

# The Silver Lining

God paints the clouds in the evening sky  
To show me the way to the Palace on High  
And Stars mark the pathway  
lest my feet should roam - Its ...

Sunset

December 2012

and Tea Going Home

## Sermon by Bro. Frank Sauder, Roanoke, IL

*St. Luke 2:1-7 and St. John 1:1-5, 11-14*

Christmas Day - we're gathered here to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior and as we just sang, true man and yet very God. From sin and death He saves us and lightens every load. (*Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming*, Hymns of Christmas #20 v. 3.) True man, yet very God; something we can't quite wrap our minds around. But we are here, and we are thankful that Jesus willingly left heaven to come to redeem us.

Christmas Day - is this really Christmas Day? Is this the day that Jesus Christ was born? Dates; they are important. You go out to the cemetery and on every tombstone is the date of birth and the date of death. But, God's Word does not give us a date when Jesus was born. There are many theories of the time when He was born, but the Bible does not tell us. Why not? Why not? Perhaps the date is not important. The Bible gives us details that are. It tells us what Jesus wore: swaddling clothes. It tells us where He slept: in a manger. It does not tell us when He was born.

The details that it does give us speak of His nature and His character, that He is meek and lowly. The actual date of birth is not important because Jesus always was. We read that in John. "*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*" (St. John 1:1) Jesus always existed. He lives forever. He came to this earth fully man, fully God, for a purpose - to show us the way. We are not to be caught up in dates and times. We don't know when the end of the world will come. The Bible speaks of it. We don't even know exactly when Jesus died. If you tried to go and research His death, there are many details. We know the day of the week. The year is still unclear according to history, but the Word is sufficient. It gives us what we need.

It presents the birth of Jesus so simply. It says, "*And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed.*" (St. Luke 2:1) The timing was perfect for the birth of Jesus.

In Daniel, it prophesies of four great kingdoms (Daniel 2). The fourth and the largest of the kingdoms had come into being: the Roman Empire. It was considered the empire of the world because it covered what was then the known world, all the way from Britain to Iran. The timing was right for the birth of Christ.

It is interesting when Christ will come again; it will be when there will be one world government. We don't know when that will happen, but it is coming into being.

"*And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)*" (St. Luke 2:4) Joseph and Mary went up out of Nazareth. Nazareth was a place that was despised. We can read about it in Scripture. When Philip found Jesus and told Nathaniel, Nathaniel looked at Philip and said, "*Can anything good come out of Nazareth?*" (St. John 1:46) When Nicodemus was speaking about Christ, the Pharisees looked at Nicodemus and said, search the Scriptures, there has never been a prophet out of Nazareth. (St. John 7:52) Jesus Himself called Galilee the Galilee of the Gentiles. (St. Matthew 4:15)

Out of the world came Joseph and Mary, out of the world to Bethlehem. Bethlehem, an insignificant little town that failed to recognize the greatness that came from Bethlehem. Years ago, the most famous King of all Israel was in Bethlehem

*Sermon continued on Page 48*

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### Correspondence

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*"...live in peace and the God of love and peace shall be with you" (2 Cor. 13:11).*

## Light from the Word

### Church Governance



*Writings based on God's Word*

*"Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation" (Rom. 13:1-2). "Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king" (1 Pet. 2:17).*

Every one of us is under various levels of authority and all are called upon to respect and/or exercise various types of authority: in the home, the nation, the work place and the church, with all being ultimately under the authority of Almighty God. This article discusses church governance from the perspective of its biblical role and responsibilities, as well as our individual obligations as members of the church, the Body of Christ.

Paul explains: *"And he gave some, apostles, and some, prophets: and some evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ" (Eph. 4:11-12).*

We are given some examples of the structure and function of church authority in the New Testament. This includes the labors of the Apostles Paul and Peter in shepherding various churches, Paul's instructions to Timothy (1 Tim. 3:1-13) and Titus (Tit. 1:5) to ordain elders and deacons (including their qualifications), ordination of deacons by the twelve Apostles (Acts 7:1-7), and the assembly of apostles and elders at Jerusalem to address church issues (Acts 15:1-29). The Apostle Peter, himself an elder and inspired of God, gives very sound and helpful counsel to all who are called to serve in this office (1 Pet. 5:1-9). We believe that our forefathers were diligent in applying biblical examples and teachings when the roles and functions of our church leadership were established. Many aspects of our church authority structure are outlined in the section on Apostolic Christian Church Governance in our Statement of Faith.

We have examples of the calling to leadership of Moses (Ex. 3:11-22; 4:1-17), David (1 Sam. 16:1-13), Isaiah (Is. 6:1-9), Jeremiah (Jer. 1:1-10) and others. They were

called from various backgrounds and due to their limitations there was often a humble reluctance to serve. Yet God assured them He would provide. Serving in the office of elder is a very humbling experience (Acts 20:19). It requires a willing heart (1 Cor. 9:17), much prayer, and grace and wisdom from above. Our brothers and sisters have been faithful over the years in fulfilling the simple request of the Apostle Paul: *"Brethren pray for us" (1 Thes. 5:25).*

God will grant a shepherd's heart to those He calls to this role, as so beautifully described by Jeremiah: *"And I will set up shepherds over them which shall feed them: and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall they be lacking, saith the Lord" (Jer. 23:4).*

Elders are accountable to Almighty God, to the Elder Body, and to the congregations they serve (1 Cor. 4:2). They work together for the biblical unity, spiritual welfare, and peace of the Brotherhood. Each elder before he is approved, makes a promise before the Elder Body to support their conclusions as reached by candid and respectful deliberation and counsel, seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit and based on the whole counsel of God's Word (Phil. 1:27; Acts 15). There is no hierarchy in the Elder Body and brothers are asked to serve on rotating committees for the sake of order (1 Cor. 14:40) and to carry out various spiritual and administrative duties.

What are the responsibilities for all of us as members of the Body of Christ? As already mentioned, prayer is the first priority. We are taught to respect our leaders highly for their labors on our behalf and for the Lord's church. *"Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honor, specially they that labor in the Word and doctrine" (1 Tim. 5:17).* Our responsibility according to the Word goes even deeper: *"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" (Heb. 13:7).* This scriptural teaching may go against our nature. It certainly stands out against the strong cultural trends to set aside and criticize authority. But obeying God's Word brings peace and joy—exactly the kind of

environment He seeks for His beloved Body, the church, as it works together in love and mutual respect and points the lost to the Lord Jesus Christ.

We find examples in the Old Testament of both blessing and condemnation, depending upon how God-given authority was viewed. Jethro gave fatherly, constructive advice to Moses—and all were blessed (Ex. 18:13-27). Korah rose up in rebellion against Moses and he and his followers were destroyed (Num. 16:1-35). David was sought by Saul, but he was mindful of God's warning: *"Touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm" (1 Chron. 16:22).* Absalom rebelled against King David and lost his life (2 Sam. 15-18). Undermining and resisting authority is defined as the sin of sedition and is named among the works of the flesh (Gal. 5:20).

When an elder does not follow a consistent pattern of godly, compassionate service and does not adhere to the Word which requires that he receive counsel, there is a mechanism in place and scriptural directives to address this appropriately (1 Tim. 5:19-20). We are thankful that these measures have not had to be taken very often as we have been blessed with many faithful men of God who devote a significant portion of their lives on our behalf and are motivated to serve by the love of Jesus Christ who gave His all for us (2 Cor. 5:14; Eph. 5:25).

As elders it is uncomfortable for us to write or speak about the topic of church governance. Yet, we take seriously the warning that no Scripture is ever to be set aside or diminished (Rev. 22:18-19). Rather, *"...all scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (2 Tim. 3:16-17).*

A "thoroughly furnished" church will apply all of these teachings with loving diligence. Good open communication will be encouraged. Spiritual leaders will be easy to be entreated and impartial (Jam. 3:17). It will be understood that they must be vigilant, providing oversight with a Christ-like, sacrificial love, giving sound warnings and admonitions with clarity (John 10:11; 21:15-17; 1 Pet. 5:8). God will richly bless His flocks when they follow His teachings in humility and love.

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

Suggestions for subjects are welcome and can be sent to:

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



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN  
**Mission Committee**

...The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest. Matthew 9:37-38

## Strangers and Pilgrims in Ixtlan

Ixtlan, like many traditional towns in Mexico, holds an annual festival in honor of its patron saint. Ixtlan's festival for St. Francis of Assisi falls in early October. Residents and visitors flock to the fiesta that lasts almost two weeks. Almost the entire town takes part in this tradition, even closing schools. Some individuals participate with religious devotion, but it seems that for most people the fiesta is an excuse to take a break from the monotony of everyday work and life. Daily parades, music, dancing, street vendors, and games provide entertainment, partying and pleasure. During these weeks, it truly feels like the night rules (see Rom 13:12-14).

Yet there are a few people in Ixtlan who don't take part in these activities. While the community is caught up in the flurry of the fiesta, these continue their work and lives as if it were any other day of the year. They are questioned with surprise why they don't join in the festivities. Sometimes they are ostracized because they refuse to pay the mandatory fee to fund the events.

As Christians, we are to be *strangers and pilgrims who abstain from fleshly lusts* (1 PET 2:11), and have *sanctified Christ Jesus in our hearts*. We are to be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh...

(1 PET 3:15). We no longer live the rest of our time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God (1 PET 4:2).

Believers are to put behind their former lives, saying, enough! For the time past of our life may

*suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries* (1 Pet 4:3).

### Church in Ixtlan

Why has God chosen to place a little Christian church in Ixtlan? While the church may foster social improvement in the community through activities like health education, quality schooling, and employment opportunities, the main purpose is to be a spiritual haven for sin-sick seekers, to reach those who are being convicted by God's gracious Spirit to change their lives.

A series of Bible studies on the topics of repentance, conversion, and salvation is typically done with individuals or families who express a desire to follow the Lord. At the end of a session with one particular family, the father shared his struggle about what is happening with their daughter. Against her parents' wishes, she left home to live with a young man. Soon he started to become physically abusive, yet his parents supported him and told him "that's the way things are." The young lady's father asked for prayer to help him overcome his negative emotions toward this young man. The Mexican brothers conducting the study assured him of their prayers, and warned him against letting his anger lead to sin.

### Changes lives

The church exists to display Christ by gospel preaching and through the converted (changed) lives of its members. Recently a young man who is seeking commented: "Most people go to church on Sunday but then the rest of the week they do

bad things. But I look at all of you and I see people who are really committed to God. I want that." It is encouraging to see increased participation by the local brothers. There has also been a renewed effort to support the small groups in Barra Vieja, Querétaro and Morelia, and to engage in evangelistic outreach here and in surrounding towns.

Another function of the church is to equip God's people to be instruments in His hands to rescue and heal broken souls. A short time back, a sister from church was called out of her house by frantic neighbors. They rushed with her to an intense scene: a young father in the act of hanging himself, while his own father held his legs to keep him from falling and his wife and small children cried hysterically. "Let me die!" he yelled.

But the Holy Spirit gave wisdom to this sister and she was able to talk him down. He was desperate because he was without work and money and was afraid he wasn't going to be able to provide for his family. Afterward he thanked her for saving his life. As a result of this experience, she wants to learn to be better prepared to use the Bible to help people find hope in their problems.

Thank you for your support of the Ixtlan church over the years. The impact of your prayers, giving, visiting, and serving cannot be measured by the visible structure of the church, school, and resources, although we are grateful for these. But the real blessing is transformed lives, *Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent Him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities.* (Acts 3:26)



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

## A Challenging Reality in Jamaica

With rampant violence, high crime, widespread poverty and corruption, large-scale unemployment and underemployment, inadequate education, the theme in the five countries served by Child Sponsorship remains the same, although each country has its own particular history and story.

While Jamaica isn't known for the stark poverty represented by Haiti, for example, almost 40% of its nearly 3.0 million population, 1.1 million people, live on less than \$2.50 per day, the "official" poverty line as defined by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). In addition, the IMF indicates that Jamaica has more of a "split class" economic structure than even Haiti. In other words, while the overall poverty isn't as significant in Jamaica, the separation between the "haves and the have nots" is greater than Haiti and the second worst in the Caribbean Region.

A British Colony for over three hundred years, Jamaica achieved its independence fifty years ago, but has struggled to develop a strong economy. With a shrinking economy many Jamaicans depend on lower paying services work, heavily reliant on a cyclical tourism industry. The result is extremely high unemployment at 13%, with that rate doubling for young people. This creates a significant crisis for the country, which contributes to the despair that drives crime and violence.

With many families out of work or involved in low paying service jobs, education is one of the first areas to suffer, and many Jamaicans

can't afford to send their children to school. Many students who are able to attend school and graduate find it very difficult to enter productive careers. This issue is especially acute for special needs or troubled children, which has been the focus of Child Sponsorship in Jamaica for fifteen years.

### Child Sponsorship can make a difference

In Jamaica, where there are an estimated 2,500 deaf children, there is a Child Sponsorship opportunity for individual deaf students being educated in a boarding school environment. Although the Gospel is available in Jamaica, a deaf person cannot hear the spoken Word of God. The Gospel message is presented to deaf children using sign language.

Currently, Child Sponsorship supports over 130 deaf students in Jamaica through 400 sponsors, where each child's education, room and board costs \$250.00 per month. This may be provided by one sponsor (at \$250/month) or up to ten sponsors (at \$25/month). Your donation provides a Christian education, room and board on campus, clothing and medical care, sign language instruction, education during the school year and training to become proficient in a trade. In addition, Child Sponsorship works with another school to provide remedial instruction for children and mentoring of young adults.

As you can imagine, this Christ-centered

education makes an incredible difference in the lives of these challenged young people, providing an opportunity to break the cycle of poverty and allow them to become a productive and contributing adult in a very difficult and challenging environment.

### Faith comes by hearing

But, most importantly, your child sponsorship participation can assure that they will hear the Gospel message and learn about our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. This knowledge can also provide a path to an eternal home in Heaven, not only for them, but for their circle of influence, including parents, siblings, relatives, friends and countless future relationships that will be established over a lifetime.

In summary, the challenging environment in Jamaica breeds significant despair, where traditional values and opportunities are stifled by violence, crime and unemployment. For young people, especially those with special needs, the situation is even more desperate, with their expanding numbers pitted against a shrinking economy and limited opportunity.

In this environment, a Christ-centered education can make the difference between a productive life filled with promise and hope... or one that is destined to remain anchored in poverty and despair, with no knowledge of the great eternal promise. Please consider becoming a sponsor today to make a difference in the life of a child in Jamaica.



## APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

[achh.org](http://achh.org)

Becky Stoller (ACTR)

*"To God be the Glory, Great Things  
He Has Done" (Gospel Hymns #813)*

In times of turmoil, do we continue to give God the Glory? Do we get worked up about a situation or do we find provision in a sovereign God.

*"...God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Now unto God and our Father be glory forever and ever. Amen" (Phil 4: 19-20)*

Do we trust God with our needs as our residents trust that staff will provide their needs? Staff comes and goes. Residents have to trust that they will be given the best care, even if they may not know the person right away. It takes time to build trust and a good relationship. Do we trust God to provide our needs? Are we building a relationship with Him?

Residents have been busy with activities this month such as pottery painting, cooking club, swimming, practicing for Special Olympics Basketball, attending the Festival of Lights parade, and viewing the floats after the parade.

With the holidays approaching, residents are excited about having time off work and spending time with family and friends. Thanksgiving breakfast and feasts throughout the agency were enjoyed by all. It's the start of the Christmas holiday, so there has been decorating for Christmas, shopping and sugar cookie baking and decorating.

Please visit our website [www.achh.org](http://www.achh.org) to learn more about us, view job opportunities, current events and ways to help.

## GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

Dustin Hodel—Houseparent

As houseparents at Gateway Woods, my wife, Mandy, and I have been introduced to many circumstances through the residents. We have been educated on such things as pop culture and street life. In many ways this helps connect us to residents and form relationships with them. On the flip side of that we also get to introduce residents to new concepts that they have never heard of or tried before.

At times, introducing these concepts can be a battle, but sometimes we have opportunity to show a group of residents a different lifestyle in a very tangible and effective way. There is hardly a circumstance that better illustrates both sides of this equation than experiencing Christmas together. As you may imagine, we are many times the first example that a resident has ever seen of a Christ-based Christmas; and to see their eyes being opened to the "why" of the holiday can be just as eye-opening to us. We give the residents gifts, sometimes simple ones, and they are truly grateful in most circumstances because a lot of the time they have not received gifts at previous Christmases, or they were given gifts strictly out of tradition. They've never received a Christmas gift with the added significance of the birth of Christ and the message of love and giving.

Seeing this play out reminds us over and over of what Christ did for us...for me. He didn't come to the Earth to die simply because it was what He was supposed to do; He came to die because He wanted to, because He loved us. He still loves us. I can relate to a resident that has

come from nothing and receives our gift, maybe their first Christmas gift, simply because we love them and we want to give. I have come from nothing, nothing but sin, and God gives me salvation because He loves me.

May you be blessed in blessing others this Christmas season and throughout the year.

*News:*

We have begun our annual search for a Summer Volunteer Coordinator and a Top Quality Coordinator. Please see the notices in The Silver Lining or email Ryan Donaghy at [ryan.donaghy@gatewaywoods.org](mailto:ryan.donaghy@gatewaywoods.org) for more information. This is a great opportunity to impact the lives of the children on our campus! As one former resident put it, "It really makes a huge difference to [residents] when volunteers come out. It's great when they work with us and play Frisbee and stuff. We notice."

We have begun searching for our Summer Education Intern. Please see the notice in The Silver Lining or email Adam McAfee at [adam.mcafee@gatewaywoods.org](mailto:adam.mcafee@gatewaywoods.org) for more information. This is a great opportunity to gain some experience working in an educational environment while impacting our residents! Gateway Woods welcomed three 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. Also, please keep the teachers, houseparents and counselors of these children in your

prayers.

We are grateful to God for providing us with wonderful Staff. We currently have two career positions available. We have an opening for Development Director 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](http://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](http://www.gatewaywoods.org) and our Facebook page at [facebook.com/gatewaywoods](https://www.facebook.com/gatewaywoods) often for updates, and make sure that you are on our mailing list. In an effort to be as efficient as possible we are gathering as many email addresses as we can for our Restoring Hope. Please send a quick message to [mail@gatewaywoods.org](mailto:mail@gatewaywoods.org).

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

The themes for November were the color brown, nutrition/health/the human body, and thanksgiving. Students enjoyed some warm weather that allowed them to play outside. It still amazes me that an Alabama day can start out in the 70's and drop to the 40's in one day. This happened a couple weekends this month and really threw off the students.

We practiced identifying parts of the body. One way we do this is with a transition filler when the students are waiting in line to do something. A teacher will say, "Put your hands on your knees," and then hold their head. The students will then find their knees and tell the teacher she is wrong. We had a Thanksgiving feast the morning before Thanksgiving Day. The students dressed up as Native Americans and Pilgrims and sang some Turkey Songs they learned. It was encouraging to hear the students tell us they were thankful for God and Jesus. I say, "Amen!"

**ALABAMA, ATHENS  
Roger and Becky Roberts**

We are thankful for those who traveled to be with us this past month. Ministers that shared God's word were: Bro. Mark (Sis. Karen) Wettstein and family (LaCrosse, IN), Bro. Jedd (Sis. Marsha) Rocke and family (Goodfield, IL), Bro. Ryan (Sis. Jessica) Bertsch (Bluffton North, IN)

As the winter work project draws nearer, we were thankful to have the World Relief committee with us on a Wednesday evening. Bro. Chuck Kellenberger (Elgin, IL) shared from God's Word. Be prayerful for the work teams that will come and for the recipients of the homes. Pray that they could build homes, but more importantly build relationships that point to Jesus.

We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) and Elder Bro. Tom Waldbeser (Sis. Sue, Atlanta, GA) with us for Memorandum on a recent Wednesday evening.

Please pray for continued healing for Bro. Ed Haggenmaker, Sis. Hazel Vibbert, and Frances Ray.

When traveling to the Tennessee

Fellowship area using a GPS, use Frankewing, TN as the final destination. Once you turn off Hwy 64, the Fellowship area is the first drive on the left.

If you are traveling through the area this winter, we would love your fellowship! Please either call or email us ahead of time so we can make plans. Bro. Roger & Sis. Becky Roberts (931) 309-9335  
[mrpipes@afo.net](mailto:mrpipes@afo.net)

**ARIZONA, PHOENIX  
Heather Hinrichsen**

We were thankful to have Bro. Bill Waibel (Bay City, MI) share the Word of God with us this month.

Sis. Kathy Knochel (Bro. Nate), Sis. Anne Anliker (Bro. Rod) and Bob Rebbec all had surgery. We pray for successful outcomes and that they can assemble with us again.

Nathan Huette (Bro. Doug and Sis. Jill) has expressed peace with God and awaits baptism.

Our annual Sunday School picnic was held October 28. We were blessed to hear our children recite Psalm 100 and sing praises to our Lord and Savior. Many thanks to the teachers for the love, work, and example they provide our children.

