet Joos and Don Baer.

A farewell singing was held on Friday, June 29 for Bro. Grant and Sis. Hannah Herrmann as they have felt God's direction in their life to relocate to Ixtlan, MX. We are always thankful for God's leading, but we will miss their presence in our congregation. We pray God's guidance and protection over them.

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Jamie Hodel

Judy Sauder

Sunday, June 24, was our annual Sunday School picnic. We are so thankful for our teachers who teach God's Word to our youth.

We were blessed this month to have visiting ministers in our congregation. On June 24, we were thankful to have Bro. Tom Leman (Denver, CO) minister to us. On June 27, Bro. Virgil Kaeb (Sarasota, FL), and Bro. Ted Hirstein (Morton, IL) were with us.

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

We rejoice with Bro. Brian Schwind (Bro. Dan and Sis. Donna) and Sis. Rebekah Davidovics (Bro. Fedi and Sis. Ruth, Peoria, IL) who were united in marriage on July 1.

On July 8, we said farewell to Bro. Kirby and Sis. Ellie Leman who are relocating to our Remington, IN congregation.

Jack Arthur Wettstein was born July 10 to Bro. Sam and Sis. Emily.

Jack is welcomed by big brother, Will, and grandparents, Bro. Scott and Sis. Elaine Frank (Eureka, IL) and Bro. Gary and Sis. Elna Wettstein.

On July 13, ACCFS presented "A Christ Centered Approach to Encouraging Others". What a blessing for our congregation to have these resources available to help us in our Christian walk.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Teresa Rowell

Janice Sauder

A heartfelt "thank you" to our visiting ministers this past month! Bro. Virgil Kaeb (Sarasota, FL) came 'home' to visit on June 24. In July, Bros. Nathan Walder (Cissna Park, IL), Dan Moser (Elgin, IL), and Glen Steiner (Winthrop, MN) were all here to attend a Steiner Reunion. How glad we were that they stayed over until Sunday and shared the Word of God with us.

"Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh," (Genesis 2:24)

We wish two dear couples God's blessings in their lives together. Bro. Trent Stuber and Sis. Emily Wagenbach's were engaged. They plan to be married in September. Their parents are Bro. Todd and Sis. Beth Stuber and Bro. Ron and Sis. Liz Wagenbach. Our best wishes also to Jon and Nichole Zimmerman, who exchanged wedding vows on July 14. Their parents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Sue Zimmerman (Morton, IL) and Bro. Todd and Sis. Rita Kilgus.

We extend sympathy to three families who have lost loved ones recently. They are: Bro. Jeff and Sis. Gail Sinn and family at the passing of his father, Dan (Donna) Sinn of

Tremont; Bro. Matthew and Sis. Aimee Moser and family at the passing of her grandmother, Sis. Wilma Hoerr of Peoria, IL; and Bro. Les and Sis. Wilma Pulfer at the passing of his brother, Bro. John Pulfer of Phoenix, AZ. May God's comfort surely be theirs.

Welcoming new babies home are three families. Kenji Willis is the newborn son of Bro. Akihiro and Sis. Carrie Ito of Shioda, Japan. We always welcome them, and big brother Tomoki, when they come home to visit. (Sis. Carrie is the daughter of our beloved departed couple, Bro. Chuck and Sis. Miriam Sauder.) Kenji will have a first cousin very close to his age, as Shiloh Psalm has joined Bro. John and Sis. Misty Sauder's family. Her siblings are Willow, Echo, Talon, Meadow, Arrow, Halo, Anchor, Indigo and Shepherd. Jared Thomas is the little son joining Bro. John and Sis. Heather Rassi's home. Completing this family are siblings Jacob, Grace, Elisabeth, Silas, Hannah, and Seth; and grandparents Bro. Todd and Sis. Beth Stuber and Bro. Curt and Sis. Kathy Rassi.

As we think of dear ones to pray for, we include those who have been in the hospital because of surgery or illness. May Sis. Carol (Bro. Alvin) Beutel and Bro. Dave (Sis. Francie) Koch regain health and increase in strength each day.

At the World Relief Informational Meeting held last Sunday evening, Bro. Tim Reinhard (from Peoria, IL) serving in Haiti, gave an overview of ongoing projects in Haiti. Then our Bro. Maurice Schaefer gave an update on the Water Aid project. Thank you for your participation in this evening! May we remember, *"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works,*

which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them," (Ephesians 2:10) and serve joyfully where we can.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

Marlene Prather

Jodi Fehr

"O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness, fear before Him, all the earth." (Psalms 96:9)

As we celebrated our freedom on July 4, we can be grateful for the personal and political freedom we are blessed with in America, but freedom for the soul comes from God and brings joy.

We want to thank the dear ministers who came to share with us this month. Bro. Matt Gerber (Sis. Ruth, Ixtlan, MX) and Bro. Darren Metz (Sis. Rita, Gridley, IL). We were so blessed.

Our congregation extends sympathy to Kyra Johnson. She is the daughter of Sis. Barb Johnson, who passed away after battling cancer. Our dear Sis. Barb will be missed. May God comfort Kyra in her loss.

We rejoice with Bro. Trent and Sis. Heather Barth, as they welcomed Caleb Alan into their home on June 19. His grandparents are Bro. Gary and Sis. Debbie Rassi of Morton, IL and Bro. Jim and Sis. Julie Barth. May God bless them as they raise little Caleb.

We had our annual outside work day on July 8. Thanks to all who lent a hand and organized it.

July 8 was the last day of Sunday School. We want to thank each of our teachers for their love and dedication given to our children. We enjoyed a nice Sunday School picnic in the afternoon.

We continue to pray for God's healing powers on Bro. Steve

Hoffstetter, Sis. Sue Ruppert and Bro. Elliot Yudenfriend. God is faithful to hear and answer prayers.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

Kim Meyer

Suzie Fiechter

Our Bluffton church family welcomed six new babies this past month! Brynn Emerson Reinhard was born to Bro. Braden and Sis. Adrienne, Blake and Kayla. Grandparents are Doyle Reinhard, Sis. Jan Reinhard and Bro. Tim and Sis. Marlise Steffen. Bro. Jameson and Sis. Sheena, Nora, Halden and Anna Ringger joyfully received little Hank James on July 21. Bro. Kendall and Sis. Sandy Ringger and Rob and Sis. Tonya Troxel (Bluffton North) are Hank's grandparents. Bro. Adam and Sis. Beth Stoller are the thankful parents of Brooklyn Reese. She's also welcomed by big brother Bennett and grandparents, Bro. Larry and Sis. Sharon Stoller and Bro. Mark and Sis. Susan Harris. Bro. Roger and Sis. Carol Compton are rejoicing with the addition of grandson, Jack Ryan Compton, born to Phillip and Cassie. God has blessed the home of Bro. Derrick, Sis. Stef and Sophia Kipfer with Lucas Wayne. His grandparents are Bro. Rich and Sis. Rosie Kipfer and Bro. Doug and Sis. Susan Dailey. Bro. Alan and Sis Cheryl Ringger have opened their hearts and arms to new grandson, Isaac Benjamin Sprunger, born to Ben and Lana.

"We will not hide them from their children, showing to the generation to come

The praises of the Lord, and His strength, and His wonderful works that He hath done...

That the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born;

Who should arise and declare them to their children:

That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God,

But keep His commandments:" (Psalm 78:4,6-7)

Praise God for His faithfulness in calling souls to repentance and giving grace to answer that call! We rejoice with Alexa Baller (Bro. Todd and Sis. Shelly), Laiken Carter (Sis. Heidi), Alivia Topp (Bro. Chip and Sis. Angie), Phillip Gerber (Bro. Darryl and Sis. Ginny), and Zach Fiechter (Bro. Brian and Sis. Deb).

On July 1, we welcomed four new souls into the fold. Baptized were Charles Zorio, Kaylee Prichard, Paige Meyer (Bro. Denny and Sis. Kathy), and Catie Neuenschwander (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Mary Jo). May God's peace go with them as they continue to grow and walk with Him. Thank you to Elder Bro. Steve and Sis. Myra Ringger (Bluffton North), Elder Bro. Lynn and Sis. Leonda Stieglitz (Leo) and ministering Bro. Randy and Sis. Becky Gudeman (Francesville) for joining us that weekend. We appreciate them giving of themselves and sharing God's Word with us.

We pray the Lord will strengthen and encourage Sis. Gloria Steffen (Bro. Terry), Bro. Charles Zorio, Bro. Bob Steffen, Sis Josephine Schwartz, Bro. Zach and Sis. Jenny Bertsch, and Bro. Craig and Sis. Jean Steffen as they deal with health concerns.

Bro. Rich and Sis. Amber Pfister, with their children, Katelyn, Will, Seth, Kendra and Silas, blessed us with a presentation on their life and World Relief's operations at Hospital Lumiere in Bonne Fin, Haiti. They have returned to Haiti with the love, prayers and support of

their home church family.

Bro. Ben Gerber (Scott and Sis. Melinda- dec.), who grew up in Bluffton and now worships in Leo, is engaged to Sis. Alissa Maibach (Bro. Jay and Sis. Marcia) of Smithville, OH. May God bless and guide them!

Bro. Blane Baumgartner (Bro. Brad and Sis. Michelle, Bluffton North) and Sis. Amber Price (Bro. Steve and Sis. Tonia) were united in the Lord on July 15. It was a blessing to greet our many visitors, including Elder Bro. Ted and Sis. Sandy Steffen and Bro. Howard and Sis. Kristen Plattner, of Alto, MI.

Our junior high boys enjoyed a weekend of fun and Godly instruction, hosted by our young brothers.

"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)

INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH

Jessie Longenberger

Amy Moser

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

Our Sunday School students came together for two weeks of Vacation Bible School. This year's theme was "Think on these Things." The children learned songs, listened to Bible stories, developed new friendships, did a good deed, made a craft, and memorized Bible verses. The last day of Bible School was an evening program to glorify God. Thank you for all who helped to share the love of Jesus and taught about His return.

Two faithful brothers have been added to our pulpit ministry. Bro. Jeff (Sis. Val) Leman and Bro. Ryan (Sis. Jessica) Bertsch covet your prayers as they begin their new

ministries.

Bro. Harold Schladenhauffen passed away on June 1. Our prayers are with Sis. Mary Dean Meade (Bro. Mike), Susan Rauch (Mike) and Joan (Mark) Parrot.

We rejoice with Bro. Chandler and Sis. Rachel Gerber as they welcomed a daughter into their family.

Shiloh Wynne was born on June 6. Grandparents are Bro. Terry and Sis. Jean Neuenschwander and Bro. Todd and Sis. Michelle Gerber.

Pray for our Sis. Fern Leman. She underwent back surgery on June 14 and will need an additional surgery. Fifty-five of our High School Sunday School students and parents traveled to Montego Bay, Jamaica Deaf School the last week of June. Many hearts and lives were changed as they were able to serve and spread the Gospel.

"Yea, and if I be offered upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I joy, and rejoice with you all."
(Philippians 2:17)

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE

Mildred Clauss

Jacki Huber

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

We have had a dry summer, and the dry weather seems to be widespread! As we pray for showers upon the earth, our thoughts turn to the spiritual conditions around us. It seems that we are in a "dry and thirsty land". We are so thankful when rain showers refresh the earth, and we rejoice even more over "showers of blessings" upon us spiritually!

This past weekend was a time of rejoicing for the showers of spiritual blessings God has sent our way. Three dear souls shared

their testimonies of faith and were baptized as an outward symbol of their changed lives. We are so thankful to welcome Sisters Anna Huber (Bro. Chad and Sis. Pam), Salome Huber (Bro. Bob and Sis. Joy), and Bro. Rodney Pelsy (Bro. Roger and Sis. Lily) into the family of God.

We were thankful to have Bro. Bob and Sis. Joy Huber "home" along with their family, to visit, and also for Sis. Salome's baptism. Our prayers continue with them for the ministry they have in Imuris, Mexico. They plan to return within the next month.

Our dear Bro. Vernon Pelsy is enjoying the fullness of God's blessings as he was gently taken home to be with Jesus. Bro. Vernon led a full life, and was converted 20 years ago. Fruit was evident in his life, as he lovingly cared for his wife (our late Sis. Evelyn) in her later years, and showed love and kindness to others! We will miss him, but rejoice that his earthly struggles have ended. We extend our sympathy to all of his dear family. His children are Dean and Allen of Francesville and Barbara Little (James) of Stuart, FL.

Our thanks to visiting ministers. Bro. Ron Heiniger (Sis. Kayleen, Bloomington, IL) was with us recently on a Sunday. Elder Bro. Tom Waldbeser (Sis. Sue, Atlanta, GA) was here to help for the baptism weekend. Thanks again and may God bless you all for sharing with us!

Many enjoyed an evening of fellowship and learning as Bro. Lon and Sis. Sarah Vogt shared a presentation of their ministry in India. We pray that God will continue to use them, and every one of us, where he has placed us in the Body of Christ.

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS

**Katy Frantz
Sandy Lichtle**

This month our church voted in new teachers for our expanding Sunday school classes. We pray that the young children in our church would grow as our Lord Jesus Christ did: *“In wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man.”* (Luke 2:52)

Cade Charles Ringger was born to Bro. Matt and Sis. Rachael Ringger on June 25. His older brother, Ian, welcomed him home. The proud grandparents are Elder Bro. Steve and Sis. Myra Ringger (Bluffton North, IN) and Bro. Bruce and Sis. Mary Stoller (Princeville, IL)

Shaeah Grace Vogt was born June 29 to Bro. Lon and Sis. Sarah Vogt. Her older siblings were excited for a sister, as were grandparents Bro. Ron and Sis. Dianne Vogt (Francesville, IN) and Bro. Ron and Sis. Edie Bollier (Indianapolis, IN).

Our church has been doing a study we call “Walk Thru the Bible”. Every other week brothers from our congregation share in-depth studies on books from the Bible. We are currently working through the New Testament epistles. Bro. John Lichtle taught about Ephesians on June 27 and Bro. Ron Gress taught about Philippians on July 11.

We want to express a heartfelt thanks to those who served our church through sharing God’s Word: Bro. Bruce Frank (Sis. Bonita, Cissna Park, IL), Bro. Stephen Baner (Sis. Donnalou, Gridley, IL), Bro. Matthew Gerber (Sis. Ruth, Ixtlan, Mexico), Bro. Justin Koch (Sis. Marcia, Washington, IL), and Bro. Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue, Detroit MI).

