

The Silver Lining



And the Birds of the Air Have Nests:

June 1995



"The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come..."

Song of Solomon 2:12

"Where the birds make their nests as for the stork, the fir trees are her house."

Psalms 104:17

Volume 49

JUNE 1995

Number 6

...and the birds of the air have nests;

The stork may make her house in the fir tree, but the robin will build almost anywhere. On the threshold of a door, under a gutter, on a machine shed door track, and maybe in a tree. I have seen nests as high as thirty-eight feet in the air or three feet off the ground. Robins can build a nest in a few hours if the proper building materials are handy.

It is a wondrous thing how the Lord provides for His creation. The birds of the air begin the productive part of their life when the flowers appear and their blessings come to us often through their song.

The purple martin can bring hours of joy on a summer evening as they sing and feed their young.

The eagle, on the other hand, is a bird of majesty and strength.

Love is Our Defense

It is the eagle that bears the image of strength as it soars high above the fruited plains, from mountaintop to mountaintop. The grace and beautiful motion almost leaves one without words to describe the majestic beauty of the great bald eagle.

But it is a truth that an arrow from the hunter can still the great heart of an eagle as easily as a false accusation can bring down a man.

An eagle can defend itself by soaring out of range, but a man can never outdistance a false accusation. The only defense is love on the part of the accuser.

It is without a question that the birds of God's creation provide much for our better living on earth.

Some birds provide song, some eliminate vast amounts of insects, some provide food, while others clean up the dead carcasses strewn across the land.

We can learn immense lessons from birds. Take, for example, the robin. They put great care into making a very shapely nest which will hold two to four eggs. Not much to start out a home, but the Lord tells us He is mindful of even the sparrow and we know He watches over other birds too. Well then, why does the Lord allow a predator to destroy a nest full of young? (Why do we have trials in life?) The lessons learned by the birds are very similar to what the Bible teaches us in Romans 5:3-4:

"...but we glory in tribulations also; knowing that tribulation worketh patience; and patience, experience; and experience, hope:"

Sometimes it is the trials of life that make us "build our spiritual nests" just a little higher next time, keep a little better watch for trouble, and trust completely in God for our strength.

The robins share in gathering the food. I have noticed that the female makes about three trips for food compared to one by the male (no comment on that from me).

On the cover, we see a new nest which produced two young. What a wonderful experience it is to see those young leave the nest. Each seems to have its own special gift

away from the nest. Whether they fly or hop on the ground, it seems they grow and become mature birds after leaving the nest. (I have noticed that the parents still feed their young after they leave the nest.)

This is a time of the year when our youth are graduating and will be leaving the nest in some cases. If we can instill the virtue of God's love in each heart before they fly out of the nest, it will prove so beneficial to them when the trials of life beset them.

We thank God for the lessons of life learned from His creation and the beautiful birds.



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

June 1995

Light From The Word



Writings based
on God's Word

Comfort Ye One Another - I

We are living at a time of rapid transportation, almost instant communication, abundant material possessions and technological advances that make our lives easier. The world offers us "instant" gratification, fast service and encourages us to participate in the good life. There are more "helping" professionals now than ever before in the history of mankind. In spite of all these things that are supposed to make our life happier and in spite of all the help that is available, loneliness, discouragement and depression are affecting an ever increasing number of people, including the children of God. We often feel our inadequacies as we try to deal with this situation. However, we should realize there is no need for the believer to despair and become overwhelmed by the magnitude of the problem. If we look to the world for help, we most likely will fail but God's people need not fail because help is available through our Lord and Saviour. "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly,..." (Psalm 1:1). God will not desert us nor will He place us in a situation where we cannot do according to His will. The Spirit of God will not lead us where the grace of God cannot keep us.

Many times when we are in need of help, God provides what we need through His people. Each of us has a duty to help those in distress. We are instructed in God's Word to "Comfort ye, comfort ye my people..." (Isaiah 40:1). In many places in the scripture we are encouraged to comfort one another and to "Bear ye one another's burdens..." (Gal. 6:2). Throughout the scripture we see the harmful results of avoiding this important responsibility as Cain tried to hide his guilt by asking "Am I my brother's keeper?" (Gen. 4:9). In Matt. 25:45-46 we read the indictment of the King to those on his left "...Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me. And these shall go away into everlasting punishment..."

How can we comfort one another?
How can we be our brother's keeper with-

out becoming meddlesome in the lives of those who need help? Throughout the scripture, and especially in the book of Job, we can find valuable instruction that can help us as we try to be of comfort to those who are in need.

When Job's three friends heard of his afflictions they went "to mourn with him and to comfort him" (Job 2:11). Their initial response was appropriate and undoubtedly helpful as they wept with him, they sat down with him and they took the time to make themselves available to him. For seven days they were very patient, giving their total support. However, as soon as Job expressed his concern, and began to share his burden, his friends reproved him. They made many and grievous accusations against him which proved to be unfounded. They did not take the time to listen to what Job had to say, nor did they take the time to find out if their accusations were true. They took turns chastising him and adding to Job's grief. As may be expected, this tended to make Job defensive and thereby contributed to the problem rather than to the solution. Let's be careful that we don't become "miserable comforters" (Job 16:2).

Perhaps one of the great lessons to be learned from this is that when a soul is in deep distress, they need someone to listen to them with an uncondemning heart. They need someone who cares enough about them to take the time to hear their concerns and to help them through the situation. We may not agree with what they say, and we may find that there are things in their life that need to be changed, but the time of crises is not the time for reproof. It is a time for additional compassion, patience and prayer. If reproof is needed, it can come later.

In time of such distress, we may feel that it is our duty to "solve" their problem and immediately tell them what they have done wrong and what they should do about it. Under difficult conditions it is usually best to take time to pray about the situation and seek for God's direction.

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

By speaking too quickly we may well be trying to solve the symptom before we know what the problem is. Many times when people are in distress, they do not expect us to solve their problem—they just need to know that someone cares and that someone will listen to them and be available. At a time of distress, godly companionship is often the most valuable help that we can give.

After listening to what they initially have to say, it may be best to try to ask questions that will encourage them to continue to talk about their problem. When they have talked as much as they seem to need to, we should respond to them carefully, being aware that if someone else is involved, we should hear them also. The book of Psalms is a great resource to give comfort and direction. Psalm 31:22 is a blessing to many: "For I said in my haste, I am cut off from before thine eyes: nevertheless thou heardest the voice of my supplications when I cried unto Thee." Encouraging words of comfort that provide spiritual support will do much to assuage the grieving soul.

It is not easy to know what to say to try to encourage someone who is sorely distressed. We often cannot find the right words to say. That is why God's Word is so necessary. The Word of God provides us with the most valuable resource on earth to heal the distressed and brokenhearted. "Wherefore comfort yourselves together and edify one another..." (1 Th. 5:11). To edify means to build or construct, to instruct or improve morally or spiritually. Someone in deep distress needs to be encouraged that God loves and cares for them and that there is hope for them. We need to encourage them that time has a way of healing even the deepest of wounds if we can continue to be faithful "...for the Lord preserveth the faithful..." (Psalm 31:23).

This topic will continue in the next editorial.



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN

Mission Committee

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

After the fall of Communism in the early 1990's, contact between our brethren in Eastern Europe increased greatly. The churches in free lands became much more aware of the suffering and hardship endured through the years of oppression. Efforts have been going on for over twenty years on behalf of these struggling souls, but the opportunity to assist them is now greater than it has ever been before.

The instability of the governments in the former Communist countries is a source of concern to us all, because we have no way of knowing how long it will be possible to continue the work we are presently involved in. This brings a certain sense of urgency. We are trying to accomplish as much as possible in a short time. The cultural and language differences bring with them challenges with which we must cope at each stage of the effort. In this article, we want to bring our readers up to date with the existing situation.

European Church Building Fund

In the past several years, we have given our brethren and friends several opportunities to make contributions to the building fund for European churches. The response has been excellent, and well over one million dollars has been given up to this time. We have reported on a number of these projects, including articles on the completion and dedication of the facilities at which our brethren have been represented.

However, this fund has now been once again depleted, and there continues to be a great need. When our brethren visited Europe in 1994, they met a number of times with the elders and deacons of each country.

The churches in Hungary have largely been completed and paid for, but a substantial debt remains in the congregation at Breidenbach, Germany, which has been reported in previous issues. However, the greatest hardship continues to be in Eastern Europe.

Yugoslavian Church Construction

As of information available to us in May of 1995, perhaps the greatest need lies in Yugoslavia. Although most of our brethren are not directly in the war zone, they have by no means escaped the effect of the turmoil. Life continues to be very difficult for them, and they are having a hard struggle in holding, as one might say, "body and soul together." We are sending funds in for physical needs on a monthly basis following the recommendations

of the European Board representing both the Mission and World Relief Committees.

Information recently received indicates a total of over 150 Yugoslavian churches with somewhat more than 3,000 total members. Because of the internal unrest, and the age and original quality of the structure, many of these houses of worship are in poor condition. The Yugoslavian elders feel that the time has come to try to repair or rebuild them to encourage the brotherhood in the spirit of love.

The sum of \$80,000 was recently wired to them, and they have given us an excellent accounting of how it was used. In spite of the difficulty and stress of the times, this work is progressing, and we sincerely hope that funds from our US brethren continue to come in. They have given us cost estimates, and the needs exist for several hundred thousand dollars of assistance. Our hearts go out to these faithful souls who have stood so bravely in the face of severe tests and persecution. We feel helping them build or repair churches shows how much the brethren in America really do care as we encourage them in their struggles.

The Situation in Romania

We have assisted the Romanian brethren to build or remodel many houses of worship, but there remains much work to be done. The church in Caransebes is quite small and overcrowded. The 60 members of this congregation are unable to raise the necessary financing for a more suitable facility.

When our brethren visited this congregation last year, they agreed that more space is needed, and it is not feasible to enlarge the existing building. Upon viewing a building that is for sale, they felt it could be made suitable for worship services and an apartment for a caretaker.

We have been negotiating with the owner of this building who lives in Cleveland, Ohio, and have agreed upon a price of \$35,000. We are now trying to finalize the details of this purchase, which will be funded by the Mission Committee. It takes a lot of patience, but it finally happens. Thank you for your support and prayers!

Contributions for the European Church Building Fund can be sent to:

Apostolic Christian Mission Committee

P.O. Box 23356

Overland Park, KS 66223





APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
World Relief

As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men,
especially unto them who are of the household of faith. GALATIANS 6:10

World Relief Audio-Visual Programs

The Communications Committee for World Relief has developed three audio-visual programs to portray the work being done through our brethren in the USA and around the world. They consist of a World Relief Overview, a program covering our work in Europe and a new Caribbean program. Another is planned for Mexico. Each of these are described below in more detail.

World Relief Overview

This program covers the entire scope of World Relief and Mission Committee efforts. About 50 minutes long, this replaces the original slide program done a number of years ago. It shows the ongoing work in many foreign countries as well as here at home in the USA. It has created considerable interest in the areas where it has been shown, and our goal is for all of our brethren to have the opportunity to see it.

European

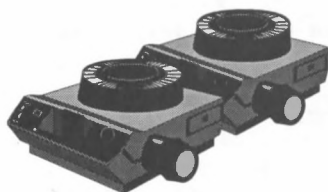
A second program showing the work in Europe has replaced the original one on Ukraine, and shows our efforts in Romania, Hungary, and Yugoslavia as well. This 35 minute program is scheduled to be updated

this fall after a trip by brethren from the European Board into Eastern Europe planned for September of this year. However, the existing slide program is still available, and experience has been that it moves hearts as they see the conditions of our suffering brethren.

Caribbean

Efforts have been going on in Haiti for over 20 years. During that period of time over 600 of our brethren and friends have become involved in the work. In January of 1995, teams of brothers representing the various groups serving the Caribbean Board entered Haiti and Jamaica for the purpose of evaluating the current situation and planning for the future.

Using pictures taken on these trips as well as some which have been on file taken by others in the past, the Communications Committee assembled this program with the help of the Caribbean Board. It is about 35 minutes long and covers all the various areas in which we are working in the Caribbean. At the World Relief Meeting in Rittman, Ohio in April of this year, this program was approved for showing to our brethren.



Self-contained Programs

All the slide programs developed by the Communications Committee are self-contained. Using two Kodak slide projectors, coupled with a programmable dissolve unit, the entire program is controlled by an

audio cassette. The equipment fits in a sturdy case, which can be shipped anywhere by UPS or checked in as baggage on an aircraft. World Relief owns two identical sets of equipment, giving a lot of flexibility for viewing the programs. A simple set of instructions accompanies the equipment, and our experience has been that it is easy to set up and operate. We encourage our churches to make use of it.

Of Interest to Everyone

Much time and effort has gone into preparing these programs, and there is no benefit unless they are seen by our brethren. We encourage all Treasurer-Representatives to arrange for showings in the congregations you serve. Often churches join together and show the slides in a convenient central location to several churches at a time.

Although many of our congregations have seen one or two of these programs, as of this writing, none have seen the Caribbean. These audio-visual efforts show the viewers what is happening in a real and personal way as they see the faces and hear the voices of those being assisted. Pictures showing how work teams function and the results of their efforts generate enthusiasm for future projects.

To schedule a program
please call or write:

Gene Lehman
16112 West Street
Remington, IN 47977
Phone 219/261-3313
Fax 219/261-2842

He will be happy to help you schedule any of the programs in your congregations.

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

We're continuing to send used books overseas. Almost daily we receive requests in the mail for Bibles. You may get your books to either of us or Wing or Bluffton World Relief Centers.

Jerry and Arlene Banwart
Box 181 C, 307 W. First St.
Congerville, IL 61729
(309) 448-2416

or

Phil and Gloria Grant
6476 S.R. 111
Antwerp, OH 45813
(419) 258-2197

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN BIBLE DISTRIBUTION

Bibles Distributed By Our Churches

Eleven Years --- August 1983 thru July 1994 --- 286,620

Bibles Distributed --- Twelfth Year

	MONTH	TO DATE
August 1994 --	2,740	2,740
September 1994 --	2,982	5,722
October 1994 --	2,317	8,039
November 1994 --	3,258	11,297
December 1994 --	3,559	14,856
January 1995 --	2,934	17,780
February 1995 --	3,381	21,161
March 1995 --	2,914	24,475
April 1995 --	2,048	26,523

*Note---792 Romanian Bibles and Testaments shipped
770 Romanian Bibles and Testaments, 2nd shipment
234 Romanian Bibles and Testaments, 3rd shipment

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.

SPECIAL NEEDS

Silverton, OR Church
Building Project

Due to the rapid completion process concerning our church edifice, we would like to inform anyone who is contemplating assisting in the completion phase to contact us at the job site. Please phone 1-503-873-8731.

For accommodations, phone Bro. Jim and Sis. Barb Kuenzi at 1-503-873-4853.

Bro. Orin Rufener has been directing the project.

Local project manager is Bro. Loren Dettlyer.

The edifice is now ninety percent complete with all brick, painting and trim being complete.

Our sincere thanks to all who have given so generously of their time for this building project.

MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND!

19th Annual
Gateway Woods Auction and Sale
Saturday, August 19, 1995

MANAGEMENT POSITION

Gateway Woods has a Child Care Supervisor position that has been open for quite some time. We are looking for a brother to help fill this need. Qualifications include: bachelor's degree in Social Services with two years experience in child care or a master's degree, excellent leadership and organizational skills, and good interpersonal communication skills. Job responsibilities include recruiting, interviewing, training and supervision of child care and maintenance staff. In addition, this brother would serve on our Management Team. The salary range for this position is in the mid 30's.

SINGLE SISTER NEEDED

Houseparents are the very core of our program for the troubled children. Without these committed workers, we really have no program and our children have no one to be their mother and father figures. A single sister is needed for the team in our All Girls' East House. We are trusting that a mature sister will respond to our need and to the Lord's leading. The work is challenging, rewarding and inspiring.

Please contact one of the brothers listed below for more information about qualifications, training, salaries, and benefits for either of these positions.

Tim Sauder - (Adm)	David Bertsch - Elder
Box 151	11520 Grabill Road
Leo, IN 46765	Grabill, IN 46741
219/627-2159 (office)	219/627-2923
219/627-2606 (home)	

**GATEWAY WOODS
HUMAN SERVICES
SCHOLARSHIPS**

Gateway Woods - Apostolic Christian Children's Home is offering two \$1,000.00 scholarships to students enrolled in undergraduate or post-graduate work leading to a degree in the human services field. The scholarships are available to any member of the Apostolic Christian Church or friend who attends on a regular basis. A description of the scholarship and an application are available by writing or calling Janel Ramseyer or Tim Sauder. Applications need to be returned by July 1, 1995.

Gateway Woods
P.O. Box 151
Leo, IN 46765
(219) 627-2159

CASSETTES FROM EUROPE

We still have a supply of the cassette tapes produced in Austria and Hungary containing beloved hymns of our old Heft (Long Book) and Zion's Harp Hymnals.

All profits from the sale of these tapes go to Europe, where the money is distributed among our very needy brethren in the Eastern European countries of East Germany, Hungary, Romania and others.

The Heft or Long Book tapes were recorded by Bro. Josef Farkasch, who is a music professor near Salzburg, Austria. He plays the classical guitar and many other instruments on three tapes of songs from the Long Book. Some include singing.

"Holy Love" and "Blest Be the Tie" tapes recorded in Hungary, feature orchestra and choral renditions of songs from the Zion's Harp and Long Book, as well as many of their Hungarian hymns.

We have received a great response in the sale of these five tapes and wish to thank everyone for their past support.

The Heft (Long Book) tapes include three volumes. Volume I includes songs 1-11, 13-18; Volume II includes songs 12, 19-31; Volume III includes songs 33-48. Each tape costs \$8.00. For shipping costs on orders of 1-5 tapes, add \$.75 extra for each tape. On orders of 6 tapes or more, add only \$.30 extra for each tape. Make checks for Long Book Tape payable to the Long Book Tape Fund.

The two tapes, "Holy Love", a tape of orchestra, and "Blest Be the Tie", which has both orchestra and singing, are available at \$7.00 for each tape. For shipping costs on orders of 1-5 tapes, add \$.75 extra for each tape. On orders of 6 or more tapes, add only \$.30 extra for each tape. Make checks for Hungarian tapes to the person you order from.

Long Book tapes and Hungarian tapes may be ordered from:

Don and Lorna Schrock
100 Forest View Road
Morton, IL 61550
(309) 266-6810

Dennis and Beth Feucht
317 North Third
Morton, IL 61550
(309) 266-9498

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

In the midst of a great storm, as recorded in Acts 27:25, Paul reminded his fellow sailors to "Be of good cheer" because he believed the message of promise delivered to him by an angel of God. Central Illinois has experienced severe weather this spring which does strike a certain fear within most of us, but it is a cheering thought to wholly put our trust in the promises of God. As with the personal storms of our lives, God's promises don't necessarily stop the storm, but will get us safely to the Promised Shore. "And so it came to pass, that they escaped all safe to land." Acts 27:44

A duplex in Morton with two bedrooms on each side was recently purchased by the Home. This is being used to replace the two story home on N. Main Street which is being sold. We made the change because a duplex will offer more flexibility in the future to meet different needs and because it allowed us to have a one story building. As our people age, a two story building will be more and more difficult for residents to manage. The two women who were at N. Main, Jackie Barton and Rhonda Gerst, moved on May 3 and are now settled into their new home.

On Father's Day weekend, eleven of our residents will participate in the State Special Olympics. With the arrival of June, we begin our weekly excursions for swimming to Morton Pool, and the bikes come out of storage for regular riding. An invitation has been received from Floran and Twyla Streitmatter for an outing to their farm. For many years they have extended their Christian hospitality to us,

and all look forward to the day with great anticipation.

JULY birthdays for all of our facilities are: ACHH - Randy Siebenthal (3), Gary Feller (5), Cindy Virkler (6), Michael Oates and Daniel Zimmerman (18), Clark Lewis (24), Janet Giberson (29), and Kristie Ramp (31); at OAKWOOD - Chris Knapp (17); at HAZELWOOD - Ed Getz (31); at LINDEN - Billie Tatum (1), and Michelle Maloney (19).

GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME Stephany Moser

"...The beloved of the Lord shall dwell in safety by him; and the Lord shall cover him all day long, and he shall dwell between his shoulders."

Deuteronomy 33:12

This month we remember special times with our earthly fathers. Just as we might remember the carefree rides we had on our own father's shoulders, so our Heavenly Father has called us to rest on His shoulders. Do you remember the exhilarating joy and absolute trust you felt atop your perch? As believers, we don't rest upon earthly shoulders that may fail, but on the mighty strength of our Creator! What a precious relationship our Heavenly Father has called us to, that we can even call Him, "Abba, Father" and trust in His unfailing eternal love for us as His children. (Romans 8:15).

In a world where so many fathering relationships have been damaged or neglected, the Lord has promised to perfectly Father all those who come by faith to Him. "Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me:

for of such is the kingdom of heaven." May we faithfully lead those around us to the Father of fathers. (Matthew 19:14).

With sadness and prayers we offer our sympathy to our Sis. Carol Schrock at the passing of her father, Bro. David Kieser. We pray that your family will be upheld by the Lord's arms of peace and be strengthened by the fellowship we share as a staff.

We also went to express "congratulations" to our former staff member, Sis. Joanne Gerber, and Bro. Ked Gerber at the birth of their new little girl, Taylor Jo. May your time as new parents be blessed with joy and the good favor of our Father.

Thankfully, we welcome our own "new arrivals" for the summer; Sis. Dawn Dick (Bluffton, IN) as Volunteer Coordinator and Bro. Dave Kieser (Princeville, IL) as Summer Program Coordinator. Bro. Dana Plattner (Goodfield, IL) is also joining us as a long-term volunteer. As the whirlwind of summer jobs, vacation Bible school, house vacations, recreation and the Auction blow through our campus, we are indebted to you for your service and help.

We are still in need of staff in Houseparent and Child Care Supervisor positions. (The summer is an excellent time to come and get acclimated with new positions for the new school year!) Find further information in the Ad in this issue, as well as the article on our new home based services outreach in central Illinois. Let's continue to look to our Father for strength and joy during the summer months.

GATEWAY WOODS ILLINOIS PROGRAM

God has been meeting needs of troubled families through Gateway Woods - Apostolic Christian

Children's Home for nearly twenty years. Many members and friends have been blessed by giving of themselves in this "work of faith, and labor of love" and this is reason to rejoice and give thanks.

Unfortunately, the efforts of our adversary continue to encroach upon all that is good and holy, especially those divinely created institutions of marriage and family. No doubt you are well aware of what is happening in our society on this front and some of you have experienced tragedy in your own family or church.

What would the Lord have us do in response to the needs of our day? Would it please God for His children to be rebuilders of the broken families all around us? God's Word in Isaiah 58 answers this question by listing many rewards for serving the burdened and oppressed. Verse 8 of this chapter includes some of the blessings mentioned:

"Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily: and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the Lord shall be thy rereward."

Thus, the question that we should consider and that the Board of Directors weighed was not if, but rather how should we help. This was the topic before the brothers on the Board as they sought God's will in this matter. After a great deal of prayerful planning over the past two years, Gateway Woods' Board of Directors wants to make known God's direction regarding a new program in Illinois. This article describes past progress, present status, and future plans of the work.

Progress to this point has included several major steps. Re-

search was approved, conducted and the results accepted regarding the needs and types of programs Gateway Woods could develop in Central Illinois. The next step, developing a plan to meet these needs, was completed and sanctioned at the West Bend Elder Conference this past February. Finally, the Illinois Elders appointed three brothers to serve as Counseling Elders for the program.

Presently, Gateway Woods is preparing to start a Home-Based Support Service in Central Illinois. This program is designed to help those with marriage or family difficulties in the context of their own homes providing both physical and personal services. Physical services might include home maintenance, auto repair, child care, or domestic help while personal services might involve training or counseling in family principles. This program is intended to serve non-church families from Tazewell and Woodford Counties and members and friends from local congregations. This component will provide numerous opportunities for committed brothers and sisters to serve the Lord in their communities and churches, as volunteers will be an integral part of the service.

