

The Silver Lining



*That all the people of the earth
might know the hand of the LORD,
that it is mighty: that ye might
fear the LORD your God for ever.
Joshua 4:24*

September 2012

Sermon by Bro. Floyd Graves (Croghan-Naumburg, NY) in Sabetha, KS, October 16, 2011

Psalm 105 and 1 Corinthians 1

Greetings one and all in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Dear ones, as we stand, we certainly ask for the prayers and support of each brother, sister, and friend here today, that God could speak to us and we could receive the blessing that He would wish for us to receive and to use.

Here in Psalm 105, it says, "O Give thanks unto the Lord; call upon his name: make known his deeds among the people." v.1. We think of this one verse here. How much is given and how important it is that we are thankful, and we give thanks to God and call upon His name. It says to make known His deeds among the people. Why God brings us together, as we have gathered together here this morning, is that we can bring forth the Word and that His deeds can be spread among us and we can be refreshed.

I think so many times as we come to the pulpit, we say we are not going to hear anything new. But we are going to be refreshed. God's Word doesn't change. It is not going to be new if we have had the Word. But we need to be refreshed, don't we? It seems that God always brings out something that perhaps we missed or something that we need to be reminded. So it says here, to give thanks. Certainly, God loves for us to appreciate what He has done for us.

We think of the many deeds. It says make known His deeds among the people. We think of the most wonderful deed – that He sent Jesus Christ here to die for you and me that we, through that shed blood on Calvary's cross, have this promise and have this hope of eternal life in our hearts today. He speaks this peace into the hearts of mankind, doesn't He? So we need to remember and be thankful for what He has done for us.

He says, "Sing unto him, sing psalms unto him: talk ye of all his wondrous works." v. 2. It is part of our worship service that we come and sing songs of praise and honor unto God, even as we were able to sing last evening and again this morning before the service here. The Psalmist saw the importance of this and God gave him the instructions to pen these words. How wonderful and helpful they are for us here yet in this very day and time.

It says talk ye of His wondrous works. Many times, as we fellowship one with another, we find God has worked in our hearts. We feel many times that things that are done are by the grace of God, and we can talk of these things. It is uplifting and helpful to us as brothers and sisters and friends of the truth. It is part of our fellowship as a body of believers.

We think of this body of the church; many times it is compared to a human body. The church needs to function well. We all need to work together, don't we? How well we can do that by blending our voices together in song and hymn and even as it says to talk of His wondrous works. This is why we gather. I think of the Sabbath day. It is so wonderful that God, even in the beginning of time, in six days made heaven, earth, and all that therein is and rested and set this day aside as a day of rest, a day of worship. A day we can lay aside our earthly labors, the necessary things here to earn our living, as the Word tells us, by the sweat of our brow (Genesis 3:19). We lay those things aside as we come here to worship God.

"Glory ye in his holy name: let the heart of them rejoice that seek the Lord. Seek the Lord, and his strength: seek his face evermore. Remember his
Sermon continued on Page 47

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“Whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.”
(Matt. 23:12)

Light from the Word

Spiritual Pride



Writings based on God's Word

True humility begins with a broken and contrite spirit that grasps the price Jesus paid on the cross. It glories in the salvation freely given by our Savior, *“in whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace”* (Eph. 1:7).

It is a sad reality that religious people are vulnerable to an insidious and deceptive pride in their convictions and spiritual understanding. Each of us who truly seek to see ourselves in the light of God's Word would do well to examine our hearts for any trace of spiritual pride.

Perhaps the clearest biblical definition of spiritual pride is found in Luke 18:9-14 when Jesus spoke a parable to *“certain who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others.”* The two men went to pray with very different heart motives. The publican—a despised member of society—acknowledged his sin in a humble appeal for the Lord's mercy. His prayer was heard and he was justified by God. In contrast, the Pharisee—a respected member of a prominent spiritual sect—sought to justify himself before God by putting others down and highlighting his own good deeds. Self-justification is no justification at all (Rom. 10:1-4).

Jesus reserved his strongest words of condemnation for those with spiritual pride. He spoke many “woes” to the Pharisees for their hypocrisy and pride (Matt. 23:1-33). While affirming their teachings, He exposed their hearts for doing good works in order to be seen of men (v. 5). He decried their practice of putting heavy burdens on others (v. 4), and condemned them for “shutting up Heaven” by judging the spiritual condition of others and making their own determination of who was fit in God's eyes.

He exposed their tendency to over-emphasize certain religious practices while neglecting more important matters of judgment, mercy, and faith (v.23) and He revealed the hypocrisy of an outward appearance of religious faithfulness while hiding corruptness in the heart (v. 25-28). And perhaps most damning, He showed how they failed to see themselves in the Word as they read the prophets and vainly proclaimed that they would not have failed as their fathers did. They were convinced they were right and were not open to being taught or having their thinking challenged.

Saul, the Pharisee, was evidently filled with spiritual pride as well. He was zealous, but not in a good thing (Gal. 4:17-18). He was convinced that he was right and that he was aligned with God's Word (Acts 9:1-2).

The converted Paul was also zealously concerned with sound doctrine in what he believed and taught as directed by the Holy Spirit. For instance, he rightly insisted that the new Gentile believers did not need to be circumcised in order to become Christians. But, in love, he also yielded to the Jewish rituals in order to work for peace in the church (Acts 21:15-26). Where he could have expressed liberty he submitted himself for the sake of his brothers' conscience in a beautiful example of humility.

We might ask whether spiritual pride is an issue in the Christian faith today. Evidently so, as it warranted strong warning in Acts 20:30, *“Of your own selves shall men arise speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.”* And in Jude 16, *“their mouth speaketh great swelling words, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage.”*

Two men are held out as examples in John 3. Diotrophes was soundly rebuked because he loved to have the preeminence. His errors included refusing to receive certain believers and church leaders, going so far as to forbid others who did and casting them out of the church. He was guilty of prating; or speaking with idle, careless talk reminiscent of 2 Pet. 2:12 *“speak(ing) evil of the things that they understand not.”*

Demetrius, on the other hand, was commended for walking in truth and having a good report of all men. We all have the potential for the actions of both Diotrophes and Demetrius – which are we nurturing?

Apollos was an *“eloquent man and mighty in the Scriptures”* (Acts 18:24) who demonstrated a humble, teachable spirit when Aquila and Priscilla *“expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly”* (18:26). He was then able to be even more effective in putting his fervent spirit and mighty teaching to work in the Lord's vineyard.

Above all Jesus, who was equal with God, modeled humility and lacked any pride. It is in this context that we are exhorted to do nothing *“through strife or vainglory”* and to put on the mind of Christ who *“made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant.”* How fitting that we sing

in Zion's Harp #186, *“Behold Jesus, He was humble, He exalted not Himself...in Him dwelt no vain ambition, nor a boasting disposition; so He calls to me and thee, learn humility from me.”*

Let us consider some manifestations of spiritual pride and humbly consider whether we have any of them in our lives:

A spiritually proud individual is convinced that he is right and most everyone else is wrong, leading to a disregard for others (Rom. 12:16). He might hold to the false idea that if two people disagree, one is necessarily deceived and thus build around himself an impregnable wall of self-justification.

A spiritually proud person sees himself as more enlightened than others, claiming to having been led of the Holy Spirit, even in areas that conflict with Scripture. Someone in this advanced state of deception is almost completely unwilling to receive correction.

A spiritually proud brother or sister is willing to raise themselves above God-appointed and accountable church leadership while making themselves accountable to no one. They may justify taking undue liberties (Gal. 5:13) or they may practice unwarranted severity (Col. 2:20-23), in both cases motivated by spiritual pride.

A spiritually proud man or woman is closed to input from others whom they have deemed beneath them. They hold their own beliefs and convictions as unassailable, and are not open to counsel, more because they have held them for a long time or heard them over and over again than because they are biblically based.

Sadly, this prideful condition is usually covered by a false humility that actually draws attention to the individual in a subtle and hidden manner. False humility is pride in its most cloaked and deceptive form.

When we find any trace of these things in our lives, the biblical remedy is found through confession and repentance, trusting a merciful Savior who shed His blood that we might be forgiven and cleansed from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9) and sanctified by the Word (Eph. 5:26). May God grant us grace to see ourselves as we truly are in the **light of the Word.**



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

Apostolic Christian Church of Austin, TX

Have you had the privilege of visiting the Austin, Texas Apostolic Christian Church? If so, you have had to opportunity to worship with a group of nine families that God has brought to this area to form the nucleus of an Apostolic Christian church.



It is a small church that desires to grow in number and closeness to God as they seek to fulfill the four-pillar mission and purpose for the church:

- Presenting the Gospel message of salvation based on faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ and a true repentance and conversion.
- Teaching and nurturing believers toward a sanctified life and to faithfulness by God's grace and through His word.
- Preserving sound doctrine by contending for the faith, and
- Offering loving, humble deeds of service to fellow believers and all mankind in the name of Christ.

This article will provide some background and history of the Austin congregation.

In the beginning

In March 2006, the first church service was held in the current building near Bastrop. It was remodeled from a house with the help of brethren from many of our Apostolic Christian Churches. Today, six of the families live within twenty minutes of the church, while the other third

live up to 1½ hours away.

Prior to services being started in Bastrop, they were held in various parts of Texas. They originated in the San Antonio area in 1979, then in the Dallas/Fort Worth area in 1984, and in the Houston and Giddings/Round Top areas. Zapata, a five hour drive away, is the nearest church to Bastrop.

For fellowship, church attendees, who include couples, families with both grown and small children and singles, enjoy having potlucks together and with the many visitors that come to the area. One local minister, Bro. Dennis Rassi (Sis. Diane), resides in the area, and the church family also enjoys visits from other ministers through scheduled minister rotations. The church family enjoys singing at local nursing homes and other local World Relief activities.

The devastating fires during 2011 destroyed over 1,600 homes in the area, a disaster the Austin and Bastrop areas are still recovering from. Earlier this year, a World Relief project was conducted to reconstruct homes. To those who assisted with this effort, the church family and World Relief wish you God's blessings with grateful hearts.

This project was not only an opportunity to offer loving deeds of kindness, but all relief efforts are done in the name of our loving Savior. This provides an opportunity to share the living hope of Jesus Christ to those we are helping.

With the World Relief project, improvements were made to several buildings on the church property, which were used for dorms during the rebuilding projects. Today, the larger building is being used for potlucks and has also been used as

temporary quarters for individuals seeking employment in the area. A number of full hook ups for RV's are on site.

In the heart of Texas

Just a short thirty minute drive east of Austin is the city of Bastrop, which is also where the church is located. With a population of approximately 7,200, the city has a rich heritage, pine trees, prairies and a beautiful river valley thanks to the Colorado River that runs through it. Bastrop is a growing community, but still has a small-town feel.

Moved by the Lord to come to this area, the families make their living in technology, retail, the medical profession, manufacturing, farming and construction. Austin, the capital of Texas, is a thriving city that not only has many job opportunities, but also other attractions, most notably its climate with plenty of sunshine. The Gulf of Mexico coast is only a 2½ hour drive.

Invitation to visit

Services are held at 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. (CST/CDT) on Sunday. Wednesday evening services are also usually held at 7:30 p.m. The church is located on the west side of Bastrop at 1025 Highway 71 West.

If you plan to visit, please contact one of the names listed in the *Apostolic Christian Churches and Ministers* book to let them know you are coming for planning purposes and for confirmation of service times.

If you have a heart to be an ambassador for Christ and help fulfill the desire of a small church to grow in number and closeness to God, please prayerfully consider a visit or move to this area.



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

Into All the World

The Rural Gospel and Medical Missions of India (RGMMI) is an outreach of the Apostolic Christian Church of America. We are thankful the mission of RGMMI “to share the gospel of Jesus Christ primarily with the unsaved of rural India by providing discipleship training, medical services and education” is still being fulfilled by faithful men of God.

One of the last directives of our Savior Jesus Christ is recorded in Mark 16:15: “Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.” Even though this was recorded years ago there are many parts of the world where the gospel still remains to be shared. India is one of those countries, and the challenges for God’s word to penetrate to the unsaved are great. Less than 1% of the Indian population are true believers. The Hindu and Muslim religions, with well-developed teachings and traditions, remain deeply entrenched today.

With the advancement of modern technology and availability of television and the internet in rural areas, Hindu instruction on their beliefs are further instilled in their minds, which creates an even greater barrier for the true word of God and the message of salvation to be received. Strong encouragement is given to every Hindu to make pilgrimages to one of four holy sites in the country at various intervals, to demonstrate the faithfulness of their belief.

How do we reach them?

The founder of the Rural Gospel and Medical Missions of India was a former Hindu and had a great burden to spread God’s word in India. Next year will mark the 75th

anniversary of the mission. Today ministers are still spreading the gospel to the lost. Do they pay a price? Absolutely! In recent visits with several of them, accounts were shared how their families rejected their presence once they received the good news of Jesus Christ.



Students at school in Khardi

RGMMI also provides teaching through schools and vocational programs. God’s word is shared each day through Bible stories, daily devotions and attendance at regular held services on the campus.

A medical outreach is another means to spreading God’s word. India has an exceptionally dense population, with modern medical facilities in the urban areas. There are government medical programs in the rural areas, but not enough to reach everyone.

RGMMI has a small hospital that can treat medical illnesses and orthopedic surgeries can be performed. Preventive health programs are conducted in rural villages, and a medical van makes weekly visits to clinics where scores come for help. The reading of God’s word and invitations to come and hear the message of Jesus Christ are extended.

What are the challenges?

In some areas militant Hindus are determined that the truths of God’s word will not be taught. This has

lessened in the last few months, as the recent RGMMI Board members were able to conduct services in three rural churches for the first time in 20 years. However, the threat still exists. In interviews with ministers during our visit, incidents were shared how one was beaten with a shoe after being threatened to be burned. This does not deter their love for their Savior and desire to fulfill their calling.

Results of those who have responded to the Gospel

In the past six months a young boy came to the hospital with club feet. Over a period of many weeks the Ponseti method of treatment was administered and made great progress. This exposure to God’s word has resulted in his mother responding to the gospel and giving up the worship of her Hindu gods.

A young Hindu boy from a tribal village was brought to the boarding school to enroll in the Electrical training program of RGMMI. By living in a Christian environment and hearing the gospel, he now has a desire to follow the Lord and go back home and tell the story of Jesus to his family and friends.

Summary

Your continued prayers for the work of RGMMI are very much appreciated. In a recent visit, the spiritual workers of RGMMI expressed a special thanks for the many prayers offered on their behalf. They display a strong passion for sharing the gospel message, which is so encouraging. If you feel directed to support the work of RGMMI in India, please contact John Lehman, Board President, 606 N. 13th Circle Dr, Sabetha, Kansas 66534.

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

Residents at ACHH have enjoyed a variety of activities this month. Hymn sings at Timber Ridge continue to be a favorite with residents coming from our outer facilities to participate. We appreciate the many surrounding Apostolic Christian Churches that take turns coming to lead singing each month.

The hot weather this summer has prevented some of the anticipated outdoor activities. There were a couple of Thursday evenings that residents from Oakwood Estate and some of our other homes were able to attend the local "Arts in the Park" program.

Another popular outing has been to Fired Up in Peoria, IL. Residents get to choose a piece of pottery to paint. It is fun to see the bright colors and glossy finish after the pottery is fired.

Linden Estate is enjoying the addition of an aquarium that was recently donated. There are five fish in it now, and they are looking forward to getting more! Despite the hot and dry weather, the garden at Linden is producing an abundance of pumpkins.

Residents at Timber Ridge have enjoyed getting their hands dirty this summer in a raised garden bed that was donated this year. Though there are many challenges that are faced each day, we are thankful to God for His faithful provision and for the love, support and prayers of many.

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

**Katie Kaufmann,
Math Teacher**

The verses of Philippians 4: 10-12 say, *"But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at last your care for me hath flourished again; though ye always cared, ye lacked opportunity. Not that I speak in respect to want, for I have learned in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ who strengtheneth me."*

These verses keep flooding back to my mind as I prepare to write of my experiences working here at Gateway Woods School. Even during this short year since relocating from Illinois, I have learned that as a believer, we should never tell the Lord there is a job that is too big for Him to do. I am living proof that God takes a lump of useless clay and molds something I never imagined. It totally amazes me how He creates masterpieces with our "sidewalk chalk". Not that I could ever equate my life with being a masterpiece—far from it, but for the miracles that He has performed in my life, He shows me daily that when we give God total control of our lives, He does things we never dreamt were possible—all for His glory.

I began my teaching career totally content with the idea that my well-planned profession would live and die within the confines of the public school system. Obviously, God had other plans. Looking back I see how He took each one of those teaching experiences and

gleaned many valuable tools that I would need later to glorify Him. That being said, I can also say that I was the absolute FIRST person to moan and groan at the confusion and disillusion I felt. I was certain that God was dumping chaos in my life by these career-altering changes. Oh, how we can only see a few steps in front of us! Now, take a few steps even farther back into my past as an unwed mother, who would later be converted all those many years ago. I was certain that God had forgotten all about me. I would later be proven SO wrong, as God's perfect timing is revealed, as well as testimony of His grace beyond measure.

This all seemed to come together in my mind as I was standing in my devotions class one winter morning this past year. We were discussing why bad things happen to kids. For point of reference, many of Gateway's students have experienced trauma and abuse, and the wounds are deep. I am not sure how you would have answered that seemingly simple question, but I felt my inadequacy as a teacher, as an adult, and as a mother all smashing together as I looked at the faces of my small group of adolescent teens seated in my classroom. All of a sudden, I knew exactly what they needed to hear—not from me—but words that the Lord made me able to say. I felt the need to tell them that God's justice and judgment would be far more exacting and complete than any punishment here on earth could ever be. That people are dying in a sin-sick world and that they follow the master of all liars, Satan, in doing things that grieves God deeply. I also rushed to tell them that God is the ONLY one who heals our hurts, pain, and sorrows. That he alone binds up our wounds, and that, one day, all will

be made right. This was something that they could count on—that this was a promise! All of a sudden a quiet came upon my students. I saw a realization show in their faces. Tears came to my eyes as I was almost immediately and totally aware of why God had saved me those many years ago as a young unwed mother, taken me through many teaching paths, and moved me to another state after thirty years. Time means nothing to God, and it was all to glorify Him. We are planting seeds in young hearts and minds here at Gateway, so please pray for God to give the increase in their lives. What a precious Savior we have!

News:

We praise God for bringing us through another Annual Auction. Through the generosity of our donors, God brought us over \$410,000! Thank you to all those that lifted the day up in prayer, attended, donated and volunteered! Next year's Auction has been set for Saturday, August 3.

We were sad to say goodbye to Bro. Shane and Sis. Stefanie Beer at the end of August. The Beers have been in multiple houseparenting roles during their time here, and recently decided to move on from Gateway. They will surely be missed, but we are glad that they plan to continue living in the area.

We are very thankful that God has already provided us with a couple to replace the Beers. Bro. Shane and Sis. Marissa Bahler will be brought on at the end of September as new Alternate Houseparents. Please be prayerful for the Bahlers as they prepare to join the Gateway Woods team.

Gateway Woods welcomed five new residents to campus this past month. Please pray with us as they become

accustomed to their new homes. It can be a difficult adjustment for new residents as they discover a very different living situation than they have experienced before. We are very excited to work with these new children and their families!

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, please see the notices in this month's edition of *The Silver Lining* or visit the Career Opportunities page on our website at: www.gatewaywoods.org/supporters/career-opportunities. We trust that God will continue to provide qualified, mature brothers and sisters who will serve Him in a ministry that is 'Turning Lives Around'. Perhaps this includes you!

You are an important advocate to help us spread the word about God's work at Gateway Woods. Please continue to lift us up in prayer, check our website www.gatewaywoods.org and our Facebook page at [facebook.com/gatewaywoods](https://www.facebook.com/gatewaywoods) often for updates. 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**

August has been a month of change for the students. For the first couple weeks, we were winding down our summer activities. During this time, we had a couple

volunteers help us out for a few days. Sisters Sarah Sceggel (Peoria) and Maria Sauder (Morton) came and subbed in our 4-5 year-old classroom. Thanks so much for helping us out!

We have begun the new school year, and the students moved up to the next class. It's been interesting getting each child adjusted to their new teacher and class routine. We begin each school year by focusing on how we are all special in God's sight. The children study ways they are the same and how they are different. Some of the students are at an age where they notice differences between themselves and can become a little self-conscious. But God reassures them that they were created exactly as He wanted. He gave them all different abilities and personalities to use for His glory (1 Cor. 12:4-5). It's a great lesson to keep in mind for me as well. Just this past Sunday, we learned from 1 Cor. 13 that these gifts mean nothing to God, unless His Agape love accompanies them. As we teach our students about their Creator and how much He loves them, pray that we as teachers can reflect the love of God through our words and actions.

**ALABAMA, ATHENS
Roger and Becky Roberts**

We were thankful to have ministering to us this month: Bro. Matthew (Sis. Deanna) Steffen from Princeville, IL, Bro. Randy (Sis. Becky) Gudeman from Francesville, IN, Bro. Craig (Sis. Terri) Martin and family from Princeville, IL, Bro. Todd (Sis. Lydia) Graf and family from Akron, OH.

