

An aerial, black and white photograph of a rural landscape. The land is divided into numerous rectangular and irregular patches of varying shades of gray, representing different types of vegetation, fields, or forests. The perspective is from directly above, looking down on the terrain.

# *The Silver Lining*

*God looked down from Heaven upon the children of men, to see  
if there were any that did understand, that did seek God.*

June 1999

# "JESUS IS THE GREATEST TEACHER"

*Sermon by Bro. Mike Baumann, Mansfield, OH*

## Amos 7 and Luke 21

We have read a rather lengthy chapter but I did not know just where to break and as the Spirit directed me, I kept on reading. We have read a portion of Scripture that belongs to the last days of the Lord Jesus Christ here upon this earth. As He went into the temple, it says here He looked up. As the Lord goes through our church today, I am quite sure He is looking up.

He saw the rich men casting their gifts into the treasury and He also saw a certain poor widow casting in thither her two mites. He noticed both the rich and the poor. Loved ones, it is really not wrong to be rich. Money is a good servant, but a poor master. If we let money master us, we will indeed be poor, no matter how much money we have.

He looked also at the poor widow. There is a lesson in that—a lesson for me in this at least. The Lord sees how much we give and He warns us in other Scripture passages that when we give, we should not give that men might see us and that we might receive a great reward and a pat on the back. He sees how much we give and He also knows how much we have left, doesn't He, according to this Scripture passage? He knew that the rich gave and they gave of their abundance. He knew that the poor widow gave and that she had nothing left. He knew how much was left for the widow. He knows us, also, how much we give and He knows how much we have left.

Then they came and spake to Him about the adorning of the temple. Normally, it is referred to as Herod's temple. Herod built

this temple and he wanted to please the Jews and be a good Roman ruler. It was so beautifully adorned, historians tell us, that in the mortar joints of the temple, they placed gold. It was beautifully adorned and it was a big temple. They wanted to point that out to the Lord Jesus.

Loved ones, speaking about in our first meditation in reading of the future, what about the future of these thirty-eight verses? How these two beautifully blend together!

Here is the Prophet of prophets, the Son of God. The greatest teacher that ever walked upon this earth is Jesus Christ.

They have asked Him, but shouldn't He look just at the temple? They have received a lot more. I'm thankful that God gives us whenever we ask of Him, not just what we ask, but our cup runs over. Wouldn't you say the cup of these disciples ran over? Loved ones, it has been preserved for us, and for us especially because we believe we live in the last of the latter days.

There are really two prophecies entwined one into the other. It is hard for me, but maybe some of you can do it better than I can. I cannot really tell you where it starts and where it begins, but there is definitely two prophecies that our Lord prophesied here. One, the destruction of the temple and the driving of the children of Israel among all nations. That took place in the year 70 A.D. They rebelled against the Roman Empire and for those who have been to Rome, (I've been there twice) there is a big statue of Titus the

Great.

In the year of 70 A.D. they laid siege to Jerusalem and destroyed it and made sure that there were no Jews living in Jerusalem. The temple was taken apart stone by stone just as the Lord said, "...there shall not be left one stone upon another." (Luke 21:6). Brothers and sisters, God's Word—every Word—means what God said. There is nothing left out. We need to read slowly and carefully because if we leave one or two

*Sermon continued on page 46*

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

## Light From The Word



Writings based  
on God's Word

June 1999

### Steadfastness

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord" (I Cor. 15:58).

In an era that displays a great deal of instability, the general trend among mankind is significantly reduced commitment to the family, to the place of employment, to the community, or to the church. The children of God must carefully examine their attitudes and commitment to serving God.

There are a significant number of factors contributing to this problem. The self centered philosophy of our time encourages individuals to place self above family, community and God. The rapid change in technology requires many heads of families to change jobs far more frequently than was the case only a few decades ago. The global economy requires some corporations to be very flexible with their work force in order for them to remain competitive.

In the not too distant past a father could choose an occupation and expect to spend his entire working life in the same job. Although the standard of living was significantly lower than it is now, this long term employment in the same job generally provided significant stability for families.

Sons tended to follow their fathers in the same line of work. Multigeneration families reinforced stable values from one generation to another. This stability extended to the church where it was far more likely than today that families worshiped together in the same church all of their lives.

As the Industrial Age gave way to the Information Age, extremely rapid changes occurred. As these rapid changes occurred, workers, which unfortunately now includes many mothers as well as fathers, are often required to make frequent, sudden and drastic changes. Parents are often required to choose between economic sacrifice or social upheaval by moving their families to new communities. Although this phenomenon is not entirely new, the

speed and frequency with which it occurs has increased almost beyond comprehension.

This has had a powerful impact on families. It is more important than ever that parents provide a spiritual atmosphere that brings stability to the family.

As children of God, we have access to an anchor that will provide the needed stability for our lives and for the lives of our children. The Word tells us that "...I am the Lord, I change not;" (Mal. 3:6) and "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever" (Heb. 13:8). God's mighty creation offers us evidence of His might and stability. We may be fortunate enough to fly high above God's earthly creation and see land forms created thousands of years ago that are evidence of God's power and stability. Mountains rising thousands of feet in the air stand firm against the tide of change.