Plans for the future include an educational component which will provide seminar presentations or classes designed to strengthen marriages and families. These classes would concentrate on topics relevant to families such as communication, building relationships, resolving conflict, child training and discipline. This component would be available for those receiving Home Based Support Services or other interested members and friends.

We are thankful for the opportunity God has given us to be servants in our church and

communities in Central Illinois, and there are many furrows to be made as we turn over new ground through this expansion. We don't have all of the answers for we continue to discover new questions; however, we would be glad to hear from you if you would like to know more about the effort. Please feel free to contact one of the brothers listed below, and thanks again for your ongoing support of Gateway Woods.

Timothy Sauder
Gateway Woods' Administrator
Box 151
Leo, IN 46765
(219) 627-2159

Jeff Thames
Illinois Program Director
24710 Allentown Rd.
Tremont, IL 61568
(309) 266-0767

**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
PRESCHOOL
Athens, Alabama
Doris Fischer**

Saturday, April 22, was the date of our semi-annual board meeting. We wish to thank the members of the board and their wives for traveling here to help our preschool operate smoothly. We appreciate your wise counsel.

With May and the close of the school year, the preschool is running at a busy pace. We began the month with parent-teacher conferences. We found that even a short time set aside to discuss their child's progress communicated information that helped us understand the children better. It seems a simple thing, but is easy to neglect.

We have spent the latter part of May preparing for graduation, which was held May 26. The children worked hard learning lines and standing in the right places.

All their hard work paid off when, on graduation night, they were privileged to wear their graduation gowns and receive their diplomas. Special thanks to the many volunteers who pitched in to make the night a success.

Now, even as we wind down from the school year, we're getting ready for our summer program to begin. Throughout the summer we appreciate when volunteers can come and staff members can take vacations. When planning summer schedules, please consider sharing some of your time with us. If you're not able to stay, we still welcome visitors anytime. Please contact Sis. Doris Fischer at (205) 230-9190 if you are interested.

We ask for your prayers as once again we are looking for a teacher for our preschool. Sis. Joan Reinhard is leaving when her baby is born in the first part of June. Thankfully, our enrollment is still very full, which leaves a need for another teacher. Please communicate our need to anyone you know who has at least two years in education or a related field. We pray that God will direct the heart and mind of His children, and our need will be filled.

**ONTARIO, KITCHENER
CANADA
Laura Baxter**

Greetings in the Lord Jesus Christ! God has richly blessed us here in Kitchener with the beauty of Spring and with Christian fellowship. On Easter Sunday, Bro. Dan Stoller (Rockville, CT) came to be with us and minister the Word of God. We appreciate his willingness to travel the distance with his wife to fellowship with us.

On May 14 we were privileged to be present in Detroit for the ordination service of our new Elder Bro. Mark Bahr. Our

prayers are with Bro. Mark as he begins his service in the Eldership.

"When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee. For I am the Lord thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour:"

Isaiah 43:2-3

Bro. David Fortenbacher recently spent some time in the hospital after a tree accidentally fell on him while he was logging. He suffered two broken ankles and minor cuts and bruises. We are thankful God spared him more serious injuries, but he still needs our prayers. He is now at home in a wheelchair with a cast on each leg.

Anyone who wishes to receive the Silver Lining or who has an address change or correction, please contact Bro. Jim or Sis. Laura Baxter at (519) 699-5081.

We also want to extend a hearty welcome and invitation to anyone who is traveling in our area to visit and fellowship with us. Please contact Bro. Walter Fortenbacher at (519) 699-4133 or Bro. Jim Baxter at (519) 699-5081.

**ALABAMA, ATHENS
Pam Moore**

We appreciated the group from Bluffton, IN who came to help with the Tennessee Fellowship Area. They gave of their time and energy, sanding and painting chairs, in order to be ready for Memorial Day weekend. I believe there was also some fun and fellowship involved, too.

We've had quite a few hospitalized this past month. Christine

Barnett's mother is undergoing hospitalization; also Alfred Perry and Sis. Shirley Haganmaker, and Anthony Lynn also was hospitalized for surgery. Please pray for their strength and recovery if the Lord wills.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX

Ron and Ev Hoerr

"And as they did eat, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and brake it, and gave to them, and said, Take, eat: this is my body. And he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them: and they all drank of it."

Mark 14:22-23

What a privilege we had on April 30, as we gathered to partake of the Lord's supper. Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich served Communion to us; for some, it was a "first", for all--a very personal blessing. It was great to be so close to Him!

"In thee, O Lord, do I put my trust...Bow down thine ear to me; deliver me speedily: be thou my strong rock...for thy name's sake lead me, and guide me."

Psalms 31:1-3

Our dear Sis. Janet Farney passed on to Heaven on April 26, with her husband, Bro. Bob, children, Cheryl Mallerup, Kathi Melson, Lisa Garton, Karen Gare, Steve Farney, and Keith Farney, at her bedside. Funeral services were at the church on April 29 with Elder Bros. Richard Schupbach and Jon Kokanovich and Bro. Greg Gramm conducting them. Interment was in East Reshaven Church Cemetery.

Sis. Janet was a very loving, serve the Lord and others kind of Christian, and left us a legacy of God's love to share with each

other. Her memorial services were praise scriptures and hymns -- very loving and uplifting. Family and friends came from Iowa, Kansas and Oklahoma.

Encouraging messages were brought to us in April by Bros. Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO), William Gudeman (Elgin, IL), Tom Luginbuhl (Altadena, CA) and Max Reimschisel (Wichita, KS). Bro. Ed Knecht (Portland, OR) was with us on Mother's Day. Our thanks to all of you.

Elder Bro. Jon and Sis. Nancy Kokanovich went to Rittman for the World Relief Conference.

A wonderful "first" for our Phoenix church was on April 23 when two new babies were brought to church. Oh, everybody loves a baby. Take time to pause and think how God loves you (with all your faults), and it should be easier for all of us to love, like, or care about everybody.

God is love; if God is in our heart, we should love others. There is a real need for believers to draw "close to Thee". Let's give all our babies a chance to know God as our forefathers knew Him in our Apostolic Christian Church of America. We all need our Lord and we all need each other. Amen.

A graduation reception was held in the congregational room, May 14. Our prayer for each graduate would be: "Remember the Sabbath, and keep it Holy."

High school graduates are: Bro. Brandon Labudde, Sis. Fawn Esslinger, Sis. Jill Dotterer, and Sis. Nicole Baum. From eighth grade: Ashley Zettler, Jonathan Sanders, Holli Kokanovich, Star Esslinger, Amy Ebert, Crystal Beery, and Ryan Banks.

Grateful parents are: Bro. Larry and Sis. Kathie Labudde, Bro. Lee and Sis. Patsy Esslinger, Bro. John and Sis. Jeanne Dot-

terer, and Bro. Robert and Sis. Christine Baum; Mary Zettler, Hugo Zettler, Bro. Bill and Sis. Sue Sanders, Elder Bro. Jon and Sis. Nancy Kokanovich, Bro. Lee and Sis. Patsy Esslinger, Bro. Tom and Sis. Diane Ebert, Rob Beery, and Marcia Banks.

Elections for business of the church were: trustee for chairman, Bro. Bob Farney; treasurer, Bro. Don Emch; Sunday School superintendent, Bro. Steve Freed; Assistant Superintendent, Bro. Mick Hill; usher, Bro. Ray Blunier. May the Lord direct you in your duties. Our appreciation to those whose terms expired.

There comes a time when changes are needed in our lifestyle. Sis. Ora Schrenck has moved to the Eureka Nursing Home. Sis. Ora has not been about for a while. May God bless her.

Bro. Floran Klopfenstein had outpatient surgery. It was nice to see Sis. Martha Elsasser in church on Mother's Day after being quite ill.

It's mid-May and most of our part-time residents have gone to their homes in cooler climates. We already miss you! May God bless the tie that binds.

Our Phoenix young single members served lunch on Mother's Day. What a loving, sharing kindness to all of us. Even the huge clean-up job was done just right. God bless each of you.

The Bible tells us to walk in/and LOVE, LIGHT, CAREFULLY.

Until next time: Ephesians 5:32 and John 9:31

The following poem was written by Sis. Janet Farney's daughter, Kathi Melson:

God saw she was getting tired
and a cure was not to be,
So He put His arms around her

and whispered, "Come with Me".
 With tearful eyes
 we watched her suffer
 and saw her fade away.
 Although we love her dearly
 we could not make her stay.
 Her golden heart stopped beating
 yet she would want
 ours to remain strong,
 She'll be helping the Angels
 to watch over us
 all the day long!!

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp

Bro. Gregg Gramm (Phoenix, AZ) and his family were with us recently for Sunday services. It's always good to see them. We ask the Lord's blessings on their family for making an effort to be here.

We were also visited by Bro. Ronald Schambach (Elgin, IL) and Bro. Ronald Allenbach (Kiowa, KS) this month. We thank them for their visits and service on the pulpit.

Our annual business meeting yielded these results: Bro. Steve Bauer was elected to a three-year trustee term; Bro. Don Bauer was elected for a two-year usher term; Sis. Gloria Bauer was elected to teach our preschool/kindergarten class for two years; Sis. Emy Streitmatter was elected to teach our first grade through fifth grade class for one year; and Sis. Sandy Bauer was elected to a one-year term as our Kitchen Chairman. Our prayers are with them all. We also wish to thank Bro. Steve Bauer, Bro. Gene Fehr, Sis. Maria Bauer, Sis. Joan Knapp and Sis. Wendy Baum for their service in the jobs they are vacating.

Sis. Martha Blessman is still not assembling with us much; we are keeping her in our prayers.

Steve Lehman (Bro. Nate and Sis. Yvonne) will graduate from high school on May 17. Our wishes go to him for a blessed fu-

ture. May God go with you, Steve.

Sis. Wendy Baum (Bro. Scott) will graduate from the University of Arizona on May 13 with a degree in Interior Design. May God bless you in the future also, Sis. Wendy.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

Joy Nenadov

Greetings to all!!

It's hard to imagine that half of 1995 is past. Indeed, time does move quickly, and with each passing day it means we are one day nearer to our Home. May we always be ready, so that day doesn't come upon us unaware. Praise be to our Lord, who gives us sufficient grace and strength each day to serve Him.

"And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also."

II Timothy 2:2

After much prayerful and careful consideration, it is believed to be in the bounds of the Lord's will that our Bro. Fred Witzig be appointed to the ministry of bringing forth the Word of God to us. We sincerely pray that God's guidance and divine grace be upon Bro. Fred and his wife, Sis. Nancy, as he will now take his place at the pulpit. Let's keep them in our prayers.

"Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord..."

Psalms 127:3

Many prayers have been answered with the safe arrival of Rachel Lynne Witzig. Thankful and rejoicing parents are Bro. Fred and Sis. Nancy Witzig. Little Rachel arrived on May 1 weighing 7 lb. 1 oz. Both mother

and baby are doing very well. Rachel is welcomed by big sisters, Marta Lynne and Erica Lynne, as well as joyful grandparents, Bro. Bill and Sis. Mary Witzig and Sis. Janet and the late Bro. Elmer Martin (Princeville, IL).

Our heartfelt sympathies are with Bro. Mike and Sis. Kathy Drester after the passing of Sis. Kathy's father, Bro. David Kieser (Princeville, IL). May they find divine comfort from God, through the scriptures, loved ones and the church family. Our prayers are with them.

When we asunder part,
 It gives us inward pain;
 But we shall still be joined in
 heart,
 And hope to meet again.

Hymns of Zion #156

We bade our dear Sis. Laura Opplinger farewell with a dinner on April 30, as she will be moving to the Rittman, OH area. We have grown to love her very much and we will surely miss her. May God bless her in her new home. Come visit us soon, Laura! We also said farewell to Bro. Darryl and Sis. Edie Wieland, as they go back to their home in Bay City, MI after spending the winter months with us.

It's always such a blessing to have visitors among us, and we are thankful that Elder Bro. Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI) and his wife, Sis. Lorene, were in our midst on May 9. Bro. Ben meditated on just one verse: John 3:16. How much depth there really is in this verse that is probably the most well known to all of us. May the Lord richly bless Bro. Ben for serving us from the riches of God's Word.

On this Father's Day and every day, let us take time to show our appreciation for our dear fathers, who have such love and care for

us, and who have carefully passed the faith of their fathers on down to us. May we give praise and thanks to the Lord for them.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Rose Huetten

"Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee."

Exodus 20:12

As Father's Day approaches, we want to express a special thanks to all the fathers for their many selfless deeds they so willingly do for their families.

"O Lord our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!"

Psalms 8:1

As we have been looking forward to the dedication of our new church, we were richly blessed May 7, as many visitors came to be present for the special day as the church was dedicated to the service of the Lord God. It was truly a beautiful weekend with many wonderful teachings given to us from God's Word.

Among our many visitors, we were privileged to have Elder Bros. Edward Aeschleman (Philadelphia, PA), Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI), Richard Schubach (Phoenix, AZ), John Klotzle (Altadena, CA), and ministering Bros. Don Wagenbach (Washington, IL) and Mike Rieker (Peoria, IL).

After joyously singing Hymn #173, "Heart's Wish", Bro. Ben read I Kings 8 and spoke on Solomon's prayer and the dedication of the temple. A comparison was then made of our physical new church and the spiritual heart of man; how the construction was such that all the beams and studs

neatly fit together to form straight walls and ceilings, and how we as members should strive to be "fitly joined together in Jesus Christ." Also, to be reminded as we look at the white walls and walk the dark colored carpet of Jesus shedding His precious blood on the cross for our dark (scarlet) sins and how they shall be made as white as snow.

Bro. Ed lovingly exhorted us on the spiritual responsibilities of the church and how believers should fear God and keep His commandments which will bring us in a closer fellowship with Him.

The different shapes and sizes of the ceiling lights were brought to our attention by Bro. Richard and he explained how even the smallest light was so important because it lighted the area where the pulpit Bible was. He encouraged believers to be lights in this sinful world, for even the smallest of lights can make a big difference.

Bro. John concluded with the final prayer, thanking God for His presence and the many blessings that we felt.

May God richly bless our faithful ministers of the truth for their love and wonderful teachings. We thank them and all of our visitors and invite all to come again!

"He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy."

Proverbs 28:13

We rejoice with the angels above as Yasmin Petrovic (Peter and Marian) is repenting. We are so thankful and wish her God's blessings.

Congratulations are in order for our graduate, Margaux Holbert (Bill and Barbara). May God bless her and provide for her as she opens a new chapter in her life. Margaux plans to continue

her education in Northern California.

We are so thankful that Bro. Rory Strahm, who has been so ill, was given enough strength to be present with us during dedication services. Our prayer is that he would continue to gain strength.

COLORADO, DENVER

Joleen Elder

Greetings!!

After they the paschal lamb had eaten,

He took bread, and breaking it, gave thanks;

Shared it with His own beloved disciples,

Who in love and trust had joined His ranks,

"Take and eat, my body I do offer, As unto the death for you I suffer;

This a mem'ry of my death and pain,

Likewise your redemption shall remain."

Zion's Harp #26

Our dear Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL) ably exhorted to us on the true sacrifice Christ made as He died on the cross for our sins. It was a blessed occasion to share in Communion Services with our brothers and sisters in the Lord. May God bless you, Bro. Nathan, as you so freely give of yourself.

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

Proverbs 22:6

It is the time of year where special days have been set aside for our earthly parents. May God grant our dear parents godly wisdom and direction as they guide and teach their children in the world today.

We recently said "goodbye" to

Ashraf Sobhy Jshak, an Egyptian math teacher, who was in the United States learning English. He had been assembling with us since January, not only in church, but at gatherings in our homes. Much was learned about his culture as we spent time with him. We will miss his presence and smiling face.

May God be with all those planning to visit us this summer. We look forward to being with all of you.

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE **Dawn Winans - Peggy Bahler**

April 15 was a joyous day for Pete and Jill Welte, with the birth of their daughter, Taylor Swain. Her grandparents are Donald and Marilyn Welte and Bro. Keith and Sis. Mary Kloter.

On April 26, Bro. Joe and Sis. Sandy Koch adopted their precious little blessing. A daughter, Victoria Leigh, was born. Her grandparents are Bro. Butch Koch and Bro. Emanuel (Sonny) and Sis. Verona Schneider.

April 28 marked the date of another joyous birth of Jenna Lea to Robert and Janet Binkowski. Her brother, Nicholas, welcomes his new sister. His grandparents are Walter and Maureen Binkowski and Bro. Eugene and Sis. Ellen Kupferschmid.

We were privileged to have ministering brothers in our midst this month: Bros. Loren Knapp (Tucson, AZ), Ken Knapp (Taylor, MO), and Shawn Metzger (Philadelphia, PA). We truly appreciate their labor of love and wish them the Lord's blessings.

We are happy to have recovering hospital patients: Danny Gerber (Bro. Loren and Sis. Anne), Bro. Fred Zahner (Sis. Leah), Sis. Janet Goric, Sis. Terry Mangold (Bro. Ed) and Sis. Lois Schulz (Bro. Ken). May God be with

them and grant them a speedy recovery.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA **WASHINGTON**

Henrietta Meyer

Sometimes on holidays it is hard to be away from family. How thankful we are for our church and the fellowship we share. On Easter Sunday, many of our visitors joined most of our congregation for a picnic in one of the local parks after services.

Ministers this month were: Bros. Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN), Ben Manz (Junction, OH), Jerry Isch (Philadelphia, PA), and Will Schieler (Milford, IN). We thank these brothers and all who traveled with them for coming to serve us. Other visitors this month were from Rockville, CT; Rittman, OH; Morris, MN; Sarasota, FL; Francesville, IN; Lester, IA; and Peoria, IL. We hope many more will make this area part of their vacation plans.

Our prayers go with Andy Gutwein as he graduates from Law School the end of this month and returns to Indiana.

Services are held the first, third, and fourth Sundays of the month at Tyson's Westpark Hotel, located about one mile west of the Beltway (I-495) on Route 7. Some from the area meet in the hotel dining room for breakfast at 9:00 a.m. Services are at 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

For more information, assistance or just to let us know you are in the area, please call Bro. Matt Fetter (703) 860-5749 or Bro. Ken Martin (703) 444-9085.

FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE **Mary Ann Klaus**

Once again, it's time to celebrate Mother's Day and Father's Day. As we think back over the

years, we thankfully remember our parents' countless acts of love, the sermons they silently preached by the lives they lived, and the security we felt growing up in a God-fearing home. We know that the heartfelt desire of every Christian mother and father is expressed in Proverbs 22:6: "Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

Congratulations to our graduates; we wish them God's blessings in the future. They are Benjamin Gress (Bro. Rod and Sis. Sally) who is graduating from high school and will be attending the University of Florida at Gainesville this fall, and Suzanne (Doug) Sauder who has earned her Master's degree in social work.

We are rejoicing with the angels in Heaven as Joey Pinto has made known his desire to live the rest of his life for the Lord. Joey and his two daughters, Kristen and Mercedes, have been attending services with us for some time now. May He continue to work in their lives.

On April 23 we were privileged to partake of Holy Communion. Assisting our Elder Bro. Bud Klopfenstein were Elder Bros. Farmer (Ben) Maibach (Detroit, MI), and Joe Braker (Morton, IL). A potluck dinner was held in the Fellowship Center following the service. What a wonderful time to reaffirm our lives in Christ.

Our dear Sis. Florence Grandinetti, who is recovering from a broken hip, has moved to PA to live with her daughter and husband. She has been making her home with her grandson, Bro. Bill and Sis. Joan Kuntz. We certainly will miss her kind smile and loving ways and wish her the very best.

Frank and Elizabeth Fulop and little Angelica were very fortu-

nate not to be at home when an explosion caused by a gas leak rocked their home. The man investigating the leak was there and was severely burned. We pray for his recovery.

Our loved ones who have been in and out of the hospital this month include: Sis. Elsie Bolliger who had a pacemaker implanted, Bro. Ed (Sis. Vi) Gerber who experienced a mini-stroke, and Bro. Ken (Sis. Joyce) Troxel who had hernia surgery. We are thankful they are all back home and doing well. Bro. Harry Sutter is scheduled to have surgery on his carotid arteries and on his heart on May 19. May the Great Healer see him safely through this difficult time.

We feel very privileged to have had three Elders and their wives visiting in our midst this month. They were Elder Bros. Ed Aeschleman (Philadelphia, PA), Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI) and Joe Braker (Morton, IL). Their inspiring messages were received by all.

FLORIDA, NORTH FT. MYERS **Marvin and Rhea Steffen**

"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."

James 1:5

As we honored mothers in May, and fathers in June, I had to think what an awesome responsibility has been entrusted to each one of us that the Lord has blessed with children. Along with working out our soul's salvation in Christ, we endeavor to raise our children up in the fear of the Lord, that they may seek Him early. What a blessing parents enjoy, being able to ask of God, wisdom, as they strive to see their whole family enter that Heavenly portal.

Bro. Lester Meister had hip surgery, and we are thankful to have him and Sis. Edna back with us. May God continue to heal him.

I was a bit premature with the time that we would break ground for our church addition. We will be breaking ground in June.

We received word that Bro. Dave Eisenmann's father passed away. He had been living at the Apostolic Christian Nursing Home of Peoria. There is joy in knowing Bro. Eisenmann died in the Lord, but we offer our condolences to the family for their loss.

FLORIDA, SARASOTA **Vera and Mary Martin**

June is the month when we set aside a special day to honor our fathers. Where would we be without the faith and wise counsel of our fathers? Today, fathers hold an awesome responsibility to be a good example. We can't be thankful enough for the examples that our Christian fathers have been to us.

Sermons We See

I'd rather see a sermon
than hear one any day.
I'd rather one should walk with
me than merely show the way.
The eye is a better pupil
and more willing than the ear;
Fine counsel is confusing,
but example's always clear;
And the best of all the preachers
are the men who live their
creeds,
For to see the good in action
is what everybody needs.
I can soon learn how to do it
if you'll let me see it done.
I can watch your hands in action,
but your tongue too fast may
run.
And the lectures you deliver
may be very wise and true;
But I'd rather get my lesson

by observing what you do.
For I may misunderstand you
and the high advice you give,
But there's no misunderstanding
how you act and how you live.
Edgar A. Guest

Our prayers go out to Bro. Herman Weisser (Milford, IN) who was visiting in Florida when he became ill, and was hospitalized in Eaglewood. Although he was not able to assemble with us, prayers were offered in his behalf.

We are grateful that Bro. Werner Kuperschmidt has had a successful knee surgery and pray that he will soon be able to again assemble with us.

A longtime pillar in our church, Bro. Ed Getz, has recently made his new home in the Apostolic Christian Home in Eureka, IL and hopes it will not be too long until his wife, Sis. Esther, can join him. We will miss their cheerful smiles in our gatherings.

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

Proverbs 18:22

The engagement of Bro. Nathan Sabo (Elder Bro. Doug and Sis. Linda) has been announced to Sis. Sheila Brake (Bro. William and Sis. Miriam) of Sardis, OH. We wish them God's blessings as they plan their lives together.

The Word and love is still being inspired by our brethren and we would like to thank Elder Bro. Duane Farney (Croghan, NY) for sharing the Word with us.

GEORGIA, ATLANTA **Peggy Camp**

We have been privileged to have many visitors this past month. We especially want to thank Bros. Carl Wyss (Washing-

ton, IL), Tom Schrenk (Athens, AL), and Jim Ramseyer (Bay City, MI) for sharing God's Word with us.

If you are planning a vacation this summer, please consider a stop in the Atlanta area. We have services every Sunday beginning at 10:20 a.m. We meet at the Renaissance Hotel, located off I-85 at the Riverdale Rd. exit. Please contact Bro. Linn Stoller (404) 631-4554; Bro. Don Sellers (404) 381-1395; or Bro. John Brewer (404) 502-8629 for further information.

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE

Peg Anliker

Dear brethren, may we always remember each other in prayer. Our church had an invite a couple or friend weekend April 22 and 23. It was encouraging to have our church filled and to make and renew acquaintances. Bro. Fred (Sis. Kathy) Eberhardt was with us and was willing to be our servant.

