



"Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage."

Galatians 5:1

"So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty."

James 3:12

VOLUME 40

JULY 1990

NUMBER 7

*Beautiful, Beautiful America*

*Land of Liberty*

"... where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty."

II Corinthians 3:17

## MISSION -- WORLD RELIEF -- WORKS PROJECTS

### INTANGIBLE WEALTH Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle Shioda, Japan

Are you wealthy? Are you poor? Are you in between? Before you answer those questions you might want to ask a question yourself, "Are you talking about tangible wealth or intangible wealth?"

The Lord Jesus Christ said, "A man's life consisteth not in the abundance of things which he possesseth." This indicates that the assets shown on your balance sheet may not be the only measurement of your wealth.

This idea is reinforced by the message the Lord Jesus Christ conveyed to the church at Laodicea, Revelation 3:17, "... Thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked . . ."

Recently I asked an English student, a high school girl, whether or not she would like to be rich. She replied, "Yes, but not very rich. If I could have anything I want, now, it would be boring." She was speaking in English and I was impressed. This girl had just purchased a motor bike with money she saved by working as a waitress in a restaurant. It took her a long time to save that much money (there is no tipping here) and she was thrilled with her purchase.

Considering whether or not you are wealthy, let's make a list of your tangible wealth. This list would include bank savings, bonds, stock, land, buildings, life insurance, etc. The list

for your intangible wealth might start with health but even without good health you might be rich with intangible possessions such as peace with God, assurance of salvation, humility, submission to God and your brothers and sisters in Christ, a tremendous love for other people, a strong desire to help others rather than to hurt them in any way. The immediate result of these intangible assets is a joy and happiness that radiates. While tangible riches can be very useful if used prayerfully, let's go all out for those intangible riches which are invaluable.

### ----- TO COLLEGE? BE CAREFUL!

[The following was written by a beloved, deceased ministering brother from Akron, Ernest A. Graf.]

We have arrived at an era of time when much more education is needed to obtain employment and earn a livelihood, and as a result, many of our brothers, sisters and friends must attend places of higher learning, in preparation for their lifetime occupations. Sad to say, many of the officials, instructors and students at such schools do not accept or obey the teachings inspired by God through His Holy Spirit, and made known to man through the Holy Scriptures. Many people do not recognize the fact that each one must account to God for the life they have lived, and be rewarded or punished, depending on their obedience or disobedience to His Word. Satan questioned Eve: **Has God indeed said so and so?** and

added -- **Ye shall not surely die** (if ye disobey God) **but shall be wise to know good and evil;** this same spirit is rampant in this world in the places of higher learning.

Therefore, we are anxious when our children, our friends, our brothers and sisters must further their education, lest in learning for the needs of their employment, they unlearn and lose the simplicity that is in Christ and in the teaching of humble believing parents and the doctrine of Christ, spoken by inspiration through humble servants of the Word.

Therefore, this is written to encourage and caution our brothers, sisters and friends to beware of those doctrines which deny man's duty to God, or those which are even more dangerous -- the doctrines which deny  
(Continued on Page 4)

### THE SILVER LINING

Grabill, Indiana 46741  
USPS 496780

#### EDITORIAL STAFF:

David Bertsch  
Uriel Gehring  
Lester Stoller

The editorial staff wishes to acknowledge and thank all of the volunteers from the Leo Apostolic Christian Church who willingly give of their time to handle the many address changes, help mail the monthly issues and spend hours in editing. May God reward you.

Published Monthly By The Apostolic  
Christian Church of America

Counselors: Theo Beer, Loren Stoller,  
David Bertsch, Phillip Stettner

#### SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO:

The Silver Lining  
c/o David Bertsch  
11520 Grabill Road  
Grabill, IN 46741

Second class postage paid at Grabill, IN 46741. The subscription rate is \$7.00 per year. Send zip number with address. Remember to send changes of address. Send both old and new addresses (with both zips).

IN MEMORY -- EDITORS:  
HENRY SOUDER  
EDWARD SOUDER

## ON-GOING NEED FOR HOUSEPARENTS AT GATEWAY WOODS

At Gateway Woods - Apostolic Christian Children's Home, we periodically have openings for couples to serve as houseparents for troubled children. Often when these openings occur, we maintain for extended periods understaffed as we wait and pray for couples to respond to the Spirit and to the needs of these kids. It is our hope that a list of qualified couples could be developed in order that these positions could be filled quickly with minimum disruption to children's lives.

Houseparenting is challenging, rewarding, spiritually stimulating, and reasonably compensated with salary and benefits. If you or someone you know is interested in the residential child care field, we encourage you to explore the possibilities further by contacting Bro. Tim Sauder at P. O. Box 151, Leo, IN 46765, (219) 627-2159 or 627-2606, or Elder Bro. David Bertsch (219) 627-2923.



Writings based  
on God's Word

# Light From The Word

*"The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple" (Ps. 119:130).*

## APOSTASY

Apostasy is referred to in the Word of God as falling away or forsaking the faith. It consists of a desertion or departure from the true Christian faith. It is prophesied that a falling away will occur before the Antichrist is revealed (2 Thes. 2:3-4). It can happen to individuals, such as Demas, who forsook the Apostle Paul for the world (2 Tim. 4:10); or it can happen to groups of believers as prophesied regarding several of the seven churches (Rev. 2 and 3). The primary purpose of this article is to review the scriptural warnings against the dangers of apostasy and the instructions as to how it can be avoided.

The Lord Jesus pleaded with the Father in His last hours before Calvary on behalf of all who would become His own: "Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are" (John 17:11). He provides all the necessary resources to help assure our remaining faithful, but we are subject to an enemy who, "as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Pet. 5:8).

Certain characteristics often precede apostasy. These include lukewarmness, indifference, waywardness, individualism, intermingling and doctrinal confusion, as well as lack of commitment to Christ and His church. Lack of commitment is really just one step away from rebellion. The Word speaks of gainsayers, who are individuals who oppose or contradict authority and interpreted truth. Titus was given specific instructions as a leader in the church: "Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers" (Tit. 1:9). Timothy was given a similar exhortation: "In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth" (2 Tim. 2:25). Much loving effort should be

made to help correct wayward brethren who become ensnared in false beliefs and develop unsubmitive attitudes. However, the Word also makes clear that when such individuals sow discord in the church (Prov. 6:19) and confuse others, they must be reprovved by the brethren, and if not submissive, separated from the fellowship (Rom. 16:17; Tit. 3:10-11).

Obviously, the best approach is to make every effort to prevent deception from entering the hearts of the believers. This is achieved by staying very close to the Lord, and being alert to the various dangers which confront His people. A humble attitude which is subject to the counsel of the Word and to faithful brethren is essential.

The child of God is to "give diligence" or make tremendous effort to add numerous virtues to his faith, such as knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness and charity (2 Pet. 1:5-7). Developing these virtues, serving others and suffering for the cause of Christ will go a long way in warding off the enemy's attempts to foster indifference, lukewarmness and doctrinal confusion. Moses was a faithful servant, "choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season" (Heb. 11:25).

There are many warnings and examples in the Word about spiritual drift which can ultimately lead to destruction. The children of Israel often followed a pattern of backsliding, "and in their hearts turned back again into Egypt" (Acts 7:39). Even in battle they sometimes retreated, "The children of Ephraim, being armed, and carrying bows, turned back in the day of battle" (Psa. 78:9). Faithful Jonathan, however, remained true to David: "the bow of Jonathan turned not back" (2 Sam. 1:22). The believer is sternly warned, "Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led

away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness" (2 Pet. 3:17). "Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. But exhort one another daily, while it is called today; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin" (Heb. 3:12-13).

As believers, we must be especially alert to the subtle nature of today's destructive forces which can undermine our spiritual stability. Many appealing but misleading ideas and biblical interpretations are espoused in modern day religious literature and broadcasts. A basic deception which colors many of these teachings is the belief that it is impossible for a true believer to ever fall away. It should be recognized that this misconception has far-reaching effects upon individuals' attitudes about sin, church discipline and the risk of exposure to spiritual deception. It can produce a false sense of immunity to danger, numbing our spiritual senses and making us easy victims of Satan. The Apostle Paul wrote, "But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ" (2 Cor. 11:3).

The time-tested, biblically sound doctrines and practices of our forefathers continue to be taught from our pulpits throughout the land and exercised in our churches and homes. May we all recognize the profound significance of being whole-heartedly committed to these truths, so that no seeds of rebellion or false doctrine will ever take root in our hearts. We can understand why the Apostle John said "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth" (3 John 4).

May we as God's people, in "simplicity and godly sincerity" (2 Cor. 1:12) resist the threat of apostasy, standing firmly with Christ our leader, and with our beloved brethren, as faithful Jonathan stood with David.

dangerous -- the doctrines which deny the need of repentance, confession, regeneration and self-denial by the redeeming blood of Jesus Christ, and the grace of God extended to man through Him.

There is evidence that where believers have walked in the light among the unredeemed and spiritually un-instructed, God could use them to draw souls to Him. Should one, however, fail or neglect to walk carefully, or guard against these false teachings, or false Christs, we could suffer great spiritual harm and loss, and fail our God and Redeemer by not helping others to find Him.

We are living in the latter times, of which Christ said, **Because iniquity shall prevail, the love of many shall wax cold.** No wonder then that He added, **Watch and pray lest ye fall in temptations, for while the spirit is willing, the flesh is weak.** Fortunately, the brothers hold services at many of our schools of higher learning, to encourage and strengthen the good, and to counteract the evil. Yet, I felt moved, out of my own personal concern and anxiety, to speak out on this matter.

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**A CHURCH AND THE WORLD**  
Submitted by Retired Minister  
Bro. Arthur Gudeman  
LaCrosse, IN

The church and the world walked far apart  
On the changing shore of time.  
The world was singing a giddy song  
And the church a hymn sublime.  
"Come give me your hand," said the merry world,  
"And walk with me by the way,"  
But the good church hid her snowy hand  
And solemnly answered, "Nay."

"I will not give thee my hand at all,  
And I will not walk with you.  
Your way is the way of eternal death,  
And your words are all untrue."  
"Nay, walk with me a little space,"  
Said the world with an acted air.  
"The road I walk is a pleasant road  
And the fun shows always there."

"Your way is narrow and thorny  
and rough,  
While mine is flow'ry and smooth.

Your lot is sad with reproach and toil,  
But in round of joy I move.  
My way, you can see, is a broad fair one,  
And my gate is high and wide.  
There is room enough for you and me,  
And we'll travel side by side."

Half shyly, the church approached the world,  
And gave him her hand of snow,  
And the false world grasped it and walked along,  
And whispered in accents low . . .  
"Your dress is too simple to please my taste;  
I have gold and pearls to wear,  
Rich velvets and silk for your graceful form,  
And diamonds to deck your hair."

The church looked down at her plain, white robes,  
And then at the dressed-up world,  
And blushed as she saw his handsome lip  
With a smile, contemptuous, curled.  
"I will change my dress for a fancier one,"  
Said the church with a smile, not grace.  
Then her pure white garment drifted away,  
And the world gave in her place . . .

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever."

I John

Beautiful satins and fashionable silks,  
And roses and gems and pearls,  
And over her fair head her bright hair fell,  
Waved in a thousand curls.  
"Your house is too plain," said the proud old world,  
"Let me build you one like mine,

With pleasure for feasting and parlor for play,  
And ornament ever so fine."  
So he build her a costly and beautiful house;  
Splendid it was to behold.  
Her sons and her daughters met frequently there,  
Shining in purple and gold,  
And fair and festival, frolics untold,  
Were held in the place of prayer,  
And maidens bewitching as sirens of old,  
With world-winning beauty care.

Bedecked with fair jewels, and hair all shorn,  
Unhindered by tradition laws,  
To beguile and amuse, and win from the world  
Some help for the proclaimed cause.

An angel, in mercy, rebuked the church;  
Christ whispered, I know thy sin . . .  
Then the church looked sad, and anxiously longed  
To gather her children in.

Some now were away at the midnight ball,  
And others were at the play,  
And some were drinking in gay saloons,  
And the angel went away . . .  
And then said the world in smooth tongue tones,  
"Your much loved ones mean no harm  
Merely indulging in innocent sports."  
So she leaned still on his proffered arm.

And smiled, and chatted, and gathered flowers,  
And walked along with the world,  
While countless millions of precious souls  
To the horrible pit were hurled.  
"Your preachers are all too old and plain,"  
Said the gay world with a sneer;  
"They frighten my children with dreadful words  
Which I do not like them to hear."

"They talked of judgment and fire and pain,  
And the doom of endless night;  
They warn of a place that I don't want

Thus spoken of, endless fright."  
I will send you some of a stranger  
stamp,  
More brilliant and gay and fast,  
Who will show how men live as  
they list  
'Once saved -- always saved' at last."

"The Father is merciful and great  
and good,  
Loving and tender and kind;  
Do you think He'd take one child  
to heaven  
And leave another behind?"  
So she called for pleasing and gay  
preachers  
Smooth-tongued and great and  
learned,  
And the plain old men who  
preached the cross  
Were out of the pulpits turned.

Then money love came in and  
supported this church  
And rented a prominent pew;  
And preaching and singing and  
pompous display  
Soon proclaimed a teaching new.  
"You give too much to the poor,"  
said the world,  
Far more than you ought to do;  
Though the poor need shelter,  
food and clothes,  
Why should it thus trouble you?"  
"Go take your money and buy rich  
robes,  
Ease, pleasure, gay moments mine,  
And pearls and jewels, and dainty  
foods,  
The rarest and costliest wine.  
My children they dote on all such  
things,  
And if you their love would win,

You then do as they do, and walk  
in their way,  
The wide, broad way they're in."

Then the church her purse-strings  
held,  
And gravely lowered her head,  
And whimpered, "I've given too  
much away,"  
I will do, sir, as you have said;  
So the poor were turned from the  
door in scorn.  
She heard not the orphans cry,  
And she drew her beautiful robes  
aside  
As the widows went weeping by.

And they of this church and they  
of the world  
Journeyed closely, hand and heart,  
But our Master in heaven, who  
knoweth all,  
Can discern the real apart.  
Then the church looked down at  
her ease and said,  
"I am rich and in goods increased;  
I have need of nothing and naught  
to do  
But to laugh and dance and feast."

The sly old world heard her, and  
laughed within  
And mocking said aside,  
"The church has fallen -- the  
beautiful church.  
Her shame is her boast and pride."  
Thus her witnessing power, alas,  
was lost,  
And the perilous times come in,  
The time of the end, so oft foretold,  
Of form, of pleasure and sin.

Then the angel drew near the  
mercy seat  
And whispered in sighs her name.  
The saints their anthems of  
rapture hushed!  
And bowed their heads with shame.  
A voice came down from the hush  
of heaven  
From Him who sits on the throne.  
He knows all works, and what  
thou has said,  
But, alas, He must cast thee out,  
And blot thy name from its place.

**GATEWAY WOODS  
CHILDREN'S HOME  
Rhonda Stoller**

As I drove onto Norr Lane this  
morning, a warm feeling washed over

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Children's Home

LEO, INDIANA

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me as I observed the campus. The affirmation that summer had arrived was evident. The grass was green, the flowers were bright, the horses were grazing in the pasture, the older youth were mowing or doing other yard work.

One scene though pricked my heart and brought a flood of childhood memories rushing to my mind. The

younger children were getting ready for Bible school and were loading in the vans to head to church. I had to think back to when I was young. The week of vacation Bible school was a time to be with friends, learn more about God's love and goodness, doing crafts, and sharing with others at the program what we had learned. For a moment I wanted to drop what I was

doing and go with them; but then, I felt a greater need to pray.

I prayed for God's wisdom to be with the teachers. I asked God to help the teachers to be able to express the love of God in a way that can reach our youth. I prayed that the Spirit of God would be able to break through the hurt, pain and fear so many of the youth at Gateway Woods feel and allow His power to love and heal. Children's hearts and lives that have been broken by the treatment of their own fathers place a real challenge before our staff and Sunday school teachers. We teach them that God is their Father but their view of a father is not good. We tell them God loves them but they only remember love as something painful.

I couldn't completely express in words this struggle until I was listening to a song yesterday. With tears in my eyes and a lump in my throat I softly prayed, "Dear God may the hearts of all who hear these words realize the truth behind them and pray for children everywhere." I would love to share these same words with you and pray the same prayer.

## -- NOTICE --

### Repair and Distribution of Worn Bibles, Bible Story Books, Hymns of Zion, Tabernacle or Gospel Hymn Books

Our work in sending Bibles, hymnals and Bible story books overseas has increased. Since 1984, we have sent over 5,000 books. At the World Relief meeting in Leo, November 1989, a plea was made that someone would start in this work in the Eastern States. We're thankful Bro. Phil and Sis. Gloria Grant (Latty, OH) volunteered.

You may get your books to either of us or Wing or Bluffton World Relief Centers. We have far more requests for Bibles and Bible story books and Sunday school material, than hymnals.

If you have any questions or wish to send material for repair, please call or write:

Jerry and Arlene Banwart  
Box 132, 307 West First St.  
Congerville, IL 61729  
Phone (309) 448-2416

or

Phil and Gloria Grant  
R.R. #2, Box 95A  
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#### Bibles Distributed By Our Churches

First Year -- August 1983 thru July 1984 --	13,890
Second Year -- August 1984 thru July 1985 --	10,812
Third Year -- August 1985 thru July 1986 --	18,247
Fourth Year -- August 1986 thru July 1987 --	23,048
Fifth Year -- August 1987 thru July 1988 --	25,969
Sixth Year -- August 1988 thru July 1989 --	25,509

#### Bibles Distributed -- Seventh Year

	MONTH	TO DATE
August 1989 --	2210	2210
September 1989 --	1627	3837
October 1989 --	2102	5939
November 1989 --	2338	8277
December 1989 --	3095	11,372
January 1990 --	1212	12,584
February 1990 --	1543	14,127
March 1990 --	1653	15,780
April 1990 --	3346	19,126
May 1990 --	1766	20,892
June 1990 --	1601	22,493

NOTE: Sets of Braille Bibles are available to give to the blind and KJV, Old and New Testaments, on cassette tapes for those who can no longer read the large print. Also, pocket testaments with Psalms and Proverbs are available.

### HE IS STILL A FATHER

They tell her God loves her  
She says that's great  
They tell her He's a father  
Then she hesitates  
Something happened long ago  
And she still feels the fear  
If God is like a father  
Does she really want Him near?

But He is still a father  
Who loves His little girls  
And He would never hurt you  
Or destroy your world  
In His eyes you sparkle  
Like a priceless shining pearl  
And He is still a Father  
Who loves His little girls.

Tomorrow the papers  
Will print the news  
A father a daughter  
Another child abused  
How many hearts are breaking now  
And who is keeping score  
For everyone they write about  
There are thousands more.

His arms are strong  
But they won't hurt you

His hand is there  
To lead the way  
His loving eyes  
Can see your heartache  
And He'll wipe  
Your tears away.

For He is still a father  
Who loves His little girls  
And He would never hurt you  
Or destroy your world  
In His eyes you sparkle  
Like a priceless shining pearl  
And He is still a Father  
Who loves His little girl.

by Ray Boltz

Summer vacation started with a bang! Throughout the year the children and staff work hard both on and off campus and hold an annual Car Wash and Bake Sale to earn money to take family vacations. This year each house headed in a separate direction.

The West House family was ready to go Thursday, May 31. Early in the morning their van headed south of Lake Cumberland in southern Kentucky. A big "thank you" goes out to two families from Bluffton who gave them use of their cabin and boat for the week. They all enjoyed the time swimming, boating and just being together as a family.

"Fishes and loaves" may be the best way to describe the East House vacation. God had provided enough for the ladies to get in the air; but, once in Arizona, friends provided beyond their greatest expectations. A special "thank you" to the Arizona and California churches for their generous support and hospitality. The girls are still chattering about their vacation. Though they have pictures as reminders, their greatest memories are of the new friends they made.

The New House family headed for Compton Ridge Campground in the Ozark Mountains. After setting up camp they filled their days swimming, taking tours and viewing Marvel Cave. The boys and girls commented "How the beauty of the land really reflected God's handiwork." On their way home they stopped in St. Louis. They had a great time and would like to express a special "thank you" to the Remington church and Elaine Loucks (three of the kid's grandma) for their help.

We want to welcome Sis. Amy

Unsicker (Peoria, IL) to the family. Amy has accepted the TLP Coordinator position. She brings with her a background and experience in Special Education. Thank you, Amy, for allowing God to direct you to help our children. We welcome you and love you.

We have a new teenager in our Transitional Living Foster Care Program. Donna H. has joined foster parents, Bro. Lee and Sis. Paula Nuest (Latty, OH). It is exciting to see the change that can begin in life when placed in a stable atmosphere.

The staff experienced mixed emotions and tears as two girls were reunited with their families. Samantha left earlier in June with her parents to head West. Samantha expressed fear, hesitation and happiness as she hugged us goodbye. Barbi left in mid-June to live with her mother. Barbi had worked hard and long for this movement. She sparkled and was bubbling as she told us goodbye. Our prayers continue to be with Samantha and Barbi in hope that what they have learned about life and the Lord will not leave them.

Brian R. (13) from the Fort Wayne area joined the West House in early July. Please continue to pray with us to help meet the needs in Brian's life.

We hope to see all former staff at the Reunion the weekend of July 21-22.

We're also looking forward to our Annual Sale on August 18, 1990. Please see the brochure inserted in this issue, along with the Bill of Sale, for more information about this upcoming event.