Sis. Hazel Vibbert had eye surgery. Please remember her in prayer.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX**Lynn Wiegand**

Greetings from AZ! We are thankful for each of our visitors this month, including Elder Bro. Dave Graf (Sis. Barbara, Akron, OH) and Bro. Al Schambach (Sis. Sarah, Remington, IN).

Luke Anliker (Bro. Rod and Sis. Anne) and Catherine Goraj were married June 23 in Dolores, Colorado. Catherine is the daughter of Rich and Therese Goraj from Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The newlyweds will reside in Colorado. We rejoice with them and their families!

The annual Prescott Picnic was held on August 11. Several from our Phoenix church traveled the 1½ hours to join them at Watson Lake Park. The young people enjoyed games and hiking and we all enjoyed the delicious food (including BBQ ribs and corn on the cob!) and precious fellowship with those from Prescott church. Many, many thanks to them for their labors of love shown to us!

Lauren Meiss (Bro. Jim and Sis. Candy) has traveled to Sweden for 2 years of graduate studies. We will miss her and send her off with love and prayers!

Note of Thanks:

May God bless each of you for your calls, visits, encouragements, cards, gifts and wonderful meals for us during John's illness. Most of all, thank you for your thoughts and prayers for John and our family during these past 10 months of his struggle to get well. We are happy for him. He knew a place was prepared for him. With love and our thanks, The family of John Pulfer: Wilma, Shane and Janeen, Ron and Monica.

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 Bros. James Emch (Sis. Gina, Phoenix, AZ), Keith Hinrichsen (Sis. Tammy, Phoenix, AZ) and Curt Rassi (Sis. Kathy, Tremont, IL).

We hosted the all-Arizona annual church picnic at Watson Lake on August 11, and appreciate all those that came up from Phoenix.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Stan and Sis. Norma Schambach and Bro. Dan and Sis. Stephanie Cargill in the passing of Stan's father and Stephanie's grandfather, Bro. Albert Schambach, Elgin, IL.

ARIZONA, TUCSON**Lisa Knapp**

We are still enjoying some wonderful summer monsoon storms which always provide relief from the relentless summer temperatures and all that pesky sunshine.

Some of us were able to enjoy helping out at an event put on by a local children's ministry and other small churches like ours. We were able to participate in hosting a booth at a backpack festival handing out school supplies and enabling the ministry to provide backpacks to over 4,000 students. It's always humbling to see how much a simple staple, like school supplies, can mean to children who would otherwise go without. Blessings abounded! Thanks to all who helped.

Our children and young adults have started back to school, even though their sparkling swimming pools are calling out to them in the summer heat! We pray God will keep His big hands over them and

bless their days with opportunities to serve Him and with a layer of protection from all that swirls around them.

We are looking forward to fall and enjoying some crisp, cool weather. But alas, I think it's farther off than we hope!

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

Church news here has been relatively limited except for the concerns that we have experienced for the members suffering illnesses. We continue to pray for those who have suffered illness. Sis. Lydia Lira remains in our prayers during her serious illness. We also pray for Bro. Laszlo and Sis. Maria Cser as they both struggle with pain and other ailments. Bro. Clarence Graf continues in our prayers, as well. Maria Partida has been in our prayers for healing. We are thankful that she has been released from the hospital.

We welcomed Bro. Herb Knochel (Sis. Laurie, Phoenix, AZ) as he ministered to us. We are always grateful for those who serve the Lord by serving in Altadena.

Our Sunday School enjoyed a day at the beach including a potluck. We praise God for the excellent leadership of our Sunday School, and for all those with a heart for encouraging our youth in their walk with the Lord.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

We are thankful that God has provided so abundantly again this month for our congregation! There are many reasons to be thankful and to give God glory for all the great things He has done.

We are thankful that God has provided another family to move to our area and begin assembling with us. We warmly welcome Bro.

Doug and Sis. Sarah Wettstein and their children, Bro. Colin, Jackson, and Alayna! No doubt they will be missed in Gridley, IL, but we look forward to the fellowship we will enjoy with them. May they feel God's peace and nearness during this time of transition.

While we rejoice with a new family moving in, we are sad to see a very dear sister move away from us. Sis. Rose Kaplar (late Bro. Joe) has moved to the retirement home in Rittman, OH. We are thankful she will be closer to her brother there, but we will really miss her presence. Bro. Joe and Sis. Rose were so loving and kind to all of us and we appreciated their faithful examples. May God bless Sis. Rose in her new home.

"But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee" (Acts 26:16)

After seeking God's direction for additional help in the ministry we thank Him for providing for our congregation. This responsibility has been laid upon Bro. Doug Brewer (Sis. Janelle) and Bro. Terry Koehl (Sis. Yasmin). We are prayerful for them that God will give them grace to preach the Word of Life. We were blessed to have Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzell (Sis. Ellen, Sabetha, KS) here to help our Elder Bro. Peter with this work. May God bless him for his efforts!

We had a number of visitors this summer! We are always blessed by their assembling with us. Elder Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Sis. Nancy, Forrest, IL) was among our visitors. We pray that God will bless him for being a willing vessel.

It is a blessing to have Bro. Brent Wagenbach back with us for a few weeks from Haiti. We are also prayerful for our children and college students as they go back to school.

**CANADA, KITCHENER,
ONTARIO
Kim Leman**

"Forever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven. Thy faithfulness is unto all generations: thou hast established the earth, and it abideth."
(Psalms 119:89, 90)

We thank Elder Bro. Paul Messner (Sis. Jan, Winthrop, MN) for preaching God's Word to us this month.

Our prayers were with our elder brothers as they met for the annual conference in Rockville, CT. We are thankful God's Spirit was felt and there could be peace and clarity.

Bro. Peter Ursu has been absent from our assembly for some time due to health issues. We are thankful he is recovering and look forward to having him back with us again soon.

The Kitchener church, along with a number of local Nazarene brethren, gathered for a potluck supper and singing to bid farewell to Bro. Tim and Sis. Melanie Tomic and their family: Christopher, Brian, Jonathan, Matthew, and Ruthann. We will sorely miss this dear family as they move to Ohio, but we trust God will bless them as they assemble with the Smithville church. We thank Bro. Tim and Sis. Melanie for their many labors of love over the years, especially the many times they hosted visitors in their home. We know God will provide for them and the Kitchener church as we all continue to follow His leading in our lives.

**CANADA, REGINA,
SASKATCHEWAN
Myrna Shipley**

**COLORADO, DENVER
Lily Zarkovacki**

We are thankful to our visiting ministers this past month, Bro. Jeff Bahr (Kiowa, KS) and Bro. Clint Beyer (Sabetha, KS). May God bless them for sharing His Word!

On August 11, we held our annual Sunday School Picnic. It was a blessing to all, young and old!

Our Denver church hosted the "Western Churches Invite" Young Group gathering on the weekend of August 18. There was plenty of hiking, joyful singing, good food, and wonderful fellowship. We appreciate all those who assisted in putting this blessed weekend together! We are so grateful to share in the bountiful fellowship of the Spirit.

**CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE
Sheila Gerber
Lauren Goric**

*"Oh, precious Savior, fill anew
Thy servants who are staunch and true
With light and Holy Spirit,
With joy and with Thy wondrous
might,
That in Thy service they delight,
Producing fruits of merit!
Shield Thou, Bless Thou All who
labor,
Love their neighbor, And are faithful
With the talent thou didst render."
(Zion's Harp #210: The Lord is Your
Reward, vs. 6)*

Our congregation was blessed to host the Brotherhood Conference this month. Throughout the events of the week, it was evident that the Spirit was present and we were

thankful for the opportunity to host many visitors. We appreciated the preaching of the many visiting elders and ministers who brought the Word to us. We thank those who made the effort to attend and are especially grateful for the labors of our elder brethren.

We were also thankful to have Bro. Clint Schmidt (Sis. Magdalena, Winthrop, MN) and Bro. Jim Butikofer (Sis. Diana, Iowa City, IA) minister to us in the past month.

We rejoice with Evan Beutel (Bro. Gene and Sis. Lynne) as he has given his life to the Lord in repentance. We will continue to keep him in our prayers and are thankful for each soul who turns to the Lord seeking His grace.

We wish Susy Laplante (Bro. Leo and Sis. Sherri) and Jeffery Chu God's blessings, as they were joined in marriage on July 28.

Bro. Duane and Sis. Kay Reutter are thankful to be grandparents again. Angel Spencer was born to Kirby and Areli Reutter (Leo, IN). He joins big brothers Isaac and Caleb.

We extend our sympathies to Sis. Martha Schneider as her brother, Bro. Albert Schambach (Elgin, IL), has passed away.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, WASHINGTON Henrietta Meyer

Our caretakers for July were Bro. Dewayne and Sis. LaRae Dill (Minneapolis, MN). I looked at the caretaker calendar for 2013 soon after I sent off last month's news. There are only four months that need caretakers. If you are interested in coming to help the Washington, DC church, 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. Todd Sinn (Sis. Pam, Latty, OH), Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Sis. Michelle, Philadelphia, PA), Bro. Darren Plattner (Sis. Sue, Champaign, IL), Elder Bro. Tom Waldbeser (Sis. Susan, Atlanta, GA) and Bro. Jeff Bahler (Sis. Heidi, Wolcott, IN). Other visitors this month were from Cissna Park, IL. Thanks to everyone who has made Washington, DC part of their vacation this year.

This time of year our thoughts turn to students headed off to school. In our church we have two headed to college this year. We send our love and prayers with Pam Hodel (Mark) as she heads to Wheaton College and Delaney Steffen (Bro. Phil and Mona) as she heads to Christopher Newport University. Pam has only been with us a few months, but we have enjoyed getting to know her and hope she will return when she visits her family in the area.

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 thankful to have visiting minister, Bro. Vic Bauman (Sis. Brenda, Smithville, OH), with us this past month. We pray for a blessing on this family.

We certainly dwindled down in numbers this month. This is generally the time of year when we locals take our vacations. Nevertheless, the Lord is faithful to His promise to be present wherever two or more are gathered in His name. We certainly welcome all visitors at any time of the year and would love to have loved ones join us in Ft. Lauderdale to worship.

FLORIDA, NORTH FT. MYERS Victor Beer

This last Sunday was an unusual Sunday for our church as all of the "regulars" were back from vacations. These words give some of the meaning of our fellowship.

"Hallelujah, fairest morning, Fairer than my tongue can say, For today my cares are banished, This shall be my happy day. By its sweetness and its rest, Shall the inner man be blest. Slumber now, my worldly business, for today I am engaged; all my strength and all my efforts I have to the Master pledged. Praising God, to watch and pray, Is my duty for today." ("Sunday Morning", Hymns of Zion #234, Zion's Harp #254)

We, at The New Beginnings, enjoyed a visit from Bro. Bob and Sis. Sierra Parker (Bluffton, IN). It was a delight to share a meal with them and have a time of testimony and fellowship. From this time together, our young ladies felt a connection with this very lovely

family. We had a very frightening experience when Angelica's two-year-old, Maleke, experienced a seizure. This caused a trip to the emergency room by way of ambulance, where it was determined that the seizure was the result of a sudden spike in temperature from the flu. This reminds us that circumstances can change in a moment of a time, when we least expect it. What a blessed people we are to have a God and Savior who is a refuge for the needy in distress, a shelter from the storm, and a shade from the heat. (Isaiah 25:4)

The New Beginnings is seeking help to join us in this ministry. It defends the fatherless and "widows" of our time, that are the product of a godless society where we have put our own needs and desires above that of caring for our own families. We are getting many pleas for help from those who have been beaten down by life because of a lack of parental involvement. The consequences of these young ladies lives are devastating. They reach into the lives of their children. Christ has called each of us to love with actions and truth. If anyone would like to help with this ministry and at the same time spend the winter months in Florida, we have an apartment available for you. Please call Bro. Bill Masters at (309) 824-3981 for details. For more information, you can also visit our website, "[the newbeginnings.org](http://the.newbeginnings.org)."

FLORIDA, SARASOTA

Kim Ott

"Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ."
(Colossians 3:24)

We were so thankful to have Bro. Jeff Fischer (Sis. Gloria, Fort Scott,

KS) share with us God's inspired word this month. We so appreciated Bro. Jeff's servant heart and we pray many blessings on their family. We are so grateful for each and every visiting minister who makes such efforts to serve our congregation. We trust God will richly bless them with the reward of his inheritance.

GEORGIA, ATLANTA

Within the last few weeks, we have been abundantly blessed with the presence of two visiting ministers: Bro. Steve Stieglitz (Leo, IN) and Bro. Tom Schambach (Elgin, IL). Thank you so much for your willingness to come and minister! Our hearts go out to Sis. Mary Brewer, as she recently experienced some health concerns. May God lead her to green pastures of rest and healing! How thankful we are that this world is not our home! As we are taught and encouraged in the book of Ecclesiastes, nothing that we set our hands to build in this world can be carried to eternity. All earthly labors, all buildings, all of us will return to dust and as we step into eternity. It is the forgiveness of Jesus Christ, the love of our heart alone, that will matter!

"And I heard a great voice out of heaven, saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And He that sat upon the Throne said, Behold I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these things are true and faithful." (Revelation 21:3-5)

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE

Doreen Moser

Shayla Steffen

"Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love, in honour preferring one another;" (Rom. 12:10)

It was such a blessing to be able to share in brotherly love with a group from Eureka the last weekend in July. It is such an encouragement for our small church to hear many more voices raised to God in praise and to share in Christian greetings. We are especially thankful to Bro. Mark Zimmerman (Eureka, IL) who also brought forth God's Word that same weekend.

"And they shall teach my people the difference between the holy and profane, and cause them to discern between the unclean and the clean."
(Eze. 44:23)

The Junior and Senior Bible school classes joined the Elgin Bible school for a week of learning. We are thankful to those brothers who lent their time while relying on the Spirit to teach the youth. We pray that through Godly examples and words, they will be able to discern and turn to Him when they are called.

"And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." (Eph 6:4)

We are thankful for the safe arrival of baby, Able Dean, to Bro. Trent and Sis. Kristina Steffen. As they embark on this journey of parenthood, may they rely on God to help bring him up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

"Greetings be to your, our brethren To our sisters in the Lord..."
(Zions Harp #255)

We extend a warm welcome to Bro. Kevin and Sis. Pam Braun and their family as they make Belvidere church their home. We hope that they will feel welcome and blessed here in our small church. We are thankful for the boost to our church and Sunday school.

ILLINOIS, BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

**Shelley Steffen
Gina Hodel**

Sunday, July 22 was the wedding day of Sis. Brittney Kiefer (Bro. Rich and Sis. Gale, Gridley, IL) and Bro. Dustin Huber (Bro. Dave and Sis. Debbie). It is always an encouragement to see lives brought together through faith. We pray for God's blessings as they begin their new life together.

Bro. Rocky and Sis. Sharon O'Shea welcomed a baby boy to their family recently. Pierce Liam joins siblings Rocky, Dayne, and Anya. Grandparents are Bro. David and Sis. Wilma Kieser and Bro. Tom and Sis. Jean O'Shea (Chicago, IL).

Several from our church have welcomed new grandchildren in the past month. Our congratulations go out to Bro. Charlie and Sis. Paula Knapp on the birth of Paityn Charis, daughter of Jeremy and Erica Knapp; Merle and Elsie Eisenmann on the birth of Luke Taylor, son of Josh and Kara Haley; and Bro. Harvey and Sis. Margaret Walter on the birth of Maddux Joseph, son of Andrew and Susan Walter. What a special blessing each of these little souls are!

The annual Sunday School picnic was held recently. We had a nice sunny day for the occasion and many enjoyed the good food and fellowship.

Bro. Bill Masters (Sis. Mary, North Ft. Myers, FL) was a visiting

minister. It's always nice when he comes back home for a visit. We appreciate his willingness to share the Word with us.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD

**Sandi Joos
Roseann Stahl**

It was a blessing to have visiting ministers with us this past month. Serving us on the pulpit were: Bro. Brandon Emch (Sis. Maria, Kansas City, MO), Bro. Glen Steiner (Sis. Rachel, Winthrop, MN), Elder Bro. Tom Stock (Sis. Karol, Cissna Park, IL), and Bro. Willis Ehnle (Sis. Lois, Peoria, IL).

Our prayers go with Sis. Elizabeth Conzo as she has taken a temporary job assignment in China. Even though miles may separate us, may she still feel the prayers being offered for her.

Our prayers are with Kevin and Marina Endress and family in the passing of his mother, Carolyn Endress (Jerry). May the comfort of the Lord be felt at this time of loss.

Three bundles of joy were welcomed into heart and home. Ryan and Jill Pyles, along with Emma, Olivia, and Gabriel, welcomed home, Isaac Jacob. Grandparents of Isaac are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Becky Pyles and Jim and Brenda Kelly. Thomas, Crystal, and Trent Joos were blessed to have Molly Marie join their family circle on July 31. Bro. Robert and Sis. Rebecca Joos and Stan and Jean Ogden are Molly's grandparents. Shane and Mindy Pyles are first-time parents. They welcome Owen Ryker home, along with Bro. Dennis and Sis. Becky Pyles and Carl and Cecelia Kimble.

Lauren Hasbrook and her family and friends would appreciate prayers as she is hospitalized, awaiting a liver transplant. Sis.

Teresa Gudeman (Bro. Brad) is now home recovering from surgery. Bro. Robert Joos (Sis. Rebecca) spent some time in the hospital. As they recover, may they feel the strength of the Lord.

ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN

Laura Tucker

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Rachel Meyer

Greetings from Chicago. We thank Elder Bro. Ted Steffen (Alto, MI) and Bro. Frank Sauder (Roanoke, IL) for ministering to us recently. May God be their rewarder.

Our prayers are with our dear Bro. Dale Eisenmann and his wife, Sis. Judy. A spot on Bro. Dale's lung has been found to be cancerous and treatment has begun. We hope they can feel our love and prayers as we support each other through this difficult time.

July 21-28 found our Bible Class, along with a small group from our church and others, on a mission trip to Magdalena, MX. We are thankful for God's protection along with the bonds they were able to form among themselves and those in Mexico. May God continue to bless this worthy effort.

We thank God for His Holy Spirit's leading during the Elder and Brotherhood Conference.

We said farewell to Sis. Tasha Steffen as she has moved back to her home in Michigan. Sis. Tasha was an answer to prayer for Bro. Dan, Sis. Dianne, Olivia, and Owen Plattner. She was a nanny for them during Bro. Dan's treatments and the birth of little Owen.

Also leaving after a nine-week internship is Andrew Klopfenstein. As he returns to Ohio, we pray he has good memories of his brief time in Chicago. May God bless his

future plans.

We extend our thanks to several in our congregation who have agreed to serve in various capacities. Sis. Jami Calame is our new Sunday School teacher. We give her our support and prayers as she makes this transition. Agreeing to serve on our VBS committee are Bro. Ryan and Sis. Leah Graf. Thank you for being willing to be used on behalf of the body of Christ.

Recently I was sitting in a café and behind me was a dad with his two little children. I overheard one of the children ask her dad, "Who do you love the most? Mommy, me, or (sibling's name)?" Of course the father wanted his daughter to know he loved them all the same. I am guessing that is all his daughter needed to hear. I was so touched by what I overheard that I wrote it down. It was touching because I often fall victim to believing God only loves me when I am a "good enough" daughter. Because no one of us can ever meet Christ's standards, the logic would follow that God could never love us. The Bible proves that logic wrong - and should we not be thankful?

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."
(John 3:16)

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

Marilyn Maul

Tina Walder

Our thoughts and prayers have been with the elders as they met recently in Rockville, Ct for the annual conference.

With personal struggles with the aches and pains of aging, even though I am still young, it makes me think to the end, when we can

be with the Lord in heaven above. I recently once again came across the following hymn. May it be an inspiration to you as it has been to me.

*"Oh that I were with Jesus!
O that I could take wings.
To where the angel chorus
Sweet hallelujahs sings!
Where we with joy and wonder
Thy countenance behold,
Fain would I be up yonder,
Forever in Thy fold.
There where the host of righteous
Will celebrate in glee,
With all Thy joyous servants
The year of jubilee!
There where the tribulation
Of earth shall be no more
The joys of God's salvation
Our weary hearts restore!
In tones of heavenly sweetness,
Transfigured with delight,
Forever we'll sing Thy praises,
Creator of our life.
Our tears which here are falling
Will bring mirth like a sea;
We long to hear Thee calling
To take us home to Thee!"*
(Hymns of Zion #273)

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

Rachel Currier

Bro. Zach and Sis. Karla Anderson welcomed another boy, Colton Robert, into their home. Siblings of Colton are Caiden, Laiken, and Ellie. Also thankful for his safe arrival are grandparents Bro. Jon and Sis. Cyndee Anderson and Robert and Cherie Kaisner (Fairbury, IL).