Also visiting this month was Bro. Ron and Sis. Kayleen Heiniger (Bloomington, IL) and Elder Bro. John and Sis. Connie Lehman (Bern, KS). It was a special treat and blessing for us to have two visiting ministers the same day. Later that day, some of our Bible class traveled with Elgin and Chicago down to Bradford for the ACYF singing. We hope our students may always feel the love we have for them.

Bro. Gary (Sis. Edie) Anliker (Elgin, IL) came to minister to us on a Wednesday night, and afterwards many of us went out for ice cream and fellowship.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Bill (Sis. Lana) Schifferer in the passing of his aunt, Sis. Martha Zierke (Elgin, IL). Let us all be found ready and waiting to meet our Lord when He comes or when

He calls us into eternity.

Last, but certainly not least, we were thankful to have Bro. Jon Zeller and his wife, Sis. Christine (Morton, IL), come and be spent on our behalf. May God richly reward all the dear ones who minister to us.

ILLINOIS

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

Tudy Schmied - Debbie Grieco

This month has given us so many reasons to give thanks unto our Lord. First, we celebrated the miraculous resurrection of our Saviour with a Sunrise Service on Easter morning. What a joyful time for Christians throughout the world to remember the Divine plan that leads to salvation.

We are also thankful that God continues to call souls unto the fold. On May 6 and 7 we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of Angie Ifft (Bro. Gary and Sis. Peggy), Chad Kaeb, Clint Kaeb and Chelby Kaeb (Bro. Dave and Sis. Brenda). What a blessing to see four young people commit to the Lord.

The Lord has also brought hearts together to be joined as one. May 7 brought the announcement of the engagement of Bro. Brian Strassheim (Bro. Dale and Sis. Carol) to Sis. Rozalia Bozay of Chicago (Bro. Miklos and Sis. Aranka, Chicago). A July 2 wedding is planned. May 14 brought the announcement of the engagement of three persons from our congregation. A July 30 wedding is planned for Bro. Mark Streitmatter (Bro. Don and Sis. Mary Lou, Princeville) and Sis. Sara Kieser (Bro. David and Sis. Wilma). Also, Bro. Jeff Dotterer, South Bend (Bro. Paul and Sis. Phyllis, Bluffton), was announced to Sis. Lynn Martin (Bro. Dale and Sis. Teresa, Princeville). They plan a December 3 wedding.

With grateful hearts we thank the visiting ministers who so willingly and lovingly served our congregation this month. They were Bros. Art Baurer (Princeville, IL), Mark Gerber (Bluffton, IN), Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL), Paul Gasser (Akron, OH), Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL), Jon Zeller (Morton, IL), and Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer (Peoria, IL).

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD

Brad & Cheryl Kupferschmid

Faith of our fathers! living still
In spite of dungeon, fire and
sword:

O how our hearts beat high with
joy

Whene'er we hear that glorious
word!

Hymns of Zion #85

As we remember our fathers on Father's Day this year, may we also think of our forefathers. They are those who died for their faith in God, and have passed on a precious faith to their children. May we also remember our Heavenly Father by thanking Him for our precious faith and our hope of salvation through His Son. Then may we work ever harder to hold onto the things that have been passed down to us, so our children may have a place to worship that is free from the world.

"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him..."

Revelation 3:20

Brad Kieser has opened the door to his heart, let the Lord in, and started upon the road of repentance. His parents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Wilma Kieser. We pray the Lord will strengthen Brad and help him build a firm

foundation of faith.

"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying..."

Revelation 21:4

Our prayers go out to the family of our dear Bro. David Kieser (Sis. Shirley) from Princeville who passed away suddenly this month. Many of us will miss his ready smile and his kindness. We pray the Holy Spirit of God will comfort the hearts of Bro. David's parents, Bro. Sam and Sis. Lucille; his brother, Bro. Jerry (Sis. Wilma); sister, Sis. Jane Leman (Elder Bro. Marvin); and their families in their loss. Our prayers will be with all of Bro. David's family members.

With the coming of Memorial Day we want to pause and remember those who have gone on before us. May we also gain the realization that our time here on earth is short and strive ever harder to do the Lord's will. Thus, we will be ready and watching when He does call us out of this life to live with Him.

"...neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away."

Revelation 21:4

Bro. Richard Frank spent a short time in the hospital this month. We are glad he is feeling better and thank the Lord for His healing hand.

"And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be."

Revelation 22:12

Bradford hosted ACYF on April 23 and 30. On April 23, Bro. Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL) exhorted the

young people in the inspirational message that "we've had a wake-up call". He was referring to the recent Oklahoma City bombing and reminded us that we don't know when God will call us out of this life. We thank him for coming and allowing God's Spirit to speak to our young people through him.

"...Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus."

Revelation 22:20

Note of Thanks:

I would like to thank all my relatives, friends, and church family for all the cards, gifts, food and all the deeds of kindness after my surgery. May God bless each one of you.

Sis. Lois Endress

ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN

Margie Heintz

Our annual business meeting was held on April 20. Reports were made, discussions were held and positions of those whose terms of office had expired were filled. New office holders are Bros. John Walder (secretary), Thane Hanson (treasurer), Art Walder (trustee), Greg Kaeb (usher), and Sis. Lisa Walder (Sunday School teacher). Those retiring from their respective positions are Bros. Robert Simpson, Ben Blunier, Thane Hanson and Sis. Louise Walder. We want to thank each of those who have retired for the untiring and effective service which they gave so willingly. In a small congregation, everyone plays an important role, even if a specific duty is not assigned. Each person's efforts and support are appreciated and needed.

In preparation for our Communion service, we were reminded that it is both enlightening and

essential to examine oneself. If each of us accomplishes self-examination and its fruits, then we can all come together as one, in a "common union" with Christ.

On May 3, Communion service was held with Elder Bro. Everett Hari (Bloomington, IL) joining Elder Bro. Dave Wiegand. Bro. Everett defined Communion as a time for recognizing the cost of our salvation. And as we look at the condition of our hearts, it is a time of personal evaluation in the light of God's Word. We are thankful that such a time of renewal is provided in response to Christ's invitation.

May 7 was the wedding day of Bro. Dave Steiner (Bro. Rich and Sis. Ann, Tremont, IL) and Sis. Sandy Walder (Bro. Melvin and Sis. Irma). We pray that God will go with them and bless them as they begin their life together. We will miss Sis. Sandy and her gentle, smiling spirit here in Champaign. We trust that God will use her to His glory as she and Bro. Dave establish their home and worship with the Congerville congregation.

"The Lord bless thee, and keep thee: The Lord make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The Lord lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace."

Numbers 6:24-26

Congratulations and God's blessings are also extended to the college graduates who have recently completed degrees at local colleges. We have appreciated their presence here as we have worshipped together and pray for God's guidance in each of their lives.

We want to welcome Bro. Darin and Sis. Keri Blunier to our church family. They have recently moved from Bloomington to

Farmer City where Bro. Darin will be teaching high school. We're glad that they are here and trust that we can be mutually supportive.

Visiting ministers this past month have been Elder Bros. Everett Hari (Bloomington, IL) and Bob Walder (Congerville, IL) and Bros. Tom Stock (Cissna Park, IL), Steve Sauder (Tremont, IL) and Gary Brown (Forrest, IL). Our thanks to them for their willing service to us and to all of God's people.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Kathy Schlatter

"I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well...How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! how great is the sum of them!"

Psalm 139:14,17

Watching the glassblower work was a thought-provoking experience. The glassblower rotated his rod of molten glass, occasionally subjecting it once again to the 2000 degree furnace. He allowed some resting time. He added more glass of another color at the right time, using his own breath to create the apple shape within. His timing for his creation was unhurried, being aware of the requirements of the glass and, in particular, the specific needs of this glass on this day. He knew exactly the procedure, the times and temperatures needed to produce the desired results. However, he also checked and adjusted his work to the challenge of the project he had chosen and the qualities of the day's materials. The blending of science and art was inspiring, the knowledge of the material in general, and yet

the use of it on this day adapted to the time and this raw product's individual reaction, give us a glimpse of our Lord's unfathomable creation of our world and each creature, His science and art combined in each of us as we walk day by day. He knows for each of us the time, the temperature, the requirement. "Therefore thus saith the Lord of hosts, Behold, I will melt them, and try them..." (Jeremiah 9:7). May we know that our trials are for our perfection that we may shine forth as examples of our Lord's unerring art of love and grace.

We who were privileged once again to go on the annual church bus trip stopped at Sauder's Farm in Archibald, OH where this glassblower and many others create works by hand. Our destination was Toledo, where we were given such Christian love and hospitality and encouragement. Dear Toledo brethren, though our memories after a while may become dimmer, your welcome and embraces, physically and spiritually, have lifted our hearts and are part of the Lord's gentlest shaping in our lives. You have our joy in you and our prayers. May he shower you with blessings as the Spring rain.

Our visiting ministers were: Bros. Jim Leman (Roanoke, IL), Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL), Arnie Gerst (Taylor, MO), and Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH). We so appreciate their submission to His Spirit for our benefit.

There are so many emotions associated with graduation, and we have numerous families experiencing them this year. Our high school graduates are: Ben Gude-man (Dan, Sis. Becky), Andrew Rassi (Bro. Greg and Sis. Carla), and Bro. Brandon Rinkenberger (Bro. Ken and Sis. Devon), all of whom will be in the Champaign-Urbana area; Casey O'Shea (Bro.

Tom and Sis. Jean) who is going to Illinois State University; Kurt Pfeifer (Bro. Glen and Sis. Nancy) who is attending Elgin Community College; and Bro. Blake Stahl (Bro. Norm and Sis. Gloria) who plans to be at University of Illinois - Chicago. Eighth grade graduates include: Chris Halfer (Gary and Diana), Arianne Howell (Jim and Sis. Eloise), Dan Lau (Bro. Steve and Sis. Marlene), Renae Metzger (Bro. Virgil and Sis. Mary), Gretchen O'Shea (Bro. Tom and Sis. Jean), and Kristen Rinkenberger (Bro. Ken and Sis. Devon). May the Lord who has always promised His presence go with each of them into the new steps of their lives.

Sis. Rose Bozzay, daughter of Bro. Miklos and Sis. Aranka, and Bro. Brian Strassheim (Bro. Dale and Sis. Carol), Bloomington, are engaged to be married July 2 in Bloomington. Our hearts join theirs in joy and prayers for the Lord's continued blending and guidance as He fashions from them a new Christian family.

Raymond Charles Halfer, born July 2, 1911, in Chicago, died April 29, 1995. He had been a tool and die maker. He was a part of his son, Gary's household for several years before his death. Gary, daughter-in-law, Diane (Hauter), and grandson, Chris, miss him; yet we pray the Lord will comfort them, letting us know how we can show our love and sympathy to them also.

Forgive me if I have told this anecdote before. My very first experience with real students was in student teaching. One sophomore in a slow English class I could not even pretend to like; he was a disruption, making chicken noises in the back of my classroom. The breakthrough came when I used then-current applications from Caterpillar, IBM, and Peoria banks in a "job" unit, and he con-

fided in me about his job. Suddenly he was a person, no longer merely an object of irritation. I must remember again and again that each person is a soul that Christ died for, a lot like me and a lot different from me, someone whom I can learn from and who may be learning from me, what I know not. Therefore, I must become a better listener, a more aware, more attentive listener, to words, to inner thoughts, to cries for help, the said and the unsaid. Then only can I, after the Lord's perfect wisdom, aspire to be of Godly use. (Isaiah 11:2-4)

Between Mother's Day and Father's Day, we think of many who have gone before us, whether fathers and mothers or other men and women of faith who have meant so much to us. Praise God that in Christ's second coming or the end of life for us, whichever is first, we may see Him and be reunited with them.

Loved ones gone to be with Jesus
In their robes of white arrayed,
Now are waiting for my coming
Where the roses never fade.
Here they bloom but for a season,
Soon their beauty is decayed;
I am going to a city
Where the roses never fade.

Gospel Hymns #764

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

Anna Marie Reutter

Joyce Bauer

Bro. Todd and Sis. Valerie Kaeb have been blessed with a new little baby boy, Nathan Lee. Big sister, Amber, and grandparents, Bro. Elmer and Sis. Mary Lou Kaeb and Bro. Sid and Sis. Sandy Kaufmann are enjoying this precious gift from Heaven.

April 19 was our final topical Bible presentation for this Spring. Bro. Tom Stock spoke on "How to be a Light in a Dark World".

On Sunday, April 30, Elizabeth Laubscher, Christina Martin and Danell Stock were announced for baptism. Their parents are Bro. Wayne and Sis. Gloria Laubscher, Bro. Randy and Sis. Patti Martin, and Bro. Gib and Sis. Kathy Stock. We rejoice with them as they plan for their testimonies and baptisms on Memorial Day weekend.

Also on April 30, our Bible Class and their teachers traveled to Bradford for the ACYF program. It is always a blessing to hear them share their songs.

We have had the joy of having two couples reach the milestone of their 60th wedding anniversary this month. These couples are Bro. Elmer and Sis. Elsie Bauer and Bro. Joel and Sis. Mary Hofbauer. We have had three couples celebrate their 40th wedding anniversaries. These couples are Bro. Gerry and Sis. Geraldine Farney, Bro. Dale and Sis. Dort Walder, and Bro. Lynn and Sis. Sylvia Knapp. May God bless each of these couples and may they have many more years together to serve Him.

We sympathize with Bro. Ray and Sis. Emily Eisenmann and Sis. Ernie Eisenmann in the loss of their brother on May 14. Bro. Jesse Eisenmann had been a resident of the Apostolic Christian Home in Peoria in his later years. His funeral was at Burlington, IA.

Sis. Eulalia Eisenmann spent several days in the hospital but is now recuperating at the home of her daughter and son-in-law, Sis. Myrna and Bro. Ken Weerts.

The 10th annual Mother-Daughter Dinner was held May 11 at the Fellowship Hall. A delicious meal and a lovely program was enjoyed by all who attended. A special thank you goes to all the brothers who helped serve the meal and with the clean up.

Bro. Ken Schneider (Remington,

IN) shared the Word with us on May 14, Mother's Day. Thank you for being a willing servant.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE **Beth Steffen - Arlene Banwart**

Dearest child, we bid thee
welcome,
In our blessed brotherhood;
From the wild tree thou art
grafted,
On this holy tree and root.
Zion's Harp #34

We heartily welcome four new souls into the fold. From the eldest to the youngest, we know the angels rejoice with them and us as a congregation. On April 23, Bro. John and Sis. Renae Dietrich and Sis. Mari Knapp were baptized. We thank Elder Bro. Paul Butikof (Elgin, IA), Bro. Kenneth Knapp (Taylor, MO), and Bro. Ted Hirstein (Morton, IL) for spending the weekend with us. One week later we were able to witness Sis. Marie Eglin's testimony and baptism at the Apostolic Christian Home (Eureka) where she resides. It's encouraging to know God's Spirit is still working in the lives of mankind and pray He will direct each one on life's pathway.

"And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left."

Isaiah 30:21

We're grateful, too, for the efforts of other visiting ministering brothers this past month. We were privileged to have Bro. Bill Gerst (Alto, MI) and Bro. Edwin Bahler (Remington, IN) in our midst.

Sis. Irene Schrock (Bro. Alvin) submitted to surgery and is recovering from a total hip replacement

ering from a total hip replacement at the Eureka Home. She hopes to return to her home as soon as possible. We wish her God's continued healing power.

This time of year we think of our graduates. Entering high school next year are our eighth grade graduates: Angela Knapp (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Mary), Heidi Knapp (Bro. Rick and Sis. Kathy), Lori Knapp (Bro. Denny and Sis. Gay), Melinda and Melissa Miller (Bro. Chris and Sis. Phyllis), Wendy Rinkenberger (Bro. Mike and Sis. Pat), Tanya Scott (Sis. Janelle), Elizabeth Schieber (Bro. Mike and Sis. Mary), David Steffen (Kent and Sis. Beth), and Curt Wiegand (Bro. Rick and Sis. Sue). High school graduates include: Sis. Lori Banwart (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Arlene), Matt Braman (Roger and Alice, Goodfield), Elizabeth Good (Mr. and Mrs. Wendell Good, Eureka), Josh Knapp (Bro. Rick and Sis. Kathy), and Becky Zimmerman (Bro. Fred and Sis. Maryellen). We extend the following prayer to them and also to our college graduates as each one moves onto higher learning or the workplace. "May the Lord always walk before you to light the way...Walk behind you to give you strength and encouragement...And walk beside you, filling you with His guidance and abiding love." (Anonymous)

Note of Thanks:

A sincere "thanks" and may God bless each of you who helped during the illness of our dear one, Bro. Emil Stahl. The many prayers, visits, cards, gifts and flowers were deeply appreciated and will always be a precious memory of those who cared.

In love, Sis. Adele Stahl and children

ILLINOIS, ELGIN

Renee Anliker - Debbie Sauder

It seems as though we are controlled by a little word called "time". We always seem to have something that needs to be done by a certain time or be somewhere by the appointed time and yet as the days speed by, we are all finding that there is not enough of that little element called "time". God's Word assures us that His timetable is perfect -- never too long, never too short, but being the weak mortals we are, sometimes we struggle with God's time and momentarily forget that...

"To everything there is a season and a time to every purpose, under heaven..."

Eccles. 3 (various verses)

"...a time to be born..."

Ryan Daniel was born to Bro. Dan and Sis. Ann Moser on April 30. Big brother, Joshua, welcomed him home as well as grandparents, Bro. Gene and Sis. Libbie Ann Moser and Sis. Velma (the late Bro. Steve) Rinkenberger (Cissna Park, IL). May God grant the wisdom from above to parents raising children, that the precious seed of truth may be firmly rooted in their tender little hearts.

"...and a time to die..."

On May 5, Sis. Martha Zierke was called Home to meet her Heavenly Father. May the Lord comfort the hearts of loved ones left behind; Sarah Feucht and Ed (Sis. Dorothy) Schifferer.

"...A time to rend and a time to sew..."

Individually we each reached a point in life where we knew before the judgment seat we would stand condemned to die. By God's grace alone we were able to make the

most important decision to rend our life of sin and self and sew a new life in Christ, with a clean garment of righteousness. How thankful we are that Adam Young (Morris and Pat), Stacia Schambach (Bro. Bob and Sis. Jeanne) and Shaena Schambach (Bro. Don and Sis. Leann) have found sufficient grace to make a beginning down the road of repentance. May we each encourage them in the true faith to walk in the humble, consistent manner that so pleases our Heavenly Father. Also among us are those that have rent self, the world and all that went with their "old life" and now confess peace with God and man and await the opportunity to give their testimony of faith. They include: Eric and Erika Schambach (Bro. Bob and Sis. Jeanne), Matt, Jason and Scott Schambach (Bro. Tom and Sis. Connie) and Karen Anliker (Bro. Gary and Sis. Edie).

"...a time to keep silent, and a time to speak..."

We are so thankful that there are faithful brethren willing to give their time to speak the Word of the Lord unto us. We appreciate the many visitors that served us this month: Elder Bros. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH), Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI), Dennis Warner (Lester, IA), and ministering Bros. Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL), Lenny Meyer (Chicago, IL), Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL), Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL), Marvin Schmidgall (Eureka, IL), and Ken Dietz (Bradford, IL). May God bless the seed tenderly planted by the brothers.

"...a time to get and a time to lose..."

Several young people in our congregation have completed their high school years. They

have had the opportunity "to get" an earthly education but it will benefit them only if they apply it during the days ahead. While it is important to learn in school, all that learning will be for naught when we reach the end of the way. It is only then that they, and all of us, will hope to have made time "to get" a Heavenly education and not have to face "a time to lose" our eternal reward. We wish God's direction and blessings on our graduates: Dan Bachtold (Bro. Sam and Sis. Betty), Phil Braun (Bro. Gene and Sis. Sue), Mary Ann Cox (Bro. Bob and Sis. Deanne), Jolene Schambach (Bro. Tom and Sis. Connie), Joni Schambach (Bro. Bob and Sis. Jeanne) and Bro. Ryan Weiss (Bro. Roger and Sis. Karen).

"...a time to heal..."

We pray the Lord will be near Ann Farney as she goes through a time of healing. May she feel His presence in her life and follow in the way He would lead.

"...a time to love..."

Many children in the world do not have anyone that truly loves them and cares about them, but not only do our children have parents but loving Sunday School teachers who strive to show them the Heavenly way. May Sis. Peg Heiniger and Bro. Stan Schambach be blessed for the terms they have completed and Sis. Libbie Leman and Bro. Jeff Dietz feel our prayerful support as they accept the duties laid to their charge.

"...a time to plant..."

Many of us were blessed with faithful fathers who loved us enough to plant the tender seed of the way of the Lord in our hearts. May we each love, respect and

obey our earthly fathers, but most importantly our Heavenly Father.

Our God is so far above every one of us, His ways are often unknown and yet He delights when we, His children, place our hand in His and looking to Him alone, take the next step. He richly provided some clear directions to us on Saturday evening, May 20, as we assembled to hear the Conference conclusions expounded upon by our dear Bros. Nathan and Ron. We were richly reminded our walk of faith should be intent, striving with all that is within us to intensely serve our Chief Shepherd and one another to the best of our ability. May we each find God's faithfulness to be sufficient to our need.

Collection Notice: The general collection boxes will be open July 9 and 16 for your subscription donations of \$9.00. Thank you!

ILLINOIS, EUREKA Dori Blunier

"He giveth power to the faint;
and to them that have no might he
increaseth strength."

Isaiah 40:29

We certainly feel weak and helpless when we are confronted with sudden tragedy, and God is then the only source for strength. We were all very saddened by the sudden death of Sis. Mary Mangold who died very suddenly in church on Wednesday evening, April 19. We extend our deepest sympathy and support in prayer to Sis. Mary's children, Bro. Mike of Eureka, and Sis. Charlotte Horr of Taylor, MO; to her sisters, Sis. Irma See of Peoria and Sis. Marty Schlatter of Washington; and to her brother, Theodore Schlatter of Pearl City. We will all miss Sis. Mary as she was

loved by everyone.

Tragedy again struck when Bro. Fred and Sis. Brenda (Zimmerman) Leman of Forrest lost their small son, Gabriel, on May 6. We pray that God can heal the hurt and comfort them in their sorrow. We also extend our sympathy to Sis. Brenda's family, Bro. Leland and Sis. Laurene, Bro. Mark and Sis. Cheryl, and Bro. Matt and Sis. Sara.

Bro. Art and Sis. Carol Anliker welcomed Olivia Rose into their family on April 23. Olivia will also be loved by her brothers and sisters, Aaron, Jodi, Katie, Tim and Luke, and grandparents, Sis. Claribel Anliker and Bro. Bill and Sis. Clara Kempf.

We pray for our ten high school graduates as they go forward that they may call on God to be their guiding spirit in a world full of many choices. The graduates are: Beth Blunier, Merle Blunier, Becky Bradle, Christine Fehr, Bro. Randy Huber, Christopher Schmidgall, Cheryl Stoller, Bro. Darrell Stoller, Justin Stoller, and Jake Wiegand.

May God go with Bro. Darin and Sis. Keri Blunier and their two sons, Cody and Mallory, as they move to Farmer City, IL. They will be going to church in Champaign.

We were thankful for the ministry of Bro. Bob Stoller (Lamar, MO) on Mother's Day. As Father's Day approaches, may we take time to count the blessings our fathers brought into our lives.

Bro. Daniel Hartter died on April 2 at his home. May God comfort his wife, Sis. Dorothy; and family, Bro. John (Sis. Beverly), Bro. Ron (Sis. Janet) and Sis. Madalyn of Eureka, and Sis. Maryellen Zimmerman (Bro. Fred) of Congerville, and his ten grandchildren.

Sally Fehr - Thelma Slagel*A Father's Prayer*

O Father, grant that I may be
A worthy father to this wee
and trusting child Thou gavest
me.

I know my footsteps he will trace;
And as I strive to run my race,
He'll strive to follow - keep my
pace.