A singing shower was held on November 10 for Bro. Ben Lindberg and Sis. Anneliese Hoerr. Since their upcoming wedding on December 2 will be held in Taylor, MO, this was an opportunity for the Phoenix church to meet Ben and to wish them both God's blessings as they become one in the Lord.

**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. Loren Schrenk (Sis. Betsy, St.

Louis, MO), Keith Hinrichsen (Sis. Tammy, Phoenix, AZ), Ed Stoller (Sis. Bonnie, Denver, CO), Brian Waibel (Sis. Wendy, Champaign, IL), Bill Waibel (Sis. Carol, Bay City, MI) and Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich (Sis. Nancy, Phoenix, AZ).

### ARIZONA, TUCSON

**Lisa Knapp**

Sunday, October 28, we enjoyed a wonderful afternoon and evening at a local park for our annual Sunday School Picnic. We had a record number of people and, with everyone's help, we were all fed and entertained. Many thanks to Bro. Chris and Sis. Sara Hattan who were in charge of the festivities and to everyone who helped organize, set up, make food, bring and buy auction items, and clean up afterwards. Blessings abounded!

Congratulations to Sis. Krystal Tyler and Daniel Bauer (son of Bro. Brad and Sis. Sandy Bauer) as they have both completed their doctoral studies in their respective fields. Many prayers were answered. The work is complete and now we wish them both God's blessings as they begin their careers.

We are still unseasonably warm for November on this the 20th day of the month. Our Thanksgiving Day temperature is supposed to be around 82. A little warmer than we'd like but we'll manage somehow!

### CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

This has been an action-packed and joyful month for the Altadena Church.

Our joy runs deep with the engagement of Sis. Suzy Klotzle (Bro. Tom and Sis. Jody, Altadena) to Bro. Ben Dill (Bro. DeWayne, Sis. Larae, Minneapolis, MN). A June wedding is planned. It is so good to see how the Lord joins two souls

together in heartfelt love and forms Christian families. We rejoice with Sis. Suzy and Bro. Ben.

We enjoyed the gifts of visiting ministers this month, and praise God for their willingness to share the Word with us. Thank you to Bro. Doug Brewer (Sis. Janelle, San Diego, CA), Bro. Brent Kellenberger (Sis. Beth, Kansas City, MO) and Bro. Kent Mogler (Sis. Mary, Minneapolis, MN).

The San Diego Bible Class families visited Altadena for the weekend of October 20 and 21. They were able to share our annual fall Sunday School picnic with us on a beautifully warm Sunday after church. The fellowship was dear to all of us.

Prayers continue for our members who are suffering from health issues. We continue to keep Sis. Lydia Lira in our hearts during this difficult time and pray for better things to come. Bro. Clarence Graf remains in our prayers and in our thanksgiving as we receive reports of his improvements. Sis. Adela Chavez, Sis. Maria and Bros. Lazslo Cser all remain in our prayers with ongoing needs and we rejoice when they are able to join us for fellowship.

The weather has turned cold and we find that we shiver in the 65 to 70 degree temperatures. It is, however, good weather for those coming in from colder climates and we cherish visitors to our congregation. If you will be in the area, please call one of the ministers so that we can assist in facilitating your visit.

### CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

**Janelle Brewer**

During this Thanksgiving season and as Christmas approaches, it causes us to reflect on how much our Heavenly Father has given us.

We are truly a blessed people and have many reasons to be thankful.

*"O come, let us sing unto the Lord: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation. Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms. For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods." (Psalm 95:1-3)*

Visiting ministers this past month included Elder Bros. Mark Masters (Sis. Jeannine, Mansfield, OH) and Dave Graf (Sis. Barb, Akron, OH), and ministering Bro. Gary Brown (Sis. Jane, Forrest, IL). We appreciate them assembling with us. May the Lord continue to bless them with His Spirit to speak forth words of truth.

We warmly welcome Sis. Jenna Dotterer from Forrest, IL who has taken a step of faith and followed the Lord's leading to move to our area. We pray that she will feel at home quickly among our congregation!

If anyone is vacationing in the Palm Springs/Palm Desert area this winter please feel free to contact Bro. Doug & Sis. Janelle Brewer at [djbrewer2003@gmail.com](mailto:djbrewer2003@gmail.com) or (309) 256-9606 so that we can have an opportunity to fellowship together on Wednesday evening while you are staying in the area.

### CANADA, KITCHENER, ONTARIO

**Kim Leman**

*"Grace be to you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ." (Galatians 1:3)*

We were blessed by those who came to help with our church roofing project. It was a special blessing for us to all work together. The new roof looks so nice! Thank



you to all who travelled here to lend a helping hand! May God richly bless you.

Our visiting ministers this month were Bros. Brian Huber (Sis. Jacki, Francesville, IN), Dale Stoller (Sis. Sandra, Fairbury, IL), and John Hartman (Sis. Rosemary, Fairbury, IL). God bless you for serving us from His Word.

### **COLORADO, DENVER**

**Lily Zarkovacki**

A special thank you to Bro. Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathryn, Portland, OR) for preaching God's Word to us this month, along with Bro. Jeff Bahr (Sis. Janice, Kiowa, KS) for being here over Thanksgiving.

We would also like to extend a warm thank you to all our visitors who came and fellowshiped with us here in Denver over this past year, it was a wonderful blessing to us!

*"Jesus Loves me! this I know, For the Bible tells me so; Little ones to Him belong; They are weak, but He is strong." (Hymns of Zion #176)*

We rejoice with Bro. Dan and Sis. Tess Leman as they welcomed their first born, little Sophia Ann. Thankful grandparents are Elder Bro. Mike and Sis. Deb Leman and Bro. Jan and Sis. Val Gutwein.

### **CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE**

**Sheila Gerber**

**Lauren Gottier**

*"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9)*

We are thankful that Chelsea Bahler (Bro. Phil and Sis. Michelle) has begun her walk with the Lord

and came to Him in repentance. May the Lord be with her as she strives to follow His will and Word.

Annaliese Eleiott (Sis. Joanne and Rich) and Adam Falkowski were recently united in marriage. We wish them the Lord's nearness in their life together.

Bro. Dan and Sis. Dorothy Virkler are grandparents again. Audrey Elisabeth was born to Bro. Paul and Sis. Beth Wagenbach (Tremont, IL). She joins siblings Jesse, Olivia, and Sophie.

We extend our thoughts and prayers to Sis. Shirley Luginbuhl, Sis. Eloise Webb (dec. Bro. Clint Webb), and Sis. Verona (Bro. Sonny) as they are each recovering from various medical concerns.

### **DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, WASHINGTON**

**Henrietta Meyer**

Our caretakers for September were Bro. Norb and Sis. Mary Jane Schneider (Peoria, IL). We're thankful that our caretaker program continues to be successful. If you are interested in serving as caretakers for a month (minimum of 3 Sundays), please contact Sis. Doreen Steffen at (302) 540-6574 or [dkgsteffen@gmail.com](mailto:dkgsteffen@gmail.com). I just checked the calendar. 2013 looks almost full. We will soon start booking for 2014.

Our ministers this month were Bro. Jay Knapp (Sis. Lisa, Tucson, AZ), Bro. Mike Leman (Sis. Lisa, Portland, OR), Bro. Jeff Neihouser (Sis. Sue, Morton, IL), and Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA). Other visitors this month were from Bradford and Elgin, IL; Phoenix, AZ and Lamont-Gridley, KS. We have enjoyed having Jerry Han from Elgin, IL with us while on a work assignment in Virginia and hope so see him again in a few

months.

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](mailto: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**

### **FLORIDA, NORTH FT. MYERS**

**Victor Beer**

Funeral services were held at our church on Monday, November 26, for Sis. Carolyn Siegle. We are going to miss her very much for her wonderful sweetness and loving ways. Bros. Marvin Steffen and Bill Masters officiated as we counted a funeral service somewhat unusual at our church. Sis. Carolyn, for her age of 84, was really a delightful person and loved by everyone.

Our Wednesday evening church services have continued at the Elementary School on Cypress View Drive, just off Estero Parkway in Estero, FL. This is very near the property where our church is proposing to build when it moves south.

### **THE NEW BEGINNINGS**

Angelica and her children have moved to an apartment in Fort Myers since our last news article. Since that time, we have had two young mothers and their children move in. Amey moved in with her two young sons, Isaac age 5, and Kendall age 2. Amanda moved in with her 4 month-old daughter, Haley. Both girls have been busy getting registered and looking for daycare for their children when they start the spring semester.

Bro. Denny and Sis. Beth Mott and Hisato and Rika Inoue came

over to The New Beginnings to give us a helping hand with some yard work and apartment cleaning. We appreciate their encouragement and helping hands.

Some sisters from our Sarasota church met us at our North Fort Meyers church recently to make applesauce and learn all about apples from our dear Sis. Suellen Ott. We sure are enjoying the delicious applesauce we brought home.

Bro. Ray and Sis. Jeannie Haerr and their daughter, Heidi, blessed us once again with a delicious Sunday meal at our community center. We had some fun fellowship and games after the meal was over and the children enjoyed playing together under Sis. Jeannie's watchful eye.

We are still looking for mentors/helpers here at The New Beginnings. The requirements are to have a love for the Lord and have a soft heart and willingness to help those who have had some instability or unfortunate circumstances in their life. If you have an interest or questions, please visit our website: [the.newbeginnings.org](http://the.newbeginnings.org) or call Bro. Bill at (309) 824-3981.

### FLORIDA, SARASOTA

Kim Ott

*"And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof. And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it. And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there." (Revelation 21: 23-25)*

Our annual weekend trip to Lakewood Retreat was filled with spiritual fellowship and

encouragement for all ages. We appreciated having Bro. Mike Hohulin (Sis. Faye, Fort Lauderdale, FL) share with us in our Bible study topic of "Perspectives from Paradise". Bro. Mike so beautifully reminded us of how God created the world in His wondrous perfection and how He perceived it as "very good". Since the time of God's first creation we can see how sin has changed God's plan of a perfect world but we were also reminded that we, as believers in Jesus Christ and saved by his blood, will one day be able to spend time in the new paradise we know as heaven. We also enjoyed having Elder Bro. Tom Waldbeser, Sis. Sue and their family from Atlanta, GA join us for the weekend. We appreciated Bro. Tom sharing with us God's Word at our Sunday service. It is our hope that these dear brothers and their families receive many blessings for the time and effort they have shared with our Sarasota congregation.

Our hearts were blessed as we were able to share together in our fall time of Holy Communion. We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Brad Eisenmann (Sis. Cindy, Chicago, IL) assist our Elder Bro. Jeff Streitmatter, not only in this special remembrance of Jesus Christ's death and suffering for our salvation, but also to assist in the reading of the Memorandum on the following Sunday. Many prayers were offered up on behalf of these brothers as they shared in their service.

Our hearts are saddened as our dear friend, Bernie Kittl, has passed away. We were thankful that at the age of 105 he was given many years to enjoy on this earth. Bernie was preceded in death by his wife, Sis. Julia.

We want to extend a warm

welcome to all to attend our Sunday School Auction which will be held on Saturday, February 23, 2013. The silent auction will begin at 10:00 a.m. A chili lunch will follow from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. The general auction will be held from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. All proceeds will benefit our Sunday School students in their participation of church related activities as well as the service ministries they choose to support with their donations.

### GEORGIA, ATLANTA

### ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE

Doreen Moser  
Shayla Steffen

*Thank Ye the Lord!*

Thanks be to the Lord for the safe arrival of Cyrus Matthew Steffen who was born to Bro. Troy and Sis. Ellie Steffen. Bro. Dean and Sis. Carol Steffen from Belvidere and Bro. Doug & Sis. Peg Hoerr from Washington, IL are the delighted grandparents. We as a congregation are also delighted to have the sound of babies in church and the opportunity to help hold and love them.

*Give Thanks to the Lord,*

Giving thanks to the Lord should be an everyday occurrence. But THANKSGIVING DAY, set aside in our country, is a special day and one filled with many family gatherings. We have so much to be thankful for in our country and in our churches. *"All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made." (John 1:3)* Without the Lord, we can do nothing, yet pride rears its ugly head in all of our lives. Why?

*For he is Gracious,*

The Lord has again been gracious in sending us ministers of the gospel to spread the Lord's message of salvation. Bro. Dale Banwart (Congerville, IL); Bro. Chuck Kellenberger, Elder Bro. Dave Steffen, Retired Elder Bro. Nate Steffen (Elgin, IL); and their families were with us this month. The Elgin, IL and Congerville, IL church's spent a recent Sunday with us. This was a gracious gesture on their part. We appreciate the love they shared with us.

*His mercy it endureth evermore*

We met together with our Elgin brothers and sisters to listen to the memorandum. We are so thankful that the Lord's mercy endureth day after day as we walk along the pathway here on earth.

As many endure trials in life, we spent an afternoon quilting and baking for local charities. Many willing hands, loving hearts and the sweet fellowship made an afternoon and evening a blessing to all.

*"Thank ye the Lord  
Give Thanks to the Lord  
For he is Gracious  
His mercy it endureth evermore  
Endureth evermore, Endureth  
evermore" (Psalm of Praise,  
Hymns of Zion #245)*

**ILLINOIS, BLOOMINGTON-  
NORMAL**  
Shelley Steffen  
Gina Hodel

**ILLINOIS, BRADFORD**  
Sandi Joos  
Roseann Stahl

*"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." (James 1:17)*

We have received many gifts or blessings this past month as we do every month. One of those blessings was having the Fairbury, IL congregation for an all-church singing. Many of them also gathered with us for the day. Bro. Dale Stoller (Sis. Sandra, Fairbury, IL) along with Bro. Ed Fritz (Sis. Sally, Washington, IL) ministered to us that day. We were also enriched as we received the Word brought forth this month through the service of Bro. Ryan Hoerr (Sis. Joy, Princeville, IL) and Bro. Glen Steiner (Sis. Rachel, Winthrop, MN).

*"My son, attend unto my wisdom, and bow thine ear to my understanding;" (Proverbs 5:1)*

We rejoice and pray for Matthew Endress (Elder Bro. Bruce and Sis. Elizabeth Endress) as he has bowed his ear to the Lord's call and is seeking Him in repentance.

Another blessing this month was the birth of Leila Jane to Brock and Mindy Elsasser. She is welcomed by her siblings, Zach, Nick, and Henry, along with her grandparents, Bro. Jordan and Sis. Sharon Elsasser.

Bro. Bill Stahl (Sis. Kristal) has been called upon and is willing to serve us in Sunday School.

May we all "serve the Lord with gladness."

**ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN**  
Sarah Drake

October 27-28 was an encouraging weekend, as we were able to witness the testimony and baptism of Bro. Caleb Plattner (son of Bro. Darren and Sis. Sue Plattner). We heartily welcome Bro. Caleb as a member of our body of believers. We are thankful that Elder Bro. Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan, Taylor, MO) was here to assist over the

course of the weekend.

The annual memorandum was presented on October 21. We extend a note of thanks to Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Sis. Clara, Bloomfield, IA) for assisting with the presentation.

We appreciate all of our visiting ministers this month, additionally including Bro. Marshall Heinold (Sis. Jan, Ixtlán, MX), Bro. Willis Ehnle (Sis. Lois, Peoria, IL), Bro. Dan Koch (Sis. Julie, Tremont, IL), Bro. Randy Mogler (Sis. Evie, Washington, IL), Bro. Jeff Grimm (Sis. Ruth, Goodfield, IL), and Bro. Frank Sauder (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL). Visit anytime!

Our young group once again organized a fall party for the Sunday School students this year. The event was held at the home of Elder Bro. Wayne and Sis. Charlen Banwart. We appreciate their willingness to host. The fall party is a great opportunity for our young group, college students, Sunday School students, and others to connect and strengthen relationships. Thanks to everyone who contributed.

On November 7, our congregation boxed toys for Operation Christmas Child, the program in which shoeboxes are filled with goodies and sent to children in need. After filling shoeboxes, we enjoyed our monthly pizza supper and our regular Wednesday evening service. It was a busy Wednesday night and a blessed way to kick off the pre-Christmas season.

**ILLINOIS, CHICAGO**  
Rachel Meyer

Greetings from Chicago. We thank the following ministers for sharing God's Word with us: Bros. Chris Wuethrich (St. Louis, MO), Randy Mogler (Washington, IL), and Loren Shrenk (St. Louis, MO). May God be your reward.

Several in our congregation need our prayers on behalf of health issues. We continue to pray for our Retired Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann as his treatments progress. Bro. Charles Stoller was in the hospital for back surgery and is now recovering and our Bro. William Art is receiving treatment for extreme back pain. Our Sis. Christine Eckel's daughter, Janet Eckel, has been diagnosed with cancer and is receiving chemo. Each one of these needs is very real to each family and we know from experience the days can become long. May God meet each need while using us to be His hands and feet.

We thank our Bro. Virg Metzger for sharing a Topical Bible Study entitled, "Watchfulness." Thank you, Bro. Virg, for taking the time to study and minister on behalf of the church.

October 27 was the Sunday School Wiener Roast at the home of Bro. Jim and Sis. Kathy Schlatter. This tradition continues to be a delight to many and we thank all who worked to make it a success, especially those hosting.

November 11 was the wedding day for Sis. Alyssa Nuest and Bro. Dean Nelson. They were married in Latty, OH. We pray for continued blessings as they move forward in life.

Also on November 11, the engagement of Sis. Kaitlyn Isaia (Leo, IN, formerly Chicago/Roanoke) to Bro. Josh Ramsier of Sardis, OH, was announced. Sis. Kaitlyn's parents are Deanna Harrel and Bro. Richard Isaia. Bro. Josh's parents are Bro. Mark and Sis. Alice Ramsier (Sardis, OH). We rejoice with them and pray for God's guidance as they plan their future together.

Writing about these couples

brings to mind some quiet words of wisdom my dad shared with me when I was planning my wedding eighteen years ago. They impacted me strongly and I have subsequently shared them with other engaged couples. One day Dad gently said, "Don't forget, after the wedding, there's a marriage." That one sentence gave me much needed perspective. May God bless you all.

### ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

**Marilyn Maul**

**Tina Walder**

May God bless those who shared the Word of God with us recently. The labors of Bro. Calvin Schneider (Lacrosse, IN) and Bro. John Hartman (Fairbury, IL) were very much appreciated. We enjoyed all of the company who joined us for our fall invite-a-guest. We have a precious fellowship we often take for granted.

*"The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry." (Psalm 34:15)*

May God's healing hand be upon Sis. Judy Edelman, Sis. Kathy Stock, Bro. Les Walder, and Sis. Myrna Weerts who have been in the hospital recently. May God be their strength and source of healing.

### ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

**Rachel Currier**

*"And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity." (1 Cor. 13:13)*

We rejoice with those who have been united in marriage recently in our congregation. Bro. Jesse Knapp (Bro. James and Sis. Lisa) was joined in Holy Matrimony to Sis. Mary Virkler (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gayle) on October 21. Also, Clint McClure (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Marilyn)

was united in marriage to Michelle Owens (Chris Owens and Cathy Simmons) on November 10. We wish these couples God's nearness as they begin their lives together.

Our prayers remain with Elda Mae Craig as she has spent time in the hospital. We rejoice that she has felt the need of repentance and has recently turned to the Lord.

Our thoughts and prayers also go out to Bro. Daniel and Sis. Jessica Uphoff as their young son, Ezra, has spent time in the hospital. May the Lord provide for them during this time.

Sis. Mary Knapp has felt the loss of her father, Paul Zook. We wish her and her family God's presence in this time of sorrow.

We appreciate those who have willingly brought forth God's Word this past month. Visiting ministers include Bro. Duane Metzger (Sis. Ruth, West Bend, IA), Bro. Dale Frank (Sis. Tina, Oakville, IA), and Bro. Dale Stoller (Sis. Sandra, Fairbury, IL).

### ILLINOIS, ELGIN

**Amy Gasser**

We welcome Bro. Keith and Sis. Emily Schambach and their daughters, Kaleigh and Brielle, who recently moved back from Leo, IN.

We extend our sympathy to Nick Pilotte whose grandfather, Kenneth Pilotte, passed away. His funeral was on November 8 in Monticello, IN.

Our prayers have been with those who have been in the hospital. Three-year-old Tayden Sweet (John and Alison) recently suffered burns on both hands from a campfire accident, which required skin grafting. Sis. Jeannette Moser had back surgery and is now going through rehab.

Garrett and Nicole Johnson welcomed another son, Waylon

Ness, on November 7. His big brother is Adrian, and his grandparents are Bro. Daryle and Sonia Kellenberger and Richard and Kim Johnson.

Tim Hann (Jerry and Sis. Cindy) was married in Orlando, FL on October 25 to Elizabeth Hennessy. We wish them much happiness in their new life together.