“And these things we write unto you, that your joy may be full.”
(1 John 1:4)

INDIANA, LACROSSE

**Julie Rocke
Meagan Frank**

“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba Father.”
(Romans 8:15)

On Father’s Day as we thought of and thanked God for our earthly fathers, Bro. Dan Stoller (Sis. Deb, Remington, IN) reminded us of the love and provision of our Heavenly Father. How lost we would be without the faith that, always understood or not, His way is perfect. We also thank Bro. Brian Huber (Sis. Jackie, Francesville, IN) for assisting our Bro. Calvin Schneider on a very small Sunday and our retired Bro. Todd Feller for ending the service in the afternoon.

What a blessing it was to have a large group of visitors on July 15, including Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH) and their family. We appreciate that, for their 40th anniversary, they chose to assemble in the church where Sis. Emmy grew up. The services of Bro. Bill and his son, Bro. Warren (Sis. Cindy, Junction, OH), were also greatly appreciated.

INDIANA, LEO

Kirby Reutter

“To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven” (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

If Solomon worked at Gateway Woods, he might write something like this: “There is a time to serve, and a time to let someone else serve; a time to be single, and a time to be single no more; a time to have a day off, and a time to work twenty

days straight; a time to sleep in your own bed, and a time to spend the night at the hospital; a time for new beginnings, and a time for abrupt endings; a time for victory, and a time for heartbreak; a time to serve your own family, and a time to serve someone else’s family; a time to be hidden in Christ, and a time to be a fool for Christ; a time to provide feedback, and a time to receive feedback; a time to be humbled, and a time to be humbled even more... He hath made everything beautiful in HIS time.”

So many changes happen in a single month at Gateway that it is tough to keep track, even if you work there! Here are a few of the most recent changes. Two more Oak House residents just had babies (another one coming soon). In addition, the following servants recently announced their call to move on from the Gateway ministry: Sis. Lisa Zaagman, Bro. Tim Sauder, and Bro. Shane and Sis. Stefanie Beer. Lisa served for 3.5 years as a dedicated Assistant to the Maple House. Bro. Tim has served in various capacities over the past 27 years, including 17 years as Administrator. With three children of their own, Shane and Stefanie served as House Parents at three different houses over the course of a 5-year tenure.

Furthermore, the following individuals have recently answered the call to serve in this ministry: Sis. Abbie Wiegand (Goodfield, IL); Sis. Sarena Wahl (West Lafayette, IN); Bro. Eric and Sis. Marissa Bahler (Champaign, IL); and Bro. Brock Williamson. Sarena will serve as an Assistant to the Pine House. Abbie will serve as an Assistant to the Maple House. Eric and Marissa will serve as Alternate House Parents (also at the Maple

House). Brock was hired to direct Top Quality, which is Gateway's summer vocational program for our top-performing residents. We are thrilled to not only welcome Brock to the Leo flock, but also the rest of his family as well (parents are Bro. Jason and Sis. Wendy, sister is Chelsea).

Finally, Sis. Laura Steffen (formerly known as Sis. Laura Gerber) was recently married in the Latty church. Incidentally, Sis. Laura teaches a Bible Literature class at the Gateway School. What a creative way to teach the gospel to a captive audience! Whether we realize it or not, we all teach a course on Bible Literature through our daily lifestyle.

"Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men"
(2 Corinthians 3:2)

So much else could be said of all the other dedicated servants who labor at Gateway, including those mentioned in this article, as well as many others who were not. Let it suffice to say that God has been busy writing many epistles on many hearts.

Of course, Gateway Woods is simply a sub-group within the greater Leo congregation. And of course, Leo is simply another sub-group with the greater Apostolic Christian denomination. And, of course, our beloved denomination is simply another sub-group within the Body of the Redeemed throughout all ages of time. With this perspective in mind, reporting for a single congregation for a single month becomes a rather daunting task (not to mention selective). For the sake of brevity, the Spirit's working over the past month within the Leo flock can be summarized by bikes, Bibles, Bro. Ben, betrothal,

and a brimming Bible Class.

First, our dear Sunday School children recently raised funds to purchase 22 bicycles for Asian evangelists.

Second, we were recently reminded to participate in our annual Bible Fund collection to support the distribution of Scriptures across the globe.

Third, our beloved Bro. Ben Gerber (originally from Bluffton, IN) was recently betrothed to Sis. Alissa Maibach (Smithville, OH).

Fourth, the following announcement was recently made regarding our brimming Bible Class: "Because of the large number of students in the Junior/Senior Class (28), we have decided to split the class into two separate groups." Interestingly, this is the same model which has been followed at various times within the Froehlich movement to further spread the gospel (e.g., *Marching to Zion*, 1984, pg. 151). Wouldn't it be amazing if we as believers were growing this fast?

Whether you have been called to bikes, Bibles, betrothal, a brimming Bible Class (or some other service), the Master has providentially placed each of us at His "gateway"...for His glory, for His purpose, and for His kingdom. Let us be up and doing!

*Oh to be nothing, nothing,
Only as led by His hand;
A messenger at His gateway;
Only waiting for his command.
(Gospel Hymns, #48, vs. 2)*

INDIANA, MILFORD

Janie Price

Paula Haab

We really know it is summer as the temperatures have been above normal for some time. This brings vacationers to our area. We are so thankful and blest when many of

them choose to worship with us. One Sunday brought home Bro. Regg and Sis. Bev Beer and their young son, Tucker, as well as Sis. Jodi Beer, who took a short time away from their mission work in Mexico. May they feel our love and support and God's guidance and blessings wherever they may be.

Many of us enjoyed good food and fellowship at our annual church picnic. We want to thank and ask God's blessings on the Sunday School teachers and all of those who provided activities for the children.

Young Aidan Beer (Bro. Randy and Sis Deb) sported a boot for a few weeks after a minor accident. We are thankful that it did not slow him down much. We are also glad that Martha Haab (Bro. Don) wasn't laid up long after knee surgery.

Our thoughts and minds were stirred up as Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter led us in a discussion of "What is Pleasing-Well Pleasing-Acceptable to God". Many Bible verses were used.

Bro. Walter and Sis. Dorothy Steffen had to stand by helplessly as their barn went up in flames. Bro. Walt has been such a pillar of faith. He commented, "It's just material and of no value compared to peace with God and our soul salvation."

May God give comfort to the family of Becky Price (Bro. Tom) in the loss of her sister-in-law, Marry Knepper. Sis. Carol Hurd (Bro. John) was saddened when Stan Hite, the last of her Graff first cousins passed away. He attended church with us as a boy and young married man.

*"A new commandment I give unto you,
that ye love one another;
as I have loved you.
By this shall all men know that ye are my
disciples, if ye have love one to another."
(John 13:34-35)*

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

We are thankful to visiting minister Bro. Todd Stoller (Sis. Pam, Latty, OH) for sharing the Word with us this month. He read from John 13: 16-17 *“Verily, verily, I say unto you, the servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him. If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.”* God asks each one of us to have a servant heart, to be servants one to another, and to pray for those in need. May God bless Bro. Todd for his loving service.

Big brother Eli Getz is excited to tell you that he has a new baby sister, Vivienne Ainsley, born July 10 to Bro. Andy and Sis. Gina. Vivienne’s grandparents are Kent and Janell Kloter (Washington, IL) and Bro. Eldon and Sis. Charlene Getz. We are thankful for little Vivienne’s safe arrival and look forward to seeing her sweet little face in church.

We are also glad to welcome Bro. Kirby, Sis. Ellie, and their daughter Sadie Leman from the Roanoke church. Bro. Kirby recently found employment in our area. We are so glad to have another young couple with us. We look forward to getting to know them better!

Bob Schini still needs prayers after his motorcycle accident. He has left the hospital in Chicago, finished rehab in Indianapolis, and will be staying with his aunt and uncle. He is expected to make a 90% recovery, which is amazing, considering the extent of his injuries. His new address is Bob Schini, c/o Tom and Norma Goepfrich, 5121 Packard Avenue, South Bend, IN 46619.

We regret an error past reporting. When we announced the marriage of Bro. Jesse Stoller to Sis. Maura Knobloch, and again when we later

reported the birth of their son, Cowen Edward, we incorrectly reported the name of Sis. Maura’s mother. Sis. Dawn Knobloch (Bro. Stan) is the mother of Sis. Maura Stoller and the grandmother of little Cowen. We apologize for this error!

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND**Joshua Martinez**

“The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.” (Psalm 19:1)

We wish to thank the grandparents and parents who made our South Bend church VBS a joyful success! The children were taught about the wonderful signs and markers our Father has left in the heavens and the uniqueness of our planet earth. The children were exposed to many fun and wonderful facts of our Heavenly Father’s creation. For instance, did you know that our Milky Way galaxy is only one of about 100 billion other galaxies in the universe? Did you know that there are an awe-inspiring 300 sextillion stars in the universe? That is a 3 followed by 23 zeros, or 3 trillion times 100 billion! A Harvard scientist recently looked up how many cells there are in the average human body (about 50 trillion) and multiplied that number by the 6 billion people on earth. The number he came up with was about 300 sextillion. He thought it was a “funny coincidence” that the number of stars in the universe is equal to all the cells in all the humans on planet earth. To believers, this “funny coincidence” reminds us of the words where the Lord declares.

“Heaven is my throne, and earth is my footstool.” (Acts 7:49)

We wish to thank the outgoing Sunday school teachers, Sis. Tricia Lester (Bro. Ed) and Sis. DeAnn

Schlatter (Bro. Otto), for their faithful and loving service. We want to welcome and encourage the incoming teachers, Sis. Rachel Langhofer (Bro. Craig) and Bro. Brad Langhofer (Sis. Becky), as they cheerfully begin their Sunday school duties.

We are thankful that Bro. Bob and Sis. Sue Beebe are safely home from their latest mission trip to Haiti. We are also happy to have Bro. Scott and Sis. Gigi Schafer back from their travels in Canada. We are grateful to Bro. Thomas Troxel (Sis. LuAnn, LaCrosse, IN) and Bro. Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi, Alto, MI) who served us from the pulpit this month. We appreciate the willing service and sacrifice of our ministers and their families.

“Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you.” (2 Corinthians 13:11)

INDIANA, VALPARAISO**Marguerite Hoerr**

I almost feel as if I am writing a letter to all of you, since we have missed several Sundays of worshipping in our dear Valpo church due to aging infirmities. Because of this, I don’t have very much direct news from our church. I do, however, want to report what I have, and I thank you for being patient with me.

I feel compelled to tell you of the Bro. Theo and Sis. Naoma Beer (both deceased) reunion which our family held this past week in Milford, IN, just 5 miles from the old Sears manufactured home where we were raised. What is more satisfying than meeting close relatives we haven’t seen in a long time? What is more satisfying than to see children that were youngsters

and now are responsible married folks, contributing their best to the world God gave them? We had to think what satisfaction this would have given our parents, had they still been with us. We sadly remembered a brother and a sister who have gone on before us: Dr. Alan Beer and Sis. Mary (Carl) Fiechter. Their absences were keenly felt, but having parts of their families with us was so appreciated. Mom and Dad prayed unceasingly for all of their family and we saw evidence of those prayers as we gathered together.

Bro. Dean Martin (Peoria, IL) often sends us very inspiring e-mail. Dean was a teenager and we were neighbors to his family as we attended our loved Peoria church. He's remained a true and loyal friend and we appreciate him so much. I would like to share with you the latest one he sent. It was written by Gabriel Garcia Marquez. He is remembered as a South American genius. I have often understood that geniuses thought scientifically and not spiritually. I find I was mistaken as I read the following parting lines he wrote to his friends. My husband, Bob, felt inspired to send these lines to our children after this past weekend.

If for an instant God forgot that I am just a puppet, and he gave me one more piece of life, I would take advantage of that time the best I could. I would probably not say everything I think, but definitely think all I say. I would value things not for what they are worth, but for what they represent. I would sleep less and dream more. For every minute we close our eyes, we lose sixty seconds of light. I would continue where others have stopped and I would rise when others sleep. If God allowed me one more piece of life, I would dress simpler, would

appreciate the sunlight, and leave my soul uncovered. I would prove to men how wrong they are to think that they stop loving as they get older, since they actually start getting older as soon as they stop loving. I would give wings to the children I loved and taught, and I would allow the child some freedom that he could learn to fly on his own. To the old, I would show them how death comes not with the ageing process, but with forgetting. So many things I have learned from you... I have learned how everybody wants to live at the top of the mountain, forgetting that it is how we climb that matters. I have learned that when a newborn grabs his father's thumb, he takes a hold on him forever. I have learned that a man has the right to look down on somebody, only when he is helping him to get up. So many things I have learned from all of you. Always tell me what you feel and do what you think. Morning is where life gives us another opportunity to make things good. Keep close to you, your dear ones, and tell them how much you need them and love and take care of them. Take time to say, "I am sorry", "forgive me", "please", "thank you", and all the nice and lovely words you know. Nobody would remember you if you keep your loving thoughts secret. Force yourself to express them. Show yourselves and your dear ones how much you care about them. If you don't do it, tomorrow will be the same as today.

*And it will not matter.....
For you with much love and care.
I hope that you like it. (Revised:
Gabriel Garcia Marquez)*

We express our sympathy to Maurie Wiegand who lost his mother, Lena Wiegand, in the past months. Losing our mothers is one of the more difficult things we experience in our lives. So, our

thoughts have been with him. Our attendance always seems more complete when Maurie is with us in church.

Sis. Leona Bucher (Bro. Merle) has experienced sudden back and leg pain and is being treated for it. We're remembering her in our prayers because we know that pain is never welcome in our lives, even though we accept it. We love her and hope things get better soon.

We feel thanks in our hearts to Bro. Tim Bucher. On more than one occasion, when one of our ministers is alone on the pulpit, Tim has been asked to have a Bible Study with the congregation. His willingness and his knowledge of the Bible are blessings to all of us. We always feel as if the time is well spent in following Bro. Tim's lesson. May God bless him.

Bob and I feel so blest to be part of our loving Valpo family. We received many caring phone calls this past month, telling us we are missed when we aren't there. It goes without saying that we sorely miss them, too.

Please remember, if you are traveling nearby, that our church is located just ¾ of a mile south of U.S. 30 on IN State Rd. 49. We love to have visitors. We thank all who stop by to worship.