Oh, grant that as he follows me
That I may ever faithful be
To lead him in Thy way, to Thee.

Paul E. Leightner

We all love and appreciate our
fathers. May we love and daily
live for our Father in Heaven.

Congratulations to the Bible
Class seniors on their graduation
from high school and also to those
who are graduating from college.
The Word of God in Matthew 6:33
is relevant: "But seek ye first the
kingdom of God, and His right-
eousness and all these things
shall be added unto you."

Our high school graduates are:
Sis. Lisa Edelman (Bro. Walter
and Sis. Rosetta), James Edelman
(Robert and Mary), Jason Huber
(Bro. Richard and Sis. Dawn),
Clint Steffen (Bro. Chris and Sis.
Kay), Scott Stoller (Richard and
Karen), Christine Slagel (Ron and
Sis. June), Laura Slagel (Al and
Mary Beth), Kurt Slagel (Bro. Ray
and Sis. Gladys), Brad Steidinger
(Bro. Eldon and Sis. Darlene) and
Troy Steidinger (Bro. Tom and
Sis. Dianne).

In sorrow and pain
Thy trust do retain
In Jesus the merciful Saviour.

Zion's Harp #46

Our sympathy is extended to
Bro. Alan and Sis. Linda Walter
in the loss of her grandmother,
Lillian Brooks, 75, of Patterson,
AR on April 11.

Maxine Fletcher, 63, passed

away April 25. We extend our
sympathy to Gilbert and Sis.
Mary Ifft and Bro. Norman and
Sis. Lola Young in the loss of their
sister.

Living here on earth, there are
many changes for our church
families.

Elizabeth McLain, sister of Bro.
David and Sis. Mary Kaeb, has
moved to Fairview Haven assisted
living from Paramount, CA. We
welcome her to our congregation.

We bid a blessed farewell to
Bro. Anthony and Sis. Lila Fehr
who are relocating in the Minnea-
polis, MN area. Also leaving us
are Bro. Tim and Sis. Julie Wal-
der. They will be making Wash-
ington, IL their home church. We
wish both of these couples God's
blessings in their new employ-
ment, homes and churches. God
bless them till we meet again.

Marvin Bender was hospital-
ized recently and is recuperating
at home now. We wish him God's
blessings.

ILLINOIS, FORREST

Marlene Walter

Mary Bachtold

"Concerning this house which
thou art in building, if thou wilt
walk in my statutes, and execute
my judgments, and keep all my
commandments to walk in them;
then will I perform my word with
thee..."

I Kings 6:12

Wednesday, April 19, was a
special evening as our Elder Bro.
Wayne Anliker committed our
new church building project to the
Lord in prayer. As work begins on
our new house of worship, we
trust that the Lord will bless this
undertaking.

Bro. Rich, Sis. Jill, Ryan,
Jenny, Jodi and Rollin Wenger
welcome little Jessica Jean into

their family circle. Her grandpar-
ents are Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Vi
Bachtold (Fairbury, IL) and Sis.
Nathalia Wenger.

April 22 was the wedding day of
Damon Lanz (Bro. Elmer and Sis.
Lavonne) and Amanda Tull (Carl
and Diana, Fairbury, IL). May
the Lord bless them as they begin
their life together as husband and
wife.

The weekend of April 29 and 30
we enjoyed testimonies and bap-
tisms. We welcome Bro. Kevin
and Sis. Denise Coffey, Bro. Karl
and Sis. Bethany Edelman and
Bro. Garrett Kupferschmid (Bro.
Alfred and Sis. Wanda) as our
brothers and sisters in the Lord.
A special thank you to Elder Bros.
Ken Sauder (Mansfield, OH) and
Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL) for help-
ing to carry out this most impor-
tant work.

Also visiting us this month
were Elder Bro. Curt Frank (La-
Crosse, IN), Bros. Bill Hodel
(Roanoke, IL), Kent Mogler (Min-
neapolis, MN), Jim Plattner
(Princeville, IL) and Ron Koehl
(Sarasota, FL). We appreciate
their willingness to be used in
God's service.

A July 22 wedding is being
planned by Ron Mueller, Jr. (Bro.
Ron and Sis. Loida) and Vicki
Steidinger (Bro. Eldon and Sis.
Darlene, Fairbury, IL). We wish
them God's guidance as they
make plans for their special day.

It is with deep sadness we write
of the drowning death of Gabriel
Lee Leman, 17 months, son of Bro.
Fred and Sis. Brenda. Words can-
not adequately express our heart-
felt sympathy to his parents; his
brothers, Caleb, Seth and Reuben;
his grandparents, Bro. Leland
and Sis. Laurene Zimmerman
(Eureka, IL) and Bro. Robert and
Sis. Donna Leman; and his aunts,
uncles and cousins. May they
ever "lift up mine eyes unto the
hills from whence cometh my

help" (Psalm 121:1), and know that he is safely waiting for them on the other side of Jordan.

Spending time in the hospital this month have been Kristi Pruitt (Ron and Vicki Schaffer), Ed Schrof, and Sis. Lil Bachtold. May God grant His healing power to each one.

May 5 marked the 55th wedding anniversary of Bro. Perry and Sis. Louise Honegger who reside at Fairview Haven. May God bless them and keep them in His care.

Students graduating from high school are: Kelli Adams (Sis. Sharon), Sis. Marsha Bachtold (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Mary), Wesley Broquard (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Roberta), Joel Brown (Bro. Gary and Sis. Jane), Ryan Honegger (Bro. Lloyd and Joyce), Sis. Jodi Ifft (Bro. Larry and Sis. Shirley), Greg Knapp (Dale and Barb), Charity Mueller (Bro. Ron and Sis. Loida), Scott Rudin (Bro. Craig and Sis. Trudy), and Nathan Waibel (Bro. Eldon and Sis. Marge). We congratulate them and wish them God's blessings in the future.

Note: July is Silver Lining collection month for our Forrest congregation.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

Barb Brim

"Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen."

Jude 1:24-25

Thankfully, we wait in joyous anticipation of this most glorious event, humbly praising His holy

name for the great love this promise contains. God has certainly blessed us this month.

With His will foremost in our hearts, we prayerfully accepted our Lord's selection of Bro. Jeff Grimm (Sis. Ruth), and Bro. Wayne Wiegand (Sis. Rosemary) as the two newest members of our ministering brethren. Our thoughts and prayers will be with these two dear brothers and their families in the coming months as they faithfully accept this new life's path having full confidence in our Lord's constant presence in their lives through His abundant grace and Holy Spirit. How awesome is His name! Many thanks are extended to Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton, IL) and Elder Bro. Dan Koch (Tremont, IL) for their willing assistance to Elder Bro. Wes on this holy occasion.

Our congregation has been blessedly increased by the addition of four dear sisters this month. We are fortunate to be able to see His spirit working so heartily in the families and friends of this beloved brotherhood. We welcome Sis. Missy Bauman (Bro. Les and Sis. Helen), Sis. Trista Gerst (Bro. Steve and Sis. Bonnie), Sis. Gwen Kloter (Bro. Kent and Sis. Janell), and Sis. Lindsay Descarpentrie (Bro. Russ and Sis. Jane) to our Family of God. May His spirit of love fill your hearts and guide your pathways through this life and on to Heaven's gates.

The Lord's spirit of love was evident in the lives of our dear Bro. Mike Wiegand (Bro. Dan and Sis. Verla) and Sis. Jenise Zobrist (Bro. Howard and Sis. Phyllis) as they announced plans to join their lives in Holy Matrimony. We are so appreciative of the faith and love this commitment takes and look forward to God's abundant mercies in your union.

We want to thank the visiting

ministers and their wives for joining us in service to the Lord. Thank you, Elder Bro. Edwin Ringger (Sis. Geralene, Gridley, IL), Bro. Vernon Wettstein (Sis. Judy, Congerville, IL), Bro. Kevin Knapp (Sis. Dixie, Bloomington, IL), and Bro. Byron Stoller (Sis. Carol, Gridley, IL) for sharing the Lord's spirit of love with us so generously.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

Perry A. Klopfenstein

Graduation season has passed and we are happy for all those students that were graduated from grades eight, twelve, and sixteen.

In a newspaper article I noted the remarks of a commencement speaker at a major university. She said, "Don't fit in. Step out on your own. It's timid to fit in. Do what's right for you."

Such relativist advice is the opposite of what we learn from God's Word which encourages unity, likemindedness, and keeping the same outlook (regarding spiritual judgments). In this we become equally yoked and can find a deeper sense of warmth and love in the household of faith.

We live in an era of rampant individualism. We surely hope and pray that our youth can build the foundation of their earthly lives, and their hope of eternal life in Heaven, by surrendering themselves and their own will to Almighty God. The resignation of self-will into the will of God is life's recipe for "success".

Sis. Hulda Stoller has moved from her home in Gridley to the Eureka Home. We wish her God's presence. She lost her husband, Bro. Virgil, in a tragic traffic accident a few years ago.

Sis. Joyce Witzig Furneau was hospitalized briefly this past month.

month.

Bro. Robert Gramm underwent surgery. Going into his operation there was great uncertainty as to the ultimate seriousness of his medical problem, but doctors gave him an optimistic report. He credits the prayers of the saints.

The annual Sunday School picnic was held Sunday afternoon, May 21, at the Gridley Park.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

**Phyllis Farney
Cheryl Wuthrich**

May the Lord comfort the family of Lorana Pflederer as she was laid to rest on May 12. Surviving is her brother, Bro. Samuel Pflederer; her sisters, Sis. Priscilla Pflederer, Sis. Nathalia Pflederer, Alice Hirstein, Alma Wittmer and Eloise Carey. She will be missed by her family, friends and community.

The Mother-Daughter Luncheon to honor mothers was held on May 13. Many thanks to the committee for making this tribute possible.

Our congregation held Holy Communion on April 29. What a privilege it was to partake and to take time to remember what Christ did for us.

We would like to thank the ministering brothers that served us this month. They were: Elder Bros. Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL), Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) and Wes Knapp (Goodfield, IL), and Bros. Frederick Knapp (Congerville, IL), Ron Allenbach, (Kiowa, KS), Bruce Hohulin (Goodfield, IL), and Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL). We were happy to have them and their families with us.

Note of Thanks:

Words cannot express our deep and heartfelt appreciation for the many deeds of love, kindness,

prayers and support during a sad time of our lives in the tragic death of our loved one.

*Joseph Hauter Family
Bro. Ralph and Sis. Lydia
Hauter
Diana and Gary Haefer*

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Cara Nussbaum

We extend our deepest sympathy to Bro. Harry Eisenmann and his family following the recent death of his father, Bro. Jesse, a resident at our Home.

We thank Bro. Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL) for speaking at our May "Family Night". We are also grateful to Bro. Gerald Sutter (Taylor, MO) who visited recently. May God richly bless you.

Our hospitalized patients this past month have been Bro. George Koehl and Sis. Karen Dunbar. We pray that God provides a speedy recovery for both of them.

Notes of Thanks:

I would like to thank everyone for the many prayers during my stay at the Roanoke Home and since returning home. Thanks, too, for the flowers and cards and love gifts. It has been a humble experience. Many came over the Christmas time to sing and sent cards for our 50th anniversary. Again, thank you and may God bless each and every one.

Sis. Donna Ferrero

I want to thank all you kind people for the lovely cards and gifts for my 80th birthday. God bless each of you.

Sis. Martha Bittner

I wish to thank everyone for the beautiful flowers, cards, thoughts and especially your prayers during my recent hospitalization. It was such a source of strength to know so many were praying. It

helped me through each day. May God bless all of you.

Sis. Cara Nussbaum

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

Joanna Herrmann

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

Acts 2:38

We were given opportunity to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of two young men the weekend of April 29 and 30. Those confessing peace were Bros. Marvin Streitmatter (Bro. Bill and Sis. Diane) and Clint Endress (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Luann).

We have been greatly encouraged and blessed in recent months by our many converts at Princeville. Two more souls have come seeking the Lord in repentance. They are Craig White (son of Sis. Gloria White) and Blake Graham (Bro. Richard and Sis. Jeanette).

March 11 was the wedding date of Susan Kieser to Neal Jones. Susan is the daughter of Bro. Loris and Sis. Martha Kieser. Neal is the son of Alan and Evelyn Jones of Carbondale, IL.

Kaleb Wagenbach, son of Bro. Kevin and Sis. Sara, was born April 25. He was welcomed home by older siblings, Keith, Kent, and Stacy. Grandparents are Bro. Wallis and Sis. Diane Feuchtenberger (Morris, MN) and Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Elaine Wagenbach.

Sis. Janet Martin has been blessed with another granddaughter. Rachel Lynn was born on May 1 to Bro. Fred and Sis. Nancy Witzig of Altadena, CA.

On May 13, Brianna Jean was born to Bro. David and Sis. Crys-

Brittany, Brooke and Braden, also welcomed their new baby sister. Grandparents are Bro. Harry and Sis. Bertha Jean Herrmann and Bro. Norman and Sis. Joyce Streitmatter.

"Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted."

Matthew 5:4

On May 5, Bro. David Kieser was called Home. Our hearts and prayers go out to his dear wife, Sis. Shirley, and family. May they feel God's comforting presence. Their children are: Bro. Dana and Sis. Martha Kay Regier (Princeville, IL), Mark and Sis. Pam Fritzenmeier (Peoria, IL), Bro. Mike and Sis. Kathy Drester (Altadena, CA), Bro. Greg and Sis. Sharlene Moser (Roanoke, IL), Bro. Todd and Sis. Carol Schrock (Leo, IN), Bro. Andy and Sis. Jana Klaus (Tokyo, Japan), and Bro. David.

Bro. David is survived by his parents, Bro. Samuel and Sis. Lucille Kieser (Bradford, IL); and brothers and sisters, Bro. Loris (Sis. Martha), Bro. Jerry (Sis. Wilma), Sis. Bertha Jean Herrmann (Bro. Harry), Sis. Jane Leman (Bro. Marvin), and Sis. Bonnie Kieser. Bro. David and Sis. Shirley had 17 grandchildren.

On May 14, the engagement of Sis. Lynn Martin (Bloomington, IL) to Bro. Jeff Dotterer (South Bend, IN) was announced. Sis. Lynn is the daughter of Bro. Dale and Sis. Teresa Martin, and Bro. Dale is the son of Bro. Paul and Sis. Phyllis Dotterer (Bluffton, IN).

Bro. Mark Streitmatter (Bloomington, IL), son of Bro. Don and Sis. Mary Lou, has also announced his engagement to Sis. Sara Kieser (Bloomington, IL). Sis. Sara is the daughter of Bro. Dave and Sis. Wilma Kieser of Bloomington. Their wedding date

is set for July 30.

Faith of our fathers! living still
In spite of dungeon, fire and
sword,
O how our hearts beat high with
joy
Whene'er we hear that glorious
word!

Faith of our fathers! holy faith!
We will be true to thee till death!

Hymns of Zion #85

How thankful we should be for our own faithful fathers and for the faithful brethren who have held fast to that which is true. How much more so for our Heavenly Father, for His mercy and compassion and especially for sending His only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Jana Gastman - Annie Leman

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

II Corinthians 5:17

Our hearts were touched and encouraged on April 22 and 23, as we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of four dear souls. We welcome our new brothers and sister in Christ: Kory Kaeb (Bro. Bill and Sis. Patsy), Matt Feucht (Bro. Randy and Sis. Carol), Tim Stoller (Bro. Tim and Sis. Peg), and Kari Kaeb (Bro. Bill and Sis. Patsy).

We also rejoice with Jesse Schroeder (Bro. Duane and Sis. Rachel) as he begins his walk with the Lord. May the Lord grant him daily grace to fight the ever-present Evil One.

The engagement of Sis. Brenda Hartter (Bro. Bob and Sis. Chris) to Bro. Chad Martin (Bro. Harvey and Sis. Sharon, Washington, IL)

was announced on May 14. May God's blessings be with them as they await their wedding day.

Bro. Bill and Sis. Betty Hodel welcome a new granddaughter, Elizabeth Kaitlin. Elizabeth was born May 15 to Barbie Sizemore, and she has an older brother, Nicholas.

Little Samantha Harris is being treated for burns at Memorial Hospital in Springfield. Our thoughts and prayers are with her parents, Bro. Todd and Sis. Andrea.

We are thankful again for the work of the Lord through our ministers. This month's visitors were: Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer (Peoria, IL), and Bros. Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL), Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL), and Rick Plattner (Peoria, IL). May God continue to bless them and their wives for their labors of love.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Barbara Dill - Barbara Kaeb

"Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ,"

Titus 2:13

We thank Bro. Ken Hoerr (Peoria, IL) for his topical lesson on "Looking for that Blessed Hope". We also appreciate and are thankful for our visiting ministers, Bro. Dewayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN), and Bro. Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL). May God richly bless these brothers and their families for coming to visit us.

Bro. Greg and Sis. Julie Blunier have been blessed with a new little boy, Judah Michael, born April 17. Luke and Sarah are happy to welcome their new baby brother along with grandparents, Bro. Nick and Sis. Jean Ricketts (Forrest, IL) and Wayne and Sis. Mar-

jorie Blunier (Roanoke, IL).

Sis. Mary Baurer fell this past week and broke her hip and has been hospitalized. We pray that she will feel God's healing hand and the prayers of those who love her.

April 22 was a special day for Jennifer Beutel (Bro. Fred and Sis. Jeanette) and Nathan Fuller (Dave and Jackie) as they were joined in marriage.

On May 7, Bro. Dave Steiner (Bro. Richard and Sis. Ann) and Sis. Sandra Walder (Bro. Melvin and Sis. Irma) of Champaign, IL were united in Holy Matrimony. May these couples feel God's nearness as they begin their life together.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

Sue Ruppert
Denise Romersberger

"Pray without ceasing."
1 Thess. 5:17

How often do we question God's will? God knows what is best for us, but we muddle in it to give our own two cents. We think we know how things ought to go and so we give God some help. This action begins to deprive us of blessings. God can see way beyond the near future and His answers are always best for all times. When we go to God in prayer asking for answers, let us give our all to Him and know that in due time God's answer will be for the best. We must be patient. Answers may come slowly. This, however, gives us a great opportunity to stay focused on God. When we need something from someone, we are usually very friendly and willing to make sacrifices. God wants us always to be that way with Him. Let His Spirit fill our lives as our friendship with Him grows.

We were privileged to have Bro.

Ken Hoerr (Peoria, IL) conduct our monthly Bible Study. He gave us many challenges and thought-provoking comments. Thank you, Bro. Ken, for all your efforts.

Other visiting ministers this month were Bro. Brian Huber (Francesville, IN), and Elder Bros. Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL), Chuck Hemmer (Peoria, IL), and Ed Ringger (Gridley, IL). May God bless each of them for their willingness to serve the Lord unselfishly.

Bro. Paul and Sis. Jean (Leuthold) Streitmatter are the thankful parents of a little boy, Kirk Vernon. He is their first child. Grandparents are Sis. Pearlina Streitmatter and Bro. John and Sis. Shirley Leuthold (Princeville, IL).

The engagement and forthcoming marriage of Bro. Chad Martin and Sis. Brenda Hartter was announced. Their parents are Bro. Harvey and Sis. Sharon Martin and Bro. Bob and Sis. Chris Hartter (Roanoke, IL). We wish them God's blessings and many years of happiness together.

We sympathize with Sis. Marty Schlatter, Bro. Mike Mangold, and Bro. Brent and Sis. Charlotte (Mangold) Hoerr on the recent loss of their loved one, Sis. Mary Mangold. Our hearts go out to each and every one of the family. God does know best even when it is so hard for us to understand everything. We always enjoyed Sis. Mary's kind presence when she would come to visit at Washington.

The annual Bible Class breakfast was held at Bro. Carl Wyss' residence on May 7. May our youth remember these times of fellowship as they go on their way in this world.

Note of Thanks:

I would like to thank one and all for their prayers, visits, and gifts

of love during my stay at the hospital and my recovery at home. May God bless you all for your deeds of kindness.

Your least one in faith, Sis. Louise Teubel

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

Jaci Gerber - Brenda Bertsch

On May 14 we heard the engagement of Bro. Jeff Dotterer, South Bend, IN (Bro. Paul and Sis. Phyllis, Bluffton) to Sis. Lynn Martin, Bloomington, IL (Bro. Dale and Sis. Teresa, Princeville, IL). We pray God will draw them closer to Him and to each other as they plan their life together.

We extend our thanks to Elder Bros. Ed Ringger and Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL), Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN) and Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN) for sharing the Word with us this month.

On April 28, Bro. Jack Ely was taken from this earth to his Heavenly reward after an extended illness. We extend our sympathy to his family.

We praise God as He continues to call souls unto repentance. Elizabeth Habegger (Bro. Ted and Sis. Jane) has answered His calling.

A blessed weekend was shared as we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of Tom Rohr, Aaron Taylor, Jami Johnloz and John Johnson. May God grant them the grace to be true and faithful till life's end.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the loved ones spending time in the hospital. They are: Bro. Roger Steffen (Sis. Tara), Bro. Ed Schwartz, Sr. (Sis. Josephine), Sis. Minnie Isch (Bro. Elmer), Adam Kaehr (Mark and Renee), and Sis. Effie Bertsch (Bro. Herman).

Taylor Jo is the firstborn to Bro. Ked and Sis. Joanne Gerber. She

arrived on May 16. Grandparents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Cheryl Gerber and Bro. Hartzel and Sis. Mary Kaisner (Detroit, MI).

We want to extend our best wishes to Floyd and Sarah Caldwell as they felt God leading them to move to Texas. We pray that it will be a smooth transition for Sabrina, Trevin, Kelsey and Ethan.

Bro. Truman and Sis. Marcella Yergler celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on April 22. We pray that God will continue to bless their life together.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH

Susan Harris - Kay Steffen

Seeds of goodness we are sowing
In the hearts of man today.
Bless it, Lord, that it may prosper,
And bear fruit for harvest day.

Hymns of Zion #46

Bringing God's message to us this month were Elder Bro. Everett Hari (Bloomington, IL) and Bro. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH). May the Lord bless them for their labors.

We rejoice with Sis. Michelle Cupp and Bro. Brad Cook (Indianapolis, IN) whose engagement was announced on April 30. Michelle is the daughter of Bro. Mick and Sis. Connie Cupp and Bro. Brad's parents are Herb and Sis. Suzanne from Francesville, IN. May they look to Him as they plan for a new life together.

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

Proverbs 18:22

Bro. Brad Zimmer and Sis. Lindsay Fiechter were united in marriage on April 30. Their parents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Cheryl Zimmer and Bro. Dean and Sis.

Cyndee Fiechter. May they always feel God's nearness as they walk life's pathway together.

Bro. Jon and Sis. Tammy Leman are first-time parents of a daughter, Elsie Ann, born on April 24. She is welcomed by grandparents, Bro. Gary and Sis. Nancy Stoller and Wally and Sis. Marilyn Leman. We wish them God's guidance in raising their new daughter.

Bro. Jeremy Frauhiger spent a day in the hospital after injuries in a car accident. We are very thankful for God's healing power and that Jeremy is recuperating at home.

On April 22 we were privileged to partake in Holy Communion. We thank Elder Bros. Everett Hari (Bloomington, IL) and Jesse Beer (Milford, IN) for sharing with us. May we daily remember the price that Jesus paid at the cross for our sins.

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE

Lily Pelsy

"Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

Psalms 139:23-24

We are thankful to report that Daryl Allen has been announced to have peace with God and man.

May God bless two couples who have announced their engagements. They are Bro. Brad Cook (Herb and Sis. Suzanne) to Sis. Michelle Cupp (Bro. Mick and Sis. Connie, Bluffton North, IN). Jason Getz (late Bro. Keith and Sis. Doris) plans to marry Maggie Mann (Tim and Sue Slaughterbeck).

On May 8, God gave Bro. Marty and Sis. Angie Neihouser a son, Seth Michael. Evan has lovingly

welcomed him home. Grandparents are Bro. Perry and Sis. Sally Neihouser and Bro. Jerry and Sis. Ann Gerber (Bluffton, IN).

The Lord has blessed Lars and Jan Nielsen with a son, Bjorn Christian, on May 15. Grandparents, Bro. Edison and Sis. Christann Gutwein, and his brother, Erik-Andres, are thankful.