### ILLINOIS, EUREKA

**Debra Blunier  
Linda Rocke**

We appreciate the visiting ministers who have shared God's Word with us. Bro. Duane Farney (Croghan-Naumburg, NY) assisted with reading the memorandum, a great encouragement for all. Special thanks as well to other visitors in the last month, including Bro. Paul Kilgus (Fairbury, IL) and Bro. Arlen Leman (Forrest, IL).

Our congratulations and prayers are with Sis. Ashley Shoufler and Bro. David Knecht, both of Eureka, as they felt led of the Spirit to announce their engagement. Parents are Bro. Ervin and Sis. Sandy Knecht of Eureka and Shawn Tracey of Dewitt, IA, and Herb Shoufler of Mason, OH. We wish them God's guidance and wisdom as they prepare their hearts for this journey together in life.

Our sympathies go out to Robert Fehr and his family on the death of their father, Bro. Leroy Fehr.

Also, our sympathies go out to Carl Rothgeb, son of Sis. Madelyn Rothgeb, on the recent death of his father, Thomas Rothgeb.

Sis. Bev Rocke had a knee surgery, but is recovering well.

### ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

**Angela Herr  
Kay Steffen**

We rejoice with Bro. Ben and Sis. Tessa Herr as they welcome another baby boy, Colton Daniel, arriving October 23. Tyson is happy for a new brother. Colton's grandparents are Bro. Terry and Sis. Debbie Nussbaum (Forrest, IL) and Sis. Cindy Herr.

Bro. Joel and Sis. Lanae Hartman welcome their first child, Kyle Douglas, born October 31. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Curt and Sis. Kathy Frank (Oakville, IA) and Bro. John and Sis. Rosemary Hartman.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Nancy Bachtold in the loss of her brother-in-law, Dick Zorn (Towanda, IL). May God grant each one comfort in their time of loss.

Visiting ministers serving our congregation this month were Bro. Ed Sauder (Roanoke, IL), Bro. Bruce Frank (Cissna Park, IL) and Bro. Dennis Rassi (Austin, TX). May God's blessings be with each one as they willingly bring forth God's Holy Word.

Our prayers are with Bro. Albert Steffen (Sis. Karen), Sis. Sally Fehr (Bro. Les), Sis. Donna Banwart (Bro. Dale), and Sis. Shirley Fehr (Bro. Warren) as they recover from recent surgery. Also, Sis. Helen Zimmerman and Cherie Kaisner (Robert) have spent time in the hospital. May the Lord heal and provide for each one according to His will.

### ILLINOIS, FORREST

**Lisa Aberle  
Lynn Dotterer**

*"To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and*

*a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted; A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance"*  
(Ecclesiastes 3:1-4)

We rejoice with Bro. Kraig, Sis. Carrie, Andrea, Kira, and Wyatt Edelman as they welcome Walker Lee into their family circle. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Ray and Sis. Shelly Steidinger and Bro. Levi and Sis. Donna Edelman. Kiara Lynn joined the family of Bro. Matthew, Sis. Kayla, Marissa, and Myla Schaffer. Her grandparents are Bro. Curt and Sis. Martha Kellenberger and Bro. Kevin and Sis. Martha Schaffer. Bro. Buck, Sis. Taunia, Samaria, Josiah, Isaiah, Nehemiah, and Judaea Henry are thankful for the safe arrival of Moriah Faith. Moriah's grandparents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Elaine Witzig and Reginald and Edith Henry.

Bro. Alex Dotterer (Bro. Dan and Sis. Kathy Banwart) and Sis. Carmen Edelman (Bro. Ken and Sis. Carol) exchanged wedding vows on October 21. May God bless this couple as they begin their lives together. We thank Bro. David Eisenmann (Champaign, IL) and Bro. John Hartman (Fairbury, IL) for being with us for the day.

Bros. Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL), Robert Beebe (South Bend, IN), Dennis Rassi (Austin, TX), Nelson Beer (Milford, IN), and Ron Kipfer (Bluffton, IN) also shared the Word with us this month. May God richly bless them for being willing servants.

We were so blessed to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of Bro. Brandon Edelman (Bro. Kent and Sis. Bethany), Bro. Royce Mueller (Bro. Ron, Jr. and Sis.

**"My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest."  
(Exodus 33:14)**

Vicki), Bro. Matthew Coffey and Sis. Annette Coffey (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Denise). We are thankful for each of them, and pray they will continue to look to God for guidance and direction. We thank Elder Bro. Tom Stock (Cissna Park, IL) and Bro. James Fehr (Tremont, IL) for being with us for the weekend.

We have again experienced great sorrow and loss this month with the death of Lucas Stork. Our hearts, thoughts, and prayers go out to his parents, Bro. Paul and Sis. Dawn; his brothers, Elijah, Jared (Jenna), and Isaiah (Brooke); and his sister, Sis. Tamra. We also extend our sympathy to Lucas's grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends. We pray God will comfort each of your hearts and grant you grace to get through each day.

*“Jesus knows thy sorrow, Knows thine every care; Knows thy deep contrition, Hears thy feeblest prayers; Do not fear to trust Him, Tell Him all thy grief; Cast on Him thy burden, He will bring relief. Jesus knows thy conflict, Hears thy burdened sigh; When thy heart is wounded, Hears thy plaintive cry; He thy soul will strengthen, Overcome thy fears; He will send thee comfort, Wipe away thy tears.” (Jesus Knows Thy Sorrow, Hymns of Zion #74, vs. 1, 3)*

### ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

**Melissa Rokey  
Kayla Wiegand**

Bro. Bill Hohulin (Sis. Lydia) shared a presentation on Sunday evening, October 28 at the fellowship hall called “Apostolic Christian Church - The Story”. It centered on the life of Samuel Froehlich and how this denomination came to America. We want to thank him for his willingness to serve our

congregation.

On November 10 and 11, we were blessed to welcome three dear souls into our brotherhood. They are: Bro. Ty Taufer (Bro. Ted and Sis. Kenda), Sis. Katie Wood (Doug and Lori) and Bro. Joe Brady (the late Kevin and Gail). We are so thankful for them and want to encourage them in the service of the Lord.

Our congregation continues to lift Bro. Alex Knepp (Sis. Cassie) as his father, Bro. Rich Knepp (Sis. Janet) from Roanoke, went to his heavenly home. May they feel our prayers and support during this difficult time.

Sis. BJ Hinrichsen was hospitalized this past month. We are thankful that she has arrived home.

We welcome Bro. Mike and Sis. LuAnn Knapp who have moved back to our area from Taylor, MO. May they feel God's love here.

We are so thankful how the Holy Spirit moved in the selection of an elder for our congregation. God was faithful and made it clear that He is with our congregation and feels that the timing is right. Our thoughts, prayers, love, and support are with Bro. Jeff and Sis. Ruth Grimm and their family as Bro. Jeff has been selected to lead our Goodfield congregation.

Visiting ministers were Elder Bros. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL), Mark Streitmatter (Sis. Sara, Bloomington-Normal, IL), and Ted Witzig, Sr. (Sis. Cindy, Morton, IL). We thank them for their willingness to serve our congregation.

### ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY Perry Klopfenstein

On September 22 (Thanksgiving) we had much for which to be thankful. Even as we deal with distresses, struggles, and illnesses, we can surely acknowledge that our lives are full of blessings, and

especially so in the realm of spiritual blessings which God can shower down on us if we seek Him with our whole heart.

Four souls were baptized on Sunday, November 18. New loved ones in faith are Bro. Brand Rushton and his wife, Sis. Missy; Bro. Adam Wherry and Sis. Maria Gonzalez. May God be with them, and keep them all in His tender care.

Evelyn Kaupp Wright, 71, of Susanville, CA passed away. She was a former Gridley resident. She leaves three siblings who attend our Gridley church: Bro. Marvin (Sis. Anette) and Bro. Johnny (Sis. Wava) Kaupp, and Sis. Carolyn (John) Yoder. Her parents (now deceased) were Bro. Walter and Sis. Esther Kaupp. We offer our sympathies to those relatives who remain.

We also offer sympathies to Bro. Joe Stuckel, who lost his grandmother.

The wedding engagement of Bro. Collin Steidinger to Sis. Katie Wenger was made known on November 18. Her parents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Renee Wenger of Forrest. He is the son of Bro. Ryan and Sis. Lori Steidinger of Gridley.

Bro. Stan Ringger had serious brain surgery on November 23. This was a second surgery, and we surely pray that the doctors can help him according to God's will. Several are dealing with health issues: Sis. Jane Steidinger, Sis. Mary Ringger, and Bro. John Kilgus. Bro. Bill Romersberger was hospitalized and is now home again.

Sis. Catherine Klopfenstein moved to a new assisted living facility at Mercy Creek in Normal, IL. Her room number is 203. Also, Bro. Ron Kinder is back home, after spending a period of time at a nursing home.

Visiting ministers were Bro. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS), Bro. Ron

Bollier (Indianapolis, IN), and Bro. Matt Feucht (Roanoke, IL).

*Note of Thanks:*

We want to thank each of you, including our friends and relatives in the surrounding churches. Your prayers, love and deeds of kindness shown to us after John's heart surgery and the passing of my mother, Sis. Mabel Bowald, were very much appreciated.  
Bro. John & Sis. Shirley Kilgus.

**ILLINOIS, MORTON**

**Annette Tanner**

**Julie Bahr**

God prospers us to be able to GIVE MORE, not to just live better!! This Christmas, be especially mindful of those around you. Give as God has prospered you!

We were encouraged and also challenged with the Word by the ministers who visited our Morton Church. We are thankful and appreciate each brother. Bro. Scott Schafer (Sis. Gigi, South Bend, IN), Elder Bro. Brad Eisenmann (Sis. Cindy, Chicago, IL), Bro. Keith Hinrichsen (Sis. Tammy, Phoenix, AZ), Bro. Ken Wuethrich (Sis. Lyn, Indianapolis, IN), Bro. Les Kaeb (Sis. Christine, Francesville, IN) Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Sis. Jeni, Bluffton, IN), and Elder Bro. Tim Funk (Sis. Debbie, Peoria, IL) who brought us our Wednesday Eve Family Worship Topic "Let your Yes Be Yes!" What a wonderful reminder to us that as the Holy Spirit lives within us, so should our conversation be true and trustworthy!

Congratulations to Bro. Jim and Sis. Kathy Ritthaler who are blessed first-time grandparents to baby boy, Crosby James, born on October 25 to Bro. Justin and Sis. Katie Herman (Peoria, IL).

*"Blest be the tie that binds our*

*hearts in Christian love!"* Into this bond of Jesus Christ, we welcomed five Believers. Sis. Mandy Heinold (Bro. Mike and Sis. Pam), Bro. Austin Braker (Bro. Brent and Sis. Becky), Sis. Karissa Neihouser (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Sue), Bro. Don Clark and Sis. Marilyn Clark. As one of the converts commented enthusiastically, "I'm good to go!" What a blessed assurance, when Jesus is mine!

Our Morton Church was so very privileged to host the Illinois ACYF singing and fellowship. "*The Fellowship of Kindred Minds is like to that above!*" The praises and worship to our God was a GREAT blessing to us.

Our deep love, sympathy and prayers go to Robert and Elizabeth Terrall Morgan in the loss of their infant son, Ray Karl Morgan. We share in this sorrow along with grandparents Ron and Sis. Lori Bieber and grandparents Bro. Karl and Sis. Elsa Schuon.

Our sympathy is also shared with our Sis. Bernice Rapp (Bro. Henry) and Waunita Hirstein in the loss of their brother Bro. Cleo Rinkenberger of Bloomfield, IA.

Our dear Sis. Ann Getz (Bro. Ken) experienced the death of her mother, Margaret Mowers, who passed from this life at the age of 102.

Our love and prayers are extended to the families of our dear aged Sis. Verna Gingrich, who passed on to her Heavenly reward. Verna is survived by many nieces and nephews. Sympathy also to the family of "Rosie" Gunther who passed leaving her husband, Dan Gunther.

**ILLINOIS, PEORIA**

**Pam Fritzenmeier**

Sunday, Oct. 28, we celebrated

the wedding of my daughter, Sis. Monica Fritzenmeier, (Mark and Sis. Pam) to Bro. Karl Kirsch (William and Martha). We praise God for their desire to honor Him in their marriage. Visiting ministers for this special day were Bro. Tom (Sis. LuAnn) Troxel, Lacrosse, IN, and Bro. Neil (Sis. Kris) Widmer, West Lafayette, IN.

Elder Bro. Paul (Sis. Jan) Messner, Winthrop, MN and Bro. Dave (Sis. Vicki) Zehr, Gridley, also brought to us the Gospel this month. Thank you to each one for your service.

We enjoyed the ministry of music at our family hymn sing November 4, when the Mortonaires and our pre-K, K, and 1<sup>st</sup> graders sang with and for us.

The annual Skylines Benefit was November 10 and we thank those who donated so generously to honor and care for our elderly.

Brand new, first-time grandparents, Chris and Sis. Marsha Stickling, rejoice at the birth of Eli Benjamin Sutter. His parents are Bro. Shane and Sis. Julia. Paternal grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Kris Sutter, all from Taylor, MO.

Please remember to pray for our local families and their ministries as they serve far from home. Bro. Jonathan and Sis. Bere Aupperle, Bro. Zach Knobloch, and Bro. Jason Grassi are in Magdalena, MX. Bro. Tim and Sis. Joan Reinhard and family, Sis. Janelle Grassi, and Sis. Kelsey Klopfenstein are in Haiti.

We have a number of loved ones suffering health issues and ask your prayers for: Sis. Lillian (Bro. Bob) Cagle, Sis. Michelle (Bob) Coburn, Sis. Maria Graham, Sis. Lucille Herman, Sis. Bernie (Bro. Ed) Meister, Gene (Rhoda) Hess, and Bro. Harry (Sis. Loretta) Eisenmann.

**ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE**

**Linda Joos  
Gloria White**

Visiting ministers are a special blessing of our faith. This month were Bro. Ken Schneider (Remington, IN), Bro. Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL), Elder Bro. Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA), Bro. James Fehr (Tremont, IL), Bro. Chuck Kellenberger (Elgin, IA), Elder Bro. Mark Streitmatter (Bloomington, IL), and Bro. Craig Stickling (Peoria, IL).

Sunday October 28 was the engagement of Bro. Andy Martin (Bro. Sam and Sis. Mary) to Sis. Michelle Mueller (Tremont, IL). Her parents are Walt and Peggy Mueller of Mansfield, OH. We wish them God's nearness as they enter into this busy time of preparation for their wedding.

It is always good to hear about the things that pertain to our everyday walk of life. Elder Bro. John Wiegand (Silverton, OR) assisted our Elder Bro. Jim Plattner in the reading of the memorandum. We are very thankful to them for their efforts of love.

Chuck and Linda Streitmatter are the happy grandparents of a baby girl, Kayla Rose, born to son Jake and Mary on September 30.

Those requiring hospital care this month were Bro. Vernon (Sis. Bernice) Stoller, Sis. Betty (Bro. Ray) Wagenbach, Sis. Jeanette (Bro. Dick) Graham and Harvey Stahl. We pray for God's healing hand on each one.

We would like to extend a warm welcome to Matt Longcor (Bro. Bill and Sis. Judy). Matt is attending our congregation and comes from Milford. We hope he feels welcome and at home.

*Note of thanks:*

I want to thank everyone for their

cards, prayers, food and love gifts during my recent double surgery. Only God can bless you for your love and kindness.

In His Love, Sis. Jeanette Graham

**ILLINOIS, ROANOKE**

**Jamie Hodel  
Barb Schwind**

*"For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His Name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6)*

How thankful we are this Christmas season for the King of Kings.

On October 19 and 20 an Open House, Hope for Haiti, was held at the Fellowship Hall.

Bro. James Fehr (Tremont, IL) was a visiting minister on October 21. We are thankful for his willingness to serve our congregation. Also with us this month was Bro. Mike Meece (Bloomington, IL) on October 26. Bro. Mike spoke at our Fellowship Hall about our church's practice of serving as Conscientious Objectors in the U.S. Armed Services. On October 28, Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington, IL) spoke on his Brotherhood Conference topic of "Christ's Message to the Church at Philadelphia." On November 11, Bro. Dan Beer (Milford, IN) shared The Word with us.

*"...but by love serve one another." (Galatians 5:13)*

On October 31, our young group hosted the annual Harvest Party for our youth. We are so thankful for their willing service to our congregation.

Boston Samuel Sauder was born to Samuel & Carrie of Peoria on October 31. Boston is welcomed

by older sister, Kennedi, and grandparents, Dennis & Rita Adkins of Peoria, and Bro. Tom & Sis. Mary Sauder.

Bro. Leroy Fehr (Eureka, IL) died on October 21. He was a brother-in-law to Bro. Harold (Sis. Edna) Roth.

*"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing." (2 Timothy 4: 7-8)*

Our congregation bid a tearful goodbye to Bro. Rich Knepp, who finished his earthly journey on November 1. His survivors include his wife, Sis. Janet; his sons: Bro. Marc (Sis. Stacie, Peoria), Adam (Jackie) of Roanoke, Bro. Alex (Sis. Cassie, Goodfield); his daughters: Sarah (Luke) Wiegand of Goodfield, and Sis. Hannah (Bro. Keith) Wettstein; seven grandchildren; his sisters: Rachel Bauer of Phoenix, Sis. Carol (Bro. Ray) Luginbuhl (Roanoke), and Marjean (Mark) Largent of Scottsdale, AZ; his brothers: Bro. Ken (Sis. Judy), Bro. Bob (Sis. Ann), Bro. Curt (Sis. Denise), all of Roanoke, and John (Jackie) Knepp of El Paso. Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield) had part of the funeral service, and Bro. Steve Baner (Gridley) had the prayer at the cemetery.

On November 11, the marriage engagement of Sis. Kaitlyn Isaia (Leo, IN) (Bro. Rich Isaia and Deanna Harrell) to Bro. Josh Ramsier (Bro. Mark & Sis. Alice, Sardis, OH) was made known. We rejoice with this couple and pray they will feel God's nearness as they plan their lives together.

On November 16, a presentation was held at the Fellowship Hall



about the Apostolic Christian Home for the Handicapped/Timber Ridge in Morton.

On November 18, our annual Thanksgiving singing was held at the Fellowship Hall.

### ILLINOIS, TREMONT

**Teresa Rowell**

**Janice Sauder**

Our church enjoyed the visit of Bro. Matt Steffen (Princeville, IL) on a recent Wednesday evening and Sunday. May God reward his labor of love.

We want to wish God's richest blessings on two young couples who have announced their engagements. Sis. Michelle Mueller and Bro. Andy Martin (Princeville, IL) are planning a January 27, 2013 wedding date. Her parents are Walter and Peggy Mueller (Mansfield, OH) and his parents are Bro. Sam and Sis. Mary Martin (Princeville, IL). Sheila Beutel (Bro. Dean and Sis. Karen Beutel) and Josh Graber (Ed and Sandy Graber, Morton, IL) are planning their wedding date on March 1, 2013.

*"Think of a land of no sorrow,  
Think of a land of no fears,  
Think of no death and no sickness,  
Think of a land of no tears."  
(Anonymous)*

Our thoughts of sympathy to the family of Bro. Walter (the late Sis. Vera) Aberle, as he has gone to his eternal rest. Surviving are two sons, Michael (Su) Aberle of Fall Creek, WI and David (Malinda) Aberle of Bloomington, IL; two daughters, Sis. Lynnette (Bro. Ron) Menold and Sis. Carol Aberle, both of Morton, IL; many grandchildren and great-grandchildren; a brother, Bro. Ernie (Sis. Frieda) Aberle, and a sister-in-law, Sis. Eunice Rowell, all from Tremont. We also extend sympathy

to our Bro. Gary (Sis. Kathy) Post, at the passing of his mother, Normadell Post of Morton, IL. May God be their comfort in this time of sorrow.

We are happy to report four new babies! Welcoming another grandson, are Bro. Elmon and Sis. Janice Koch with the birth of Gabriel James. His parents are Andy and Marie Williams (serving in the Dominican Republic) and big sisters are Hannah and Naomi. Bro. Paul and Sis. Beth Wagenbach have a third daughter, Audrey Elizabeth. Her siblings are Jesse, Olivia and Sophia, and Tremont grandparents are Bro. Ron and Sis. Liz Wagenbach. Bro. Doug and Sis. Cheri Frank welcome their first granddaughter, Lola Jade. She is the first child of Bro. Tim and Sis. Emily Schmidgall (Bloomington, IL). Bro. Curt and Sis. Kathy Rassi and Bro. Jerry and Sis. Marcia Kaiser welcome granddaughter, Anya Eden Rassi, to their family circles. Anya's parents are Mike and Carmen Rassi, with siblings: Kate, Lincoln and Creighton.

We are all praying for God's nearness to dear Sis. Eunice Rowell, and her family, as she endures illness at this time.

We also are happy to welcome Sis. Gwen Leuthold back to Tremont, after spending many years as a part of our Nashville, TN congregation. Hopefully you will soon be "at home" again here, Sis. Gwen!

### ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

**Marlene Prather**

**Jodi Fehr**

*"I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify Him with Thanksgiving." (Psalms 69:30)*

As we celebrate this season of Thanksgiving, may we always

remember from where all blessings come. And thank our Heavenly Father for all gifts. We enjoyed an all-church dinner on October 28, in honor of our dear ministers, whom we appreciate so much. It was a very blessed evening.

We want to thank the visiting ministers for this month. Bro. Marshall Heinold (Sis. Jan, Ixtlan, MX), Bro. Jim Meiss (Sis. Candy, Phoenix, AZ), and Bro. Willis Ehnle (Sis. Lois, Peoria, IL). May God richly bless them and their dear wives for sharing with us.

Our congregation welcomes another little one. Nate and Lynette Schick, Laura, and John, welcomed little, Timothy Edward to their home. May God richly bless their family. Joyful grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Sally Fritz and Bro. Tom and Sis. Carol Schick, all from Washington.

We continue to pray for those who battle health problems. They are Sis. Lucille Herman, Sis. Sue Ruppert, and Bro. Harold Meiss. May God continue to comfort them.

### INDIANA, BLUFFTON

**Kim Meyer**

**Suzie Fiechter**

*"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!" (Rom. 10:13-15)*

Our congregation has been blessed with the visits of Elder Bro. Ron (Sis. Pam) Messner (Washington, IL), Bro. Jaye (Sis.

Peg) Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL), Bro. John (Sis. Jill ) Bradle (Roanoke, IL), Bro. Jerry (Sis. Linda) Isch (Philadelphia, PA), Bro. Joe (Sis. Tara) Sprunger (Indianapolis, IN), Bro. Tim (Sis. Amber) Lehman (Taylor, MO), Bro. Tim (Sis. Gwen) Drayer (Bluffton North, IN), and Bro. Dale (Sis. Rachel) Zeltwanger (Morris North, MN). We thank them and their families for allowing the Lord to use them for our growth!

With the birth of each new baby, we recognize our responsibility to support their families and to remain true to the Lord, that they may someday come to know Him as Lord and Savior. Jaycee Ann Gerber became part of the family of Bro. Blare, Sis. Janel, Madison, Reid and Cole Gerber. Grandparents are Bro. Rex and Sis. Cheryl Gerber and Bro. Doug and Sis. Jill Fiechter. Bro. Lance, Sis. Sarah and Maeley Fiechter, along with grandparents, Bro. Rick and Sis. Beth Fiechter and Bro. Kevin and Sis. Shelly Reinhard, welcomed little Tessa Marie. Troy William Ringger was born to Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Sarah, McKayla and Lila. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Kendall and Sis. Sandy Ringger and Bro. Rich and Sis. LaNae Aberle of Atlanta, GA. Bro. Rodney and Sis. Heather Reimschisel are rejoicing with the birth of their first son, Barcia Lee. Bro. Todd and Sis. Lori Reimschisel and Bro. Steve and Sis. Tonia Price are Barcia's grandparents.

Our Bro. Bob (Sis. Jan) Sutter became ill while on a tour in Israel and required heart surgery. We pray for their safety as he is still recuperating before their return home. Our prayers also envelope Bro. Gary (Sis. Deb) Garmin and Sis. Emily Moser as they are hospitalized. We're happy to see

little Judah Pfister (Bro. Vince and Sis. Brandy) and Sis. Marilyn (Bro. Tom-dec.) Baumgartner back in church again. Henry Brickley (Jason and Ashley), infant grandson of John and Sis. Shelly Brickley, has been hospitalized several times already in his short life. Bryan Aschliman (Bro. Skip and Sis. Connie) is improving, yet remains in rehab.

Bro. Mike and Sis. Cheryl Gerber grieve the loss of their 16-year-old grandson, Jakob Gerber (Kip and Jill). We also extend our love and sympathy to Bro. Aaron and Sis. Katie Rush, Adam and Lucinda Rush as their grandfather, Jessie Osborn, passed into eternity. Little Abilene Marie Fiechter was stillborn, already "safe in the arms of Jesus". We pray that Bro. Mitch and Sis. Jenna, along with Abilene's grandparents, Bro. Tony and Sis. Peg Fiechter and Bro. Dave and Sis. Sharon Imel, can feel the comfort of the Holy Spirit, as well as our love and prayers.

We were thrilled to have Bro. Rich and Sis. Amber Pfister and their family home from Haiti for a short visit. Part of our hearts return with them, as well as with all our loved ones on the mission field. May they feel the power and grace of God!

One of the many blessings of a large church is that there is always an opportunity to serve. We've enjoyed fundraisers for Family/Adoption Ministries, Kingdom Academy, the High School Sunday School and the Sr. Class Mission Trip. World Relief Sewing is held every other Thursday, during the day and in the evening. Our middle school students have enjoyed ACTIVE on Wednesday evenings and our widows, widowers, and singles shared an evening of fellowship.

*"...the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever He will" (Daniel 4:25)*

As we reflect on the recent elections, our hearts are heavy for the condition of our country and the many lost souls that surround us. Yet we know that God is in control of every event and that our responsibilities have not changed. We are to continue to be salt and light, spreading His love and His message to our world.

### INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH Jessie Longenberger Amy Moser

*"Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." (Eph. 5:22)*

What if we woke up tomorrow with only what we thanked God for today?

Bro. Ron Messner (Sis. Pam) of Washington, IL visited the Bluffton congregation to share wisdom about The Faithful Church on October 21. Bro. Dale (Sis. Rachel) Zeltwanger of Morris North, MN also visited Bluffton North on November 7 for our midweek service. We thank them for taking the time to share with us.

Our Bluffton-North congregation was blessed to have held a reading of the Memorandum on November 4. We appreciate the time and care that was invested by our elders.

We mourn with Bro. Mitch and Sis. Jenna Fiechter. Their daughter, Abilene Marie, was born on November 8, but was already in the arms of Jesus. A private graveside service was held for the family. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with Mitch and Jenna, as well as their parents, Bro. Tony and Sis. Peg Fiechter as well as Bro. Dave and Sis. Sharon Imel.

We were blessed by the testimonies and baptisms of Taye Gerber, Dylan Markey and Matt Schwabach on the weekend of November 10 and 11. Bro. James Emch (Phoenix, AZ) was kind enough to join us and share God's Word. We pray for our new church members as they continue their journey with Christ.

### INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE

**Mildred Clauss**

**Jacki Huber**

*"By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name."* (Hebrews 13:15)

What a wonderful holiday Thanksgiving is! It reminds us that being thankful at all times is some of the best therapy! Isn't it like our compassionate and loving Lord to ask us to bring Him sacrifices of praise, knowing that it will ultimately bless us even more? We were blessed with many inspirational thoughts at our annual Thanksgiving Program which was held on Wednesday evening, November 14.

The Bible Class Students shared with us this past month, both by giving a presentation about a week they spent at His Ranch with many from the Taylor, MO congregation, and by serving us at their annual pancake breakfast.

We are thankful to have a precious little addition to our church family! Bro. Phil and Sis. Amber Leman gave birth to a little girl, Josie Claire, on November 6. Josie's brothers and sisters are Ethan, Camille, Brie and Tate. Her grandparents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Sandi Ward, and Bro. Doug and Sis. Margaret Leman. Also born on November 6 was Sophia Ann Leman, daughter of Bro. Dan and Sis. Tess (Gutwein)

Leman (Denver, CO). Sophia's Grandma, our Sis. Val Gutwein (Bro. Jan), was able to be with Dan, Tess and Sophia in Colorado before returning to Haiti to join her family there.

The Francesville congregation was blessed to host the 2012 Eastern World Relief Meeting on the weekend of November 10 and 11. There were many inspirational messages shared, and it was a blessed time of fellowship. May the Lord bless all who took part.

We rejoice with Sis. Elizabeth Rayburn (Bro. Jim and Sis. Barb) whose engagement was announced to Bro. Brett Gerber (Bro. Bob and Sis. Luann) of Wolcott, IN. Our prayer is that they will feel the Lord's nearness as they prepare for their marriage.

We extend our love and sympathy to Karen Albrecht in the death of her dear husband Jim, as well as to all of their families. We were thankful to hear of Jim's testimony of faith in the blood of Jesus, and pray for God's peace and nearness to Karen and all of the family.

It was a blessing to share Holy Communion with our dear brothers and sisters, and we were thankful to have Elder Bro. Herb Knochel (Sis. Laurie, Phoenix, AZ) here to share Communion with us on Saturday evening, as well as to share God's Word with us on Sunday.

### INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS

**Katy Frantz**

**Sandy Lichtle**

*"Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."*  
(1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

Sis. Ginny Zeller welcomed her newest grandson into the world on

November 1. Mark and Grace Zeller are thankful for a healthy Emmett Reid Zeller.

We hosted Indy Outreach on November 3 and 4. Many young people joined our church in serving those in need. We are thankful for Bro. Mark Gerber (Sis. Barb, Bluffton, IN) sharing with the young group on Saturday night.

It was refreshing to hear from Bro. Ed Bahler (Sis. Annette, West Lafayette, IN) and Bro. Fred Witzig (Sis. Nancy, Washington, IL) at our Church Vision Meeting on November 10.

After church on November 11, our church hosted a wedding reception for Bro. Sasha and Sis. Marija Mojic.

Bro. Ken and Sis. Lyn Wuethrich announced the birth of their newest grandchildren on November 14. We all rejoice with Seth and Jenny Wuethrich on the birth of their twins, Christian Steel and Aryann Ruth. The little boy and girl were born at 32 weeks and will be in the hospital for a few more weeks.

Our church celebrated our third Annual Thanksgiving Program on November 18. The tradition began during the transition between the old and new church building. We are grateful for the blessings of a church family.

Bro. Chuck Lehman led a Bible study in Titus on November 14.

Our church thanks Bro. John Lehman (Wolcott, IN) for visiting and preaching on November 4.

### INDIANA, LACROSSE

**Julie Rocke**

**Meagan Frank**

*"There is beauty all around, When there's love at home; There is joy in every sound, When there's love at home..."* (Hymns of Zion #64)

Bro. Dean and Sis. Alyssa (Nuest)

Nelson joined hand and heart on Sunday November 11 in Latty, OH. Their parents are Larry and Lori Nelson of Cedar Lake, IN and Bro. Lee and Sis. Paula Nuest (Latty, OH). Many of our congregation traveled to attend the wedding. We look forward to the addition of Sis. Alyssa to our congregation and are thankful for another young couple. May God richly bless them as they seek to serve Him together.

With thankful hearts, we heard that our convert, Brandon Wettstein (Bro. Mark & Sis. Karen) has found peace with God and man. What a joy it is to hear of another soul who has been converted and found salvation through Jesus' shed blood.

Retired Elder Bro. Ed Frank has recovered sufficiently to move to a local nursing home for rehabilitation following a recent illness.

Ministering Bro. Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi, Alto, MI) and his family joined us for a Sunday this month. We so appreciated his service on our behalf. May each brother who gives of his time and talent to minister God's Word in truth be richly blessed.

Bro. Bill & Sis. Jo Frank rejoice in a new granddaughter, Addison Joy Frank, born November 8 to Bro. Lucas & Sis. Crystal Frank (Detroit, MI). Addison is welcomed home by Logan, Kaleigh and Carson.

### **INDIANA, LEO Kirby Reutter**

This month, let us begin with another note of appreciation:

Dear Gateway Staff: It is with mixed emotions that I share with you God's leading in my life over the past few months to move on from Gateway Woods and become a Development Officer for Lifesong for Orphans. I cannot put into

words how much Gateway Woods has impacted my life and I've had so many good memories during my past 7.5 years here. I greatly value the friendships that have been established and grown during this time. It is hard to leave an organization that you care deeply about, but it is exciting to see God present a new opportunity to serve and bring glory to His name! We plan to move out to Illinois and attend the Bloomington Apostolic Church. My last day here will be sometime around Christmas. I start with Lifesong on January 2, 2013. We appreciate your prayers during this time of transition for our family. Thank you to each of you for all the work you do here for troubled children and families in need. May God be glorified! In Christ, Bro. Andrew Gerber

In addition to "losing" Bro. Andrew and Sis. Natalie and their three precious children, we also recently "lost" Bro. Keith and Sis. Emily Schambach and their two beautiful daughters, who have relocated back to Keith's hometown in Elgin, IL. Keith and Emily spent time in Magdalena, MX, and were instrumental in helping to establish a Spanish Bible Study here in Leo. Since Keith was our only Spanish-speaking song leader, his departure has been especially painful for the rest of us who can barely sing in English. However, Keith has assured us that the work will continue in his new locale, since there are several beloved Spanish-speaking believers in the Elgin flock!

On a positive note, Sis. Kaitlyn Isaia has perpetuated the trend of single Gateway sisters who become married Gateway sisters. Kaitlyn wears many hats here at Gateway. Her office is located at the Gateway School, and yet on any

given day, she works for Adoptions, Residential Counseling, and Home-Based Services. Apparently, Kaitlyn will soon have yet another hat to don! Kaitlyn recently made the following announcement/prayer request. (She actually included many more exclamation points with various emoticons, which were excluded from this transcript.)

Dear Gateway Staff: I think most of you know this, but just wanted to make sure. I was announced to be engaged this past Sunday! I am engaged to marry a Christ-follower and Spirit-led man of God from Sardis, OH. His name is Bro. Josh Ramsier. We are planning to make Leo our home church after getting married in Roanoke, IL on March 3, 2013 (yes, mark your calendars). Please join us in prayer for our relationship, as we grow two different personalities, families, churches, and more (although our faith and desires for the Lord and His will is so evident and encouraging and a common place to hold fast to). In Christ, Sis. Kaitlyn Isaia

Once again, I am probably overdue in reporting the typical backlog of deeply appreciated ministers who come to visit us in Leo. According to a recent record review, the following dear brothers have served on the Leo pulpit in recent weeks: Bro. Brian Huber, Bro. Walt Rager, Bro. Howard Platner, Bro. John Jackson, Bro. Bill Waibel, and Bro. James Fehr.

Since the Bible speaks of double honor, and specifically with regard to elders, hopefully it is appropriate to take a separate line (or two) to mention the blessing of hosting our dear neighboring Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter, who crossed the state line to share and serve Holy Communion with us here in Leo.

Just as a side note, we welcome all of you dear Ohio brothers to make the same trip! (Since I cross the state line daily, I can personally attest that there is no border control.) Bro. Bill especially reminded us to “be of the same mind in the Lord” (not like Euodias and Syntyche).

Here in Leo, we celebrate Thanksgiving, Communion, and Christmas in close succession. Thus, it becomes difficult to focus on a single theme, since all three remembrances are so interrelated. Throughout this time of year, the one verse that keeps pounding through my head is 1 Timothy 1:15. This verse seems to encapsulate well the overarching theme of thankfulness for a Savior who was born to die—for our sins:

*“This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.” (1 Tim 1:15)*

### INDIANA, MILFORD

**Janie Price  
Paula Haab**

Thanksgiving Day on the calendar has past. The Bible tells us to be thankful everyday. We can always be thankful because God’s tender love and mercies are new every morning, even in trouble and sorrow. Now the Christmas season is full of decorations, parties and shopping. Oh, that we’d all remember the real reason to celebrate is that Jesus came as a baby, to grow, die and shed His blood as Christ our Saviour.

The last weekend in Oct., Elder Bros. Richard Plattner (Fairbury, IL), Bro. Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN) and Bro. Dan Kilgus (Remington, IN) came to support our Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter in visiting with some of us and sharing the memorandum with our congregation. Bro. Bill

(Sis. Emily) and Bro. Dan were able to spend Sunday with us and take their place on the pulpit. Another Sunday, Bro. Warren & Sis. Cindy Schlatter and family (Junction, OH) came to be with family. Bro. Warren willingly spoke the Living Word. We enjoy and appreciate those who will take the time to come speak and fellowship with us.

Bro. Gary Sinn (Sis Paulette, Latty, OH) along with many relatives came to celebrate the 50th wedding anniversary of Bro. Ray and Sis. Paula Haab. We give God the glory for the joy and love their walk of life together has spread to others. We too want to thank and support our home ministers. May God richly bless all these brothers willing to be used to spread the gospel.

Needing medical treatment and short hospital stays this month were Juan (Maris) Nunez and Jared Beer (Bro. Marc & Sis. Jodi). Hopefully they felt our prayers and thankfully God has restored them.

Our recent Bible Study was on deception, which is running rampant in the world today. We discussed and were warned of the ways we can be deceived and how not to deceive others.

The Latty, OH Bible Class chose our area for a weekend away and spent Sunday in Milford renewing old friendships and making new ones. We pray that they received a blessing in being here as we were blest by them coming and thank them.

We are always excited to welcome a new baby to our church family. Keaton David was born on November 9 to Bro. Troy & Sis. Briana Wuthrich. Kylin and Braden are helping to care for their new brother. Grandparents are Bro. Stan & Sis. Linda Wuthrich (Milford, IN) and Bro. Brian & Sis. Lorene

Furrer (W. Lafayette, IN). May God bless and guide all parents and grandparents as we care for our little ones.

### INDIANA, REMINGTON

**Jenni Honegger  
Marcella Tyler**

*“And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.” ( Luke 15:20)*

Each of us who has repented knows the same thankfulness the prodigal son knew – when we turn to our Father in repentance, He runs to meet us in compassion and draws us to walk the rest of the way with Him! We are thankful and excited to announce two new converts this month: Erika Schneider (Bro. Greg and Sis. Heidi) and Rachel Walder (Bro. John and Sis. Lisa). We pray they too will feel the Lord’s nearness as they learn to walk with Him.

Bro. Andy and Sis. Mary Zickmund would like to thank everyone for the cards and best wishes on their recent 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

We would also like to thank our visiting ministers this month: Bro. Jeff Wiegand (Sis. Janel) of Goodfield and Elder Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Sis. Nancy) of Forrest. Bro. Jeff gave a topical Bible presentation on the topic of “Charity” and Elder Bro. Marvin was with us to read the Memorandum. We are thankful to both for their efforts.

### INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

**Joshua Martinez**

*“He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds.” (Psalm 147:3)*

We are thankful for Bro. Marty (Sis. Lavilla) Langhofer's continued recuperation after his recent heart procedure. Bro. Marty was able to return home from the hospital after an overnight stay and worship with us at church that same Sunday.

We continue to pray for Bro. Robert (Sis. Sue) Beebe's work on behalf of the ministry at Hospital Lumiere, Haiti. We are thankful for the success of the benefit auction recently held at Washington, IL.

We appreciated Bro. Walt Rager's (Sis. Sharon, Toledo, OH) service from the pulpit. May the Lord bless him and all the loved ones who fellowshiped with our church family this month. May we all have a happy season of thanksgiving for our Heavenly Father's numerous blessings and his "Unspeakable Gift."

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

### INDIANA, VALPARAISO Marguerite Hoerr

We were so happy to hear of the engagement of Bro. Jonathan Pratt of our congregation and Sis. Sharon Gerst of the Iowa City congregation. Parents of the bride are Ministering Bro. Joe and Sis. Connie Gerst of Iowa City, IA. Jonathan's parents are Joseph and Jane Pratt of Lansing, MI. They plan to be married January 20, in Iowa City and their home will be in Hebron, IN. We offer our congratulations to them and want to express our love in welcoming them to their church home in Valparaiso, IN. May God bless their plans for the future. We know they will bless our little Valpo church. Jon has blest us with his presence ever since he

first walked in our doors. Now we will be doubly blest!

Ministering Bro. Joe shared the pulpit with our minister Bro. Mike Thomas during their visit. His sermon fed our souls and made us hopeful for many more visits from Sharon's parents after she and Jon are married.

Plans are underway for our Christmas program. As we look forward to that event, we have a warm feeling in our hearts as we think of the Babe that God sent here to earth to live among us. He grew to manhood and taught us the way to Salvation. Those of us who believe in Him as our Savior are thankful each day of our lives. At Christmas time, when we celebrate His birth, it emphasizes the importance of that little Babe coming to earth for the welfare of all mankind.

As we live in a town nearly 40 miles north of Valpo, I'm asked many times why we drive so far to church. My answer usually is that it's the same denomination I've attended since I was a child, and that the love displayed among the people who attend here is beyond description. I wish I had counted the many times we've had phone calls and notes, making sure we didn't miss anyone who is ill or injured, or about visitors or future planned meetings. The other night two couples came with a big pot of soup, salad and a desert to share with us, just because we haven't had a chance to visit lately, with our elbows on the table. How can we measure such love? We can't but we thank God for each of these displays of kindness. How can a church like this not touch our hearts and feed our souls? We ask for God's blessings to the hearts of the people who reach out to us in these ways.

Those of us in Valpo church send our love and wishes for a beautiful and Holy Christmas season to all of you in our churches. We feel a tight bond with you, even though we don't know all of you personally. We extend an invitation to all of you to visit our Valpo church which is located just 2¾ miles south of US 30 on IN 49. You will be most welcome.