Bro. Michael Roth (Bro. Mark and Sis. Tammy) was united in marriage to Sis. Whitney Wagenbach (Bro. Colin and Sis. Barb, Oakville, IA) on Sunday, July 22. We wish them God's nearness as they begin their lives together, and welcome Sis.

Whitney to our congregation.

Our thoughts and prayers have gone out recently to those who have lost a loved one. Sis. Janet Schrock (Bro. Ken) and Sis. Mary Schieber (Bro. Mike) have experienced the loss of their mother, Sis. Velda Overmyer (Francesville, IN). May the Lord comfort them in this time of sorrow.

The engagement of Bro. Jesse Knapp (Bro. James and Sis. Lisa) and Sis. Mary Virkler (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gayle) was recently made known to us. We rejoice with them and their families, and wish them much grace and peace in the coming days.

We are thankful for those who were willing to bring forth the Word of God to us this past month. Visiting ministers include Bro. Ron Isch (Lamont-Gridley, KS), Bro. Jerry Wagenbach (Oakville, IA), Bro. Brent Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO), Bro. Mark Rufener (Mansfield, OH), Bro. Dana Indermuhle (Sardis, OH), Bro. Nathan Walder (Cissna Park, IL), and Bro. Michael Wagenbach (Wolcott, IN).

ILLINOIS, ELGIN

Amy Gasser

Miriam Gasser

We thank visiting Bros. Jeff Bahr (Kiowa, KS), Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL), and Todd Stoller (Latty, OH) for assisting our local brothers in the ministry of the Word.

Our annual Sunday School picnic was July 29 at the Fellowship Center. It preceded a week of Vacation Bible School, which was taught by Elgin brethren and some who traveled a distance. These speakers were Bros. Matthew Rassi (Chicago, IL), Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL), Todd Stoller (Latty, OH), and Paul Zimmerman (Forrest, IL). On Wednesday, Bro. Willis Ehnle (Peoria, IL) spoke to

the entire church on the topic "We Are Responsible to God". May the Lord add the increase to the labors of His servants.

Bro. Marv and Sis. Kim Reinhard, daughters Sydnee and Lindsey, and sons Alex and Shawn moved from Bluffton, IN to Naperville and will be attending church in Elgin. We welcome them to our congregation and hope they will soon feel at home.

A time of parting has come for many of our friends and loved ones. Sisters Elizabeth and Jenny Schambach (Bro. Ed) lost their sister, Sis. Velda Overmyer, on July 31. She was a member of the Francesville church.

Sandy Schubert, a niece of Sis. Jeanette Schmidt, passed away Aug. 12 and is survived by her husband Walter, two sons, a stepdaughter, and her brother, who is Bro. John Schmidt (Sis. Paula) of West Bend, IA. Sandy was preceded in death by her parents, Bro. Art and Sis. Alma Schmidt.

Bro. Albert Schambach was called home Aug. 16 at the age of 92. His steadfast faith and kind, loving spirit were an inspiration to many. Bro. Albert was the father of Bro. Stan (Sis. Norma) of Prescott, AZ, Bro. Les (Sis. Alison), and Sis. Carol. Another son, Bro. Don (Sis. Leann) preceded Albert in 2009. Three brothers and two sisters survive. They are Bro. Ed (Sis. Jenny), Bro. Bill (Sis. Cora), Bro. Ron (Sis. Nancy), Sis. Gert Sauder, and Sis. Martha Schneider of Rockville, CT.

Current or recent medical patients include Bro. Bill Gudeman (Sis. Evie), Sis. Jeannette Moser, Bro. Bob Schambach (Sis. Jeanne), Bro. Ed Schambach (Sis. Jenny), James Schambach (Bro. Eric and Sis. Erika), Jarod Schieler (Bro. Eric and Sis. Nancy), and Bro. Don Stettner.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

Dee Baer
Jodi Blunier

The bells of Heaven rang with joy as Braden Martin (Bro. Tim and Sis. Becki) answered the call to repentance.

Marriage bonds were solemnized as Bro. Blake Hoerr (Bro. Mark and the late Sis. Carolyn) and Sis. Caitlen Leman (Bro. Kent and Sis. Chris) became one in the Lord.

Prayers have been offered as Sis. Elaine Blunier (Bro. Myron) submits to surgery and continued medical care.

Condolences were shared as Sis. Dorothy Zimmerman passed away. She is survived by her sisters, Sis. Gladys Schmidgall and Sis. Evelyn Gudeman (Bro. Don).

Bro. Dennis Rassi (Austin, TX), Bro. Floyd Frieden (Elgin, IA) and Bro. Bob Dotterer (Sardis, OH) visited on our pulpit this month.

Notes of Thanks:

We would like to express our thanks and appreciation for all those who helped at her funeral. Also, for the cards, food and donations that were given during that time. A special thanks to the ministers and those of you who cared for her at the AC Home. May you be blessed for your deeds of kindness and the love that was shown to our dear sister and aunt.

The family of Dorothy Zimmerman I would like to thank our children and grandchildren for the lovely 90th birthday party they had for me. Also, for the love and beautiful cards given by our church family. God bless you all.

Sis. Mick Hodel (Bro. Harold)

We want to thank everyone who sent cards, best wishes and gifts for our 60th anniversary in July. God bless you all.

Bro. Bob and Sis. Jean Knapp

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

Angela Herr
Kay Steffen

"In days of youth seek ye the Lord..." Seth Knapp (Bro. Matt and Sis. Dana), Dakota Bazzell (Bro. Mark and Sis. Tania), Esther Moser (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Sara), Elsa Moser (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Kara), and Lilly Moser (Sis. Julia) have recently answered God's call and made a beginning in repentance. We pray that they may build a firm foundation as they begin their walk with the Lord.

We rejoice with Sis. Brooke Miller and Bro. Nathan Kuntz as they were joined in Holy Matrimony on August 12. Their parents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Crystal Miller and Bro. Rollyn and Sis. Brenda Kuntz (Forrest, IL). We wish them God's blessings as they begin their life together.

We were blessed with several visiting ministers this month. We thank Bros. Jacob Kuntz (Croghan-Naumburg, NY), Kevin Banwart (West Bend, IA), Frank Sauder (Roanoke, IL), Daren Metz (Gridley, IL), Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL) for being with us and ministering God's Word to us.

Our prayers have been with Sis. Mary Beth Maurer, Sis. Elsie Bachtold (Bro. Willis), and Sis. Mary Ifft as they recover from surgery or hospital stays. May God's healing hand be upon each one.

We bid farewell to Bro. Gene and Karen Denick as they have moved to Tuscon, AZ and will be assembling with our brethren there. May God continue to bless and guide them.

Note of Thanks:

We want to thank everyone for cards, gifts, thoughts, food, and prayers at the death of Bro. Ben Lorch. God bless you all.

Sis. Marguerite Lorch and Family

ILLINOIS, FORREST

**Lisa Aberle
Lynn Dotterer**

We have many blessings to report this month. First, Christian Lanz (Bro. Damon and Sis. Lorri) and Thane Schaffer (Bro. Erik and Sis. Michelle) have started repenting. Then, we had several couples united in marriage. Bro. Colin Steidinger (Bro. Ray and Sis. Shelly) and Sis. Lynelle Fehr (Bro. James and Sis. Brenda) of Tremont, IL, were married on August 5. Bro. Nathan Kuntz (Bro. Rollyn and Sis. Brenda) and Sis. Brooke Miller (Bro. Roger and Sis. Crystal) of Fairbury, IL, were married on August 12. August 18 was the wedding day of Scott Rudin (Bro. Craig and Sis. Trudy) and Joyce Bolliger (Sis. Alma). We wish all these loved ones the blessings of God as they move forward with the changes in their lives.

We're thankful for the presence of God's Spirit felt by our elder brothers as they met for the Brotherhood Conference in Rockville, CT. May the entire Rockville congregation be blessed for their labors of love and warm hospitality in hosting the conference. As we listen to the recordings, may we all be encouraged in our walk with the Lord.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

**Melissa Rokey
Kayla Wiegand**

We joyfully announce the birth of a son, Russell Grey, born June 4 to Warren & Heather Blunier. His grandparents are Bro. Daryl and Sis. Lucy Blunier, and Alan Ludwig and Dionne Hunziker.

"Whoever receiveth the Crucified One, Whoever believeth on God's

only Son, A free and a perfect salvation shall have: For He is abundantly able to save." (Gospel Hymns # 387)

Gage Bauman (son of Bro. Rick & Sis. Stacie) has surrendered to the call of Jesus Christ with a broken, repentant heart. Please give him your prayers and support as he takes this important step of faith.

We are thankful to say our Sis. Melita Hodel (Bro. Curt) has had surgery on her leg and is now at home again. Please remember her in prayer as she continues her recovery.

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

There have been many in our congregation who have suffered the loss of a loved one this month. Sis. Carolyn (Bro. Don) Ott's brother Fred Alsene, (83) passed away on August 1.

Sis. Evelyn Hoffman, 84, went home to be with the Lord on August 6, and we want to remember her children, Bob and Barb Hoffman, Marianne and Frank Strawn, and two granddaughters Aimee (David) Payne, and Kim (Ivan) Schoenbein.

Bro. Wilbur Heinold, 90, went home to be with the Lord August 9. We want to express our sympathy to his dear wife, Sis. Mildred, and his children Terri and Bob Abner, Sis. Pat and Bro. Dave Kuntz, Bro. Mike and Sis. Pam Heinold, Dave and Kathy Heinold, Scott and Molly Heinold, as well as his foster daughter, Lydia Langit Reyes of the Philippines. He leaves many grandchildren behind also, including Sis. Christy and Justin Bauman and their children Zoe and Bentley from our Goodfield congregation.

"Love of all gifts is the greatest, which the Spirit does bestow"... Zion's Harp # 37

Kurt Freidinger and Kristen Smead were married July 7. Their parents are Bro. Duane and Sis. Vermeda Friedinger and Jeffrey and Lee Smead. Brett Gramm and Ellie Wagner were married August 4. Their parents are Bro. Greg and Sis. Jill Wagner and Ron and Angelia Gramm. August 12 was the wedding date of Bro. Russell Wiegand and Sis. Andrea Ruegsegger. Their parents are Bro Art and Sis. Pam Weigand and Bro. Lee and Sis. Alice Ruegsegger.

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

We are thankful for the surrendered efforts of our elder brothers and we have been prayerfully lifting them up as they are called to shepherd the flocks of our churches.

Our visiting ministers this past month included Bro. Matt Feucht (Sis. Jennifer, Roanoke, IL), Bro. Roger Sauder, (Sis. Judy, Ft. Lauderdale, FL), Bro. James Fehr (Sis. Brenda, Tremont, IL), Bro. Brian Huber (Sis. Jacki, Francesville, IN), and Bro. John Bradle (Sis. Jill, Roanoke, IL). We would like to thank each one for their efforts.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

Perry Klopfenstein

There is a wonderful Scripture found in 1 Peter 4:10 that instructs the believer to be a good steward of the manifold grace of God. In other words, we, who are endowed with God's grace, are to act as good stewards over this grace within us. That is a powerful concept -- that we use the grace for obedience

and service, and not to waste it, or neglect to use it.

We offer our sympathies to Sis. Raneé Witzig over the loss of her mother. Also, we are sorry to learn of the death of Bro. John Schlipf's brother, Dave Bertsche.

A son, Gabe William Schlipf, was born on July 23 to Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Rachel Schlipf. Grandparents are Bro. Art and Sis. Twyla Schlipf; and Bro. Randy and Sis. Carol Feucht, Roanoke, IL. Siblings are Levi (4) and Addison (2).

Bro. Ron Kinder has moved into the Heritage Nursing Home in Normal, IL.

Our visiting ministers were Bro. Mark Gerber, Bluffton, IN; Bro. Ron Bollier, Indianapolis, IN; and Bro. Jeff Wiegand, Goodfield, IL.

Paul Klopfenstein had another health setback, and was in a hospital in Champaign, IL. We truly offer up prayers for his wellbeing, after an extended siege of health issues.

The Sunday School term has begun, and we surely offer prayers for this important work. The shaping and training of youth comprise a vital part of God's work. And Sunday School is an important venue to dispense teaching and influence of an eternal nature.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

Annette Tanner

Julie Bahr

We are thankful for the brothers who commit their time to bringing us the Word of Truth. Bro Ted Witzig Jr. (Sis Donna) gave us our Family Worship topic entitled "Favoritism! God's Thoughts and Our Response". Bro Bob Pflederer (Sis. Ellie) gave our topical Bible study entitled "Revival". Both topics brought more awareness and a new zeal to us as a church body! Ministers serving us this past month

were Bro. Greg Rassi (Sis. Carla, Chicago, IL), Bro. John Rowell (Sis. Nelda, Burlington, IA), Bro. Jim Plattner (Sis. Marlene, Princeville, IL) and Bro. Ron Messner (Sis. Pam, Washington, IL).

Our Morton Church Family has experienced the loss of many loved ones this past month. Each one would surely covet your prayers! Sis. Alice Hirstein passed from this life leaving her two sons, Roger and Jim Hirstein, and also one sister, Eloise "Babe" Carey. On July 22, Sis. Jill Kaufman (Bro. Mike) laid to rest her brother, Wayne Geiger. Our love and sympathy is shared with Bro. Mike Heinold (Sis. Pam) in the loss of his dear father, Bro. Wilbur Heinold of Goodfield, IL. Our Bro. Doug Kruse (Sis. Gerry) lay to rest his dear mother, Jean Kruse McConkey. Tears are a language that God understands, as our Sis. Lucy Schmidgall mourns the loss of her dear husband, Bro. Bruce Schmidgall. Bro. Bruce is survived by three sons: Dale, Roger and Kevin Schmidgall, and two daughters Sis. Diane Koch and Sis. Marcia Campbell. One brother and three sisters survive: George Schmidgall, Virginia Michael, Sylvia Schmidgall, and Sis. Eleanor Uhlman. Please be prayerful for each of these grieving families. Prayer is no small thing!

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Pam Fritzenmeier

Sunday, August 5, the Meister family hosted an all-church farewell potluck for Bro. Tim and Sis. Joan Reinhard and family and Sis. Janelle Grassi. They returned to Haiti on August 8. They will be missed here in Peoria, but we know and trust that God will take care of them until we meet again.

Please also pray for Bro. Jason

Grassi, Bro. Zach Knoblock, and Bro. Jonathan and Sis. Bere Aupperle as they serve in Magdalena, MX.

God bless the Rockville, CT church for their kind hospitality as they hosted the annual Brotherhood Conference.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

Linda Joos

Gloria White

God blessed us again by sending us visiting ministers. We appreciate the visits of Bro. Kevin Banwart (West Bend, IA), Bro. Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL), and Bro. Darren Plattner (Champaign, IL). Also, Bro. Daren Metz (Gridley, IL) was with us for an all-church Bible study in July.

Derek Martin (young son of Bro. Ben and Sis. Hannah) was in the hospital for a short time. We are thankful he is back in church with us again. Kelsie Stahl (daughter of Bro. Rod and Sis. Cathy) married Matt Zarko (son of Todd and Jayne) on July 28. May God bless their marriage! Bro. Gale and Sis. Sonia Stoller were blessed with a new granddaughter, Claire Ann (daughter of Alex and Cassie). She was born on August 10 and is a precious addition to their family.

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Jamie Hodel

Barb Schwind

We have had a hot, dry summer in Roanoke, but we praise God for the rainfall and cooler temperatures that revived us this week. We pray that there may also be spiritual revival of God's children and a bountiful harvest of lost souls coming to the Saviour!

We want to thank our visiting ministers for sharing God's Word

with us: Bro. Jon Zeller (Morton, IL) on July 22, Bro. Greg Lehman (Wolcott, IL) on August 5, and Bro. Mike Hohulin (Fort Lauderdale, FL) on August 12.

We extend our love and sympathy to Bro. Bob and Sis. Chris Hartter and family on the June 5 passing of Bro. Bob's mother, Sis. Marie (Bro. Virgil) Hartter from Sabetha, KS. Our prayers are also with Bill and Jan Rassi. Jan's brother, Joe Schieber, from El Paso, IL passed away on July 3.

We rejoice with Bro. Daniel Leman (Bro. Denny and Sis. Karen) and Sis. Wendi Pfaffman (Bro. Max and Sis. Mary) on their August 12 marriage in Washington, IL. Many of us from Roanoke were there to share this happy occasion. We welcome Sis. Wendi to the Roanoke church.

We are also delighted to welcome Bro. Marc and Sis. Stacie Knepp, Max, and Chase "back home" to Roanoke. They had been worshipping with the Detroit church.

On August 6, Gwyneth Evelyn Maher was born to Bro. Zach and Sis. Penny. Big brother Oliver and grandparents, Bro. Dan and Sis. Kim Maher and Bro. Norm and Sis. Polly Zaugg (West Bend, IA), welcome this sweet baby into their families.

We continue to pray for loved ones facing health challenges: Bro. Rich Knepp (Sis. Janet), Sis. Judy Sauder (Bro. Harold), Sally Achtenberg, Bro. Merlyn Getz (Sis. Jan), and John Luginbuhl.

*"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."
(Psalm 66:1)*

In a recent sermon, we heard the verse, *"Behold I am the Lord the God of all flesh: is there any thing too hard for me?" (Jeremiah 32:27)*

What a comfort to know that there is nothing too hard for the almighty God we serve!

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

**Teresa Rowell
Janice Sauder**

We are thankful to have three young men give their testimony of the work God has done in their lives. We welcome Bro. Caleb Rassi (Bro. Curt and Sis. Kathy), Bro. Jeremy Oswald (Bro. Mike and Sis. Michelle), and Bro. Matt Koch (Bro. Roger and Sis. Sally) to our brotherhood. Elder Bro. Jim Plattner (Sis. Marlene, Princeville) was here with us to help our Elder brother Steve Sauder complete this most important work. Bro. Jim was also with us that Sunday for the baptisms and preached the Word to us. We wish to congratulate Sis.

Lynelle Fehr (Bro. James and Sis. Brenda) and Bro. Colin Steidinger (Bro. Ray and Sis. Shelly, Forrest, IL) on their wedding. We wish them God's richest

blessings as they establish their home together. We will miss Sis. Lynelle's smiling face in Tremont, but know that she will bring that smile to her new church and environment. Bro. Paul Zimmerman (Sis. Loretta, Forrest, IL) was with us for the wedding and preached the Word to us, and we thank him for this work.

We also have those whose families have increased. Bro. Derek and Sis. Leann Sauder welcome Lainey Lea into their family circle. She has three excited siblings at home, Lexi, Wesley and Whitley, and grandparents, Elder Bro. Steve and Sis. Mary Sauder and Bro. Stan and Sis. Lola Stoller (Eureka, IL). Also, Bro. Joe and Sis. Marcella Steiner have a new granddaughter, Charity Rose Steiner. She is the daughter

of Bro. Mike and Sis. Ivy Steiner (Burlington, IA) and sibling to Bro. Mahlon, Joseph, Daniel, Hannah, Titus, Courage, Blessing, Providence, and Timothy. We pray that God will give these families wisdom as they raise these dear children for Him.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Diane Koch (Bro. Scott) in the death of her father, Bro. Bruce Schmidgall (Sis. Lucy, Morton, IL). We pray for God's comforting hand to be upon her and her family at this difficult time.

Bro. Dick Miller and his wife Cindy have both been in the hospital and we pray God's healing hand upon them.

Thank you note:

Thank you to all those who sent cards and words of encouragement and sympathy in the passing of Les' brother, John.

Bro. Les and Sis. Wilma Pulfer

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

**Marlene Prather
Jodi Fehr**

We enjoyed a wonderful Sunday on August 12 as we witnessed the marriage vows of Sis. Wendi Pfaffmann (Bro. Max and Sis. Mary Pfaffmann) to Bro. Daniel Leman (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Karen Leman, Roanoke, IL). We extend our thanks to the ministers who were with us, including Bro. Tom Hoffman (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL), Bro. Dean Steffen (Sis. Carol, Belvidere, IL), Bro. Doug Wagenbach (Sis. Lillian, San Diego, CA) and Bro. Matt Feucht (Sis. Jennifer, Roanoke, IL).

We were blessed with several other visiting ministers this month including Bro. Greg Stieglitz (Sis. Lisa, Indianapolis, IN) and Bro. Ken Hoerr (Sis. Darlene, Peoria, IL). We

thank them for sharing with us.

We lift Bro. Chris Ledford (Sis. Stacey) and his family up in prayer after the recent death of his brother, Tim Ledford.

We are thankful that Bro. Harold Meiss has returned home from the hospital and is doing well. Bro. Randy Kellenberger recently had surgery, so we pray for a speedy recovery for him as well.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

Kim Meyer
Suzie Fiechter

I read a book to my kids recently titled "What Would Jesus Do?" and there was a question asked that really made me stop and think. A boy was asking people at a church picnic for some water and a little help, but he was turned down by the fathers grilling, the busy mothers, and the girls and boys. As he kept walking, he heard voices singing about Jesus, but they didn't offer any help either. Then he asked, "Do you know Jesus since you were singing about him? And if so, do the other people at the picnic know Jesus as well? If they do, why didn't they help me? If I had asked Jesus...what would He do?"