Our dear Sis. Elsie Yaggie has suffered another fractured hip but is recuperating well in the hospital.

The following seniors received Bibles at our graduation program. They are: Carmen Cook (late Bro. Bob and Sis. Debbie), Travis Furrer (Bro. Alvin and Sis. Phyllis), Katie Gutwein (Gordan and Judy), Sis. Tricia Gutwein (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Janice), Russell Leman (Bro. Larry and Sis. Pam), Sis. Tanessa Leman (Bro. Doug and Sis. Margaret), Vincent Leman (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Linda), Ryan Westfall (Bro. Dave and Sis. Julie), Brandon Wuethrich (Bro. Rick and Sis. Judy), and Patrick Wuethrich (Bro. Brad and Sis. Nancy).

We want to thank Bros. Harold Gramm (Morris, MN) and Elmer Schmidt (Winthrop, MN) who humbly brought the Word to us.

Note of Thanks:

I want to thank everyone who remembered me on my 80th birthday with cards, letters, gifts, and get-well wishes. May God bless all of you for your love and thoughtfulness.

Sis. Emilie Anliker

Reminder: June will be collection month for Silver Lining dues.

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS

Lauretta Schafer
Sandy Lichtle

On April 29 we were blessed and humbled as we partook of

Holy Communion. We are thankful for the service of our Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN) and Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN) as they shared the Lord's Supper with us. May we daily remember our Lord's suffering at the cross and the price that He paid for our sins.

We rejoice with Bro. Brad Cook and Sis. Michelle Cupp as their engagement was announced on April 30. Their parents are Herb and Sis. Suzanne Cook (Francesville, IN) and Bro. Mick and Sis. Connie Cupp (Bluffton North, IN). We wish them God's blessings and guidance as they plan for an August 20 wedding.

We extend a loving and warm welcome to Bro. Matt and Sis. Cammy Sutter (Bluffton, IN) as they have moved to Indianapolis. Bro. Matt is a student at IU Medical School. We also are happy to have Sis. Lora Braker (Chicago, IL) in our midst. She is a dental assistant and has accepted employment with an orthodontist here in town. What a blessing to have our church family grow.

A church potluck dinner was held on May 12. We enjoyed a special evening of love and fellowship with one another.

Our high school graduates this year are: Laurie Schafer (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Lauretta) and Brian Witzig (Bro. Bill and Sis. Conni). Tony Bucher (Bro. Ardie and Sis. Leann) graduated from Purdue University this month. Congratulations and best wishes to our graduates! May the Lord bless and guide them as they journey on life's pathway.

We want to thank our fathers who have loved, nurtured and taught us the way of salvation from our youth. Happy Father's Day!

INDIANA, LACROSSE

Judy Gudeman

Our sympathy is with the family of Bro. Aaron Heinold (Sis. Grace) in the death of his sister, Emma Luthi. Among those surviving are Sis. Sylvia Banwart (Congerville, IL), and Otto and Ralph Fritz (both of LaCrosse) who were siblings of Emma's.

Bro. Harold Heinold and Frieda Pfledderer are both recuperating following hospitalization and surgery. We pray that their healing will continue to progress. I have also received a thank-you note from Sis. Lucille Heiniger (Bro. John) which follows:

John and I would like to thank each one for their prayers, love, visits, phone calls, flowers, food, etc. shown to us during my stay at the hospital and since returning home. May God richly bless each one. In Christian Love, Lucille

Sure signs of Spring are the return of our "Snowbirds" from the South and the upcoming graduations! Bro. Glen Gudeman (Bro. Don and Sis. Mary) will be our high school graduate this year, while Rachel Heinold (Bro. Gene and Sis. Evie), Sis. Andrea Knapp (Bro. John, Congerville, IL), and Sis. Natalie Stoller (Bro. Steve and Sis. AnnaMarie) are all graduating from college.

We would like to thank our visiting ministers from this past month: Elder Bro. Joe Stoller (Sis. Emily, Princeville, IL) and Bro. Ken Schneider (Sis. Loretta, Remington, IN). Bro. Joe came to help Elder Bro. Curt Frank with Communion.

INDIANA, LEO Thelma Schlatter

An especially appropriate and precious meeting for the opening of our new church was a Communion service. Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford, IN) was the visiting Elder. Our first Sunday worship service

was the following day, April 30. Words seem inadequate to express our appreciation for the kind help of many volunteers in this building project.

The ladies' annual Spring luncheon included a challenging program on communication with words, making them kind, thoughtful, and encouraging. It is a time off from a usually busy schedule to renew some acquaintances enjoying Christian friendships.

Bro. Mike Klopfenstein is a Purdue graduate with a degree in Industrial Engineering.

High school graduates are Erica Schieler and Bros. Joel Baumgartner, Kevin Stoller and Jaret Wieland. Congratulations to each of our graduates for a job well done!

After hospitalization, Bro. George Zimmer entered the Cedars Retirement Home. He is surrounded with care and prayer.

Funeral services were held April 28 for Sis. Frieda Bertsch, 85. Sympathy goes to her surviving brother, Andrew Bertsch, who is a patient at the Cedars.

Baptismal services were held for Beth Hersey (Bro. Bill and Sis. Cheri), Daisha Wieland (Bro. Brace and Sis. Brenda), and Joel Baumgartner (Bro. Bill and Sis. Jan). What a joy to see youth follow Him! Participating in this day was Elder Bro. Edwin Ringger (Gridley, IL). Also sharing were visiting ministers Bros. Kevin Knapp (Bloomington, IL) and Ron Messner (Washington, IL).

Sis. Ethelyn Schlatter, your regular correspondent, is this month visiting her brother, Vic Schlatter, and wife, Elsie, and her nephew, Tim Schlatter, and wife, Karen, and family in Australia and New Guinea. May she be blessed and be a blessing there.

June 18 is designated as Fa-

June 18 is designated as Father's Day. We remember gratefully dear, loving Christian fathers who have gone Home, and pay tribute to fathers of today.

INDIANA, MILFORD

**Judy Longcor
Marguerite Hoerr**

First-time parents, Bro. Randy and Sis. Deb Beer, welcomed a dear little daughter into their home. Anne Marie was born on April 23. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Charlene Schumacher (Eureka, IL) and the paternal first-time grandparents are Bro. Nelson and Sis. Shelby Beer of our congregation. May God richly bless little Anne Marie and her family.

Bro. Phil and Sis. Millie Beer have experienced happy and troubled times during this past month. The happy time was the report of another grandchild. Joshua David was born to their son, Phil, and his wife, Kathy, of Indianapolis. Joshua has a big brother, Mark, and a sister, Laura. To report on the troubled times, on May 3, Bro. Phil and his son, John, of Milford, were involved in a serious car accident. John's injuries were minimal. Bro. Phil, however, suffered many broken bones and underwent surgery following the accident. We're thankful to report he is making slow but satisfactory progress and is recovering at his home.

Ministering Bro. Mark Gerber and his wife, Sis. Barb (Bluffton, IN), spent a Wednesday evening with our congregation in a topical Bible Study recently. We thank them for sharing and enriching our week with their visit.

Simon Beer, son of Bro. Steve and Sis. Connie, recently spent a couple days at Riley Children's Hospital in Indianapolis for tests. Simon was in church the following

Sunday with his usual big smile.

Two of our young sisters have reached new goals in their education. We observed their dedication and stress from the hard work as they achieved these goals. Sis. Tricia Wuthrich received a nursing degree from IPFW and is working at KCH, a hospital in Warsaw. Sis. Heidi Lehman will be awarded her diploma from IPFW also. Sis. Heidi's major is secondary education in math. She has been student teaching at nearby West Noble Corporation. We extend our congratulations, and expressions of our love and admiration to each of them.

Sis. Mary Gerber and Tillie Kasbaum were surprised at their apartment as a deer tried to leap through a bedroom window one evening. They were fortunate, in that no one was in the bedroom at the time. The damage done was to the window and some furnishings, and it was readily fixed by the maintenance staff. Tillie, who has been recovering from a back injury, fell recently and broke some ribs in the fall. Illness and injury seems to have been the lot for these two dear people in the past year and prayers in their behalf have been ongoing. They remain stalwart and trusting in spite of the problems they've had.

Bro. Herman Weisser was vacationing in Florida with his son and daughter-in-law, Fred and Diane, when he was taken ill and had to spend time in a hospital before coming home. We're happy to report he was able to worship with us last Sunday and is feeling better again.

INDIANA, REMINGTON

Amelia Schini

"...This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me."

Luke 22:19

"...This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you."

Luke 22:20

The evening of Saturday, April 22, was a nice quiet evening when we gathered in our country church to partake of Holy Communion. Elder Bros. Dan Koch (Tremont, IL) and Ray Sinn (Latty, OH) were here to assist our Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler to administer the Holy sacrament. It was a blessed occasion for all of us. We thank the brothers for their kind services.

Elder Bro. Ray Sinn was then with us for Sunday forenoon services. In the afternoon, our new young minister, Bro. Dan Kilgus, ministered to us. We are thankful that God has wonderfully provided for us.

Lloyd Waibel, son of the late Bro. Herman and Sis. Anna, passed away recently. The cause of death was cancer. He lived here until 1962, when they moved to California. Bros. Ralph and Clyde are his brothers and Mabel Buschman is his surviving sister. A memorial service was held here on Saturday, May 13.

We welcome Bro. Joe Beer of Goodfield, IL to our church. He has found employment in our area.

June 4 will be graduation day for six of our young people. They are: Sara Steffen (Bro. Roger and Sis. Vickie) will go to Purdue; Charity Isabell (Bro. Phil and Sis. Diane) will go to St. Elizabeth School of Nursing in Lafayette; John Waibel (Bro. Clyde and Sis. Mary Sue) plans to go to Purdue; Rustin Meister (Bro. Dick and Sis. Sharon) also will go to Purdue; Chad Getz (Ron and Sis. Jean) plans to go to ITT in Indianapolis; and John Ward plans to go to Ivy Tech in Lafayette. We congratulate

their achievements and wish them well in the future. We would exhort them to also enroll in the School of God whereby they can find true joy and peace for their souls.

To close, I will end with this thank you:

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks for all the prayers, lovely cards and phone calls which were sent in our behalf. We know God does hear prayers and may He bless each and every one of you.

Most sincerely, Ray and Lucille Steffen

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

Carolyn Frank - Gigi Schafer

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. We were blessed on Mother's Day as the Sunday School hosted a lovely brunch for the church. Some of the children read poems in appreciation of Godly mothers. Our children are truly gifts from God, and we appreciate each loving thought and gesture. We were also blessed to have Bro. Walt Rager (Toledo, OH) and Sis. Sharon spend the day with us and minister God's Word. A sincere thank you to the Sunday School for a special day of fellowship.

"Temptation" was the topic of a Wednesday evening Bible Study this past month. We gained much valuable insight from the many scripture passages that were read and discussed. We thank Elder Bro. Jesse Beer for his wisdom in sharing this timely topic with us.

At this time of year, our thoughts turn to our high school and college graduates. Nathan Mangold, son of Mike and Sis. Renee, and Shana Frank, daughter of Bro. Tom and Sis. Carolyn, are our seniors graduating from high school. Clay Frank (Bro.

Tom and Sis. Carolyn) has graduated from Purdue University and has found employment in the South Bend area. Our hearts are with these dear young people as they begin a new chapter in their lives. We wish them God's rich blessings and care in their future endeavors.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO

Ken and Cindy Susdorf

In the Lord's name we bring you all greetings, hoping that all is going well as we wait for that great day to come.

We rejoice with Bro. Brandon Moser (Bro. Andy and Sis. Diane) and April Ames (Dillar and Pat) as they have graduated from college. May the Lord grant them many opportunities to be a strong witness to those around them as they use their talents.

High school graduates this year are Adriann Heinold (Vic and Susie), Dean Morrow (Merritt and Sis. Sherry), and Becky Susdorf (Bro. Ken and Sis. Cindy). All three are going on to further their education. May the Lord watch over them as they enter this new environment.

Our prayers are with Bro. Roy (Sis. Aldene) Frieden as he has been hospitalized and is undergoing rehabilitation.

We thank Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) and Bro. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL) for coming to share God's Word with us in this past month. The Lord bless you for your willingness to serve.

As we bid you all farewell, we want to thank our dear Heavenly Father for all of our earthly fathers He has given us. May you all have a blessed Father's Day. Keep being that good example, a spiritual leader in your homes, and just keep up that good fight of faith, knowing what our end re-

sult is going to be. We are all servants for Jesus Christ.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Jody Bahler - Sheri Bahler

"Sanctify yourselves therefore, and be ye holy: for I am the Lord your God. And ye shall keep my statutes, and do them: I am the Lord which sanctify you."

Leviticus 20:7-8

On Sunday, April 23, we commemorated Christ's death and suffering through Holy Communion. May we never forget all that Christ did for us and our duty to lead sanctified and holy lives in appreciation for the gift of imputed righteousness and hope in Him.

We are thankful to Elder Bros. Dan Koch (Tremont, IL) and Ray Sinn (Latty, OH) who so willingly assisted Elder Bro. Alfred in these duties. These brothers also brought forth God's Word from the pulpit the Sunday that they were here.

We are also thankful to Bro. John Stoller (Leo, IN) and Bro. Tom Schambach (Elgin, IL) who were with us on Mother's Day weekend. We pray that God will bless them for coming just as He blessed us with godly instruction.

Funeral services were held for Emerson Kercher of 6781 S. Race St., Littleton, CO on May 19, 1995. He was born to Ed and Mary Kercher at Wolcott, IN on September 29, 1912. He married Margaret Zimmerman of Eureka, IL on September 11, 1938. She survives. Also surviving are five sons: Eugene of Bakersfield, CA; Edward of Golden, CO; Warren of Englewood, CO; Glen of Huntsville, TX; and James of Arvada, CO; 13 grandchildren; one great-grandchild; and three brothers, Dean of Charlotte, NC;

Max of St. Louis, MO; and Edward of Rockford, IL; two sisters, Jeanette Schini of Peoria, IL; and Frieda LaResche of Chicago, IL.

As we celebrate Father's Day, we often tend to think only of our earthly fathers. This year may we not forget the most important Father of all---our Heavenly Father!

IOWA, AMES

Nicole Dahlhauser

Kay Kellenberger

Tricia Metzger

The weekend of April 22 and 23 was a blessed one for our single group as we had visiting single groups from South Dakota State University and Kansas State University. We thank Bro. Brad Funk (Garden Grove, IA) for sharing God's Word with us. Sunday was a day of blessing for all, yet it was bittersweet because it was our last gathering of this semester.

When at last these ties are riven,
When we're called to go on high,
Oh, how sweet to meet in heaven,
Friends forever you and I.

Hymns of Zion #91

We are sad to see Bro. Brad Meyer and Bro. Aaron Schmidgall and his wife, Sis. Luann, and son, Jared, leave us. They have been a great asset to our small group. Bro. Brad will be relocating to his home church, Lester, IA, and Bro. Aaron and his family will be moving to Oakville, IA. Our prayers will be with them as God directs them in their future endeavors.

Church services will resume here with the first service being held on August 20. The location will remain at Midland Savings Bank, 525 Main St., Ames. Song service begins at 12:00 p.m. and church service at 12:30 p.m. If you have any questions, please contact Bro. Dave Stoller at (515)

233-8153 or 209 S. Oak St., Apt. 120, Ames, IA 50010.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Lorna Knapp

Monica Eisenmann

Once again we were blessed with a number of visiting ministers. May God richly bless Bros. Bill Gerst (Alto, MI) and Jim Leman (Roanoke, IL), and Elder Bro. Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL) for lending themselves in God's service.

Several people from our congregation attended the weddings of Dwayne Massner and Kelly Hahn in Burlington, and Bro. Ted Wiegand and Sis. Carrie Wuthrich in Pulaski, IA. Another couple has announced their engagement: Matt Eisenmann (Bro. Paul and Sis. Elaine) and Monica Johnson plan to be married in July, Lord willing.

We have a number of high school graduates this year. Best wishes to Karl Buster (Bro. John and Sis. Ingrid), Thomas Eisenmann (Bro. Paul and Sis. Elaine), Marisa Rowell (Bro. John and Sis. Nelda), and Jaime Salek (Bro. LaVerne and Sis. Kim). May they look to God as they plan for their futures.

Our prayers go out to those who have spent some time in the hospital during the past month. If it be the Lord's will, may they be restored to good health again.

As we look forward to Father's Day, let us not forget to praise and thank our Heavenly Father as well as our earthly fathers.

IOWA, ELGIN

Gloria Frieden

How quickly another school year has passed and students are glad for a three-month vacation from the textbooks.

The years do pass swiftly by and

so soon the youthful years are gone. What a waste of youthful zeal and vitality when these fleeting years are filled with seeking earthly pleasures instead of growing in the Lord and accumulating heavenly treasures.

Satan is crafty and so deceitfully convinces the youth that they would have so much to give up. But those of us who by God's grace did seek the Lord in our youth find it hard to define the freedom we find in the things which we left behind.

Our prayers are with Bro. Orville Moore and Bro. Lon Butikof (Sis. Sandy) who are currently spending a few days in the hospital. May they feel God's presence and healing hand.

A Father's Prayer

Dear God, my little boy of three
Has said his nightly prayer to
Thee;

Before his eyes were closed in
sleep,

He asked that Thou his soul
would keep.

And I, still kneeling at his bed,
My hand upon his tousled head,
Do ask, with deep humility,
That Thou, dear Lord, remember
me.

Make me, kind Lord, a worthy
dad,

That I may lead this little lad
In pathways ever fair and bright,
That I may keep his steps aright.
O God, his trust must never be
Destroyed or even marred by me.
So, for the simple things he prayed
With childish voice so unafraid,
I trembling, ask the same from
Thee,

Dear Lord, kind Lord, remember
me.

Author Unknown

As we enjoy the warm, sunny days of summer and watch the little seeds become fruitful plants, may we remember our Creator

and give Him our praise and thanks for all the blessings that daily come our way.

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE

Laura Funk

The Lord has blessed us with bountiful rain this Spring. The lawns are lush and green. The flowers are blooming in an array of colors.

Visiting ministers this past month include Bros. Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN), Ben Wysong (Sabetha, KS), and Fred Eberhardt (Burlington, IA). Many thanks to the brothers who come and share the Word with us. We also want to thank the families and all the visitors who come to be with us.

High school graduates this year include: Jeff Reinhard (Bro. Dan and Sis. Delores Reinhard), and Jim Webber (Bro. Phil and Sis. Jan Webber). College graduates include Sylvia Webber (Bro. Phil and Sis. Jan Webber). Sylvia has found employment in the Chicago area. Also graduating recently are several members of the Bro. Gene and Rachel Smith family. Eric and Tracy Smith, and Rebecca Smith, son and daughters-in-law of Bro. Gene and Rachel. Jason Smith is taking a step in life, going from 8th grade to high school. May the Lord be near each graduate as they move along life's pathway.

As Father's Day approaches, we think not only of our earthly fathers, but also our Heavenly Father. Our earthly fathers work and toil for our earthly needs. Our Heavenly Father provides for our Spiritual needs. Our earthly fathers provide us with a home on earth, but our Heavenly Father has provided a Home for eternity. To think -- a Home that will last FOREVER without a care or repair! Thanks is such a small word

for all the care given us from our earthly and Heavenly Father.

A Father's Prayer

Dear God, my little boy of three
Has said his nightly prayer to
Thee;

Before his eyes were closed in
sleep,
He asked that Thou his soul
would keep.

And I, still kneeling at his bed,
My hand upon his tousled head,
Do ask, with deep humility,
That Thou, dear Lord, remember
me.

Make me, kind Lord, a worthy
dad,

That I may lead this little lad
In pathways ever fair and bright,
That I may keep his steps aright.
O God, his trust must never be
Destroyed or even marred by me.
So, for the simple things he prayed
With childish voice so unafraid,
I trembling, ask the same from
Thee,

Dear Lord, kind Lord, remember
me.

Author Unknown

IOWA, IOWA CITY

Janette Schulz

Greetings to all! We have appreciated all of our visitors this month, including our Elder Bro. Paul Butikofer, and his wife, Sis. Millie. It was a special time for all of us, as Elder Bro. Paul came to assist our Bro. Joe Gerst's first time in serving Holy Communion to our little flock. May the blessing of partaking of this holy sacrament continue with us in the months ahead.

We welcome Bro. Lucas Frank (LaCrosse, IN) back to our area for the summer. May he feel God's blessing both in his earthly work and in his time spent in fellowship and worship with our congregation.

I recently had the opportunity

to view one of God's masterpieces, the Pacific Ocean. Always an inspiring sight, I was especially impressed by the sight of several small rainstorms concurrently moving across the otherwise sunny sea. If only we could have this picture in our minds as we enter a stormy period of our life. We know not as the clouds become gray and the sun disappears if it is to be a brief shower with the sun just around the corner, or if it will endure for hours or days. But we do know God sees and, in fact, directs the big picture. Just as He moves the clouds across the ocean, He moves the rain and sunshine in and out of our lives. He knows just when we need the warmth of the sun and the rest of a calm spell---and when we need the rain and the clouds to grow spiritually and to deepen our faith in Him. May we trust our "weather" to the Creator and ever be thankful for His loving orchestration of our lives.

IOWA, LESTER

Cindy Leuthold

Sue Warner

As we are rejoicing in the new life that Spring brings, two families from our congregation are experiencing the miracle of the birth of their first child. On April 25, Nathaniel Joseph was born to Curtiss and Laurie Knoblock. His grandparents are Bro. Charles and Sis. Coralee Knoblock. Ashley Marie was born to Bro. Brad and Sis. Michelle Leuthold on May 16. Grandparents are Bro. Charles and Sis. Vicki Leuthold and Bro. Steve and Sis. Pam Schaefer (Morris, MN). May God grant them and all parents the grace to be an example to their precious children.

We are thankful to our ministering brethren for bringing us the Word of Life. Our visitors this

Word of Life. Our visitors this past month were Bro. Clarence Dietrich (Silverton, OR) and Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA).

We extend belated congratulations to Nancy Leuthold (James and Betty) on her marriage to Darren Popkes on April 8. We wish them God's richest blessings.

Our thoughts are with all those that suffer affliction. We pray that they will feel God's comfort, even when their burden is unknown to us. Our hospital patients were Bro. Larry Peterson, Sis. Betty Leuthold, and Bro. August Feucht.

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

Proverbs 3:5-6

Our college graduates are: Sis. Eleanor Knobloch (Bro. Bill), Keri Knobloch (Jeff), Joel Metz (Bro. Art and Sis. Betty, Silverton, OR), Todd Metzger (Keith and Mary), Bro. Brad Meyer (Bro. Raymond and Sis. Twyla), Stuart Moser (Jim), and Chad Ter Wee (Jerry and Mary).

High school graduates include: Benji Kellenberger (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Shirley), Emily Kellenberger (Bro. Verlyn and Sis. Linda), Jeff Knobloch (Bro. Delbert and Sis. June), Curtiss Knobloch (Bro. Charles and Sis. Coralee), Laurie Knobloch (Curtiss), Tina Knobloch (Bro. Roger and Sis. Janet), Darcy Leuthold (James and Betty), Terri Leuthold (Bro. Charles and Sis. Vicki), Heather Metzger (Bro. Harvey and Sis. Mary), Rick Metzger (Bro. Dale and Sis. Christine), Sara Metzger (Bro. Tom and Sis. Deb), Willis Nester (Bro. Eugene and Sis. Shirley), Yuko Ota (foreign exchange student of Bro. Charles and Sis. Vicki Leuthold),

Mike Ter Wee (Jerry and Mary), and Amanda Van Wyhe (Leroy and Shelley).

We congratulate our graduates, and pray that they will seek God's guidance in their lives.

Note of Thanks:

Family, Brethren and Friends,
Words fail me to adequately express my sincere thanks and appreciation for the many prayers offered in my behalf during my surgery and since returning home. May God bless each of you for your visits, gifts, cards, and love you so generously extended to me.