#### -----

### APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

The Bible says that the Lord is the same yesterday, today and forever. Believers are thankful for that truth in a world that is fast paced and ever changing. In so many ways our existence at A.C.H.H. is no different. Just by nature of the fact that 120 folks live at our facilities and nearly as many full-time staff are employed here puts the wheels of change in motion. We certainly welcome Doug Steffen (Forrest, IL) as our newest friend to move into A.C.H.H. We feel as if we know Doug well because he's

had a chance to spend a vacation or two with us previously. (He even went to St. Louis overnight with a group of us last summer.) We also believe that God is bringing him into our lives, and we to his for a special purpose. If our God knows every hair on our heads (Matthew 10:30) then surely He knows where each of us ought to be . . . and when we ought to be there! Thanks, Jesus, for knowing all that, in our ever changing world!

On March 21, four women moved from Oakwood Estate into a house in Morton. They each have their own bedroom and share the rest of the house. They make some of their own meals and help with others. They have a staff person there most of the time, but are doing fine when they are there alone. They have been doing a good job of taking phone messages, keeping the house clean, and doing other things on their own.

We also have a group of men that are ready to move. We have purchased a house and are going ahead with plans.

These decisions have been made after much soul searching and prayer that God would lead us and help us make decisions which would provide everyone with a safe and happy home and one in which they could be successful and feel fulfilled.

As many of you probably know, the state very closely monitors what we do. We need to work very hard to meet their expectations and still provide services in a way that we feel will please God.

The Board of Directors and elder brothers review these changes carefully before giving their approval. All of us feel that with the continued prayerful support of the families and friends of our residents, and the support of all of the believers whose support we covet, that God will continue to direct and bless this work.

We have been very generously supported over the years by contributions from all of you. Until recently, all of our residents have been fully funded through state programs. The people who are now moving to new community settings will not be receiving state funding, so we will be depending upon these contributions to provide for their supervision and care.

Our August birthdays are: Susie

Landis (5); Peggy Full (5); Martha Clymer (6); Eric Ringwald (4); Nancy Eschmann (12); Shirley Pfeifer (23); Barb Hostetler (28); Dan McDonough (29). None at Oakwood or 540 N. Main.

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**ALABAMA, ATHENS**  
**Pamela Moore**

We appreciate our summer visitors, as they pass through Athens on their summer vacations. We have had visitors from Goodfield, Tremont, Fairbury and Gridley, IL, and Sarasota, FL.

Sis. Lisa Huette arrived in Athens the first weekend of June, to begin a new phase of her life in Athens. She will be working as an Occupational Therapy Assistant in Huntsville, AL. We welcome Lisa to our Athens family, and are thankful that God has led her to make this move.

During the months of May and June, the Preschool was glad to have six volunteers to help them out. Amy Coleman and Sis. Linda Morrison (Mansfield, OH) were the first to come, and later, Sisters Deanne Stahl, Lisa Kieser, Jana Kieser (Bradford, IL) and Sis. Tammy Wieland (Princeville, IL) came to help. The preschool teachers appreciate the volunteers, as it allows them to have a summer vacation. We welcome anyone willing to volunteer their time to the preschool.

On June 1, the Annual Preschool Graduation ceremony was held in the church building. Eighteen children completed the two and three-year-old nursery class, taught by Sis. Louise Hall and Sis. Doris Moore, and 14 children graduated from the four-year-old class, taught by Sis. Julie (Bauer) Walder and Sis. Joan Schrenk. It was a special treat to have Sis. Julie back in Athens to participate in the graduation ceremony.

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**ARIZONA, PHOENIX**  
**Ron and Ev Hoerr**

This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Daybreak is such a beautiful time. We are given another day to praise and please our Lord. You've talked with the Saviour and haven't heard one unkind word from anyone. Hummingbirds come to the feeder, flying

in from the pine, cottonwood and "bird" tree. The Bible opens to Psalm 107. Verses 1, 8, 9 leap up at you. Trust Him, it's going to be a great day!

A reception for our graduates was held June 3 in the congregational room. God's blessings and congratulations were extended to Bro. Bob Dotterer, Gabriel Hill, Sis. Wendy Klopfenstein, Karrie Niemeyer, Beth Dotterer, Adina Johnston, Todd Klopfenstein and Justin Roth. A good guide for all your days ahead is found in Exodus 20:3-17.

We enjoyed a visit from the houseparents and the group of children from "Gateway Woods" All Girl House in Leo, IN. Let us hope this vacation trip midst Christian fellowship will encourage them to keep their eyes upon Jesus. A barbecue supper and singing was enjoyed by a big crowd.

"Where He leads me, I will follow." Bro. Mark Steffen is returning to Alto, MI, after a two-year sojourn at A.S.U. We await your return if God so wills. Bro. Carl and Sis. Myrna Steffen also returned to Alto after a short time here.

Thank you to Bro. Ken Lawson for ministering to us May 27.

Praying is so worthwhile and so comforting. Baby Lauren Meiss was hospitalized for studies. Bro. Jim and Sis. Candy are grateful she is doing fine now. Sis. Doris and Bro. Dan Kokanovich, Sis. Marjorie Rebbec, are always grateful for your prayer support. We give thanks Sis. LaVina Dotterer is up and about after knee surgery 3 months ago. Sis. Emma Sanders had eye surgery.

Sympathy is extended to Sis. Wanda Hoerr, Sis. Lindy Knochel and Sis. Candy Meiss on the death of their Uncle Dave.

Vacation Bible School was enjoyed by many June 11 through 15. We are grateful to everyone who participated in this worthwhile project. Visiting ministers, Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore (Athens, AL), Bro. Nate Leman (Tucson), Bro. Al Langhofer (Wichita, KS) and Bro. Mike Leman (Denver, CO) brought we children over 13 the message of Jesus' footsteps.

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**ARIZONA, TUCSON**  
**Lisa Knapp**

We are very thankful to announce

the safe arrival of Jonathan Dean Sinn. He has blessed the home of Bro. Dean and Sis. Heidi Sinn. Now that we have met Jonathan, we will have to say goodbye to him as Bro. Dean and Sis. Heidi plan to move to Oregon very soon. We will miss their little family so much, but we have many memories of our time spent together. We send with them our prayers for a happy, blessed life in Oregon.

Our prayers are with Bro. Loren Knapp who recently lost his brother, Bro. Maurice Knapp (Roanoke, IL). We know the Lord can heal and comfort and we pray he will in His time.

Jim Funk (Sis. LouAnn) was hospitalized for a short time after gall bladder surgery. He is home now and we certainly wish him a speedy recovery and the Lord's healing touch.

Deacon Bro. Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix) and his wife, Sis. Nancy, were in church recently, along with their four children. We are glad they visited and we thank them for their service. May God richly bless them.

Elder Bro. Richard Schupbach (Phoenix) was with us recently to share the mid-year conference letter with us. As always it was good to see Bro. Richard. We know the Lord blesses each effort made in His behalf.

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**COLORADO, DENVER**  
**Marlene Leman**

Two of our sisters have undergone surgery this month; Sis. Barb Baer has had foot surgery and Sis. Katherine Ries has had cataract surgery. We pray God will heal them.

Kelsey Jo was the name chosen for the new daughter of Bro. Ed and Sis. Gail Leman (Congerville, IL). Little Kelsey Jo is presently at St. Francis Hospital in Peoria. We pray that she will soon be able to be at home with her parents and sister, Kary. Grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Doris Williamson (Goodfield, IL) and Bro. Tom and Sis. Marlene Leman.

Anna Marie Bauman was a welcome addition to the family of Bro. Ben and Sis. Kris Bauman and their son, Luke (Goodfield, IL). Grandparents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Betty Bauman (Goodfield) and Bro. Tom and Sis. Marlene Leman.

Karl and Mitzi Braun have been blessed with another daughter, Ni-

cole Marie. Looking forward to playing with her sister is Julie. Grandparents are Herm Braun (Marengo, IL) and Sis. Sharon Braun.

May God be with these parents as they strive to bring these children up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. May they ever be examples to their children.

We have been blessed this past month with visiting ministers. They are Elder Bro. Ken Sauder (Mansfield, OH) and Bros. Edwin Bahler (Remington, IN), Gene Metzger (Lester, IA), Peter Petrovic (San Diego, CA) and Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH). May God bless them and their families for the service they are giving us.

### CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE

#### Martha Hany

How quickly the days pass; the long-awaited Spring has come and gone and already we are through the threshold of Summer. Surely, for many "the time flies on and death draws nigh; Unite us, Lord, with Thee on high - anticipation and a wonderful thought!

Our prayers for loved ones have been answered for those that have been hospitalized and are once again able to be home; namely, Sisters Shirley Luginbuhl, Luella Hoffman and Bros. Melvin Gerber, Alfred Reutter and Dave Hangartner. Also, our love and prayers are for Gert Hoffman who is presently hospitalized having surgery as well as those who are confined to their own homes, nursing homes and/or under a doctor's care.

We are happy to have ministering Bro. Roy Luginbuhl (Fort Lauderdale, FL) with us while visiting his family and wish him well for a complete recovery from recent heart surgery.

"For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."

Isaiah 55:9

The Lord has again revealed His will through the marriage of Bro. Robert Luginbuhl and the writer, June 17. Bro. Robert has three daughters, Sisters Bonnie Zahner, Susan Rufener

(Orrville, OH) and Luanne Hills; and 10 grandchildren. Sis. Martha is pleased to have the support of and become a member of his family which is part of our one spiritual family of God.

### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, WASHINGTON

#### Catherine Klopfenstein

Visiting ministers during the month of June were Elder Bro. Loren Stoller with his wife, Sis. Esther (Latty, OH) and Bro. Fred Domka with his wife, Sis. Connie, and four children (Mansfield, OH). We sincerely appreciate their efforts in preaching and teaching the Word of God.

Sis. Lydia Meyer (Peoria, IL) recently spent a couple of weeks here with her daughter, Henrietta Meyer, and Sis. Irene Aberle (Sabetha, KS) spent a couple of weeks with her daughter and family, Miriam Sutherland.

Other visitors were from Union City, NY, Bloomington and Forrest, IL, and Latty, OH. Attendance in June was very good.

We welcome our friend, Matthew Mangold (South Bend, IN) to our congregation. Matthew is just out of college and has accepted his first employment here in D.C. with a lobbying firm in the field of aviation. Matthew has been very faithful in attending services and we thoroughly enjoy his presence.

June 24 was not a church Sunday, so several of us here in the D.C. area, along with many visitors from several states, enjoyed a picnic at the Great Falls National Park. Ed and Ginny Stoll planned and hosted the picnic. It was a wonderful time of fellowship.

Services are held the first and third Sunday of each month, beginning at 10:30 a.m., at the Westpark Hotel located on U. S. Route 7, about 1 mile west of I-495. Visitors are always welcome. For information or assistance, call Ralph Klopfenstein, phone number 703-979-3476.

Near the cross, Oh Lamb of God,  
Bring its scenes before me,  
Help me walk from day to day,  
With its shadow o'er me.

Hymns of Zion #155

### FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE Terri Huber

Our annual elections have come and gone. Bro. Richard Sutter is a new trustee. Bro. Ken Troxel will continue to act as treasurer. Sis. Doris Huber now has the position of secretary. Bro. Seth Sauder was put in as a Sunday school teacher and Bro. Doug Sauder will be operating the speaker system. Bro. Bill Kuntz is a new usher and Sis. Judy Sauder will have church supper planning responsibilities. Bro. Ryan Huber is the Sunday school superintendent now that Bro. Ron Jones' term has expired.

In a church this size it isn't long until everyone gets to "do their part," if nothing else but by just attending church functions such as Bible study and singings where they can be an encouragement to others.

Visiting us in the ministerial capacity in May and June were Bros. Bill Gudeman (Elgin, IL) and Max Reimschisel (Wichita, KS).

Bro. Roy Luginbuhl is home and recuperating from his surgery. We are delighted that he has been able to fellowship with us again.

Many of the locals will be taking vacations this month, so Sunday school will recess until August.

### FLORIDA, NORTH FT. MYERS Dorothy Beer - Jeanette Yergler

How quickly our plans can change! Bro. Ralph and Sis. Jeanette Yergler were packing to leave for a trip north. Ralph was checking the top of their R.V., and fell off. He is in the hospital with a broken leg and other serious injuries. It brings to our attention that we never know what tomorrow will bring.

This last month we were blessed with the ministry of Bro. Steve Gutwein (Francesville, IN) who shared God's Word with us. We thank him and his family for their visit.

### FLORIDA, SARASOTA Suellen Ott

Our congregation rejoices with our Sis. Gloria Streitmatter and Bro. Jeff Fischer who became one in Christ and vowed to love each other until life's end. The parents are Bro. Jeff and Sis. Ruth Streitmatter and Bro.

Lyle and Sis. Lillian Fischer (Fort Scott, KS).

We are grateful for our visiting ministers, Bro. Victor Baumann (Smithville, OH) and Elder Bros. Ben Maibach and Robert Beyer, who were both here for the wedding of Sis. Gloria and Bro. Jeff.

Loving prayers and encouragement are offered in the behalf of Sis. Lydia Vonja who is ill and not able to assemble with us but wishes to do so. She is currently in the Venice Nursing Pavilion North. May we all remember Sis. Lydia and Moses in our prayers.

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**GEORGIA, ATLANTA**  
**Peggy Camp**

We have appreciated the visiting ministers who assembled with us this past month. They are Bro. Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL) and Bro. Everett Gerber (Rockville, CT). We are thankful for their efforts of love.

Services are held at 10:30 a.m. at the Ramada Renaissance Hotel. The hotel is located off I-85 at the Riverdale Road Exit. Please contact Bro. Linn Stoller (404-631-4554) or Bro. John Brewer (404-253-5668) for further information.

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**ILLINOIS,**  
**BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL**  
**Marcia Bauer - Carolyn Fischer**

We enjoyed an afternoon of delicious food and precious fellowship at Underwood Park at our Sunday school picnic May 27.

Bro. Chuck and Sis. Marie Kieser, Lanae and Ann are relocating in Phoenix, AZ. We are sad to bid them farewell, but wish them God's blessings in their new home and church.

Our congregation has been deeply saddened by the passing away of two of our loved ones. Chris Huetter was taken from this life May 30 after a lengthy battle from suffering a stroke. He is in a better place where he will no longer have bodily afflictions. Our love and prayers are with his wife, Sis. Hazel, and five children, Gregory (Livingston Manor, NY), Douglas (Fairfield, IA), Rick (Normal), Robert (Lisle) and Susan (Normal).

We all have been reminded of how quickly we can be taken from this life and how important it is for us to be

ready to meet our Lord. On Friday, June 1, Tom Keeley, after a brief illness, was taken from this life and from his loving family. He is survived by his dear wife, Sis. Jan, and two little daughters, Anna and Leah. We pray that Jesus will put His arms around this family and they can all meet in heaven some day. We also express our sympathy to Bro. Roy and Sis. Ann Maurer in the loss of their son-in-law. We know they will be such a wonderful support to Sis. Jan and girls.

Vacation Bible School was an exciting time for our children the week of June 4 through 8. As a week long project, the children brought money to send Bibles to Russia. This was very exciting to them to think of the Bibles to be placed in homes. A special thanks to Bros. Steve Sauder (Tremont), Jon Zeller (Morton), Wes Knapp (Goodfield) and Ed Fritz (Washington) for speaking to our Bible class students.

The junior class hosted a breakfast for our seniors. Our graduates this year are Suzie Gudeman (Bro. Dick and Sis. Jan), Rudy Haerr (Bro. Ray and Sis. Jeanie), Rick Masters (Bro. Bill and Sis. Mary) and John Steffen (Bro. Earl and Sis. Betty).

Congratulations to Bro. Carl and Sis. Ann Frautschi as they celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary June 2. We appreciate their example of a Christian marriage.

Paul Stoller (Lyle and Sis. Lois) and Sharon Brecklin were married June 9. We wish them the Lord's blessings in their marriage.

We thank Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford), Bro. Bruce Leman (Roanoke) and Bro. Loren Knapp (Tucson, AZ) for ministering to us this past month.

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**ILLINOIS, BRADFORD**  
**Karen Ringger**

"Baptized into Thy name most holy, O Father, Son and Holy Ghost, I claim a place, though weak and lowly among Thy seed, Thy chosen host. Immersed with Christ, I'm dead to sin; Thy Spirit now shall live with in."

Zion's Harp #41

On June 9 and 10, we were privileged to hear the testimonies and

witness the baptisms of 3 precious souls. We certainly welcome Bro. Steve Ehnle (Bro. Ed and Sis. Verla), Bro. Daryl and Sis. Debbie Knoblock (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Dianne, and Bro. Ralph and Sis. Carolyn Gudeman of Congerville) into the fold. May God bless them with much grace to stay humble and keep their robes clean and white. We truly want to thank Elder Bros. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO) and Joe Stoller (Princeville) for helping carry out God's holy work. Visiting ministers also spending the day with us were Bros. Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit, MI) and Marvin Schmidgall (Eureka).

We are so happy to have Bro. Ed Guingrich (Sis. Doris) assemble with us again, after spending some time in the hospital and at home. We always miss those that can't assemble with us, for each and every one help make our small church what it is.

Someone has left a ladies size 14, jade colored, 3/4 length, winter coat with a jade and fuchsia plaid scarf at our church several months ago. Please call (309) 895-6741 if you have any questions.

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**ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN**  
**LaRae Dill**

Our Sunday school students enjoyed Vacation Bible School the week of June 11 - 15. Thanks to those brothers and sisters who shared their time and talents teaching classes, leading singing and organizing craft projects: Sisters Marilyn Walder, Louise Walder, Anne Anliker, Sue Aeschleman, Margie Heintz, Marcia Koch and Karen Kaiser, and Bros. Brian Waibel, Ron Walder, Justin Koch and Dewayne Dill. Also, thanks to a number of students who assisted with craft projects: Sisters Linda Blunier, Dawn Meiss, Karen Rinkenberger, Kathy Schneider, Sandy Walder and Julie Young.

Shelley Blunier, a 1990 graduate of Mahomet-Seymour High School, will be leaving in early July to begin her training in the Army. Shelley has attended the Champaign church since her childhood years with her grandparents, Bro. Ben and Sis. Wilma Blunier. Her fellowship and participation in Sunday school will be missed. We pray the Lord will guide and protect Shelley in this new adven-

ture. Shelley's parents are Tom and Sara Blunier (Mahomet, IL).

Champaign-Urbana is a transition place for many students and couples who come to the University of Illinois, and then move on. We become attached to many who fellowship with us during their stay. John and Brenda Baer have assembled with us for the past three years, and are now moving on where John will continue in medical school. We ask the Lord's blessing on John, Brenda, and their daughters, Tressa and Rebekah in their new home in Tremont, IL.

Bro. Mike Walder has moved from Chicago to Urbana. We're thankful to have him as part of our congregation once again. We were also encouraged when Bro. John Walder chose to continue his work at the University of Illinois and remain in Urbana. Mike and John's parents are Bro. Melvin and Sis. Irma Walder.

We have been blessed with the visits of ministering Bros. Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL), Jim Hoerr (Peoria, IL) and Bruce Hohulin (Goodfield, IL).

## ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

### Kathy Schlatter

June/July have always been a change of pace for me, an ending and a beginning, even if I teach summer school. In school there are many endings, many beginnings, much change. Each class coming in is different from the one before it, but there are also similarities. Change and challenge have a great deal in common, yet they are different, too. One can endure change and ignore challenge -- but can one rise to challenge and not be changed? I left school without keys this year, keys I haven't relinquished in years. I haven't found change easy though I have the Lord's direction to make this year "off" exciting. Perhaps part of what is difficult is having less security. With that I have less control. Since my security and control need to rest alone in my Savior, I can tell I will be meeting both change and challenge. Lord willing, I will allow myself to be molded more closely to His likeness as I approach this year, one I truly want to belong to Him. I praise Him for whatever He has in store! One doesn't have to take a year's leave to renew

our commitment to Him. Will you join me?

We rejoiced to have visiting ministers, speaking as they were inspired by the Spirit and Word. Bro. Don Braker (Kansas City, MO) in the area on business, spoke to us one Wednesday evening early in June. Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN) and Bro. Arpold Gerst (Taylor, MO) spent Sunday, June 17, ministering to us, and Bro. Ken Eisenmann (Cissna Park, IL) came for Vacation Bible School, Wednesday, June 20, on understanding the "end times." We are thankful for the willingness of our brethren and for the strength and guidance of the Lord, that we can be so well fed spiritually.

At this time of year, we, as a church, enjoy many activities together. One of these was our always-anticipated bus trip. We stretched ourselves and spent our Memorial Day weekend on the road and with the Philadelphia, PA, brethren. Blessings tumbled over blessings once again -- our accommodating Christian bus drivers, our singing en route and back again, our joy in conversations together, being uplifted by the changing land -- our Lord's creation; the warm welcome and sustaining food we were given by the Philadelphia believers, our delight in sightseeing in Philadelphia -- the Liberty Bell, Independence Hall, Valley Forge; Christian hospitality accompanied by such comfortable beds -- sandwiched between shuteye on a bus for two nights in strange positions; Sunday services for our spiritual sustenance in a more colonial setting with such precious children of God! Plus a safe trip back home. Truly our cups "runneth over" (Psalms 23:5) and we owe much gratitude to our church at Philadelphia.