As I started gathering the information for this article, this book came to mind along with this verse: "If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen." (1 Peter 4:11) What do we do with the information we read in the Silver Lining? Is it so we have something to talk about at the next gathering? Do we just want to make sure we are abreast with the happenings going on in

other churches? Or, do we read it as listed opportunities for ways to help, encourage, and pray for our fellow brethren?

Our dear Sis. Lucille Steffen passed away (Bro. Norman, dec). Her children are Sis. Judy Isch, Bro. Terry (Sis. Gloria) Steffen, and Ted (Rosie) Steffen. *What would Jesus do?* Make a visit. Take time to write a card, instead of sending a quick text. Give a hug. Pray.

We had three families welcome new little babies into their homes. Bro. Travis and Sis. Alyssa Fiechter brought home a healthy baby boy, Brock. He will join his big brother Clay. His grandparents are Bro. Doug and Sis. Jill Fiechter and Bro. Brian and Sis. Joy Tonner. Bro. Brent and Sis. Allison Kaehr welcomed little Alyssa Rose into their family. She was welcomed by Brandon, Whitney, Benjamin, Travis, and Jacob as well. Bro. Lyle and Sis. Connie Kaehr and Bro. Alan and Sis. Sheryl Ringger are the thankful grandparents of another healthy granddaughter. Bro. Jeff and Sis. Linda McAfee are joyful to embrace their new granddaughter, Isla Grace, born to John and Lisa McAfee. *What would Jesus do?* Make a meal. Buy a gift. Babysit the baby so mom can take a nap. Pray.

We rejoice with our three new converts! Gretchen Moser (Bro. Dave and Sis. Sheri), Erika Gerber (Bro. Alan and Sis. Joli), and Liana Reinhard (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Jodi). There is no better news than to hear that someone has given their hearts to Jesus. It should thrill our souls. *What would Jesus do?* Offer words of encouragement. Take time to meet for breakfast and visit. Mentor them. Show them how to use the concordance. Pray.

There are several families and individuals who have risen to the

top of our prayer lists. Bro. Steve Reinhard (Sis. Renee) has suffered a new internal bleeding injury and is hospitalized in Indianapolis. Sis. Heidi Carter's son, Draven, had surgery to correct kidney infections and is still recovering. We are praying for Sis. Laura Ridge's father, Larry, who left for active duty in Kuwait City, Kuwait with the National Guard. Sis. Gloria Steffen (Bro. Terry) is recovering from heart bypass surgery, but now at home. Gary Fiechter (Stacey) is making some encouraging progress after suffering some major injuries due to a fall. Bro. Tyler and Sis. Michelle Earney and their son Blake have felt God's directing in making Wolcott, IN their new home. *What would Jesus do?* Make a phone call. Take time to go and visit. Play a board game. Send some flowers. Pray.

Bluffton was blessed to host Christian Endeavor this year. Thanks to all the parents, teachers, ministers, and students who made it all possible. *What would Jesus do?* Maintain the friendships made and visit their churches. Pray.

Thank you to all the elders who gave of themselves, and their time for the conference at Rockville, CT. It's truly humbling to us as the congregation to see our leaders seeking and yearning for the Lord's will and direction. As we were asked to fast and pray for the conference, we were given some scripture to consider. As I was reading the scriptures and thinking of the purpose for fasting and prayer, it was interesting the words that stood out to me...afflict ourselves, be teachable, our children, coming before God and confessing, sent out after fasting and prayer, being persistent in fasting and prayer even when defeated to see the victory in the end. And finally, just being

obedient to fasting and prayer. *What would Jesus do?* Seek and do the Father's Will. Pray.

"Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God." (2 Cor. 7:1)

What Would Jesus Do? Sometimes we don't know what to do, and that's okay. But let's never forget the power of prayer. Jesus is God and yet we can read how important and often prayer happened while Jesus walked this earth. So let's follow after Jesus' example pray for the willingness to ask ourselves "What would Jesus do?" and "What would Jesus say?" and then the obedience to do it! Why?

"If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen." (1 Peter 4:11)

INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH

Jessie Longenberger

Amy Moser

"...Grace, mercy and peace, from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord". (1 Timothy 1:2)

We were very thankful for two visiting brothers who shared the Word with us this month. Bro. Jeff Waibel (Sis. Margo, Leo, IN) and Bro. Joe Sprunger (Sis. Tara, Indianapolis, IN) were gracious enough to visit.

Bro. John and Sis. Bethany Ringger became the parents of a son named Josiah. He was born on June 6, 2011 in Ethiopia. Josiah came to live with his 'forever family'

in late June. We rejoice with them. Grandparents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Myra Ringger and Bro. Bob and Sis. Mardel Dotterer of Rittman, OH.

Sis. Fern Leman is recovering from another spinal surgery. Our prayers go out to her.

Bro. Mark Steffen (Sis. Lori) has also been hospitalized and underwent serious surgery. May he feel our support and prayers throughout his recovery.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Joe Schwartz (Sis. Jan) as he had back surgery. We are thankful for God's healing hand.

Our prayers are also with Bro. Howard (Joyce) Baumgartner who underwent a stay in the hospital.

Taye Gerber has shared her desire to be a convert at Bluffton North church. She has demonstrated a real humility and devotion to serve the Lord in this fellowship. Let us be prayerful for her as she begins this part of her spiritual journey. Taye is the daughter of Bro. Blake and Sis. Fawn Gerber.

"For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." (Phil. 1:21)

When we were born, we cried and the world rejoiced. Live a life in Christ so that when you die, the world cries and you rejoice!

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE

Mildred Clauss

Jacki Huber

At this season of the year our students at all levels are returning to the classrooms. As adults, our "classroom" is everywhere. And, if we learn from life's lessons to worship God and to trust Him, we will be prepared to face the tests and trials we surely will find along the way!!

Our congregation has been blessed in recent weeks by a Topical

Bible Study on the 5 chapters in 1 Peter. We have been encouraged to endure persecution (as Peter did), to thank God for Salvation and to honor the Lord by living overcoming lives. May God bless our ministers who faithfully serve and instruct us in the Truths of the Word.

Sis. Velda Overmyer, 93, has gone to be with her Lord whom she has faithfully served. Her life exemplified 1 Peter 3:4 in that her adorning was *"the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price"*. Our sympathy is extended to her surviving children: Bro. Danny (Sis. Carol), Bro. Richard (Beverly), Bro. Roger (Sis. Janet) all of Francesville and her daughters, Sis. Janet (Bro. Ken) Schrock and Sis. Mary (Bro. Mike) Schieber of Congerville, IL.

We extend deepest sympathy to Sis. Doris Getz at the death of her 14 year old granddaughter, Maya Getz who died as a result of an ATV accident. Her loving parents are Jason and Maggie Getz of Lafayette, IN. We pray for God's grace and His nearness as the family mourns this great loss.

Note of Thanks:

We want to thank each of you for all your prayers, love and many deeds of kindness shown to our dear Mom these last years at Parkview Haven and since her passing. It means so much to have a church family that cares. Your thoughtfulness will never be forgotten. May God's blessings ever be upon you. We love you!!

The Velda Overmyer Family

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS

**Katy Frantz
Sandy Lichtle**

We are continuing our study of the books of the New Testament. On Wednesday evening, July 25, Bro. Luke Schafer (Sis. Andria) taught about Colossians.

“Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.” (Colossians 3:2)

On August 5, we enjoyed a blessed afternoon of fellowship at our annual Sunday school picnic at the home of Bro. Glen and Sis. Nancy Pfeifer. The new teachers for this year include: Bros. Ron Gress and Dave Roberts and Sisters Debbie Anliker, Katy Frantz, and Penny Schroder. Also, Bro. Kevin Gutwein will serve as the new Assistant Sunday School Superintendent. We thank all of the outgoing teachers for their labors of love. Our prayers are with the incoming teachers as they teach the precious Word to our children.

We rejoice with Bro. John and Sis. Peg Sauder and Bro. Tony and Sis. Deonne Monfre (Goodfield, IL) on the arrival of their new grandson, Ace Anthony Monfre, born on August 8. Ace is welcomed home by his parents Bro. Clayton and Sis. Trisha Monfre (Morton, IL) and big sister Stella.

On August 15, we were blessed to have Bro. Lon and Sis. Sarah Vogt share with us about the work they are doing in the mission field in India. Our thoughts and prayers are with them and their children as they return to India this month.

We extend our thanks to Bro. John Lehman (Wolcott, IN), Bro. Daron Price (Sis. Monica, Milford, IN) and Bro. Fred Witzig (Sis. Nancy, Washington, IL) for their willingness to be used in the Lord's

service as they shared the Truth with us.

INDIANA, LACROSSE

**Julie Roche
Meagan Frank**

The wedding of Bro. Joel and Sis. Amy Troxel was on July 29. Their parents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Carol Troxel and Bro. Joe and Sis. Connie Gerst (Iowa City, IA). We know Sis. Amy will be missed in Iowa City and we welcome her to our congregation. We trust that Joel and Amy can feel our love and support as they begin their life together serving God.

Also, this month, were two other weddings. Seth and Emily Culver joined hand and heart on August 4. Emily is the daughter of Sis. Ruth Elcock. Josh and Chelsea Troxel were wed on August 11. Josh is the son of Bro. Tom and Sis. LuAnn Troxel. We pray that both of these couples would seek the Lord in their lives together and we look forward to their visits.

We are thankful for the labors of Bro. Chris Wuethrich (Sis. Carla, St. Louis, MO). He and his family came to visit us this month.

Our Sunday School took the month of July off and now they are back in session. We appreciate the willingness of our teachers to instruct our youth. Sis. Kendra Stoller and Bros. Brendon Messner and David Virkler have taken the positions vacated by Sis. Evie Heinold and Bros. Ben Stoller and Eric Heinold. May God richly bless all those who are teaching now and those who have completed their term.

Many prayers have been offered over the past few weeks and months as our Elder brethren prepared to gather for the August conference. We look forward to hearing the

tapes of the General Conference on Wednesday evenings over the next several weeks.

INDIANA, LEO

Kirby Reutter

“Is any among you afflicted? Let him pray. Is any merry? Let him sing psalms.” (James 5:13)

The good Lord, in His sovereign providence, gave us plenty of opportunity this month to both praise and pray. Consider some reasons for praise, in alphabetical order based on the first name of the child: newborn Angel Spencer (parents are Bro. Kirby & Sis. Areli Reutter); newborn Jacki Loretta (parents are Bro. Jason & Sis. Joy Huber); newborn Jeremiah Aaron (parents are Bro. Aaron & Sis. Michelle Stoller); newborn Tillie Lucile (parents are Bro. Jeff & Sis. Margo Waibel); and yet another Oak House baby. Incidentally, precious little Tillie gave us plenty of reason this past month to praise *and* pray. However, we are exceedingly thankful that Tillie seems to have stabilized and her dear family has been reunited after a long, stressful and prayerful month. (We are also thankful for Bro. Jeff's leadership at Gateway Woods, not to mention his ministry on the Leo pulpit.) Unfortunately, with so many newborns in a single month, please realize that it is not spatially feasible to report dates, dimensions, siblings, or grandparents.

Just as regrettably, on account of my poor reporting skills, I failed to mention months ago the adoption of beautiful eight-year-old Meron Hope from Ethiopia (parents are Bro. Jason & Sis. Joy Kilgus, but not to be confused with the other Jason and Joy previously mentioned).

The Gateway Auction took place

on August 4. While the annual sale is certainly a pivotal event for our local church, perhaps we do not recognize enough that serving lunch the next day is just as momentous for those that minister in this capacity. The Schrenk Family used to faithfully serve the annual post-Auction lunch every year. (Of course you would never know that since they also used to write the Silver Lining). This year, Bro. Kent and Sis. Jane Miller accepted the challenge and applied their superior gifting for hospitality by serving quite the multitude, perhaps best quantified by greetings from 22 different churches. We are so thankful that Kent and Jane and their two wonderful daughters have continued to worship with us here in Leo over the past 2.5 years! Incidentally, if you do not think that serving a big lunch is a big deal, please refer to the following passages for Biblical clarification: Matthew 14, Matthew 15, Mark 6, Mark 8, Luke 9, and John 6.

The state of Indiana is sometimes called the Crossroads of America. This seems evident on any given Sunday, as we frequently are privileged to host visitors from all over the continent, and sometimes beyond. Perhaps the Leo church could more specifically be called the Crossroads of the Apostolic Christian Church, especially in terms of visiting ministers. This past month we gladly welcomed the following servants on the Leo pulpit, in reverse chronological order, based on date of attendance: Bros. Randy Gudeman (Francesville, IN), Tim Drayer (Bluffton North, IN), Bill Waibel (Bay City, MI), Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH), Mark Gerber (Bluffton, IN), Darren Plattner (Champaign, IL), and Jeff Leman (Bluffton, IN). Of course,

each of these dear brothers probably has some sort of local connection which probably warrants some form of mention, but suffice it to say: "Thanks for coming and please come back to the Crossroads!"

On a final note, hopefully it is appropriate to offer a special expression of gratitude for everyone from Leo who participated in the Spanish Bible Study this past month, in support of Sis. Lourdes Sibaja, who has been visiting us from our beloved church in Ixtlan, MX. In submission to 1 Corinthians 14, 17 Spanish-speaking believers and seekers responded to a plea to worship with Sis. Lourdes in her native tongue. Three of our visitors joined us from the community, including Elmer from El Salvador, who now worships with us every Sunday! Four of our visitors also joined us all the way from our beloved Milford church, including Bro. Jose and Sis. Norma. What an outpouring of support! Sometimes I wonder how effective Pentecost would have been if the Spirit had said: "Sorry Bro. Peter, but we only speak Hebrew here in Jerusalem." Even though we all must still deal with the frustrating curse of Babel, at least in Christ we are now free from the curse of sin and death—for all that believe in the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

INDIANA, MILFORD

Janie Price
Paula Haab

*"Teach me yet more of Thy blest ways, Thou holy Lamb of God;
And fix and root me in the grace, So dearly bought with blood.
Engrave this deeply on my heart,
With an eternal pen;
That I may, in some small degree,
Return Thy love again." (Hymns of Zion, "Teach Me Yet More")*

The school doors have opened once again for our youth. Each day is a day of learning in one degree or another. Our minds desire to gain knowledge as our souls desire to delight our spirit in the almighty that we will gain the ultimate reward - a home in heaven. Matt Longcor has obtained his Diesel Mechanic Degree from the University of North Western Ohio. Our prayers are with Matt as he seeks out the position in life that God would have him to pursue.

Bro. Bob and Sis. Sue Bowerman are rejoicing as their first grandson was born into their family August 2. Samuel Finn was born to Rick and Carla Bowerman. Big sister Sadie welcomes her brother home.

We are thankful for the visiting ministers who through the Holy Spirit brought us teachings from the Word. Bro. Steve Frauhiger (Sis. Irene) and Bro. Ryan Bertsch (Sis. Jessica) from Bluffton North, IN and Bro. Ron Kipfer (Sis. Linda) Bluffton, IN. May they feel the warmth of our Milford congregation. Our area has many lakes. We encourage them to visit us often when they are in the area.

Our prayers are with Bro. Alvin Haab as he met with accident and suffered a broken leg. When just one part of the body does not function, it certainly causes one to appreciate a day of wellness. I often think of Isaiah 58:8, *"Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily: and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the Lord shall be thy rearward."*

INDIANA, REMINGTON

Jenni Honegger
Marcella Tyler

We had a couple of visiting ministers this month. Bro. Fred

Witzig (Sis. Nancy, Washington, IL) shared a Topical Bible Presentation with us about our Anabaptist history. Bro. Ryan Schock (Sis. Melanie, Bloomfield, IA) shared the Word with us one Sunday as well. We are thankful to both for their willingness to be used for our benefit.

We are excited to announce the birth of little Brayden Kyle on July 24 to Bro. Brian and Sis. Kristen Schneider. Older sisters Bryanna, Emily, and Kayla are sure excited to have a baby brother in the house to love and to cuddle! Grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Bernice Schneider (and the late Sis. Loretta) and Sis. Clara Fischer (the late Bro. Wilmer, Roanoke, IL). We enjoy seeing little Brayden in church and pray that he will grow strong in both body and spirit as Bro. Brian and Sis. Kristen strive to raise him up to know the Lord.

Bob Schini is now living at home after his motorcycle accident several months ago. We are thankful for his recovery and for all of your prayers on his behalf.

Our hearts and prayers go out to the Jason and Maggie Getz family of West Lafayette, IN as they mourn the loss of their teenage daughter Maya in an ATV accident. Maya was the niece of our Elder Bro. Dan and Sis. Jenna Kilgus and Bro. Bruce and Sis. Jody Waibel. She had recently returned from a work team trip to Jamaica with several youth from Remington and Wolcott, where many friendships and memories were made. It is difficult to know what to say when someone so young and vibrant is lost from this life. But, our thoughts and prayers are with Jason and Maggie and Maya's sisters Alex and Leanna and brother Ethan during this heart-breaking time.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

Joshua Martinez

"Grace unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ." (2 Thessalonians 1:2)

We are thank our Lord for the safe return of Bro. Robert and Sis. Sue Beebe from their latest mission trip to Haiti. We continue to pray for the relief efforts and the medical ministry at Hospital Lumiere.

We are thankful for all the visiting ministers and their families who fellowshipped with us this month. May the Lord bless Bro. Matthew Rassi (Sis. Bridget, Chicago, IL), Bro. Dan Pfister (Sis. Sherry, Bluffton, IN) and Bro. Steve Frauhiger (Sis. Irene, Bluffton North, IN) for their words of Truth from the pulpit. We appreciate all visitors this past month.

"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might." (Ephesians 6:10)

INDIANA, VALPARAISO

Marguerite Hoerr

Bro. Ron Kipfer (Sis. Linda, Bluffton, IN) spoke on the fulfillment of prophecy according Israel, to the Valpo congregation on a Wednesday night as part of our Bible School. His message was a blessing to all who attended. We thank him for the time spent in making the trip and for the edifying message he brought. May God richly bless him and Sis. Linda for their love and the time spent with us.

September used to be the month when school started. Today it often starts in August for the grade schools. Fortunately our grade school children are at home with their parents when they start to school. What September means is

that our college young people are going back on campus and most of them won't be living at home anymore. This means that their home churches miss them, too. It's all part of the growing up process and as they become adults they will be responsible for how they act as adults, and won't be as sheltered by their parents any longer.

Sis. Jackie Feller (Bro. Joe) and Sis. Julie Bucher (Bro. Tim) have been concerned about their father, Norm Jacobs. He had hip replacement about a year ago and has had numerous problems since then. He's now in an Indianapolis hospital. Both girls left today to be with him because further surgery was required to remove the artificial hip. Bro. Joe said it was performed today and he came through it and is doing well. We ask for your prayers to join ours in his behalf. We love to have Norm and his wife visit our church, to be with their grandchildren, whenever we have special programs.

Sis. Gwen Bucher was treated in emergency for a badly cut finger and palm of her hand, as she fell in a parking lot on the way to her car. She was happy to tell us it's all healed and the many stitches are removed. Sis. Gwen is a busy Christian, and a good example to the rest of us; always doing for others. We are so glad things have healed up for her.

Bro. Art Heiniger is living at an assisted care facility in Valpo and is doing well. We do miss his smiling face and friendly conversation. Remember him in your prayers.

Bro. Dennis Weiss is on a two week trip to Guatamala. Dennis is CEO of Kankakee Valley REMC of Wanatah, IN. He's part of the first of two crews that are going down, each consisting of 18 volunteers. To celebrate the

International Year of Cooperatives, the Indiana Statewide Association of rural electric cooperatives put together a service project. They are working on electrifying three coffee-growing villages in the mountains of Northwest Guatemala. The individual crews will work for two weeks. Other crews will follow. His first trip there, which was investigative, made him realize the difficulties they would have in setting the poles for the electric wires. None of them will be set on level ground. If they are able to complete the project, over 110 homes will be electrified for the first time. All of the volunteers will be employees of Indiana Electric Cooperatives. Dennis welcomes our prayers for the safety of his crew and for their ability to bring service to these poverty-stricken areas.

Bob and I were talking at the breakfast table this morning about our decisions to turn to the Lord. We had met when we were unconverted. One night I had a phone call from him. He told me that he was leaving for the army. He knew he couldn't face it alone, so he was turning his heart over to God. I always felt I should make that decision before he did because I came from a family where my Dad was a minister from the time I was a baby, and I went to church and Sunday School every Sunday. His parents were wonderful people, but had not given their hearts to the Lord. Bob always attended Sunday School, but not church. He went directly to his Sunday School teacher for help and advice, because he couldn't find peace after his decision. Bro. Ernie Klauss asked him, "Is there something else you are putting first?" Bob said he pulled my picture out of his billfold and laid it on the footstool where they

were kneeling. When he told me this, I knew that any commitment we had made to each other was no longer valid, and that he now had a commitment to God that I wished I had. I had some hard thinking to do. It wasn't long until I followed his example and felt the healing that comes from giving oneself to the Lord. Both of us gave up our commitment to each other and found that God was our first love. Later on, both of his parents, John and Aline Hoerr did, too; also his brother Wilbur. More than two years later, after he'd crossed the Atlantic many times on an Army hospital ship, and when his time with the Army was nearly over, we became engaged. We were then married in the Milford Apostolic Christian Church by Bro. Elias Dotterer. Our first home was in Richmond, CA. That was over 66 years ago.