INDIANA, WEST LAFAYETTE

Ben Stoller

Katie Widmer

As a church family, we are so thankful that our Bro. Vernon and Sis. Jan Furrer escaped injury when they were involved in a three-car accident that claimed four lives.

We will miss Sis. Sarena Wahl (Bro. Fred and Sis. Libby) as she has accepted a position as Assistant Houseparent at Gateway Woods.

We are so thankful for the love

ties that bind our hearts to our neighboring congregations. Thank you Bro. Chris Huber (Sis. Sharon) for adapting your schedule so you could share the Word with us on Sunday, July 15. May the Lord richly bless you!

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

**Sasha Kyburz
Donita Edelman**

As a church in June, we have experienced joy and happiness along with sadness and weeping. We have had visiting ministers bring the word to us this month. Our visiting servants were Bros. Neal Widmer (Sis. Kris, West Lafayette, IN), Frank Sauder (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL) and Gary Anliker (Sis. Edie, Elgin, IL). Bro. Neal was here for a topical Bible study and also a Sunday service. We want to thank each of these brothers for sharing of their time and talents on our behalf. May God reward them richly.

Bro. Bruce Furrer (Sis. Pam) and Isaac Lehman (Bro. Rob and Sis. Beckie) were surgical patients this past month. We are happy to report both are on the mend and doing much better.

Bro. Lowell and Sis. Karla Bahler celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary this month. They celebrated with all eight of their children and their families being home for a weekend. It was good to see them all in church with us again.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Mike and Sis. Jody Bahler in the passing of Sis. Jody's grandmother, Sis. Marie Hartter from Sabetha, KS. It is always hard to say good bye even if the person is elderly and in a nursing home.

Our entire church family is grieving the tragic loss of our dear Sis. Ruth Ann Lehman. She was taken suddenly from this life in an

automobile accident on June 11. Our hearts go out to her husband Bro. John and children, Bro. Randy and Takara. We also extend our sympathy to Bro. Harold and June Lehman (Bro. John's parents), Bro. Elvin and Sis. Jan Nuest, LaCrosse, IN (Sis. RuthAnn's parents) and her siblings: Ken Nuest and Bro. Dan (Sis. Cathy) (both of Francesville, IN), Bro. Ron Nuest and Sis. Karen Wettstein (Bro. Mark) (both of LaCrosse, IN), Len Nuest (Julie) of Monticello, IN, Sis. Sandy Steffen (Bro. Ted) of Alto, MI and Sis. Janelle Klotzle (Bro. Dave) of Altadena, CA. We were comforted by the many visitors that came to offer support at Sis. Ruth Ann's funeral service. Along with our home ministers, Bros. Greg Lehman, Jeff Bahler and Michael Wagenbach; Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Remington, IN) had the funeral service and retired Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North, IN) had a few words at the grave side along with a prayer.

Vacation Bible School was held jointly with the Remington church at Remington this year. We extend our thanks to the brothers who came and spoke to the Bible Class students, along with the congregation. The topic was Greatness. On Monday evening, Bro. Willis Ehnle (Sis. Lois, Peoria, IL) spoke on How Great is God? Tuesday was Bro. Tim Drayer (Sis. Gwen, Bluffton North, IN) on The Great Fall. Wednesday's talk was on The Greatest Miracle by Bro. Mark Schmidgall (Sis. Sally, Oakville, IA). The week was summed up on Friday with Bro. Chris Laukhuf (Sis. Rachel, Latty, OH) talking about The Great Day.

Our annual Sunday School Picnic was held at the park in Remington. We had wonderful weather for

an outside picnic it wasn't too hot and there was a nice breeze. Congratulations to all the students that have moved up a grade. Some of the students have moved on to new teachers. We also extend a thank you to all the teachers for diligently teaching the lessons of God every Sunday to our future church.

In July, we were very blessed to hear the testimonies of our now dear Sisters in Christ, Diane and Lindsey Mailloux. We are very thankful to have them a part of our congregation of believers. We gathered again on Sunday to witness the baptism of these two dear souls. The Lord is so gracious and merciful if we humble ourselves and come to the foot of Jesus Christ!

We were very thankful to have visiting ministers with us for this wonderful weekend. Elder Bros. Steve Gutwein (Sis. Linda, Francesville, IN) and Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Remington, IN). We send a special thank you to these ministers and their wives for their willingness to serve.

Also visiting us this month was Bro. Gary Anliker (Sis. Edith, Elgin, IL). May the Lord richly bless him for sharing with us.

IOWA, BLOOMFIELD

Rachel Stoller

*Stay Thou near me when the shadows
Of chill death are drawing nigh,
Like the frosty breath of morning
Ere the dawn in rosy sky.
When the darkness falls around me,
Then illuminate my soul;
As a traveller home returning
May I reach my heav'nly goal.
(Zion's Harp #205 vs. 6)*

We are thankful that Sis. Rose (Bro. Joe) Dotterer's mother, Sis. Ruth Hilty of Rittman, OH, was able

to have the Lord near her when the shadows of death were nigh. She was laid to rest on July 2. We trust she rests in peace now, and extend our sympathy to the family.

Ministering Bro. Chuck Kellenberger (Sis. Debbie, Elgin, IL) were able to spend Sunday, July 15 with us. We appreciate his willing service to break the Bread of Life with us.

We rejoice with Kari Wuthrich (Bro. Kenny and Sis. Lora) as she begins her repentance. May the Lord be near and grant a humble attitude so necessary in a believer's life.

July marks the end of our Sunday School year. We are thankful to the teachers for the effort throughout the year on the student's behalf. The entire church enjoyed a picnic together on July 1. We are thankful for some brethren from Garden Grove that were with us.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Marilyn Anderson
Monica Eisenmann

We wish to welcome Bro. Bill and Sis. Judy Gerst into our congregation. They moved to our area from Alto, MI to be near family.

We rejoice with Bro. Blake Wulf (Bro. LeRoy and Sis. Carolyn) on his engagement to Sis. Josie Knobloch (Bro. Dan and Sis. Jeannie, Lester, IA). We wish them God's richest blessings as they seek to follow His leading in their lives.

We are always thankful for the visitors who worship with us. May they always feel welcome and love.

We have had several loved ones with health issues. We are thankful for God's healing love.

IOWA, ELGIN
Maria Rocke
Brianna Strahm

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE

Laura Funk

We are thankful for visiting ministers this past month. Bringing the Word to us were Bro. Glen Braker (Princeville, IL), Bro. Dan Stoller (Remington, IN) and Elder Bro. Bruce Endress (Bradford, IL). We have enjoyed mid-week services with Elder Bro. Doug Schock and his wife Sis. Clara (Bloomfield, IA). We appreciate those that accompany the visiting ministers.

James and Sis. April Parmer's son Joseph was married to Stephanie Reasoner on July 14. We pray for God's blessing on this union.

Some people say that this old-time religion Is just a thing of the past; But in this modern age that we're living,

It's the only thing that will last.

You may think I'm a little old fashioned,

Well, friend, that's all right with me;

But I'm so glad that I am a Christian,

And from sin I have been set free.

Come go with me to that land over yonder

He's prepared for the pure and the true;

It's a place where sickness and death cannot enter-

I'm going, brother, how about you?

Maybe today, or maybe tomorrow,

He'll return in robes of pure white;

I'm packing up now, getting my things together,

Who knows He may come tonight

(C&W Gospel Hymnal #111)

IOWA, IOWA CITY
Diana Butikofer

Our congratulations go to Bro. Luke and Sis. Michelle Gerst (Bro. Joe and Sis. Connie Gerst, and Bro. Ed and Sis. Gladys Martin, Princeville, IL) who were married June 17 in Princeville. We welcome Michelle and pray the Lord will bless their marriage as they seek Him together.

IOWA, LESTER

Joyce Moser

Gloria Moser

We are thankful for visiting ministers who have shared the Word of Life. They included: Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA), Bro. Mark Schmidgall (Oakville, IA), Bro. Tom Troxel (LaCrosse, IN) and Bro. Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN).

On July 1, two betrothals were shared with our congregation. Sis. Crystal Moser (Bro. Rick and Sis. Lori) was engaged to Bro. Darin Hartter (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Beth, Sabetha, KS). Sis. Josie Knobloch (Bro. Dan and Sis. ReJean) was engaged to Bro. Blake Wulf (Bro. LeRoy and Sis. Carolyn, Burlington, IA). We wish them God's Blessings as they plan for their life together with God as the author of their marriage.

Brethren, Be ye not affrighted; God is yet among you here;

You are still with Him united, And His grace is ever near.

His corrections prove His love, Showered on us from above.

Let this be your consolation! Why despair in tribulation?

If with anguish thou art shaken, If men bind and torture thee,

Thou wilt never be forsaken- Think upon eternity!

Stand in faith and do not fear, For thy Lord is ever near.

Zion, let His hand direct thee; He will strengthen and protect thee!

(Zion's Harp #38 vs. 1, 5)

IOWA, OAKVILLE

Sharla Wiegand

"Speak the gospel of salvation Boldly in the wilderness!

In the Saviour's blood there's healing. Grace and pardon He's revealing

*To the sinner in distress.
Speak the gospel of salvation
Boldly in the wilderness!"*
(Zion's Harp #112
The Watchmen's Call)

We were blessed with visiting ministers this month. Bro. Scott Wegman (Taylor, MO) brought forth the Word on June 17. Bro. Tony Manz (Junction, OH) ministered to us on July 8. May God bless them for giving of themselves.

IOWA, WEST BEND

Janet Fehr

Leona Fehr

Our thoughts and prayers of support have been with Sis. Beth Mogler (Bro. Chuck) with the passing of her brother, Bro. Fred Leman (Forrest, IL), on July 21. As we see our loved ones depart from this life one by one, it reminds us that alone we will stand before our Almighty God one day. May we be faithful unto Him until our parting hour.

We were thankful to have visiting ministers with us this past month. July 1, Bro. Paul Schmidgall (Sis. Shawn, Morris, MN) and Bro. Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy, Portland, OR) imparted the Word of God unto us. God bless them for their labors. It was a blessing to have them among us.

JAPAN, SHIODA

Carrie Ito

JAPAN, TOKYO

Manuela Denes

Marie Inoue

This month we were privileged to share Holy Communion as our Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Sis. Bev) made the long trip to be with us. He spoke to our hearts as we meditated on verses in the gospel of John and 1 Cor. 11:23-28. It was mentioned

our relationship with Christ is of utmost importance as we received the fruit of the vine and bread, and that this sacrament is a preparation for Heaven as we remember what Christ did for us on the cross and His resurrection from the tomb. Our Sis. Yoshiko Sakuta also attended and brought us joy.

Bro. Galen Rokey (Bern, KS) was also with us that Sunday and shared the life-giving Word with us which was so blessed. He made much effort to stop off in Japan to worship with us on his way to Vietnam for business.

Our singing in church was blessed this summer as most of those visiting from Bluffton, IN had taken Japanese 101 in high school and could read the Japanese alphabets in the hymnal. Sis. Javon Steffen and her brother, Bro. Nick, have returned home. Being a nurse, Sis. Javon was given the opportunity to visit a hospital and temporary housing units up north in the tsunami/radiation areas. The idea of U.S. Sunday School children writing simple cards of encouragement to children of that area was suggested. These cards would be translated by church ladies before forwarding them to the area. It seems there is always something to do for those who enjoy serving our wonderful Lord.

KANSAS, BERN

Sheri Edelman

Rita Menold

We rejoice with Sis. Maria Baumgartner and Bro. Aaron Luthi as they became one in the Lord on July 1! Parents of the couple are Bro. John and Sis. Lori Baumgartner, and Elder Bro. Jay and Sis. Jane Luthi (Lamont-Gridley, KS). We will miss Sis. Maria's bright smile in our congregation, but know she

will receive a warm welcome as they assemble with the Lamont-Gridley church family.

Bro. Byron and Sis. Emily Stoller and big brother Colby welcomed little Myra Jean into their hearts and homes on July 1! After spending a few extra days in the hospital, we are so thankful sweet little Myra is home and doing well. Happy grandparents are Bro. Darrell and Sis. Gloria Stoller and Brad and Teresa Edelman.

We appreciated having visiting ministers this past month. Worshipping with us were Elder Bro. Jay Luthi and Bro. Ron Isch (both from Lamont-Gridley, KS), Bro. Jeff Bahr (Kiowa, KS), Bro. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS), Bro. Chris Wuethrich (St. Louis, MO), Bro. Darren Fehr (West Bend, IA) and Bro. Wayne Hartzler (Rittman, OH). God bless each one for your efforts of love!

Amid the high temperatures, we were able to enjoy an evening of fun and fellowship at our annual Sunday School picnic, which was held at Sycamore Springs. We are so thankful for each of our Sunday School teachers who so lovingly plant the seed of salvation!

Love, prayers and many blessings to each of you.....

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT

Teresa Bahr

Our Vacation Bible School was held on June 25-29 with an average of 25 students attending each evening. The following Sunday was an all church potluck at the park with the students presenting a short program and Bible School choir singing. God bless the teachers and all those who contributed in some way.

Elder Bro. Jeff Streitmatter (Sis. Lynne, Sarasota, FL) was our

visiting minister this month. Sis. Lynne was here to be with her mother, Sis. Lillian Fischer, who had surgery. We are prayerful for Sis. Lillian as she recovers according to God's will.

KANSAS, KIOWA

Janice Bahr

Jenny Stewart

A wonderful Savior is Jesus my Lord, a wonderful Savior to me; He hideth my soul in the cleft of the rock, where rivers of pleasure I see.

A wonderful Savior is Jesus my Lord, He taketh my burden away; He holdeth me up and I shall not be moved. He giveth me strength as my day.

With numberless blessings each moment He crowns, And, filled with His fullness divine, I sing in my rapture, oh glory to God, For such a redeemer as mine!

When clothed is His brightness, transported I rise, To meet Him in clouds of the sky, His perfect salvation, His wonderful love, I'll shout with the millions on high. He hideth my soul in the cleft of the rock, that shadows a dry thirsty land; He hideth my life in the depths of His love, and covers me there with His hand.

(Tabernacle Hymns #207 Vs. 1-4)

Our area at this time is very hot and very dry!! When we look at the corn and other crops, as they seem to wither before our eyes without the precious rain that is so needed to make them flourish, we can't help but think of this beautiful song. With Jesus in our lives, we are covered, protected and hidden from the dry thirsty cares of this world. Without Him, we too would wither and not have any hope for our future. He truly is a Wonderful Savior. We truly are a blessed people.