Vacation Bible School comes right after the Sunday school picnic for us. All ages enjoyed the picnic at the park district for the food, the fun, the fellowship (and twelve flavors of pop). This is also a time when we honor our graduates. Our high school graduates are Lance Pfeifer (son of Bro. Glen and Sis. Nancy), Karl Plattner (son of Bro. Jake and Sis. Jeanne) and Penny Stahl (daughter of Bro. Norm and Sis. Gloria). Lance and Karl plan to attend the University of Illinois (Champaign) and Penny, Illinois State University, in the fall. We

pray for their continued success and the Lord's guidance as they anticipate the change and challenge of life after high school.

Many also put in much time and effort for Bible school; parents to transport, teachers to plan and teach and nurture the Word. We pray that this session planted many seeds of love and appreciation for Christ as it emphasized Christian friendship.

Sunday, June 17 was the beginning of two more Christian households in the Chicago area. Bro. Todd and Sis. Marcy (Feucht) Stoller were married in Morton, IL, and Bro. Jeff and Sis. Gloria (Streitmatter) Fischer were married in Sarasota, FL. We are thankful for their unions in the Lord. We pray that He will continue to find their love, their lives and minds available to "serve Him with gladness," (Psalm 100:2) seeking always to do His will. Thus they will be an inspiration and a blessing to all with whom they come in contact and examples to the church.

And again we say farewell. Sis. Sara Adam, who lost her husband several years ago, found the time was right for her to move to Columbus, OH, near her sister and brother. We will miss her. She has not had an easy life, but her dependence on the Lord was total and her countenance saintly. I believe she prayed for each one of us, and though her English was not perfect (and for myself, my Hungarian non-existent), we knew we were loved. She is also loved, and parting from her is difficult. She will never make demands on us, but may we pray for her adjustments in Columbus and visit her when we can. We appreciate the outreach of the Columbus church already in her behalf. She is a jewel, shining, quiet. We have also lost another gem, Bro. Mike Walder. He has returned to Champaign, IL, for employment. We know his family and a loving church are there. Nevertheless, we are sad. He was so supportive, so kind and gentle. We appreciate the time we had together and encourage his visits. We know the Lord has work for him to do. We pray for him as well that the transition time may go smoothly. Jill Sauder (originally from Roanoke) has graduated from the University of Illinois, Chicago campus, with her degree in physical therapy. We pray

that she will enjoy her work, in Colorado or wherever it takes her and wish her Godspeed. With all we send some of ourselves, including love and prayers, but we know that they have given us part of themselves, too. We cannot hold them back and say only, "God be with you till we meet again."

The "911" emergency number can be dialed in many places. The Lord has much wisdom in His Word for us, but I found "9111," which I found to be a comforting "emergency" verse. Psalm 91:11 says, "For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways." As we dare not abuse the emergency number, we dare not misuse this verse, by which Satan tempted Christ. Nevertheless, the Lord's "9111" is a precious promise -- anytime.

They had it all planned. The sons and son-in-law would all sit with the father/the patriarch of the family in morning church on Father's Day. But how long could they wait to go in? Most of them walked in together; one came later. They did all get to sit together, which was a special blessing. I was reminded of something we take for granted, the open doors of the church. No one was worried that the one who was later couldn't get in. Yet there will come a time, as there did on the ark, when the door will shut. Salvation will no longer be available; judgment and death are promised instead. May no one miss heaven because the door is shut and he/she is too late. Those of us who have answered the Lord's call have the responsibility to reflect His love and urgency -- as He would -- to those in our families, in our world.

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**ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK**  
**Karol Stock - Bev Knapp**

In days of youth, seed ye the Lord,  
His love and truth with one accord,  
Go offer Him thy youthful days  
And walk within the Saviour's  
ways.

Thy strength and vigor, hopeful  
view,

Thy zeal and talents, virtue true,  
Go offer them in Christ's employ  
His blessed nearness to enjoy.

"Youth,"

Hymns of Zion #135

Our hearts are encouraged when we see our youth committing their lives to the Lord and entering His service. We welcomed Sis. Rachel Laubscher (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Gloria) and Bro. Steve Eisenmann (Bro. Ken and Sis. Sharon) into our family of believers after their baptism May 20. As they are both still in high school, we know the Lord can use their youth in many ways. We want to encourage them to "Dare to be a Daniel" and "Dare to stand alone" if the need arises.

Our Elder Bro. Art Bahler (Fairbury), Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago) and Bro. Mike Thomas (Valparaiso, IN) shared the blessings of the day with us. Other visiting ministers this month were Bro. Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL) and Bro. Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MN). A special thanks to each one.

Our young people have been busy this month. The preschool children and 1st and 2nd graders spent a Sunday morning visiting residents at the Heartland Nursing Home near here sharing God's Word in song and deed. Our Bible class attended the Youth Fellowship Singing at Bloomington June 3. Also, we just finished two weeks of Vacation Bible School. The theme of "Sunshine In The Soul" was so very appropriate as we could feel God's Son shine in our midst. In the evening, our Bible classes were spoken to by these ministering brothers: Bro. Wayne Banwart (Urbana) on Predestination, Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago) on The Strengths and Weaknesses and Future of the Church, Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN) on The Duties and Responsibilities of an Elder, and Bro. Robert Beebe (South Bend, IN) on Dating and Marriage in the Church. On Friday, June 15, the students presented a program and shared many songs and memory verses from their classes. It is good that our children are so eager to learn of God's ways and we are thankful for each one that has a part in these many activities.

We extend congratulations to our Bible class students that graduated this year. They are Danny Weerts (Bro. Ken and Sis. Myrna), Tim Kaufmann (Bro. Larry and Sis. Jean), Joni Young (Bro. Roland and Sis. Mary Anne) and Valarie Kauffman (Bro. Sid and Sis. Sandy). May each

one feel God's nearness as they move on to new beginnings.

Bob and Astrid Kellerhals are grandparents again. Their new grandson, Mathew Philip, was born to John and Susie Tobeck May 17. Each child is a joy and a blessing.

We extend our sympathy to the family of Tom Keely, formerly of our area.

Sis. Helen Lackey wishes to express her thanks for the many kindnesses and love shown her during her recent surgery and time of recuperation. May God bless you all.

A sincere thank you and appreciation for all the prayers, cards, gifts and visits while I was in the hospital and since returning home. May God bless you.

Bro. Bob Greiner

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**ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE**  
**Deb Dietrich - Becky Ott**

As we commemorate Independence Day, may we be thankful to God for the wonderful blessing of freedom. How important it is to ask for God's continued grace to keep us from taking our freedom for granted.

We received encouragement and admonition as Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) assisted our Elder Bro. Bob Walder in the reading of the memorandum. May these instructions help us to walk closer to Christ.

In our journey here on earth there are joys mixed with sorrows. Our sympathy and prayers are extended to Bro. Larry Wettstein (Sis. Marilyn) in the death of his father, Bro. Robert Wettstein (Sis. Verna, Eureka). Our prayers are also with Bro. Robert McClure (Sis. Sharon) in the death of his father, Cecil McClure (Carlock). May God's comforting hand be with these families in their time of bereavement.

Bro. Max and Sis. Suzanne Hoerr are the happy parents of their first son, Andrew Max. Also welcoming Andrew home are Sarah, Rebekah, Rose and Martha. Grandparents are Bro. Gene and Sis. Verna Lehman (Wolcott, IN) and Bro. Max and Sis. Katherine Hoerr (Peoria).

A precious daughter was born to Bro. Ed and Sis. Gail Leman. Kelsey Jo is welcomed by her sister, Kary, and grandparents, Bro. Robert and

Sis. Doris Williamson and Bro. Tom and Sis. Marlene Leman (Denver, CO).

Hospitalized this month were Sis. Carolyn Ott (Bro. Don), Wesley Ifft (Bro. Larry and Sis. Shirley) and Mahlon Zimmerman (Kathryn). We are thankful that God's healing hand has been upon each one.

Bro. Loren Knapp (Tucson, AZ) and Bro. John Reinhard (Bluffton, IN) shared God's wonderful Word with us this month. We thank them for their efforts and wish them God's grace and strength.

We express our appreciation and thanks for the many well wishes received for our June 16, 50th wedding anniversary.

Bro. Alvin and Sis. Irene Schrock

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**ILLINOIS, ELGIN**  
**Elizabeth Schambach**  
**Betty Bachtold**

We wish much happiness for Amy Kellenberger and Tim Grzywa as their wedding vows were spoken June 2. Parents of the couple are Bro. Lloyd and Carol Kellenberger and Ted and Mary Grzywa (Burlington, IA).

Leslie and Janet Spohr announce the engagement of their daughter, Sherri, to Jeff Luscher, son of David and Lonnie Luscher (Elgin).

Bro. Kevin Kilgus and Sis. Sharon Kellenberger have been elected to teach our Sunday school youth. May they feel the love and inspiration of God. We sincerely thank Sis. Marge Wewetzer for her faithful service to our children.

This past week, a blessed evening of picnic and fellowship was enjoyed by our Sunday school children and their parents. Also this week, we anticipate our annual Vacation Bible School. With prayers and supplications to God, we trust He will reveal and inspire through the power of His Spirit.

Bro. Walter Herrmann (Princeville) visited our congregation and shared many teachings from the Word. May God bless you and your family.

"Lord, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is; that I may know how frail I am. Behold, thou hast made my days as an handbreadth; and mine age is as

nothing before thee: verily every man at his best state is altogether vanity." Psalms 39:4, 5

Walter Foell, 85, passed away June 14 at the Apostolic Christian Resthaven. Surviving are his wife, Louise; two sisters, Katherine Vick (Raleigh, NC) and Sis. Anna Scheitlin (Elgin); and several nieces and nephews.

The Foell family wishes to express their sincere thank you and appreciation to everyone for the many deeds of kindness and the many expressions of love shown. May God richly bless you.

This month, Sis. Cora Schambach (Bro. Bill) was a surgical patient; Sis. Frances Kaptain also spent time in the hospital. We are thankful for God's mercies upon them.

Silver Lining collection of \$7.00 is due in July.

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**ILLINOIS, EUREKA**  
**Kathy Leman**

"For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us." Romans 8:18. Our dear Bro. Bob Wettstein was released from his pain and suffering June 10.; Our sympathy and prayers are extended to his dear wife, Sis. Verna; two daughters, Sis. Marilyn Martin (Bro. Craig, Eureka), Sis. Marlene Leman (Bro. Chris, Roanoke); and two sons, Bro. Lloyd (Pulaski, IA) and Bro. Larry (Congerville). Also, three sisters, Sis. Cathryn Wettstein (Eureka), Sis. Lula Zimmerman (Congerville) and Sis. Wilma Pulfer (Tremont); and four brothers, Harold and Bro. Art (both of Eureka), Leslie (Morton) and Willis (Bloomington). "... and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain." Revelation 21:4.

**SAFELY HOME**

I am Home in Heaven, dear ones;  
Oh, so happy and so bright!  
There is perfect Joy and Beauty  
In this everlasting light.

All the pain and grief is over  
Every restless tossing passed;

I am now at peace forever,  
Safely home in Heaven at last.

Then you must not grieve so sorely,  
For I love you dearly still:  
Try to look beyond earth's shadows  
Pray to trust our Father's will.

There is work still waiting for you,  
So you must not idly stand;  
Do it now, while life remaineth --  
You shall rest in Jesus' land.

When that work is all completed,  
He will gently call you Home;  
Oh, the rapture of that meeting,  
Oh, the joy to see you come!

The family of Bro. Dave Leman wants to thank everyone for their many acts of kindness, love and sympathy shown to them at this difficult time. May God bless each one.

June 10 was the wedding day of our Sis. Jill Eastman and Bro. Doug Huetter (Tremont). Their parents are Bro. Dick and Sis. Nelma Eastman, and Bro. William and Sis. Marilyn Huetter (Tremont). We appreciated having Elder Bro. Dan Koch and Bros. Glenn Dill (Tremont), Jon Zeller (Morton) and Bruce Leman (Roanoke) with us on this blessed occasion. May God bless Bro. Doug and Sis. Jill in their married life.

Other visiting ministers this past month were Bros. Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH), Don Manz (Junction, OH), Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA) and Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville). May God bless the words that were spoken as inspired by the Holy Spirit.

Loved ones that were in the hospital are Sis. Wilma Stoller (Bro. Willis), Sis. Clara Huber (Bro. Leroy), Maury Crawford (Sis. Joyce), Bro. Henry Frey (Sis. Cora) and Bro. Lawrence Zimmerman (Sis. Clara). May God bless them with renewed strength and health as is according to His will.

Bro. Myron and Sis. Elaine Blunier welcomed Craig Daniel into their hearts and home May 23. Welcoming Craig home are Jill, Michael and Jonathan. Also, grandparents Bro. Bob and Sis. Dorothy Wagenbach (Tremont) and Bro. Vernon and Sis. Kathryn Blunier (Eureka).

First-time parents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Julie Schumacher when they were blessed with Cassidy Lynn June

3. Grandparents are Bro. Willis and Sis. Bernice Knapp (Congerville) and Bro. Bob and Sis. Charlene Schumacher. May God bless these family circles as they endeavor to raise their children in the fear and admonition of the Lord.

#### ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

##### Jean Bachtold - Crystal Fehr

We are always thankful to our visiting ministers for sharing the Word with us. Serving us this month were Bros. Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN), Virgil Metzger (Chicago), Bill Hodel (Roanoke), Douglas Schock (Pulaski, IA), Earl Kilgus (Remington, IN) and Rick Plattner (Peoria).

David and Deann Steidinger are happy parents of Dustin Lowe born May 27. Welcoming him home are Debbie, Dayton, Daniel, Darrel, Davida and Derrick. Ollie Steidinger (Fairbury) and Bernice Lovell (Arizona) are his grandparents.

Bro. Gary and Sis. Cindy Herr welcome into their hearts and home, Rebecca Mae. She was born June 11. Happy siblings are Angela, Lisa, Daniel, Susan and Benjamin. E. D. and Margorie Herr (Westphalia, KS) and Otto and Eleanor Baer (Princeville) are Rebecca's grandparents.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the family of George Walter, 86. George passed away Saturday, June 9 at Fairview Haven. Funeral services were held Tuesday, June 12. Surviving are three sisters, Sis. Carolyn Fehr (Fairbury), Sis. Loida Hodel (Quincy) and Marie Young (Cissna Park). May we all prepare for that time when we, too, must close our eyes in death.

We wish to remember our hospital patients this month. Those spending some time in the hospital were Bro. Lloyd Moser (Myrna), Bro. Willis Nussbaum (Sis. Elna), Sally Moser (Bro. Lloyd and Myrna), Bradley Steidinger (Bro. Eldon and Sis. Darlene).

June 4 - 9 we held our Vacation Bible School. The young people did enjoy that week of learning and fellowship.

Thank you note:

I wish to thank everyone for the cards and gifts while I was in the hospital and at home again. A special

thanks for all the visits and prayers which were said in my behalf. God bless you all.

In Love,  
Sis. Dorothy Steffen

#### ILLINOIS, FORREST

##### Sherri Kelson Sandra Schneider

God has blessed five homes with little bundles of love.

Bro. Joe and Sis. Marie Koehl and Jolyn welcome Stephen Daniel. His grandparents are Elder Bro. Art and Sis. Suzanne Bahler (Fairbury) and Bro. Virgil and Sis. Gladys Koehl.

Bro. Jeff and Sis. Stephanie Zimmerman became first-time parents with the birth of Thadd Jeffrey. Bro. Eldon and Sis. Marge Waibel and Bro. Glen and Sis. Mildred Zimmerman are his grandparents.

Jesse Kent made Bro. Kent and Sis. Paulette Zimmerman first-time parents also. Happy grandparents are Bro. Elmer and Sis. Hazel Schmidt (Winthrop, MN) and Bro. Al and Sis. Carolyn Zimmerman.

Twin boys, Clint Allen and Colin Martin, were born to Bro. Ray and Sis. Shelly Steidinger. Four sisters are happy to help, Lynn, Carrie, Raya and Myra. Their grandparents are Bro. Al and Sis. Carolyn Zimmerman and Bro. Ivan and Sis. Kathryn Steidinger.

Bro. Craig and Sis. Trudy Rudin welcome Kristi Cassandra into their hearts and home. Her excited brothers and sisters are Scott, Andy, T. Anne, Heidi, Joseph, Betsi and Ben. Sis. Tillie Rudin (Cissna Park) and Bro. Glen and Sis. Mildred Zimmerman are her grandparents.

May God continue to bless these dear families as they rear the children entrusted into their care.

Our sympathies go to Bro. Art and Sis. Velda Huette in the loss of his brother, Curtis Huette (Bloomington).

We were privileged to gather June 9 to hear Chris Hamilton's testimony of how God has miraculously worked in his life. We witnessed his baptism June 10 and rejoice with him in his new walk of life.

We appreciated Elder Bro. Art Bahler (Fairbury), Bros. Elmer Schmidt (Winthrop, MN), Loren Knapp (Tucson, AZ), Ed Alt (Cissna

Park), Jim Rinkenberger (Bluffton, IN) and Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield) who visited us this past month and shared God's Word.

Joe Wiegand needed to be hospitalized. We are so happy he is home again and is looking forward to baptism.

Thomas Crawford and Tess Broquard have announced their engagement. Tess is the daughter of Bro. Wayne and Sis. Roberta Broquard. Thomas is the son of Jim and Sandy Crawford (Pekin). They plan an August 11 wedding.

Vacation Bible School was held June 11 through 16. We thank Bros. Ken Schneider (Remington, IN), Ted Witzig (Morton), Ervin Knecht (Eureka), Bruce Hohulin (Goodfield) and Neil Widmer (Wolcott, IN) for coming to teach the Bible class. May God bless all who have taken part and may the memories remain deep in each child's heart.

We all are looking forward to the annual Sunday school picnic which will be held June 24 at Forrest Park, Lord willing.

Our hearts were touched and we extend sympathy to Dan and Mary Schmidgall and Joshua in the loss of little Cassandra Kay, who died at birth. Also, to the grandparents, Jack and Sharon Johnson (Tilton) and Bro. Dave and Sis. Alma Jean Schmidgall. Surely she is a little bud in the Master's bouquet.

Sis. Clara Honegger wishes to thank everyone for the prayers, visits and food brought to them. May God bless each one.

#### ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

##### Trish Gerber

If you would stop by our house

Unexpectedly some day,  
You just might find that things are  
not

In a very tidy way.

The mantel may be dusty

There may be toys upon the floor  
A pile of laundry to be folded  
And smudges on the door.

Our yard is not well-manicured

You'll find dandelions there  
You'll also find a baseball diamond  
Where the grass is worn and bare.

But we are quite contented  
 And I will tell you why  
 God's blessed us with the greatest  
 gifts  
 That money cannot buy.

The dust is on the mantel  
 'Cause we sat and read a book  
 Time-out for a hug and a kiss or  
 two  
 Left the laundry overlooked.

The dandelions in the yard  
 Are for picking for this mother  
 And the ballfield provides many  
 hours  
 Shared by these sisters and  
 brothers.

The sounds of childish laughter  
 Chubby arms wrapped around  
 our hearts  
 These are the richest treasures  
 The Lord could ever impart.

So I hope that you will understand  
 Why things appear this way  
 For the love of God is in our home  
 And we hope it's here to stay.

Our children enjoyed a week of  
 Vacation Bible School as they met  
 together each evening to learn about  
 God's precious Word. We adults were  
 privileged to hear the Word shared  
 by Bros. Rick Plattner (Peoria, IL),  
 Ted Witzig (Morton, IL) and Tom  
 Hoffman (Roanoke, IL) on three of  
 those same evenings. The songs that  
 were sang by the various special groups  
 helped to make the week a very blessed  
 one.

We thank Elder Bro. Dave Wie-  
 gand (Champaign, IL), Bros. Curt  
 Rassi (Tremont, IL) and Loren Knapp  
 (Tucson, AZ) for ministering to us  
 this month.

Our high school students spent a  
 spirit-filled day at ISU with other  
 central Illinois students. At the end  
 of the day all of the students sang to-  
 gether and praised God for His many  
 blessings. We pray for all of these  
 precious children as they are our fu-  
 ture church.

We are so happy to greet our new  
 brother-in-the-Lord, Ted Schieler. It  
 was uplifting to listen to Ted's testi-  
 mony and witness his baptism.

Many prayers have been sent heav-  
 enward for Bro. Daniel Wiegand as  
 he has been hospitalized unexpect-

edly. May God be ever near him and  
 his family.

Goodfield subscriptions are due this  
 month. Thank you.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY  
 Perry A. Klopfenstein

The week of June 11 - 15 was very  
 special for our Gridley congregation  
 because of Vacation Bible School. While  
 a host of youngsters learned Bible  
 lessons and crafts in the Sunday school  
 rooms, adults assembled in the sanc-  
 tuary to listen to guest speakers who  
 addressed the week's theme, "The Way  
 of the Cross Leads Home."

Topics and speakers were: "The  
 Purpose of the Cross," Elder Bro. Phil  
 Stettner (Bluffton North, IN); "The  
 Meaning of the Cross," Bro. Jon  
 Schmidgall (Oakville, IA); "The Spirit  
 of the Cross," Bro. Wayne Laubscher  
 (Cissna Park); "The Way of the Cross,"  
 Bro. Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN); and  
 "The Victory of the Cross," Elder Bro.  
 Gene Marti (Kansas City, MO). Each  
 evening, the theme song was sung  
 entitled, "The Way of the Cross Leads  
 Home." In all, it was a very inspiring  
 and uplifting week. Especially endear-  
 ing to all of us was the fact that our  
 high school friends sat in on the ses-  
 sions each evening.