INDIANA, WEST LAFAYETTE

**Ben Stoller
Katie Widmer**

Bienvenidos a West Lafayette! While most of the time we are bidding farewell, this month we have many welcomes to extend!

Bro. Kirk and Sis. Keri Plattner and children: Drew, Truitt, Daisha, and Danae moved to the area from Knockpatrick, Jamaica. We are so excited to have them join our West Lafayette family.

With great joy and anticipation we also welcome our returning students and newcomers to the ever-changing land of West Lafayette. While the terrain is not filled with many mountains or valleys, we anticipate the joy of walking with them through this journey of life: ever strengthening and encouraging one another through the "mountains and valleys".

As the students refresh the local church body, we are thankful for the rains that have refreshed the bean crop.

As the sun brightens the new day, we are overjoyed to announce the birth of a son to Rick and Carla Bowerman. Samuel Finn was born on August 2 and weighed 9 lbs. and 6 oz. He has an older sister, Sadie, to welcome him to the world.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

**Sasha Kyburz
Donita Edelman**

We were very blessed and thankful to have ministering Bro. Ken Schneider (Sis. Bernice, Remington, IN) with us when our ministering brothers were away visiting other churches. We would also like to express our thanks to Bro. Fred Witzig (Sis. Nancy, Washington, IL) for sharing a Bible Study with us recently. We appreciate them making the trip to spend time with us. May the Lord bless each of these brothers for being willing to serve Him.

We are excited to announce the arrival of James Daniel Kyburz to Dan and Jamie Wedel Kyburz (Grandparents Ron and Donna Kyburz, Wolcott, IN). May you look upon the Lord always for guidance in raising your precious son!

It was a wonderful day of food and fellowship when we gathered together on August 18 to enjoy our annual Turkey Run outing. Thank you to everyone who made this day possible!

We are now listening to the series of tapes on Wednesday evenings from the Brotherhood Conference in Rockville, CT. May the Lord reveal His will to our willing hearts! A special thank you to the elders of the Apostolic Christian Church for gathering together to help the

Apostolic Christian Church better serve our Loving Savior Jesus Christ!

We extend our sympathy to our Elder Bro. Dan and Sis. Jenna Kilgus in the tragic loss of Sis. Jenna's niece. May the Lord comfort their family in this very sad time.

IOWA, BLOOMFIELD

Theresa Schock

I have a picture in my home that we purchased many years ago. The title of it has so much meaning to me. I believe our home does reflect who we are. Today, I think the title of that picture, "Clearing Storms", fits my life and also our church. We have experienced much sadness. God has promised never to forsake His own. His promises are true.

We were so thankful to have Bro. Chuck Kellenberger (Sis. Debbie, Elgin, IL) with us the weekend of July 14. In the services, he brought out the mighty north winds and reminded us that we are all together in this battle against Satan.

We rejoice with Sis. Kendra Wuthrich (Bro. Roger and Sis. DeAnn) and Bro. Tad Meyer (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Jill) of Lester, IA as they were united in Holy Matrimony on August 5. Our wish for Bro. Tad and Sis. Kendra is well-written in Hymns of Zion #286, "O God of Wisdom" (which we sang). We thank Elder Bro. Rod Bajema (Lester, IA), Bro. Matt Steffen (Sis. Deanna, Princeville, IL) and Bro. Brad Funk (Sis. Laura, Garden Grove, IA) for being with us. Bro. Rod said that God puts us with our spouse for one reason, and that is to help each other get to heaven. The wife needs to encourage her husband and vice-versa. May we love each other as Jesus loved us.

August 14, Bro. John Rowell (Sis. Nelda, Burlington, IA) brought

us these thoughts. Love isn't love, 'til you give it away. Also, sorrow and regret look back, worry peers around the corner, but FAITH looks up! Thanks for being with us, Bro. John.

Our dear elders met recently in conference at Rockville, CT. We trust they felt our prayers. Are we going to heed the warnings they give us? We need to continue to pray and encourage our elder brothers. They have been ordained by God. Let's let them do their duties. May God bless them richly.

What is your duty? What is my duty? A brother once gave me some advice. I wish he knew how much that advice has helped me. It was, "Focus on YOUR duty, and don't worry about everything else going on". I thought maybe the last part could also be, "don't worry about what everyone else is doing". We know what worry does.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Marilyn Anderson

Monica Eisenmann

We are thankful to have had several visiting ministers this past month. Bro Ron Joos (Bloomfield, IA) and Bros. Tom Lanz, Mark Schmidgall, and Jerry Wagenbach (Oakville, IA) came to assist our ministers. We appreciate their efforts on our behalf.

We rejoice with the family of Bro. Mike and Sis. Ivy Steiner as they welcome Charity Rose, born August 4. Charity's grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Ingrid Buster and Bro. Joe and Sis. Marcella Steiner (Tremont, IL).

The Burlington Church was privileged to host the annual Iowa Churches Weekend for the single members this month. It is a blessing to renew old friendships and make new friends.

IOWA, ELGIN

Maria Roche

Brianna Strahm

Brad Schneider and Laura Molitor were united in marriage on June 9. We wish them many blessings as they now walk through life together. Their parents are Bro. Charles and Sis. Sue Schneider and Robert and Carol Molitor (Lester, IA).

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

Mike and Beth Starkweather were blessed with an addition to their family on June 14. Carver Daniel joins his siblings, Anden and Brielle. His grandparents are Bro. Floyd and Sis. Jan Frieden and Dan and Kelly Starkweather (NY).

Andrea Rose Frank was born to Bro. Aaron and Sis. Sharla on June 28. Happy to welcome their little sister were: Keana, Clinton and Hanna. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Charles and Sis. Sue Schneider and Bro. Curt and Sis. Kathy Frank (Oakville, IA).

Bro. Doug and Sis. Trisha Roche welcomed another little boy Nelson Keith, to their family on July 7. Eli and Emma are his siblings. Nelson's grandparents are Sis. Kathy Roche (Tremont, IL) and Bro. Keith and Sis. Ida Kellenberger (Bradford, IL).

Sis. Sandy Butikofer recently had ankle surgery. We're thankful it went as planned and that she is recovering well.

"Not now, but in the coming years, It may be in a better land, We'll read the meaning of our tears, and there, sometime we'll understand." (Hymns of Zion #165)

We extend our sympathy to Sheryl Schroeder as she recently lost her brother, Dennis Butikofer. May God comfort her heart in the days to

come.

We thank the following ministers for their willingness to serve us in the past few months. Bro. Glen Steiner (Sis. Rachel, Winthrop, MN), Elder Bro. Wayne Grimm (Sis. Rose, West Bend, IA), Bro. Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata, TX), Bro. Dean Messner (Sis. Wanda, Winthrop, MN), Bro. Kevin Fehr (Sis. Lonnie, West Bend, IA), Bro. Jim Vierling (Sis. Linda, Eureka, IL) and Bro. Duane Metzger (Sis. Ruth, West Bend, IA).

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE

Laura Funk

Greetings from Garden Grove, Iowa. We thank the following brothers for sharing God's Word with us this past month: Bro. Bruce Frank (Cissna Park, IL) and Bro. Dave Hartter (Sabetha, KS).

We are experiencing very hot, dry weather in south central Iowa. Our daughter counted 15 consecutive days with temperatures over 100 degrees. Our crops are feeling the extreme weather. We know there are other parts of the country experiencing the same conditions. We trust in God's almighty power.

*“Put on the armor of the Lord and Saviour,
The enemy with artful guile is nigh.
The hearts of men are oft deceived by Satan
In God's own strength we ever must rely.
Not only flesh and blood are we subduing,
But evil spirits with their hosts pursuing.
I am the Way, the Truth, and Life eternal.
Whoever believes in me shall never die.
Accept the Word which God has*

*kindly given,
The Word of Truth with grace to sanctify.
The Word, as balm, for wounded hearts has healing,
And thus in Thee new life and light revealing. (Zion's Harp #115 vs. 1, 6)*

As I sit and write this article, I am reminded that the 2012 Conference is over. We look forward to hearing the recordings. We are thankful for the elders who spend their time and God-given talents for our benefit.

*“This Shepherd ne'er forsakes His fold
In joy nor yet in sorrow,
But shares to us His love untold
Each day and each tomorrow.
Then let us follow to the end
And with Him enter heaven's land.
(Zion's Harp #116 vs. 7)*

IOWA, IOWA CITY

Diana Butikofer

We congratulate Bro. Joel and Sis. Amy Troxel (Bro. Ed and Sis. Carol, LaCrosse, IN, and Bro. Joe and Sis. Connie Gerst) on their marriage that began July 29. Visiting elders that day were Bro. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, LaCrosse, IN) and Bro. Ben Walder (Sis. Juanita, Congerville, IL). Other visiting ministers were Bro. Steve Pamer (Sis. Arliss) and Bro. Ron Palitto (Sis. Lynell) from Akron, OH, Bro. Dale Frank (Sis. Tina, Oakville, IA) and Bro. Phil Schulz (Sis. Kelli, Burlington, IA). We pray the Lord will bless the brothers willing to minister to us that day, all of our other visitors, and especially Bro. Joel and Sis. Amy as they begin their life together.

We want to thank the Rockville church for their work on our behalf in hosting the Elder and Brotherhood Conference. We pray the Lord will be their rich Rewarder.

IOWA, LESTER

Joyce Moser

Gloria Moser

As the Annual Brotherhood Conference is past, we anticipate listening to the conference conclusions in the next few weeks. May we continue to lift our elders up in fervent prayer and trust the Lord will grant them His divine wisdom and direction in all of their endeavors for the welfare of the church of God.

Our visiting ministers this month were Bro. Randy Mogler (Washington, IL), Bro. Larry Bahr (Fort Scott, KS), Bro. Wayne Hartzler, (Rittman, OH), Bro. Ron Jones, (Portland, OR), Bro. Mark Schmidgall (Oakville, IA), Bro. Wayne Fehr (Portland, OR) and Bro. Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA). May each minister of the Gospel feel God's blessing for their service in the Lord.

We are so thankful God is still calling souls out of sin and darkness. We rejoice with LaChelle Moser (Bro. Brad and Sis. Gloria) as she has answered the call of repentance and we pray God's grace will be given to her in rich measure as she builds her life on the Solid Rock of Jesus Christ.

We always want to pray those who are suffering. Our hospital patients this past month were Bro. Willy Knobloch (Sis. Helen), Sis. Florence Knobloch (Bro. Gus), Kaitlyn Ter Wee (Chad and Sandi), Sis. Elgeva Knobloch (Bro. Art), Sis. Abby Knobloch (Bro. Andy), and Jim Moser.

The wedding of Bro. Tad Meyer (Bro. Denis and Sis. Jill) and Sis. Kendra Wuthrich (Bro. Roger and Sis. DeAnn, Bloomfield, IA) was August 5 in Bloomfield, IA. We rejoice with them as they begin their married life together in the Lord.

“Beyond the sunset, O glad reunion, with our dear loved ones who’ve gone before; In that fair homeland, we’ll know no parting, Beyond the sunset, for evermore!” (Hymns of Zion, #172)

Our sincere sympathy is extended to the family of Bro. Art Knobloch as he passed from this life into eternity on August 15. May God comfort his dear wife, Sis. Elgeva, and children, Sis. Carolyn Hartzler (Bro. Dale, Rittman, OH), Sis. Shirley (Bro. Bob), Sis. Donna (Mike), Bro. Vern (Sis. Chalea), Sis. Linda (Brad); one brother, Dale (Sis. Mary); and sisters, Sis. Matilda Fehr (Bro. Elmer, West Bend, IA), Sis. Dena Weiss, (Bro. Calvin, Sabetha, KS), Sis. Gladys, and Sis. Betty Dietrich (Bro. Clarence, Silverton, OR); 26 grandchildren; and 8 great grandchildren.

IOWA, OAKVILLE Sharla Wiegand

Two lives were blended into one as Sis. Whitney Wagenbach and Bro. Michael Roth were married in the Lord on July 22. Their parents are Bro. Colin and Sis. Barb Wagenbach and Bro. Mark and Sis. Tammy Roth of Congerville, IL.

Visiting ministers with us for the wedding were Bro. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS), Bro. James Knapp (Congerville, IL), Bro. John Baumgartner (Bern, KS), Bro. Gary Endress (Bradford, IL) and Bro. Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA). We also appreciated hearing the Word brought to us this month by Bro. Darren Fehr (West Bend, IA), Bro. John Rowell and Bro. Phil Schulz (Burlington, IA).

IOWA, WEST BEND

Janet Fehr
Leona Fehr

The Lord provides us with beautiful miracles all about us to encourage our hearts. Experiencing the miracle of a healthy baby on July 26 were Bro. Kyle and Sis. Jenny Banwart when their daughter, Jayla Jean, was born. Jayla has a big sister Josie to welcome her home. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Teresa Schock (Bloomfield, IA) and Bro. Kent and Sis. Beth Banwart.

Bro. Wes Moser (Sis. Esther, Lester, IA) was with us on July 29 to share the pulpit with our brothers here. May we continually remind ourselves that hearing the truth across the pulpit is a blessing we should not take for granted. These dear brothers need our fervent prayers.

“Should I restrain the Spirit’s course for fear of man so feeble? Though Satan’s hosts are raging here, Should I not be more faithful? Awed by a mortal’s frown, Shall I conceal the Word of God Most High? Should praise of man be more to me than God’s most blessed favor? And though man might reject His word, the Truth remains forever; Unchanging, sure, it does impart a Comfort to the poor in heart. O, may I seek the souls who stray and save them from destruction, and through Thy holy love still lead them to thy congregation. May prayers and pleadings penetrate to warn them of their lost estate.”
(Zion’s Harp #113 verses 1,2,7)

Portlind Schmidt (Bro. Neal and Sis. Angela) was an overnight hospital patient this month. We are thankful she has recuperated well. Sis. Judy (Bro. Dennis) Fehr and Sis. Matilda (Bro. Elmer) Fehr were

surgical patients. Sis. Helen Zaugg is presently in the hospital. May God grant each one patience and peace as they recover.

Bro. Art Knobloch (Sis. Elgeva, Lester, IA) has run his last earthly mile. With sympathy, we pray for his family including his sister, Sis. Matilda and Bro. Elmer Fehr and his sister-in-law, Sis. Della Metzger.

JAPAN, SHIODA Carrie Ito

We had a blessed past two months with many visitors! One Sunday in July, the size of our congregation doubled with the presence of Elder Bro. Mark and Sis. Bev Bahr from Detroit, MI; Sis. Vicki Ramseyer and Sis. Carrie Ramseyer from Bay City, MI; and Bro. Aaron Gerber, Bro. Nick Steffen, and Sis. Javon Steffen from Bluffton, IN.

We also gathered in a beautiful mountain area for our summer fellowship meeting. The topic of the two-day event was “Heaven” and the group was small, so there were good discussions as we sat around the table. Even our two-year old son came home talking about heaven as he listened on Papa’s lap!

JAPAN, TOKYO Manuela Denes Marie Inoue

I returned to Japan last night after spending the summer at home. As I sat on the airplane waiting for it to takeoff, I was looking at the wings and this verse immediately came to mind.

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

It never ceases to amaze me when

**“Whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.”
(Matt. 23:12)**

the plane finally leaves the runway and soars up higher and higher! As I felt it mounting into the air, I couldn't help but be thankful for the traveling mercies the Lord gives to us—allowing us to visit with loved ones from near or from across the ocean!

It's been a busy time here in Tokyo. The annual two-day Fellowship Meeting was hosted on August 13 and 14. Our faithful ministering brothers from both churches each had a session about "What the Bible tells us about Heaven". May we be found worthy to enter into that glorious place of rest.

A blessed weekend with the Ehnle children and grandchildren was shared as they visited here to view their former home and to reminisce on the years of their childhood as they grew up here. They commented that things looked smaller than when they lived here. Roads seemed so narrow and they wondered how they ever lived in such a home that used to feel like there was plenty of space for all of them! It was so enjoyable to spend time with them and share many memories with them.

Several visitors were here during the week, but were unable to attend on Sunday. There were greetings given from Croghan, NY as well as the Nazarean Church of Brisbane, Australia. How very kind to have these loved ones contact us!

What a blessing to be able to have the Klaus family back at their home in Hachioji after one year of living and being helpful in the Tohoku area. Bro. Andrew accompanied their son, Caleb, to the States where Caleb will begin his studies at the University of Illinois. We bid him farewell at a noon-time lunch and wish Caleb the guidance of the Lord

in his many adjustments there.

Mr. Hashimoto, 96, who formerly attended our church, went to live with his oldest son's family in Saitama-Ken. Recently he was hospitalized with pneumonia. It has left him rather weak and he now uses a wheelchair. We think and pray for these dear shut-ins and ask that the Lord will be near them in their afflictions.

KANSAS, BERN

Sheri Edelman

Rita Menold

We are thankful to hear that Jody Goodman (Mike and Sis. Luci), Amanda Rokey (Bro. Dwight and Sis. Anita) and Josh Strahm (Bro. Brad and Sis. Michelle) are at peace with God and man. We look forward to hearing their testimonies in October!

Our visiting ministers this past month were Bro. Wayne Hartzler (Sis. Camille, Rittman OH), Bro. Brad Gudeman (Sis. Teresa, Bradford, IL) and Bro. Dean Steffen (Sis. Carol, Belvidere, IL). Thank you for your labors in the Lord's vineyard.

Hal Prichard has been in our prayers as he had quadruple bypass heart surgery. May the Lord be with him as he heals!

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT

Teresa Bahr

KANSAS, KIOWA

Janice Bahr

Jenny Stewart

This month has been busy for everyone as many have been on vacation or traveling. School is starting and fall weather is on the way.

It was our turn this month for Rest Home services. We have the

privilege of sharing God's Word through a Bible reading and hymns. God provides opportunities to share his precious teachings. Let's use these opportunities to glorify Him!

"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)

KANSAS, LAMONT-GRIDLEY

Sarah Somerhalder

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Glen Anliker (Sis. Lorean) who suffered a heart attack and had two stints put in. We were thankful that he was able to assemble with us the next Sunday.

Our sympathy and prayers are with Lloyd Jacobs (Bellevue, WA) and his family in the passing of his wife, Barbara, on August 22. Lloyd and Barbara often spent a summer with us and we will miss her.

Our church is rejoicing that God has called Matthew Knobloch (Bro. Tom and Sis. Jeri) to repentance. We wish him much grace and the Lord's guidance in this most important step.

KANSAS, SABETHA

Belinda Kellenberger

Sally Strahm

*"Haste and seek your soul's salvation;
Heed the word of God today!
Haste to flee His condemnation;
Seek the straight and narrow way.
Evil are the worldly pleasures,
Leading to eternal fire;
Seek the everlasting treasure,
Ere the day of grace expire."
(Zion's Harp #52)*

We are thankful that Elsie Grimm (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Carrie) has answered the call of God and has begun her repentance.

Travis John was born to Bro. Jacob and Sis. Emily Farney (Croghan-Naumburg, NY). Thankful grandparents are Bro. Curt and Sis. Ellen Strahm and Bro. John Farney and Matie Farney (Croghan-Naumburg, NY).

Our Sunday evening hymn singing on July 22 was replaced with a worship service when Bro. Wayne Hartzler (Sis. Camille, Rittman, OH) was here. May God bless him for his labors.

Bro. Frank Hertzler (Sis. Ruth) has spent time in the hospital. May he feel God's nearness during this time.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Dena Weiss (Bro. Calvin) as her brother, Bro. Arthur Knobloch (Sis. Elgeva, Lester, IA), finished his earthly race. May our Lord comfort the sorrowing hearts.

Our prayers ascended heavenward for our Elders that met in Rockville, CT for the general conference in August. Our Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzler has been given the responsibility to be part of the Elder Committee. Our prayers are with you, Bro. Gerry.

"Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers."

(Titus 1:9)

KANSAS, WICHITA

Emma Miller

Bro. Clint Beyer (Sis Kara) and their children were in Wichita to serve on the small church schedule in early August. We were especially blessed to have some of their children in Sunday School.

This was the first day of Sunday School for Philip Bowers and Truman Metzger. They have been anxiously waiting for the day they could go to Sunday School like the

other children.

Subscription renewal for the Silver Lining was due in August. In case you were missed, it is not too late to renew. A donation of eighteen dollars is suggested. Wichita renewals are paid to the church treasurer.

Our Kansas summer has been hot and dry. In spite of the lack of moisture, we have been able to purchase food and enjoy relief from the heat.