God's children have access to stability if they are willing to be steadfast and unmovable in their faith. The tenants of faith that were so important to the prophets of old, and to the early disciples of Christ, have not changed.

The Bible gives us many examples of steadfastness among God's servants. Josiah, in performing his duties as King "...did that which was right in the sight of the Lord, and turned not aside to the right hand or to the left" (II Kings 22:2). Job, in the face of terrible trials "...held his steps, his way have I kept, and not declined" (Job 23:11). The three Hebrew children, facing the wrath of King Nebuchadnezzar and the fiery furnace said "...we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image..." (Dan. 3:18). Peter and John said "...Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:19-20). Paul in facing certain death said "But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy...to testify the gospel of the grace of God" (Acts 20:24).

The perfect example of steadfast-

ness, of course, is Jesus Christ. Having been in Heaven, totally free from trials and temptations, He was willing to come to earth to face the temptations that Satan would bring. He knew what was before Him; and the sacrifice that was necessary to make the way of salvation possible. Jesus "...steadfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem" (Lk. 9:51) to pay a debt He did not have, because He knew we had a debt we could not pay.

As God's children, we can be beneficiaries of Christ's redemptive work if we will be steadfast in our faith and our service to Him. To this end we receive encouragement from many places in the scripture. "Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage" (Gal. 5:1). Peter encourages us to resist Satan and be "...steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world" (I Pet. 5:9).

We know that in the last days "perilous times shall come"

(II Tim. 3:1) and that conditions of sin will get worse. We also know that God has placed a limit to how far He will allow people to go in sin. To avoid the fate that awaits the unfaithful, we are urged to "...continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them;" (II Tim. 3:14).

In the Revelation of St. John, all of the seven churches were told that they had work to do to achieve the mark of perfection. In each case there was a promise made "...To him that overcometh..." (Rev. 2:17).

We have a duty and a wonderful opportunity to search for the truth of God's Word and to apply it to our lives. God's promise to those who remain steadfast is as sure today as ever. We must all hold fast to the promises of God that we can reap the benefits awaiting those who are faithful.



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

## Distribution Centers and Material Aid Coordinators

God has blessed our Apostolic Christian Church with many material blessings. We thank Him that He has also placed in the hearts of our brethren to share these blessings with those less fortunate. Good stewardship of donated funds and goods requires diligence and organization.

### New committee created

To coordinate all of the activities across the nation, the World Relief Committee (WRC) appointed a group of brothers to establish a workable arrangement for efficient handling of material goods. It was called the Material Aid Committee (MAC), and they have met several times.

The brethren who coordinate operations on a day to day basis were added to the MAC, and as things progressed, some members dropped off the committee. This left a counseling elder, four coordinators, and a name change to Distribution Center Coordinators' Committee (DCCC).

### Goals and function of DCCC

The goal of this group is to use God's blessings to His Glory, and the furthering of His kingdom here on earth. They request and need the support and cooperation of our brotherhood, in particular those who are involved in WRC activities.

### Material Aid Centers

The WRC presently has four international Distribution Centers. They are located at Bay City, MI, Bluffton, IN, Fairbury, IL and Goodfield, IL.

Efforts are under way to create a fifth such facility in central Ohio. Many of the items that are shipped to the needy are being assembled by brethren and friends across the land. They are later sent to one of the Material Aid Centers. This has created an opportunity for those who desire to help the needy both here and abroad to do so without traveling.

### Goods originate at home

The efforts which are ongoing on the local congregation level are the basis of what finally goes through these facilities to the needy around the world.

Both the World Relief Committee and the DCCC directors want to thank everyone who contributes to this program, no matter how small you think your effort is. Tiny grains of sand make up the shore which hold the great ocean in place, and small deeds of kindness bring help to many in great need.

### Examples of useful items

Some examples of goods made and packaged by brethren and friends include: comforters, layettes, bandages, homemade soap, motel soap, health kits, sewing kits, pre-natal kits, edible beans, etc. The list could go on and on, and just because a product is not listed here does not mean it is not appreciated or beneficial. Reality is that if something would be useful in your home, it can be used in those countries we supply with aid. However, shipping costs must also be taken into consideration.

### Liason contacts for WRC activities

In order to give our loyal supporters the necessary information as to

whom to contact concerning specific items, we are printing the names and phone numbers of persons responsible for various items.