On Sunday afternoon, June 17, Ryan  
 Schlipf and Sherri Stiles were mar-  
 ried in the fellowship hall. She is the  
 daughter of Carol Stiles. His par-ents  
 are Bro. Dale and Sis. Vicki Schlipf of  
 our Gridley congregation. This lovely  
 young couple surely has the best wishes  
 of our church in this union, life's sec-  
 ond most important step.

On May 28, twins were born to Jay  
 and Nicki Kiefer, their first children.  
 They were named Jaykob Bradley and  
 Jessica Nichole. Grandparents are Bro.  
 Richard, Sr. and Sis. Louise Kiefer,  
 and Brad and Pam Neal, all of Grid-  
 ley.

Sisters Bernice Yergler and Mar-  
 cella Hany were hospital patients this  
 month.

Visiting ministers were Elder Bro.  
 Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO) and Bro.  
 Willis Wiegand (Goodfield). We ap-  
 preciate the spiritual labors of these  
 brothers.

ILLINOIS, MORTON  
 Phyllis Farney  
 Cheryl Wuthrich

Vacation Bible School was held  
 June 11 through 15 for our Sunday  
 school students and adults. It was an  
 intense week of spiritual renewal  
 and fellowship. We wish to thank all  
 those who participated. We are grate-  
 ful to the visiting brothers who took  
 time to come and share the Word  
 with us. Bros. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo,  
 IN), Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL), Den-  
 nis Kaufman (Bloomington, IL),  
 Kevin Knapp (Bloomington, IL) and  
 Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL) minis-  
 tered to the adults. Bros. Jay Rink-  
 enberger (Goodfield, IL) and Rick  
 Plattner (Peoria, IL) presented  
 messages to our Bible class students.  
 We are thankful to brothers who  
 "study to show thyself approved unto  
 God, a workman that needeth not to  
 be ashamed, rightly dividing the word  
 of truth." II Timothy 2:15. We are  
 thankful that they are willing to  
 make the time and effort to share  
 their inspired insights.

Our same gratitude is extended  
 to the other ministering brothers  
 that were with us for different occa-  
 sions during the month. They were  
 Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA),  
 and Bros. Charles Sauder (Tremont,  
 IL), Ed Fritz (Washington, IL) and  
 Ken Eisenmann (Cissna Park, IL).

Elmer and Sis. Grace Ziegler have  
 recently celebrated their 50th wed-  
 ding anniversary. They were mar-  
 ried June 1, 1940. Their three chil-  
 dren, Jerry, Carole Wolpers and Alan,  
 hosted an open house in honor of  
 their parents. May our heavenly  
 Father continue to richly bless and  
 keep them as they continue to walk  
 life's pathway together.

We are rejoicing with the angels  
 in heaven as three more souls have  
 surrendered their lives to the Lord.  
 Their baptisms and testimonies were  
 June 9 and 10. They are Marti  
 Wuthrich (Bro. Mark and Sis. Ch-  
 eryl), Tricia Joos (Bro. Bob and Sis.  
 Peggy) and Lisa Staker (Bro. Ted  
 and Sis. Mary). We pray that they  
 will always seek and heed the still,  
 small voice of the Holy Spirit.

Sis. Irene Farney wishes to thank  
 everyone for all their prayers, cards,  
 visits and gifts of love while in the  
 hospital and since returning home.  
 May God bless all who were so kind.

Give Your Old and New Address  
 To Your Reporter

"Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favor of the Lord." Proverbs 18:22. Sis. Marcy Feucht (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Beth) and Bro. Todd Stoller (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Barb) were united in holy matrimony June 17. Our prayers for God's constant care go with them as they make their home in the Chicago area.

"America, America, God shed His grace on thee. And crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea."

Katharine Bates

During this month when we celebrate America's freedom, let us entreat our Father to continue to shed His grace on this wayward country; that believers may make His presence known and that unbelievers may turn to Him.

#### ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE Martha Jane Siebenthal

We were pleased to have Bro. Clifford Grimm (West Bend, IA) with us Sunday, June 3. We also had visitors from Roanoke and Washington. We appreciate all of our guests and do enjoy the fellowship. We especially thank Bro. Clifford for the inspired thoughts he left with us.

We rejoice when we see another soul is turning to the Lord in repentance. Our new convert is Sara Feucht, daughter of Bro. Earl and Sis. Margaret Feucht. We pray that she will put her hand in God's hand and trust Him to lead her life.

"And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him." Genesis 2:18. May 27 was the beautiful wedding day for our Sis. Linda Stahl and Bro. Jerry Knobloch (Bern, KS). Parents of our loved ones are Eldon and Irene Stahl and Orvie and Loretta Knobloch (Lester, IA). May they always look to Him for direction as they begin their life as one. They plan to worship with the Champaign congregation.

A special thanks to Bro. Floren and Sis. Twylla Streitmatter and family for making their annual outing for the Home of the Handicapped residents. May God bless them for

their deeds of love to these special people.

We are thankful that Sis. Edith Martin was spared injury from a car accident on her way out east to visit her brother.

Bro. Eric Givens, Bro. Craig Martin and Sis. Adele Martin are our newly elected Sunday school teachers. They will replace Bro. Robert Wieland, Bro. Sam Martin, Sis. Kay Siebenthal and Sis. Linda (Stahl) Knobloch. May God bless them for their labors of love teaching our beloved youth and may God grant the wisdom from above to Bro. Eric, Bro. Craig and Sis. Adele for this very important duty to teach the youth which will be the future church.

Tammy Wieland's name should be on the list of graduates (nurse) -- sorry.

Our hearts are saddened as the death angel has taken our loved one, Sis. Anna Streitmatter, to her eternal rest. Sis. Anna had brain surgery May 23 and had been hospitalized until her death June 18. Funeral services were held June 20. We wish to express sincere sympathy to Bro. Harold and his children, Sis. Mary Jane Streitmatter, Sis. Arlene Scholl, Bro. Norman, Bro. Floren, Bro. Bill, Richard and Cleon. Our thoughts and prayers are with this beloved family at this difficult time. May God fill the vacant place with His love and mercy as only He can. May they continue to feel God's nearness and comfort in the days ahead. We also wish to express sympathy to her sister and brothers, Sis. Emma Knobloch (Bradford), Bro. John Elsasser and Bro. Bill Elsasser (Bradford).

We trust God's healing powers to Katherine Baer who is in the hospital and Sis. Marlene Plattner (Bro. Jim) who had the misfortune of breaking a bone in her foot. Our Sis. Caroline Joos continues to need our prayers. May we continue to uphold our loved ones that are in the hospital, in sorrow or at home, in prayer and remember them with a card, note, phone call or visit.

It is the time of year when people take vacations. May we never take a spiritual vacation. We wish everyone that travels a safe one.

Thank You. We would like to thank the ministers, relatives, friends and neighbors for all the memorials,

prayers, telephone calls and gifts received at the time of the loss of our mother. Also for all the gifts, prayers and words of encouragement given Mother during her residency at Restmor (Morton, IL). May God bless all of you.

Ezra and Lucille Rumbold  
and family  
Ben and Betty Rassi  
and family

This poem was given to me for Father's Day.

#### TO FATHER

It was through your love that I realized what the love of God must be like.

You have loved me, cared for me, provided for my needs and guided my footsteps as I grew up.

I have experienced the richness of life under your direction and, because of your spiritual leadership, have seen my own life reach wholeness as I have experienced the Lordship of Jesus Christ in my life.

May God's love and grace continue to fill your life, and my prayer is that my life may reflect the same love that you have shown.

#### With a problem with the Courier's computer, most of the June article was missed -- Editor.

Our congregation was blessed on two Wednesday evenings to have Bro. Al Langhofer (Wichita, KS) and Bro. Kenny Dietz (Bradford, IL). May God bless them for their labor of love.

June is the month for Father's Day. We trust God's blessings will rest upon each of our fathers and may we give them a prayer of thanks and appreciation and especially our heavenly Father who guides us and watches over us in this life.

April 29 was the wedding day for Bro. Jim Gerst and Sis. Diane Massner (Oakville, IA). May the Lord bless their married life with His precious gifts of joy and love. May their lives ever be filled with Christian love. We are happy for little Andi and Kristen. Parents of this couple are Bro. Dick and Cleo Gerst, Sis. Phyllis Massner Knobloch and Bro. Ben Knobloch.

It is a blessing to have many young brothers and sisters of like mind and faith visit and share Christian fel-

lowship May 6 from several congregations.

It was nice to see Daryl Stisser back from service. We hope he will continue to come and worship with us.

Our Sunday school Bible class traveled to Peoria for A.C.Y.F. May the songs they sing remain in their hearts and may they appreciate the new friends they make in our precious faith.

We extend our best wishes and ask God's richest blessings to all of our graduates. Those graduating this year from grade school are Kari Feucht, Bethany Herrmann, Denise Joos, Kristy Stoller, Tiffany Wieland, Brandon Graham, Ryan Siebenthal, Marvin Streitmatter and Craig White. Those from high school are Sis. Jill Baurer, Sis. Kara Menold, Janelle Blunier, Sara Feucht, Carol Streitmatter, Karsten Bourwieg, Blake Graham, Chris Knobloch, Chad Plattner, Keith Streitmatter and Brent Wieland. Those from college are Sis. Rachel Feucht, Sis. Peggy Knobloch, Sis. Linda Siebenthal and Russ Rumbold.

We pray that God will help our young people to make the right choices in life and may each one seek God's help with decisions to higher education and employment and may they never forget to look to Him for guidance throughout their lives.

May God's healing power restore good health to the loved ones who have been hospitalized, little Jacob Streitmatter (surgery), Bro. Richard Seidel (pneumonia), Bro. Ezra Rumbold (fall), Sis. Ruth Herman (Bro. Keith), surgery, and we think of our dear Sis. Caroline Joos who has been on our sick list for some time that the Lord will give her the needed strength each day. Bro. William Eberle has been hospitalized for a short time. How thankful we are to have a constant refuge when trouble and sickness comes our way. May we remember our loved ones in our prayers.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Lois Leuthold (Bro. Steve) in the death of her father. Our dear Sis. Anna Roach (age 95) passed from this life May 2. She has gone to a better place where she will know no pain. May God be a comfort to her daughters, our Sis. Lucille Rumbold (Bro. Ezra) and Sis. Betty Rassi (Bro. Ben, Morton, IL).

Life is a mixture of sunshine  
and rain,

Teardrops and laughter,  
pleasure and pain --

We can't have all bright days  
but it's certainly true

There was never a cloud that

The Sun Didn't Shine Through!

Reminder: July is collection month  
for the Silver Lining for Princeville.

### ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

#### Cathy Hohulin - Sandy Leman

It was twenty-six years ago this summer that the Roanoke church building was completely destroyed by fire. Though the tragic loss was felt by so many, Elder Bro. David Mangold reminded the congregation that the true church of Christ does not consist of bricks and mortar, but is "within" the hearts and minds of the believer. We are thankful that our church today is still alive and well and we can joyfully assemble every week on the "prairie."

### ON THE PRAIRIE

The sun's coming up on the prairie  
Corn and hay glisten with the  
forenight's rain.

The aroma of the earth fills the  
senses

Barn swallows darting, diving  
down the lane.

A church stands alone on the  
prairie

Stone graves and pines wait nearby  
For the prayers and songs Sunday  
morning

As brethren from far and near arrive.

The truth is always heard on the  
prairie

Winds of change, o'er the years,  
tests of time

They're so thankful to God for the  
prairie

And the blessings laid there to find.

The wind always blows on the prairie  
As the world and the time pass on by  
But God's Word stands unchanged  
on the prairie

Fountain flowing of grace, never dry,

Strength and comfort til the day we  
die.

Bro. Tim Sauder

How joyful we are to see more souls answer God's calling. Susan Rocke and Marsha Durand have joined their mom and sister in turning their hearts and lives over to the Lord in repentance. Lenny Martin has also answered His call, and our hope is that, as the waters are stirred, many more will yield their lives to the loving Savior.

Nathan Fehr, son of Bro. Ben and Sis. Helen, and Christine Herbst, daughter of Roger and Sandra, have announced their engagement. Justine Martino, daughter of Mark and Ruth Ann, and Dan Hodel, son of Roger and Elaine, were united in marriage, as well as Barb Hodel, daughter of Bro. Bill and Sis. Betty, and Roy Sizemore, son of Sharon Siebert and Okell Sizemore. May God be near and bless these young couples as they begin their lives together.

Sis. Margaret Hodel and Dick and Bev Koehler are happy grandparents of little Randall Douglas Koehler, newborn son of Randy and Lucy. Also, Jeff and Eva Fehr are happy, first-time parents of Amy Marie. Her grandparents are Bro. Ben and Sis. Helen Fehr and Mr. and Mrs. Bill Ward. As these precious little souls enter the world, we pray for God's protection and loving care throughout their lives.

How often we hear the expression "life is so short." "It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away." James 4:14. May God comfort the families of Bro. Maurice Knapp (Sis. Helen), Sis. Margaret Leman (stepmother of our Sis. Mardell Aeschleman and Bro. Donald Leman), Bro. Bob Wettstein (father of our Sis. Marlene Leman), Ray Beer (a brother of our Sisters Elsie and Dorothy Beer and Florence Bucher), and Brachter Huschen (son-in-law of our Sis. Rose Sauder). They will all be missed by families, friends and the community.

May God bless Elder Bro. Robert Beyer (Naumburg, NY), Bro. Dale Wulf (Lester, IA) and Bro. Ed Aeschleman (Philadelphia) for visiting with us and willingly sharing God's Word.

The first two weeks of June was Vacation Bible School time in Roanoke. It is a blessing and a comfort to see our children start their summer concentrating on Scripture and God's will for their lives.

The prayers of the brotherhood

went with our Elder Bro. Don Sauder as he travelled to Hungary, Romania and Yugoslavia this past month. Bro. Don shared with us some of the accounts of persecution and trials our European brethren have endured over the years, and our hearts rejoice with them in their recent freedom to assemble and worship openly.

Three-year-old Laura Fischer has recently been diagnosed with leukemia. Our prayers and support are extended to Laura and her parents, Harv and Kathy, and grandparents, Fred and Wilma Fischer.

### Silver Lining July 1964

On Wednesday night, June 10, we were pleased to hear the testimonies of our two dear friends, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Fisher. He is the son of Bro. and Sis. Sam Fisher of here. They have three small children. They were baptized Sunday. Bro. Leroy Huber assisted Bro. Dave Mangold in this work.

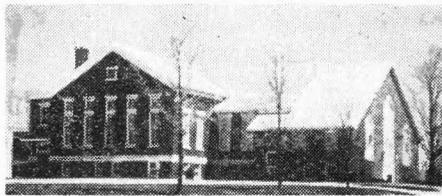
We were happy to have Bro. Edwin Bahler (Remington, IN) with us for services and appreciated his good teachings -- How strange doctrine can influence the soul of the righteous, if they are not well grounded -- How important it is to stand firm in our faith, regardless of the storm and battle.

Bro. and Sis. Walter Fehr are parents of a daughter, Linda Ruth. She has a sister, Mary 12, and brothers, Tom 13, Mike 8, Curtis 2. Grandparents are Sis. Caroline and the late Bro. Ben Fehr and Bro. and Sis. Eli Fisher (Eureka).

Sis. Helen Huber, accompanied by her parents, Bro. and Sis. Louis Huber, were visiting here several days with his sister, Bro. Silas Hodels. Bro. Louis is a wheelchair victim, due to the amputation of one leg. It certainly is humbling to see the courage, faith and appreciation he has, being dependent on others to help him, and how he enjoys being with God's people and supporting the Good Word. We pray the dear Lord will bless them and Sis. Helen, who so faithfully cares for them.

Sis. Esther Beer, who has been in the hospital, is home again, improving.

The annual Sunday school picnic was held Sunday afternoon, at the Washburn Park, with many attending.



### Our Church

Our church was just a building --  
composed of brick and wood.  
To many of us, our church, a  
cherished haven stood.

As children we were carried to church  
in arms of love.  
We learned to sing and pray, and  
think of the home above.

When we grew older still, we chose  
the way of the cross,  
And found the Holy Spirit a comfort  
for each loss.

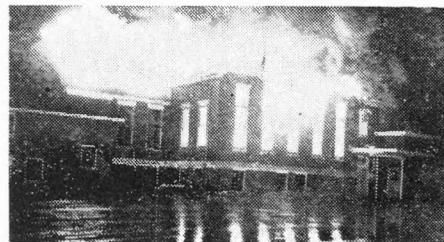
Many a marriage rendered, many a  
blessing felt,  
We could feel God's nearness, as we  
listened and we knelt.

But now our building is gone,  
struck by the hand of God,  
Symbolic of our future as we live  
upon this sod.

Coming in the dark of night, when  
many were asleep.  
What, if in the storms of life, a watch  
we do not keep!

The fire in full fury is much too much  
for man,  
Unless he comes prepared, before the  
flames begin.

Yes, our church was just a building,  
and now it stands no more,  
But our church goes right on living,  
in the hearts forevermore.



Late Friday night, June 19, we were all deeply concerned and saddened by the loss of our cherished church. It was struck by lightning,

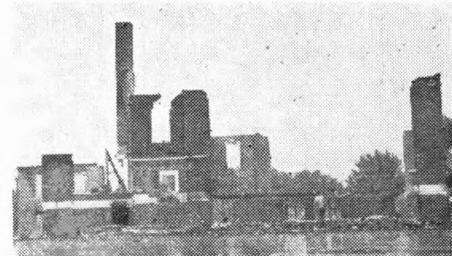
which in time set a roaring fire through the whole building, completely destroying it, despite the efforts of six fire departments and a heavy rain.

We shall never forget that night. So many of us stood there with heavy hearts, watching so helpless, not being able to do anything about it, knowing our fond house of worship and everything in it was being destroyed.

It made one think how terrible it will be, when the whole earth will be a roaring fire, and if we don't prepare ourselves now, it will be too late, then, to do anything about it.

The loss, partially covered, was estimated at approximately \$500,000.

The first Apostolic Church was built in 1865 and replaced on the same site by the main part of the present structure in 1873. It was remodeled and added to in 1929, and again modernized and increased to in 1956 and 1958. It accommodated nearly a thousand people, and was often filled to capacity. Our membership is over 350, and about 370 children attend Sunday school.



The work of demolition and clean-up was undertaken and finished in one day. More than 100 men with willing hands and shovels, 30 trucks, nearly a dozen tractors equipped with scoopers, bull dozers, and crane hoist co-operated with almost unbelievable results. Scrap metal was salvaged and the fire rubble was hauled to an abandoned gravel pit. All that now remains is the dug out basement, where we plan to put up our new church.

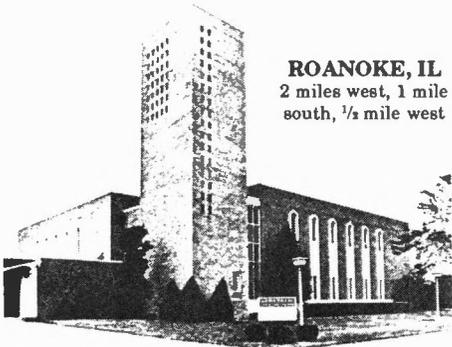
A Building and Finance Committee has been elected. Along with the trustees and ministers, they have decided on an architect and are doing all they can to get the church rebuilt as soon as possible. A recent survey taken gives us a total population of approximately 850.

Bro. Leroy Huber and the Eureka congregation have so warmly welcomed us to join them. Our two congregations assemble together for

morning and afternoon services starting at 10:00 and 12:15. We also serve our lunches together. Eureka Sunday school will meet as usual in the morning, and our Sunday school will meet in the afternoon with our teachers.

We certainly appreciate their kindness, and enjoy being with them, as we still feel they are a part of us.

God knows the way; He holds the key.  
He guides us with unerring hands.  
Then trust in God through all the days;  
Up there, sometime, we'll understand



**ROANOKE, IL**  
2 miles west, 1 mile south, 1/2 mile west

## ILLINOIS, TREMONT

**Carolyn Bolliger  
Marsha Koch**

We wish to offer congratulations to the former Nancy Sinn and her husband, George McCoppin (Champaign). George and Nancy were married May 19. Their parents are Bro. Carl and Sis. Mary Ellen Sinn (Tremont) and Joe and Eleanor McCoppin (Champaign).

A hearty welcome to Sis. Jill Eastman Huette. Sis. Jill and Bro. Doug Huette were married June 10.

Several other couples' engagements have been announced this month. Bro. Jeff Steiner and Sis. Jill Koehl are planning an August wedding. Jeff is the son of Bro. Richard and Sis. Ann Steiner and Jill is the daughter of Bro. Harvey and Sis. Wilda Koehl (Morris, MN).

We are happy to hear of the engagement of Bro. Ron Wagenbach and Sis. Elizabeth Gschwind. Ron is the son of Bro. Simon and the late Sis. Louise Wagenbach and Elizabeth is the daughter of Aaron and Iris Gschwind (Mackinaw, IL). They too are planning an August wedding.

A November wedding is being

planned by Nathan Zuercher, son of Bro. Curtis and Sis. June Zuercher and Nicole DeMarini, daughter of Santi J. "Nick" DeMarini (Tremont) and Mary Maguire (Colorado).

Planning a fall wedding are Bro. Jim Holmes and Sis. Karol Glueck. Jim is the son of Bro. Marshall and Sis. Phyllis Holmes and Karol is the daughter of Bro. Karl and Sis. Velda Glueck (all of Tremont).

We wish God's special blessings on all these young couples as they take this important step in their lives.

Our congratulations to Bro. Ernie and Sis. Frieda Aberle on the birth of a new grandson, Jonathan Dean, born to their daughter, Sis. Heidi, and her husband, Bro. Dean Sinn (Tucson, AZ).