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON

Barb Huber

"Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

(1 Thessalonians 5:16, 17, 18)

We are thankful how the Word of God has prospered in our hearts providing spiritual nourishment and edification for our undying souls. We've been blessed to have visiting ministers, Bro. Fred Domka (Sis. Connie, Mansfield, OH) and Bro. Bill Brake (Sis. Miriam, Sardis, OH). Physical nourishment was also provided by dear sisters who brought food to help with the church lunch. How kind of you to do this! May the Lord bless each of you for all your efforts and labors of love.

May the Lord comfort our dear Sis. Glendoris Huber and her family in the passing of her dear sister, Sis. Velda Overmyer (Francesville, IN).

"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints."

(Psalm 116:15)

We were thankful for other visitors who worshipped with us, represented from the following churches: Bloomfield, IA; Bluffton, Remington, Wolcott, IN; Akron,

Junction, Latty, and Rittman, OH.

We welcome all who may be in our area or travelling through to worship with us. You may contact Bro. Lester Huber (859) 745-2541. Church services are held at 3938 Becknerville Rd., Winchester, KY. Directions are in the minister's book.

MEXICO, IXTLÁN

Matt Gerber

"So being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because ye were dear unto us."

(1 Thess. 2:8)

Summer Vacation Bible School reached many children this year, thanks to the willing hearts of the sisters and brothers who helped. In Ixtlan the attendance surpassed 200; in Morelia 50; in Barra Vieja/Lomas 80; and the first ever VBS in Queretaro brought 31 children. The theme was Jesus' parables. One of the teachers shared how sad it was that so many of the children had never heard any of the stories, and had practically zero knowledge of the Bible. It's possible that VBS is the *only* opportunity many children have to hear God's truth. Knowing this motivates us to want to continue to sow the seeds of God's Word in these young hearts.

On Sunday August 12, the Ixtlan church gave a farewell for Bro. Regg and Sis. Bev Beer, who moved back to Milford, IN. Bro. Regg had been serving here in Ixtlan since 2008, teaching English classes and helping with outreach. He and Sis. Bev were married in 2010 and continued serving together. They have one child, Tucker. We thank God and them for sharing in the work of the gospel, and for sharing their own

lives with us these past few years. May God bless them and give them grace in their transition back home.

The church is thankful to receive Bro. Grant and Sis. Hannah Herrmann (Princeville, IL), who were sent by the Mission Committee and arrived here in July. Sis. Hannah will be teaching English classes at the school, and Bro. Grant will be working with construction projects and outreach/discipling.

The first day of school was August 20. This year grades 1-4 are being offered to approximately 55 students. Thanks to God for providing several new teachers and many new students!

MEXICO, MAGDALENA

Magdalena is accustomed to rain in the summer months, however we experienced a tropical storm this month. Many tin roofs flew from the porches to smash into whatever was in the path. The majority of the billboards around town buckled in the wind. The streets ran with rainwater and the rivers filled quickly. Thankfully, no major damage was done to any of our church fellowship. This storm was the strongest we have witnessed in the eight years here in Magdalena. Although this storm passed through our town on the Wednesday night, many still made it to the church to sing in the dark due to the electricity outage.

Our Vacation Bible School was blessed again this year with many new faces and many that have attended VBS in the past years. We had the privilege of serving around 400 children this year. For those who attend regularly, it was like having company to your home daily with lots of hearts that did not know much about Jesus or how to know Him in their lives. We pray the seeds

planted in this week will touch the hearts and homes of many here in Magdalena. All hands are needed the week of VBS. We are thankful for our Sis. Nicole Knobloch, who organized the week with assignments for everyone. Many of our CVE youth also assisted teachers in the classes.

Volunteers this month were Bro. Kirk & Sis. Amanda Schambach (Elgin, IL) and Sis. Mary Leman (Bluffton, IN) who assisted with VBS. We are thankful for their willingness to share this week with us.

Our dear Sis. Rosa needs your prayers as she went to the hospital to start dialysis only to be sent home to recover from an infection. Her faith encourages our church family. She is a wonderful testimony of Jesus in her family and neighborhood. We pray she will be encouraged and regain her strength.

Our school, Colegio Verdad y Vida, begins this month with around 50 students. A number of students live on campus at CVE and walk to the school. A few more new families are attending this year from the community. This year our outside route has enlarged which thrills our hearts to be able to welcome these new students to learn in a Christ-centered environment.

We bid farewell to Sis. Sarah Drake (Champaign, IL) and Bro. Brock Wiegand (Gridley, IL) who spent their summer volunteering and building relationships here at CVE. Thank you both for your encouraging servant hearts. May God bless your school years as you continue to serve Him, wherever He takes you.

MICHIGAN, ALTO

**Listyn Oesch
Melissa Blough**

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

**Sarah Knochel
Janelle Ramseyer**

We rejoice with Michael Schmidt (Mike and Sis. Cheryl) and Tiffany Ellery as they were united in holy matrimony on August 4. We trust that God will provide for them as they journey through life together.

Our prayers are with Bro. Dean and Sis. Connie Pashak, Sis. Margaret Schlatter, Sis. Ilean Wackerle and Bro. Daryle Wieland (Sis. Edie) as they each spent time in the hospital recently. We trust that if it is God's will they would be healed.

Many prayers for comfort have ascended to the Father with the sudden passing of Bill Bateson. We want to remember his dear wife, Lori, and his children, BJ, Lacy, Mallory and Beau. We also want to remember his in-laws, Bro. Dean and Sis. Connie Pashak during this difficult time.

Bro. Greg and Sis. Lynette Munsel are thankful first-time grandparents as they welcome a grandson, Luke James, into their family circle. Luke's parents are Carissa and Allan Terbush. Great grandparents of this little blessing are Bro. Fred and Sis. Delores Munsel and Bro. Gary and Sis. Shirley Wright.

We want to remember Jacob Long (Rick and Sis. Joan) as he has moved to Indianapolis to attend dental school.

We want to remember all of our youth as they return to school in the coming weeks. We pray for their safety and protection as they go about their days.

Note of thanks:

I want to thank everyone for remembering my 90th birthday with cards, gifts, and flowers. I felt very blessed. May God bless you all. In Christian love, Sis. Helen Ramseyer

MICHIGAN, DETROIT**Krista Wieland**

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

We rejoice with grandparents Bro. Milan and Sis. Joyce Germaine, as a granddaughter, Leena Mara Nagher joined their family circle. Leena’s parents are Mike and Rachel Nagher of DeWitt, MI.

Grandparents Bro. Phil and Sis. Dawn Bahr are rejoicing over another grandson as Jeremiah Aaron Stoller was born to Bro. Aaron and Sis. Michelle Stoller of Latty, OH.

Carson James Kujawa was born in March to Danny and Christina Kujawa. Sister Layla is excited. Grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Darlene Kujawa. They were grandparents again when Connor James Kujawa was born to Jeff and Toni Kujawa in August.

We would like to convey a special thank you to visiting minister Bro. Dan Koch (Sis. Julie, Tremont, IL). Also on August 7, Bro. Walt Rager (Toledo, OH) ministered to the Woodhaven residents.

As our church has seen many come and go, we bid farewell to Bro. Andre Gutwein as he has completed his internship and returns to Purdue. May God guide him in all ways.

It was good to have Sis. Manuela Denes back in Detroit for part of the summer and it is sad to see her go. She is returning back to Tokoyo on August 23 for her second year at the library at an International school. Our love and prayers go with her.

On August 17, Woodhaven Retirement Community will celebrate their 25th anniversary. A picnic will be held to honor this milestone, and where the staff,

residents and community can enjoy.

Many prayers are offered concerning cancer patient, Sis. Linda Reardon. Our prayers are also with Sis. Krista, Bro. Andy and Ashlyn as Sis. Krista is undergoing tests at the Mayo Clinic.

Bro. Dana and Sis. Beth Knochel are happy to announce the engagement of their son, Luke to Juliann Bermudez of Livonia, MI. May God be with them.

On behalf of the Detroit church, we want to express gratitude for the prayers and the Lord’s faithfulness on guiding the church at the Brotherhood Conference.

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS**Tim McMillan**

We began the period reading from Luke Chapter 10. In verse 25, a lawyer asks Jesus what must be done to inherit eternal life. This is a good question to be asked daily as we pick up our cross in repentance of the ways of the flesh.

We were blessed to hear the testimony and witness the baptism of Betty Lindwall on August 24, 2012. We welcome her into the flock with open arms and loving hearts. May her peace be shown to others who have known her that they may also seek the way of our Lord Jesus. Thanks be to the Lord for the help of Elder Bro. Thomas Hoffman (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Bro. Dale Zeltwanger (Sis. Rachel, Morris North, MN). These brothers also made themselves available to preach the Word on Sunday as well.

“As often as I bear in mind that God to me his son assigned, who’s reconciling precious blood for me unworthy one was shed – who’s reconciling precious blood for me unworthy one was shed.” (Hymns of Zion #259 vs. 2)

MINNESOTA, MORRIS**Annie Wulf**

*“Inspire O Lord, each servant
With love and ardor fervent
Thy gospel to proclaim;
That, prompted by Thy Spirit,
They work and toil with merit
Unto the glory of Thy name.”
(Zion’s Harp #207)*

We are thankful for visiting Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH) and ministering Bros. Ken Schneider (Sis. Bernice, Remington, IN), Kevin Banwart (Sis. Sandy, West Bend, IA), Galen Rokey (Sis. Nancy, Bern, KS), Dale Wulf (Sis. Becky, Lester IA), Dale Moore (Sis. Cheryl, Elgin, IA), Gary Anliker (Sis. Edith, Elgin, IL), Virgil Metzger (Sis. Mary, Chicago, IL), and Darren Fehr (Sis. Nora, West Bend, IA). **May God bless each and every one of them**

Oliver Benjamin was welcomed into the home of Bro. Ben and Sis. Kristi Furrer. He joins his siblings Ted, Staci, Jerry and Zeke. Grandparents are Bro. Tom and Sis. Jill Furrer and Bro. Dennis and Sis. Shirley Kellenberger (Lester, IA).

Spending time in the hospital this month were Bro. Eddie (Sis. Lois) Koehl and Brian (Lisa) Tolifson. We pray God strengthens them according to His will.

“Ring the Bells of Heaven! There is joy today!” We rejoice with Kendra Schmidgall (Bro. Rob and Sis. Kathryn) as she turns her life over to our Lord and Savior!

MINNESOTA, MORRIS NORTH**Lois Schmidgall****Wanda Gramm**

Prayer of Protection

“The Light of God surrounds me, The Love of God enfolds me, The Power of God protects me, The Presence of

God watches over me, Wherever I am, God is."

Let us remember and trust in this prayer in our daily walk of life. What a blessed assurance that we are never alone in whatever situation we might face.

Our hearts are rejoicing that Tyler and Brittany Fehr (Bro. Randy, Sis. Lori) have found the grace to turn their hearts in repentance to JESUS. May we lift them up in prayer as they have made this most important decision in their life, as they begin their walk with God.

Thoughts are with our dear loved ones Ruth Kearney and Sis. Pearl Moser who are having medical health issues. Our prayers are that GOD will give them His promise of continual love and comfort.

As our children are getting prepared to start another school year, whether it be for Sunday School, elementary school, middle school, high school or college, our thoughts and prayer for them is that our loving and gracious GOD above will be their continual guide.

Planning efforts are underway for our third annual Harvest Supper to be held on October 27, 2012. This is a blessed fall event that we spend an evening together in fellowship, worshiping and thanking our Creator for providing our daily needs.

Appreciation and thanks for the love given to our Morris North congregation from our Elder Bro. Paul Messner and ministers Bro. Dale Zeltwanger and Bro. Doug Moser.

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of GOD: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which GOD hath

before ordained that we should walk with them." (Ephesians 2:8-10)

MINNESOTA, ROCHESTER

**Mark Stork
Eric Bachman**

We were again blessed this month by those willing to preach the gospel message. Bro. Floyd Frieden (Sis. Jan, Elgin, IA) was here for our Wed. evening service. We appreciate the efforts put forth on our behalf.

Many thanks to those who used their talents to do landscaping at the Guest House. Much was accomplished in a short amount of time. We thank God that all could be done without accident.

We are prayerful for all who have used and are using the Guest House in the past months. May God heal according to His will. We do have openings for those who have a need. Contacts are Bro. Mark and Sis. Sandy Stork. Phone number is (507) 288-0072.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

**Lindsay Schmidt
Heather Steiner**

Greetings in the Lord!

"Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief; for that is unprofitable for you."(Hebrews 13:17)

Many prayers were offered up as our elders gathered together for elder meetings and the annual Brotherhood Conference. May God grant wisdom and guidance to our elders. As members, we should consider that when our watchmen bring forth teachings and warnings, let us hear and obey them. We would also like to extend heartfelt

thanks to the brethren at the Rockville Church for hosting this year's conference.

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."(Proverbs 22:6)

Another year of Sunday School began August 5. After church, the students and teachers enjoyed the annual Sunday School picnic. Our prayers are with the teachers as they plant and nurture the seed in these young and tender souls so that someday a mighty tree will grow.

"Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all." (Psalm 34:19)

As long as we are on this earth, we will experience times of affliction, whether it be physical or spiritual. Let us cling to the knowledge and promise that God is with us and will deliver us. Those suffering physical afflictions as hospital and surgery patients in our congregation were Sis. Lois Messner (Marlyn) and Bro. Landon Messner (Bro. Paul & Sis. Jan). May they feel the presence of the Lord and the prayers that have gone up on their behalf.

"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away."(Revelation 21:4)

Our deepest sympathy and prayers are with Sis. Lois Messner (Marlyn) and Sis. Joyce Messner (Bro. Mike) with the loss of their mother, Della Boelter. May God comfort and fill the void as only He can.

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY**Brittany Fehr**

Two brothers interned in the Kansas City area this summer and recently completed those commitments. We recently bid farewell to Bro. Michael Luthi (Lamont-Gridley, KS) and Bro. Willie Hofstetter (Peoria, IL). May God guide these brothers in their next steps as they have finished their summer with us here in Kansas City.

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

Once again we have been blessed with many visitors. Also among us were visiting ministers, Bro. Greg Stoller (Sis. Jill) and Bro. John Baumgartner (Sis. Lori). May the Lord continue to bless and provide for those who are willing to bring forth His Holy Word unto us.

Sis. Dana Kellenberger (Bro. Kyle) and Bro. Leonard Braker (Sis. Bonnie) spent some time in the hospital last month. We are thankful both have been able to return to their homes.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS**Kary Mangers**

As the summer comes to a close, we thank all the visitors that stopped by on their travels, to fellowship with us. Special thanks to Bro. Erik Givens (Sis. Debbie, Princeville, IL) for sharing God's love through His Word with us.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR**Kathy Eberhardt**

As we see our children head back to college, may God be with them all. May they be an example with Jesus in their hearts.

We have enjoyed many visitors this summer. We enjoyed a weekend of Invite-a-Guest. We

had many traveling the miles to our church.

Visiting ministers Bro. Loren Schrenk (Sis. Betsy, St. Louis, MO), Bro. Craig Stickling, (Sis. Jackie, Peoria, IL), and Bro. Rustin Meister, (Sis. Amanda, West Lafayette, IN) were with us for the weekend.

Bro. Jeff Leman (Sis. Val, Bluffton North, IN) ministered to us this past month. We appreciated listening to his thoughts as a recent new minister.

Bro. Dan Koch (Sis. Julie, Tremont, IL) shared a Bible Study entitled "Keys to the Kingdom" with us. Relating the key to opening our heart, he told us not to lose the Master Key: to hold it tight in prayer, be watchful, attend church, read and study God's Word.

We also enjoyed the Aberle reunion guests, bringing visiting ministers Bro. Ed Fritz (Sis. Sally, Washington, IL) and Bro. Roger Aberle, (Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha, KS).

We welcome a son to Bro. Joe and Sis. Lindsey Knochel. Callen Joseph is welcomed home by his big sister Adaline. Grandparents are Bro. Eric and Sis. Penny Knochel and Bro. Elwood and Sis. Trudie Yackley.

God's healing hand was on our hospital patients: Sis Emma Hoerr and Steve Wiegand.

We would like to thank Bro. Curt Meiss and Bro. Ted Witzig, Jr. for presenting the marriage seminar recently.

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

Our annual church meeting was held on July 30. We are thankful for the many that labor throughout the year with special duties. We are also reminded that it is the duty of all of us to pray for the church.

Our church picnic was held

Saturday, August 4 at Happy Hollow. We were thankful for the beautiful day and each one that was able to attend.

We have been blessed with the arrival of a new baby. Travis John was born to Bro. Jacob and Sis. Emily Farney on Aug. 8. What a beautiful reminder of God's love!

We enjoyed having visiting ministers with us this past month and wish them God's blessings in their labors. Bro. Jim Butikofer and Sis. Diana were here from Iowa City, Iowa on Wednesday evening, August 8. Bro. Ron and Sis. Lynell Palitto were here Wednesday evening, August 22 and through the following weekend.

Hospitalized this past month were Sis. Polly Farney, Joe Bush and Sis. Alice Farney. We pray for healing for each one.

Our prayers were with the church for our annual Brotherhood Conference in Rockville, CT. May we be blessed as we listen to the tapes in the weeks ahead. A special thanks to the Rockville brethren for their many labors.

OHIO, AKRON**Erika Gal**

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

We have been blessed with some good news this month. Our congregation is rejoicing with David Henico (Bro. Greg and Sis. Sarah) that he has found peace with God and man. We look forward to his baptism in the future. May God continue to be near and bless David.

Bro. Trent Gasser (son of Bro. Roger and Sis. Sue, Junction, OH) and Sis. Molly Hanzie (daughter of

Tim and Sis. Kim Hanzie, Rittman, OH) have made known their engagement. We rejoice with them and wish them God's guidance and peace as they prepare for their marriage in the Lord.

At this time, we also wish to welcome Jenna Gasser (daughter of Bro. Roger and Sis. Sue) from Junction, OH as she has moved to this area for college. We also want to welcome Michael Schlatter (son of Elder Bro. Bill and Sis. Emily, Junction, OH) back for another semester at Akron University.

We've been richly blessed with summer travelers, and we wish to heartily thank Elder Bro. Bruce Endress (Bradford, IL), Bro. Kenny Eisenmann (Cissna Park, IL), Bro. Mark Rufener (Mansfield, OH), Bro. Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL), Bro. Dan Stoller (Remington, IN), and Bro. Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL).

OHIO, COLUMBUS

Lauren Rufener

"How excellent is thy lovingkindness, O God! Therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of thy wings." (Psalm 36:7)

We have appreciated visiting ministers, Bro. Tom Schambach (Elgin, IL) and Bro. Sam and Sis. Linda Schlatter (Junction, OH) for sharing God's Word with us.

OHIO, JUNCTION

Vicki Boroff

We were happy to hear that Bro. Trent Gasser (now of Akron, OH) is engaged to Sis. Molly Hanzie (Rittman, OH). Bro. Trent's parents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Sue.

We were thankful to have Bros. Jesse Bedolla (Sis. Bonnie, Detroit, MI), Matt Manz (Sis. Deanna, Toledo, OH) and Don Steidl (Sis.

Nan, Akron, OH) share the Gospel with us this month.

OHIO, LATTY

Carmen Stoller

Mindy Stoller

Greetings of love to each of you! We have several visiting ministers to report this month. They include Bro. Daren Metz (Sis. Rita, Gridley, IL), Bro. Warren Schlatter (Sis. Cindy, Junction, OH), Bro. Nelson Beer (Sis. Minnie, Milford, IN), Bro. Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue, Detroit, MI), and Bro. Mike Rinkenberger (Sis. Pat, Congerville, IL). We thank these brothers for their willingness to serve us.

Congratulations and God's blessings to Sis. Ashley Plummer (Bro. Rick and Sis. Denise) as her marriage engagement to Bro. Mitch Maibach (Bro. Steve and Sis. Dawn) from Smithville, OH was announced. May God bless them with peace, love, and joy as they prepare for their marriage.

OHIO, MANSFIELD

Tami Griffey

The 40th Annual Ohio Michigan Youth Day was held the weekend of July 22. The theme for the weekend was *"As you sow, so shall you reap."* We enjoyed each one who made the effort to come and spend time in fellowship with each other and with God. We thank Bro. Jesse Bedolla (Sis. Bonnie; Detroit, MI) who shared God's Word with us.

A Soldier Reunion weekend was held July 28 and 29. We were blessed with many visiting ministers, including Bro. Tim Zimmerman (Sis. Barb; Lamont-Gridley, KS), Bro. Floyd Frieden (Sis. Jan; Elgin, IA), Bro. Bill Brake (Sis. Miriam; Sardis, OH), Bro. Bill Dotterer (Sis. Sharon; Lamar, MO), and Bro. Tom Schambach (Sis. Connie; Elgin, IL).

We are saddened at the tragic passing of 21-year-old Matt Sauder. His family and friends have our sympathy and prayers, including parents, Randy and Pamela Sauder; sisters, Christine and April Eriksson; grandmother, Sis. Caroline Sauder; and many extended family members.

A brother to Sis. Jelena Garunovic, Johan (John) Milosavlevic, recently passed away and our prayers are with her and her family.