We were deeply blessed on two separate occasions this past month when Bro. Ron and Sis. Jane Isch (Lamont-Gridley, KS) and Bro. Brad and Sis Michelle Strahm and son (Bern, KS) shared the precious Gospel message with us. We do appreciate their time and effort to travel out of the way to our Kiowa church to fellowship and share the love of God with us.

It is again time for school to start. It is our fervent prayer that God will bless, love and keep our precious youth as they again begin a new year of school, whether it be grade school, high school or college. They are the heart of our churches and may we never forget to hold them up in prayer, and praise the Lord that they are a part of our lives.

KANSAS, LAMONT-GRIDLEY

July 1 was the wedding day of Bro. Aaron Luthi (Elder Bro. Jay and Sis. Jane) to Sis. Maria Baumgartner (Ministering Bro. John and Sis. Lori) in Bern, KS. We wish the Lord's richest blessings upon their marriage and welcome Sis. Maria to our congregation.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Eileen Bahr as her sister-in-law, Helen Bahr (Burlington, KS), passed from this life.

Our visiting minister this month was Bro. John Baumgartner (Sis. Lori, Bern, KS). May the Lord bless him for his labors on our behalf.

KANSAS, SABETHA

Belinda Kellenberger

Sally Strahm

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." (Hebrews 11:1)

We rejoice with Bro. Darin Hartter (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Beth) who was engaged to Sis. Crystal Moser (Bro.

Rick and Sis. Lori) from Lester, IA. May God be with them as they prepare for marriage and their future together.

Bro. Todd and Sis. Kara Strahm welcome a little adopted son, Ty Nicholas, into their hearts and home. Grandparents are Bro. Chuck and Sis. Karen Walter of Silverton, OR and the late Bro. Carl and Sis. Sharon Strahm. May God give them wisdom and guidance as they raise this precious little one.

We appreciated having visiting ministers with us this past month. They were Bro. Paul Schmidgall (Sis. Shawn, Morris, MN), Bro. Darren Fehr (Sis. Nora, West Bend, IA) and Bro. Brandon Emch (Sis. Maria, Kansas City, MO).

Our congregation is rejoicing over our convert, Heidi Wenger (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Jean).

The Summer Family Potluck Picnic was held July 7. It was a blessing to be able to fellowship with one another.

During the month of August, the Sunday School will have a break. We thank the brothers and sisters that were teachers who will be going out of Sunday School and pray for the ones who will be starting a new term to teach our children.

Our hospital patient this month was Bro. Kurt Grimm (Sis. Hannah). May God grant him healing and strength as he recovers.

"Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved." (Psalms 55:22)

KANSAS, WICHITA

Emma Miller

Bro. Mark and Sis. Barb Gerber were our small church visitors on July 1. We appreciate their giving up a Sunday with their children to meet our needs.

We are planning on a general business meeting to make repairs to the parking lot. This will be the last weekend of July (July 29).

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON
Barb Huber

"But I will sing of thy power; yea, I will sing aloud of thy mercy in the morning: for thou hast been my defense and refuge in the day of my trouble." (Psalm 59:16)

It had been so hot and dry in our area. The lawns are brown, grass is brittle, the farmer's corn and beans are suffering from drought. Then one Sunday afternoon, we received a storm, thunder, lightning, and rain showering from Heaven. It was very humbling. The Lord felt so near! What a blessing!

In like manner, the Lord has certainly blessed our fellowship this month as visiting ministers: Bros.

Kenny Dietz (Sis. Mardell, Bradford, IL), Mark Schmidgall (Sis. Lisa, Eureka, IL), and Art Ingold (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman, OH) have come and brought others, even to have a singing on Saturday evening to join our voices in praise to our dear Heavenly Father. As we came together, as children "around a light" on each Lord's Day, we were blessed through the preaching of God's Holy Word (and very thankful). We sincerely appreciate having dedicated ministers and churches who are willing to come and labor in the Lord's service. Other brethren who blessed our time of fellowship were represented from Congerville, Morton, Princeville, IL; and Oakville, IA. May the Lord bless each of you richly is our prayer.

We extend a warm welcome to come and worship with us at Lexington. You may contact Bro. Lester Huber at (859) 745-2541.

Church services are held at 3938 Becknerville Rd., Winchester, KY. Directions are in the minister's book.

MEXICO, IXTLÁN
Matt Gerber

"I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord." (Psalm 122:1)

Thank you to all who prayed for our first regional fellowship weekend. We were blessed with good attendance from Barra Vieja, Queretaro, Morelia, and Ixtlan; by spiritual topics that encouraged and challenged us; and especially by time for just "being together" as a church. We also witnessed the testimony and baptism of Bro. Alfredo Torres, followed by Communion and a time of exchanging prayer requests. Everyone is already looking forward to the next fellowship weekend!

Vacation Bible School in Barra Vieja, Morelia, and Ixtlan will keep many busy this month. Please pray for the seeds of the Word that are being planted in the children's hearts, that, at least in some, there could be fruit over the long term (see Luke 8:15).

MEXICO, MAGDALENA

"For the joy of the Lord is your strength." (Neh. 8:10)

We are thankful to have the team from Chicago helping us this month. The team was made up of various churches. However, it becomes a double blessing uniting hearts and hands in the labor here at Casa Vida y Esperanza. Many hands come together internationally as well. Bro. Samuel and Sis. Szabina Albert with their daughter, Panka, are volunteering here for

an extended amount of time. We are thankful for their efforts physically, but most of all the efforts to communicate in the different languages of Spanish and English. Their family from Budapest, Hungary, and Hodmezoudsdrhely, Hungary came to visit. Bro. Viktor Albert, Samuel's brother, has been a wonderful inspiration to all the children as he plays the piano and helps in the summer school. Thank you!

Yaneli (12) of CVE was honored to be selected through educational Olympics to fly to Mexico City in July. The small group of students from all parts of Mexico will tour cultural exhibits in Mexico City with the great opportunity to meet and shake the hand of President Calderon. Yaneli graduated from sixth grade this year and will continue to study here at the school on the CVE campus named Colegio Verdad y Vida, translated the school of truth and life. Congratulations to Yaneli!

We offer a warm welcome to Endi and Sis. Alisha Ramirez and their infant daughter, Juana, as they have relocated here from Neuvo Laredo, MX. We look forward to having sweet fellowship and more hands to serve here in our church. We know the church in Zapata, TX will miss these dear ones, but thank you for sharing.

Sis. Teresa Cevante along with her son, Aaron, and granddaughter, Aly Navarro from Moralia, MX, are visiting here for the month of July. Sis. Teresa is the mother of Sis. Bernice (Jonathan) Aupperle. Aaron and Aly, along with all the children at CVE and several others from town, are studying summer school here. We appreciate the efforts of our summer staff volunteers who bring energy and smiles, which

brighten the lives of our children. Classes in English, Hungarian, sign language, cooking, public speaking, welding, orthography, etc. enrich the young minds during our summer vacation.

The children at CVE are also busy working with their CVE Exposition projects (4H). The projects include many animals like cattle, sheep, chickens, pigs, horse training, cooking, sewing, art, music, technology, agronomy, public speaking, etc. In total, the children have signed up for 188 different projects in anticipation of the August 19 expo.

The prayers of readers like you give us the strength to keep on here in Mexico. Thank you. Please pray for wisdom from God to guide CVE and our church.

We are praying for the conference next month and all who will be attending in Rockville, CT. May God's name be glorified as His servants come together.

MICHIGAN, ALTO

Listyn Oesch

Melissa Blough

Summer is in full swing...picnics, weddings, vacations, fresh produce; to name a few summer delights. Despite our busy daily activities, are we pausing to thank and remember our ultimate Provider? We may not always get what we want, but He will send what we need.

"But God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus". (Philippians 4:19)

Hearts and lives have been united in several families recently. We pray for those who started a new journey as one. May God be ever near them. The three couples married this past month include: Josh Erismann (Bro. Ron and Penny) to Larissa Peterson, Leanne Pratt (Jason and Angela Sixberry) to Daven Winans, and Heather Blough (Bro. Martin and Sis. Michele) to George Pfaller.

This summer has also brought a new

chapter for our high school graduates. May God lead and direct their lives: Spencer Plattner (Bro. Howard and Sis. Kristen), Cameron Steffen (Bro. Terry and Sis. Laurie), Austin Koehl (Bro. Rob and Sis. Kim), and Kayla Blough (Carl and Brenda).

Of course summer wouldn't be summer without Vacation Bible School. Thank you to all the hours of work and deeds of love poured into the week. Joy filled the Fellowship Center as the children had opportunity to grow and learn more about the Word of God. Thank you to our speakers who traveled for this special week. Our hearts were touched by your service: Bro. Greg Lehman (Wolcott, IN) and Bro. Matt Kaufman (Bloomington, IL).

Henry and Suzanna were happy to welcome home their baby brother Harrison James. Joyful and thankful parents are Tom and Annie Oesch and grandparents Bro. Tom and Sis. Michelle Oesch.

Our congregation was blessed with the labors of love from ministering Bros. Bill Waibel (Bay City, MI) and Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL).

Prayers have been raised on behalf of our brethren who have fallen ill recently. We thank God for hearing our prayers and we continue to pray for recovery, health and strength for Sis. Sue Daniels (Bro. Wes), Sis. Pat Schlatter (Bro. Ott) and Bro. Curt Kaeb (Sis. Luanne).

Our hearts ached as we said goodbye to dear Bro. Bill and Sis. Judy Gerst. The Lord has led them back to Iowa. We pray God's nearness as they transition there and look forward to a time when they come for a visit.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

Sarah Knochel

Janelle Ramseyer

Our prayers are with those who have suffered from the infirmities of the flesh in recent days. They include Bro. Dean Pashak (Sis. Connie), Sis. Margaret Schlatter, and Sis. Ilean Wackerle. We trust that God will provide healing all according to His Will.

We've been blessed to have several

families visit our congregation while on vacation or to visit their family here. It is always an extra blessing when visiting ministers pass through our area. We were blessed to have Elder Bro. Dave Steffen (Sis. Linda, Elgin, IL), Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Sis. Leonda, Leo IN) and Bro. Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi, Alto, MI) visit our congregation over the last several weeks.

We rejoice with Bro. Bill and Sis. Carol Waibel as a new granddaughter, Tillie, has been added to their family circle. Tillie's parents are Bro. Jeff and Sis. Margo Waibel (Leo, IN).

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

Krista Wieland

We just wrapped up our Vacation Bible School this evening with a nice picnic at an area park. After some very hot weather during the week, the evening of the picnic was absolutely spectacular with a nice cool breeze blowing through the pavilion as we enjoyed food and fellowship. Several brothers also came from Illinois to play some beautiful music for us. We also had the opportunity to sing with them and it was an encouraging evening for everyone.

"Jesus saith unto him: I am the Way, the Truth and the Life, no man cometh unto the Father but by Me" (John 14:6)

The above verse was a theme of our Vacation Bible School this year as the kids were challenged with the question asked by Jesus: "Who do you say that I am?" The teachers likened the gold rush in the United States in the 1800's to the search for true treasure today. The students were taught that the world offers only "fools gold" while the true treasure is found in Jesus Christ. The kids had a homework assignment

one evening to identify as many names for Jesus as they could find in the Bible. It was amazing how many different references to Jesus the kids found. On Wednesday evening Bro. Matt Kaufmann (Sis. Rebecca, Bloomington, IL) came with an inspiring message about walking as pilgrims seeking the Kingdom of God through the shed blood of His Son, Jesus Christ. It was a wonderful week for our church family and we're thankful for everyone who was involved.

Before Vacation Bible School, we were saddened to hear of the death of our dear Sis. Barb Johnson. When Sis. Barb moved from Detroit to Washington, IL last year, she was in the midst of ongoing treatments for cancer. We all marveled at her faith and courage with the difficult medical issues she faced. Sis. Barb and her daughter, Kyra, were such an integral part of our church family for so many years, always helping others even when Sis. Barb's health was in decline. We will miss her dearly, but treasure our memories and look forward to meeting her in Heaven someday. Our prayers are with Kyra and the entire Baer family at this time.

It was shortly after Sis. Barb's death that we had our Annual Woodhaven Benefit Day dinner. The benefit day is an opportunity for the church and many visitors, friends and neighbors to come and have a pork chop dinner and then listen to some hymns sung by the choir. Many of the songs in this year's program focused on our home in heaven: "Hark, I Hear the Harps Eternal", "The Homeland in Heaven" and "No More Night" were a few of the songs that reminded us of our Eternal Home. Since Sis. Barb sang in the choir for many years, we could not help but think of her and shed a

few tears during these songs about Heaven.

We want to thank our visiting ministers who came this month. Besides Bro. Matt Kaufmann mentioned earlier, we also had visits from Bro. Nick Gutwein (Sis. Suzanne, West Lafayette, IN), Bro. Tom Troxel (Sis. LuAnn, Lacrosse, IN) and Bro. Howard Plattner (Sis. Kristen, Alto, MI). Bro. Nathan Steffen (Sis. Susan, Alto, MI) also came Tuesday evening to deliver a message from God's Word to the residents of Woodhaven. May they each be blessed for their willingness to travel and share teachings from God's Word.

Our Elder, Bro. Mark and Sis. Bev Bahr, spent some time in Japan this month. We are thankful they were able to return home safely. Bro. Mark told the churches in Japan that although many of us do not know them well and have never been to Japan, we still feel a closeness through our prayers for them. They told him that they could feel those prayers. How wonderful that even though many miles and hours separate us, we serve a great God and love and prayers can be communicated across those great distances.

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS

Tim McMillan

We began the month of June reading from Matthew 27. In Verse 11, Pontius Pilate asked Jesus if He was King of the Jews. Jesus replied "thou sayest". In Verse 37, Pilate again proclaims Jesus as King (for all to see) written above His head on the cross. Pilate knew Jesus was King of the Jews and proclaimed it. Yet a proclamation is not all it takes to be saved, one must also surrender unto the Lord and repent of the ways of the world. May all of

us repent daily that we may all be known as His!

We have much to rejoice about in June. The Holy Baptism of Bro. Jamie and Sis. Jodie (Messner) Pelzel, into the body of Christ, took place the first weekend. May the joy of the Lord be with them and reflect through their children the rest of the days.