We are happy to see little Brooklyn Sinn well again after having spent a few days in the hospital. He is the son of Bro. Jeff and Sis. Gail Sinn.

Sis. Charlotte Steiner (Bro. Dan, Sr.) had the misfortune to fall and break her elbow. We hope she, too, will soon be out and about again.

We are happy to welcome three new souls into the fold. We were privileged to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of our new Sisters Ruth Steiner and Sarah Steiner, daughters of Bro. Richard and Sis. Ann Steiner and our new Bro. Todd Steiner, who is the son of Bro. Joe and Sis. Marcella Steiner.

We thank Elder Bro. Joe Stoller (Princeville) for assisting in this work. A special thanks also to Bros. Dale Moore (Elgin, IA) and Vernon Wettstein (Congerville) who also visited us this past month.

We wish to extend our sympathy to Bro. Leslie and Sis. Betty Schweigert on the passing of Sis. Betty's brother, Chris Huette (Bloomington).

We also want to remember Bro. Leslie and Sis. Wilma Pulfer in the loss of Sis. Wilma's brother, Bro. Robert Wettstein (Eureka).

## ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

**Carol Schick**

We rejoice with heaven this past month as we witnessed the baptism of Kevin Hofstetter and heard his testimony. May he feel God's love and closeness as he begins his walk as a new Christian.

We were blessed with several vis-

iting ministers this past month. May our heavenly Father bless each one for the sacrifices they and their families make as they so faithfully serve Him; Bros. Vernon Schwab (Wolcott, IN), Dwight Stoller, Virgil Metzger (Chicago), Doug Wagenbach (San Diego, CA), Marvin Leman (Bradford) and Elder Bro. Don Sauder (Roanoke).

We miss the presence of Bro. Steve Hofstetter but wish him well in his new job in Philadelphia, PA.

Our Vacation Bible School has come and gone for another year. Bible school takes effort and sacrifice on the part of teachers, craft supervisors and parents, but the children benefit so much from the week of fellowship and learning of God's Word. As parents and teachers, we have all wondered if the young minds really absorb what we are trying to teach them and if they take any of it seriously but we would be amazed I'm sure, if we could see into the future and realize what our efforts and example can teach them. May God bless everyone involved in teaching our youth.

Thank you: Sis. Martha McGough wishes to express her deep appreciation for all the cards, flowers, visits and prayers that people showered on her during her recent visit in the hospital. Words cannot express the comfort that people can bring through those small acts of caring. God bless each one.

## INDIANA, BLUFFTON

**Shari Fiechter - Gwen Kipfer**

"Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things."

I Corinthians 13:4-7

The Bible tells us that love never gives up, no matter what! "Love never gives up; it keeps on trying: was the theme of our 29th Vacation Bible School. Approximately 500 students and 90 teachers studied God's holy truths each morning for two weeks and then presented a wonderful pro-

gram Friday evening, June 15. With much enthusiasm and lots of smiles, these precious children sang and recited verses and reminded us that love just never gives up. May this message serve as a guide to these children as they grow older.

We congratulate Bro. Jerry Isch (Bro. Ernie and Sis. Lucy) and Sis. Linda Furrer (Bro. Glenn and Sis. Eileen) as they were united as one in Christ June 3 in Morris, MN. Bro. Jerry grew up in our community, but was led to the Philadelphia, PA, congregation where he was recently put into the ministry. We wish Jerry and Linda many blessings as they now walk this pathway together.

Looking forward to an August wedding are Sis. Jill Ringger (Bro. Kent and Sis. Jan) and Bro. Kip Gerber (Bro. Mike and Sis. Cheryl). We were happy to hear of their engagement and wish them God's blessings.

Bro. Alvin and Sis. Helen Gerber have been blessed with 50 years of married life together. We thank this beautiful couple and many others like them for the Godly example they show to those of us who are younger.

We rejoice with our newest converts, Shane Houser and Janel Frank. What a wonderful decision these two young people have made and we pray that many others will answer the Master's gentle, loving call.

We thank Bro. Nile Bucher and Bro. Steve Ringger (Bluffton North) for ministering to us on recent Sundays.

On Sunday, June 3, the Lord sent the death angel to Bro. Roy Gerber's bedside. Even though Bro. Roy was 81, his passing was very unexpected and he is missed greatly by those that loved him, especially his dear wife, Sis. Helen. He is also survived by Bros. Lewis, Henry and Norman.

On June 11, Sis. Frances Kipfer was beckoned home to the Father. Sis. Frances was 85 years old and will be missed by Sis. Frieda, Sis. Esther, Bro. Martin, Bro. Carl and many other relatives.

"A time to be born and a time to die ..."

Ecclesiastes 3:2

How true Solomon's words are! We gave up a dear brother and sister to death, but also welcomed two pre-

cious baby boys. Luke Ray was welcomed into this world May 22 by Bro. Lynn and Sis. Jenny Frauhofer and siblings, Jim, John and Lisa. Luke's grandparents are Bro. Tom and Sis. Marilyn Baumgartner and Bro. Sylvan and Sis. Doris Frauhofer. Bro. Gene and Sis. Becky Gerber rejoiced June 11 as they were blessed with Matthew Harold. Jason, Randy and Jennifer were very excited as were grandparents, Bro. Harold and Sis. Violet Meyer and Bro. Bob and Sis. Evie Gerber.

Hospitalized this past month have been Bro. Elmer and Sis. Min Isch, Bro. Ezra and Sis. Tillie Kaehr, Bro. Edwin Amstutz, Bro. Richard Reinhard (Sis. Bertaline), Sis. Beulah Schwartz (Bro. Howard), Bro. Steve Reinhard (Sis. Renee), Bro. Myron Kaehr (Rita) and Lynette Reinhard (Bro. Ken and Sis. Ann).

Our congregation has had those with much joy and those with heavy trials this past month. Let's all remember our children's Bible school message that "Love never gives up!"

#### INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH Lois Drayer - Deb Aeschliman

Vacation Bible School was held from June 4 to 15, in the morning at the Bluffton Church; a combination of Bluffton and Bluffton North churches. Sunday school students grades nursery through eighth attended along with many friends and neighbors from our community, making a total of 492 children. Our children were reminded each day of God's love as the theme for Bible school was "God's Love Never Gives Up!" Every day before Bible school started, a minister would say a few words and have a prayer. One minister spoke on friendship with the hopes that the friendships made in Bible school would be long lasting and create precious memories. The night of the Bible school program, as the 41 eighth grade graduates received their Bibles, they were also given a letter from a Special Friend, whom we hope they will never forget. The letter read as follows:

I just had to write to tell you how much I love you and care for you. Yesterday, I saw you walking and laughing with your friends; I hoped that soon you'd want Me to walk along with you, too. So I painted you

a sunset to close your day and whispered a cool breeze to refresh you. I waited -- you never called -- I just kept on loving you. As I watched you fall asleep last night, I wanted so much to touch you. I spilled moonlight onto your face -- trickling down your cheeks as so many tears have. You didn't even think of Me. I wanted to much to comfort you. The next day I exploded a brilliant sunrise into a glorious morning for you. But you woke up late and rushed off -- you didn't even notice. My sky became cloudy and My tears were the rain. I love you, oh, if you'd only listen. I really love you. I try to say it in the quiet of the green meadows and in the blue sky. The wind whispers My love throughout the boughs and spills it into the vibrant colors of all the flowers. I shout it to you in the thunder of the great waterfalls and compose love songs for birds to sing for you. I warm you with the clothing of My sunshine and perfume the air with nature's sweet scent. My love for you is deeper than any ocean and greater than any need in your heart. If you'd only realize how I care. My Father sends His love. I want you to meet Him -- He cares, too. Fathers are just that way. So, please call on Me soon. No matter how long it takes, I'll wait -- because I love you.

Your Friend,  
Jesus

Our congregation was blessed recently with four visiting ministers, Elder Bro. Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH), Elder Bro. Paul Butikofer (Elgin, OH), Bro. John Aberle (Altadena, CA) and Bro. Homer Reineck (Toledo, OH). We appreciate their willingness to serve.

We rejoice with Frank Ifer (Ruth) as he has turned to the Lord in repentance. We also rejoice with Bro. Herman and Sis. Mary Baumgartner as their son, Greg, is repenting. Greg attends the Indianapolis church.

We wish to extend congratulations to Bro. Max and Sis. Eunice Steffen on the birth of their grandson, Isaiah Steven, born to Dan and Jane Steffen June 2 in Bolivia, South America.

Our prayers have been with Bro. Ted Kipfer (Sis. Thersa) and Graham Brown (son of Lewis and Joan) who have had recent hospital stays.

We extend sympathy to Bro. Joe

Meyer (Sis. Josephine) and Sis. Ida (Bro. Ray) in the loss of their sister, Sis. Margart Leman (Roanoke, IL) who passed away June 12.

Our hearts go out to Sis. Arlene Habegger (Bro. Ben) in the passing of her father, Bro. Jacob Bahler (Wolcott) who passed away June 14. Bro. Jacob was a brother to Sis. Leona Gerber (Bro. Obed) and we also express our sympathy to her.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Lemuel Vega (Sis. Donna) in the loss of his mother, Garnet Vega, who passed away June 17 in Chicago, IL.

We warmly welcome Bro. Dave and Sis. Terri Mueller and their three children, Nathan, Jenna and Kyle back to our congregation and community. They had been attending the Leo church.

Correction: The June issue of the Silver Lining should have read Chandler Todd Gerber's grandparents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Carol Gerber and Bro. Jim and Sis. Cheryl Zimmer. We extend heartfelt congratulations to both grandparents and Chandler's parents, Bro. Todd and Sis. Michelle Gerber.

## INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE

### Jacki Huber

Just seconds before our Bro. Dave Wuethrich was taken to his eternal home, he spoke these words to his sons over the radio in his tractor, "Well, I got that field done, boys, I'm heading home."

Bro. Dave's tractor was struck by an Amtrack train on an unmarked crossing around noon, Thursday, May 31.

Our hearts ache for his dear wife, Sis. Barb (Ward); his four daughters, Deb Speicher (Milford), Brenda Werner (Lafayette), Sis. Mim Gudeman (Indianapolis) and Marla Steffen (Syracuse); and three sons, Bros. Brad, Dave and Mark (Francesville).

We also extend sincere sympathy to his seventeen grandchildren, seven sisters and four brothers.

Bro. David K. Wuethrich was born October 21, 1929 and passed away around noon Thursday, May 31. Funeral services were held Sunday, June 3 at 1:30 p.m. at the Apostolic Christian Church in Francesville.

Sis. Ada Abersoll, who resided at Parkview Haven Retirement Home,

passed away May 18 at 90 years of age. Funeral services were held at Wolcott. We're thankful that Sis. Ada's earthly suffering is over and that she is at home with the Lord.

On Saturday, June 9, Deann Anliker was married to Brian Mustard. She is the daughter of Bro. Earl and Sis. Liz Anliker (Francesville). He is the son of Ellsworth Mustard of Merrillville, IN, and Nancy Mustard of North Judson, IN.

Another home was established Saturday, June 16 as Jessica Denton (Bro. Jim and Sis. Sharon, Francesville) and John Murray (Mr. and Mrs. Howard Murray, Webster, IN) were united in marriage. May God be near to each of these couples throughout their lives.

On Wednesday evening, May 30, our graduates were given Bibles and heard inspiring songs and verses at the annual graduation program. We congratulate the following graduates and wish them God's guidance throughout their lives; Ben Gutwein (Bro. Fred and Sis. Madeleine), Mary Gutwein (Doug and Mary Lew), Chris Huber (Bro. Chris and Sis. Sharon), Derek Leman (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Linda), Bro. Ben Masten (grandson of Bro. Virgil and Sis. Viola Von Tobel), Mindy Neihouser (Bro. Perry and Sis. Sally), Gretchen Overmyer (Bro. Dick and Bev), Brad Ward (Bro. Dale and Sis. Anne) and Joel Westfall (Bro. Karl).

Visiting ministers this month have been Bros. Dale Frank (Oakville, IA), Lester Huber (Lexington, KY) and Ken Wuethrich (Indianapolis, IN). May God bless them for serving us.

Just a reminder to Francesville subscribers, July is collection month for us. Thank you!

Dear ones: Our hearts will always be comforted when we think of all the acts of love shown unto us since the passing of our beloved one. Never before have we experienced such unending expressions of kindness. May God be your rewarder.

The Dave Wuethrich family

## INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS

### Miriam Gudeman

### HE IS JUST AWAY

You cannot say, you must not say

that he is dead . . . He is just away! With a cheery smile and a wave of the hand . . . He has wandered into an unknown land.

And left us dreaming how very fair . . . It needs must be, since he lingers there.

So think of him faring on, as dear . . . In the love of there as the love of here.

Think of him still as the same, and say . . . He is not dead, he is just away!

J. W. Riley

This is in memory of my dearly loved father, Bro. David K. Wuethrich (Francesville, IN) who "went home" to heaven May 31. Your prayers and loving support to our family during this time has been greatly appreciated!

We are thankful and overjoyed to see Kameron Meyer (son of Bro. Greg and Sis. Bev) back with us in church. We will continue to pray for him and his family as he battles this fight with leukemia. We also will be praying for Kyle (Kameron's brother) that his broken wrists may heal quickly, and for Greg's father that his health may improve after his surgery. May God's healing strength be with them.

Congratulations to our college graduates this year. They are Allen Schafer (son of Bro. Bruce and Sis. Lauretta) who graduated with honors from the University of Chicago and will be working for General Electric Capitol in Minneapolis, MN, Jane Bradford (daughter of Bro. Bill and Sis. Gail) graduating from I.U.P.U.-Indy, Shelley Leman (daughter of Bro. Denny and Sis. Linda, Francesville) and Don Vogt (son of Bro. Don and Sis. Pam, Francesville) graduating from Marion College. We wish them much success with God's guidance in their future endeavors.

We would like to wish a fond farewell to our Bro. Gordy and Sis. Kathy Gerber and family as they move to Washington, IL. We shall miss them greatly, and pray that God will bless them in their new home. We hope to have them visit us often, Lord willing.

Our Vacation Bible School this year was during the week of June 18 through 22. The theme centered on Jesus and His "Island in the Son." We received many blessings from the

children's program Friday evening, along with the fellowship of family and friends who came to share with us.

We want to express our sincere appreciation for all our visiting ministers these past two months. They were Bro. Walt Steffen (Milford), Bro. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH), Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott), Bro. Earl Kilgus (Remington) and Bro. Ron Kipfer (Bluffton). May God continue to use them for His divine purpose.

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**INDIANA, LACROSSE**  
Mary Lynn Massner

It seems that summer's come again  
To sing its old refrain  
And warmth will fill the earth  
again  
As sunshine follows rain  
Flowers cover all the world  
With every lovely hue  
And nature wears her greenest  
gown  
And sky her brightest blue  
Stillness seems to fill the air  
As birds wing on their flight  
They sing their sweetest melody  
As darkness leaves for light  
God in all His glory  
Has prettied up the land  
And painted Heaven's picture  
With His Master's hand  
O'er the heart comes stealing  
A forgotten memory  
Of youth and childhood  
And days that used to be  
I love each changing season  
God has set apart  
But summer if for memories  
It's the season of the heart.

Nita Leonino

Summer is here again and it is truly a wonderful time of year. The sun is usually shining, many family vacations are taken, and the countryside is more beautiful than ever. We celebrate our country's freedom on the Fourth of July and reflect on all the blessings God has given to the people who are fortunate enough to live in this wonderful country. One of our visiting ministers during Vacation Bible School suggested that we should take time this summer to truly enjoy the beauty of God's creation all around us. When is the last time we

sat quietly by a lake or in a woods and just enjoyed all the beauty?

Vacation Bible School was held this past month and our theme was "Ye are the salt of the earth . . ." Matthew 5:13. The ministers who spoke to us were: Bros. Mike Rinckenberger (Congerville, IL), Will Schieler (Milford, IN) and John Hartman (Fairbury, IL). While the older children and adults listened to the speakers, our younger children were learning new Bible verses, new songs and being retold the wonderful stories of the Bible. On Father's Day these dear children had a program to show us what they had learned that week. We could learn some valuable lessons by watching the enthusiasm with which these little ones sing to the Lord. They hold nothing back, and it all comes straight from the heart with no pretense. I think the Lord must smile just watching them.

We have four high school graduates this year: Lance Bucher, Doug Feller, Bro. Owen Gudeman and Christine Heinold. We wish these young people the very best and pray that the Lord will lead them in the years ahead.

Our Bro. Ralph Yergler suffered severe injuries in a fall he had while in Florida. Others hospitalized this past month included Sis. Esther Bucher, Sis. Mary Troxel and Bro. Phil Troxel. Our prayers are surely with each of these loved ones, and we hope they can take comfort in God's promise that He will be by their side through it all.

In addition to those brothers participating in Vacation Bible School this month were visiting ministers Bro. Dan Stoller (Remington, IN), Elder Bros. Bob Grimm (Goodfield, IL) and Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO). May God bless each of these brothers for being with us and giving so freely to further the Lord's work.

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**INDIANA, LEO**  
Thelma Schlatter

A young boy was called to the witness stand to testify in a serious situation. The prosecuting lawyer asked the boy, "Didn't your Dad tell you what to say?" The boy answered, "Yes, he did." The lawyer was now certain he had won the case. He continued with the next question, "And

what did your Dad tell you to say?" The boy quickly answered, "He told me you would try to confuse me, but that I should just tell the truth and I wouldn't be mixed up!"

Children's minds have been taught and their hearts touched with many truths of the Word during two weeks of Daily Vacation Bible School closing with an opportunity of sharing in a program.

Our sympathy reaches out to Sis. Janice (Robert) Pfister and family in the recent home-going of her father, Bro. Jacob Bahler. He had been ill for some time in the Francesville Park-view Haven Home.

How often we have sung with pride the song, "America the Beautiful!" Observance of Independence Day in this month of July is a special time to reflect upon the many blessings we've enjoyed in this great land of ours and to pray for continued peace and freedom.

**Bits of This and That:**

Too much energy is spent on "what if" when it should be expended on "what is."

Families are not composed of things. We should love people and use things.

"My boy," said a father to his son, "treat everybody with politeness, even those who are rude to you; for remember you show courtesy to others, not because they are gentlemen, but because you are a gentleman."

If you were another person, would you like to be a friend of yourself?

To talk with God, no breath is lost.  
Talk on!

To walk with God, no strength is lost.  
Walk on!

To wait on God, no time is lost.  
Wait on!

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**INDIANA, MILFORD**  
Paula Haab - Gwen Steffen

Our long awaited warm weather is now here. It brings to remembrance God's promises of seed time and harvest and the seasons.

We are so happy that summer continues to bring many visitors to worship with us. Among them have been ministering Elder Bro. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH), Bros. Harold Schmidgall (Gridley, OH) and John Reinhard (Bluffton). The gospel of Jesus Christ

never grows old. It convicts or lifts up the soul whether it is brought to us by visiting brothers or our home ministers. May the Holy Spirit always inspire every minister.

Our week of Bible school brought many blessings. Psalm 1 was the text for our lessons. The brothers who were willing to be used by God and came and spoke to us were Bros. Gary Tonner (Bluffton), Ken Wuethrich (Indianapolis), Kenneth Schneider (Remington) and Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL). We pray that God will reward them for their efforts from which we benefitted.

It is good to see Esther (Lehman) Welty back in church after feeling too weak to attend for quite some time. She truly is concerned about her soul, and she needs our prayers.

It seems we always have those among us who are hurting in the flesh. Sis. Kate Price had knee surgery and is recuperating at the home of her daughter in Fort Wayne. Sis. Aldine Reimschisel is once again hospitalized. Bobby Welty, son of Esther, met with an accident and received a neck injury. Matt Haab (Bro. Alvin and Sis. Carol) injured his foot rather severely causing him to have to cancel a trip to California. May each one feel God's healing power.

In addition to the five high school graduates we reported before, also graduating was Dena Lehman, daughter of Sam and Vonda.

Lee Price and Jamie Bryan are making plans for an October wedding. Their parents are Stan and Sis. Ginger Price and Joan Bryan. We wish them God's blessings upon their plans and forthcoming marriage.

#### INDIANA, REMINGTON Amelia Schini

I failed to report last month that Sunday evening, April 29 at our fellowship hall, Elder Bro. John Klotzle (Altadena, CA) told us about the India Mission and showed pictures from his last trip.

On Sunday, May 20, Bro. Merle Hartzler (Smithville, OH) was with us. Near the end of his sermon he asked, "What does it cost to be a Christian?" That week I gave that question a lot of thought. What did it cost me? Oh, yes! I put away movies, dates, dances, etc. Was that a price to

pay? No, those were only as the husks as referred to in Luke 15:16. So what did it cost? I had no price to pay. It cost Jesus His life on Calvary's cross. Anything we give up is replaced with jewels of peace and love. Jesus took care of the cost.

On Wednesday evening, May 23, Bro. Ed Alt was our topical Bible study speaker. The topic was "bitterness." He said bitterness does more damage to the one who possesses it, rather than the object. Bitterness destroys. The main cause is jealousy. God's children are not exempt so it behooves us to always be on guard.

In the last newsletter I wrote of our three high school graduates. Since that time was commencement, May 26. The Salutatorian was our own Shirley Waibel of our Bible class. She is the daughter of Bro. Ralph and Sis. Helen Waibel. The Valedictorian was Sis. Melissa Furrer of the Wolcott congregation. We are pleased that our young people represent our church with honors. We do wish all our graduates God's guidance for their careers. We would recommend to them to make a commitment to God, if they haven't already and become students of the school of God.