Our congregation will miss the presence of Sis. Marcella Sauder, who passed away August 13. Our prayers are extended her to husband, Bro. Charles; sons, Douglas (Barbara), Dr. Russell (Wendy), Melvin (Carol), and Dr. Stanley (Judy); as well as many grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Additional visiting ministers recently included: Bro. Matthew Manz (Sis. Deanna; Toledo, OH), and Bro. Tim Ramsier (Sis. Jonell; Rittman, OH). May they feel God's blessing's for their labors of love.

Bro. Eric and Sis. Elizabeth Boliantz welcomed Evan Jeremiah into their family on August 15. Other family members include big brother Eagan and grandparents, Bro. Don and Sis. Joyce Boliantz and Bro. John and Sis. Dawn Ramsey. Little Evan is currently hospitalized and we pray for his quick return to health.

First-time parents, Zachary and Tiffany Foss, are thankful for their daughter, Zoe Ann, who was born August 16. Excited grandparents are Rick and Sis. Susan Foss, and Steve and Kathy Neel.

OHIO, RITTMAN

**Jenny Pertee
Anna Bauman**

We were again blessed by the presence of visiting ministers this month and are thankful to Bros. Ted Luginbuhl (Smithville, OH) and John Steiner (Oakville, IA) for giving their time and effort to teach us more about God's Word.

We were very happy and excited to learn of the engagements of three couples this month. Congratulations to Bro. Kirk Gasser (son of Bro. Mark and Sis. Jill) to Sis. Bethany Indermuhle (daughter of Bro. Brian and Sis. Bev, Smithville, OH). The second couple to be engaged was Bro. Reid Beery (son of Bro. Earl and Sis. Suzanne) and Sis. Amber Sayre (daughter of John and Carol). Rounding out the marriage news was the engagement of Sis. Molly Hanzie (daughter of Tim and Sis. Kim) and Bro. Trent Gasser (Akron, OH) (son of Bro. Roger and Sis. Sue Gasser, Junction, OH). We wish much grace and joy to these couples as they prepare for their upcoming weddings.

It was with great joy to hear about Rittman's newest converts, Evan Beery (Bro. Aaron and Sis. Lynn), and Lora Rufener (Bro. Steve and Sis. Jeneé). It's our desire that Evan and Lora feel much grace and many blessings during this time.

It's always amazing to hold new life in one's arms and many were able to experience this miracle in recent times. Bro. Walt and Sis. Lynda Beery have a new granddaughter, Morgan Elizabeth, who was born July 18 to Bro. Nathan and Sis. Michelle Rassi (St. Louis, MO). Gary and Sis. Susan Murray welcomed a new grandson, Zion Glenn, on June 19. Zion's parents are Bro. Brad and Sis. Amanda Gasser (Akron, OH).

Kinsley Jo Gasser made her entrance on July 19 and is the daughter of Bro. Evan and Sis. Amanda. Kinsley is the granddaughter of Bro. Ken and Sis. Carol Rupp, and Bro. Fred and Sis. Mary Gasser. On July 23, Stephen and Vindy Powell experienced the birth of their child, Gavin Edward. Gavin's grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Carol Powell, and Bruce and Vivian Widmer. On July 27, Zsofi Norene joined her parents, Bro. Sándor and Sis. Rachel Davidovics, and siblings, Evie and Zoltan. Zsofi's grandparents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Norene Miller, and Irma Davidovics (Peoria, IL). Bro. Jordan and Sis. Joy Stoller recently adopted Cameron Benjamin, who was born July 27. Cameron's grandparents are Bro. Eric and Sis. Melanie Stoller, and Bro. John and Sis. Janice Rufener (Smithville, OH). Prayers are with Cameron and his family as he has spent time in the hospital.

**OHIO, SARDIS
Faith Beard**

"I will put my trust in Him... Behold I and the children which God hath given me." (Hebrews 2:13)

Several in our church family have welcomed new babies. Bro. Gary and Sis. Terry Zollinger's newest grandchild, Samaria Lois, was born on July 6 and is the daughter of Bro. Matthew and Sis. Bridgett Rassi (Chicago, IL). Zane Levi entered his family on July 26 and is the son and little brother to Bro. Matt, Sis. Dawn, Mallory and Logan Brake. His grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Miriam Brake. Bro. Allen and Sis. Janet are also rejoicing with another new grandson as Jacob Thomas was born on August 21 to Mark and Stephanie Bissett and big siblings Rachel and Josh. These

children are so precious to us. It is easy to think that they are "ours", but yet we must remember that they are completely made and owned by God. He has seen fit to grant them to us that we may raise them in His name and feel that blessing with which a child fills our hearts.

We were blessed to welcome Bro. Mark Rufener (Sis. Julie, Mansfield, OH) to share our pulpit for Sunday services. May God be his and his family's Rich Rewarder for their willingness to be used as His vessel in preaching the Gospel.

We say: "I here, you yonder; you go and I remain," And yet are not asunder, but links of one great chain. In tones of deep affection, "Our ways part here," we say, Yet go in one direction and in the self-same way.

With many tears in our eyes, but with much more the love in our hearts, we sang this hymn on a Sunday morning on August 12 as our final farewell for a time to our dear Bro. Eric and Sis. Jami Hartzler. They, along with their children: Leah, Gracie, Conrad, and Quincy, departed that day as long-term missionaries bound for Haiti. We, as the sending church, must always remember them in prayer, that they may be doing God's work as He wills for His honor and His glory. That His children in Haiti and Hospital Lumiere may have the opportunity to know Him, to learn how to obey Him and to praise His name! We also remember Eric's and Jami's parents, Bro. Gary and Sis. Terry Zollinger and Bro. Dean and Sis. Jan Hartzler (Rittman, OH).

Mailing address:
Eric & Jami Hartzler
c/o Agape Flights Cay 19601
100 Airport Ave.
Venice, FL 34285
Email: ejh7404@yahoo.com

*“Then not to parting’s sorrows we
dedicate this hour,
But to renew our union with Christ,
our rock and tow’r.
If faith in Him unite us, though
parting gives us pain,
It cannot disunite us for we in Him
remain.” (Zion’s Harp #155 vs. 3, 5)*

OHIO, SMITHVILLE

**Lydia Dotterer
Gina Brake**

Sis. Bethany Indermuhle (Bro. Brian and Sis. Bev) and Bro. Kirk Gasser (Bro. Mark and Sis. Jill) from Rittman, OH were engaged on August 5. We wish them God’s blessings as they begin this step in life together.

Zane Levi was born on July 26 to Bro. Matt and Sis. Dawn Brake (Sardis, OH). His siblings are Mallory and Logan. Grandparents welcoming the sweet little boy are Bro. Bruce and Sis. Lois Maibach and Bro. Bill and Sis. Mim Brake (Sardis, OH).

Bro. Jordan and Sis. Joy Stoller from Rittman, OH also welcome, through adoption, a little boy into their home. Cameron Benjamin was born on July 27. He went through heart surgery shortly after he was born. We are thankful for healing and pray all will go well in the future for this little family. Cameron’s grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Janice Rufener and Bro. Eric and Sis. Melanie Stoller (Rittman, OH).

Bro. Don and Sis. Gail Riggenbach are thankful for the arrival of grandson, Sawyer John Riggenbach, born to Jamie and Genet on July 31. His siblings are Micah, Brant and Brielle.

Bro. Tom Stoller (Sis. Gretchen) spent time in the hospital this month. We pray he will feel God’s healing hand upon him.

Ministering Bros. Dana Nieman (Remington, IN) and Arlen Leman (Forrest, IL) visited us this month. May God bless them for their labor of love.

OHIO, TOLEDO

**Deanna Manz
Jenny Manz**

*“There are friendships that we cherish
in our daily walk of life...” (Hymns of
Zion #91 vs. 1)*

We enjoyed a midweek singing as we said good-bye to Sis. Anita Schlatter. Sis. Anita has relocated back to Junction as she starts a new job in the area. Our congregation is saddened to see her go, but will remember fondly the time she spent in Toledo. We are grateful for her willingness to serve as Silver Lining Correspondent, and thank Sis. Jenny Manz for accepting this new role.

Our Bro. Glen Whitaker has been unable to assemble with us for several weeks, due to illness. Our prayers are with him that God will grant healing and strength according to His will.

It is hard to believe that summer is almost past and the new school year is already upon us. We welcome our new and returning college students, and invite them to assemble with us. It is such a blessing to have their youthful energy in our congregation!

OREGON, PORTLAND

Rebekah Jones

OREGON, SILVERTON

**Kelsey Walder
Ann Kuenzi**

July 29 we welcomed two new brothers in faith: Bro. Denver Slagel (Dennis and Lorene) and Bro. Dallas Kraft (Bro. Richard and Sis. Marianne). Assisting our elder Bro.

John Wiegand, was elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Sis. Roberta, Smithville, OH). It is always uplifting to hear the testimonies of new “babes in Christ”.

Ron Lichty (Ginge) has not been assembling with us the past few weeks due to having surgery. We were glad to see him back in church this past Sunday. Also, Kiana Walter (Bro. Kyle and Sis. Trisha) broke her arm.

We have been blessed with a number of visiting ministers this past month. From Portland, OR, we have listened to Bro. Mike Leman (Sis. Lisa), Bro. Ron Jones (Sis. Liz), and Bro. Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy). Also visiting this month were elder Bro. Herb Knochel, Jr. (Sis. Laurie, Phoenix, AZ), Bro. Merlin Meyer (Sis. Marilyn, Lester, IA), and Bro. Doug Wagenbach (Sis. Lillian, San Diego, CA).

Bro. Lewis Kuenzi (Sis. Gloria dec.) passed away Aug. 6 at the home of his son, Alvin Kuenzi. His funeral and burial were August 12. His children are Judy Stork (Edwin) of Pontiac, IL; Alvin, of Scio, OR; Sis. Elizabeth Snook (Vance) of Silverton, OR and Royal of Hillsboro, OR. He has ten grandchildren, which include Bro. Jason Snook (Sis. Colette) and thirty great grandchildren. We lift the family up in prayer during this time of sorrow. He will be missed among our congregation.

PENNSYLVANIA, PHILADELPHIA

*“Thus united, and in concord
Let us walk the path of life.
Hand in hand, oh may love bind us.
For each other’s welfare strive.”
(Zion’s Harp #235 vs. 1)*

At the conference in Rockville we were reminded of the precious

treasure of our brotherhood. We were thankful for the many visitors this month, many of them traveling to or from the conference. Among them were Elder Bros. Tom Waldbeser (Atlanta, GA), Paul Messner (Winthrop, MN), and Bruce Endress (Bradford, IL). We also appreciated the many ministers: Bros. Jerry Bauman (Rittman, OH), Bruce Frank (Cissna Park, IL), Ron Palitto (Akron, OH), Bill Brake (Sardis, OH), Neil Ramseyer (Bay City, MI), Tom Leman (Denver, CO), and Ned Stoller (Alto, MI). May God bless these brothers for sharing the Word with us.

This month we also wish Sis. Emily Wiegand well as she goes back to college for the year. May God bless her as she continues her schooling.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE

Mike and Monica Fritz

We are thankful for God's Living Word, and the loving visiting ministers who shared it with us this past month: Bros. Rex Frieden (Sis. Vera; Lamar, MO), Warren Zahner (Sis. Bonnie; Rockville, CT), Tim Lehman (Sis. Amber; Taylor, MO), Ken Eisenmann (Sis. Sharon; Cissna Park, IL), and Mike Walder (Sis. Susie; Smithville, OH). We have also been encouraged by the fellowship of those visiting from Rockville, CT; Bloomington, Champaign, Cissna Park, Congerville, Fairbury, Forrest, and Morton, IL; Lamar and Taylor, MO; Junction and Smithville, OH; and Philadelphia, PA.

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: Oakville, IA (9/23); Congerville, IL (9/30); Rittman, OH (10/7); Mansfield, OH

(10/14); Washington, IL (10/21); and Sabetha, KS (10/28). If you plan to worship with us, please call ahead to confirm our schedule. Often we gather on Saturday evenings for fellowship, and all are heartily welcome. Also, we typically meet on Wednesday evenings at 7:15 p.m. for call-in services and would welcome any midweek visitors. Contacts are Bro. Don and Sis. Faye Sauder, (615) 373-8928 and Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica Fritz, (615) 866-5543 (fritzmb.family@gmail.com).

TEXAS, AUSTIN

Serenity and Jasmine Ringger

*"My lifetime doth pass away;
Hourly to the grave I hasten,
And I know each fleeting day
My allotted span will lessen.
Think, man, death comes soon or
late.*

Tarry not, it will not wait!"
(Zion's Harp #253 vs. 1)

Richard Houston, the quadriplegic that many of you helped during the 2010 World Relief project, passed away at his home on August 6. Our prayers are with Sandra, his wife, and two children, Cash and Cielo. If any would wish to send them a card, their address is 264 The Ranch Road, Del Valle TX 78617.

Thanks to the ministers who came to preach the Word this month: Elder Bros. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL), Peter Petrovic (Sis. Marian, San Diego, CA), and Bros. Dale Banwart (Sis. Missy, Congerville, IL), David Obergfel (Sis. Kathleen, Peoria, IL), and Leland Plattner (Zapata, TX).

We appreciated our visitors from Eureka, IL and Latty, OH.

The following is the minister schedule for October: Akron, OH (10/7), Lester, IA (10/14), Alto, MI (10/28).

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

TEXAS, DALLAS-FORT WORTH

The next services are scheduled for and September 9 and Oct. 14. 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 with Apostolic Christian ties in the area. Please inform your relatives and acquaintances that may have interest. Please call ahead to verify. Leland & Mary Plattner (956) 265-0351 or Dennis & 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)

Please pray that God will grant the increase.

TEXAS, MCALLEN

Joyce Nohl

Due to vacations taken in the summer months we have fewer scheduled services. Our visiting ministers this summer have been Bro. Brian Metzger (Sis. Angie, Lester, IA), Bro. Les Kaeb (Sis. Christine, Francesville, IN),

Bro. Ed Strahm (Sis. Ramona, Bern, KS), Bro. Erik Givens (Sis. Debbie,

Princeville, IL) and Bro. Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata, TX). May God richly bless all those who come the many miles to serve us.

Services are scheduled for Oct. 7, Bluffton, IN; Oct. 14, Smithville, OH; Oct. 21, Wolcott, IN; Nov. 4, Goodfield, IL; Nov. 11, Rockville, CT; And Nov. 18, Tremont, IL.

Sunday services are held at 10:30 and 12:30 at the Holiday

Inn Express, 1921 South 10th Street. Take the 10th Street exit off Expressway 83 and go 1½ blocks south. Please see the ministers' directory for local contact information. We heartily welcome anyone spending time in south Texas to come worship with us, and appreciate advance notice when possible for planning meals and fellowship.

TEXAS, ZAPATA
Mary Plattner

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CLARENDON**
Nathan and Miriam Reutter

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

Prov 29:18

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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

"By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." (John 13:35)

*"Of your own selves shall men arise speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them."
(Acts 20:30)*

"For if ye love them which love you, what thank have ye? For sinners also love those that love them." (Luke 6:32)

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

For information and reservations, contact caretakers:

Bro. Mark and Sis. Sandy Stork

4733 Birdie Lane NW

Rochester, MN 55901

(507) 288-0072

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

For information, contact:

Bro. Jim and Sis. Deb Tilbury

(507) 281-2875

Important Notice to Americans Crossing the Canadian Border by Land

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

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

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

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

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 Morton, IL 61550
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 Fax: 309-266-5281
 E-mail: childsponsorship@acwr.org



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

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Haiti Medical Work Teams			
Project	Year 2012	Coordinator	Capacity
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.			

Updated 6.1.09

Mexico Work Project Schedule		
Location	Year 2012	Coordinator
Magdalena Construction	Nov 17-24	Rod Schmidt 303-774-7913
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

Jamaica			
Project	Year 2013	Coordinator	Capacity
JDV - roofing project CCCD	Dec 29-5	Greg Herman 309-303-2242 gbherman@juno.com	Peoria roofing
Kingston School CCCD	Jan 26-2	Roger Stoller 309-747-3228 rstoller@gridcom.net	Gridley
Kingston School CCCD	Mar 23-30	Ryan Steidinger 815-848-2500 fehrrealstate@frontier.com	Gridley SS
Knockpatrick School CCCD	Jun 22-29	Trent Johnson 608-882-1259 jenn.j@charter.net	Belvidere SS
Knockpatrick School CCCD	Jun 15-22	Luke Roche 309-448-2421 jarock71@gmail.com	Goodfeild SS
If you are interested in sponsoring a work team to Jamaica contact Loren Dettwyler at lmdettwyler@gmail.com			

Haiti Construction Work Teams			
Project	Year 2012	Coordinator	Capacity
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

Dumay Construction	Jan 21-28	Ted Steidinger 1-815-848-5495 tsteid@frontier.com	12
Dumay Construction	Jan 28-24	Darren Fehr 1-815-692-4670 dkfehr@maxwire.net	12
Les Cayes MEB SH Construction	Feb 1-8	Rod Wieland 989-671-0404 rhwieland@speednetllc.com	12
Hospital Lumiere MEB SH Construction	Feb 2-9	Daryl Luginbuhl 484-433-1205 darylluginbuhl@gmail.com	12
Dumay Construction/Medical	Feb 18-25	Paul Zimmerman 1-815-848-2173 pallan2@frontier.com	16
Dumay Construction	Feb 25- Mar 4	Neil Bahler 1-815-848-3861 nbahler@gmail.com	12
Les Cayes MEB SH Construction	Mar 1-8	Steve Leuthold 309-645-2208 sleuth@speerbank.com	12
Hospital Lumiere MEB SH 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 MEB SH Construction	Mar 15-22	Rich Bertschi 309-467-2351 lemangm@mtco.com	12
Hospital Lumiere MEB SH Construction	Apr 6-13	Daryl Luginbuhl 484-433-1205 darylluginbuhl@gmail.com	12
Les Cayes MEB SH Maintenance	Apr 16-23	Jon Zeller 309-266-9009 jonzeller@comcast.net	4
Les Cayes MEB SH Haiti Support	Apr 25-29	Jon Zeller 309-266-9009 jonzeller@comcast.net	ACWR-CC
Hospital Lumiere MEB SH 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

Should We Give in Secret?

Some have asked, “doesn’t the Bible say that we should only give secretly and not let our left hand know what our right hand does? This is a helpful question. Please consider the following Scriptures...

Instructions on giving

In the first part of Matthew chapter 6, Jesus deals with three specific areas of practical righteousness in our everyday walk of life: giving, prayer, and fasting. It is important to remember that Matthew chapters 5, 6 & 7 are one sermon. While He gives us instructions on giving, we must not ignore the rest of what Jesus says in these chapters. We need to consider his complete message.

Following are Scriptures from Matthew chapter 6.

Giving

“Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven. Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth: That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly.” (Matthew 6:1-4)

Praying

“And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.” (Matthew 6:5-6)

Fasting

“Moreover when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thine head, and wash thy face; That thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret: and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly.” (Matthew 6:16-18)

The name “Father” is found often in these verses and is the key to understanding them. Practical deeds of righteousness should be done for God’s approval, and for his Glory, not for our own.

Concerning our motives

Jesus begins this part of His sermon with a warning against the temptation to parade our goodness by performing charitable deeds for the purpose of being seen by others. It is not the deed that He condemns, but the motive. If public awareness is the motivating factor then it is the only reward we shall receive, for God will not reward hypocrisy.

When a follower of Christ does a charitable deed, Jesus instructs us: *“Do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing.”* Jesus uses this example to illustrate that our giving should be for the glory of God, and not to gain praise for the giver.

This Scripture should not be used to prohibit any gift or charitable deed that might be seen by others, since it is virtually impossible to make all one’s good works strictly anonymous. Our Lord does not require us never to give alms before people, but only forbids our doing it *“to be seen of them,”* for the purposes of showiness and to seek their praise. It simply condemns the deliberate display of giving for the purpose of self-glorification.

To a person who is disposed to do good from a right motive, it matters little whether it is in public or in private. It is possible to give publically (for example, at a charity auction) with a pure heart, focused only on helping someone in need. In contrast, we also could give completely in secret, with a wrong motive, so that God would reward us financially.

As we consider the intent of all the teachings of Jesus, we see that he is primarily concerned with the motives and purity of our heart, and that we would bring glory to God through holy living, good fruit and unselfishly serving one another.

We are taught to give

Throughout the Scripture, we are taught that giving is an expected and com-manded part of being a follower of Jesus.

“But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. And God is able to make

all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work: (As it is written, He hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor: his righteousness remaineth for ever. Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness;) Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God.” (2 Cor 9:6-11)

“He that giveth unto the poor shall not lack: but he that hideth his eyes shall have many a curse.” (Prov 28:27)

In Matthew 6, Jesus’ teaching begins with the assumption that every follower of Jesus will be giving (*when* you give, not *if* you give). He then addresses the dangers and pitfalls we must avoid when we do our giving.

We are to give with a pure heart

Again, Jesus is most concerned with our motives. We should not give to be seen or praised by men. We do not want to give *because* of what we might benefit from it. If our motive for giving is to draw attention to ourselves, this will be our only reward. It is not so important whether our giving is known by others, it is more important to know why our giving was made known to others.