Betty Lindwall (Ron Lindwall, dec.), Lord willing, will be giving her testimony in August. We pray for her and others in our churches, who are seeking the grace of the Lord, that the peace given them will always be in their hearts.

We said goodbye to a foreign exchange student who has spent the school year with Bro. Dewayne Dills' family. Doruk has returned home. We hope his time spent here has implanted the seed of God's grace in Jesus.

Graduating from high school are: Micah Mogler (Bro. Kent and Sis. Mary), Sis. Clair Dill (Bro. Dewayne and Sis. LaRae), and Bailey Kent (Jay and Lisa). Micah's brother, Seth Mogler, has graduated college (U/MN) and relocated to Rochester, MN for employment. We hope that he will attend worship services there.

Bro. Braden Mogler also returns to Altadena to continue in his studies. It is always good to see brethren return home for a period of time, but it is always too short. We will be sharing the next year with Don Metzger (Bro. Duane and Sis. Ruth, West Bend, IA) as he attends U/MN St. Paul.

We give thanks to the Lord for allowing ministers to visit our congregation to share His Word. This month we were blessed with Elder Bro. Paul Messner (Sis. Jan, Winthrop, MN), Bro. Dale Zeltwanger (Sis. Rachel, Morris

North, MN), Bro. Brian Waibel (Sis. Wendy, Champaign, IL), Bro. Alan Schambach (Sis. Sarah, Remington, IN), Mark Zimmerman (Sis. Cheryl, Eureka, IL), and Bro. Scott Schaefer (Sis. Gigi, South Bend, IN).

Please join us in prayer that all the brethren travelling to the August conference are kept safe and healthy.

In July, we enjoyed a visit from Hospital Lumiere, Haiti. Silamene Aguste was blessed with the means to come to Minnesota for surgery she was not able to get in Haiti. We hope she has a quick, stable recovery and is able to spend many years with the Lord's help among her people back home.

The children, (including the children of God who supervised), enjoyed another year of Vacation Bible School the week of July 16. The subject this year was "Taste and See that the Lord is Good". The week ended with food packaging for World Relief. The Lord blessed us with enough to share with others in need. We hope they too will "taste and see the Lord is good."

We praise thee O God! For thy Spirit of light, who has shown us our Savior and scattered our night. Hallelujah! Thine the glory, Hallelujah! Amen; Hallelujah! Thine the glory, revive us again. (Hymns of Zion #290 vs. 2)

MINNESOTA, MORRIS

**Kim Feuchtenberger
Annie Wulf**

"Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness." (Isaiah 41:10)

Bro. Dan Moser (Sis. Anne, Elgin, IL), Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH), Bro. Mike Rinkenberger (Sis. Patricia, Congerville, IL), Bro. Tom

Schambach (Sis. Connie, Elgin, IL), Bro. Dan Koch (Sis. Julie, Tremont, IL), Elder Bro. Jim Plattner (Sis. Marlene, Princeville, IL), Bro. Curt Rassi (Sis. Kathy, Tremont, IL) and Bro. Steve Pamer (Sis. Arliss, Akron, OH) came to help in the ministry. May the Lord reward each one.

Orrin Elias was born to Bro. Tom (Bro. Karl and Sis. Marilyn) and Sis. Trish (Bro. Russell and Sis. Vera Manz from Junction, OH) Koehl on June 21. He has three older brothers: Blake, Wyatt and Gavin.

Heather Sauder (Bro. Verle and Sis. Christa) was married to Eldon Orby (Kerkhoven, MN) on June 30. Our prayer for them is that they would always seek to do God's will throughout their lives.

Sis. Vi Wulf, Sis. Marion Moser, and Richard Watson were hospitalized lately. May we keep them in our prayers that the Lord's will be done.

O, may the Christian love be ever glowing, Within our hearts; this is our Savior's will!

Though cross or pain or scorn or death befall us, May faith and love to Him be constant still.

For He who bore the cross is now in heaven. To Him we'll rise when once His call is given.

(Zion's Harp #114 vs. 3)

MINNESOTA, MORRIS NORTH

**Lois Schmidgall
Wanda Gramm**

Note from the editors:

We sincerely apologize for omitting the Morris North Church in the last two issues of Silver Lining. This was totally our error and NOT intentional. We are very sorry and have included all past information in this issue.

Greetings in our Lord Jesus' name.

"Be a light for Jesus" was the theme for our Vacation Bible School. The memory verse was: *"I am the light of the world; he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness but shall have the light of life." (John 8:12)*

Our children were inspired in learning how they can be a light for Jesus and to follow his teachings so they can have a life full of peace and joy. A special "thanks" to all who organized and helped make this a blessed event.

Prayers are with Ruth Kearney as she recovers from a fall and for Deb Gunderson as she recovers from surgery. We are glad that Bro. Floyd Schmidgall is back home and able to worship with us. He has completed rehab for a knee replacement.

A potluck supper gathering was held at a local park on Father's Day. Our love and appreciation to all the fathers at Morris North.

Blessing us in June with spiritual wisdom and love was Bro. Doyle Frauhtiger (Sis. Jane, Bluffton North), along with our ministers: Elder Bro. Paul Messner, Bro. Dale Zeltwanger and Bro. Doug Moser. We appreciate you for your spiritual labors and concern.

As the summer is upon us, this is a time for family reunions and celebrations such as Independence Day. Let us be thankful to GOD for abundant blessings such as our families and for the great nation in which we live, The United States of America – In God We Trust.

Those of us who live in an agriculture area have the blessing of driving through the country roads, enjoying the fields and countryside. We are able to watch the seed being planted. We watch as God waters the ground. We watch the weeds grow and the farmer rooting them out. Then we see the fields turn

white, as they ripen for harvest. We ask ourselves, "How much longer will it be before the harvest?" So like our lives, are we ready for that harvest?

We have been so blessed with many visitors this summer. It has been so exciting to renew old friendships and welcome new ones. Also, seeing our assembly filled to capacity has really been wonderful. Among our visitors were several ministers: Bro. Kevin Knapp (Sis. Dixie, Bloomington, IL), Bro. Justin Koch (Sis. Marcia, Washington, IL), Bro. Jeff Neihouser (Sis. Sue, Morton, IL), Bro. Ken Wuethrich (Sis. Lynn, Indianapolis, IN), Bro. Herbie Knochel (Sis. Laurie, Phoenix, AZ), Bro. Fred Witzig (Sis. Nancy, Washington, IL), Bro. Troy Leye (Sis. Kelly, Bluffton, IN), and our Elder Bro. Paul Messner (Winthrop, MN). Our cups are truly overflowing and we say thank you for sharing the Good News. We pray that God will bless you for your labors of love shown toward us.

Our new Sunday School teachers are Bro. Adam and Sis. Christy Zeltwanger. Our prayers and support are with you as you teach our little children and grandchildren who are so special to us.

Prayers for healing have been with Sis. Pearl Moser, little Owen Knobloch, our dear Ruth Kearney.

We were so blessed the weekend of July 21 and 22 to have Bro. Fred Witzig give a talk on the "Anabaptists". So very interesting to learn of our heritage. And what a WONDERFUL heritage is ours. Then on Sunday eve, Bro. Troy Leye spoke on the "Loving Shepherd". We truly have an opportunity to serve the Lord in so many ways. We were reminded to use the talents that have been given to us.

Our prayers are with our elder brethren as they meet in the near future for the conference. We are living in such a dark time and we are so thankful for our elders. May they feel the true spirit of God and the love of Jesus as they meet.

October 27 has been chosen for the annual Harvest Supper. We welcome anyone who would like to join us.

We were reminded that we are not just a friend, brother or sister of Christ if we are living for Him. He has asked us to be part of His Body. What a wonderful, wonderful Savior is ours!

MINNESOTA, ROCHESTER

**Mark Stork
Eric Bachman**

We are again thankful for those who traveled to Rochester to preach Gods Word. Our Wednesday evening minister was Bro. Doug Moser (Sis. Dawn, Morris North, MN). The Sunday minister was Bro. Jim Vierling (Sis. Linda, Eureka, IL). We appreciate their labors of love on our behalf.

We extend a welcome to Seth Mogler (Bro. Kent and Mary Mogler, Minneapolis, MN) who recently moved to Rochester to work at Mayo Clinic. May God be with him as he makes this important step in his life.

We pray for our elders as they meet to discuss the matters pertaining to our church. May they feel God's nearness and guidance.

Contacts for the Guest House are Bro. Mark and Sis. Sandy Stork (507) 288-0072.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

**Lindsay Schmidt
Heather Steiner**

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created

equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." (Declaration of Independence)

July 4th is the day our country celebrates Independence Day from the ruling by an oppressive country. As we celebrated our country's freedom, let us be thankful to our forefather's that fought for our freedom to worship our God. Let us also be thankful that through God we have a freedom and independence that only His children can understand. Freedom from our sins which we have obtained through the shed blood of our Lord and Savior and the independence we have from Satan and his oppression.

"And these words, which I command you this day, shall be in thine heart: and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children..." (Deuteronomy 6:6-7)

As another Sunday School year ends, so does the teaching terms for Bro. Edward Stoll (Sis. Ginny) and Sis. Joleen Elder (Bro. John). We want to thank them for their years of service. We give support to newly-elected teachers, Bro. Nick Schmidt (Sis. Julie) and Sis. Lindsay Schmidt and substitute teachers, Bro. David Messner (Sis. Bethany) and Sis. Becky Braulick (Marlyn). The additional responsibility of Sunday School superintendent has fallen on Bro. Nick Schmidt. May each one feel the love and prayers as they teach these young and tender hearts the most important lessons they will learn in life.

"I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust." (Psalms 91:2)

Prayers for health and healing

have gone out to some loved ones in our church this past month. We will continue to pray that God will grant strength and healing to Bro. Roy Howk and Melvin Messner (Vernita).

"The stranger did not lodge in the street: but I opened my doors to the traveler." (Job 31:32)

Our little church has been very thankful for the visitors that have either been passing through our area or have made Winthrop their destination. Our doors are wide open and we always welcome any visitors.

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY **Brittany Fehr**

We appreciate the efforts of Bro. Glen Funk (Sis. Sally, Wichita, KS), Bro. Brad Strahm (Sis. Michelle, Bern, KS), and Bro. Roger Aberle (Sis. Lavonne, Sabetha, KS), who were recently visiting ministers. May God bless each of His children who preach the Word through the pure inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

We are thankful that Sis. Kara Snyder (Bro. Greg) has fully recovered and is home from the hospital.

May the Lord bless the efforts of those who assisted with Vacation Bible School in our congregation.

MISSOURI, LAMAR **Lisa Stoller** **Venetta Banwart**

We are thankful for our visiting ministers this month: Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Sis. Jane, Lamont-Gridley, KS), Bro. Nathan Walder (Sis. Denise, Cissna Park, IL), Bro. Larry Bahr (Sis. Julie, Ft. Scott, KS). May they feel God's nearness for feeding us from His Holy Word.

We rejoice with our convert, Jesse Braker (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Carol).

He has found peace with God and man. May he continue to feel God's nearness.

We had the privilege to witness the wedding vows of Sis. Katie Frieden (Bro. Rex and Sis. Vera) and Bro. Christopher Marti (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Kathy) on July 15. May they feel God's nearness as they become one in the Lord.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS **Kary Mangers**

We rejoice with Bro. Nathan, Sis. Michelle and big brother, Ashton, as they welcome Morgan Elizabeth Rassi to their family. Morgan was born on July 18. Grandparents are Bro. Greg and Sis. Carla Rassi (Chicago, IL) and Bro. Walt and Sis. Linda Beery (Rittman, OH). We pray for God's blessings and wisdom as they raise their daughter to honor Him.

Thank you to Bro. Tim and Sis. Diane Roecker (Peoria, IL) and Bro. Tony and Sis. Denise Manz (Junction, OH) for sharing God's Word on their recent visits. We also would like to thank the Peoria Young Group who visited our congregation and supported one of our local missions with a food drive.

Lastly, we are very happy to welcome Sis. Sydney Eisenmann, formally of Champaign, IL, to our church family. Sis. Sydney accepted a job with a construction company in St. Louis as a BIM engineer. We pray that Sis. Sydney will continue to feel God's direction as she gets settled here.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR **Kathy Eberhardt**

We are so thankful for safe travels for our Bible class, young group, and parents to Magdalena, MX during June. What a blessing it was to enjoy sweet fellowship with believers and

be a part of what God is doing at CVE. It was a new experience for many. The orphans and staff will always be in our hearts and prayers.

Elder Bros. Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan), John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern, KS), Ed Schwartz (Sis. Jeni, Bluffton, IN) recently traveled together to India and Ethiopia for the work of Rural Gospel Medical Missions and Loving Shepherd Ministry. We appreciate the work of these missions and are thankful for their safe return.

Hospitalized patients this month included Bro. Robert Haerr (Sis. Emma) and Sis. Ellen Gehring (Bro. Brad). New births included Slate Snyder (Bro. Kenton and Sis. Heidi) and Harper Heimer (son of Jesse and Amy). Bro. Rod and Sis. Barb Heimer are grandparents to both of these new babies.

As believers, we are often encouraged to be part of the army of the Lord. We were privileged to host the Ft. Sam Reunion this month and hear the stories of our brothers who served our nation faithfully. We also hosted the Walder Reunion.

Visiting ministers this month included Bro. John Steiner (Sis. Carol, Oakville, IA), Bro. Duane Metzger (Sis. Ruth, West Bend, IA), Bro. Nelson Beer, Milford, IA), Bro. James Fehr (Sis. Brenda, Tremont, IL) and many retired ministers. Many thanks to all who visited and worshipped with us.

NEW YORK, CROGHAN-NAUMBURG **Hope Graves**

Our annual Sunday School hotdog roast was held at the Croghan recreational park on Monday evening, June 25. Rain made us set up undercover, but it ended up being a beautiful evening enjoyed by all. We thank those in charge who

always work hard to plan these get-togethers.

We shared a potluck and singing together on Saturday, July 21. We were thankful for the visitors that came to share the weekend with us.

Another one of our high school graduates is Hannah Herzig. We pray for God's direction in her future endeavors.

The funeral for Ronald Virkler was held here on July 3. Our prayers go out to his family after his death on June 27 at the age of 57.

New life was given to two of our families this past month. Little Quintin Norbert Fuller was welcomed on July 5 by his parents Sarah and Aaron and siblings: Kayla, Breanna and Evan. Brian and Danielle Graves added a son to their family on July 7. Bennett Chester has big sister Mikaedyn at home. We pray for God's direction upon each of these growing families.