On Sunday, May 27, Bro. Andy and Sis. Maxine Virkler (Bay City, MI) were with us. Their grandchildren here must be happy when they come, as well as the rest of us.

That same Sunday our congregation sang the farewell "God Be With You" for our grandson, Bobby Schini. Bobby has moved to East Peoria to live with his father, stepmother and half sister. Bobby was 16 months old when he came to live with us in October, 1975. Now he is 16 years old. All is quiet on the home front!

This has been the week of our Vacation Bible School. The theme was "Let's Follow Jesus!" Our different speakers have been Bros. Ken Weerts (Cissna Park, IL), Curt Frank (LaCrosse), Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH), Bruce Leman (Roanoke, IL) and Marshall Heinold (Washington, IL). It has been a very blessed week. We thank all these brothers as well as Bros. Klotzle, Hartzler, Alt and Virkler for being willing to share God's wonderful Word with us.

Today, Saturday, June 16, our Bro. Jacob Bahler will be laid to rest in our cemetery. Bro. Jake (as we knew him)

passed away at Parkview Haven Home at Francesville Thursday, June 14, at the age of 90 years. His wife, Sis. Emma, passed away in December of 1988. He is survived by three daughters, Sis. Arlene Habeggar (Bluffton), Laura Kupferschmid (Paxton, IL) and Sis. Janice Pfister (Leo, IN); also three sons, Bros. Elmer of our congregation, Alfred and Lowell of the Wolcott church.

Tomorrow is Father's Day. We wish all fathers a blessing from God, their heavenly Father.

#### INDIANA, SOUTH BEND Anna Marie Stoller

Have you ever had unexpected guests come to your home late at night? Suppose your unexpected guest was one who you had been hoping to entertain in the near future, but would have had the house fresh, clean, painted -- well prepared -- for the anticipated visit. Suddenly, here they are, late at night, and the house is not in order. This experienced was ours recently, and as I hurried from room to room in front of our special guests, trying to tidy up on the surface, it occurred to me that his is how it will be when Jesus returns. If our spiritual house is not in order, there will be no time to do those things that should have been done when the time was right.

Sis. Helen Martin and Steve Englehardt mourn the loss of their sister-in-law, Mrs. Noah Englehardt.

Memorial weekend Bros. Art Baurer and Ted Witzig ministered to us. Elder Bro. Jess Beer (Milford) spent an afternoon with us recently.

Our prayerful support is offered to Bro. Scott Schafer and Sis. Carolyn Frank as they assume the duties of Sunday school teachers for the next two years.

Andrea Lightner, daughter of Peter and Sis. Nerys, graduated from high school.

The eagerness of our young Sunday school children to praise God in song was evident at the annual Sunday school picnic held at Nappanee Park. "Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me; for of such is the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 19:14. We, as adults, could learn from these blessed chil-

dren, to have a childlike eagerness and zeal to serve and worship God unashamedly.

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**INDIANA, VALPARAISO**  
**Cindy Susdorf - Marie Heinold**

"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

St. John 14:27

Bro. Willis Feller would like to thank each one for their prayers, cards and gifts while he was in the hospital. We pray the Lord will give him much strength both physically and spiritually.

We were once again blessed in this last month when our dear Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) and his wife, Sis. Judy, came and shared the day with us. We thank the Lord for sharing this dear family's love with us. This has truly brought us many blessings and we pray for them also.

Did you ever feel that in your church there were times when something special was happening? We here at Valparaiso feel that way. Although we have experienced some difficult times, recently the Lord has blessed us by adding two brothers to the ministry, and now we have two converts, Stacy Miller and Karen Susdorf, ready for baptism. We feel these experiences are really drawing us closer together and that the Spirit is having more of a free course. Pray for us here at Valparaiso as we are praying for you: that the Spirit may have free course in all the churches and that the love might flow freely. Love can conquer all things and is truly the greatest gift. May the Lord bless us all!

We hope all had a wonderful Father's Day! We certainly thank our heavenly Father for all things He has done, and for His bountiful grace.

**TO MY DAD!**

As I look back on my childhood  
 And all the things I had,  
 I remember someone special,  
 And that someone is you Dad!

The things you've always done for me  
 I know I can't repay --  
 The love, the strength and faith  
 you gave  
 Are part of me today.

You watched me grow, then let me go,  
 To build a family of my own . . .  
 And now you make all of us feel  
 Welcome at your home.

So now that it's your special day,  
 I want everyone to see  
 How very much I love you  
 And that my dad you'll always be.  
 As you look back on my childhood  
 And the woman you've helped me be,  
 I hope you know how proud of you I am . . .  
 I hope you're half as proud of me!

Bonita Johnson

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**INDIANA, WOLCOTT**  
**Lynell Blume - Lorna Knapp**

Funeral services were held May 21 for our dear Sis. Ada Abersoll, who passed away at the age of 90 years. We pray the Lord will comfort her surviving sister, Josephine Gudeman (Plantation, FL). Sis. Ada was the last surviving member of our church who was a part of the original families who helped establish the Wolcott church.

"Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." Ephesians 4:31-32. On May 23, Bro. Ed Alt (Cissna Park, IL) conducted our Bible study. "Bitterness" was the selected topic and we were reminded that bitterness is usually the result of jealousy. May we all strive to overcome this tool of Satan as it is not conducive to our Christian walk of life. Bro. Merle Hartzler (Rittman, OH) also ministered to us this month. We thank these brothers for their efforts to come and for lending themselves in the Lord's service.

Congratulations and best wishes go to our high school graduates, Sis. Marcy Bahler (Bro. Lowell and Sis. Karla) and Sis. Melissa Furrer (Bro.

Irvin and Sis. Shirley). As they enter a new phase of life, we wish them God's guidance and His blessings.

Bro. Brian Knapp (Sis. Lorna) was a hospital patient recently, and we are thankful for his quick recovery.

Our Vacation Bible School was held with the Remington Sunday school at Remington the week of June 11 - 15. Many efforts were put forth so the students could learn more about Jesus. May God bless all those who gave of their time for teaching, crafts, and for snacks. The Bible class and congregation also benefitted by the Scriptural messages of the visiting ministers.

Bro. Mike and Sis. Glenna Minniear are enjoying their role as first-time grandparents to a precious, new baby girl. Brandi Leigh was born June 13 to Lee and Michelle Huff.

Our sympathy is extended to Elder Bro. Alfred, Sis. Frances Bahler and Bro. Lowell, Sis. Karla Bahler and their families in the passing of their dear father and grandfather, Bro. Jacob Bahler (Remington, IN).

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**IOWA, IOWA CITY**  
**Janette Schulz**

Greetings to all! We were privileged to again partake of holy communion. As we were reminded, may we continue examining ourselves throughout the year so that we may be ready when the Master call us. We thank Elder Bros. Paul Butikofer (Elgin, IA) and Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) and their families for coming for the occasion.

We also had our Sunday school elections for the next school year. May God impart to each teacher the wisdom and love needed to plant the seed in those tender hearts. We also enjoyed our first Sunday school picnic. As God blessed the day with sunshine, may the memory of a special day of fellowship warm our hearts in the days to come.

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**IOWA, LESTER**  
**Kathy Metzger - Mary Knobloch**

"And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up . . ." Acts 20:32. As God sent Paul to preach to His people, so has He sent ministers to us today to preach the

gospel of Jesus Christ. Recently among us were Bros. Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO), Rex Frieden (Lamar, MO) and Duane Metzger (West Bend).

On May 22, first-time parents, Ken and Ranae Leuthold, welcomed a son, Nathan Lee, into their home. Paternal grandparents are Bro. Art and Sis. Emily Leughold. May God richly bless this couple as they rear their son.

Anna Knobloch (Otto) is hospitalized due to medical reasons. God's healing power is a priceless gift. We pray that many be touched by His divine healing and be restored to good health once again.

On Saturday, June 9, Linda Knobloch (Bro. Art and Sis. Elgeva) and Brad Klostergaard exchanged marriage vows. May God bless them as they begin their married life.

One of our graduates we failed to mention in last month's issue is Sherylee Scott, foster daughter of Carol and Bob Molitor.

Our country observes Independence Day and one of the blessings we enjoy is freedom of religion. May we always take advantage of this and worship our God as He directs us in His Holy Word.

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**IOWA, PULASKI**  
**Teresa Schock**  
**Carol Wettstein**

Greetings be to you, our brethren  
To our sisters in the Lord,  
Here from far and near assembled,  
Gathered here in one accord.  
Welcome, welcome, All ye loved  
ones;  
Greetings in the Saviour's name.  
Hymns of Zion #7

We were blessed this past month with the following visiting ministers: Bros. Clifford and Wayne Grimm (West Bend) and Kenneth Knapp (Taylor, MO). We were also privileged to have the Washington Bible class along with their teachers, spend a weekend with us. We appreciate them putting forth the effort to visit us.

Congratulations to Daniel Wiegand (Bro. Dave and Sis. Mary) as he graduates from high school.

Hospital patients this past month have been Sis. Sue Ann Schaer (Don)

and little Angie Wuthrich (Bro. Roger and Sis. DeAnn).

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Lloyd Wettstein (Sis. Carol) in the passing of his father, Bro. Robert (Eureka).

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**IOWA, WEST BEND**

**Phyllis Banwart - Mary Gerber**

God has blessed the home of Brad and Julie Banwart. Brittany Marie came to be a part of their family June 1. Brittany was born April 10. Big brother, Josh, and grandparents, James and Becky Banwart and John and Janine Berte are thrilled to help care for her.

It is always hard to say goodbye, but our congregation said goodbye to Bro. Bob and Sis. Barb Fehr, Lana, Tina, Tom and Dona who are moving to the Champaign area. Their sons, Bro. Joe and Mike Fehr will remain in Ames for the time being to continue their education. A carry-in supper was held as we bid them farewell. We sincerely wish them the continued blessings of the Lord.

We want to extend our sympathy to Eric and Diana Mogler and family who have recently lost Diana's grandmother, Kathrine Pierce (Algona).

We are thankful those who have had surgery this past month are again assembling with us. They are Josh Banwart (Brad and Julie), Anthony Fehr (Jeff and Beth) and Joy Metzger (Jerry).

We want to thank Bro. Vic Banwart, Sis. Shirley Metzger and Sis. Lonnie Metzger for teaching our youth in Sunday school. Our prayers are with those who will begin these duties soon. Bros. Dave Bruellman, Dennis Fehr and Chuck Mogler. Sis. Eula Mogler and Sis. Charlotte Fehr will also be teaching our small children. May God go with each one.

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**JAPAN, SHIODA**  
**Renee Baurer**

"There are friendships that we cherished . . ."

We are so thankful for the friendship that we share with Bro. Randy and Sis. Evie Mogler (Washington, IL). We have special memories of the time they spent visiting us at the end of April. We are encouraged by the support and love we feel from them.

Bro. Akito and Sis. Marie Inoue were with us May 27 for communion services. It was good for us to remember our Lord's suffering. We were encouraged to be thankful and use the risen Lord's power in our lives. "I am the vine, ye are the branches . . . for without me ye can do nothing." John 15:5.

We are amazed this year at our overflowing Sunday school. Each Sunday approximately 50 children come to sing praises and learn about God's Word. It was fun to have many of these children attend our Sunday school picnic June 10. We ate our lunch at a nearby park enjoying the warm weather God gave us. After lunch the children sang songs and Bro. Toru Scugusa told the story of the Good Samaritan.

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**JAPAN, TOKYO**

**Frank and Kathy Sauder**

At our monthly neighborhood Bible study held at the church Thursday mornings, we had been studying about stress and how Christ can help. "Casting all your care upon Him; for he careth for you." (1 Peter 5:7). It was encouraging to hear a young expectant mother say that she has started to pray every night before going to sleep. The thought of having her first child is so overwhelming; however, in prayer to our heavenly Father, she can find a great source of peace. It is our prayer that she will continue to grow in faith.

We want to thank Sisters Renee Baurer and Terri Gramm for coming to Tokyo to help with the Jr. High Bible class fellowship evening. About ten students gathered at Bro. Akito and Sis. Marie Inoue's home for an evening of Bible study, singing and games.

"Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted." (Matthew 5:4). Our hearts were saddened when we received the news of Sis. Haruyo Onoda's mother-in-law passing away. She had been bed-ridden for several years and Sis. Onoda spent many hours each day taking care of her. Our prayers are with Sis. Onoda and her family.

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Give Your Old and New Address  
To Your Reporter

**KANSAS, BERN**  
**Lori Baumgartner**  
**Kathy Strahm**

The weekend of June 9 and 10 was a very special weekend for our congregation as we were able to acknowledge the rebirth of two new souls and also able to remember our Lord and Saviour's death. On Saturday evening, we were privileged to hear the testimonies of Jim and Kristin Meyer. We rejoice in that we are now able to greet them as brother and sister-in-faith. May they ever hold fast to this new faith they have found.

On Sunday evening, Elder Bro. Sam Huber (Sabetha, KS) was here to assist Elder Bro. John in the solemn ceremony of holy communion. It was so beautiful to feel the bond of unity among us as we greeted one another with the holy kiss after partaking of the bread and wine.

We always enjoy having visiting ministers with us. We thank Bros. Wayne Miller (Fort Scott, KS), Roger Alberle and Elder Bro. Sam Huber (Sabetha, KS) for their service on our behalf.

"Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit."

Psalms 51:10-12

We rejoice with Nathan and Marlene Edelman who have made a beginning in repentance. May they feel the Lord's nearness each step of the way.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Esther Moser who has been hospitalized and is undergoing treatment for cancer.

Reminder: July is collection month for our Silver Lining dues.

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**KANSAS, GRIDLEY**

**VolA Young - Judy Kraft**

The Lord again has blest Bro. Doug and Sis. Judy Kraft with the precious gift of a newborn child. She has been given the name of Kasha Leigh. Their joy is shared by her brothers and sister, Kent, Kurt and Kara. Grandparents are Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Nadine

Kraft and Bro. Virgil and Sis. Marie Hartter (Sabetha).

Bro. Sam Kraft has been ill, requiring hospitalization. He now is at home, gaining strength, but still unable to assemble at church. Sis. Matilda Beyer fell at home and fractured her hip. She is in an extended care unit, doing well and hopes to be home soon.

We thank Bro. Ronald Allenbach (Kiowa) for sharing from the inspired Word of God.

Reminder: Silver Lining dues for the Gridley congregation need collected during the month of July.

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**KANSAS, KIOWA**

**Darcy Kisling - Janice Bahr**

"While the earth remaineth, seed time and harvest and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease."

Genesis 8:22

The fields have become ripe to harvest. One week they are golden, waving wheat, and the next they are rich cultivated soil. How quickly the harvest can be accomplished.

"For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night."

I Thessalonians 5:2

Let us not be caught sleeping when the Lord comes and the harvest of souls is upon us.

Our hospital patient this month was Sis. Laverne Roth who had knee surgery. May the Lord grant her a speedy recovery.

Our fellowship gathered at Life Care Nursing Home this month for a worship service.

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**KANSAS, LAMONT**

**Mary Isch**

I still find each day too short for all the thoughts I want to think, all the walks I want to take, all the books I want to read, and all the friends I want to see.

John Burroughs

Lord, help me to use the time you've

given to me wisely. Thank you for all that is available to me. Amen.

High school graduates were Jody Isch (Bro. Ron and Sis. Jane) and Brent Emch (Bro. Bill and Sis. Susan).

Wayne and Dawn Anliker (Bro. Glen and Sis. Lorean) are moving to Emporia from Houston where Wayne plans to practice Ophthalmology.

Sis. Jill Luthi (Bro. Lloyd and Joan) has moved to Lamar, MO, where she has found employment. We wish her well in her new endeavor, but miss her presence in our assembly.

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**KANSAS, SABETHA**

**Beth Hartter - Sharon Strahm**

Our congregation has been blessed with visits from many ministering brothers. A special thank you to Bros. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI), Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO), Edwin Bahler (Remington, IN), Lawrence Luthi (Lamar, MO) and Elmer Witzig (Gridley, IL) for the Bread of Life. These brothers also reminded us of many beautiful hymns. Are we touched by the love of God toward us as we sing them? "Oh, the love that drew salvation's plan! Oh, the grace that brought it down to man! Oh, the mighty gulf that God did span at Calvary!" Hymns of Zion #151. Do we count our many blessings and walk "Close To Thee" our God and Saviour?

We enjoyed our annual potluck supper and evening of fellowship for all the Sunday school children and their families.

Hospital patients this month were Bro. George Lambert and Sis. Tillie Menold who both underwent surgery. We are thankful to report they both are home again and improving nicely. May God continue to be with them.

Sis. Evelyn Wysong wants to thank each one for the prayers and kindnesses shown her. It was much appreciated! She wishes all God's blessings.

Bro. Ted Locher and his family wish to thank the church for their prayers, love and concern at the passing of his wife and their mother, Sis. Cordelia.

"I wish to thank all loved ones for prayers, letters, cards, flowers and telephone calls during the time I was in the hospital and at the time of my

husband, Bro. Freeman's death. God bless you all."

Sis. Lucille Kellenberger

## KANSAS, WICHITA

### Emma Miller

We thank God for watching over Bro. Max Reimschisel during the time he was absent from us and his family. Bro. Max accompanied a World Relief Work Team to Haiti to work on a roofing project the last week in May and the first week in June.

Jodi Reimschisel (Bro. Max and Sis. Judy) left June 14 to spend six weeks with a host family in the south-eastern part of Mexico. This project is in conjunction with her language studies at Kansas State University. Our prayer is that she will be a good witness as she learns the language in a foreign land.

We will miss Victor Wullschleger (Sis. Gussie's son) as he, too, left Wichita June 14 to take a position as an electrical engineer with the FAA in Ocean City, NJ. Victor supported Sunday services and Wednesday night Bible study faithfully and we are sorry to have him absent from us. Our prayer is for his spiritual and material well being.

Agape love manifested itself in an interesting way in our congregation. Bro. Charlie Grimm had a burden on his heart for Bro. Phillip Bowers. Since Bro. Phil acquired his new motorized wheel chair, it has been impossible to lift him and the chair up and down the stairs; therefore, Bro. Phil could not spend the noon fellowship hour in our basement dining area. Bro. Charlie visualized a way to construct a lift to lower and raise the chair. Together, he and Bro. Harvey Farney built the project and now Bro. Phil is not restricted from the dining area.

God, in His mercy, has blessed Bro. Milton and Sis. Lillian Bowers in their marriage by allowing them to reach their 50th wedding anniversary. They were married June 19, 1940. Their children, who hosted an open house reception for them June 16, include Jackie Farney, Cecily Holliday, Patti Miskimon, Bro. Jim Bowers, Sarah Krehbiel, Paul Bowers, Priscilla Frank, Bro. Phil Bowers, Phylis Long, Ben Bowers, Lois Hallberg, Julie Beck and Bro. Mike

Bowers. They have 27 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

August is the month for Silver Lining dues to be collected for the Wichita congregation. If you cannot see me at church, please mail your seven dollars to me at 320 S. Taylor, El Dorado, 67042.

Bro. Harvey Farney was a hospital patient in early June. Although he is home and able to be about, his problems are still under observation. We pray for his healing.

## KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON

### Glendoris Huber

We want to congratulate Craig Fritz (Bro. Harold and Sis. Sherry) as he graduates from high school. He will attend Kentucky University in Bowling Green, KY, this fall. We wish him God's special blessings, with His continued guidance and direction all along life's way.

Sis. Katherine Deak underwent major heart surgery on Friday, June 8. We're thankful she is slowly recovering and gaining added strength each new day. We pray for the Lord's healing hand on Sis. Katherine's body.

Our hearts were saddened by the tragic death of Bro. Dave Wuethrich (brother of Sis. Glendoris Huber) in Francesville, IN. We know Bro. Dave went to be with the Lord and we are comforted with that blessed hope of looking forward to the great reunion when the trumpet shall sound and the dead shall be raised incorruptible. Our thoughts and prayers have been with Bro. Dave's wife, Sis. Barb, and her dear family.

We were so thankful to have ministering Bro. Steve Gutwein (Francesville, IN) and his family in our midst June 10. His precious words of faith and love were deeply appreciated by all of us. It's truly a blessing to have Christian fellowship and we do appreciate the many visitors, family and friends, who make an effort to worship with us each Sunday. May the Lord bless them for their love and support.

It is at this time of year we remember the birthday for the freedom of our country. Let us be thankful and praise God for the Christian heritage we have.

Recently, Maurice and Monica Huber sponsored Mr. and Mrs. Ly

Phan (Monica's brother) as refugees from Viet Nam to the U.S. A. The Phans had to risk their lives to gain freedom. They were so grateful and appreciative of the fact that they were finally in a free country which we often take for granted. May the following words of the favorite patriotic song, "America," verse 4, be our prayer:

"Our fathers' God, to Thee, Author of liberty, to Thee we sing; Long may our land be bright, with freedom's holy light, Protect us by Thy might, Great God our King!"

## MICHIGAN, ALTO

### Denise Oesch - Michelle Oesch

As we celebrate our independence as a nation, may we also reflect the true meaning as the most important fight for our religious freedom. Free to hear the precious words of our ministers, our brothers who travel from state to state and even other peaceable countries, to bring words and teachings, we, as Christians, need to function in our every day life. To think how dark and sad our lives would be without our nourishment from ministers and our own nourishment we give each other and our own families and ourselves.

"Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified."

Galatians 2:16

We were privileged enough to hear teachings from Bro. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI) this month.

## MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

### Peggy Waibel

This has been a wonderful month for Bay City with very few exceptions.

God gave a tiny bundle of joy to Bro. Ken and Sis. Pam Schlatter. Little Kendra Lynn was born May 28, and was welcomed home by her big brothers, Chet and Stan. "... and a little child shall lead them." Isaiah 11:6.

"Blessed is every one that feareth

the Lord: that walketh in his ways." Psalm 128:1. Bay City was richly blessed with the testimony and baptism of Bro. Andre Broquard (Sis. Carol and Bro. Duane Broquard). We rejoice with Bro. Andre and pray that he will continue walking through life with God at his side.

Sis. Nina Wieland was hospitalized this month after a kidney operation. God's healing touch is already working in her life and we pray for a full recovery. Remember her in your thoughts and prayers.

At the present time, June 18 through 22, we are conducting Vacation Bible School. It is a blessed week of inspiration and fellowship. In the morning, from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m., we have classes for all school aged children (pre-school through 8th grade). This is followed by a lunch served at the church, and a short singing after lunch. Each evening, from 7:30 until 8:30 p.m., brothers, sisters and friends of all ages reassemble for a worship service. Each evening a new topic is introduced by visiting ministering brothers. This year's theme was "Building A Foundation." On Monday night, Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL) spoke on "The Turmoils of the Times -- No Foundation." His message was heart stopping and soul awakening. On Tuesday night, Bro. Ted Witzig (Morton, IL) gave us the message on "Invitation from Satan -- Evil Foundations." His message was heart wrenching. Both brothers made us so very aware of what is happening around us and so thankful that God has the world in the palm of His hand. He is in control and that is all that matters. The message does not end here, though, it continues on with . . . "Man-Made Foundation," "End Times -- Revealing the True Foundation," and "Salvation and the Solid Rock -- The Grace and the Glory of God's Eternal Foundations." We thank God for each brother that will give of himself to make this week special for all of us. We look forward to three more nights of Vacation Bible School, three more nights of inspiration and meditation, and three more nights that will help to build the foundations of our lives.

May God be with each one in the month ahead.

## MICHIGAN, DETROIT

Sue Gasser

We were happy to hear the testimony and witness the baptism of our Bro. Ken Martin (Bro. Kaywin and Sis. Karen) June 3. Elder Bro. Richard Schupbach and his wife (Phoenix, AZ) were with us for the weekend. We thank Bro. Richard for his part in the services and for conducting our Bible study Friday night. God bless you for traveling here and sharing with us.

We were saddened by the death of Bro. Joe Bobchik June 16 at the age of 75. He is survived by two nephews, two nieces and several great-nieces and great-nephews. Life's end can be so sudden and unexpected. We're never promised another tomorrow.

Our prayers are with Bro. Joe Szilagyi, who has been a hospital patient again this month. God grant you renewed health and strength

We appreciate having Mark Hartzler (Bro. Merle and Sis. Bonnie) with us from Rittman. He has summer employment in our area.

We are sorry to see Bro. Ron Knapp leave our congregation, but wish him God's blessing as he relocated in the Chicago, IL, area.

## MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS

Carol Strassheim

There are two sides to all our trials and temptations: the testing side and the breakthrough side; the east side of darkness and hopelessness, and the west side of victory and deliverance. Any doubter can sing after the testing has passed and the victory has come. Rather, it's on the testing side that the Lord wants us to learn to sing His praises. He deserves our worship in the darkest moment, when there appears to be no way out, when it is absolutely hopeless -- and He alone can deliver.

Amy Miller (Bro. Don and Sis. Bernadine) graduated from high school this year. We wish her God's direction as she moves on in a new direction.

We pray for God's comfort to Sis. Ethel Bednarski as she is in the hospital and pray for her quick recovery.

We were thankful to have visiting ministers this month: Bro. Dale Zeltwanger (Morris), Elder Bro. Harold

Messner (Winthrop) and Elder Bro. Paul Butikofer (Elgin, IA).

## MINNESOTA, MORRIS

Debra Joos - Christa Sauder

We wish God's blessings upon Sis. Linda Furrer and Bro. Jerry Isch (Philadelphia, PA) as they were united in marriage June 3. Their parents are Bro. Glen and Sis. Eileen Furrer and Bro. Ernie and Sis. Lucille Isch (Bluffton, IN).

The engagement of Sis. Jill Koehl to Bro. Jeff Steiner (Tremont, IL) was made known June 3. Parents are Bro. Harv and Sis. Wilda Koehl and Bro. Dick and Sis. Ann Steiner (Tremont, IL). May God be with this dear couple as they plan for their August 19 wedding.

Many prayers were with our hospital patients this month; Bros. Jerel Schmidgall, Fred Tohm and Frank Messner.

Our hearts were saddened by the sudden death of Lloyd Joos. Funeral services were held June 5. We extend our sympathy to his brothers, Bro. Carl and Bro. Gottlieb and to his sisters, Sis. Anna Nohl with whom he made his home for 45 years, and Hilda Henricks.

Funeral services were held June 9 for Kathryn Stettner. She is survived by one sister, Helen Stettner.

Many good instructions and teachings were given to us by our visiting ministers, Bros. Ed Aeschleman (Philadelphia, PA), Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN), Kent Mogler and Ken Lawson (Minneapolis, MN), Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH) and Elder Bro. Bob Grimm (Goodfield, IL).

We rejoice as four souls have felt their need for repentance. They are Donna Koehl (Bro. Harv and Sis. Wilda), Becky and Michelle Schaefer (Bro. Steve and Sis. Pam) and Holly Feuchtenberger (Bro. Wally and Sis. Diane). May God give them grace to build a deep and firm foundation so that when the tests and storms of life come they will be able to stand fast.

Youth Fellowship weekend was held in Morris June 9 - 10. Junior and senior Bible classes from our churches at Lester and West Bend, IA, and Minneapolis and Winthrop, MN were present. We trust that our youth made

many new friendships and gleaned many good teachings from the inspirational messages they heard by Bro. Gary and Bro. Phil.

We will miss Bro. Tim and Sis. Beth Feuchtenberger, Jonathan and Brenton, as they move and assemble with the Lester, IA, congregation.

Bro. Ted and Sis. Wanda Gramm are parents of a new little blessing from heaven. Erika Mae arrived June 9 and is a sister for Lindsay and Brady.

Thank you note: Our heartfelt thanks for all the cards, prayers and kindness shown in the passing of our brother and uncle, Lloyd Joos. May God bless each one of you.

The family of Lloyd Joos

### MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

#### Kim Messner - Georgia Messner

After several years of drought the rains have come and the earth is being replenished. We are thankful for God's blessings.

Brett Messner (Bro. Dean and Sis. Wanda) had the misfortune of falling and breaking his leg. He was hospitalized for 3 weeks and has a long two months or so ahead of him in a body cast. He and his family need our prayers.

Other hospital patients this month were Sis. Pearl Lienemann, Sis. Gerry Messner (Elder Bro. Harold) and Sis. Joyce Messner (Bro. Mike). All are home and assembling with us again. We are thankful for God's healing hand.

We had our annual Sunday school election and duties fell on Bros. Joe Messner, Jerry Messner, Sisters Jamie Schmidt, Nancy Messner and Lois Messner. Bro. Kenneth Messner is superintendent. Silver Lining reporter is Sis. Kim Messner.

Our Sunday school picnic was held on a very rainy Sunday afternoon, but a good time was had by all the children.

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the Morris congregation, as they hosted the Youth Fellowship gathering for the neighboring churches. God bless them in their deeds of kindness.

Last week was our annual church cleaning. May God truly bless those who helped for their deeds of kindness. We have to also take time to

look into our own spiritual home to be sure it is also cleaned.

Sis. Gerry Messner (Elder Bro. Harold) would like to thank everyone for their cards, prayers and acts of kindness.

### MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY

#### Carole Kellenberger

"Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness." Psalm 29:2. As we gathered together to worship we were thankful for visiting ministers in addition to our local ministers. Bro. Bob Stoller (Lamar, MO), Bro. Jay Luthi (Lamont, KS) and Bro. Wayne Miller (Fort Scott, KS) along with their families worshipped with us.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Ed Wreath as he recovers from surgery at his home.

We are so thankful to have a number of students assembling with us this summer: Bro. Scott Aberle (Sabetha, KS), Sis. Camille Strahm (Bern, KS), Julia Anliker (Lamont, KS) and Sis. Crystal Broquard (Fairbury, IL). We also welcome Sis. Thirza Thompson and daughter, Kacia, who have moved here from Chicago. Bro. Kent and Sis. Jane Miller have moved here from Tucson, AZ, and Bro. Kent will continue his education at K. U. Medical Center.

Our children enjoyed a week of Vacation Bible School and we gratefully thank those who volunteered their time for the students. Bro. Sam and Sis. Jeanette Huber were with us Wednesday evening and Bro. Sam spoke to us on Bible prophecy. It is so interesting to see the events leading to Christ's return are coming to pass. "And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh." St. Luke 21:28.

### MISSOURI, LAMAR

#### Janel Kellenberger

#### Becky Marti

"We'll now depart, ye faithful friends; And from this place we'll go; The Lord, in whom our spirits blend, Will lead us on the road. The Lord our welfare always seeks; He grants His word and grace;

He comforts him who sighs and weeps, Consoles at ev'ry place."

Zion's Harp #143

We recently bid farewell to Bro. Carl and Sis. Louise Engle as they have moved to an apartment at the Apostolic Christian retirement village in Sabetha, KS. May they soon feel at home there.

We have been enjoying summer visitors here in Lamar. We enjoy each one of them. Bro. Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL) and family were among our recent visitors. We especially appreciate his being willing to minister God's Holy Word to us.

Hazel Kibler was recently hospitalized for surgery. We are thankful that she is home and recuperating and hope that she can soon assemble with us again.

### MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

#### Mark Leman

Our visiting ministers this month were Bros. Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN) and Wayne Miller (Fort Scott, KS). We thank these brothers for their work as humble servants of the Lord.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Jeff and Sis. Robin Steffen in the sudden death of Robin's uncle, Bro. David Wuethrich (Francesville, IN).

Construction of our church is expected to be in early August with completion expected by Thanksgiving. We are grateful for the many contributions we have received toward building our church.

There have been many inquiries made regarding volunteer work in building the church. Friends and brethren interested can contact our general contractor, Bro. Bob Schieler (Goodfield, IL) at (309) 447-6291.

The groundbreaking ceremony for the church is planned for June 24.

### MISSOURI, TAYLOR

#### Lori Marquart

#### Louanne Gramm

We have had a busy month here in Taylor -- lots of activity!

Our high school graduates this year were: Tammy Grimm (Elder Bro. Roy and Sis. Donna), Gavin Haab (Bro. Paul and Sis. Kathy) and Lisa Hoerr (Bro. Don and Sis. Elaine). All

three are planning to attend college this fall. College graduates include: Sis. Lori Bostrom (Sis. Roberta Bostrom) and Mark Wiegand (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Joann). Congratulations graduates and we pray that you all will surrender to the Lord's will in your lives.

Summer is a popular time for weddings and this year is no exception. John Gerst, son of Bro. Arnold and Sis. Marge, was united in marriage with Julie Doyle, daughter of Ron and Darlene Doyle (Quincy, IL) May 26. The newlyweds have settled in Florissant, MO, which is a suburb of St. Louis. Steve Wiegand, son of Bro. Marvin and Sis. Joann, and Ann Runser, daughter of Mrs. Sally Hummel and the late Carl Hummel, were joined in marriage June 2 and are now residing in the Taylor area. We congratulate both of the couples and pray that they will also seek the Lord's presence in their marriage for that "three-fold cord" that is so important especially in today's society. Remember that as each one grows closer to God, the closer we become to each other.

Visiting ministers in the past few weeks were: Bro. Russell Wuethrich (Pulaski, IA) and Elder Bro. Dave Wiegand (Champaign-Urbana) who came to help our Elder Bro. Roy with the reading of the memorandum letter. The format of the '89 conference was easy to follow and lead us back to the basics of our salvation through Jesus' death on the cross and the shedding of His precious blood for our souls.

Father's Day is a wonderful time for us to remember not only our "earthly" father but our heavenly Father also. Do we tell our fathers how much we love and appreciate them? Everyone likes to hear "I love you" and fathers (both of them) are no exception.

Vacation Bible School is starting this week and the children are very enthusiastic to be learning more about Jesus through the Bible and through song. Just as the little children go through the day singing a melody, do we as adults go through our days with a melody in our hearts . . . or do we let Satan steal our joy?

We have beautiful vacation spots in Missouri and visitors are always welcome!

## NEW JERSEY, UNION CITY

### Ed Aeschleman

Sis. Elsa Welti died May 22 after a long illness. Her funeral was held at Leber's Funeral Home in Union City, and she was interred in the Fairview Cemetery beside her husband, Edward, who died many years ago. We extend our sympathy to her daughters, Doris and Jean, and to the grandchildren. She was a member of the Union City, NJ, church.

## NEW YORK, CROGHAN-NAUMBURG

### Alice Virkler

On May 5, Brandon James was born to Sara and Scott King (York, PA). He was also welcomed by his brother, Ryan, age 2, and grandparents, Bro. Leland and Sis. Bernice Hirschey.

On the weekend of May 27, Bro. Kevin Ryan (Rockville) and his family were in our midst. A covered dish meal and evening song service were also held. We want to thank Bro. Kevin for his service to God and to us.

Philip Virkler (Bro. Andy and Sis. Becky) and Roy Sturtze were hospitable patients this month.

John Nortz and Michelle Bush were united in marriage June 2. Their parents are Jack and Barbara Nortz and Richard and Linda Bush. Our best wishes go to John and Michelle as they take this step in their lives and may they always look to God for their strength and guidance.

Elder Bro. Robert Walder (Congerville, IL) was our visiting minister June 17. We thank him and his family for their visit to us and for Bro. Bob's ministry of God's Word.

Our high school graduates this month are Fred Lawton (Fred and Linda) and Ryan Hirschey (Ronald and Beth). Our congratulations go to them as they have completed one phase of their lives and will soon begin another.

August is collection month for the Silver Lining. Please give your contribution to the reporter.

## OHIO, AKRON

### Joyce Gasser

While in the Holy Land, they talked about their very precious water. In John 7 Jesus talks about "rivers of

living water" flowing from believers. He was at the Feast of the Tabernacles, and it was traditional for the priests to go down the valley to Hezekiah's tunnel to get water. Hezekiah had covered the Gihon Spring, so the enemy could not see it, and dug a tunnel through rock almost a mile long, so the water flowed from the spring through the tunnel into Jerusalem. Tourists can go through Hezekiah's tunnel, but it has water in it. For seven days at their Feast, the priests carried the water in the golden vessels up to the temple courtyard and would pour the water out to represent God always provided water for them in the wilderness, a couple times out of the rock, and in Numbers 21:17 they were to sing: "Spring up, O well." On the eighth day of the Feast, a number of grace, of new beginnings, the priest never poured the water as they said there is something new, more than a well. The eighth day Jesus stood and said something new: "He that believeth on me, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water . . ." We are thankful that we can have the rivers of living water, the very precious water, the very precious Holy Spirit.

We give a hearty welcome to Bro. Wayne and Sis. Jane Klotzle, who have moved from Sardis. We are happy to have them assemble with us.

Bro. Glen and Sis. Joan Greenbank were blessed with their second baby boy; the first is Samuel; and the new baby is named for the two grandfathers, Arthur Robert. The grandparents are Bro. and Sis. Arthur Gordon Greenbank and Bro. and Sis. Robert Stoller.

A thanks for a job well done goes to Bro. Randy Miller as his Sunday school teaching term expired, and Bro. Art Graf is the replacement. The Lord will help Bro. Art to meet the needs of the students.

Bro. Glen Greenbank, our Sunday school superintendent, and his wife, Sis. Joan, hosted a breakfast at their home for our high school graduates, and each graduate was presented a Bible. May the counsel from the Bible help them as they go upon their way.

Sis. Marie Ritzman and Sis. Bonnie Bako are back to church after having been hospitalized.

Bro. Fred Grawunder is in East Germany visiting his mother.

Bro. William Gerst was a guest minister, and Bro. Glenn Riggenbach ministered to us Father's Day.

## OHIO, COLUMBUS

### John Grimm

We are thankful for the ministers and their families who visited our congregation during the past weeks to share the wonderful Word of God with us. They were Bro. Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH), Bro. Jack Bollier (Leo, IN), Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer (Peoria, IL) and Elder Bro. Ken Sauder (Mansfield, OH).

It is a blessing to our small congregation to have two new members worshipping with us. Bro. Jeff Trent (Rittman) has come to continue his education and Sis. Sara Adam (Chicago, IL) has moved to be close to her family. We are thankful to have them among us and pray they will feel love and a warm welcome. May God be near them as they establish their new homes.

We said farewell to our college students for the summer. We will miss their presence in our assembly and look forward to having them with us in the fall.

Bro. Andy Hunyady has recently returned from Eastern Europe. We are thankful that God has watched over and protected him on his journey and brought him safely home.

## OHIO, JUNCTION

### Laurie Schlatter

"... The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: Repent ye, and believe the gospel."

Mark 1:15

We rejoice with Bro. Dave and Sis. Kathy Manz as their daughter, Jenny, has turned to God in repentance. May God be ever near her as she begins this new life.

Congratulations are given to Jenny Manz and Bro. Tom Manz (Bro. Ben and Sis. Carolyn) as they graduate from high school. We wish them God's blessings always.

Address Changed . . .

Give Your Old and New Address  
To Your Reporter

## OHIO, LATTY

### Rhonda Stoller - Kathy Sinn

The weekend of June 9 - 10 was a special time for the Sinn families. Karen (Elder Bro. Ray and Sis. Ann) and Cindy (Bro. Walt and Sis. Renee) felt God's calling and have answered Him. We are so thankful to have two more soldiers in God's army.

This was also the weekend we ordained Bro. Ray Sinn (Sis. Ann) as our elder. It was a special time of singing, praying and thanking God for His love and goodness. This is a great responsibility for a brother. As their flock, we could help greatly if we are kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave us (Ephesians 4:32). Life here is short. Let's not waste it by focusing on matters that have no heavenly value. To Elder Bro. Ray and his family and also Bro. Loren as he retires, may the words of the following song be an encouragement to each of you.

### HE'S LEADING THE WAY

As His children walked on, God was  
leading the way  
With the fire by night and a cloud  
by the day  
They trusted in Him, He was  
faithful and true  
And deep in my heart, I'm trusting  
Him too.

He's leading the way to the  
Promised land  
Everyday He takes my hand  
He goes ahead and I come behind  
Each day I serve Him I find, He's  
leading the way.

Even though there are times I may  
struggle with doubt  
Still deep in my heart I know He's  
working things out  
I remember His children at the Red  
Sea  
What He did for them, He will do  
for me.

Though I may stumble, though I  
may fall  
Still I'm going to stand up and  
answer His call.

by Steve Millikan

"Therefore being justified by faith,  
we have peace with God through our

Lord Jesus Christ," Romans 5:1. We are rejoicing that Lola Laukhuf has found peace with her God and man. We are looking forward to the time we can come together to hear her testimony of faith.

God has once again placed His power of healing on our congregation. The following brethren have spent time in the hospital: Sis. Mildred Stoller (Bro. Lou), Sis. Helen Stoller (Bro. Roy), Sis. Louise Rager (Bro. Carl) and Bro. Roy and Sis. Beulah Stoller. We will continue to pray for each of you.

Teresa Stoller (Bro. Russell and Sis. Melvane) has announced her engagement to Matt Kuhn. We pray for God's guidance to be with this dear couple as they search His will for their lives. We would also like to welcome Matt to our church. May you both always feel welcomed to come and worship with us.

## OHIO, MANSFIELD

### Linda Morrison

Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) spent a Sunday with us and the following brothers conducted our Vacation Bible School classes: Bros. Don Manz (Junction), Gary Maibach (Smithville), Paul Gasser (Akron), Perry Klopfenstein (Gridley, IL) and Elder Bro. Ray Sinn (Latty). May God bless them and their families for their efforts on our behalf. "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." (Psalm 119:105).

"Know therefore this day, and consider it in thine heart, that the Lord He is God in heaven above, and upon the earth beneath: there is none else." (Deuteronomy 4:39) Tracy Baltic (Bro. Pete and Sis. Karen) and Ed Dawson have turned their hearts unto the Lord in repentance. Our prayers support them in this decision and we know God's grace is sufficient as they establish their lives in the God of heaven and earth.

Sis. Ruth Weiss is again able to assemble with us after a short stay in the hospital. Sis. Hermine Beer received "only" bruises when she fell outside her home. Our thoughts and prayers continue to support Sis. Katie Bocka and Sis. Katie Deturk who have been shut-in for an extended period of time. "... we spend our years as a tale that is told. The days

of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow . . . So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom." (Psalms 90:9, 10, 12)

As we have celebrated Father's Day, the writings of James 1:26, 27 seems to point out the grave responsibilities our dear brothers have not only to their own families but to many within the church family: "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world." Have you been visiting lately, dear brother?

Bro. Gaylord and Sis. Betty Dotterer wish to extend a heartfelt thanks to all who remembered them with prayers and gifts during Betty's surgery and recovery. May God bless each one.

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#### OHIO, RITTMAN

**Diane Gasser - Lois Stoller**

We welcome and appreciate visiting ministers. Those who visited us recently were Bro. Perry Zimmerman (Forrest, IL), Bro. Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH) and Bro. Larry Weninger (Latty, OH).