### INDIANA, WEST LAFAYETTE

**Ben Stoller  
Katie Widmer**

We extend a heartily heartfelt welcome to Bro. Paul and Sis. Wilma Clauss as they have moved to the area. We recognize that it is a well-practiced tradition for Francesville couples to go south for the winter. However, we are thankful that they stopped far north of the Mason-Dixon line.

It brings us great joy to announce that Rick and Carla Bowerman have found peace and look forward to baptism in the coming months.

We've been blessed in the past two months with many visiting ministers: Bro. Troy and Sis. Kelly Leyse, Bro. Mark and Sis. Karen Wettstein, Bro. Ron and Sis. Edie Bollier, and Bro. Jeff and Sis. Heidi Bahler.

Along with our many other blessings, we also pause to give thanks for the health of little Gabriel Caden, son of Amy Schieler, who was in the NICU for a few weeks. Our first-time grandparents Bro. Duane and Sis. Suzanne Schieler are beaming!

We also rejoice with Bro. John and Sis. Brooke Widmer as their little Judah is full of life and recovering well from surgery. I'm sure the nurses loved having him in the hospital, but we love having him home!

To add to the plethora of

cornucopias, corn pudding, and oyster stuffing, we will also leave you with a flavor that you will not soon forget:

*At this spell of year,  
We take time to be thankful.  
The overwhelmingness of God's  
blessings, to our eyes may bring a  
tear.  
It would take many a year  
To count the blessings bestowed upon  
all of us, far and near.  
We trust this finds you well,  
Rejoicing in His goodness today.  
As we wish you a happy thanksgiving  
and farewell.*

### INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Sasha Kyburz  
Donita Edelman

### IOWA, AMES Jacob Schulz

We had a visiting minister one Wednesday night this month. We would like to thank Bro. John Rowell (Sis. Nelda, Burlington, IA) for bringing forth the Word. May God bless him for his willing service.

### IOWA, BLOOMFIELD Teresa Schock

Bro. Cleo Rinkenberger, 93, who ministered here for 29 years, has gone to his eternal rest and reward. Bro. Cleo and Sis. Esther lived at Skyline in Peoria since 2008, but it was always his wish to be buried here in Iowa. He is survived by his wife, Sis. Esther; two sons, Ronald (Janice) Rinkenberger of Ottuma, Kenneth (Jill) Rinkenberger of Marion; five daughters, Sis. Nancy (Bro. Roger), Musselman of Hopedale, IL, Sis. Carol (Bro. Dale) Strassheim of Bloomington, IL, Sonia (Mike) Oberman of Mediapolis, Janice (Patrick) Bailey of Norway, Marsha (Terry) Willhoit

of Batavia; 26 grandchildren; 53 great-grandchildren; two sisters, Waunita (Samuel) Hirstein, and Bernice (Henry) Rapp; and two brothers, Edward and Glenn Rinkenberger.

Ministering Bro. Brad Funk (Sis. Laura, Garden Grove) was here for the funeral.

Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gerty Esslinger are happy to announce the births of two granddaughters. On October 30, Taegan Rae was born to Phil and Anna Sceggel and "big" sister, Braelyn Jo, of East Peoria, IL. Phil's parents are Bro. Mark and Sis. Judy of Peoria, IL. Then on Nov. 9, Norah Ann was born to Anthony and Sarah Esslinger of Morton, IL. Sarah's parents are Bob and Edra Kuntz of Mediapolis.

Spending time in the hospital were Bro. Don Frank, Sis. Lynn (Danny) Townsend and Sis. Sara Teubel. May we remember them in our prayers.

*"Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God." (Romans 13:1)*

Our country has again chosen leaders. We pray that they all would look to God's Word for true wisdom.

### IOWA, BURLINGTON Marilyn Anderson Monica Eisenmann

*"Our love shall not diminish  
Nor fade nor wane away;  
Bind us till life we finish  
And in the grave we lay."  
(Zion's Harp #137)*

Many from our congregation traveled to Lester, IA on November 11 to attend the wedding of Bro. Blake Wulf and Sis. Josie Knobloch. May God be with them as they begin their life together.

We were blessed with many visitors the past month, among them ministering Bro. Dale Frank (Oakville, IA).

### IOWA, ELGIN Maria Rocke

Bro. Lon & Sis. Sandy Butikofer are thankful to welcome another granddaughter, Aleya Rose Gerst into their family. She was born October 23 and is the daughter of Bro. Tim & Sis. Melisa Gerst (Iowa City, IA). Her siblings are Anelyse, Joseph, Jenna, Anthony and Jared. Bro. Charles Schneider is home following surgery. We wish him God's healing hand as he recovers.

### IOWA, GARDEN GROVE Laura Funk

Sharing God's word with our congregation this month were Bro. Kim Sutter (Taylor, MO), Bro. Jeff Grimm (Goodfield, IL) and Bro. Trent Meiss (Eureka, IL). Several visitors accompanied these brothers. One sister mentioned that in our faith we greet each other with the Holy Kiss before we even know each other's name!

*"But I prize the friendship highest  
Of the one whose heart is true,  
Friends who live by truth and  
goodness  
And who live in Him anew,  
Friends whose hearts are up in  
heaven  
Though their feet traverse this sod.  
Find a place of highest merit  
In our fellowship with God."  
(Christian Friendship,  
Hymns of Zion #91 vs. 2)*

Also visiting our congregation this month was the Goodfield Choir. A beautiful weekend of fellowship, worshipping and praising the Lord. I have no words to describe the many

blessings our congregation received during the planning, preparation and laboring during this weekend. Praise and thanks be to God.

*“There’s a tie of noble kinship  
In a soul who loves the Lord,  
There’s a friendship warm and lasting  
If he heeds the Master’s Word,  
There is mutual understanding  
And a sympathy so kind  
In the tie of christian friendship,  
As on earth we oft-times find”  
(Verse 3)*

Graceon Newton, three-year-old granddaughter of Sis. Willa Clark, fell off a trampoline and broke her leg. We pray a speedy recovery. Joel Funk, son of Bro. Brad and Sis. Laura, suffered a brain concussion while playing football. Joel has recovered after many weeks of brain rest. We are very thankful for Joel’s recovery.

Just sitting here typing these few lines and mentioning these activities, we have many, many reasons for thankfulness every day, not just Thanksgiving Day.

### **IOWA, IOWA CITY** **Diana Butikofer**

Bro. Tim and Sis. Melisa Gerst were blessed with the healthy arrival of Aleyna Rose on October 23. Siblings Anelyse, Joseph, Jenna, Anthony and Jared were happy to welcome Aleyna into the family, as were grandparents Bro. Joe and Sis. Connie Gerst and Bro. Lon and Sis. Sandy Butikofer (Elgin, IA). May the Lord bless Tim and Melisa as they raise their children to know and serve Him.

We appreciate the visits of Bro. Bruce and Sis. Bonita Frank (Cissna Park, IL) and Elder Bro. Jon and Sis. Julie Schmidgall (Oakville, IA) this month. We trust the Lord will bless these brothers for preaching His

Word to us.

On October 28, the engagement announcement of Sis. Sharon Gerst (Bro. Joe and Sis. Connie) to Bro. John Pratt (Joe and Jane Pratt, Lansing, MI) of Valparaiso, IN was shared with us. We pray the Lord will guide and bless them as they plan for their wedding day and their life together.

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

*“I am Jesus little lamb. Happy all day long I am. He will keep me safe I know, For I’m His little lamb.”(Children’s Harp #15)*

Our church has been blessed with two precious babies. Bro. Morris and Sis. Tonya Metzger welcomed a son, Cullen Michael, on November 6. Bro. Glen and Sis. Joyce Metzger are the thankful grandparents. Elizabeth Rose was born on November 13 to Michael and Ashley Leuthold. Bro. Bob and Sis. Cindy Leuthold are excited for a sweet granddaughter.

The weekend of October 20 and 21 we heard the proving and witnessed the baptism of our Bro. Perry Mogler (Jessica). We are so thankful and warmly welcome this dear lamb into the fold. Elder Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO), Bro. Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN), Bro. Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN), Bro. Dale Zeltwanger (Morris North, MN) and retired Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton, IL) were with us. We offer our thanksgiving to God for their labors of love.

Our hospital patients this past month were Bro. Donn Moser (Sis. Joyce), Bro. Perry Mogler (Jessica), Sis. Marie Knobloch (Bro. Ezra), Deanna Leuthold (Brian), Ed

Martin (Judy) and Sis. Gail Hartter (Bro. Jerome). May they feel God’s hand of strength and comfort upon them.

November 11 was the wedding day of Sis. Josie Knobloch (Bro. Dan and Sis. ReJean) and Bro. Blake Wulf (Bro. Leroy and Sis. Carolyn, Burlington, IA). May God always be the head of their home. Sis. Josie will be missed, but we trust she will be warmly welcomed by the Burlington church. Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA), Bro. Phil Schulz (Burlington, IA) and Bro. Mark Schmidgall (Oakville, IA) shared the Gospel message.

*“But speak those things which become sound doctrine.”(Titus 2:1)*

The memorandum was shared with our church on November 17. Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA) was here to assist our Elder Bro. Rod with this work. It was a weekend of encouragement and chastisement to continue in love and strengthen the things which remain.

Our love and sympathy are extended to Bro. Gus and Sis. Florence Knobloch in the passing of his sister, Sis. Louise Anliker from West Bend, IA. We also remember Sis. Amelia Roemen as she grieves the loss of her son-in-law, Frank Tullar.

### **IOWA, OAKVILLE** **Sharla Wiegand**

We welcomed two precious baby boys this month. Peyton Edward joined the family of Bro. Dan and Sis. Autumn, Alayna and Kendyn Lanz on October 29. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Janet Lanz and Bro. Dennis and Sis. Judy Fehr (West Bend, IA).

On November 10, Brayton Ken was welcomed to the family of



Bro. Kyle and Sis. Deanna, Callie and Koyton Wagenbach. Brayton's grandparents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Bonnie Wagenbach, Jr. and Bro. Ken and Sis. Janet Lanz.

Our visiting ministers were Bro. Nathan Walder (Cissna Park IL) and Bro. Michael Wagenbach (Wolcott IN). May God bless them for their service.

*Note of Thanks:*

The family of Tanner Wettstein would like to say thank you for all the love, support and prayers shown during Tanner's short life, and especially in his passing. Words cannot express the thankfulness held in our hearts for you and the knowledge that Tanner is with his Daddy and safe in the arms of Jesus.

**IOWA, WEST BEND**

**Janet Fehr**

**Leona Fehr**

Our dear Sister in the Lord, Louise (Pearl) Anliker, passed from this life to eternity on October 28. We extend sympathy to the family left behind, her daughter, Sis. Julie and Bro. Pat Zaugg, six grandchildren, and brother Bro. August (Sis. Florence) Knobloch Jr. We witnessed a faithful widow for many years by her attendance at church, her smile, and her helpfulness.

Bro. Larry (Sis. Marvella) Wickman was our only surgical patient this month. Our prayer of healing go out to him.

We were blessed to have Bro. John and Sis. Carol Steiner here from Oakville on November 4. His help on the pulpit ministering the Word to us was appreciated.

Christmas is fast approaching and may we remember the reason for the season:

*"And she shall bring forth a son, and*

*thou shalt call his name JESUS: for He shall save his people from their sins." (Matthew 1:21)*

**JAPAN, SHIODA**

**Carrie Ito**

**JAPAN, TOKYO**

**Manuela Denes**

**Marie Inoue**

This month reminds us to be especially thankful for our many blessings. It was even mentioned at the August Brotherhood Conference that every time we drive up to our home we should have a thankful heart.

Our special visitors this month were our Elder Bro. Mark Bahr and his dear wife, Sis. Bev. They leave their home and endure time change, and many hours and miles to minister and counsel us. Along with Sunday services, we enjoyed their presence at our Fall Fellowship Meeting on a Saturday in October at a park near Hachioji. Bro. Mark had the morning message and later each one was asked to give a favorite Bible verse and why it was precious to them.

Other special visitors were Bro. Dennis and Sis Beth Mott (Morton IL) who are traveling in Asia this month. Our brother helped out in our afternoon services and gave us a lesson on Philemon. He compared Paul's intercession for Onesimus with Christ's intercession on our behalf before God's throne. We are not worthy, but somehow by believing in the shed blood of our Saviour, we can be worthy of acceptance of our Lord. Bro. Dennis was not raised in our faith nor attended any Sunday School. He told how he came to the Morton church and noticed when his friends repented what a change they made. He felt convicted and wanted this

change also in his life. He was shown much love by the local brethren there, and we praise God for their strong witness for him.

As we enter into the holy season of Christmas, may we call to remembrance the love of God and how He sent His Son to earth that we might know the "more excellent way."

**KANSAS, BERN**

**Sheri Edelman**

**Rita Menold**

We thank ministering Bro. Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL) and Bro. Wayne Hartzler (Rittman, OH) and their families for worshipping with us!

We are thankful to report that Bro. Joe Rokey has returned home after spending several weeks at the Kansas Rehab Hospital recovering from a stroke. We know Bro. Joe and Sis. Kathy will continue to need our prayers as they continue to travel the road to recovery.

Mike Goodman (Sis. Luci) underwent back surgery and we pray for God's healing hand as he recovers.

We rejoice with Travis Rokey (Bro. Todd and Sis. Sheila) who has answered the call of repentance! Our prayers are with Travis as he makes this most important step in his life.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Waymer Esslinger, at the sudden passing of his daughter-in-law, Karen Esslinger.

As we celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday, I recently read a quote that said, "What if all we had today, is what we were thankful for yesterday." It really made me stop and think. We often thank God for and pray for the big things in life, but do we take for granted all the little things we have in life?

**KANSAS, FORT SCOTT****Teresa Bahr**

We thank and appreciate Bro. Wes Moser (Sis. Esther, Lester, IA) who was our visiting minister.

Our church has finished listening to the taped recording of the 2012 Elder General Conference.

The Sunday School students and teachers met at the home of Bro. Trent and Sis. Kristi Banwart to fill shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child Samaritans Purse. They filled 30 boxes with toiletries and toys that will be sent to under-privileged children.

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

*"Thank ye the Lord! Give thanks to the Lord, for He is gracious, His mercy endureth evermore. Endureth evermore, endureth evermore!"*  
(Hymns of Zion #245)

Count your blessings! The song in the Hymns of Zion reminds us of our many blessings and to always be thankful even in times of discouragement or trials. You will be surprised at what the Lord has done for you!

Our dear sister, Sis. Mildred Frieden was in the hospital with a broken hip. She is recovering nicely and our many prayers are with her to continue to heal.

Also, our dear Sisters Courtney Schupbach and Donna Piper were surgery patients this month. Our prayers are with all of them for God's healing mercies.

What a wonderful time of the year to rejoice in the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

*"And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly*

*host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will to men."*  
(Luke 2:13-14)

**KANSAS, LAMONT-GRIDLEY****Sarah Somerhalder**

Our thoughts and prayers are with our hospital patients this month. Bro. Lloyd Luthi (the late Joann) fell and broke his hip. He had surgery and is at present in the rest home. Bro. Michael Luthi (Elder Bro. Jay and Sis. Jane) had a car accident, underwent surgery, and is now recovering nicely.

Our church assembled together Wednesday evening to hear the reading of the Memorandum. Our thanks to Elder Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen, Kansas City, MO) who was with us for this service.

**KANSAS, SABETHA****Dawn Strahm****Sally Strahm**

*"And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven."*  
(Matthew 18:3)

We were thankful to witness the proving and baptism of our convert, LaVon Wenger (Sis. Erma). May God be with Bro. LaVon.

We are thankful that Lydia Meeks (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Christy) has answered the call of God and is repenting. May God be with her as she begins her walk with Him.

Our thoughts and prayers go to our Bro. Martin Beyer (Sis. Karen) as he had a hand injury, Bro. Frank and Sis. Ruth Hertz and Mitch Edelman (Bro. Steven and Sis. Kelly) who spent a little time in the hospital. May God be with each one

of them.

Bro. Tim and Sis. Charleen Hartter are thankful to be grandparents again. Bro. Corbin and Sis. Heidi Anliker of Forrest, IL had a baby girl named Breanne Grace. Ashlyn and Alea are thankful to have another sister to play with.

Bro. Steven and Sis. Kelly Edelman are thankful for their baby boy, Mitch Eugene. Mitch is welcomed by his siblings: Maddie, Ethan, Annie, Alpha, Emily and Maggie. His grandparents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Ilene Hartter and Eugene and Judy Edelman of Sabetha. May God bless this family circle.

Our visiting ministers this past month were Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern, KS), Bro. John Baumgartner (Sis. Lori, Bern, KS), Elder Bro. Wayne Grimm (Sis. Rose, West Bend, IA), Bro. Dale Wulf (Sis. Becky, Lester, IA), Bro. Dale Zeltwanger (Sis. Rachel, Morris North, MN), Bro. Galen Rokey (Sis. Nancy, Bern, KS) and Bro. Kurt Walter (Sis. Elizabeth, Mansfield, OH). May God bless these brothers for being willing to be used as servants.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Sis. Marge Edelman, Bro. Loren Edelman (Sis. Jeanne) and Bro. Darin Edelman (Sis. Karen) in the passing of their son and brother Tim Edelman of Sabetha, KS. May God comfort their hearts.

We were thankful for those who traveled to be with us for our invite-a-guest weekend in November. The weekend was a blessing.

On Sunday, November 11, we had our annual Thanksgiving Meal at the Fellowship Center.

As the Christmas Season is upon us, may we look to our dear Lord Jesus Christ. May we all strive to be perfect and humble like Jesus as we walk this path of life.

*“Jesus, lowly Saviour,  
Was a humble child,  
Came on earth to enter,  
Humble hearts and mild.  
He will share his blessing,  
To each heart and home,  
Journeys with us daily;  
Leaves us ne’er alone.  
I can feel His presence,  
And his guiding hand,  
Lovingly He leads us,  
To the Fatherland.”*  
(Jesus Nearness , Hymns of Zion #70)

### KANSAS, WICHITA

**Emma Miller**

On October 20, Tim Funk, son of Bro. Glen and Sis. Sally Funk, united in marriage with Anna Larson. Anna’s parents, Brian and Nancy Larson, live in Marquette, KS.

Bro. Howard and Sis Kristin Plattner and Bro. Aaron and Sis Becca Plattner and numerous other family and friends were in church the following day. It was good to hear Bro. Howard’s ministry once again.

Bro. Jeff Bahr and Sis Janice. from Kiowa, KS spent a Sunday in Wichita to take the place of our regular ministers who were serving the Lord in other capacities. How fortunate for us to hear Bro. Jeff’s message but also Sis. Janice served lunch that day as well.

November 10, students from K-State chose to come to Wichita to help the widows prepare their homes for winter. The day was cold, damp and windy, but they raked leaves, trimmed bushes and performed other tasks in spite of the weather. Two Brothers, Dallas and Tyler Hoerr, from the home church in Taylor, MO, and Bro. Michael Luthi from Lamont/Gridley, KS church made up the work crew. Their help was greatly appreciated and perhaps attending the Sunday

School picnic the next day made the weekend enjoyable for them. Traditionally, the Sunday School picnic is held at Bro. Max and Sis. Judy Reimschisel’s rural home.

Our small church has been blessed.

### KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON

**Barb Huber**

*“O give thanks unto the Lord; for He is good: for His mercy endureth forever.” (Psalm 136:1)*

It was a blessing to have our Elder, Bro. Andy Stoller (Sis. Roberta, Smithville, OH) with us on the weekend of November 18 to share the Memorandum. May the Lord bless Bro. Andy and Sis. Roberta for their love and untiring efforts to shepherd and care for His sheep.

We’re also being blessed by Bro. Jason Brake (Sardis, OH) who has a “heart to serve” in the Lord’s vineyard. He has been living here temporarily and sharing his talents to serve in many ways. We have been most grateful for his help.

It’s been a joy and an honor, also, to have his dear parents, Bro. Bill Brake and his wife, Sis. Miriam, come to minister God’s Holy Word and fellowship with us, even in a service on Thanksgiving Day. We pray the Lord to provide a special blessing for this dear Brake family for their kindness and love.

A warm welcome is extended to 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.

*“My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest.” (Exodus 33:14)*

### MEXICO, IXTLÁN

**Matt Gerber**

*“Therefore will I give thanks unto thee, O Lord, among the heathen, and sing praises unto thy name.”*  
(Ps. 18:49)

Visiting minister Bro. Justin Koch (Washington, IL) shared about the changed life of Peter and lessons from the disciples in Mark chapter 6.

Bro. Grant and Sis. Hannah Herrmann visited Barra Vieja for this month’s rotation.

Every time is appropriate to give thanks, but it’s helpful to have a reminder each year at Thanksgiving. Although Thanksgiving Day isn’t celebrated in Mexico, we want to thank God for:

- Adopting us as His children through faith in Jesus Christ.
- Our church family in Ixtlan.
- Our physical families.
- The support and fellowship from our sending churches in the U.S.