“And he looked up, and saw the rich men casting their gifts into the treasury. And he saw also a certain poor widow casting in thither two

mites. And he said, Of a truth I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast in more than they all: For all these have of their abundance cast in unto the offerings of God: but she of her penury hath cast in all the living that she had.” (Luke 21:1-4)

In the Sermon on the Mount, we see the development of Jesus’ message. In the last half of chapter five (verses 21-48), He emphasizes inner moral righteousness, providing us six specific illustrations of murder, adultery, divorce, oaths, revenge, and love. In the first eighteen verses of this sixth chapter He emphasizes outward righteousness and gives us three examples from our Christian walk – **giving, praying and fasting**. These three activities are interconnected.

For example, Jesus teaches us to go into our *closet* to pray and not to do it publically. It is interesting that some teach our giving ought to be completely private, yet we do not apply this same teaching to prayer, even though Jesus’ teachings on both of these practices are almost identical.

A common theme in all three illustrations

Everything we do should be done with pure motives and not to be seen and praised by others. Then God, who knows the true motives of our heart, will reward us in our giving, praying and fasting. Why would we put giving in a different category from the other two?

Why would we say that *giving* needs to be completely secret, but we don’t hesitate to ask people to pray publically and be heard by others?

Examples from the Scriptures

Not only was Jesus able to watch people giving their offerings in Luke 21:1-4, but he was so close to the offering box that He could actually see the amount the widow gave.

He praises the amount of her gift (making it public), using it as a lesson to challenge His disciples and countless millions of believers through the ages. From this commendation by Jesus, it is evident that she did not lose her reward because her giving was public.

We are also told about the many believers who gave in Acts 2:45 and also Barnabas and others who gave are recorded in Acts 4:32-37. All this was public knowledge and even recorded by Luke for all future believers to know about.

In addition, all the good works of Christ and the Apostles were recorded in the New Testament for all to read. It is truly not about secret giving, but about our motives.

We should be motivated to give as an act of personal worship, to glorify God and not that we would be praised by others. Another illustration about our proper motivation for giving and good works is recorded in Matthew 5:16...

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”

We are told here to let our light (holy living, giving and good works) *“shine before others...”* Again, Jesus is addressing our motives, so that we *give glory to God who is in heaven*.

(written at the request of the Silver Lining with elder approval)



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Spiritual Encouragement

Psalm 31:24 "Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the Lord."

The Bible is so full of promise and encouragement for the believer that it may seem unnecessary to write about it. However, Satan's goal is to disarm the believer and discredit God's Word. With so much turmoil evident in the world today, we want to remind ourselves of what God really desires for us; to always lean upon Him as the rock of our salvation and understand that our hope is anchored in Christ.

Some well-known synonyms for encouragement include: exhort, motivate, spur on, boost, give incentive, and provoke, among others. We are often encouraged when we are lifted up in the spirit and as a result have the strength to better face the challenges of life. In fact, encouragement breathes life and energy into our spirit. Our circumstances may not change but our outlook and response can certainly be helped.

Isaiah 42:1-4 "Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles. He shall not cry, nor lift up, nor cause his voice to be heard in the street. A bruised reed shall he not break, and the smoking flax shall he not quench: he shall bring forth judgment unto truth. He shall not fail nor be discouraged, till he have set judgment in the earth: and the isles shall wait for his law."

We all need encouragement from time to time. None of us are exempt from the tests and trials in life and we all experience grief, disappointment, and discouragement in varying amounts and intensity. Here in Isaiah, God is telling the prophet about Jesus Who is coming and Who will have the Spirit of God. We are familiar with Jesus and understand His mission but we may not fully realize that not only did He come as a Savior but He also came as a Healer.

There are many encouraging words in Scripture that speak to specific situations but perhaps none as all-

encompassing as the statement, "A bruised reed shall he not break, and the smoking flax shall he not quench." Our Lord came to heal; not to suppress, bruise, or quench. He didn't come to snap off our flower or snuff out our spark. His attitude toward us is one of compassion and love as He desires to help us through all of life's situations without bruising the hurting. Satan would tell us differently and cause us to doubt, fear, and be discouraged.

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

This verse in Psalms demonstrates one of the most difficult tasks many of us are called to do: wait on God. Our timeline usually doesn't line up with God's on a regular basis. Sometimes the Lord moves faster than we would like, but usually we are required to wait. Interestingly enough, when we force an issue and don't wait upon the Lord, the resulting difficulties generally cost us even more time. However, when we can be yielded to God and truly wait on Him, His blessings will follow. We don't have to look too far to see how that works in our lives and the lives of those we love. So, as we wait on Him, we are asked to "be of good courage."

1 Samuel 30:6 "And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: but David encouraged himself in the Lord his God."

In this passage we find David and his people in great distress and close to despair because the Amalekites had just destroyed Ziklag, their home city, and had taken away their possessions as well as their wives and children. The people had a good reason for their anguish and threatened to take out their frustrations on David. There was no one available to encourage David at this point. We cannot always wait for the encouragement of others. In fact, those around us may desire our failure, as in the case of David. Scripture says that "David encouraged himself in the Lord his God." Being an encouragement to ourselves may sound a bit awkward,

but notice that David was encouraged in the Lord. He was fully aware of God's presence in his life and from Whom he would receive strength. So, although he encouraged himself, his confidence was anchored in his God.

Joshua 10:25 "And Joshua said unto them, Fear not, nor be dismayed, be strong and of good courage:..."

This piece of Scripture occurred right after Joshua's prayer that the sun should stand still while the Israelites fought against the inhabitants of Canaan. It seems that their courage would have been great since they had just witnessed this miraculous event along with their success in battle. However, five kings had fled during the fighting and were hiding in a cave. This caused the people great fear and discouragement as they considered what to do. It is not a coincidence that Joshua includes the instruction "Fear not" along with his encouragement. Fear can cause discouragement and keep us from being strong in the Lord. As discussed in a previous article, undue or misplaced fear can be crippling or paralyzing and drive us to a place of inaction even when given a situation where immediate action is necessary. Joshua knew His God and based upon faith in Him, he could provide encouragement even when the odds were against them.

We seem to so easily forget the attributes of God. He knows everything about us. He is aware of our current situation. He knows what is best for us in the future. Perhaps our greatest source of encouragement is this knowledge that God has our best interest at heart. It is the Father's good pleasure to give us the kingdom. (Luke 12:32) He desires for us to be successful in our Christian walk. This fact alone should provide enough basis upon which to be encouraged as we trust Him completely with our very lives.

Romans 8:38-39 "For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

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marvelous works that he hath done; his wonders, and the judgments of his mouth;" v.3-5. What wonderful words we have that we just seek the Lord and His strength, and He will give that which is necessary.

Here at the beginning of I Corinthians 1, it says, *"Paul, called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God, and Sosthenes our brother, Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ."* v.1-3. The Apostle Paul, as he wrote these letters with love and concern he had for each one, he said, Grace be to you. It is only by the grace of God that we can walk this pathway of life. It is only by the grace of God that we can stay upon this straight and narrow way. This is peace. We need the peace of God in the heart, the peace and promise from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Certainly it is so necessary that we have and find the grace of God so we then can receive and have that peace. It only comes from God, as it speaks here, and from our Lord Jesus Christ. So thankful we are, dear ones, that our Lord was willing to come here and live upon this earth – a humble babe in a manger. There was nothing special about the birth. The birth was there in a manger – no place in the inn; the humbleness of our Lord and Savior was shown unto us. Then He went to that cruel cross in willingness and shed His precious blood there as a supreme sacrifice for each one of us.

Then he goes on and says, *"I thank my God always on your behalf..."* – the concern the Apostle Paul had and the concern we each need to have for one another. We each need to have that concern for one another.

"I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ;" v.4. We thank God, don't we, for the grace given to each one of us. It comes only from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ that we can walk this pathway of life and we can stay upon that straight and narrow way. Aren't we thankful God made this way possible that we can gather together here as a body of believers on the Sabbath day and worship God and be strengthened from His precious Word?

"That in every thing ye are enriched by him, in all utterance, and in all knowledge;" v.5. We can be increased, enriched, and renewed. Certainly dear ones, God saw it necessary that we needed to be renewed, to be taught, to hear His Word, to come together as a body, to be increased, and to be strengthened that we can stay upon this pathway of life. We can help one another.

"Even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you: So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ." v.6-8. This is what our repentance and conversion is about, dear ones – that we can have the hope of being able to stand before God and hear 'enter in thou good and faithful servant.' That is our goal and is why we are gathered together here today – to have the hope in our heart of being gathered together in that wonderful place called heaven where there will be no more trials, no more tests, no more hardships, no trials, no death, no more sickness, no more pain, but endless heavenly happiness and bliss.

"God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of His Son Jesus Christ our Lord." v.9. How thankful we need to be and how thankful we are that God has shown us this wonderful way and has brought us into the fold. He has led

us and changed our thoughts and minds. He struck us down even as the Apostle Paul was struck down on the way to Damascus (Acts 9:3-9). There came a time, dear ones, when we found we were walking the wrong road. We were struck down and able to find grace to repent. We pray for each friend here with us today that you would allow the Lord to work in your heart that you could find grace to repent.

"Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions..." v.10. How important this Word is – that we gather together. That is why we gather together – that we speak the same thing and learn the same Word. We use the same Scripture. We use the King James version of the Scripture so we speak the same thing and stay in unity and harmony so there are no divisions among us.

Don't we find as we look around us in this world today that there are divisions, divisions, divisions. Satan loves divisions. Satan loves divisions! He loves to divide. He would love to divide God's very elect. Even in the first churches here, the church of the Corinthians, he saw the need to warn of divisions. We need to remember that we need to be in unity and harmony, don't we? We need to hold fast to the basic Word. Don't we find in this world it seems there are so many laws and rules in the land. Many things become so technical it is hard to do things and to do them without doing some wrong.

We find God's Word is simple. It is straight. It is direct. It doesn't change as the laws of the land in this day and time. The laws of the world continuously change. They increase. They have a law for this, a law for that. Yet we find these laws, rules, guidelines God has given unto us don't change. God's Word stays the

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same. It is something we can rely on, something that is not known of in the world today, is it dear one: the Word that doesn't change. It warns us that not one dot or tittle should be changed in this Word (St. Matthew 5:18). It remains the same. We can trust this Word, and we know that tomorrow it is going to be the same as it was today.

"For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them which are of the house of Chloe, that there are contentions among you." v.11. There are differences. *"Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ. Is Christ divided?"* v.12, 13. He asked the question there, is Christ divided? How easy it is that Satan would love to cause divisions and here he chose of speaking of the baptisms.

"...was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you, but Crispus and Gaius; Lest any should say that I had baptized in mine own name." v.13-15. Here we see the thoughts and the ideas of people. They are no different than the thoughts today. Many times a word out of place can multiply and cause confusion. So we need to remember it is so important that we speak the same thing, the same Word.

"For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect." v.17. Certainly, dear ones, as the Apostle Paul spoke not with wisdom of words, this poor brother here does not have wisdom of words. It says here the wisdom of words could cause the Word to be of none effect.

It speaks of the simplicity, and it speaks of the foolishness of preaching. It is hard for me to say the foolishness of preaching. It is a serious thing, and it is God's precious Word

coming forth. Certainly to the people of the world it is perhaps foolishness.

"For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God." v.18. Very much of a difference, isn't it? It is the power of God. *"For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. Where is the wise?..."* Question mark here. *"...Where is the wise? where is the scribe..."* v.19,20. Many different thoughts we could think of, dear ones, as to where is the wise. He speaks of the wise. I will destroy the wisdom of the wise. But where is the wise? Yet it is wise, dear ones, for us to listen to the Word of God and apply it to our heart.

"...Where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe." v.20, 21. Aren't we thankful, dear ones, that by the foolishness of preaching of the forefathers who have gone on before us, those who stood on the pulpits in churches across the land, we were able to find grace to repent. We were able to find grace. The foolishness of preaching save them that believe.

Here it speaks of the Jews. They required a sign. The Greeks seek after wisdom. (v.22) *"But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumbling-block, 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."* v. 23,24. We are thankful, aren't we dear ones, that God has brought together our Apostolic Christian faith. Across the land here in America, we have gathered from far and near this day. We use the same Word. We hear the same Word and the same preaching. We hear the wisdom of God.

"Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men." v.25. Just an illustration here to show us the power of God; God is powerful over all. We think of the modern day and time. We think of the modern things that we have – communication, the internet, and all those things and how news travels in seconds across the land. We get information on all people in seconds, but really it is quite far from the wisdom of God. God knows the thoughts of each and every heart here today. He knows the thoughts of each one here. He knows the thoughts that are in my mind and your mind far greater than the electronics and the things man has created here. God knows it all. He knows the very number of hairs on our head, the Word tells us (St. Matthew 10:30). The hairs of our head are all numbered. We think of the power of God – creating this creation and the beauty that therein is!

"For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;" v.26, 27. We think of this verse here – the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty. *"And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are:"* v.28. I just wonder what all could be spoken about these verses – things which are not, to bring to nought the things that are.

"That no flesh should glory in his presence." v.29. It tells us that we need to be humble. A humble heart can be seen. The humbleness of man can be noticed by those around about. It is truly humbleness and simplicity of our walk of life that draws people. It is a magnet, even as the Word of

God. The song speaks of that Word of God as a magnet (*The Magnet, Zion's Harp #63*). If we use that magnet, our actions will be a magnet to those around about us. We need to remember that, when we are walking on the street or wherever we are, we act and walk what we say we are so we are not hypocrites but are God's people and walk according as God would have us.

"That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord." v.31. The glory of the Lord – that we walk in the paths that Jesus tread for us. He showed us the way. He came here and humbly taught us if we follow the words of Jesus Christ, follow the Word that He has given and left for us, and hold fast, we will be able to be gathered together in heaven above. That is our goal, isn't it, dear ones?

"He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him." (1 John 2:4)

"By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." (John 13:35)

"And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins." (1 Peter 4:8)

"For if ye love them which love you, what thank have ye? For sinners also love those that love them." (Luke 6:32)

Needs and Opportunities in the Athens/Tennessee Fellowship Area

Currently, there are needs to replace an air conditioning unit and carpet in the Athens/Tennessee Fellowship Area apartment located in Pulaski, TN as well as guttering around the property and garage door seals. Any donation or assistance with materials (air conditioners, carpet, etc.), labor for installation or funding for these items would be greatly appreciated. To volunteer or find out more about the needs and opportunities, please contact Bro. Roger Roberts at (309) 965-9134 or via e-mail at mrpipes@afo.net.

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REMEMBERING

Our Spiritual Heritage

This is a continuation of the autobiography of Elder Ernest Graf of Mansfield, Ohio. He was a church leader in the early portion of the 1900s.

Family Life

At our South Akron home, most of our boys were born: Elmer in August, 1900, Rudolph in October, 1902, Clarence in June, 1904, Robert in November, 1906, Alfred in January, 1909, and Ernest, Jr. in November, 1910. Alfred lived only 16 days, dying of membranous croup. This was the first sorrow of our married life.

The other children kept my wife very busy, but she had good health and took good care of my earnings, so we made progress from year to year.

The Ministry

During these years I was also encouraged by the elders and ministering brothers to take part in the work, namely proclaiming the Gospel. Though weak and imperfect, I was often comforted by the impulse and support of the Holy Spirit.

Working Hard

I had now worked about 13 years in factories, and had only once quit a job without knowing where I could go next. I did my work to the best of my ability and could have gone back to any one of the places where I ever worked. But the love for the soil on which I had been brought up made itself more and more manifest. Also,

we felt that a farm would be a better place to bring up our children than in the city.

Farming

The opportunity to make a change (to farm life) presented itself when my wife's brother John offered to buy our town property, and Peter Falb offered to sell us his 15-acre farm in the muck area near Copely Road.

We decided to accept both offers. The price of the farm, with house, barn and sheds was \$ 4,000. For the town property, we received \$ 2,000. On the last town lot I had paid only \$ 50 and the balance of the debt (\$300), John assumed. So the \$ 2,000, together with the \$ 2,000 which I borrowed from brothers in Wayne County, were paid to Peter Falb, in cash, and all other equipment such as horses, cows, wagon, spring wagon, and other tools were brought on time, excepting one horse and surrey which I had owned already in town.

Moving To New Farm

We moved to this our present home on March 1, 1911. Now began a different life, but one which I enjoyed. The spring and summer were favorable to grow crops, but in September things changed. One heavy rain followed another, and our whole place was flooded three times, ruining the late crops of celery, cabbage, and potatoes. An epidemic of Typhoid swept the community, and two of our boys, Elmer and

Robert, came down with it.

So instead of being able to pay my sale notes by the sale of late crops as I had hoped, I had a good-sized doctor bill. But we were thankful that our boys recovered, and by renewing some sale notes the holders were satisfied to give me more time. I was able to get work during the winter at the L. W. Camp Plan where I had worked before, but had to drive six miles every morning and evening with the horses, necessitating getting up at 4.30 a. m. all winter. I worked until spring work began at home. This was a good season in which I was able to pay all sale bills and some on the farm debt.

Each year as the boys grew and were able to help more with the work, we increased our volume of crops and paid off all indebtedness as time went on. We built another room and closet over the kitchen, installed a bathroom and water supply, built a new barn, shed, wash house, chicken house, etc. This made our farm life easier and more pleasant.

Edited by Bro. Perry Klopfenstein

Next Issue: More on the Graf story.

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



The Light of Hope

Moving in the Direction of

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

In our life of faith, are we moving in the direction of being more like Christ, or more like the world? Change does come with the passing of time. It is our prayer that those changes will move us in the direction of being more like Christ.

1 John 2:4 reads, *“He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.”* If I am not mistaken, keeping his commandments is very important if we want to move in the direction of being more like Christ, or of being able to correctly say, “I know Christ,” without being a liar.

If we are going to move in the direction of being more like Christ, we must cultivate love. Christ loved us enough to die for us, even before we knew Him. It is written in John 13:35, *“By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.”* If I am not mistaken, this means we are to love each other enough to die for each other, even though we may disagree on some things. Perhaps this is what Peter meant when he wrote in 1 Peter 4:8, *“And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.”*

Christ not only displayed a lot of love, but he also displayed humility. Philippians 2:8, *“And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”* It was through Christ’s humility that He became obedient unto death. We must ask ourselves, “What’s the state of our humility?” Do we accept admonishment with humility and self-examination? Do we thank those who admonish us? Do we check with

the Scriptures to see if maybe there are things we should be doing differently? We should move in the direction of being more like Christ.

There is the matter of obedience to the Word. It is written of Christ, Hebrews 5:8, *“Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered.”* It seems to me that Christ was obedient from start to finish, but evidently His suffering reinforced His determination to be obedient to His Heavenly Father. I should think that the lesson for us is that any suffering we endure should increase our determination to be obedient to the Heavenly Father and to His Word.

Now let’s consider moving in the direction of the world. If this takes place over a long period of time, we must change direction or eventually we will be no different than the world. We will be indistinguishable. No difference. Isn’t that true or am I mistaken?

Take the matter of love. It is the mark of the believer. No matter if someone kicks us and spits on us, we love them. Eventually, we may love only those who love us. Do not the sinners do likewise? Luke 6:32. *“For if ye love them which love you, what thank have ye? For sinners also love those that love them.”* I fear we may lose love and not be aware of it.

Take the matter of humility. You may have your own definition of humility, but surely it includes a willingness to surrender our own assertiveness in order to keep the commandments of the New Testament and in order to maintain unity in the Brotherhood. We must not for-

get that we are dead with Christ, and we seek nothing for ourselves except eternal life. Galatians 2:20 *“For I am crucified with Christ.”*

Take the matter of obedience. If we have been groomed to resist authority and to do what we feel like doing regardless of the consequences, we will certainly move more and more in the direction of the world. This must change if we are to follow the teachings of the New Testament.

Change. Change may come suddenly in some cases, but usually it comes slowly over many years. Maybe we cannot handle a very abrupt change, or maybe we are not willing to admit that we need to change. However, surely you agree that if a church is moving in the direction of the world, it is imperative that that church changes direction and moves in the direction of being more like Christ. New converts, at least, should help the rest of us to realize the danger, and be willing to submit to the authority of the Bible, and of the almighty God. That means to avoid excuses and to simply say, “Dear God, here am I. You bought me. You can have me. Just tell me what to do.” New converts are the future church.

In our Brotherhood, I believe I can say with certainty that none of our elders, active or retired, believe in the doctrine of once saved always saved. We do believe that it is possible for a converted person to lose his or her salvation. Let’s not have a misunderstanding about doctrine. Let’s move in the direction of being more like Christ.



*That they all may be one; as thou,
Father, art in me, and I in thee,
that they also may be one in us:*

that the world may believe
that thou hast sent me.

*And the glory which thou
gavest me I have given them;
that they may be one,
even as we are one:*

*I in them, and thou in me, that
they may be made perfect in one;*

and that the world may know
*that thou hast sent me,
and hast loved them,
as thou hast loved me.*

John 17:21-23