Sis. Iola Knobloch

IOWA, PULASKI Carol Wettstein

It seems we have been blessed abundantly with visiting ministers this month, for which we are so grateful. Among them were: Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS) who assisted our Elder Bro. Ed in serving us Holy Communion, and Bro. Jim Kaeb (Bern, KS) was also with us. Other visitors were Elder Bros. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) and Leo Moser (Lester, IA), and Bros. Brad Funk (Garden Grove, IA), Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN), Paul Eisenmann (Burlington, IA), John Steiner (Oakville, IA) and Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL). We certainly want to thank each one and their wives for lending themselves on our behalf.

On May 14 we witnessed the wedding vows of Sis. Carrie Wuthrich (Bro. Joel and Sis. Shirley) and Bro. Ted Wiegand (Bro. Al and Sis. Martha, Oakville, IA). We wish them both God's richest blessings.

Our graduates this year are Cody Townsend (Danny and Sis. Lynn), eighth grade, and Jennifer Joos (Bro. Ron and Sis. Chris),

high school. May God be near them as they start a new chapter in their life.

Note of Thanks:

The family of Sis. Ernestine Wuthrich wishes to express their thanks to everyone for the many acts of kindness shown to them during Sis. Ernestine's illness and at the time of her passing. May God bless each one.

IOWA, WEST BEND

Lela Banwart - Eunice Fehr

On April 23, we had the blessed privilege of partaking of Holy Communion. Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL) was here to share these duties with our Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr and Bro. Wayne Grimm. As we ponder the great sacrifice that our Lord Jesus Christ made in our behalf, it truly humbles us and fills our hearts with a deep gratitude. May the blessings of this special time remain with us in the days ahead.

We rejoice with Tim Mogler and are thankful that God has worked in his heart and he now is at peace with God and man. We are looking forward to his testimony and baptism in the near future.

On April 22, God called Home Sis. Elizabeth Traub. Never having married, she was a special aunt to many of us. Sis. Elizabeth was the oldest member in our church, having reached the age of 98. Our sympathy goes out to her brother, Joe, and many nieces and nephews.

Our sympathy and prayers are extended to Bro. Chuck and Sis. Beth Mogler in the tragic death of Sis. Beth's little nephew from Forrest, IL. May they feel God's nearness as they now will experience an empty spot in their family circle.

Our hospital patients this month have been Sis. Sara

Ruth), surgical; Bernadine Jergens; and Bro. Silas Metzger (Sis. Della). Our prayers are for them to feel God's healing mercies. Not hospitalized but due to the need of extra care, are Bro. Burt, Frank, and Bob Thomann, who have moved into the West Bend Care Center. We pray for them that they will feel God's nearness and love in this new adjustment of their lives.

After a four-month stay in Paraguay, Sis. Sandy Banwart (Bro. Kevin) was able to return to our congregation with their precious baby girl, Emily Ruth, who was born July 27. Our prayers have been with Bro. Kevin and Sis. Sandy, as they certainly have been through some trying times, but the Lord has provided and we are so thankful for them. Happy grandparents to share in Emily's love are James and Sherry Schmidt, Bro. Alvin and Sis. Phyllis Banwart and great-grandmother, Sis. Ida Schmidt.

Our congratulations also go out to Gregory and Peggy Pfeffer of Mason City. They were blessed with their first child, Andrew Gregory, born on May 7. Grandparent honors go to Jim and Neva Pfeffer of Mankato, MN and Eli Jr. and Margaret Grimm. Sis. Lena Grimm is little Andrew's great-grandmother. We wish both of these couples God's blessing as they both are beginning a family. May they always look to God for the direction in raising these precious children entrusted into their care.

We offer our congratulations and best wishes to our high school graduates. Our prayers are that our Heavenly Father will go with them, bless them, and guide them as they further their formal education or accept employment. May these dear young people always look to Him for direction: Chad Fehr (Alfred and Annette),

Mitch Fehr (Bro. Larry and Sis. Carole), Ryan Fehr (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Judy), Carrie Fisher (Marie), Carrie Gress (Bro. Cloyce and Sis. Carol), Trudy Grimm (Eli Jr. and Margaret), Sis. Robin Kellenberger (Bro. Rick and Sis. Karen), Brandon Metzger (Bro. Duane and Sis. Ruth), Brice Metzger (Bro. Leland and Sis. Kathy), Mandy Metzger (Bro. Merlyn and Sis. Judy), Tony Metzger (Bro. Harlan and Sis. Shirley), Doug Schneider (Louis and Joni), Katie Wirtz (Bro. Mike and Sis. Lila), and Elizabeth Zaugg (Bro. Pat and Sis. Julie).

JAPAN, TOKYO

Andrew and Jana Klaus

We were all deeply saddened by the sudden passing away of Sis. Jana Klaus' father, Bro. David Kiseser, of Princeville, IL. Her mother, Sis. Shirley, was here with us at the time helping with our new baby. Our family made a quick trip back to the States and Sis. Jana will be staying there until August. It is so hard to comprehend God's will for our lives sometimes. All we can do is continue to entrust our future to Him. Bro. David had visited our churches several times over the past years and was loved by all of us. We want to thank everyone for your help and support, for your cards, and for your encouragement and prayers especially during this time.

We appreciated the fellowship of a few visitors this month. Bro. Carl and Sis. Yvonne Gutwein (Francesville, IN) visited for a couple of weeks in May. Sis. Yvonne is a sister to Sis. Marie Inoue. We thank them for their love and kindness they showed us. On the Sunday they were in Tokyo church, Ayako Inoue had about ten former high school friends visiting, and we enjoyed a small

hymn sing that evening with more young adult voices than we have had in a long time.

Bro. Merle Rocke (Eureka, IL) was also able to be with us again one Sunday in May. His frequent business trips here are an added blessing to us.

Our congregation has many travel plans for this summer, and about half of us will be traveling to the U.S. at one time or another over the next several months. We look forward to spending some good time with many of you brothers and sisters in the States.

KANSAS, BERN

Lori Baumgartner

Donna Edelman

Several families experienced the joy of receiving new babies into their hearts and home. Tyler Keaton was born to Bro. Roger and Sis. Michelle Edelman on April 24. His older brother, Trevin, and grandparents, Bro. Morris and Sis. Arlinda Rokey and Bro. Fred and Sis. JoAnn Edelman welcome him.

Bro. Dwight and Sis. Anita Rokey became first-time parents when Leigha Jean was born May 14. Happy grandparents are Eugene and Judy Edelman and Bro. Allen and Sis. Glenda Rokey.

Hogan, along with his parents, Ed and Sara Popkess, welcome Hunter William born May 12. Grandparents are Bro. Wilfred and Sis. Verona Strahm and Roger and Lana Popkess.

Sis. Stella Wenger passed away on May 1. She was a resident of the Apostolic Christian Home. We extend our sincere condolences to each member of her family.

We were blessed with visiting ministers, Bro. Rex Frieden (Lamar, MO) and Bro. Dale Wulf (Lester, IA). We thank them for their labors among us.

Our thoughts and prayers turn to Bro. Alpha Strahm (Sis. Mamie) who recently had hip surgery. May he feel God's healing power for a complete recovery.

We congratulate our graduates and ask God to watch over them. High school graduates are: Sis. Marci Edelman (Eugene and Judy), Sis. Cynthia Edelman (Bro. Fred and Sis. JoAnn), Tim Lehman (Elder Bro. John and Sis. Connie), and foreign exchange student, Fernando Perez, Ryan Menold (Bro. Joe and Sis. Kathy Rokey), Susan Menold (Bro. Don and Sis. Pat), Barry Stoller (Bro. Darrel and Sis. Gloria) and Marla Stoller (Bro. Arden and Sis. Darlene). The college graduate is Sis. Holly Menold (Bro. Joe and Sis. Kathy Rokey).

"Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding."

Proverbs 4:1

As we observe Father's Day, we realize it is the responsibility of a father to teach his children the ways of truth. May we also, as children, hear the instruction not only of our earthly father but much more of our Heavenly Father. May God bless our fathers for the kind and loving efforts that they put forth.

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT **Joleen Sinn**

Roger and Diana Davis have a new addition to their family. Kelsey Anne is welcomed home by big sister, Haley, and grandparents, Bro. Harold and Sis. Wanda Kraft.

We have several graduates this month. Alesha Banwart (Bro. Don and Sis. Aleta), Bro. Trenton Banwart (Bro. Lon and Sis. Debbie) and Bro. Chuck Sinn (Bro. Charles and Sis. Karen) graduate

from high school. Justin Banwart (Bro. Don and Sis. Aleta) and Daniel Williams are graduating from Fort Scott Junior College. Our prayer for these graduates is that they could claim the promise of Proverbs 3:5-6. "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

KANSAS, KIOWA **Janice Bahr - Darcy Kisling**

Let me ne'er from Thee be parted,
Saviour true and full of love!
That I may live true and holy,
Send Thy teaching from above!
Keep me from the world
unspotted,
That I may not only be
To Thy service here devoted,
But abide in heav'n with Thee!
Zion's Harp #198

We had the blessed privilege this month to have Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sabetha, KS) in our midst to bring us the loving concerns of the Elder body for our precious faith through the Memorandum of the Conference. It is impossible to stay unspotted from this present world without the constant help of the Holy Spirit in our lives, because Satan in his own subtle way grows craftier every day in the evils he puts before our eyes, ears, and all about us in this world where we abide. The Scripture states in St. Matthew 24:22 "And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved; but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened." Thus, we are very grateful to our loving Shepherds of the faith for the prayerful, scriptural guidelines they bring before us in their effort to keep the flock holding on until Christ res-

cues us from this present evil world. And may we as an obedient flock ever watch and pray and through love for God and each other stay close to His precious Word.

Sis. Kathryn Miller underwent surgery on her leg again, and though she faces a long hospital stay, is in good spirits. Bro. Raymond Roth also had surgery on his throat again, but we are thankful he is in our midst again, as are our dear Sis. Edna Reed and Sis. Mildred Frieden who both were hospitalized for a short time recently. We love each other, and all those who face illness need our prayers and expressions of love. Let's never forget to encourage one another, nurture one another and hold each other up on the wings of prayer.

MEMORIAL DAY - a time to remember those precious loved ones who have gone on before us to that beautiful resting place where someday we hope to be reunited with them and give praise to the Saviour who made eternal life possible for all of us.

FATHER'S DAY - a time to remember and give a special thanks to that wonderful person we call "DAD" whose love and care as we were growing up shaped our future. And also a time to thank our FATHER IN HEAVEN FOR MAKING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE!!!

Summer is here again with harvest and vacations and everything imaginable to keep us busy. But let's not ever get too busy to remember to keep God in our every day walk of life, and to keep the door of our heart open to let Him enter in where He may abide in peace!

KANSAS, LAMONT-GRIDLEY **Julie Bahr** Congratulations and best

wishes to our graduates this month of May, 1995. They are: Jamie Kraft, Bryden Burdick, Amos Bazil and Loren Strahm (eighth grade); Renee Isch and Tonya Redding (seniors); and Sis. Jennifer Isch from nursing. We rejoice with those who rejoice! (Romans 12:15). We wish you all God's direction and commend each one for all their hard work and diligence.

We have a precious soul that anxiously awaits to give her testimony of God's great work being done in her life. Tonya Edelman (Bro. Albert and Sis. Jeanie) has found peace and is willing to share her testimony with us on June 3 and 4. Also, another dear soul, Melissa Frieden (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Debby) has chosen to begin a new walk with God. We ask that God will strengthen and watch over these two precious children. "No wolf shall pluck a sheep out of my bosom!" What an exciting wonderful promise! (Zion's Harp #184).

KANSAS, SABETHA

**Mary Kay Wenger
Sharon Strahm**

Best wishes to our 1995 graduates as they begin a new phase in life. Graduates from high school are: Kent Grimm (Bro. Rodney and Sis. Arlene), Sis. Sally Hartter (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Beth), Stefany Kellenberger (Bro. Jay and Sis. Marilyn), Brandon Plattner (Bro. Don and Sis. Ada), and Terry Strahm (Bro. Carl and Sis. Sharon). Graduating as registered nurses are Sis. Colleen Hartter (Bro. Roger and Sis. Ilene) from Emporia State University, Newman Division of Nursing, Emporia, Kansas, and Bro. Art Kellenberger (Bro. Eugene and Sis. Marian) from Stormont-Vail School of Nursing, Topeka, Kansas. May they seek

God's direction and guidance in all decisions as they journey on in life.

We were thankful for visiting Elder Bros. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN), Edward Lanz (Oakville, IA), Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA), Arthur Bahler (Fairbury, IL) and Eugene Marti (Kansas City, MO).

Tyler Huber (Bro. Gordon and Sis. Sharlyn) was hospitalized with an appendectomy. We are thankful he has been granted a return of good health.

Bros. Scott Aberle, Martin Beyer (Sis. Karen) and Sis. Ruby Grimm (Bro. Gerald) have recently been given the responsibility of Sunday School teachers. We pray for God's blessings upon them.

Alisa Meyer (Daryl and Sis. Susan) and Sean Snaveley (Richard and Shirley, Belton, KS) have announced their engagement. A July wedding is planned.

As many of you make vacation plans, may we invite you to worship with us as you travel through this part of the midwest.

Note of Thanks:

The family of Lennis Wenger wishes to express their appreciation for the deeds of kindness shown to them in the passing of their loved one.

Bro. Harvey and Sis. Arleta Wenger and family

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY Jeanne Aberle

Another school year has come to a close and finals have passed. In reflection, we look back and are thankful for God's guidance. May we continually look to Him as the future lies before us.

"Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all

the day."

Psalm 25:5

The following brothers have shared God's Word with us the past few months: Elder Bros. Jay Luthi (Lamont-Gridley, KS), and John Lehman (Bern, KS), and Bros. Glen Funk (Wichita, KS), and Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO) who conducted a Bible Study. We appreciate the kind efforts of these ministering brothers and their families.

The Spring picnic was held on May 3 at a city park shelter due to rain. Many of our families and friends came to spend the evening with us.

A special thanks to everyone who visited K-State during this past year. We have truly enjoyed worshipping in the chapel with you, fellowshiping, and eating out. May God bless you all for your kindness and loving support.

KANSAS, WICHITA Emma Miller

Sis. Gussie Wullsleger hosted the annual Mother-Daughter Banquet on the evening of May 5. She was assisted by her sister, Sis. Judy Langhoffer, and various other members of their families. The message in their program that followed illustrated our need to make sure we have a reservation in Heaven and not to trust in our own talents.

Bro. Phillip Bowers underwent more surgery on Tuesday, May 9. While the surgery went well, Bro. Phil is much in need of our prayers for recovery.

Our graduating senior this year is Glenna Funk, daughter of Bro. Glen and Sis. Sally. It is our prayer for all graduates that they will submit their lives to the greatest teacher of all.

We rejoice with Derek Funk (Bro. Glen and Sis. Sally) that he

(Bro. Glen and Sis. Sally) that he desires baptism. Plans are for us to hear his testimony and witness his baptism the last weekend in May.

Not long ago, we received word by telephone of Bro. Clarence Yackley's death in Phoenix, AZ. After my husband, Bro. Godfrey Miller, hung up the phone, he sat down and began to tell me about his childhood experiences with Bro. Clarence. Godfrey's father died when Godfrey was nearly eleven years old and a tender tie was severed. At that time, Bro. Clarence had a traveling salesman route which included the Kiowa, Kansas territory. He often stopped for overnight accommodations in my husband's family home. Whenever it could be arranged, he then took the fatherless boy with him on the area circuit. What a wonderful Christian role model for a hurting young boy!

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON

Doug and Rebecca Germann

Once again, our congregation has been blessed with many visitors this past month. Our sincere thanks to all who came to share of their time and talents. Visiting ministers this past month include Bro. Steve Sauder and his wife, Sis. Mary, from Tremont, IL. Also, Bro. Jim Plattner and his wife, Sis. Mary Ann, from the Princeville congregation. We were also fortunate to have Bro. Gene Lehman, and his wife, Sis. Verna, with us from Wolcott, IN who shared the World Relief slides with us one Saturday evening. We enjoyed a delicious potluck dinner earlier. A good number came for the slides, including our dear neighbors, Edna Clements and Bealuh Fox. We were especially glad to see Edna out again after her hip surgery

several weeks ago. The entire evening was a blessing and we appreciate your efforts, Bro. Gene and Sis. Verna!

One Wednesday evening we were also privileged to have Bro. Walt Steffen and his wife, Sis. Dorothy, from Milford, IN with us for services. May God richly bless all our visitors. We welcome all who are coming through to stop and visit!

Now that summer is nearly upon us, we think of plans for summer vacation. Several have written for activities to do in the Bluegrass and extending area and for this we are thankful. If you would like information about the places to visit, etc., please write to us:

The Germanns
737 Wellington Way
Lexington, KY 40503

Recently, we attended the funeral of a loved one and one of our boys commented about going to the "reunion". He was quickly corrected by his older brothers, but I had to think about who was really correct. How beautiful it is to think of a departure as a reunion with our Heavenly Father. May we comfort one another with these words and look forward to that great "reunion" day for the true and faithful.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

Marlene Mosher

Rhonda Knochel

Bro. Elias Schlatter (Sis. Ella) has entered a nursing home. We wish the two of them God's blessings and grace to cope with whatever our Lord has in store.

Bay City was blessed to be able to accept three of our Lord's lambs into our flock: Bros. Greg Wackerle (Bro. Sam and Sis. Lorraine Wackerle), Brian Wieland (wife, Charlene; son of Bro. Erwin and Sis. Nena Wieland), and Sis.

Winifred Gorney (husband, John; daughter of Bro. Glen and Sis. Margaret Ruegsegger). We wish these three our Lord's grace and Holy Spirit to guide them onward.

For this wonderful occasion we were blessed to have with us Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH), Bro. Clarence Dietrich (Sis. Betty, Silverton, OR) and Bro. Carroll Gerber (Sis. Louise, Bluffton North, IN).

Our dear Sis. Janel Ramseyer has accepted a position at the Leo Children's Home and she has moved. We miss her but wish her well and God's grace and help be with her.

We wish the healing powers of our Lord to be with Sis. Joanne Stange in her illness.

We wish our Lord's grace and comfort to Sis. Doris Knochel and her family in the loss of her daughter, Karen Dore.

We also wish our Lord's grace and comfort to Chris Mehl (Sis. Alice) and his family in the loss of his brother.

We also have a comforting wish and our Lord's blessings to Bro. Winsor Mosher (Sis. Loretta) and his family in the loss of his sister, Sis. Edna Anderson.

A new little person was blessed to be born to Mark and Lynn Kuch. Timothy Lawrence Kuch was born April 15. He has a big brother, Mark, and his grandparents are Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Lena Wieland.

Bay City has finished World Relief projects for the winter season. We were blessed with very good turnouts to do God's bidding for helping others.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

Tessa Schamback

As I sit here listening to the birds sing high up in the trees, I can't help but wonder if they are singing praises to their Creator.

Do the flowers lift their beautiful faces toward Heaven and share their beauty with the One who gave it to them? Do the stars twinkle brilliantly at night to please the one and only God of the universe? I wonder.

I don't really need to wonder though. I know that all of nature gives back to God what God has given to it. But the question is...do we? Do we praise God no matter what?

It is not hard for us to be joyful and full of praise during the good times in life. April 8 was a beautiful day for the Maibach family as they shared in the wedding of Carl Moilanen (Tom and Kay Moilanen) and Kerry Kirkland (Andrew and Lynn Kirkland). May the Lord bless them with many wonderful years together.

We praise God for the wonderful Christian examples that we find in our older brethren. And we thank Him for the many years that He has given Bro. Floyd and Sis. Perseda Wieland together, as they recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

Our congratulations go out to Bro. Hartzell and Sis. Mary Kaisner as they welcomed their first grandchild, a granddaughter, into the world. Little Taylor Jo was born May 6 to Bro. Ked and Sis. Joanne Gerber (Bluffton, IN). Praise God for the miracle of new life!

As I said earlier, do we praise God even in the bad times? Yes, it is hard---almost impossible it seems. But God is good, and He hasn't forgotten us. Bro. Dave Fortenbacher (Kitchener) has not been forgotten either, as he is remembered in our prayers during his recovery.

And thank the Lord for prayer! What a wonderful way to speak to our Creator in a very personal way. On May 4, Detroit hosted services at Woodhaven as a part

of our country's National Day of Prayer. We pray that the Lord's will can be done through those that lead our nation.

On May 5, we gathered once again to share Holy Communion. God's presence was surely felt as we remembered the precious gift God gave us through His Son on the cross! Because of Jesus' sacrifice, we are able to look toward Heaven and anticipate eternity with no more worries or sorrows...I wonder what it will be like there.

Sunday, May 14, was a special day here in Detroit. We could feel God's love surrounding us as Bro. Mark Bahr was ordained as our new Elder. We are praying for Bro. Mark and Sis. Bev and their family as they are beginning a new chapter in their lives. Elder Bros. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN), Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) and Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI) were here to share in the special day. We also thank Bro. Jim Ramseyer (Bay City, MI) for sharing the Word with us during the morning service.

With May drawing to a close, we see lives changing and new beginnings...beginning. Our high school graduates this Spring are: Sis. Amy Bahr (Bro. Mark and Sis. Bev), Bro. Ben Denes (Bro. Frank and Sis. Sanche), Bro. Scott Rear-don (Bro. John and Sis. Linda), Kevin Haines (Leland and Katie), Tara Jermo (Ernie and Bonnie), and Michael Peterson (Diane). Also, Bro. Mike Reinhard has graduated from college.

Along with the end of Spring we find ourselves welcoming Bro. Kevin Schaefer (Tremont, IL) and Bro. Ken Beyer (Sabetha, KS) to our congregation as they will be working here this summer. We welcome Bro. Leonard and Sis. Audrey Hitz back from Florida as well.

In closing, the Toledo congrega-

tion is scheduled to host Tuesday evening services at Woodhaven on July 11. All are welcome to attend and share in the praises sent to our Heavenly Father. We can express our joy just as the birds do all day long.

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS

Perry Virkler

We rejoice with Bro. Ted and Sis. Kelly Schmidt in the birth of their first child, a baby boy. Tory Joseph was born on Mother's Day, May 14. May God bless them as they strive to raise little Tory in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Happy grandparents are Bro. Marlyn and Sis. Lois Messner (Winthrop, MN) and Bro. Ivan and Sis. Evelyn Schmidt (West Bend, IA).

Elder Bro. Leroy Messner (Winthrop, MN) was our visiting minister on Mother's Day. We truly appreciate his visit and labor of love.

What a joy it is to see the evidence of Spring all around us, as the trees bud forth, the grass turns a beautiful green, the birds return and the flowers break into bloom. Let us never forget who is the great Creator of these miracles of life.

After the Winter...

God Sends the Spring

Springtime is a season
of HOPE and JOY and CHEER,
There's beauty all around us
to see and touch and hear...
So, no matter how downhearted
and discouraged we may be,
New Hope is born when we behold
leaves budding on a tree...
Or when we see a timid flower
push through the frozen sod
And open wide in glad surprise
its petaled eyes to God...
For this is just God saying---
"Lift up your eyes to Me,
And the bleakness of your spirit,

Will lose its wintry darkness
 and your heavy heart will sing"---
 For God never sends THE
 WINTER
 without the JOY OF SPRING.
by Helen Steiner Rice

At this time of the year, we have a special day set aside to remember our fathers and all the love, help, support and guidance they have given us in life. May we always appreciate our fathers here and especially our Heavenly Father who guides and watches over us in this life.

A Tribute to Dad
 God took the strength of a
 mountain,
 The majesty of a tree,
 The warmth of a summer sun,
 The calm of a quiet sea,
 The generous soul of nature,
 The comforting arms of might,
 The wisdom of the ages,
 The power of the eagle's flight.
 Then God combined these
 qualities
 And when there was nothing
 more to add,
 He knew His masterpiece was
 completed,
 And so He called it...Dad!
Author Unknown

MINNESOTA, MORRIS

Linda Schmidgall
Maxine Sauder

Choices. Decisions. Options. There are some decisions that weigh down on us more heavily than others. They seem to carry more consequences. Isn't it wonderful if, in these times, we can trust in a God of whom it is written; "Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore." (Psalm 16:11).