### MEXICO, MAGDALENA

#### MICHIGAN, ALTO

**Listyn Oesch**

**Melissa Blough**

“Do they see Jesus in me?” As a Christian this is a statement to continually ask ourselves. Are we being the salt of the earth? Have we lost our savor? Sometimes these questions encourage us and carry us on and other times they convict and turn us around from where we were headed. No matter the impact, we need to acknowledge it; bring into conscience awareness. As the season changes yet again and the celebration of Jesus’ birth is upon us. Take a moment...reflect...”Do they see Jesus in me?” How is this Christmas going to be different?

We are praising our Lord and rejoicing with little Judah Oesch and his family. Judah is now home and recovering after 7 weeks in a children's hospital. Our Lord is the great Physician and Healer.

Surgeries are scheduled this month for Bro. Aaron Steffen (Sis. Loretta) and Sis. Sandy Schutte (Steve). Our congregation lifts them and their families up in prayer. May God grant them strength and grace through the procedures and the recovery process. We also pray for Helen Thronburg, mother of Sis. Donna Oesch, as she has recently spent time in the hospital.

We were blessed to hear the letter from our dear elder body. We thank Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Sis. Jeannine, Mansfield, OH) for assisting our Bro. Ted Steffen.

### MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

**Sarah Knochel  
Janelle Ramseyer**

We rejoice with Bro. Brian and Sis. Char Wieland as they welcome another grandson, Eli. Matt, Jessica, and older sister, Matisin Wieland welcomed Eli into their home in mid-November.

We are thankful that traveling mercies have been granted to Bro. Dean & Sis. Connie Pashak as they returned home from six weeks in Haiti.

Our prayers are with Randy (Jane) Wackerle as he recently spent time in the hospital. We are thankful that the Lord has providing healing on his behalf.

The Christmas season is upon us and we pray that we would not forget the reason why we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. May we continue to serve him with all of our heart.

### MICHIGAN, DETROIT

**Krista Wieland**

It's hard to believe another month has passed already. Sometimes the hours, or even minutes, in a day seem to last forever when we are having a stressful day. Looking back, however, the days seem to have flown by. Our daughter recently had her 8th birthday and we look at her sometimes and wonder when she got so big!

Bro. Lucas and Sis. Crystal Frank along with Logan, Kaleigh, and Carson welcomed a new baby sister this month. Addison Joy was born November 8 and mom and baby are doing well.

We appreciated our visiting ministers this month. They were: Bro. Howard Plattner (Sis. Kristen, Alto, MI), Bro. Dewayne Dill (Sis. LaRae, Minneapolis, MN), and Bro. Doug Harmon (Sis. Lanna, Toledo, OH).

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

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Joyce Germaine (Bro. Milan) in the passing of her aunt, Sis. Eleanor Ramsier from Rittman, OH. Eleanor is also an aunt to Sis. Pat Baran. Our hearts and prayers also go out to Bro. Marc, Sis. Stacie, Chase and Max Knepp in the death of Marc's 53-year-old father, Bro. Richard Knepp (Sis. Janet) from Roanoke, IL. Marc and Stacie and their boys lived in Detroit before they moved to Peoria, IL and they still feel like a part of us. We will continue to pray for them.

Hospital patient at this time is Sis. Jeanne Allen (Bro. Pat) and she needs our fervent prayers. Sis. Marti Gleichman (Bro. John) is recovering well from a foot surgery.

Elder Bro. Mark and Sis. Bev

have returned safely from their trip to Japan and precious time with the Tokyo and Shioda churches and their communities, for which we are grateful! It is wonderful to experience that love, grace, faith and the Holy Spirit know no distance. We are richly blessed to have deep ties that bind us together. Philippians 1:1-11 expresses our hearts.

### MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS

**Brenda Messner  
Betty Rassi Lindwall**

We are thankful for our visiting ministers this month. Bro. Bruce Endress (Sis. Elizabeth) from Bradford, IL was here to help with the reading of the memorandum. Bro. Bruce's message on Sunday afternoon from James 2 spoke to us on respect of persons. Do we treat all people the same? God created us all, rich and poor. Also, Bro. Dean and Sis. Carol Steffen from Belvidere, IL were with us this month.

We mourn with Bro. Donald Miller and family with the loss of his brother, Michael Miller (Bloomington, MN). We offer our sympathy to the family.

We are happy to announce the engagement of Bro. Ben Dill (Bro. Dewayne and Sis. LaRae) and Sis. Suzy Klotzle (Bro. Tom and Sis. Jody, Altadena, CA). As they plan their life together, we wish them God's blessings.

This Holiday Season, our church is again participating in "Operation Christmas Child." Children in other countries receive a Christmas gift of a shoe box filled with necessities along with storybooks that explain the good news of Jesus Christ.

We said farewell to Bro. Tim and Sis. Nada McMillan with a farewell brunch, a ladies night, and a church

potluck as they are relocating to Columbus, OH. We will miss them and wish them God's blessings.

### MINNESOTA, MORRIS

#### Annie Wulf

Preaching God's Living Word this month were ministering Bros. Fred Domka (Sis. Connie, Mansfield, OH), Art Ingold (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman, OH), Kent Mogler (Sis. Mary, Minneapolis, MN), Kevin Fehr (Sis. Sandy, West Bend, IA), Stephen Baner (Sis. Donnalou, Gridley, IL), Randy Beer (Sis. Debra, Milford, IN), Chris Laukhuf (Sis. Rachel, Latty, OH), Dean Messner (Sis. Wanda, Winthrop, MN), Dan Moser (Sis. Anne, Elgin, IL), and Myron Knobloch (Sis. Beth, Lester, IA). We appreciate these brothers and their wives for visiting. May God continue to bless them in their service for the Lord.

We rejoice with Harmony Sauder (Bro. Verle and Sis. Christa) as she has found peace with God and man. We pray that many more can turn to our Lord and Savior and find this precious pearl that Harmony has found.

*"I now have found the firm foundation. Where evermore my anchor grounds! It lay there ere the world's creation, Where else, but in my Savior's wounds? Foundation which unmoved shall stay, When earth and heaven pass away." (Zion's Harp #221)*

We continue to keep dear ones in prayer who have met with sadness, accident or struggles of this life, whether here or across the land.

### MINNESOTA, MORRIS NORTH

#### Lois Schmidgall

#### Wanda Gramm

As I write this news letter, I am reflecting back on the month that

we have just finished and am feeling so blessed! It's been such a busy time, with finishing up the field work, cleaning up the yard and getting ready for winter ahead. But, the Spiritual Blessings far surpass that of the blessings that we can experience here on this earth. Thank you Dear Jesus for allowing us to be part of such a wonderful Salvation!

"Come for the Feast is Spread" was the theme for this year's Harvest Supper. We were so blessed to have our Elder Bro. Paul Messner (Winthrop, MN) and Bro. Steve (Sis. Donnalou) Baner (Gridley, IL) with us for the evening. Bro. Steve spoke to us on the feast in Heaven and what we have to look forward to. We enjoyed having families from other congregations come to be with us. What a wonderful fellowship we have. Let's work together harder than ever to prepare for that Great Feast in Heaven where we can continue to fellowship forever and ever!

We said farewell to our dear Sis. Alyssa Knobloch as she left for Haiti to do mission work at Hospital Lumiere. May God be with her and bless the work of her hands.

The weekend of November 9, 10 and 11, we were so privileged to have Bro. Ted Witzig, Jr. (Morton, IL) with us to share topics of Relationships, Forgiveness and How we see God. We pray that God will bless and add the increase of understanding to all of the wonderful teachings Bro. Ted shared with us. Thank you Brother Ted. That weekend also we were visited by our Elder Bro. Paul (Sis. Jan) Messner too. Thanks for your labor of love for us Bro. Paul and Sis. Jan. It is very much appreciated.

Many were able to come together on Wednesday evening for ACTIVE. The project was to pack Christmas

boxes for Operation Christmas Child. It is so much more blessed to give than to receive..

A beautiful bundle of joy has joined the home of Marcus and Lindsay (Gramm) Montana. We rejoice with you over the birth of your first child, Malakai Theodore. Bro. Ted and Sis. Wanda are enjoying being first-time grandparents. Grandchildren are so special and bring so much joy to our homes.

We rejoice with the angels, another soul has answered the call. Abby Ascherman has turned her life to Christ. Abby's parents are Bro. Tony and Sis. Peggy. Our love and prayers are with you and the other converts in our congregation.

A group from our church left on a mission trip to Magdalena, MX this week. We pray for their safety and also pray that once again God can add His blessing to His children's labours. Let's remember those who give of themselves daily in the different mission fields. Let's also pray for one another that we too can be missionaries right here at home.

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

### MINNESOTA, ROCHESTER

#### Mark Stork

#### Eric Bachman

### MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

#### Heather Steiner

#### Rebecca Messner

We extend our prayers to Tom Miller whose brother, Mike Miller, from Minneapolis passed away. May he and his family find comfort in this time of sorrow.

Our annual business meeting was held this month. We would like to thank each brother and sister that

served in the past year and offer our support to those who have been asked to take new responsibilities.

**MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY**  
**Brittany Fehr**

**MISSOURI, LAMAR**  
**Venetta Banwart**

May God bless our visiting ministers: Bro. Larry Barr (Sis. Julia, Ft. Scott, KS), Elder Bro. Curtis Frank (La Crosse, IN), Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington, IL), Elder Bro. Gary Hertzell (Sis. Ellen, Sabetha, KS), Retired Elder Bro. Don Braker (Kansas City, MO), Bro. Brad Strahm (Sis. Michelle, Bern, KS), and Bro. Jeff Fisher (Sis. Gloria, Ft. Scott.). May God grant each of them an extra measure of His grace and guidance to serve and feed us from His Word.

We would welcome anyone to come worship with us. If you do plan on visiting us, please contact Bro. Alfred and Sis. Carolyn Banwart. Their phone number is (417) 682-3111.

**MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS**  
**Kary Mangers**

This past month we were blessed by several visiting ministers. Our appreciation to Bro. Gary Brown (Sis. Jane) and those who accompanied them from Forrest, IL for the monthly rotation. We also had the pleasure of having Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein (Sis. Linda) of Francesville, IN, Bro. Nick Gutwein (Sis. Suzanne) of West Lafayette, IN, Bro. Greg Rassi (Sis. Carla) of Chicago, IL, and Bro. Dave Eisenmann (Sis. Jackie) of Champaign, IL. Thank you for boldly preaching God's Word wherever you go and especially for sharing fellowship with us.

**MISSOURI, TAYLOR**  
**Kathy Eberhardt**

Our Taylor church wishes to thank all the teachers and students who traveled south from our Iowa churches to attend our annual Sunday School get-together. What a blessing to see all the excitement and energy of our future church. Bro. Dave Marquardt reminded us to use both oars to paddle our rowboat. These oars would be faith and works.

We said our farewells to Bro. Mike and Sis. Luann Knapp, as they moved to Eureka, IL. Their new address is 514 West Cruger Ave., #38, Eureka, IL 61530. We miss you and ask that you still remember us in Taylor.

Bro. Josh Sutter moved to Texas to be with his mother. We also miss seeing you, Bro. Josh. His new address is 710 Bishop St., Cedar Hill, TX 75104.

Two new babies joined our congregation this month. Bro. Shane and Sis. Julia Sutter were blest with their first child, Eli Benjamin, on November 3. Grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Kris Sutter and Bro. Chris and Sis. Marsha Stickling (Peoria, IL).

Travis and Sarah Bryant were blest with a son, Aidyn Alan, on November 15. Grandparents are Bro. Rusty and Sis. Amy Adrian and Jim and Sheryl Bryant along with Phillip and Bessie Bishop of Hannibal. Great grandparents are Bro. Robert and Sis. Emma Hoerr.

Bro. Robert and Sis. Emma Hoerr wish to extend a thank you to the loving church family and friends during their time of illness. They wish the Lord's blessing on all for the prayers and cards.

Thanks to Bro. Les Kaeb (Sis. Christina, Francesville, IN) for the Bible study on 1 Peter. The theme

of the night was not to deny our Father's way and not to ruin our Father's name.

Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern, KS) spent a Sunday with us. Bro. John encouraged us to have the comfort of "Blessed Assurance, Jesus is mine" in our minds.

A verse that our Elder Bro. Kent Heimer has reminded us lately is in 2 Chronicles 7:14. *"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."*

As we enter into the Christmas season, may we always have that thankful and giving heart that Jesus had. May God bless you all in the coming new year.

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

We have again been blessed to have several brethren from our Rockville, CT church come to assemble with us and to serve our lunch on Sunday. We were able to share a potluck dinner together followed by a singing on Saturday evening, November 17.

As we celebrate this Thanksgiving, may we remember what a blessed people we are and what a wonderful nation we live in. May we not take our freedom to worship for granted.

*"Thank ye the Lord! Give thanks to the Lord, for He is gracious, His mercy it endureth evermore. Bless ye the Lord, O bless ye the Lord! My soul, remember His goodness and His gifts bestowed on thee." (Hymns of Zion #245)*

We welcome a new little baby into our congregation. Bro. Jacob

and Sis. Brooke Kuntz had Karissa Brooke join their household on November 21. Karissa is welcomed home by big brothers: Levi, Lucas and Aaron and sisters: Angelise and Katelyn.

### OHIO, AKRON

#### Erika Gal

Congratulations to our dear Bro. Trent Gasser and Sis. Molly Hanzie (Rittman, OH). They were united in marriage on November 11. Their parents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Sue Gasser from Junction and Tim and Sis. Kim Hanzie from Rittman. We are happy to welcome Sis. Molly to Akron and wish them God's richest blessings in their life together.

We rejoice with Bro. Jacob and Sis. Beth Rufener in the birth of little Melea Rose on November 12. She is welcomed home by big brother, Malachi. Her grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Janice Rufener from Smithville and Bro. Roger and Sis. Dorina Miller from Mansfield. Also welcoming a new grandchild are Bro. Don and Sis. Nan Steidl. Tecca Mae was born to Bro. Greg and Sis. Christina Gasser from Junction. May the Lord bless these families with His grace and guidance to raise these precious children for His glory.

Our prayers are with Sis. Evelyn Baumgartner, Carmen Graf (Bro. Todd and Sis. Lydia), and continue with Bro. Matthew Pamer (Bro. Steve and Sis. Arliss) as they have received medical care this month. We pray that God is always near to provide strength and healing.

We appreciate having Elder Bro. Peter Petrovic with us this month to assist our Elder Bro. Dave in reading the Memorandum. We also want to thank Bro. Dana Nieman for his labors on our behalf.

### OHIO, COLUMBUS

#### Lauren Rufener

We welcome Bro. Tim & Sis. Nada McMillan (from Minneapolis, MN) and Bro. Andreas Schlatter (from Bay City, MI) to our congregation. We are thankful to have them in our church family!

We appreciate visiting ministers: Bro. Jesse and Sis. Bonnie Bedolla (Detroit, MI), Bro. Matt and Sis. Deanna Manz (Toledo, OH) and Bro. Chris and Sis. Rachel Laukhuf (Latty, OH) for sharing God's Word with us.

### OHIO, JUNCTION

#### Vicki Boroff

We were thankful to have several visiting ministers this month: Bros. Tim Ramsier (Sis. Joni, Rittman), and Matt Manz (Sis. Deanna, Toledo).

Our prayers go up for Sis. Linda Lord. We are thankful to have her worship with us again after a lengthy illness.

### OHIO, LATTY

#### Carmen Stoller Mindy Stoller

*"Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit..."*  
(John 15:16)

We were thankful to hear that Beth Klopfenstein (Bro. Lee and Sis. Desma) has made the decision to turn her life to the Lord. We rejoice with her and her family and pray she will feel our love and prayers.

Our Sis. Mallory Rosswurm (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Amy) has announced her engagement to Bro. Tyler Lanz (Bro. John and Sis. Kay, Philadelphia, PA). We will surely miss her and wish her many blessings as she starts a new phase of life.

Jason and Melissa LaBounty welcomed little Grayson John into their household on October 16. Grayson is also welcomed by a big sister, Addyson, and grandparents, Bro. John and Sis. Marcia Laukhuf. We rejoice for them and pray for God's blessings upon them.

We enjoyed a blessed weekend November 11 as Sis. Alyssa Nuest (Bro. Lee and Sis. Paula) was given in marriage to Bro. Dean Nelson (Larry and Lorrie) of LaCrosse, IN. We are thankful God has provided her with a helpmate in the Lord. We wish to thank Bro. Mark Wettstein (Sis. Karen) and Bro. Calvin Schneider (Sis. Jeannie) both of LaCrosse for serving us from the pulpit on the wedding day. May God be their rich rewarder.

### OHIO, MANSFIELD

#### Tami Griffey

We always welcome and appreciate visiting ministers and thank those who have visited recently including: Bro. Gary Sinn (Sis. Paulette, Latty, OH), and Bro. John Grimm (Sis. Julie, Columbus, OH).

The memorandum reading was held October 27. We thank Elder Bro. Duane Farney (Sis. Karen, Croghan, NY) who assisted with the exhortation Saturday, and sharing God's Word with us Sunday.

The annual Sunday School Fall Outing was hosted October 28 and was an enjoyable afternoon and evening for all, with children's activities, a pot luck dinner, and singing.

Sis. Eleanor Ramsier of Rittman, OH passed on to her eternal reward. Her family, including sibling Bro. Wally Ramsier, has our prayers and love.

The weekend of November 18 and 19 was the testimony and

baptism of Sis. Nicole Baumann (Bro. David and Sis. Luci). We are thankful for the visiting ministers which included Elder Bro. Paul Messner (Sis. Janet, Winthrop, MN), Bro. Doug Harmon (Sis. Lanna, Toledo, OH), and Bro. Mike Walder (Sis. Susan, Smithville, OH). We are encouraged to see God's work among us. We praise the Lord that another soul has found redemption through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

### **OHIO, RITTMAN**

**Jenny Pertee**

**Anna Bauman**

There have been several from our congregation who have been in the hospital lately. They were Bennet Hartzler (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Sue), Sis. Dorothy Zollinger, Bro. Ron Steiner (Sis. Ruth), Sis. Betty Keiper (Bro. Reinhart), Sis. Betty Baltic (Bro. Dan), and Cameron Stoller (Bro. Jordan and Sis. Joy). We wish them the Lord's blessings as they recover from their illnesses and surgeries.

Our prayers are with the families of those whose loved ones have recently passed away. Bro. Harlan Stoller leaves Sis. Jeannie Stoller and children: Sis. Dianna Bauman (Bro. Doug), Lisa Hartzler (Robert), and Brian Stoller (Debbie). Our prayers are also with Bro. Tom Hartzler (Sis. Diane), Ronald Hartzler (Candy), Dennis Hartzler (Kris), and Dave Hartzler (Linda) as they mourn the loss of their mother, Sis. Marion Hartzler. Bro. Henry Kiser went to be with the Lord on October 28, leaving behind children: Sis. Carol Schuster (Bro. George), Marilyn Boyes, and Lonnie Kiser (Sheila). Our dear Sis. Eleanor Ramsier passed away leaving siblings Bro. Bob Ramsier (Sis. Inez), Bro. Jim Ramsier (Sis. Dorothy), Bro. Harlen

Ramsier, Bro. Wallace Ramsier, and Sis. Arlene Ramsier.

We have many new babies to report this month. They include Alexa Kay, born on October 19 to Bro. Marlin and Sis. Tonya Miller. Siblings are Kolton, Carter, and Zane. Grandparents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Norene Miller and Bro. Fred and Sis. Connie Domka (Mansfield, OH). Bro. Tim and Sis. Sharon Hartzler welcomed Aram Silas on October 24 along with Amos, Megan, Jacob, Jubal, Gretchen, Ezra, and Eli. Grandparents are Bro. Merle and Sis. Bonnie Hartzler and Bro. Ken and Sis. Jane Hartzler. On October 31, Walter Lee was born to Bro. Milan and Sis. Amy Baltic. Siblings are Molly, Megan, Adam, Madalyn, Eli, Cooper, and Grady. Grandparents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty Baltic and Bro. Art and Sis. Bonnie Ingold. Also on October 31, Bro. Ryan and Sis. Julie Steiner, Emma and Cody welcomed Abigail Ann. Thankful grandparents are Sis. Carole Steiner and Bro. Jeff and Sis. Bev Hartzler.

We were thankful this month to witness the wedding of Bro. Trent Gasser (Akron, OH) and Sis. Molly Hanzie on November 11. Bro. Trent is the son of Bro. Roger and Sis. Sue Gasser (Junction, OH). Sis. Molly's parents are Tim and Sis. Kim Hanzie. On October 28, Bro. Kirk Gasser and Sis. Bethany Indermuhle (Smithville, OH) were united in the Lord. Parents are Bro. Mark and Sis. Jill Gasser and Bro. Brian and Sis. Beverly Indermuhle. We wish the Lord's blessings on both of these couples.