Sis. Anna Mellnitz was hospitalized. We pray for strength and healing for her.

OHIO, AKRON

Erika Gal

"For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him." (2 Chr. 16:9)

We wish to thank Bro. Ted Luginbuhl (Smithville, OH) for his labors of love on our behalf this month. We pray that God will always strengthen and reward our faithful ministers.

Our prayers and best wishes go with Bro. Ryan and Sis. Colleen and little Lela Gasser as their family moves to Denver, CO for a medical fellowship. We will certainly miss them and look forward to their return. May God watch between us while we are apart.

OHIO, COLUMBUS

Lauren Rufener

We have appreciated visiting ministers Bro. Ben and Sis. Michelle Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA), Bro. Matt and Sis. Deanna Steffen (Princeville, IL), Bro. Mark and Sis. Sue Steiner (Smithville, OH), Bro. Todd and Sis. Pam Stoller (Latty, OH), Bro. Jerry and Sis. Martha Bauman (Rittman, OH), Bro. Mark and Sis. Jeannine Masters (Mansfield, OH) for sharing God's Word with us.

OHIO, JUNCTION

Vicki Boroff

In June, Bros. Don Steidl (Sis. Nan, Akron, OH) and Larry Wenninger (Sis. Joyce, Latty, OH) ministered to us this past month. We are thankful when they visit.

We enjoyed the wedding of Jessica Manz (Sis. Virginia) to Aric Merricle (Mike and Deb). We wish them God's many blessings in their marriage.

We continue to pray for Bro. Ed Schlatter (Sis. Cheryl) as he heals at home from an accident last month. Likewise, we pray for all those that may be in need of His healing hand.

We are thankful for two new babies. On June 15, Kyler Elias joined his siblings, Kayleigh, Kellen, and Kade. Parents are Henry and Christa Manz. Levi George was born on June 17, to Bro. Warren and Sis. Cindy Schlatter. His thrilled siblings are Jesse, Nathan, Naomi, Joanna, Isaac, and Josiah.

In July, we were thankful to hear that Derek Schlatter (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Laurie) has peace in his life, and we look forward to his baptism in the near future.

We continue to pray for Bro. Ed Schlatter's (Sis. Cheryl) healing, and for our hospital patients, among them Bro. Eli Manz.

Bro. Bruce Frank (Sis. Bonnita, Cissna Park, IL) ministered to us recently. We appreciate our visiting ministers.

OHIO, LATTY

Carmen Stoller

Mindy Stoller

"Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour." (Ecclesiastes 4:9)

Our dear, Kristy Graf (Bro. Bob and Sis. Joan), announced her engagement to Jesse Christman. We wish them God's richest blessings as they plan for a wedding and marriage.

We were thankful to witness the marriage of Bro. Sam Steffen (Bro. Donn and Sis. Karen) to Sis. Laura Gerber (Bro. Dave and Sis. Patty). Although the electricity was out from the recent storm, many brothers came together and gave of themselves to connect generators to the church and fellowship hall for the special occasion. We were so thankful for all their work and service for the house of the Lord. We would also like to thank all who helped out in our recent power outage and clean-up. Many brethren lost buildings, trees, and structures. We continue to lift them up in prayer. We can praise God that none of the brethren were injured.

Bro. Curt Rassi (Sis. Kathy, Tremont, IL) and Bro. Dewayne Dill (Sis. LaRae, Minneapolis, MN) visited us this month and fed us from God's Word. We appreciated them both so much and know God will reward them.

Bro. Larry Wenninger (Sis. Joyce) has announced his retirement after many years in the ministry. We want to sincerely thank him and his family for all the sacrifices they have made for our Latty church and all the time spent on our behalf. We

pray God will continue to bless him as he has blessed us.

OHIO, MANSFIELD

Tami Griffey

Our prayers are with James Dotterer (Bro. Gaylord and Sis. Betty), as the Marine Corps are soon deploying him to Afghanistan. May God's provision and presence be felt wherever his duties take him.

With thankfulness for the mercy and grace of God, the testimony and baptism of Bro. Goran Garunovic was carried out on Thursday, June 21. After a battle with cancer Bro. Goran passed away on July 19 and is safe in the arms of Jesus. Our prayers, sympathy, and love are with his family including parents Bro. Mike and Sis. Jelena, and daughter Christina.

The annual Sunday School Picnic was held July 8. The afternoon included activities for the Sunday School Students followed by a dinner and singing. We are thankful for the opportunity to spend time in sweet fellowship.

Please keep Sis. Judy Dawson and Sis. Dawn Ramsey and their families in your prayers. They were recently hospitalized, and are recovering from surgery.

We are thankful to Bro. Jim Vierling (Sis. Linda, Eureka, IL) for visiting and sharing God's Word with our church.

Our hearts are filled with joy as Elizabeth Dawson (Bro. Ed and Sis. Judy) has recognized her need for a Savior and has turned to the Lord in repentance. May God bless and direct each step of her life.

OHIO, RITTMAN

Jenny Pertee

Anna Bauman

There have been several from our congregation who spent some time in the hospital this month.

Our prayers are with Sis. Marian Hartzler, Cayden Beery (Bro. Chad and Sis. Katie), Sis. Bev Moore (Randy), Sis. Helen Maibach, Sis. Velma Rufener (Bro. Jeff), and Sis. Yvonne Beery.

Our prayers are also with the family of Sis. Ruth Hilty, who passed away June 29. Her family includes Sam (Judy), Sis. Miriam (Bro. Bill) Brake, Sis. Martha (Bro. Kenneth) Steele, Frank (Ginny), Bro. Roscoe (Sis. Wanda) and Sis. Rose (Bro. Joe) Dotterer. We pray that they feel God's nearness and comfort.

We are thankful that Matt Gasser (Bro. Jim and Sis. Janice) has begun his repentance. May he experience God's grace and guidance as he begins on the narrow way.

On July 5, Annie Faith was born to Bro. Brad and Sis. Alicia Stoller. Grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Lori Stoller and Bro. Neil and Sis. Donna Gasser.

We are thankful for the many visiting ministers this month. They are Elder Bros. Paul Messner (Winthrop, MN), Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL), Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN), Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH). We also had Bros. John Grimm (Columbus, OH), Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI), Dana Indermuhle (Sardis, OH), and Ron Palitto (Akron, OH).

"Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life." (Romans 6: 4)

We are very thankful for two new souls who have been buried in baptism and are now walking in newness of life. They are Sis. Denise Baltic (Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty) and Bro. Nick Lanz (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Darlene). May God continue to be with them.

OHIO, SARDIS

Faith Beard

"And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."

(Hebrews 10:24-25)

During July, we had an Invite-A-Guest weekend that was specially tailored for our Sunday School as all families invited had children. We felt so blessed to have such love and fellowship, but also to have the sustenance needed to host such an event. Those who gathered with us were blessed with the freedom and physical necessities needed to travel from several states to be with us. How privileged we are to be able to "assemble ourselves together" for such a weekend as this. It would be mostly unthinkable, yet so desirable, to so many Christians in other lands.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE

Lydia Dotterer

Gina Brake

June 30 was the wedding of Christina Marty (Bro. Ron and Tammy) and Alex Bell. Deborah Rufener and Benjamin Neal were also united in marriage on June 30. Deborah is the daughter of Bro. Larry and Sis. Susan Rufener. On July 1, the engagement of Sis. Alissa Maibach and Bro. Ben Gerber (Leo, IN) was announced. Their parents are Bro. Jay and Sis. Marsha Maibach (Smithville) and Scott and the late Anna Melinda Gerber of Kokomo, IN. We pray for God's blessings on each of these couples as they start their lives together.

On June 20, Sintayehu David joined the family of Bro. David,

Sis. Larisa, and Yikealo Maibach. He was born on July 22, 2009. His grandparents are Bro. Gary and Sis. Mary Ann Maibach (Smithville) and Bro. Larry and Sis. Joyce Wenninger (Latty, OH).

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Tom Leman (Denver, CO), Bro. Mike Ursu (Sis. Barb, Kitchener, ON, Canada), and Bro. Warren Zahner (Sis. Bonnie, Rockville, CT). May God be with each one who is called to speak His Word (that the truth be spoken).

Our prayers are with those who were hospitalized this past month. Sis. Lilas Rufener (Bro. Joe), Earl Hartzler, and Sis. Margaret Blough all spent time in the hospital recently. May God grant healing according to His will.

"...likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth..."
(Luke 15:7)

We wish God's blessings on Natalie Maibach (Bro. Jay and Sis. Marsha), as she recently started repenting. May she find grace to die to self and live for Christ.

OHIO, TOLEDO

Deanna Manz

Anita Schlatter

We were thankful for a break in the heat for our Sunday School picnic on July 8. It was an enjoyable time of fellowship. Thank you to our guests who helped fill up our Sunday School for the day! Our Elder Bro. Bill and Sis. Emily Schlatter (Junction, OH) joined us for church. We thank Bro. Bill for his service on the pulpit.

Dave Sancraint (Sis. Connie) had surgery recently and is recovering well. We thank God that he was able to join us again in church this past Sunday. We also continue to lift up Bro. Aaron Masters in prayer

as he has completed his radiation treatments. We are thankful that he is feeling better and has been able to maintain his cheery disposition throughout this trying time.

May we be prayerful for the elders as they gather for the conference in Rockville, CT. We thank them and their wives for their many sacrifices and efforts!

OREGON, PORTLAND

Rebekah Jones

OREGON, SILVERTON

Kelsey Walder

Ann Kuenzi

We have enjoyed spending time with our children and young people this past month. We held our Sunday School picnic at Willamette Mission State Park on a late Saturday afternoon and evening. Two weeks later, our Bible Class enjoyed a time of fellowship and activities at Bro. Harvey and Sis. Jennifer Kuenzi's, and at Silver Creek Falls Conference Center. Bro. Gary and Sis. Mary Ann Maibach from Smithville, Ohio, were here for the weekend. Bro. Gary spoke to the young people Saturday evening, and then ministered to all of us on Sunday.

We have appreciated other visiting ministers this past month as well: Bro. Trent Meiss (Sis. Lucy, Eureka, IL) and Bro. Ron Jones (Sis. Liz, Portland, OR).

There have been several injuries and health difficulties this past month. Bob Glass (Cynthia) broke his arm. Sis. Becky Von Flue (Bro. Dan) spent five days in the hospital and is recovering now at home. Bro. Lewis Kuenzi continues to need our prayers, as his health is not the best.

We were saddened to hear of the loss of Sis. Megan Walter's (Bro. Chad) father, Mike Massey (Anita).

We pray that God will wrap His arms around her and her family in the days ahead.

We are delighted to add a new little one to our congregation. Greg and Susan Stadel welcome Abel George into their open arms and hearts. His grandparents are Ron and Arlene Stadel and Herman and Joan Glueck.

We have elected new Sunday School teachers, who will take up their duties in the fall. They are Sis. Sara Kuenzi, Sis. Tresa Zollinger (Bro. Jim), Bro. Monte Kuenzi (Sis. Kellie), Bro. Todd Haun (Sis. Richelle), and Bro. Ryan Hari (Sis. Regina). We appreciate and want to thank those that have served willingly the past four years.

PENNSYLVANIA, PHILADELPHIA

*So take my pledge, O Lord,
Too long in sin I've bided;
I'd live henceforth for Thee,
By Thee, my Saviour, guided!
O do Thou hold me fast;
From sin, O make me free,
So that henceforth my heart
Thy temple pure may be!*
(Zion's Harp #45 vs. 7)

Philadelphia is very thankful to report a new convert this month. We wish Chris Lanz (Bro. John and Sis. Ky) much grace as he seeks the Lord in humble repentance.

We were also thankful for the number of visitors this month. Fellowship in our brotherhood is such a blessing! May God bless you for being with us!

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE

Mike and Monica Fritz

We rejoice to welcome Bro. Adam and Sis. Jami Luginbuhl into our congregation, as well as their children: Simon, Reigan, and Evan.

They have recently moved here from Philadelphia, PA. And now, as we begin Sunday School in Nashville, we pray for each of the students and their teachers: Sis. Gwen Leuthold and Sis. Jami Luginbuhl.

We have been blessed and encouraged in the past month by the Word, expounded to us by our visiting ministers: Bros. Brandon Emch (Sis. Maria, Kansas City, MO), Dana Nieman (Sis. Lea, Remington, IN), Matt Steffen (Sis. Deanna, Princeville, IL), and Greg Rassi (Sis. Carla, Chicago, IL). We have also been strengthened by the fellowship of visitors from Chicago, Cissna Park, Congerville, Eureka, Fairbury, Forrest, Princeville, IL; Remington, IN; Kansas City, MO; and Akron, Latty, Rittman, Smithville, Toledo, 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: Goodfield, IL (08/26/2012); Detroit, MI (09/02/2012); Alto, MI (09/09/2012); Peoria, IL (09/16/2012); Smithville, OH (09/23/2012); and Congerville, IL (09/30/2012). 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

We appreciate the presence of Andrew Metzger (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Dawn) from Lester, IA as he spends the summer working in our area.

Thanks to the ministers who come to preach the Word. This month we hosted Bros. Frank Sauder (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL), Jerry Wagenbach (Sis. Bonnie, Oakville, IA), Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata, TX), Duane Metzger (Sis. Ruth, West Bend, IA). We also had visitors from Lester, IA and McAllen, TX.

The following is the minister schedule for September: (09/02/2012) Remington, IN, (09/09/2012) Morton, IL,

(09/23/2012) Junction, OH. Refer to the minister's directory for directions and contacts.

TEXAS, DALLAS-FORT WORTH

The next services are scheduled for August 19, 2012 and September 9, 2012. Services are being held generally the second Sunday of each month at the Holiday Inn Express, 4450 W. John Carpenter Freeway, Irving TX. There are many that have Apostolic Christian ties in the area. Please inform your relatives and acquaintances that may have interest. Please call ahead to verify: Leland and Mary Plattner (956) 265-0351 or Dennis and Diane Rassi (512) 321-2345.

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

We request your prayers that God may grant the increase.

TEXAS, MCALLEN

Joyce Nohl

TEXAS, ZAPATA

Mary Plattner

VERMONT, NORTH CLARENDON

Nathan and Miriam Reutter

Homecoming Day: A benefit for the Apostolic Christian Home of Roanoke, IL

Come out and bid on exciting items! Fun for the whole family.