Jamie Joos and Nicki Thieschafer have announced their de-

cision to be married May 20. Their parents are Jerry and Cathy Joos and Greg and Julie Thieschafer. May God bless their life together.

We were encouraged to hear testimony of the weight of sin being replaced by the "fullness of joy" in the lives of seven dear souls. We welcome and embrace the following into the fellowship: Sisters Peggy (Schmidgall) Aschemann; Dorothy (Moser) Durkee; Lanette Feuchtenberger (Bro. Gerald and Sis. Karen); Heidi Messner (Bro. Beirne and Sis. Joyce); and Sheila Nohl (Bro. Larry and Sis. Bonnie); and Bros. Matthew Koehl (Bro. Karl and Sis. Marilyn); and Terry Timmerman (Don and Marsha). May each continue to feel the directing of God's hand in their lives. We appreciate Elder Bros. Joe Braker (Morton, IL), Lawrence Luthi (Lamar, MO), and Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT) lending themselves as God's instruments. Also sharing the Word with us that weekend were Bros. Ken Lawson (Phoenix, AZ), Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN), and Bob Stoller (Lamar, MO). That Sunday evening we were all taken to Calvary, to be reminded how the blood and entire body of Christ was broken for us. Now, to stand united together, bound by the love of God.

We rejoice that Ruth Feuchtenberger made the decision to repent for her sins and give her life to God. We trust as she places her hand in His, that He will be a light unto her steps. Her parents are Bro. Gerald and Sis. Karen Feuchtenberger.

The time of reviewing options has come for 14 of our young people as they anticipate graduating this month. They include: Kurt Domnick (Bro. Gary and Sis. Velma); Aaron and Caron Goll (Howard and Edna); Connie Koehl (Bro. Arnold and Sis.

Sharon); Joan Lesmeister (Paul and Sis. Barb); Joan Messner (Bro. Sid and Sis. Cheryl); Bro. Michael Messner (Bro. Tony and Sis. Nancy); Brian Nohl (Ken and Jackie); Jon Nohl (Bro. DeWayne and Sis. Janice); Brian Reuter (Bro. Jim and Sis. Carolyn); Sis. Karla Schmidgall (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Ruby); Tim Schmidgall (Bro. Keith and Sis. Lois); and Kevin and Kurtis Wulf (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Judy). May their choices include clinging to the Hand of the One who can show them the path to Eternal life with Him.

We pray that God will continue to heal and strengthen Bro. Gottlieb Joos, as he recuperates from his recent surgery.

We hear often through the media today about the "absent father". There is action being taken to make them "pay" in dollars, to support their children. What kind of price is it worth to have a Dad that is always there; who exhibits Godly principles in his daily decisions; who can and will help his children lay a strong emotional and spiritual foundation that will stand the storms of a lifetime? Dads, your role is priceless. May you be encouraged to be what God intends fathers to be to their children. May those of us who have caring fathers not forget to tell them we love them for being there for us, and to thank God for this priceless blessing.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

Becky Braulick
Jan Messner

Greetings!

We would like to extend our warmest thanks to the Sunday School children and the single group for hosting our annual Easter Sunday breakfast. May the Lord bless them for their willing-

ness and efforts.

"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. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come."

I Corinthians 11:24-26

We would like to extend our thanks to Elder Bro. Dennis Warner (Sis. Esther) and Elder Bro. Leo Moser (Sis. Leona) from Lester, IA for assisting our Elder Bro. Leroy Messner (Sis. JoAnn) in Communion service and the reading of the Memorandum. May God bless them for laboring on our behalf.

We had our annual voting this month and the Sunday School teachers elected to share God's teachings are Bro. Joe Messner, Sis. Jamie Schmidt, and Sis. Marilyn Messner as teachers, and Bro. Dave Schmidgall and Sis. Lois Messner as substitutes. Bro. Todd Moser was chosen as Superintendent. Sis. Becky Braulick was elected Silver Lining correspondent. May the Lord be near to guide them as they fulfill their duties.

It was with humbled hearts that we came unto the Lord in prayer to reveal unto us a brother for the ministry. This sacred duty has fallen upon Bro. Paul Messner. We must support our blessed ministers so that the church may continue to stand strong for our children and their children's children. We know the weight which must now lie upon the hearts of Bro. Paul and Sis. Jan, but we pray God will ever stand by their

sides.

Our graduates this year are Stephanie Messner (Sis. Carol Ann) and Joshua Schmidt (Bro. Tim and Liz). With His guidance, may you find happiness and fulfillment in the years to come.

We are happy to announce the birth of Tyler Russel Schmidt on April 24. Parents are Wes and Rhonda Schmidt and his sister is Crystal. Grandparents are Gene and Sis. Ella Mae Schmidt. May the Lord bless them and the new addition to their family.

We would like to announce the engagement of Cory Schmidt (Bro. Dick and Sis. Mary Lou) and Nikki Olsen. May they always look to the Lord for guidance throughout the years to come.

We also want to recognize our wonderful fathers as Father's Day is approaching. What a blessing it is to be able to count on our fathers to be there as the pillar in our homes. We want to thank our fathers for all that they do and pray that God will continue to direct them. Some of us have fathers that have already passed on and we want to reflect on the many fond memories we were able to share with them.

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY

Joan Fehr - Jamie Marti

On April 29 we had our semi-annual work day at church. We appreciate all those who helped with the cleaning of the church and grounds.

On May 6-7 we had our invited guest weekend. We enjoyed a supper and singing at church on Saturday evening.

When we asunder part,
It gives us inward pain;
But we shall still be joined in
heart,

And hope to meet again.

Hymns of Zion #156

We will miss having Sis. Tanya Nuest with us. She has returned to Francesville, IN after spending a year here on an internship.

Congratulations to Bro. Brent Kellenberger as he graduates from high school. We wish God's blessings on him as he continues his education at Kansas State University.

MISSOURI, LAMAR

Carolyn Banwart

Becky Marti

"And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you."

Luke 22:19-20

It was a solemn and humbling occasion April 23, as we were privileged to partake of Holy Communion. We thank Elder Bro. Sam and Sis. Jeanette Huber (Sabetha, KS) for being with us for the day.

Our high school graduates this year are: Nancy Stefan (William and Barbara), Gary Banwart (Bro. Gene and Sis. Linda), Bro. Jonathan Banwart (Bro. Alfred and Sis. Carolyn), and Phil Braker (Bro. Bob and Sis. Janice Stoller).

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

Proverbs 22:6

As they go out into the world, may the ways they have learned at home and in Sunday School guide them in their many decisions.

We belatedly welcome Bro. Michael Huber to our fellowship. He moved here this Spring from Eureka, IL. We appreciate the addition he is to our smaller congregation.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

Betsy Schrenk

The St. Louis church has been blessed by the visits of many ministers and their wives recently. We thank the following brothers: Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL), Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL), Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA), Tom Schrenk (Athens, AL), Kenny Knapp (Taylor, MO), Carl Wyss (Washington, IL) and Harold Schmidgall (Gridley, IL). Our family was visiting elsewhere two of the weekends, and we appreciate the brothers who are willing to come and provide continuity in the services for our little church.

Unable to care for herself for several years now, our mother, Ora Schrenk, is making the transition from living in a small group home in Arizona to the Apostolic Christian Home in Eureka, IL. As her mind and memories are failing, there remains one strong desire---to go to church. Even though she cannot reliably recall names, places and events, she can sit in church and sing the hymns. Her love for God and the church remain. We hope and pray that she can have a degree of contentment in that warm, loving atmosphere.

My first volunteer and work experiences were in the Eureka Home when it first opened. What a magnificent Home it has become, meeting the needs of so many at so many different levels! It is a blessing to have such an institution in which to confidently place a loved one who, after a full and successful life, has reached a level of complete dependence on

others. We thank each one in the brotherhood who helps to make our Homes the places that they are.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Rusty and Amy Adrian

It is a special time when we can fellowship with young brothers and sisters from other churches across the land. We were blessed as young groups from Princeville, Goodfield, Champaign, and Bradford assembled with us on the weekend of April 23. Truly it is encouraging to be able to see the joy and peace the Lord puts in each one's heart.

After seeking the Lord's direction for their decisions in life, we extend a hearty welcome to Bro. Keith and Sis. Tami Pflum who have decided to accept employment in Quincy and move here from Bettendorf, IA. May God bless them as they make their church home here in the Taylor congregation.

Our sincere sympathy goes to Sis. Charlotte Hoerr (Bro. Brent) and family for the unexpected death of her mother, Sis. Mary Mangold (Eureka, IL). Oftentimes we may not understand why we have certain trials in life, but how thankful we can be for a loving Lord to turn to for the comfort we need.

Hospital patient this past month was Mary Beth Sutton (Bro. Tim and Sis. Verene). We are grateful that she is recuperating and assembling with us again.

Saturday, May 6, was a special day for many of the mothers and daughters who gathered at the fellowship center for our annual Ladies Spring Dinner. Many blessings were received as they reminisced about the precious memories of all families worshipping since the start of the Taylor Apostolic Christian Church.

NEW YORK, CROGHAN- NAUMBURG

Alice Virkler

Another new family has experienced the birth of their first child when Melissa Farney Villanti was born on April 23 to Sam and Laura Villanti of Fairport. Grandparents are Sis. Bernice (late Bro. Leland) Hirschey and Samuel and Johanna Villanti. May they look to God for guidance as they have this added responsibility of a child.

Sis. Louise (Bro. Larry) Purvines is doing well following surgery for a knee replacement. We are happy to have her in our assembly again. Bro. Bernard Martin was also a hospital patient. It is our prayer that God will continue with those who cannot go in and out as easily as others and that He will bless each of them in their various places of residence.

Ronald Virkler was taken from this life after a short illness. Services were held by our ministers. May God grant comfort to his children, Ronald and Cherie (Leland) Turck, his four grandchildren, and brother, Allyn; all of Croghan.

Sympathy is extended to Sis. Bernice Hirschey and her family. Her brother-in-law, Raymond Hirschey, was taken from this life after illness. His services were held by our ministers.

We want to thank Elder Bro. Ray and Sis. Ann Sinn (Latty, OH) for being with us on the weekend of May 14. On Saturday evening we had a covered dish meal followed by Bro. Ray and our Elder Bro. Duane reading the Conference Memorandum. May we each look to Jesus every day of our life for the necessary strength and guidance for the day. He will supply our every need if we ask

supply our every need if we ask and trust in Him. On Sunday afternoon we were given loving instructions to prepare ourselves for partaking of Holy Communion. May God always bless our Elder brothers for their love and care for us.

OHIO, AKRON

Diane Jarrett
Joyce Gasser

We rejoice that Marissa Soto, daughter of Sis. Susie Soto, has turned to the Lord in repentance. Our prayers are with her to feel God's goodness in peace and grace always.

Our dear Sis. Ruth Taylor has been in a weakened physical condition and has now been receiving care at the Cleveland Clinic Hospital. We hope she will soon be strong enough to be transferred to a skilled nursing facility.

On Mother's Day, we were

pleased to have our Sunday School young people, under the supervision of some of the teachers, serve us a delicious lunch. They had gotten together before and made some of the baked items. We thank them for all their efforts.

Congratulations to Bro. Warren Schlatter of Junction and Bro. Dana Indermuhle of Sardis as college graduates from the University of Akron. We appreciated the times they were able to assemble with us during their college years in our area.

We were blessed to have the opportunity to partake of Communion, and Bro. Eugene Marti (Kansas City, MO) assisted our Elder Bro. Gene Pamer.

Elder Bro. John Klotzle (Atadena, CA) and Bro. Glenn Riggensbach (Smithville, OH) blessed us with their inspiring messages.

There has been a Longaberger pie carrier basket with liner left

at Akron church quite some time ago. We would appreciate seeing it get back to its owner, so if anyone believes it is theirs, please contact us.

OHIO, COLUMBUS

Nancy Banks

Mother's Day was a special day for mothers of all ages in our Columbus church. The Sunday School youth prepared and served our noon meal. We appreciate their thoughtfulness and hard work. It was truly a Mother's Day treat!

Our visiting brothers who so willingly shared with us were Elder Bro. Gene Pamer (Akron, OH) and ministering Bros. John Laukhauf (Latty, OH), Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH) and Ben Manz (Junction, OH). We are thankful for these brothers' efforts and enjoy visiting with the families who usually accompany

GALILEAN HOME *Liberty, Kentucky*

WORK PROJECT OPPORTUNITY IN KENTUCKY



Skills needed:

1. Cement Finishers
2. Plumbers
3. Electricians
4. Carpenters
5. Dry-wall hangers
6. Dry-wall finishers

7. Finish Carpenters
8. Painters
9. Heating and air conditioning
10. General willing workers

Please forward available names to the coordinators listed below.

This is a wonderful opportunity to help

underprivileged children in our own country. We thank you for your assistance and support in this undertaking, and pray that His Spirit will lead each one to do His Perfect Will.

Girls Dormitory Building Project

The Galilean Home Ministries is faith ministry managed by Jerry and Sandy Tucker, for the purpose of caring for the homeless, abandoned, and handicapped children from around the world. Many of the children living there have severe mental and physical impairments. There has been as many as 70 to 80 living there at one time. The home is rustic surroundings in the beautiful hill country. The Tuckers belong to a group with a doctrine similar to old order Mennonites, and have the goal to teach Biblical truths to these children, while ministering to

their physical needs.

Another rewarding activity at Galilean is their "Born Free" Program. This program is the caring for the babies born to female inmates in the Federal Prison system. The babies are returned to the prisons, once each week, to maintain the tie between mother and child. When the mother has finished her sentence, if found capable by the courts, the child will be returned to her. The need has increased as they are now receiving babies from a greater number of penal institutions. Plans have been made to construct the dormitory (shown above) of wood frame de-

sign, to house the babies and their nannies. The plans call for construction to begin between February 6 and 15, 1995, with completion expected in 16 weeks. The building will have a walkout basement, which can be finished at a later date when additional rooms are required.

Bro. Jerome Witzig has offered to be the on-site coordinator, from the beginning through the end of March. Until February 11, he can be contacted by phone at (309) 747-2546, or fax (309) 747-2409. The job site phone will be (606) 787-5120. The phone number for the Galilean Home is (606) 787-8005.

AREA

Illinois
Eastern Indiana
Western Indiana
Ohio

COORDINATOR

Bro. Ken Hodel
Bro. Gerald Fiechter
Bro. Brian Furrer
Bro. Wallace Ramsier

PHONE

(309)923-7281
(219)597-7494
(219)984-5915
(419)368-3106

FAX

(309)923-7983
(219)597-7494
(219)984-5255

them.

As work began on clearing our church lot of extra trees, we were blessed with many helping hands from the Rittman, Smithville and Mansfield churches. We wish to thank the brothers, friends and children who helped in any way.

OHIO, JUNCTION

Sandra Manz

On our wall hangs a plaque which begins: "A careful man I want to be...A little fellow follows me." This was given to my husband on Father's Day some years ago by a loving relative, and it serves as a daily reminder of the influence a father has on those little fellows as well as little girls that follow him around. How blessed are our fathers to have the Bible as the perfect guide to raising our children from infancy on up to adulthood. May we never take this for granted.

While Bro. Clarence and Sis. Betty Dietrich were visiting relatives in our area, he lent himself in the ministry one Wednesday evening. Also, I was kindly reminded that I neglected to mention two visiting ministers several months ago. They were Bros. Bill Hodel and Jim Byrd (Roanoke, IL). My apologies to them because we do indeed appreciate all our ministers' tireless efforts to serve our churches so well. May God add His blessings to your lives.

OHIO, LATTY

Lane Stoller - Kathy Sinn

God has called one of our dear sisters-in-the-Lord Home. Sis. Martha Stoller was relieved of her earthly struggle during the past month. We extend sympathy to her son, John, and daughter, Mary Louise. May her sisters, Sis. Mary Stoller (Bro. Lawrence, Smithville), and Sis. Louise Lauk-

huf, Latty, also feel God's nearness during this time.

Those who sorrow's cross are
carrying,
Strengthen so that without
tarrying,
They to Thee their souls confide.
Purge them; make them ever
purer,
Yet more humble, and yet surer,
That in Thee they may abide.

Zion's Harp #189

Several brethren have been hospitalized during the month. They include, Sis. Louise Rager (Bro. Carl) and Bro. Clem Wieland (Sis. Elizabeth). May God continue to bless these brethren with His healing hand.

Mike and Valerie Klima welcome little Joshua Thomas into their home. Big sisters, Sarah and Audrey, and brother, Jacob, are looking forward to having another playmate. Grandparents are Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Marge Laukhuf and Norbert and Lucile Klima.

Our high school graduates include Gretl Schlatter (Bro. Tim and Sis. Becky), Andy Stoller (Bro. Jim and Sis. Tam), Chris Stoller (Sis. Irma), Gabe Stoller (Bro. Mark and Sis. Shirley), Kim Stoller (Bro. Ray and Sis. Carol), Erica Wenninger (Bro. Larry and Sis. Joyce) and Jennifer Wenninger (Bro. David and Sis. Deb). As these young adults plan their future, we pray that they ask God for His presence in their lives. "So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom." (Psalm 90:12).

As our children come home for the summer, let us take full advantage of our time together. These three months enable us time to correct any false teachings. May God continue to give grace to all parents to bring up their children in the fear of God.

As they learn of the ever-changing world, may we remind them that "All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but all things edify not." (I Cor. 10:23).

OHIO, MANSFIELD

Cari Mann

"And she conceived again, and bare a son;..." (Genesis 38:4). Staci, Julie and Mitchel Beer are all excited to welcome their new brother, Tyler Jay, who was born on April 19 to Bro. Marvin and Sis. Robin. Happy and excited grandparents include Bro. Rex and Sis. Marilyn Beer and Barnie and Beverly Washington. May God add His richest blessings to their household along with their new son.

"But his flesh upon him shall have pain, and his soul within him shall mourn."

Job 14:22

It often makes the souls of the other members of the body mourn when one of us is suffering pain. This month, John Them (Roma) had to have emergency surgery, and Sis. Freda Beer (Bro. Ben) had to have stitches after a fall. We certainly miss them while they are not assembling with us and pray that by God's grace, they can rejoin us again soon.

"If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained."

I Timothy 4:6

Elder Bros. Eugene Marti (Kansas City, MO) and Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI) put us in remembrance of many things when they joined us this month for a mid-

week service. As always, we were thankful that they were willing to share of their time and of themselves as they ministered unto us. May God bless them and all the ministering brethren who so willingly serve us.

As Mother's Day is just past and Father's Day is soon approaching, may each of us take a moment or two to sit down and reflect on the verse "Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee." (Exodus 20:12). It has been said that this is the first commandment with promise. What a precious promise it is! May we all remember that as we honor our earthly father, our Father in Heaven deserves the greatest honor that we can bestow. Let us all strive to honor Him with all our heart, soul and mind.

OHIO, RITTMAN

**Linda Schar
Marsha Rufener**

We were privileged to have hosted the National World Relief Meeting last month. We enjoyed the many visitors and appreciated the labors of the ministering brethren. Special thanks to Elder Bros. John Klotzle (Altadena, CA), John Kokanovich (Phoenix, AZ), Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO), Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL), and ministering Bros. Doug Grimm (Sabetha, KS), Jim Hoerr (Peoria, IL), and Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit, MI). We also want to thank Elder Bro. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH) for ministering to us.

Bro. Gary and Sis. Vicki Schar welcomed their firstborn son, Levi John, on May 12. Happy grandparents are Bro. Rowen and Sis. Judy Schar and Bro. Ron and Sis. Lynell Palitto (Akron, OH).

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Mary Stoller (Bro. Lawrence) on

the death of her sister.

Our sympathy is also extended to Sis. Velma Hartzler (Bro. Reuben) and Sis. Caroline Emch at the passing of their sister-in-law, Nina Winkler.

Mother's Day, May 14, was the wedding day of Bro. Nathan Schar (Bro. Rowen and Sis. Judy) and Sis. Linda Ramsier (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Terri). We appreciate the labors of Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN) for ministering to us on this special day.

A number from our congregation are graduating from high school this year. Our prayers are with them as they begin another step in their lives. Graduates are: David Christian (Bro. Ron and Sis. Joann), Michelle Dotterer (Bro. Bob and Sis. Mardel), Michael Garrison (Rick and Kathy), Aaron Gasser (Bro. Virgil and Sis. Lois), Cheryl Hartzler (Bro. Merle and Sis. Bonnie), Scott Hartzler (Bro. Dick and Sis. Karen), Tonia Hupp (Michael and Vickie), Doug Ingold (Bro. Art and Sis. Bonnie), Kevin Maag (Robert and Martha), Rhonda Pelfrey (Bro. Dale and Sis. Beth), Jennifer Ryan (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Kathy), Gretchen Schar (Bro. Rowen and Sis. Judy), Patricia Smithberger (Barry and Jean), Brad Steele (Bro. Ken and Sis. Martha), Joel Steiner (Bro. Matt and Sis. Gail), Lisa Steiner (Bro. Rich and Sis. Pat), and Jason Thompson (James and Sis. Joyce).

OHIO, SARDIS

Renee Miller

Milan Indermuhle (Bro. Ken and Sis. Linda) has received peace, perfect peace.

"In this dark world of sin
The blood of Jesus whispers peace
within.

When by thronging duties pressed
To do the will of Jesus, this is

rest."

Hymns of Zion #26

We are saddened by the unexpected death of Howard Stalder, son of Robert and Clara Stalder.

"With sorrows surging round
On Jesus' bosom naught but calm
is found."

Sis. Ruth Headley (Raymond) and Sis. Hazel Rigggenbach are again assembling with us after short hospital stays.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE

Edith Miller

Margaret Blough

We had several visiting ministers this past month. Those who shared God's Word with us include: Bros. Don Manz (Junction, OH), Bill Brake (Sardis, OH), Dan Stoller (Latty, OH), Ron Palitto (Akron, OH), and Art Ingold and Henry Dotterer (Rittman, OH). May the Lord bless their efforts.

Florence Hanzie and Sis. Martha Rigggenbach were both hospitalized recently. We pray that both can feel the Master's healing touch.

"Create in me a clean heart, O
God; and renew a right spirit
within me."

Psalms 51:10

There are two more souls who have made the decision to follow Christ. Let us remember to pray for Gina Stoller (Elder Bro. Andy and Sis. Roberta) and Kim Luginbuhl (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Rose) as they begin their walk on the narrow way.

"...wash me, and I shall be
whiter than snow."

Psalms 51:7

On May 6 and 7, we witnessed

dear souls. We welcome Sis. Krista Bauman (Bro. Steve and Sis. Connie), Sis. Cindy Hartzler (Bro. Ken and Sis. Jane), Sis. Ann and Sis. Dawn Maibach (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Lois) into the church family.

"In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

Proverbs 3:6

Once again, it is that time of year where many young people are graduating and beginning a new phase of their lives. Graduates from our congregation include: Jeremy Bauman (Bro. Steve and Sis. Connie), Kimberly Bauman (Bro. Vic and Sis. Brenda), Bro. Brian Miller (Bro. Larry and Sis. Edith), Rebecca Rufener (Bro. Larry and Sis. Susan), Milan Steiner (Bro. Mark and Sis. Sue), Kirby Stoller (Elder Bro. Andy and Sis. Roberta), and Stuart Riggensbach (Bro. Art and Lynne). With so many decisions and new situations to face, may each one feel God's direction and guidance.

OHIO, TOLEDO

Rebecca Beard

Edie Fetter

We have been happy to welcome a number of visitors in the past month. The blessing of fellowship with those who share our faith was greatly appreciated.

Bro. Walter Steffen (Milford, IN) shared the Word with us on April 23. The following week we were blessed to share in Communion. Elder Bros. Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI) and Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) served us during this remembrance of our Lord's gift. Bro. Bill also served on the pulpit the following day.

We were glad to be chosen as the destination for the annual

Chicago bus trip. Among those visiting were ministering Bros. Greg Rassi and Virgil Metzger. We would welcome our guests back any time.