We had several visiting ministers this month. They were Elder Bros. Dave Graf (Akron, OH), Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH), Ted Steffen (Alto, MI), Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH) and Bros. Tony Manz

and Don Manz (Junction, OH), Matt Manz (Toledo, OH), and Bill Brake (Sardis, OH). May God bless these brothers for their labors of love.

### **OHIO, SARDIS**

**Faith Beard**

### **OHIO, SMITHVILLE**

**Sarah Crist**

**Kara Stoller**

October 28 was the wedding of Bro. Kirk Gasser and Sis. Bethany Indermuhle. Parents of the couple are Bro. Mark and Sis. Jill Gasser (Rittman, OH) and Bro. Brian and Sis. Bev Indermuhle. We wish them God's blessings as they serve the Lord together.

Our love and prayers are with Sis. Sue Steiner and Bro. Mark Steiner and their family as both have undergone heart surgery and hospitalization this past month. We're also thinking of Sis. Carol Schuster (Bro. George) and Bro. Roger Sauer (Sis. Sue) who have spent time recently in the hospital as well. May God grant them healing according to His good and perfect will.

*"And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day." (John 6:40)*

We extend our sympathy and prayers to the families of four dear loved ones who have passed from this life into eternity this month. Our sympathy is with Sis. Carol (Bro. George) Schuster who lost her father Bro. Henry Kaiser (Rittman, OH), on October 28. We also sympathize with Bro. Steve (Sis. Jolene) Hofacre on the loss of his mother, Gloria Hofacre on October 25. Bros. Robert (Sis. Inez) and Jim



(Sis. Dorothy) Ramsier both said an earthly farewell to their dear sister, Sis. Eleanor Ramsier (Rittman, OH), on October 25. Sis. Marian Hartzler (Rittman, OH) passed away on November 5. Marian was the mother of Ron (Candy) Hartzler and the sister of Bro. John (Sis. Marjorie) Zollinger. May all these families feel our prayers in their time of sorrow.

Jeff and Michelle Beery were blessed with a baby girl, Kensi Ann, on October 29, joining big brothers, Grady and Carter. We rejoice with grandparents Bro. Gaylord and Sis. Cheryl Beery. Bro. Tim and Sis. Sharon Hartzler and siblings: Amos, Megan, Jacob, Jubal, Gretchen, Ezra and Eli also welcomed a precious baby boy, Aram Silas, on September 24. Grateful grandparents are Bro. Merle and Sis. Bonnie Hartzler (Rittman, OH) and Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Jane Hartzler.

November 5 was the reading of the Memorandum in Smithville. Ordained Deacon Bro. Vic Bauman (Sis. Brenda) was able to assist with that work. We pray for God's guidance for all those who speak His Word.

We wish to thank those who give of themselves to share the Gospel. This month we were very blessed by the efforts of Bro. Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue, Detroit, MI) and Bro. Tim Ramsier (Sis. Joni, Rittman, OH).

### **OHIO, TOLEDO**

**Deanna Manz**

**Jenny Manz**

Sometimes it takes a month without any visiting ministers to remember to thank those who labor on our behalf week after week. How blessed we are to have those dedicated to teaching and instructing from God's Word each service. We trust God will richly

bless them for their service.

We did have several other visitors this month, and we appreciate each one. From serving lunch to leading us in song, we are very thankful to all those who came to support our congregation. May God bless each of them for their efforts.

### **OREGON, PORTLAND**

**Liz Jones**

We wish to thank Elder Bro. Peter Petrovic (Sis. Miriam, San Diego, CA) and Bro. Harvey Kuenzi (Sis. Jennifer, Silverton, OR) for assembling with us this past month and sharing God's Word. A special thank you also to Elder Bro. Tom Klotzle (Sis. Jody, Altadena, CA), Elder Bro. John Wiegand (Sis. Jane, Silverton, OR) for sharing Communion with us the first week of November.

Our little church family rejoices with Bro. Rick, Sis. Miriam, Victoria, Rebekah, Robert, and Dylan Hoach with the addition of Jacob Walter to their family circle.

*Note of Thanks:*

We wish to thank everyone from the OR churches for their cards and visits to Sis. Ginny since her move to the skilled nursing residence. We appreciate the prayers spoken on her and Bro. Ray's behalf since Mom's decline. The groups that have gone to sing for her have been a special blessing too. May the Lord reward those who have extended their love in action to them in this new season of their lives.

Bro. Ray and Sis. Ginny Cooper, Ken and Linda Cooper.

### **OREGON, SILVERTON**

**Kelsey Walder**

**Ann Kuenzi**

We appreciated having Elder Bro. Ted Witzig (Sis. Cindy,

Morton, IL), come October 20 to serve Communion with our Elder Bro. John Wiegand. We also have been blessed with several other visiting ministers this month. They included: Elder Bro. Peter Petrovic (Sis. Marian) and Bro. Doug Brewer (Sis. Janelle) both from San Diego, CA, and from Portland, OR, Bro. Ron Jones (Sis. Liz) and Bro. Mike Leman (Sis. Lisa).

Jacob Kuenzi (Bro. Adam and Sis. Lori) broke his arm. Sis. Becky Von Flue (Bro. Dan) broke her hip and is recovering at the Benedictine Care Center in Mt. Angel. Sis. Lori Stadel (Bro. Nick) has had outpatient surgery, and would appreciate our prayers as well. We hope and pray, all of them recover fully.

Our sympathies are extended to Evelyn Hari in the loss of her sister, Ruth Asche (Junior) from Corvallis, OR.

### **PENNSYLVANIA, PHILADELPHIA**

*"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me."  
(John 10:27)*

As we count our blessings this Thanksgiving season, we are reminded of the gentle guiding of our good Shepherd. We are thankful for his leading in the lives of Bro. Tyler Lanz (Bro. John and Sis. Kay) and Sis. Mallory Rosswurm from Latty, OH (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Amy). We welcome Sis. Mallory to Philadelphia and wish the Lord's continued guiding and leading as they both prepare for their wedding and marriage.

Our Lord Jesus also promised that if we enter in by Him, we shall find pasture (John 10:9). The Lord certainly fed us as Elder Bro. Duane Rocke from Minneapolis, MN came to share the memorandum with us.

May God bless him for his efforts and help us to apply the teachings we have heard.

### TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE

#### Mike and Monica Fritz

This month we bid farewell to Sis. Gwen Leuthold who took an employment opportunity in central Illinois after spending many years as an integral part of our Nashville congregation. We are sad to see her go, but pray and trust that the Lord will be with her as she embarks on this new phase in her life. We know that she will be a blessing to the Tremont congregation, where she is now attending.

We also bid farewell to Bro. Don and Sis. Faye Sauder who are wintering in Zapata, TX, where we trust they will experience God's blessings.

We have been richly blessed by the teachings which have been shared with us from God's Word by our recent visiting ministers: Bros. Justin Koch (Sis. Marcia, Washington, IL), Byron Stoller (Sis. Carol, Gridley, IL), Dave Hartter (Sis. Beth, Sabetha, KS), Wayne Hartzler (Sis. Camille, Rittman, OH), Brace Wieland (Sis. Brenda, Leo, IN), and John Steiner (Sis. Carol, Oakville, IA).

We have also been strengthened by the fellowship of brethren and friends visiting from Forrest, Goodfield, Gridley, and Washington, IL; Burlington and Oakville, IA; Francesville and Leo, IN; Sabetha, KS; and Rittman, OH.

If you are traveling to or through the Nashville area, please plan to worship with us. The following churches are scheduled for services in the near future: Rockville, CT (1/6); Indianapolis, IN (1/13); Francesville, IN (1/20); and Junction, OH (1/27). If you plan to

worship with us, please call ahead to confirm our schedule. We do not have visiting ministers scheduled for 12/23 or 12/30, but if there are brethren in the area, we will likely gather to listen to a tape or call-in service. 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. Contact Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica Fritz (615) 866-5543 or [fritzmb.family@gmail.com](mailto:fritzmb.family@gmail.com).

### TEXAS, AUSTIN

#### Serenity and Jasmine Ringger

We appreciate the efforts of our Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart and Bro. Leland Plattner as they shared the Memorandum with our congregation.

Other visiting ministers we hosted this month were: Bros. Nathan Steffen (Alto, MI) and Jeff Neihouser (Sis. Sue, Morton, IL).

Visitors also came from Fairbury, IL; Lester, IA; Latty, OH; Francesville, IN.

The following is the minister schedule for January: (6) Altadena, CA, (13) Milford, IN, (27) Lester, IA. Please refer to the minister's directory for directions and contacts.

### TEXAS, DALLAS-FORT WORTH

*"O give thanks unto the Lord; call upon His name; Make known His deeds among the people."  
(Psalm 105:1)*

The next services are scheduled for Dec. 16, 2012. Services are being held generally the second Sunday of each month at the Holiday Inn Express, 4450 W. John Carpenter Freeway, Irving TX. There are many that have Apostolic Christian ties

in the area. Please inform your relatives and acquaintances that may have interest. Please call ahead to verify. Leland & 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

#### Gloria Walder

How we do appreciate hearing the truth of God's Word and the brethren who have been instruments in God's hand to bring it to our small gathering here. May He bless Bro. Greg Lehman (Wolcott, IN), Bro. Brent Walder (Rockville, CT) and Bro. Curt Rassi (Sis. Kathy, Tremont, IL). One of the phrases in a prayer was "Help us to see how blessed we are; help us to be thankful." This should be our daily prayer, not just on Thanksgiving Day.

We also enjoyed other visitors from Latty, OH and Tremont, IL. Being so few in number, we find every extra visitor makes such a difference. We encourage our ministers to feel free to bring others along and contact us as soon as possible to help us plan for meals and fellowship.

Services are scheduled for January 6, Alto, MI; Jan. 13, Remington, IN; Jan. 20, Fairbury, IL; February 3, Bradford, IL; Feb. 10, Silvertown, OR; Feb. 24, Winthrop, MN. We also meet on Wednesday evenings at the home of Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Joyce Nohl. Please call them if you can join us.

Andy and Kristi Plattner have a 2-bedroom apartment available

one block from the Gulf at South Padre Island for visitors who wish to spend time there. You may call them at 956-433-9844 for more information.

Sunday services are held at 10:30 and 12:30 at the Holiday Inn Express, 1921 South 10th St. Take the 10th Street exit off Expressway 83 and go 1½ blocks south. Please see the ministers' directory for local contact information.

**TEXAS, ZAPATA**  
Mary Plattner

**VERMONT, NORTH  
CLARENDON**  
Nathan and Miriam Reutter

*"In the beginning was the Word,  
and the Word was with God, and  
the Word was God." (John 1:1)*

## **Needs and Opportunities 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](mailto:mrpipes@afo.net).

## **Light from the Word**

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<b>Mexico Work Project Schedule</b>		
<b>Location</b>	<b>Year 2013</b>	<b>Coordinator</b>
Magdalena Construction	Dec 29 - Jan 5	Karl Edelman 815-735-7385 karledelman@cawi.org
Magdalena Construction	Jan 12-19	Steve Kaeb 217-781-4709 kaebbsb@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
Reynosa Medical	May 14-21	Todd Drayer 260-273-3112 todd.drayer@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
Mexico Medical	Sep 18-25	Cheryl Herrmann 309-385-1082 cherrmann@frontier.com
Questions? Contact Mike Fiechter	260-597-7330	mfiechter@onlyinternet.net

<b>Haiti Medical Work Teams</b>			
<b>Project</b>	<b>Year 2012</b>	<b>Coordinator</b>	<b>Capacity</b>
Bonne Fin, Haiti Hospital Lumiere Medical Teams	Nov 30 - Dec 8	Alice Widmer alice.widmer@jmsmucker.com 330-939-0083	8
<b>Project</b>	<b>Year 2013</b>	<b>Coordinator</b>	<b>Capacity</b>
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
<b>Trip includes travel dates of Friday thru the following Saturday.</b>			
<b>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.</b>			

<b>Jamaica Work Teams</b>			
<b>Project</b>	<b>Year 2013</b>	<b>Coordinator</b>	<b>Capacity</b>
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	40
Kingston School CCCD	Mar 23-30	Ryan Steidinger 815-848-2500 fehrrealestate@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 Rocke 309-448-2421 jarock71@gmail.com	Goodfeild SS

**If you are interested in sponsoring a work team to Jamaica contact Loren Dettwyler at [Imdettwyler@gmail.com](mailto:Imdettwyler@gmail.com)**

### **Haiti Construction Work Teams**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Year 2012</b>	<b>Coordinator</b>	<b>Capacity</b>
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
<b>Project</b>	<b>Year 2013</b>	<b>Coordinator</b>	<b>Capacity</b>
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 Lifeline Construction	Jan 21-28	Ted Steidinger 1-815-848-5495 tsteid@frontier.com	Full
SEED Ag School Haiti Agriculture	Jan 25-Feb 1	Dale Frank dtfrank@louisacomm.net 319-766-3661	12
Dumay Lifeline Construction	Jan 28- Feb-4	Alan Gerber 1-815-657-8629 alan_gerber@sbcglobal.net	12
Les Cayes MEBSH Construction	Feb 1-8	Rod Wieland 989-671-0404 rhwieland@speednetllc.com	12
Hospital Lumiere MEBSH Construction	Feb 2-9	Daryl Luginbuhl 484-433-1205 darylluginbuhl@gmail.com	12

Dumay Lifeline Construction/Medical	Feb 18-25	Paul Zimmerman 1-815-848-2173 pallan2@frontier.com	12
Dumay Lifeline Construction	Feb 25- Mar 4	Neil Bahler 1-815-848-3861 nbahler@gmail.com	12
Les Cayes MEBSH Construction	Mar 1-8	Steve Leuthold 309-645-2208 sleuth@speerbank.com	12
Hospital Lumiere MEBSH Construction	Mar 2-9	Daryl Luginbuhl 484-433-1205 darylluginbuhl@gmail.com	12
Les Cayes AWA Water Aid	Mar 8-15	Maurice Schaefer 309-253-9003 schaefs2@gmail.com	4
Les Cayes FRW Vocational School	Mar 8-15	Rick Wuethrich 219-863-4163 rick@wuethrichfarms.com	4
SEED Ag School Haiti Agriculture	Mar 8-15	Larry Kaufmann ljkaufmann@juno.com 815-457-2924	12
Les Cayes MEBSH Construction	Mar 15-22	Rich Bertschi 309-467-2351 lemangm@mtco.com	12
Hospital Lumiere MEBSH Construction	Apr 6-13	Daryl Luginbuhl 484-433-1205 darylluginbuhl@gmail.com	12
Les Cayes MEBSH Maintenance	Apr 16-23	Jon Zeller 309-266-9009 jonzeller@comcast.net	4
Les Cayes MEBSH Haiti Support	Apr 25-29	Jon Zeller 309-266-9009 jonzeller@comcast.net	ACWR-CC
Hospital Lumiere MEBSH Construction	May 4-11	Daryl Luginbuhl 484-433-1205 darylluginbuhl@gmail.com	12
Les Cayes FRW Vocational School	Jun 7-14	Rick Wuethrich 219-863-4163 rick@wuethrichfarms.com	4

*“And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.” (John 6:40)*

*“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.” (John 1:12, 13)*

*“Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit...” (John 15:16)*

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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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Mr.  Mrs.  Miss

Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

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City \_\_\_\_\_ St \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Ph \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Ph \_\_\_\_\_

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#### Send to:

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Morton, IL 61550

Phone: 309-266-6080

Fax: 309-266-5281

E-mail: [childsponsorship@acwr.org](mailto:childsponsorship@acwr.org)



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN  
**World Relief**

[www.acworldrelief.org](http://www.acworldrelief.org)

## Winter Work Project 2013

### An Opportunity to Serve In Cullman, Alabama

Beginning January 7, 2013 and continuing through March 2013, there are opportunities to serve in Cullman, Alabama. The project involves building new homes and repairing damaged homes for victims of the April 2011 tornadoes. Displaced families need help rebuilding their shattered dreams.

#### A job for everyone

50 volunteers are needed each week. All skill levels are needed; even the unskilled. There will be a job for every willing heart. Participants must be at least 14 years old to serve on a work team.



Volunteers will be housed at Stoney Creek Camp near the town of Cullman. Meals will be provided Sunday evening through Friday evening at the camp. Mid-week services will be held at the camp.

#### Skills needed

Carpenters, electricians, plumbers, drywall hangers and finishers, painters, housecleaners and kitchen helpers.

#### Register Online

All volunteers must register online at [www.acworldrelief.org](http://www.acworldrelief.org).

#### More information

More project information is available on the website. Before registering, check the work team schedule to be sure the dates you have chosen are available.

Volunteers are encouraged to worship at Athens, Alabama Church at the beginning of their work week. Stoney Creek Camp is approximately one hour south of the church.



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[www.acworldrelief.org](http://www.acworldrelief.org)

<b>USA World Relief Committee</b>			
<b>Contacts for area work or disaster projects</b>			
<b>Brother</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Home Church</b>	<b>Cell Phone</b>
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
Stan Schambach	Consultant	Prescott, AZ	(224) 698-0899

## Top Quality Coordinator Needed

Gateway Woods is in need of a Top Quality Coordinator for the summer. The Top Quality Coordinator position offers the opportunity to grow deep relationships with Gateway Woods Staff and summer volunteers, as well as the chance to spend a significant amount of one-on-one time with residents. If you feel the call to explore the possibilities and to have play a role in a group of residents lives this summer, please call one of the brothers listed below:

Ryan Donaghy  
 Assistant School Administrator  
 PO Box 125  
 Leo, IN 46765  
 1-888-443-4283  
[ryan.donaghy@gatewaywoods.org](mailto:ryan.donaghy@gatewaywoods.org)

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

## Summer Volunteer Coordinator Needed

Gateway Woods is currently searching for a Summer Volunteer Coordinator. The Summer Volunteer Coordinator position offers the opportunity to grow deep relationships with fellow volunteers as well as Gateway Woods Staff and residents. If you feel the call to explore the possibilities, please call one of the brothers listed below:

Ryan Donaghy  
 Assistant School Administrator  
 PO Box 125  
 Leo, IN 46765  
 1-888-443-4283  
[ryan.donaghy@gatewaywoods.org](mailto:ryan.donaghy@gatewaywoods.org)

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



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

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For schedule, see: [www.acmission.org/minister-rotation](http://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.

## Development Director Needed

Gateway Woods has an opening to lead our advancement team for a brother or sister to seek donor relations and financial support. We are seeking someone who desires to serve in a ministry that serves broken children and reunites families. The Development Director position is a key full-time position that offers responsibility, creativity, management and unique challenges. If you have a passion for helping troubled children and families, versatile interpersonal relationship building abilities and strong communication skills, please contact one of the brothers listed below for more information and a job description.

Jeff Schumacher  
PO Box 151  
Leo, IN 46765  
(219) 627-2159  
(888) 443-4283

Lynn Stieglitz  
Counseling Elder  
(219) 493-6711 home  
(219) 657-5461 work  
(888) 443-4283

## Education Intern Needed

Gateway Woods is in need of a Education Intern for the summer of 2012. The Education Intern position offers the opportunity to grow deep relationships with Gateway Woods Staff, as well as the chance to grow as a teacher and spend a significant amount of one-on-one time with residents. If you feel the call to explore the possibilities and to have a positive impact in the lives of residents this summer, please call one of the brothers listed below:

Adam McAfee  
School Administrator  
PO Box 125  
Leo, IN 46765  
1-888-443-4283  
adam.mcafee@gatewaywoods.org

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

## 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

**F**ear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

ISAIAH 41:10

**T**he angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them. PSALMS 34:7

**B**e of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the LORD. PSALMS 31:24

**Y**ea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. PSALMS 23:4

**B**e merciful unto me, O God, be merciful unto me: for my soul trusteth in thee: yea, in the shadow of thy wings will I make my refuge, until these calamities be overpast. PSALMS 57:1

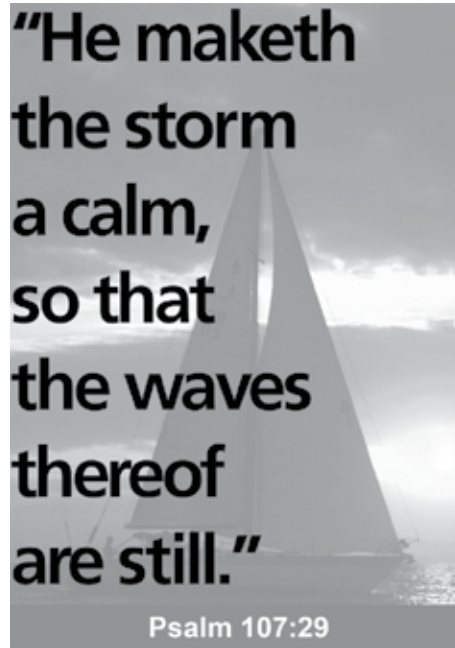
**H**e shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him. PSALMS 91:15

**W**ho forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with loving-kindness and tender mercies. PSALMS 103:3-4

**T**hou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. ISAIAH 26:3

**B**ehold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert. ISAIAH 43:19

**T**hen 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 reward. ISAIAH 58:8



**B**lessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is. JEREMIAH 17:7

**F**or the Lord will not cast off for ever: But though he cause grief, yet will he have compassion according to the multitude of his mercies. For he doth not afflict willingly nor grieve the children of men. LAMENTATIONS 3:31-33

**T**he LORD thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing. ZEPHANIAH 3:17

**H**eal me, O LORD, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved: for thou art my praise. JEREMIAH 17:14

**A**nd Jesus looking upon them saith, With men *it is* impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible. MARK 10:27

**M**y God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus. PHILIPPIANS 4:19

**W**e glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience (character); and experience, hope. ROMANS 5:3-4

**T**he Spirit also helpeth our infirmities (weakness or sickness): for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. ROM 8:26-28

**M**y grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities (weakness or sickness), that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong. 2 CORINTHIANS 12:9-10

**B**e careful (anxious) for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7

**C**asting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. 1 PETER 5:7

**T**hat the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ. 1 PETER 1:7

**T**hese things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world. JOHN 16:33

**P**eace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. JOHN 14:27

## Thoughts on Humility

### Zion's Harp: #186: (Humility – Meekness)

#### Verse 1:

- Noblest virtue—as a king who exercises great power with discretion and restraint
- Not favored with the proud
- More precious than gold or fame

#### Verse 2:

- Jesus is an example; did not exalt himself, was gracious, loving and gentle.
- Jesus is not desiring of honor, wealth, vain ambition, or boasting. (Phil. 2:5-8)

#### Verse 3:

- If we have humility God will honor us.
- It will be pleasing to God, and we will receive His grace.