Friday PM, August 24, 2012

3:00-8:00 Preview Auction items
4:30-7:30 Chicken & Fish Fry dinner
5:00-8:00 Bake Sale & Farmer's Market
6:00-8:00 Live entertainment
(Brush Arbor & Testify)

Saturday AM, August 25, 2012

7:00-9:30 Pancake & Sausage Breakfast
9:00-9:40 Live entertainment (Amazing Love)
9:30 Children's activities start
10:00 Live Auction
11:00 Many food booths for lunch (includes pork chop & pulled pork sandwiches, Walking Taco's, homemade cookies, pie and ice cream, lemon shake-ups, coffee bar)

Thank you for supporting this worthwhile mission.

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Parking available in lot east of home and on side streets.

Valet parking available if needed.

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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

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." (Romans 12:1)

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

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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.

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



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Phone: 309-266-6080

Fax: 309-266-5281

E-mail: childsponsorship@acwr.org



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
World Relief

www.acworldrelief.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

“A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another; as I have loved you. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.” (John 13:34-35)

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.” (Romans 12:1)

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Haiti Construction Work Teams

Project	Year 2012	Coordinator	Capacity
Hospital Lumiere MEBSH Construction	Sep 15-22	Daryl Luginbuhl 484-433-1205 darylluginbuhl@gmail.com	12
Hospital Lumiere MEBSH Construction	Oct 19-26	Daryl Luginbuhl 484-433-1205 darylluginbuhl@gmail.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@citznet.com	12
Les Cayes FRW Vocational School	Dec 10-18	Rick Wuethrich 219-863-4163 rick@wuethrichfarms.com	4
Project	Year 2013	Coordinator	Capacity
Les Cayes MEBSH Construction	Jan 4-11	Ron Palitto 330-336-5373 Ronp@palittoconsulting.com	12
Les Cayes AWA Water Aid	Jan 11-18	Maurice Schaefer 309-253-9003 schaefs2@gmail.com	4
Hospital Lumiere MEBSH Construction	Jan 12-19	Daryl Luginbuhl 484-433-1205 darylluginbuhl@gmail.com	12

Les Cayes MEBSH Construction	Feb 1-8	Rod Wieland 989-671-0404 rhwieland@speednetllc.com	12
Hospital Lumiere MEBSH Construction	Feb 2-9	Daryl Luginbuhl 484-433-1205 darylluginbuhl@gmail.com	12
Les Cayes MEBSH Construction	Mar 1-8	Steve Leuthold 309-645-2208 sleuth@speerbank.com	12
Hospital Lumiere MEBSH Construction	Mar 2-9	Daryl Luginbuhl 484-433-1205 darylluginbuhl@gmail.com	12
Les Cayes AWA Water Aid	Mar 8-15	Maurice Schaefer 309-253-9003 schaefs2@gmail.com	4
Les Cayes FRW Vocational School	Mar 8-15	Rick Wuethrich 219-863-4163 rick@wuethrichfarms.com	4
Les Cayes MEBSH Construction	Mar 15-22	Rich Bertschi 309-467-2351 lemangm@mtco.com	12
Hospital Lumiere MEBSH Construction	Apr 6-13	Daryl Luginbuhl 484-433-1205 darylluginbuhl@gmail.com	12
Les Cayes MEBSH Maintenance	Apr 16-23	Jon Zeller 309-266-9009 jonzeller@comcast.net	4
Les Cayes MEBSH Haiti Support	Apr 25-29	Jon Zeller 309-266-9009 jonzeller@comcast.net	ACWR-CC

Hospital Lumiere MEBSH Construction	May 4-11	Daryl Luginbuhl 484-433-1205 darylluginbuhl@gmail.com	12
Les Cayes FRW Vocational School	Jun 7-14	Rick Wuethrich 219-863-4163 rick@wuethrichfarms.com	4

Haiti Medical Work Teams

Project	Year 2012	Coordinator	Capacity
Bonne Fin, Haiti Hospital Lumiere Medical Teams	Sep 21-29	Alice Widmer alice.widmer@jmsmucker.com 330-939-0083	8
Hospital Lumiere	Nov 30-Dec 8	Alice Widmer	8
Project	Year 2013	Coordinator	Capacity
Hospital Lumiere	Jan 18-26	Alice Widmer	8
Hospital Lumiere	Feb 15-23	Alice Widmer	8
Hospital Lumiere	Mar 15-23	Alice Widmer	8
Hospital Lumiere	Apr 19-27	Alice Widmer	8
Hospital Lumiere	May 17-25	Alice Widmer	8

Trip includes travel dates of Friday thru the following Saturday.

There is a need for ministers to travel with the ACC medical teams not only for spiritual support, but also to assist with the many non-medical functions.

Mexico Work Project Schedule

Location	Year 2012	Coordinator
Ixtlan Medical	Sep 5-12	Cheryl Herrmann cherrmann@frontier.com
Magdalena Construction	Nov 17-24	Rod Schmidt 303-774-7913 rschmidt@acosta.com

Location	Year 2013	Coordinator
Magdalena Construction	Dec 29 - Jan 5	Karl Edelman 815-735-7385 karledelman@cawi.org
Magdalena Construction	Jan 12-19	Steve Kaeb 217-781-4709 kaeb@frontier.com
Magdalena Construction	Feb 16-23	Jon Baner 309-747-4085 baner@gridcom.net
Magdalena Construction	Mar 9-16	Drew Martin Illinois State University 309-635-0878 isuyounggroup@gmail.com
Magdalena Construction	Mar 23-30	Chuck Koch Tremont Bible Class 309-925-3905 cckoch1988@gmail.com
Magdalena Construction	May 25 - Jun 1	Mark Steffen Phoenix Bible Class 602-980-2451 marksteffen@coreccg.com
Magdalena Construction	Jun 8-15	Benj Knapp Washington Bible Class 309-208-7450 benjknapp@homewayhomes.com
Questions?		
Contact Mike Fiechter	260-597-7330	mfiechter@onlyinternet.net

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Decision-Making

James 1:5-6, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed."

God's Word makes it clear that wisdom is ours for the asking without restraint. In order to make wise decisions, it is clear that we need wisdom outside of our own good reasoning. The foundation for making good decisions is a prayerful attitude that is submissive to the Word of God and the Holy Spirit.

We make many decisions and choices every day. Some decisions are very simple and require almost no concentration or forethought, while others may take days of soul-searching, prayer, and counsel. We would likely all agree that decision-making occurs on a variety of levels, but sometimes we can get those levels mixed up or confused so that simple decisions become difficult or we make weightier decisions without adequate research and prayer.

Prayer

1 John 5:14-15, "And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him."

Fervent prayer is a key for individuals and couples who are seeking to make decisions. God is a loving heavenly Father who wants the best for His children. His plans and purposes are for our good and the benefit of His kingdom. Therefore, while submitting our will to God can be a difficult task, it also can provide us with great peace and comfort. God is good and trustworthy, even when our circumstances are uncertain.

Counsel

Proverbs 12:15, "The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise."

As we face decisions and need to sort out options, it is often helpful to seek guidance from wise individuals. Getting another perspective can provide a different point of view, reveal blind spots, and help us learn from the experiences of others. However, we do need to exercise caution in selecting our counsel. If we search long enough, we can likely find someone who will agree with our reasoning. That is not really seeking

counsel but merely looking for justification for our decisions.

Through the living Word, God has provided sufficient teaching and guidance to help us understand the plan of salvation and to know how to live a holy life. This gives us comfort, knowing that God's Word is always trustworthy and the best source for counsel in making decisions.

Proverbs 4:11-13, "I have taught thee in the way of wisdom; I have led thee in right paths. When thou goest, thy steps shall not be straitened; and when thou runnest, thou shalt not stumble. Take fast hold of instruction; let her not go: keep her; for she is thy life."

At certain times in life we may not have specific scriptural guidance on making a specific decision. In these cases, God has promised that He will grant wisdom to work through these things. We can have confidence that He will help us through life as we humbly seek Him and walk "in the way of wisdom."

Common Sense, Logic, Personal Preference

Sometimes decision-making is simple and doesn't require much thought. For example: a menu choice, choice of daily apparel, restaurant preference, vacation choices, etc., are usually fairly simple and likely don't carry grave consequences one way or the other. We may or may not like the choices we've made, and this experience will generally have an impact the next time a similar choice or decision presents itself. We develop personal preferences through experience and those will guide many of our day-to-day decisions.

Seeking Signs

1 Corinthians 1:22-24, "For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom: But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God."

At other times in life, decisions are weighty and the consequences of making a wrong decision are very impactful and may affect others in our families, church, or workplace. However, if we follow the principles set out in God's Word, we can have confidence that the Lord will see us through. In decision making, we need to avoid both the error of the Greeks (over-focus on earthly wisdom) and the Jews (over-focus on supernatural signs). Both ways hinder a true understanding of God's ways.

Like the Greeks, some people over-focus on learning, earthly wisdom, and logic. Because of this, many of them find faith to be an illogical and foreign concept. However, believers know that without faith it is impossible to please God (*Hebrews 11:6*). Scriptural principles like "going the extra mile" (*Matthew 5:41*) or "turning the other cheek" (*Matthew 5:39*) are not learned from common sense. Rather, those are *spiritual* principles and matters of faith that go against what is natural. In the context of biblical decision-making, this means that we must not make decisions solely upon what "everyone's doing" or what appears to be the most natural or easiest solution. Rather, our primary allegiance in decision-making must be to biblical teaching and principles.

Conversely, like the Jews, some people seek to oversimplify decisions by looking for signs or feelings that indicate a direction. For example, some people believe that if something happens easily or goes smoothly, it is automatically a sign of God's favor. On the other hand, sometimes people believe that if something is difficult or they encounter setbacks, it must be a sign that God thinks something is bad. However, while the ease or difficulty of working through a situation may be an indicator of God's direction, these factors are not sufficient evidence, in themselves, to determine God's direction. God can speak in any way that He chooses and sometimes it can be in the form of a sign. However, we need to remember that human beings are susceptible to reading into things based on their biases and interpretations. Finally, we need to use caution as Satan also can appear as an angel of light (*2 Corinthians 11:14*).

Psalms 31:3 "For thou art my rock and my fortress; therefore for thy name's sake lead me, and guide me."

Prayer, the wise counsel of others, and biblical principles are all tools to help us through the decision-making process. Whether the decision we are considering is small and of little consequence or potentially life changing, it is comforting to know that God will provide us with the wisdom and clarity needed to come to a sound conclusion. The challenge we often face is to wait upon God and not run ahead of Him.

Psalms 27:14 "Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord."

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will trust in Him? I have to say, there are times in my own life I'm tempted to look around me and want to grab on to something that I can hang on to. That's not right. That's not true faith.

So David numbered the people, and they brought him back the number. It says in verse 10, *"And David's heart smote him after that he had numbered the people. And David said unto the LORD, I have sinned greatly in that I have done: and now, I beseech thee, O LORD, take away the iniquity of thy servant; for I have done very foolishly."* Each of us probably has our own opinion why David is a man after God's own heart, but in my weak understanding I think what sets David apart is that he was a man willing to admit his wrong and willing to humble himself and repent when he had failed his God. Whether it was something he recognized on his own as in this instance or in another time when it was presented to him by the prophet, and he realized he was the man (2 Samuel 12:1-14).

Brothers and Sisters, I think we need to take this to heart because we all have pride. We struggle with pride. It's a part of our flesh, isn't it? None of us are above reproach. None of us are above making mistakes. When we find ourselves in that position, let's be as David and fall on our face, repent, and ask God to forgive us. He's willing to forgive us. The Word is full of promises that He will not despise a broken and contrite heart (Psalm 51:17, Psalm 34:18). He will not turn away from any of us if we humble ourselves before Him and admit we need Him and have failed His perfect will.

So David found himself in this position. At times we probably wish there wasn't a penalty for sin. All sin

can be forgiven. It doesn't matter how great and how far. If we humble ourselves and repent, God can forgive us except for the sin where we would blaspheme against the Holy Ghost (Mark 3:28-29). We also need to remember there is a penalty for sin. It should spur within us the desire to be overcomers and to use God's grace in fullness to overcome and be free from sin so we don't have to carry that burden.

David was presented with circumstances here from which he had to choose – seven years of famine, flee three months before his enemies, or three days pestilence in the land. *"...now advise, and see what answer I shall return to him that sent me."* v.13. We see the wisdom of David. We see his heart and the faith he had in his God because he said *"...let us fall now into the hand of the LORD; for his mercies are great: and let me not fall into the hand of man."* v.14. Yes, there are times we have to go through conviction and discipline in our lives to bring us back where we need to be, but we have to have confidence that we have a God who does that for our good to purify us, to help us be relieved of the dross in our life, and to become more like Him.

David committed himself unto God because he trusted that what God would do would be best. Yes, there would be a punishment and a penalty, but yet he trusted that his God was merciful and would still care for him and love him.

"So the LORD sent a pestilence upon Israel from the morning even to the time appointed: and there died of the people from Dan even to Beersheba seventy thousand men." v.15 – because of one man's sin.

Two Sundays ago at our church in Milford, a brother made a statement that I've thought about. He said, 'You

know, when I was younger I thought the decisions I made in life only affected me. The decisions others made and if they allowed sin in their life affected them. They were going to answer for their decision. But, the older I get and the more I observe the happenings in life, I understand that none of the decisions we make just affect us. They have very far-reaching effects.'

We think about it in our lives, and I've seen it in my mom's family. She had a brother that was raised in our faith and chose not to follow it. I have four first cousins that I love. They are a lot like me. They have families. But, they don't know the truth, and I don't think they even have a desire to know the truth – just because of one man's decision. God promises that He will bless us even to the third and fourth generation if we are faithful to him, but when we are unfaithful, the opposite is true (Numbers 14:18).

I have to think how many blessings in all circumstances of my life are because I had a great-grandfather, a grandfather, and a father who were faithful. As we see, because of David's sin, seventy thousand men lost their life. Maybe we won't see the penalty of our sin cause someone to die physically, but will they die spiritually?