OREGON, PORTLAND

Mary Berg - Lori Martin

I need the prayers of those I love,
While trav'ling o'er life's rugged
way,

That I may true and faithful be.

And live for Jesus every day.

I need the prayers of those I love,

To help me in each trying hour,

To bear my tempted soul to Him,

That He may keep me by His
power.

Hymns of Zion #201

We are happy to hear Tim Miller (Bro. Bob and Sis. Pearl) has turned to the Lord in repentance. Our prayers are with Tim and his family.

Our sincere thanks to Elder Bro. Art Metz and Bro. Clarence Dietrich (Silverton, OR) for giving of themselves to share the Word with us.

As we prepare for the summer months (vacations and visitors), let us always set aside a part of each day for a talk with our Lord, to be thankful for our many blessings.

OREGON, SILVERTON

Peggy Schulz

Faith of our fathers! living still
In spite of dungeon, fire and
sword,

O how our hearts beat high with
joy

Whene'er we hear that glorious
word!

Faith of our fathers! holy faith!

We will be true to thee til death!

Hymns of Zion #85

Where would we be without the faith of our fathers? As Father's Day approaches, may we offer an extra prayer of thanks for our fathers and their examples of faith.

Again this past month, we have had visitors who came to labor with us on our new edifice. May the Lord richly reward each one. We trust the Lord will continue to bless our labors. Lord willing, we will hold Open House on Saturday, July 22, and our dedication service on Sunday, August 20.

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Carolyn (Bro. Ben) Bolliger, as her sister, Lila Maxine Fletcher (Peoria, IL), passed away on April 26.

PENNSYLVANIA, PHILADELPHIA

Franz Soni

"The Lord thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing."

Zephaniah 3:17

We said farewell to Bro. Nathan and Sis. LeAnn Gerber and their children, Sarah, Philip, Leah and Joanna. We will miss this special family as they move to Bluffton, IN. May God bless them.

On May 6, we held our annual church spring cleaning. Much was accomplished and we thank all who participated.

We thank the ministers who visited us this past month: Bros. Lenard Meyer (Chicago, IL), Loren Knapp (Tucson, AZ), and Everett Gerber (Rockville, CT). May God richly bless them for their willingness to serve us.

We encourage all who are vacationing in this area to come worship with us. Services are held Sunday at 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. and Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

If you need more information, please call Elder Bro. Edward Aeschleman at (302) 478-7846.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE Gwen Leuthold

As I am sitting writing this article, I look outside, see the sunshine, the beautiful trees, and hear the birds singing. I can't help but think how quiet, calm and peaceful everything seems after a week of turbulent storms, tornados, flooding, and power outages. God once again demonstrated His magnificent power and vividly reminded us that everything is in His complete control. How very thankful we should be!

Oh Lord my God! When I in
awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds thy hands
have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling
thunder,
Thy power throughout the
universe displayed.
Then sings my soul, my Saviour
God to thee;
How great thou art, how great
thou art!
by Stuart Hine

On April 23, we welcomed ministering Bro. Jim Rinkenberger and his family from Bluffton, IN as well as two sisters from Forrest, IL. We were blessed on May 6-7 with a charter bus bringing the Morton, IL choir and other friends and family. Ministering Bro. Dennis Rassi and his family from Fairbury, IL as well as several others from Fairbury, IL; Goodfield, IL; and Bluffton, IN

also spent the weekend with us. For the first of (we hope) many Sundays, the church was filled to capacity. Thanks to all of you for coming to share in this weekend of fellowship with us. The memories will linger for a long time to come.

Upcoming services are scheduled for June 4 - Taylor, MO; June 18 - Rockville, CT; July 2 - Leo, IN; and July 16 - Eureka, IL. Contact Bro. Don and Faye Sauder (615) 373-8928, or Sis. Gwen Leuthold (615) 352-3940 if you plan to be in the Nashville area.

TEXAS, DALLAS AND ROUND TOP Christine Kaiser Kim Kaiser

Our hearts are saddened that one of our longstanding families in the Houston area have moved north. Jerry (Jerry and Mary Darlington, Waxahachie, TX) and Sis. Sandy Darlington (John and Ella Martin, Elgin, IL) and their three sons, Joey, Jake and Jesse, now live in Marengo, IL near Elgin. They've all been such a blessing to our fellowship. God bless their transition to their new home.

We rejoice with a young soul in Texas seeking God in repentance. We pray that God will continue to strengthen and direct Daren Metz (Bro. Gene and Sis. Carol, Forrest, IL) during his conversion and throughout his life. Daren attends Texas A & M University in a masters program. We truly enjoy his presence at our gatherings.

The recent visiting minister in Dallas was Elder Bro. Wes Knapp (Goodfield, IL), along with his

wife, Sis. Mildred. In Round Top we had Bro. Mike and Sis. Carol Rieker (Peoria, IL). We sincerely thank all of them for their loving support and fellowship.

Round Top schedule --- Services for the Houston/Austin area are held at Bro. Bill Zeltwanger's home in Round Top, TX on the last Sunday of each month. Contact Bro. Bill at (409) 249-5102 for schedule confirmation and directions.

Dallas schedule --- Services are usually held on the first and third Sundays of each month at the Holiday Inn in DeSoto, TX. Service times are 10:30 a.m. and 12:00 noon. Please contact Bro. Howard and Sis. Dolores Rapp (214) 867-4074, or Bro. Greg and Sis. Christine Kaiser (214) 335-0105 for additional information. It's always good to check on possible schedule changes when visiting Texas.

TEXAS, ZAPATA Viola Perdelwitz

We were happy to have Bro. Ephram Kipfer and his wife, Sis. Marilyn (Latty, OH), visit us the weekend of April 21. They brought boxes of clothes and blankets, collected by people from Latty, OH and Leo, IN to be distributed to the families of migrant workers. The deserving families that receive these things are invited by Mrs. Trevino, the teacher of migrant children, to come and choose what they need. This is one of our World Relief projects. We wish to thank everyone that has taken part in this project.



"THE GLORY OF HIS PRESENCE"

Sermon by Bro. Floyd Frieden of Elgin, IA

Exodus 9:19-35 and Acts 7:30-60

It would seem that the Lord would have something to speak unto us concerning the Old Testament times. He opened unto us in the first reading, the Book of Exodus, which spoke of Moses and the many plagues that were brought upon Egypt and how they were all directed of the Lord.

In the second reading, we opened up to the Book of Acts, where the Lord again spoke to us of Moses and Egypt. It even started somewhat before.

"And when forty years were expired, there appeared to him in the wilderness of mount Sina an angel of the Lord in a flame of fire in a bush. When Moses saw it, he wondered at the sight: and as he drew near to behold it, the voice of the Lord came unto him, Saying, I am the God of thy fathers, the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. Then Moses trembled, and durst not behold." (Acts 7:30-32).

When we think that that same God--the same God of Abraham and Isaac and Jacob--is our God today. That same God wishes to speak unto us today to lead us, guide us and direct us just as He did His own children, the children of Israel, many years ago.

We find that we are just like them in so many ways even though we are the Gentile people. We have been grafted in. We have been given the opportunity for a way that was not originally for us.

Jesus made the way. He paid the price. Yet, we walk in the way of disbelief. We find that it is hard to accept God's Word just the way we should and apply it to our walk of life just the way we should.

Many times our faith is so weak that we find it hard to believe

everything the way God would have us to believe. Sometimes, when we say that we believe, we find that we are just too weak to carry out God's plan and to do everything according to His will.

We find ourselves just as God's servant, Moses, did when it said, "Then Moses trembled, and durst not behold." (Acts 7:32). We find in ourselves, so often, a trembling because we know what God has in store for us and we know what we need to do.

Many times we tremble because of our weaknesses. We really do not need to do that. If we commit our lives unto our Heavenly Father and we ask Him to come into our heart and into our life and to do the work, He will do just that. We, of ourselves, cannot carry out those things that God asks of us, but if we lay our lives in His hands, He will take care of us. But we have to submit. We have to move away the pride that we carry.

"Then said the Lord to him, Put off thy shoes from thy feet: for the place where thou standest is holy ground." (Acts 7:33). We might think on that. It is not maybe our shoes today that the Lord is asking us to take off, but He is asking each one of us to remove something from our life, and that is sin.

God is asking us to remove all sin from our life today. There should be no place that sin can be collected and gathered in our life. It should all be left outside, for today we are in a holy place. Today we are in God's house.

We think of it so often--the security and the safety that we feel when we come into God's house. When we are with our brethren in the Lord, when we are together,

we find strength. There is so much to be thankful for. Then, as we depart and go throughout the week with our daily work and daily cares and concerns, that strength can soon fade away.

Satan comes to us and tries us and tempts us. What is our faith really like? For each one of us, it is very different; yet, we all have very many similarities. There are not any of us who are exempt from trials and temptations. We all have them. The difference is that if we commit those trials to God when they first show up, or if we pray to Him after we fail and tell Him that we are sorry.

"I have seen, I have seen the affliction of my people which is in Egypt, and I have heard their groaning, and am come down to deliver them. And now come, I will send thee into Egypt." (Acts 7:34). God hears our groaning, He hears our murmuring and He hears our complaining. God knows our every care. He knows our every need. There is nothing at all that is hid from God.

The beautiful part is that God can look into our heart. He knows if our heart is sincere or He knows if our heart is false. He knows if we have the desire in our heart to make a change in our life and to turn to Him even though we may speak differently and say that we do not believe and we are not going to make a change in our life. He knows inside if the desire is really there.

I really believe that all of us who are seated here this morning have come for a reason. I think we all believe that there is a God in Heaven and that God has provided a way of salvation.

I really think that we all know

what is expected of us. He leaves that choice up to us. He does not force any soul to change their ways and turn unto Him. Even after a soul makes that commitment unto God, He does not force us to serve Him. He allows us to go day by day doing our own will.

What we need to do is to blend our will into His will until they are the same and it is no longer ours. Then it is God's will completely.

"This Moses whom they refused, saying, Who made thee a ruler and a judge? the same did God send to be a ruler and a deliverer by the hand of the angel which appeared to him in the bush." (Acts 7:35). This was Moses whom they refused. Now we can think, "Are we going to refuse God?" We can. We have that right if that is our choice. It is up to each one of us.

As long as we stay without, that is really what we are doing. We are really refusing God. We are really refusing His ways and we are refusing to give ourselves to Him.

Perhaps we are saying that same thing to God. "Who made thee a ruler and a judge?" (Acts 7:35). We know that He is our ruler and He is our judge. Someday we will be judged, each and every one of us. What will it be like for us?

Today, for as many of us who are assembled here, we have the opportunity to live for Him, to accept His ways, and to give ourselves unto Him. Tomorrow we do not know about. We really do not know about the next hour. But right now we have the opportunity.

"He brought them out, after that he had shewed wonders and signs in the land of Egypt, and in the Red sea, and in the wilderness forty years." (Acts 7:36). God shows unto us signs, too. We can look around about us in this world

and time that we are living. Time is moving on and the end is drawing closer.

Whether or not we want to accept those signs and whether or not we want to commit our life to God, it is still our choice. Inasmuch as many times parents or grandparents or sometimes children would like to make the choice for others, that is not given to us. It is only given to self.

"This is that Moses, which said unto the children of Israel, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear. This is he, that was in the church in the wilderness with the angel which spake to him in the mount Sina, and with our fathers: who received the lively oracles to give unto us: To whom our fathers would not obey, but thrust him from them, and in their hearts turned back again into Egypt, Saying unto Aaron, Make us gods to go before us: for as for this Moses, which brought us out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him." (Acts 7:37-40).

This prophet Moses, who was sent of God to be a deliverer of His children, they turned back from. They wanted idols. They wanted to go back to Egypt after a period of time after they had left.

There is a similarity between Moses and the Lord. The Lord also came and He provided a way of escape. He likewise was rejected by God's people, even as Moses. By some, not by all.

Then there are those sometimes that wish to turn back, those who wish not to travel forward into God's kingdom. They feel that the ways are too thorny and too steep and wish to return back to Egypt and the ways of the world.

If we do such things as that, if we turn our heart and our back away from God, our way is woe. Actually, worse than if we had not

made the beginning. But if we do not make a beginning, what do we have to look forward to? We need to have faith. We need to commit our lives unto God.

"And they made a calf in those days, and offered sacrifice unto the idol, and rejoiced in the works of their own hands." (Acts 7:41).

Don't we often rejoice in the works of our own hands? Something we do or something we accomplish, how we want to pat ourselves on the back and say, "Look what I did."

Yet if the Lord had not given unto us health, strength and physical fitness, we could not build up, make or create. If God would not have given unto us a sound mind, we could not think properly.

"Then God turned, and gave them up to worship the host of heaven; as it is written in the book of the prophets, O ye house of Israel, have ye offered to me slain beasts and sacrifices by the space of forty years in the wilderness? Yea, ye took up the tabernacle of Moloch, and the star of your god Remphan, figures which ye made to worship them: and I will carry you away beyond Babylon. Our fathers had the tabernacle of witness in the wilderness, as he had appointed, speaking unto Moses, that he should make it according to the fashion that he had seen. Which also our fathers that came after brought in with Jesus into the possession of the Gentiles, whom God drove out before the face of our fathers, unto the days of David." (Acts 7:42-45).

We think a little bit about whom God drove out before the face of our fathers. God causes a separation and a dividing. There is coming a time again for that separation and dividing.

He will direct and drive out those who are not prepared.

Continued next page...

Sermon continued...

Those who have not given their heart to Him are going to be separated to go a different direction than those who have been sincere in their walk of life...those who have had a firm foundation built and have stayed with it.

We would really like to think in this morning that when that time of dividing comes, that all of us gathered here in this room this morning, and in this building, can all be traveling in the same direction---that we would all be going home to spend eternity with God, our Father.

The other side is not a pleasant side. It tells us that there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. There will be much pain and sorrow. In Heaven there will be no tears, no sorrow, no pain, but all will be joy and happiness.

Things that we just cannot really, fully understand. We do not know time without an end. Everything in our life here has an end. We do experience pain and tears and trials. But if we are faithful until life's end, those things will cease and joy will be continued.

"Who found favour before God, and desired to find a tabernacle

for the God of Jacob. But Solomon built him an house. Howbeit the most High dwelleth not in temples made with hands; as saith the prophet, Heaven is my throne, and earth is my footstool: what house will ye build me? saith the Lord: or what is the place of my rest? Hath not my hand made all these things?" (Acts 7:46-50).

We each one can make a house for God. We each one can build that house, and it is expected of us. It is right in our heart. If we are willing to open our heart and let Him in, God will dwell there. His Word tells us that -- that He will dwell within our heart if we will provide for Him a place of abode, a place to dwell, and a place to live. We really all do want that. We all do want Him within our heart to guide us and to direct us that we can someday be with Him in Heaven above.

The fifty-first verse speaks to some of us..."Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye. Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers:

Who have received the law by the disposition of angels, and have not kept it." (Acts 7:51-53).

Again, it is our choice. Do we want to be a stiffnecked and uncircumcised-in-heart people? Do we wish to plug our ears unto the Word of God and not hear because we are afraid to make a change in our life before our friends or those whom we work with or walk with?

It does not get any easier the longer we wait. Today, we have the opportunity. Satan is never going to let us rest. He always is going to have an excuse. No matter what it is. Each one of us can think of our own walk of life. We can think how many years we have gone until this day. There has always been an excuse. It has maybe changed over the years.

Maybe it started in school. We couldn't do it when we were still in school. We couldn't do it then because we went to college. We couldn't do it because maybe we went to the military. We couldn't do it because we just got employment. And on and on and on it goes and it will continue that way if we continue to listen to the devil. God is beckoning us today. Let us open our ears and our hearts. Let us receive God today.

HEAVEN'S GROCERY STORE

I was walking down life's highway, a long time ago.
When one day I saw a sign that read, "Heaven's Grocery Store".
As I got a little closer, the door came open wide
And when I came to myself, I was standing inside.
I saw a lot of angels, they were standing everywhere.
One handed me a basket and said, "My child, shop with care."
Everything a Christian needed was in that grocery store,
And all you couldn't carry, you could come back the next day for.
First I got some patience, love was in the same row.
Further down was understanding; you

need that everywhere you go.
I got a box or two of wisdom, a bag or two of faith.
I just couldn't miss the Holy Spirit, for He was all over the place.
I stopped to get some strength and courage to help me run this race;
By then my basket was getting full, but I needed lots of grace.
I didn't forget salvation, for salvation that was free,
So I tried to get enough of that for both you and me.
Then I started toward the counter to pay my grocery bill,
For I thought I had everything to do my Father's will.
As I went up the aisle, I saw prayer, I just had to put that in,

For I knew when I stepped outside, I'd run right into sin.
Peace and joy were plentiful, they were on the last shelf,
Song and praises were hanging near, so I just helped myself.
Then I said to the angel, "Now how much do I owe?"
He smiled and said, "Just take them everywhere you go."
I smiled at him and said, "How much now do I really owe?"
He smiled again and said, "My child, Jesus Christ paid your bill a long time ago."

Submitted by Bernie and Lois Gebler

Silver Threads

A TRIBUTE TO DAD

"God is like my Daddy"
So a little girl would say.
And truly, in her trusting eyes,
It often seems that way.

She hears of One who's strong and great,
Who keeps her from all harm.
To her, there's nothing stronger
Than her Daddy's loving arm.

He's her ruler and provider,
He's her leader, friend and guide.
And she loves to sit and talk with him;
To listen and confide.

There are times she's disobeyed him
And she dreads to see his face.
But her father soon forgives her,
And she learns about God's grace.

When the night is dark and scary,
Filled with all the things she fears,
Just a tender word from Daddy
Soon erases all her tears.

"If I know that God is loving,
That the best of gifts He gives,
If I know about His judgement,
And how freely He forgives,

If I know He's always with me,
That He's faithful, wise, and true,
If I know God's like a father
It's because, Dad, I know you!"

Author Unknown
Contributed by Thelma Schlatter
Leo, IN

"Over Darkness, I've Won"

As we awaken each morn to the light of earth's sun,
It seems to say, once more, "Over darkness, I've won."
Let the sun shine in your heart, with a smile on your face
And the problems of each new day, you may erase.

As we awaken each morn, to the light of God's Son
He seems to say once more, "Over darkness, I've won."
Let God's light shine in your heart; a smile on your face.
And the problems of each day, you now can erase.

The sun lights the way for the pathways of earth,
Be it work, school or play, sorrow or mirth.
But night always returns, with darkness and fear
'Til the morning sun, does again reappear.

The Son lights the way for Heaven's bright shore,
Where all darkness will fade forevermore.
If you want to say, "Over darkness, I've won,"
Keep your eyes on the eternal, Light of God's Son!

Virginia Rauch, Bluffton North, IN congregation



REMEMBERING

Our Spiritual Heritage

In the context of present-day American religious freedom, it is difficult to comprehend the difficulties our forefathers in faith endured in 19th century Switzerland.

In Samuel Froehlich's time, the state church was still in force and to oppose it and practice another doctrine was a dangerous vocation. While the harshness had diminished from that exerted toward the Anabaptists of the 1500's, a firm hand from the state and the state church was a reality for Froehlich and his followers. They were still hated as "re-baptizers" (as were the Anabaptists). Because the church and the state were one entity, any who worshipped in other churches were considered both heretics and traitors.

Often, when our forefathers were haled before Swiss courts, they would confess they were only preaching the Word of God according to Christ and the Apostles. A judge once told them, "We don't live anymore in the time of the Apostles. It has become different now." Such was the blunt, stern attitude of the state.

Samuel Froehlich and his zealous new ministers were the new "literalists" who preached directly from the Word, using it as the final rule of doctrine and life. If suffering and oppression was to be their lot, they saw this as the cost of being faithful to God---and they were willing to suffer.

Froehlich wrote on February 26,

1836, "...that followers of Christ must walk the narrow way and at a price in which often nothing remains but the grace of Christ."

His new churches challenged the concept of infant baptism. This brought enormous rebuke from the state church. Also, the teaching of a pure church upset the theological leaders of the state church because the latter felt the church was to consist of both the devout and the wayward. To them, all citizens, from infancy on, were a part of the state church.

As the preaching and establishing of new churches took place, Samuel Froehlich wrote, "I am oppressed on all sides. I have great conflict within myself." Over the years of his short life (he died at age 53), he suffered deep mental anguish as a result of both civil and religious opposition.

Many souls embraced the doctrines of repentance and conversion and God blessed the preaching of Froehlich and his co-laborers. As state authorities took note of this, they began to exert themselves, much to the detriment of the new churches.

In the early 1830's, Froehlich was known and reviled throughout Switzerland as a "dangerous sectarian". Newspapers called for his progress to be halted. Once in Appenzell, believers were given bloody beatings and fined up to 100 gold pieces each.

On April 13, 1831, he was

warned by authorities for preaching in Leutwil. On May 6, he was dragged from a meeting to police headquarters. Officers tore his clothes and emptied his pockets looking for books and writing materials. He was banned from Canton Aargau.

On September 2, 1832, Froehlich spoke to nearly 500 souls in Langnau. The next day he was arrested and told to leave the area within 24 hours. Such was the cost of faithfulness.

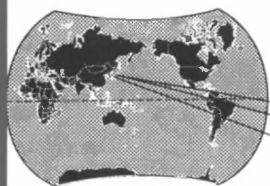
When Froehlich spoke in Hauptwil in 1834, a storm of protest and conflict broke out. Public warnings and hostile newspaper editorials were lodged against him. Twelve state church pastors demanded his removal from Switzerland. He became a hated figure by governmental and church officials across Switzerland. Police began watching his every move. Yet, he remained faithful.

Sometimes local mobs were incited to charge worship services. Listeners were manhandled, beaten and shoved around. Using sticks and stones, opponents would unleash their hatred and blood would be shed. Once, a mob of several hundred destroyed a believer's house. The owners managed to escape with their lives.

By Bro. Perry A. Klopfenstein

Next Issue:

More Persecution



The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean



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"A Father's Dilemma"

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

The dilemma I'm talking about has to do with being strict and kind at the same time. That's enough to make any father throw up his hands in despair.

Let's start with the parable of the prodigal son. The father could be faulted for giving the younger son his inheritance just because he asked for it. It may be that the father simply wanted to be kind and had no idea that his son was going to waste it on sinful things. When the younger son returned, the father was blamed by the older son for celebrating his homecoming. The father responded, "Son, thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine." (Luke 15:31). Obviously, this was a kind father, but he suffered very much waiting for his younger son to come home, and then he suffered again because he was blamed by his older son.

We could conclude that this father was at fault and that he

should have followed the teachings in Proverbs about correcting your sons and he would have saved himself a lot of heartache. But let's not be too sure. He may have spanked his children when they were small but there comes a time when they outgrow that. Also, the New Testament wisely teaches, "And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." (Ephesians 6:4).

Something else to consider is the teaching in Luke 6:31, "And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise." If we are to treat people outside of our families like we want to be treated by them, how much more should we treat those of our own families like we want them to treat us, including our children so far as respect and consideration is concerned. This is not a simple matter. As a young person, I requested my father, Pa Ehnle, to talk things

over with me if he felt I had made a mistake but I'm not sure I always gave our own children that much consideration. Surely we should be stricter with ourselves than we are with others, including our own children. If we could be more perfect ourselves, we might be a better inspiration for our children.

In I Corinthians 4:15 we read, "For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers:". Spiritually, too, it is difficult to be the father we are supposed to be. I was taught that love alone is not enough. Evidently, you have to be very strict while being very kind, and I'm back in my dilemma again. To all of you who are not fathers, please forgive us and try to understand. We're trying, but this business of being a father is a complex assignment. I call it, "A Father's Dilemma". We should do the best we can and leave it with God.

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Wolcott, IN - 1903

At the turn of the century, brethren seen the need to build a church at Wolcott, IN. This area was the scene of early pioneer hardships, but the brethren perservered and the congregation built a new facility in 1952 which is still being used today. The little whitewood churches of the early 1900's have given way to the modern brick churches, but the old time faith is still prevalent today.

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