#### Verse 4:

- Meekness blesses, helps us know our most fitting place.
- Meekness fills our hearts with faith, hope, love, and gentleness.

#### Verses 5, 6, &7:

- There is promise to receive a crown and reward in heaven.

### We feel we know what humility is:

- Gentleness, meekness, lowliness, not proud or haughty
- Esteeming our brother higher than ourselves (not putting ourselves above them) (Phil. 2:3)

### We have heard humility explained in different ways:

- True humility is complete, willing surrender to the Father's will
- Humility is not something you can flaunt, but if you have it, you can't hide it.
- Humility is to know you are helpless without Christ.

There is so much to a true understanding of humility. We should take the time to consider what humility really means and not assume it simply to be “meek” and “lowly.”

### We must be careful not to confuse humility as:

- A cloak to cover our self-centered complacency (laziness)
- An attempt to portray our own righteousness
- A cover for our jealousy.

Humility is not something we should be self-conscious of, because the minute we are, we have made ourselves the focus which is a form of pride. If we think our brother needs to be more humble, do we ourselves have humility? Perhaps I have viewed my brother as being proud when in fact I am jealous of him.

Humility is not trying to be lower than your brother. What does that accomplish? Think of the talents that God has given each of us. He has instructed us not to bury them in a napkin (Luke 19:20), but to use them to His service and to bring others to glorify His name. We are to be zealous and eager to do the Lord's work.

If we are constantly trying to make ourselves lower than our brother, and then become envious or jealous of our brother's talent or accomplishment, how can God use us? We are simply interfering with the progress that God could make in our hearts, and therefore have become a hindrance to His work.

Isn't it amazing how jealous and zealous appear so similar, but are opposite. Therefore, if our brother has a talent that we don't have, but wish we could have, can we glory (or be as happy) as much in his talent as if it were our own? If not, where is our humility? We should be thankful for our brother's talents as much as if they were our own.

Humility must be the absence of self--like cold is the absence of heat. Think of the story of Solomon and the two women (1 Kings 3:16-20); one said to divide the child, the other thought not of herself, but the child. How do we overcome this inclination of the flesh?

By following the two commandments that Christ taught were the summary of the whole Law (Matt. 22:37-40; Gal. 5:14) to their fullest. When we lift up someone else (our brother), what happens to our-

selves? We have gained a brother and can enjoy the blessing of encouraging him.

Our focus always needs to be first upon God and Jesus Christ, and then secondly on how can I help and encourage my brother to be the best he can be for the Lord. We need to focus on what we can be doing to encourage our brother to excel in the talents God has given him.

**To summarize:**

Humility is not making ourselves lower than our brother (this is selfish), because it makes ourselves and our achievements the focus of attention. Rather true humility is to lift up our brother in the Lord which brings the focus back to God and not our self. This does not mean to give insincere compliments to our brother to win his friendship for our

own benefit. We can all sense sincerity, love from the heart and true compassion. (Rom. 12:9)

In like manner, concentrating on making ourselves lower than another does not attain godly humility. But rather we need to concentrate on glorifying God, raising Him up, and sharing to others His wonderful love, peace and mighty works. The focus always needs to be on God.

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

## Mirror of the Soul

by S. H. Froehlich

- Humility makes a man peaceable among the brethren, fruitful in doing good, joyful in suffering, and content in holy living.
- Humility makes us fit for the highest service that we owe to Christ and at the same time is *not* negligent of the lowliest service to the humble saint.
- Humility can be content with the most modest table and yet will enjoy the most precious delicacies as with God, with Christ, and in glory.
- Humility makes a man willing and ready to bless him who curses him and to pray for him who persecutes him.
- A humble heart is an abode of God, a disciple of Christ, a companion of angels, a preserving-vessel for grace, and is prepared for glory.
- Humility is the faithful nurse of our grace and gifts and the mighty impulse to a sacred exercise in duty.

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

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***“Honour all men.  
Love the  
brotherhood.  
Fear God.  
Honour the king”  
(1 Pet. 2:17).***



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## God's Promises to the Believer

### First in a Series of Four Articles

**2 Peter 1:3-4**, "According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."

God's Word is full of promises for the believer. However, in times of struggle or difficulty, it may be hard to grasp these promises and believe them. Many people know the words of the verses but do not internalize them and experience the power of their Truth. It is important for the believer to personalize the promises and choose to believe they are true for him or her! Below are some steps for internalizing these promises:

- Identify the promise from the Scripture as the truth.
- Make the choice to affirm it as truth in your life. That is, believe that the promise is true for you.
- Ask yourself, "If I lived like this promise was 100% true, how would I live? What type of difference would it make in my life?"
- Make the choice to live like the truth is truly true even if your feelings don't match. Remember, when your feelings and the truth are in conflict, always follow the truth of the Word.

Believers can claim the promises below because of God's grace and goodness toward them. We cannot claim any right to these promises based on our own worthiness. Therefore, in order to keep these promises in perspective, it is helpful to use the following sentence stems:

- Because of salvation through Christ...
- Because of the Holy Spirit's work in me...
- Because of God's love, power, and plan...

In this series of articles, we will examine some sets of promises in God's Word and discuss how these promises could have application in our lives of faith.

### Set 1: I have the promise of eternal life.

**1 John 2:24-25**, "Let that therefore abide in you, which ye have heard from the beginning. If that which ye have heard from the beginning shall remain in you, ye also shall continue in the Son, and in the Father. And this is the promise that hath promised us, even eternal life."

**Hebrews 9:15**, "And for this cause he [Christ] is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance."

We sing in a hymn, "Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine," and yet this truth can be difficult to grasp in times of doubt. As these verses in-

dicating, if we abide in Him, we have the promise of eternal life. This isn't just wishful thinking but a lively hope of being with God in eternity. The Hebrews' writer reminds us that because Christ died, converted believers have redemption and the promise of eternal inheritance as a present possession. Even though we know this to be true, we may not feel it in our hearts because we may feel that our lives haven't been good enough. However, it is not by our goodness that we are saved but through faith in the shed blood of the Son of God.

### Set 2: I am a child of God.

**John 1:12-13**, "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."

**Romans 8:14**, "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God."

**Romans 8:16-17**, "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together."

**Galatians 4:6-7**, "And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ."

Continued on next page

To be considered as part of the family of God by way of relationship is a higher calling than we can comprehend. However, in these verses we see that it is God's desire and design that we do become sons and daughters of the Almighty. He has sent His Son to become sin for us that we might be able to have this relationship with Him and become joint heirs with Jesus. Nevertheless, we are reminded in Romans that we may also be required to suffer with Him. This promise of sonship demonstrates God's desire for an intimate connection, like an earthly father has with his son.

### Set 3: I have access to God.

**Ephesians 2:18**, "For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father."

**Ephesians 3:11-12**, "According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord: In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him."

**Romans 5:2**, "By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God."

Often in our distress and difficulties, we may feel that God is unavailable or inaccessible. He may seem very distant but here we find that He is nigh to us and we need only come before Him in faith, believing that He is. These verses show not only the instant access that we have to the Father, but that we can come to Him boldly and with confidence that He will hear us. This promise can give us great comfort and we can "rejoice in hope of the glory of God."

*Sermon continued from Page 2*

and nobody recognized him. David was but a shepherd boy, unrecognized by even his family of his kingship. Jesus, born in Bethlehem, unrecognized.

"He came unto his own, and his own received him not." (St. John 1:11) The meaning of Bethlehem is much deeper. Bethlehem - what does it mean? The meaning of Bethlehem is 'house of bread' - house of bread, the bread of life. The bread of all of our lives which sustains us was born in the house of bread. Bethlehem: a sleepy little shepherds' community. Bethlehem: the place where shepherds raised their sheep, the main source of sheep that were to be slaughtered in Jerusalem at the time of sacrifice. Now the Lamb of God comes to be born in Bethlehem. He'll be slaughtered and sacrificed in Jerusalem.

Mary - Mary had the Christ child growing within her. She had been overcome by the Holy Spirit and God, fully God and fully man, to be born as a baby. "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us..." (St. John 1:14) God had dwelt with his people in the past. We read in Scripture how God was that pillar of fire (Exodus 13:21) and how God dwelt in the tabernacle (Exodus 40:34, 35), but God had never made Himself flesh. The time was right. The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.

"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." (St. John 1:12, 13) What Mary experienced, the Spirit working in

her life, is something that all who believe in Jesus Christ have experienced; born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. None of us can make ourselves Christians. It is not done by our will and determination. It takes the Spirit of God to change us, and He dwells within us.

What does it mean to be changed by God? What does it mean to have the Spirit dwell in you? We can see that in the Christmas account with Mary and Joseph. When the Spirit moves in the hearts of men, it gives man the ability to die of self and to trust God. When God calls us, it is not easy. Life does not become simpler. This I can say: when God calls us and we follow Him, we know Him deeper and deeper each and every day.

Mary found herself with child, not an easy situation for a young woman. Her reputation was scarred. Imagine the talk around the town. Nazareth, a place that was not considered a very godly place. Mary loved God and Joseph, but everybody misunderstood what was happening. God did not change their minds.

Joseph questioned what happened to Mary. He was a godly man. He saw beyond the law, and he was not going to have Mary stoned as the law required. He was just going to put her away privately, devastated, but God in His mercy and His faithfulness spoke to Joseph and told him to take Mary to be his wife. He knew what that meant. His reputation was now scarred, but, what is reputation? We, as humans, value reputation, but what mattered to Mary and Joseph was their heart with God.



What other men thought made no difference. I'm sure it hurt, but they valued God more than man.

Is there anyone here who does not know Jesus and what is preventing you is the fear that your friends look at religion and Christianity as a crutch? To become a Christian, you have this crutch to go through life. You are not real. No, you don't worry about what other men think. We follow God. We yield ourselves to Him, and that's what Mary and Joseph did.

Mary was nine months pregnant with Jesus, and out comes a decree to go back to your home town. They had to journey from Nazareth all the way to Bethlehem. God, in His ability, could have placed Joseph and Mary in Bethlehem, but He made them make the journey. A walk with Jesus Christ is not a walk of easiness. It is a walk of acceptance: accepting what the Lord brings our way and not to question. They willingly went to Bethlehem. Mary and Joseph could have thought in their minds, we are having the Christ Child. Why make this long trip? Why not a pleasant place to have the birth of the Christ Child? But no, acceptance is what happens in a belief and trust that God is going to provide.

They made the trip but there was no room at the inn. God's provision was different than perhaps they had expected. Instead, it was in a stable. The stable: who knows how many inches of manure was on the floor? Stables stunk. They are not sanitary. They are not beautiful. It's a place where animals were kept. There Jesus was born.

God's ways are so much higher than our ways. Where are things

at in our own lives and in our own walk with the Lord? Can we accept the situations that happen to us, knowing that God's ways are higher; He has a greater plan than what we can even imagine?

The life of Jesus, His whole walk on this earth, speaks of acceptance, of yielding to the Father. We see it in His birth, we see it in His life, and we see it in His death. So often, we try to orchestrate our life. It is not about our plans. It is accepting where God calls us, where He places us. God had the Christmas story begin in Nazareth, a place that was not highly esteemed, where the angels visited Joseph and Mary. He brings them to Bethlehem, and He's born in a stable.

Our walk with Christ is often in the valley. Sometimes the Lord gives us those mountaintop experiences, but much of life is in the valley. Accept the valley that He places us in so that we can learn to trust Him. Trust Him, and in trusting Him, we know Him. We come to know Him at a deeper and deeper level. We don't need to fear what is happening in the world. God knows His children, and He provides in ways that are beyond our imagination.

The simplicity of the Christmas story: *"And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn."* (St. Luke 2:7) We know what He wore. We know where He was born. We know the life that He lived. We don't know the date. It doesn't matter.

How many of you have gone through struggles in trying to determine when your family is going

to celebrate Christmas? How are you going to work around all the other families coming to that date? People get hurt. It doesn't matter. What matters is that we know He was born. There is nothing special about December 25th. What is special is that we celebrate His birth.

Last year, our Sauder family didn't celebrate Christmas at its usual time. Usually it is on the Sunday of the Christmas program. It didn't happen. It was postponed to July. The family in charge, Uncle Walt and Aunt Mary, couldn't be there because Uncle Walt had just had an operation on his brain. But, we celebrated Christmas. We sang Silent Night. We were together. Dates - they are of the world. It was the world that set December 25th. It doesn't matter. The Lord wants us to focus on who He is and why He came. Next year as you plan your family Christmases, if it's not on the date you always have, be meek and be lowly. It's okay.

May we, as we walk through this life, be meek and lowly. Accept the situations as they come our way, and may our lives bear testimony of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, our Savior.

***"My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest."  
(Exodus 33:14)***



# REMEMBERING

## *Our Spiritual Heritage*

*Historical forces continue on in the sweep of history. Magnificent events occur as people are influenced by concepts, beliefs, and special opportunities. Yet, aside from the great historical forces that shape and often guide people, there is a human side that cannot be separated from great events. These individual experiences of our people coming to America are plentiful and surely construct a noble legacy of devotion, courage, and determination -- all enshrouded by the leading of God's Spirit. This data is taken from "Marching To Zion," and other historical files.*

### **The Experience of Nicholas Bach**

Coming to America from Europe was a grand experience. There were many traveling hardships along with great anticipation in coming "to America." The story of Nicholas Bach, a young lad of eight, is one of them.

"Nick" Bach eventually landed in Fairbury and was a brother in faith there for many years until his death in 1951. On arriving in New York with his parents, he traveled on an immigrant train to Chicago and later on to Nebraska for a while. Having endured a long ocean voyage his heart burned with anticipation while riding on the train to finally see the wide expanse of the middle west.

Yet, his hopes of seeing the land

were somewhat dashed while on the train. The passenger car he was riding in was so cold the windows were frosted on the inside, and he could not see out. To see outside, he had to try, with his fingernails, to scratch the frost off of the inside of the window. He accomplished this and could glimpse the land of America.

While the Bach family switched trains in Chicago prior to boarding one for Nebraska they stayed at a hotel in downtown Chicago. Their quarters were on the third floor -- the immigrant floor -- which was one huge hall where immigrants slept on the floor with straw for a mattress. Apparently this mattered little to the immigrants. They were in America. They were in the land of freedom. A little discomfort was readily tolerated.

### **Worshipping God In A Sod House**

The history of the Kiowa, Kansas congregation traces back to the late 1890's. An Apostolic Christian settlement was first centered east of Burlington, Oklahoma. The first church services were held in Jake Meister's sod house. Families took their own lunch to eat between the morning and afternoon services. They would take the seats off their spring wagons, find a comfortable place in the shade and enjoy their sandwiches prior to reassembling for the afternoon worship service.

### **A Frigid Baptism**

The first convert at the Elgin, Illinois, church was a woman named Frieda Ricka Lindoerfer. She had come from Germany and fell under conviction by the preaching of repentance. This was in 1881. Elder George Welk of Morton, Illinois traveled to Elgin and baptized her. Her husband had broken the ice on Willow Creek in Lord's Park so the Elder could baptize her. Soon after this, a few others were spiritually awakened, and baptized in the same place.

### **"This is what I want"**

John Adam Reeb became the second resident Elder at Cissna Park, Illinois in 1890. He was born of Lutheran parents in Alsace-Lorraine. One day he encountered someone who was selling Bibles. Reeb told that person he was not satisfied with his faith. He was told of a religious group he might want to look into and learn more about them. Accordingly, he was put in touch with Samuel Froehlich's church. When young Reeb heard his first sermon in this church, he said, "This is what I want." He soon repented for his sins, found peace with God, and was baptized. At age nineteen, he was made a minister, and eventually an Elder.

By Perry Klopfenstein

**Next Issue:** More stories



# The Light of Hope

## The Lord's Presence

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

The Lord's presence is with us. Be careful. In Exodus 33:14 God encourages Moses by saying to him, "My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest."

Moses was concerned about who would go with him to lead the children of Israel out of Egypt. God responded by saying that His presence would go with Moses. That should be enough. God also said that He would give Moses rest. We should have rest and comfort in the presence of the Lord. A prerequisite is obedience.

When Christ came as a babe to Bethlehem, God's presence was on earth in a very special way. Matthew 1:23 informs us, "And they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us." When Christ ascended after His resurrection, He sent the Holy Spirit to continue His presence John 16:7. "If I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send Him unto you."

We are not operating in a vacuum. We are operating in the presence of the Lord. Christ is in us, above us, below us, and all around us. We should always act and speak as if we were very much aware of His presence. We should ask Him if what we are about to say or do is all right with Him. All that we say and do should be for the honor and glory of the Lord Jesus Christ or the Heavenly Father. 1 Corinthians 10:31 reads, "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."

In the last verses in St. Matthew, Jesus tells His disciples, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy

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

Here Jesus promises His disciples, which would include us, that His presence will go with us to the end of the world. This probably has a dual meaning, that Christ will be with us anywhere we go in this universe, regardless of the distance, and also to the time of the end of the world. We need to be always conscious of the Lord's presence with us. We are always accountable to Him, as if He were standing beside us in person in His resurrected body.

Acts 3:19 also speaks of the presence of the Lord. "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord." Here again the presence of the Lord is mentioned and the wording indicates that the presence of the Lord is refreshing.

The question arises as to whether or not the Lord's presence goes with us if we go somewhere Christ would not go. I do not know for sure, but it seems to me that if we feel convicted about being in the wrong place, the Lord's presence is with us. However, if we no longer feel convicted about anything we say or do, His presence is no longer with us. Christ has promised never to leave us nor forsake us, so if He is no longer with us, it must be because we have departed from Him, which I believe we have the liberty to do. I believe in the free will of human beings to repent and put their faith in Jesus Christ. I further believe that human beings have the free will to live a true and faithful life or to depart from Him, even after conversion. Jesus had a reason for

saying, "Abide in me, and I in you." (John 15:4) I realize, however, that Jesus knows in advance what we will do and chooses us, or refrains from choosing us, accordingly. Romans 8:29 "For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate..."

Soon we will be celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ. Certainly His coming into this world in the form of a human being is reason for great rejoicing. However, let's inquire of the Lord as to how He would have us celebrate His birth. Surely it should be with reverence. When we consider that the Lord's presence will be with us, we will want to remember the teaching in 1 Corinthians 13:5 that charity or love, "Seeketh not her own." We should not be seeking to please or build up self, but others. Actually, we can help ourselves the most when we are kind, loving, and helpful to others.

It is interesting to note that Jonah tried to flee from the presence of the Lord. "But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the Lord." (Jonah 3:1) Jonah didn't want to go and preach unto the people of Nineveh, but he couldn't get away from the presence of God, even in the belly of the great fish God had prepared for him. He evidently only wanted to flee from the presence of God to the extent that he wouldn't have to go to Nineveh.

As we celebrate the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ and every day all year long, let us be aware of the Lord's presence. The standards as to what is descent and proper in society have fallen and we may be affected by that. "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever." (Hebrews 13:8) The Lord's presence is with us.



When shadows grow long in the evening  
When birds wing their way back home  
I get a heavenly feeling  
It's sunset and I'm going home . . .

The burdens I've carried were heavy  
I've prayed in the garden alone  
But there'll be no crosses up yonder  
It's sunset and I'm going home . . .

The harvest is over and ended  
The summer is ended and gone  
The laborer longs for His coming  
It's sunset and I'm going home . . .

**GOSPEL HYMNS #812**