We see the mercy of God that David counted on. *"And when the angel stretched out his hand upon Jerusalem to destroy it, the LORD repented him of the evil, and said to the angel that destroyed the people, It is enough: stay now thine hand..."* v.16. Then David was commanded to offer a sacrifice, and he went to Araunah. Araunah offered to give it to him. He understood who David was, the power he had, the godly man he was, and he wanted to just give it to him. But *Sermon continued on Page 48*

Sermon continued from Page 47

David said, "...Nay; but I will surely buy it of thee at a price: neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the LORD my God of that which doth cost me nothing. So David bought the threshingfloor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver. And David built there an altar unto the LORD, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings. So the LORD was intreated for the land, and the plague was stayed from Israel." v.24-25.

Maybe you have found yourself in a position where you have allowed sin to reign in your life. Take the example of David because Satan wants to work in each one of us, and his goal is to get us to give up. If he can get us to just quit trying, he wins, but as long as our heart is to do what is right, as long as we keep striving to come back to our God, God is faithful and He will help us. We look at the example of David – he offered a sacrifice, the Lord was intreated for the land, the plague was stayed, and David got up and went on his way again serving his God. Let's never give up. Even though no doubt he carried on his heart the burden of those seventy thousand who lost their life, yet he stood up and went on his way serving his God. Let's never give up.

In 2 Corinthians 8, Apostle Paul exhorts God's people on giving, and he wanted to encourage them so they would be willing to give of themselves and the blessings of what they had received. First and foremost he says in verse 5, "And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God." As believers we are asked to give up ourselves, aren't we – something that maybe is not easy. We are pretty protective of our own flesh, desires, and wants.

Certainly we were challenged in

the past days at the conference to consider our ways. I believe this is what this chapter would bring out. What are we really called to do? We are called to be workers in the vineyard of our Lord. We are called to be examples for Him in the communities in which we live and be willing to speak to our neighbor and to help our neighbor – as we therefore have opportunity to good unto all men and especially to those of the household of faith (Galatians 6:10). It is something we need to be cognizant of, but first and foremost we need to give our own selves to the Lord and to those who have authority over us, it says, unto us by the will of God.

It may be the world will look and think that if we give up our own self-will and commit our lives unto a God we can't see but who we know is there, it may look like a sign of weakness. But, there is no greater power on this earth than to be a child of God. There is no greater power available to us than through God and His Spirit that He sends to us. So to give ourselves wholly to Him and His will may be a scary thing.

Yet we need to trust even as David. He trusted that he wanted to be laid in the hands of God even though he knew discipline was coming. We also need to lay ourselves in the hand of God. It is the safest place. It is the place that will bring about a work in us that is beyond what we think we're even capable of doing if we can just surrender ourselves to God, allow Him to work that which is pleasing in His sight, and to take us where He wants us to go. Can our prayer be, 'Lord, Thy will be done' and really mean it? Are we willing to go anywhere, do anything, say anything, whatever God would ask? There's a blessing there. It takes faith – faith beyond just believing.

We were reminded in the past evening of a verse that comes back to me often: it says even the devils believe and tremble (James 2:19). So just to believe is not faith in and of itself. Faith is stepping out when we can't see what we're stepping on. Faith is trusting God even though we can't see what's ahead. Faith is trusting the prompting of the Spirit and the little nudge we get that says go this way, do this thing. It can be scary, but there is a blessing in our lives if we can trust God. No doubt many of you have experienced that. In that small step of faith, then we can take another step and another step and another step, and our faith begins to grow in God because we see He's faithful.

Then he challenges the Corinthians. He says, "Therefore, as ye abound in every thing, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also." v.7. A willingness to give.

We were exhorted in the past days, and I think it's something we need to take to heart. It's something that was convicting to me. As Americans, who are we? We are a blessed people. Why have we been blessed? Why do I have two full freezers at home, and yet there are many, many, many who are wondering where their next meal is going to come from. The Bible says we have been blessed for one reason – that we would have to give to those who are in need (v.14). Maybe we go back to David. How much faith do we really have to have? How much faith do we have in God? How much are we numbering? Every year I have to hand a balance sheet into the bank. How much faith do I put in that thing? Is that what I'm trusting in?

Think about it. I have a wallet in my back pocket with green paper

in it. That's all it is. It's green paper. It's only worth what our government says it is. We need to be willing to just give that up for the Lord's use because what happens tomorrow if our government does go into default? What happens if our economy collapses? What happens if that green paper is only green paper? It's happened to other nations, and it can happen to us. Then what are we going to trust in? What's going to be our foundation? What are we going to stand on?

I don't think we should feel guilty for where we're at. This is where God has placed us. I don't think we should feel guilty if God has blessed our way but understand that to whom much is given, much is required (St. Luke 12:48). That goes beyond just money. It goes to what we have been given spiritually. Who's been given more than us? Who's been taught the truth better than us? Not that we would toot our horn or think of ourselves more highly than what we're to think – it's of God. None of us had anything to do with where we stand. It was a gift from God.

So we need to take what we've been given and offer it back to Him. The Word is full of promises that He will give back to us more than what we can even hold. Does that mean that's going to come back in dollars, if we've given dollars? Not necessarily. How many of us can put a value on our health? How many of us can put a value on our families and their health or their ability to get along? Our children's desire to know the Lord and to come to him – what's that worth? Isn't that the blessing we would desire of God more than money?

I remember a brother bringing out how maybe we have a job, and we get X amount of dollars a week. Maybe

in our minds we say, 'Well, it doesn't matter how much I give, that's going to be what I get.' But, how much can God spare us – maybe that the car runs another 20,000 miles and doesn't break down; that our house holds together a little better than what it could have. We'll never know! We'll never know what God does for us! So we need to trust and be willing to give.

"I speak not by commandment, but by occasion of the forwardness of others, and to prove the sincerity of your love." v.8. Don't we prove the sincerity of our love when we help others when we don't have to, but because we want to? That's how we prove the sincerity of our love. Who is our example? Think about the love that Jesus had to have. It says in verse 9, *"For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich."*

Think about what Jesus gave up for each one of us. He left Heaven. It's a place that we can't even comprehend how beautiful it is, and Satan is not there. There's no night there. There's no pain there. There's no suffering there. He came to earth, and what did He endure for our sakes? Every corner He was ridiculed, constantly questioned. His life was in danger – constantly people were trying to get rid of Him. They didn't like to hear things that brought conviction to their soul so their way of dealing with that was to try to get rid of Him.

Yet He was faithful to the will of His Father to carry out what God asked Him to do because why? Is there any other reason that He would have endured that and even then to go the way of the cross? It says His visage was marred more than any other man (Isaiah 52:14). I don't know if

any of us have ever witnessed a crucifixion. I hope I never have to, but to think of what He endured to prove the sincerity of His love toward us that while we were yet in sin, He died for us!

It comes down to each one of us again. What are we going to do? Are we going to prove the sincerity of our love? For those of us who are walking by faith, let's hold what we have lightly. Let's not be tempted as David to number everything so that we have something to see that we can trust in. Let's trust in a God that we can't see knowing that He is faithful.

For those who have not committed their life – stop and think! Rethink your decision because we know that even if we are in a period of indecision, we've already made a decision because we were born into sin. All of us, after we reach that age of accountability when we no longer have the innocence of a child, we are on Satan's team whether we want to admit it or not.

We have this opportunity to observe Jesus who became poor for our sakes. He endured the cross, despising the shame (Hebrews 12:2). Yet, He's seated at the right hand of the Father, isn't He, interceding for each one of us. I would encourage those who have not committed their way to the Lord – rethink your decision so that when you find yourself as David and you realize the shortcomings of your flesh, you can lay yourself down before a God and experience His mercy and not His judgment. Someday, if we allow ourselves to become poor for Christ's sake, we will be rich. Rich beyond what any of us have ever imagined – to be with our Lord and Savior in those heavens above! May God give us grace unto that end.



REMEMBERING

Our Spiritual Heritage

The autobiography of Elder Earnest Graf of Akron, Ohio, continues.

Making Changes

We had more fruit and vegetables than we could use and shared with many others. But as the house was too large and we had the offer of a five-room house with one-half acre of ground I sold the cow and other supplies, such as hay and fodder, to Chris Roth who moved to where we had been. We now had what we considered a very nice home and were very well contented. It stood on Copely Road, a little east of Wildwood Avenue. All around it and across the road was farm land. The city limits were at a large oak tree half way up Perkins Hill. The city of Akron numbered about 40,000 at this time.

About the latter part of the summer Mr. Lehman and I had some disagreement about a relative of his, who caused rebellion among his hands, whereas before he came all was calm and peaceful. Mr. Lehman being unwilling to send this man away, I quit his employ on August 30, 1898, having worked for him 3 years and 6 months. The next morning our first child, Helen, was born. I stayed at home that day, but the next day I obtained work at the Quaker Oats Company's No. 2 warehouse.

Working for Quaker Oats

I started in at \$ 1.25 for a 10-hour day, but in the six years I worked there I was raised gradually to \$ 1.75 a day, which was their highest wage

except to experienced millers who received 20 cents per hour. Right after the end of that first winter, I was transferred to the old Stone Mill on Ash Street. Here I was given the job of caring for the railroad track scale, overseeing the weighing and unloading of wheat and etc.

It was a responsible job, but not very hard work, and I liked it as there was some bookkeeping connected with it and the scales had to be kept accurate. As the wheat could not all be unloaded in the daytime, I put in three to five hours overtime three and four days every week.

Building a New Home

During the summer of 1899, we decided to build a home of our own on my lot on Grant Street, which happened to be very close to the home of my wife's parents. The house consisted of six rooms, four down and two upstairs, with cellar, and it cost \$ 900 to build. So it can be seen that the contrast between then and now consisted not only in the wages paid, but also in the cost of materials and labor. We moved into this home about October first.

Kilnsetting

I was with Quaker Oats Company almost seven years with a short intermission of about three months during which time I worked at Ford and Kyle Bending Works. In the spring of 1905 I was offered work near our home at the L. W. Camp Company's Product Plant so I accepted. Here I learned kilnsetting

which is something of an art and at the same time hard work.

Hollow block and all sizes of fireproofing were manufactured here. My partner and I set one kiln each day, handling from 60 to 70 tons of ware every day, at ten cents per ton, divided between us. Here I averaged about \$ 3.50 per day. I finished paying for our home, bought another lot, paid for that in installments, and bought a third lot.

Hauling Brick

I was persuaded by the Windsor Brick Company (also a neighboring plant) to buy a team of horses, being promised steady work hauling brick. This promise was kept for three or four months, but owing to circumstances unforeseen, the work dwindled down to three days a week.

I could not afford to keep a team and a family with so little income, so I sold the team and wagon at a loss. Then I drove Windsor's own team for some time, but was prevailed on by the foreman at Camps to come back to them. Here I stayed at work until March 1, 1911.

Edited by Bro. Perry Klopfenstein

Next Issue: The Graf story continues. A few more issues will complete this autobiography.

*"Thy testimonies have I taken as an heritage forever: for they are the rejoicing of my heart."
(Psalm 119:111)*



The Light of Hope

Let's Go By The Bible

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

Let's go by the Bible in regard to conversion to Christ. Peter said in Acts 3:19, "Repent and be converted that your sins may be blotted out." It is true that Paul and Silas said to the jailer, in Acts 16:31, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house." If we are going to go by the Bible in its entirety, we understand that the jailer and his family all needed to believe on Christ enough to repent and be converted. If they just believed on him historically but not enough to obey God's Word, it would not be going by the Bible. The Bible does teach that we become new creatures in Christ Jesus. "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature." 2 Corinthians 5:17.

Let's go by the Bible in regard to baptism. Jesus said in Matthew 28:19, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." Jesus taught His disciples to baptize, so we conclude that it is something that we should do. Paul taught in Romans chapter 6 that baptism is the burial of the old man and that we, when baptized, arise to newness of life. Certainly, baptism by emersion is what the Bible teaches.

Let's go by the Bible in regard to how a child of God should live. The Bible teaches that we should present our bodies a living sacrifice. Romans 12:1 "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." What should be our attitude toward those things which are vain and for worldly

adornment? The Bible speaks against the "Lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life." 1 John 2:16. Therefore we should dress moderately as is becoming a child of God. We should not paint our nails or otherwise follow worldly practices. We should be humble and modest, according to the Word of God. The question is, "Are we willing to go by the Word of God?"

When Christ was severely tempted by Satan, as recorded in Luke Chapter 4, Satan used Scripture quotations and Christ responded by other Scripture quotations. Which one of the two was going by the Bible? They both quoted Scripture, but Satan did not follow the Bible in regard to humble obedience. He tempted Christ with self-gratification of the flesh. It is very much against the Scripture if we use God's Word for self-gratification of the flesh.

The reason I add the phrase, "of the flesh," is because the thought occurs to me, that you may get spiritual self-gratification by living a humble and spiritual life for the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ. If you get fulfillment by living completely for Christ and not for self, then that kind of self-gratification is good.

The church today is being more and more influenced by the world. Some brethren feel we should be more separated from the world, while others feel we are a bit too old-fashioned. It might help if we exhort each other to go by the Bible. Certainly it is not what you and I think. It is what the Bible teaches that really counts. We need to kindly and lovingly encourage each other to go by the Bible, and then do it. "Love

seeks not its own." 1 Corinthians 13:5.

When it comes to doctrine, you can have a different doctrine, a different understanding of what the Bible teaches, by emphasizing some Bible verses over other Bible verses. According to my understanding, some verses give God's viewpoint of our standing with Him while other verses give man's viewpoint of our standing with him. A case in point is that many Bible verses teach that whosoever will may come to Christ and be redeemed. Other verses teach that God has chosen us and that we have eternal life in the present tense. John 6:47, Jesus speaking, reads, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life." I believe that in this instance Jesus is speaking of those whom He foreknows will be true to Him to the end. On the other hand, in Matthew 12:45 Jesus tells of someone whose heart had been cleansed, but was invaded by seven evil spirits. Jesus explains, "And the last state of that man is worse than the first." I believe that, in this case, Jesus was speaking of someone who had been converted to Christ, but who became careless and left the ways of the Lord. God knows who will fall away.

In today's world, most of us cannot isolate ourselves away from the world and its influences. That includes other doctrines and ideas about living for Christ. There is a lot of teaching which emphasizes grace at the expense of obedience to God's Word in regard to life style and humility. It is obedience which shows our faith is genuine.

Let's love each other more and go by God's Word.

THE SILVER LINING
1523 County Road 400N
Congerville, IL 61729

*Like dewdrops the morning sun greeting,
They glisten and then they are gone.
Come now saith the Lord, Let us Reason
Come now and your purpose declare...*
Hymns of Zion #145