Sickness is often unexpected. We wish to especially remember those who must endure physical pain. Those in the hospital were Bro. Richard Hartzler (Sis. Karen), Kim Hanzie (Tim), Jim Bauman (Joy) and Joe Riggenbach (Sis. Karen).

May 19 was the wedding day of Kevin Keiper and Carolyn Shook. Parents are Bro. Reinhart and Sis. Betty Keiper and Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Shook. We wish Kevin and Carolyn God's blessings as they begin this lifelong union.

Anticipating their marriage and wedding planned for August 12 are Bro. Glen Maibach and Sis. Lois Stoller whose engagement was announced June 10. Parents of the couple are Bro. Alpha and Sis. Helen Maibach and Bro. Fred and Sis. Joyce Stoller.

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#### OHIO, SARDIS

**Paula Figel**

"And when he had given thanks,

he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me."

I Corinthians 11:24, 25

May the Lord bless Elder Bros. Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI) and Henry Dotterer (Rittman) for their labors of love as they assisted Bro. Eugene Pamer (Akron) in our sacred communion services and also in sharing the Word.

We want to congratulate our four graduates and pray the Lord's richest blessings upon their lives. They received Bibles, "Their road map for life" during the graduation breakfast at the fellowship hall.

We are rejoicing with the angels in heaven as two souls have heard God's call and have not passed Him by. They are Lisa Brake (Bro. Bill and Sis. Miriam) and Eric Indermuhle (Bro. Robert and Sis. Karen). May many more yet heed His call while the door of grace is open.

Our first Vacation Bible School was held June 16. Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction) taught the adult class concerning "Effective Parenting." The brother laid to our hearts many scriptures concerning our duties, responsibilities and promises as parents and children. Bro. Roger Gasser (Junction) taught our high school aged children and young adults about the choices and decisions in life. The decisions we make in our young years often effect us throughout our life and need to be made with the Lord's direction.

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#### OHIO, SMITHVILLE

**Stephanie Luginbuhl  
Kim Stoller**

#### THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

Baptized into Thy name most holy,  
O Father, Son and Holy Ghost,  
I claim a place, though weak and lowly  
Among Thy seed, Thy chosen host.  
Immersed with Christ, I'm dead to sin;

Thy Spirit now shall live within.

Zion's Harp #41, vs. 1

We had a blessed weekend June 2 and 3 as four precious souls were added to the fold. Our new brothers and sisters are Bro. Rudy and Sis. Barbara Maibach and Bro. Jeff and Sis. Deb Gasser. May the Lord give these two couples His grace and strength to lead a life pleasing to Him.

We want to thank the Lord for the many visiting ministers who brought forth God's Word unto us. They were Bro. Steve Sauder (Tremont, IL), Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker and Bro. Clarence Kachelmuss (Forrest, IL), Bro. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI), Bros. Dave Graf and Paul Gasser (Akron, OH) and Elder Bro. Henry Dotterer (Rittman, OH).

Our congregation was blessed with two new precious souls. Josie Marie was born to Bro. John and Sis. Janice Rufener. Jenny, Jacob, Jered and Joy welcome their baby sister home. Grandparents are Bro. Chester and Sis. Roma Rufener (Rittman, OH) and Bro. Gordon and Sis. Emily Greenbank (Phoenix, AZ).

Bro. Robert and Sis. Eileen Stoller are the grandparents of little Arthur Robert Greenbank. His parents and brother are Bro. Glen, Sis. Joan and Samuel Greenbank (Akron, OH). Paternal grandparents are Bro. Gordon and Sis. Emily Greenbank (Phoenix, AZ).

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#### OHIO, TOLEDO

**Frances Laidig  
Josephine Rehkla**

"It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most high:"

Psalms 92:1

Our visiting minister, Bro. Neil Ramseyer (Bay City, MI) was with us June 17. May God bless him for his service of love. We also enjoyed having with us his wife, Sis. Sharon, and their children and his parents.

The month of July makes us think of liberty and what it means. Living in the city, we are very conscience that we don't have the liberty of safely taking walks, leaving our car and home with unlocked doors, even leav-

ing our windows uncovered at night. We constantly read and hear of violence and realize that things aren't as they used to be. Thinking seriously though about liberty, the thought comes to mind that the first two lines of "America" -- "My country 'tis of thee, Sweet land of liberty . . ." -- still has a very true meaning. We have the liberty to do what is most important in life and that is to attend the church of our choice whenever we wish and to worship God without interference. It will be a blessing and comfort to us if we remember to think of this special liberty in America.

### OREGON, PORTLAND

#### Ginny Cooper

Every year the Portland and Silverton churches get together to honor the graduates at a potluck - singing. This year it was held at the Silverton Grange May 27. There were three grade school and two high school graduates, and one college graduate. It was a blessed evening, and enjoyed by all.

We thank Bro. Ed Knecht (Silverton) for ministering to us June 3. We always appreciate the efforts of any visiting minister.

We were also happy to have Bro. John Kaufman (Phoenix, AZ) here for a visit June 3. May the Lord protect him as he travels to Illinois.

We are thankful that Sis. Margaret Banwart's cast is off her arm, but she is still in a lot of pain because it was a bad break. We pray the Lord will completely heal her, and that she can soon assemble with us again.

Sis. Elizabeth Klopfenstein (Bro. Perry and Sis. Carol, Gridley, IL) is spending the summer in Oregon. She is the granddaughter of Bro. Bob and Sis. Pearl Miller (Portland). We are very happy to have her in our small flock, and wish her God's blessings.

On June 10, we elected three new trustees: Bro. Paul Rumbold, Bro. Ray Cooper, Sr. and Bro. Ray Cooper, Jr. Bro. Paul Rumbold will also serve as treasurer, replacing Bro. Dennis Martin.

The other day I ran across a poem which helped to brighten my day:

Do an act of kindness,  
Gladden someone's day;  
Give a smile to someone

Passing by your way.  
Share a thought with someone,  
It could mean so much . . .  
Little beams of sunshine  
Brightening lives you touch!

Beverly J. Anderson

### OREGON, SILVERTON

#### Rosa Lee Kuenzi

Our annual Sunday school picnic was held Saturday June 16 at Miller Bros. Ranch Park. It is a lovely site for a large gathering with a covered picnic table area and acres of woods, grassy meadows and tree-lined hiking trails. A small, clear water creek runs nearby with a footbridge to the area where volleyball games and other fun activities were planned for the young people throughout the day. Around four in the afternoon, the parents and entire congregation and any visitors begin arriving for a hearty meal provided by the Sunday school and the parents of the Sunday school students. This year a special treat was barbecued roast beef cooked at the park in a portable open BBQ pit by Lawrence Gehring, with able assistance from the Sunday school brothers and some of the fathers. It was a very enjoyable event and thanks are due to all whose efforts made it possible.

June 24 was a very special day for two dear ones here . . . Sis. Lisa Metz (Bro. Art and Sis. Betty) and Bro. Mike Leman (Bro. Jim and Sis. Myra, Roanoke, IL) were united as one in Christ. The wedding was unique in that both the bride's father and the groom's father were used in bringing the gospel message in the afternoon service while the actual marriage vows were solemnized by Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Morris, MN).

And on the same day on the east coast, Sis. Melisa Moser (Bro. Ray and Sis. Barbara) and Bro. Roy Feucht (Bro. Gus and Sis. Martha, Lester, IA) were joined in marriage at the Apostolic Christian Church of Rockville, CT.

May these two couples always feel the nearness of the Lord as they establish their Christian homes and strive to serve the Lord as married brothers and sisters.

We were pleased to have many visitors in the past month and among our visitors were the following minis-

ters and their wives: Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Morris, MN), Bro. Loren Knapp (Tucson, AZ), Bro. Jim Leman (Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Jim Knobloch (Elgin, IA). We truly appreciate their labors on our behalf. We are thankful that there are still those willing to stand and proclaim the truth.

### PENNSYLVANIA, PHILADELPHIA

#### Franz Soni

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."

Colossians 3:16

Our church was blessed in having a group of 48 brothers, sisters and friends in Christ visit us the weekend of May 26 and 27 from Chicago, IL. It is encouraging for our small church to have loved ones come such distances to share in fellowship and the love of Christ. After an afternoon of seeing historic sights, we had a church supper, a singing and a short meditation on the Word. Sunday we had our regular services and a dinner before saying farewell to both old and newly made friendships. We thank each brother, sister and friend for making the effort to be with us.

"Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the Lord."

Proverbs 18:22

Bro. Jerry Isch (Bro. Ernie and Sis. Lucille, Bluffton, IN) and Sis. Linda Furrer (Bro. Glen and Sis. Eileen) were united in marriage June 3, in Morris, MN. May they unite as one in their new life and be drawn closer to God. We look forward to welcoming Sis. Linda to our church family.

We thank the following brothers for bringing us God's Word this past month. Bro. Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN), Bro. Leonard Meyer and Bro. Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL), Bro. Lee Bahler (Rockville, CT) and Bro. Carroll Gerber (Bluffton, IN). May God bless them for sharing the Word with us.

**TEXAS, ZAPATA****Viola Perdelwitz**

Lila Plattner, Bro. Leland and Sis. Mary's daughter, is our high school graduate and plans to attend Texas Women's University (Denton, TX). We wish you the best, Lila.

Lloyd Nohl, Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Joyce's son, graduated from Morris, MN, High School. His plans are to attend Granite Fall College (Granite Falls, MN). Best wishes, Lloyd.

**Sermon . . .**

(Continued from Page 36)

no need for me to carry those burdens in my pack today. I needed God to help carry those and if they were going to be tomorrow or next week or next year, there wasn't a thing that I could do about them anyway."

"So," he said, "do you know what I did? I unloaded that pack and I took off all of those borrowed worries, cares and woes out of my pack and I left them for God. I picked up what was left and I started feeling better. The load was lighter and I felt so much better because the load could now be carried. I could carry it!"

Don't we do that sometimes? We begin to worry and fret about what tomorrow might bring. We worry about our children if we are parents. We worry about our job . . . about the assignment that has some aspect to it that we don't quite know how we are going to handle. We can pick so many things to worry about, can't we, dear ones, and the load, because of it, can be so great?

But God teaches us that if we take one day at a time and if we will place our faith, our trust, and our confidence in Him, that He will help us through it. He doesn't say He is going to relieve us and not require us to go through some of those trying situations. He doesn't say that we won't have a load to carry, but . . .

He does say that He won't ask us to carry any more than what is within our own capacity. As long as we remember that and keep our faith, our trust and our confidence in Him, I think that the load we are asked to carry each day will be more bearable.

In the second reading, in Ephesians where the Apostle Paul is writing to the believers at the church at Ephesus, the church that he had helped nurture from its very begin-

ning, he begins this particular chapter to the Ephesians, "For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles, If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me toward you." Ephesians 3:1, 2.

Let's stop right there and go back and pick up that first thought . . . "For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles." Ephesians 3:1. We know that the Apostle Paul, like the Psalmist we mentioned before, had many burdens to carry in his lifetime, too. We know that Paul himself writes that he was brought into the world to bring the message to the Gentiles . . . that he was the apostle for the Gentiles. We know he did an excellent job because so many of his writings remain in God's Word today.

But here he talks about being a prisoner. I don't know if he meant that in the sense that we usually use that term or not. He might have. Because we know for sure that Paul did spend time in the prisons in Rome and it may be that as he writes this, he finds himself on this occasion to be in the prison.

But he says, "For this cause I Paul, a prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles." Ephesians 3:1. There is another way of looking at that, I think. Maybe what the Apostle Paul is saying, instead of speaking of it negatively as if he is a prisoner, maybe he is saying, "I have given myself to my work, the work that God has assigned me to do. I am accepting that burden, that load which is the gospel story of Jesus Christ, and I am going to carry it to the Gentiles."

There may be other ways of looking at that as he has written it. It is not clear to me exactly how he means it. But we know that he is telling the people here at Ephesus that he has been given this gospel story to spread to the world, and that he is committed to doing just that.

He goes on to write, "If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me toward you: How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery . . ." Ephesians 3:2, 3. We know exactly how Paul found out the gospel message. We are sure that he heard about it before that day on the road to Damascus, but he didn't take any of it to heart.

He didn't believe it until that time

when God gave him this special dispensation when God blinded him on that road to Damascus and actually talked to Paul. Paul was instructed by God Himself in the person, we believe, and that is the revelation of the mystery Paul talks about.

He adds as a second thought here. He says, ". . . (as I wrote afore in few words, Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ)." Ephesians 3:3, 4. He is saying to them, "This is how I know the mystery of Christ. This is the experience I had . . . the thing that I went through . . . the teaching that I was given in that short period of time, and this is what I am imparting unto you. This is the knowledge that I want to share with you."

He goes on to say, "Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit." Ephesians 3:5. He is saying, "I have a special message for you today. It's special because it has not been given to the world before, at least not by the Spirit and not in the depth of understanding that is available today."

He goes on to say, "That the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel." Ephesians 3:6. We don't know (at least I don't know) the make up of the church at Ephesus. I don't know if the people were primarily Jewish or if the people were primarily Gentiles. I am assuming that there were at least some of both.

But here in this message, he seems to be talking especially to the Gentiles and teaching them of that new promise . . . that new hope that they have achieved because of the death and the rising again of our Lord and Saviour.

Paul says, "Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power." Ephesians 3:7. God made Paul a minister. God gave him the knowledge and understanding that he needed.

Has it ever crossed your mind what might have happened if Paul had not been willing to accept that ministry? It has mine. But such

thoughts, I try to erase from my mind, because I know the Apostle Paul has made such a tremendous and such an important impact on the life of many, many people across the world and across the ages. Many people know of the promise. Many people know of what Jesus did and how He was nailed to the cross and shed His blood for each and every one of us who would accept Him.

What if Paul had not accepted that charge? What if he had hidden and not followed the Lord? In my mind there is no doubt but what God would have found another way. But also in my mind, I know that He knew beforehand that Paul would accept the charge . . . would accept what he was asked to do.

Each one of us somewhere along in life's journey will be asked to do something for God. Will we be as willing and as ready to do the work as the Apostle Paul was? I pray that I will. I pray that we all will.

But you know, we can't do it by ourselves. We still have to have God the Holy Spirit working within us to be able to achieve anything worthwhile. Paul had all those things, and it can be our prayer that we, too, when we are asked to do God's work that we do it in God's way, and that we will be willing to commit ourselves to do it. Not our way, not in our time or according to our choice of times, but according to God's.

Paul goes on to say, "Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ." Ephesians 3:8. Paul realizes that he could be nothing or could do nothing. He is nothing, and he claims to be the least of the least of saints. He is right, you know. He couldn't do anything. All of the works that he did, the words that he left for us that we can read today, the people he touched, that he talked with, none of that could have happened save by the grace of God.

So it's not the Apostle Paul that we have to thank so much as God. Yet, we can't forget the fact either that the Apostle Paul willingly worked and suffered as he walked on this earth, and as he taught and brought the Word to the whole world, especially to the Gentiles.

"To the intent that now unto the

principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, 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." Ephesians 3:10-12. The people who had lived before, some knew that there would one day come a Messiah, but I seriously doubt that any man who had lived, whether it be Job or Moses or Isaiah or any of the other prophets or men who lived and walked and did God's work, whether any one of them truly realized in depth just what the Lord and Saviour would bring to the earth.

That seems to be what the Apostle Paul was suggesting here, too, that even though there had been prophecy beforehand, God had held some of these things secret. Some of these things in their fullness were not revealed until the time had come for Jesus to walk upon the earth and to die upon the cross.

Paul goes on to say, "Wherefore I desire that ye faint not at my tribulations for you, which is your glory. For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Of whom they whole family in heaven and earth is named, That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man: That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height . . ." Ephesians 3:13-18.

What is the breadth, the length, the depth and the height of the things that Jesus Christ brought to this earth? They are immeasurable, are they not, dear ones?

The promise of everlasting life. The peace, if we will but follow Him. The promise that our prayers will be answered if we will but bring them to Him. . . . and on and on and on!

In any one of those, are immeasurable blessings . . . immeasurable grace that He has brought to us. So the breadth, the length, the depth and the height are great beyond imagination!

"And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of

God." Ephesians 3:19. All of these things that are immeasurable that have come from God are available to each and every one of us so that we might be filled as the Apostle Paul says here, ". . . with all the fullness of God." Ephesians 3:19.

God is passionate. God is patient. God is so very, very many things beyond what we can imagine . . . all powerful! Yet, as men, we cannot imagine just how great that power is or how wonderful His works or just what the depth is of the things that He can bring to us as individuals if we will but avail ourselves of that offering . . . if we will be commit ourselves . . . if we will but come to Him, even as a little child would come to Him.

That is the only way that we can even taste, that we can even get close to understanding the length and the breadth and the fullness of God.

These are the words that Paul says about that, "Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen." Ephesians 3:20, 21.

The hope that the Apostle Paul has brought here to the believers at Ephesus, and the faith, the confidence, and the comfort were all things that the Psalm writer, that we read earlier, was longing for. So the two messages that we read here today seem to tie together. On the one hand in the day of King David, he had the need, the longing, the desire, and the problems. Then the Apostle Paul speaks of an heir, even in King David's line, the Son of God, Who came upon this earth and Who could provide all . . . ALL! . . . that was missing on that day when he wrote that Psalm that we read this morning.

The Apostle Paul is a very, very, special, special man. Yet, he was a man who had faults, too. But we can be so very thankful and so very appreciative that God did work within him to bring the fullness a little closer to us . . . the fullness that we read of today, so that we, too, can have a way, event as he describes, a way of reaching out and touching it and feeling it, and even bringing it in for our being and for our own comfort and care.

FEB  
CHARLES WALDER  
PO BOX 96  
EAST LYNN

LK  
IL 60932

## SERMON BY BRO. DON BRAKER OF KANSAS CITY, MO

### "God Gives Comfort In Affliction"

#### Psalm 42 and Ephesians 3

Going back to the Psalm that we read here in the beginning, I am not sure who the Psalmist was. It was probably King David, but the words were apparently written at a time when his life was extremely troubled. yet, he knew even in his troubles that God could help him and that was where he could find the healing or the comfort or whatever it was that he needed.

In the very first verse, we read, "As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God." Psalm 42:1. As we read the Psalms, we realize that they are the hymns of the children of Israel, the Jewish nation. That is why there seems to be so much beauty in them, so much comfort, particularly in the case of this one.

Don't we feel much as the Psalm writer did so often? "My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?" Psalms 42:2. The suggestion seems to be that he may even have somewhat of a death wish here. He may be wishing for the day to come when he could see God.

Don't we sometimes, under a load of despair or a load of discouragement, feel much the same way, where is thy God? Others might ask us as they see us bending beneath the load that we carry, just as they asked the Psalm writer here, where is He thy God? Where is He that thou would look to, and that thou would seek for Thy comfort?

Has He left you? Has He gone away? Those are not the words that it says here, but the suggestion seems to be just that. That is not what we need, is it, dear ones, when we have the cares and the woes weighing so heavily upon our heart? We don't need someone taunting us or asking us, where is that God that we talk about? We need their help and their

comfort too.

The writer says, "When I remember these things, I pour out my soul in me: for I had gone with the multitude, I went with them to the house of God, with the voice of joy and praise, with a multitude that kept holy day. Why art thou cast down, O my soul?" Psalms 42:4, 5. He doesn't say what has burdened him or what caused him to feel so low to write this Psalm.

Part of that is what makes it so beautiful because it can be applicable to whatever the earthly care or woe might be that we have at the moment.

The Psalmist goes on to say, "O my God, my soul is cast down within me: therefore will I remember thee from the land of Jordan, and of the Hermonites, from the hill Mizar. Deep calleth unto deep at the noise of thy waterspouts: all thy waves and thy billows are gone over me." Psalms 42:6, 7. He pictures himself, it seems, in some deep water here. It is as if the waterspouts that God had made had passed over him, and all of the waves and all of the billows had weighed him down.

Yet, he knows in his heart -- the words tell us so -- that he knows the Lord is there. Because it says, "Yet the Lord will command his lovingkindness in the daytime, and in the night his song shall be with me, and my prayer unto the God of my life. I will say unto God my rock, Why hast thou forgotten me? why go I mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?" Psalms 42:8, 9. It seems he is beyond consolation. His words keep coming forth with the weight that apparently is feeding on his soul.

Yet, this is but one of the Psalms, and if it was written by David, we know that he wrote many, many more so that even though in this one where the despair seems to be so thick and so heavy, there were others that he

wrote thanking God where he recognized that God was there and helped him through very trying times.

Even though we know that King David held a special place with God, we know he was a man and he had problems. He sinned. We know his life was full of trouble, turmoil and sometimes the devil was allowed by him to take control. So his life was heavy in all kinds of tribulations and yet, on the other side, he had the joys that God brought to him . . . the joys and the blessings!

As we read the Psalms, particularly those that were written by King David, we know that they can find a special comfort for us, and a special peace.

Yet, sometimes we see even as in that Psalm that King David was weighed down very heavily with woe, turmoil and troubles. We feel that way often and I sometimes wonder if when we feel that way, if a lot of it is not simply a fault of our own. It is something that we brought to bear out of our own being. It is not something that God has put on us. It is something that we have brought on ourselves.

I read one time where a man was telling about how the time had come for him when he was feeling much as the Psalmist felt. Feeling a special heavy load upon his shoulders, crying for help, crying to God and to his fellowmen for help and it just didn't seem to come. Then he said one day, "I stopped and took that load off my shoulders and I began to look at it."

He said, "Do you know what I found in that load? I found worries and cares in that load about tomorrow. I was borrowing worries of things that were coming tomorrow. Another big part of my load were things that were coming next week or next month or next year. I decided that there was

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