### DCCC Coordinators

**Bay City** - Kurt Munsel  
Phone & fax: 517/686-6634  
Work: 517/686-5681

**Bluffton** - Gerald Fiechter  
Phone & fax: 219/597-7494

**Fairbury** - Glen Steidinger  
Phone: 815/692-2374  
Work & fax: 815/657-8786

**Goodfield** - Marvin Wagenbach  
Phone: 309/925-5628

### Regional Aid Coordinators

**Haiti** - Bob Honegger  
Phone: 219/622-4186  
Fax: 219/622-4183

**Jamaica** - Kurt Munsel  
Phone & fax: 517/686-6634  
Work: 517/686-5681

**Mexico** - Cheryl Hermann  
Phone: 309/385-1082

### Item Coordinators

**Beans** - Kurt Munsel  
Phone & fax: 517/686-6634  
Work: 517/686-5681

**Kits** - Les Fehr  
Phone: 815/646-4536

**Soap** - Glen Steidinger  
Phone: 815/692-2374  
Work & fax: 657-8786

**Soup** - Bob Steffen  
Phone: 219/565-3383

### Shipping Coordinator

This is for general shipping no matter where the shipment is consigned.

**Shipping** - Gerald Fiechter  
Phone & fax: 219/597-7494





## 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

### Crisis In Yugoslavia Our brethren continue to suffer

As the war continues to affect our suffering brethren in Yugoslavia, the European Board continues to monitor the situation. This Board held a conference call on Tuesday, May 18. At that time they explored the various options in bringing assistance to this troubled group of souls.

There is no mail service into Yugoslavia, but we are grateful for the modern means of communication. Up to this time we have been able to communicate by e-mail and sometimes by telephone. The advantage of e-mail is that it can be sent during the times when the electricity is on in Yugoslavia. Often this window of opportunity is very short. The recipient can access this message at any time after it is sent. Some of us who are older do not fully understand this process, but it is a part of the world we live in. We appreciate this means of contact, as other means continue to become more limited.

### Letter from an elder

On May 17 we received a letter from an elder in Novi Sad, which has been hard hit by bombing. He does extend his greetings to all the American brethren, pleading at the same time for our prayers.

The situation is very serious as the bombing of this stricken land continues. Our brethren avoid all political involvement, choosing rather to remain separated from the world and trust in God for protection. Thus far, there have been no human casualties among our people. There has been destruction of property, and loss of employment, which means no income. The elderly are receiving only half of their pensions, and sometimes not even that. To address these needs, we continue to send funds to them.

### Getting funds in

The letter stated that they can still get consumer goods in the country, and our best means of help is by furnishing funds to purchase these items.

However, even the means of transporting funds are becoming less. A railroad overpass just south of the Hungarian border was bombed. This means there is no train service to Hungary. Thus, no one can ride the train across the border to pick up money or supplies.

No male between ages 16 and 65 is permitted to leave the country. Few, if any, men over 65 or women of any age can drive a car. We are fortunate to have someone from Germany who is still able to cross the border without problem, and can assist us in this endeavor. Please pray for their safety.

### Elders meet together

The Yugoslavian elders meet regularly to discuss the best means of providing for their suffering flocks. Our relationship with these brethren is good, and God has provided means where we can work together. *And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.* ROMANS 8:28

### Fuel is very scarce

Fuel for transportation is very badly needed at this time. However, if anyone is caught trying to bring some into the country, the penalty is very high. The brethren feel that the risk is too great at this time for anyone to expose themselves to danger by attempting to carry fuel in.

### Worries about an invasion

The military presence is virtually everywhere, in the city and also in rural areas. It appears the government is preparing itself and the people in case an invasion should come. This

could be catastrophic for our brethren, 85% of whom live in the area through which ground troops could possibly attack if they come through Hungary. Although their faith is strong and they have numerous converts since the war began, anxiety is high among the brethren in the war zone.

It is very hard for us who live in peace to imagine the pressures placed on those who are living through a war. We hope we never find out, but this is not impossible in the day in which we live. Prayer, the source of our strength from God, is of utmost importance. In times like these all of us need to use it more.

### Building a church

The letter stated that they continue to work on church buildings under construction. They requested our support to begin work on another new building. This would do several things. Many brethren are laid off, and could work for pay on the building instead of just being given money. There would be a testimony of faith to the others in the country that we trust in God. This was approved. However, a danger exists that religious persecution could again rear its ugly head.

### Kosovo refugees

The European Board approved sending funds to assist the Kosovo refugees through Christian Aid Ministries. We often cooperate with them on projects such as this, and are comfortable with their methods of operations.

### To sum it up

As one looks at the whole picture, the only bright spot remains our trust in God and His great mercies.

If you wish to help financially, we suggest that you do so through your local church. Funds will be forwarded to the National Mission or World Relief Committee.

## **APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED**

We are pleased to let you know about a major change the Home is putting in place. After much soul searching and discussion, the name of our large home is being changed from Apostolic Christian Home for the Handicapped to Apostolic Christian Timber Ridge.

Many of you have known us since the Home began as just an idea in the minds of some parents. We know there was a great deal of discussion about who would be served and what to call the Home. Since services began in 1971, the name of the Home has been the Apostolic Christian Home for the Handicapped. As times change, so does the meaning of words and how we use them. We have known for some time that our name was no longer accurate and that it was not sensitive to the people we serve. Most of us live in homes, subdivisions, or apartments that just sound like a home. The names of our subdivisions or apartments don't say who lives there or why. We believe the people we serve would like the name of their home to also sound just like a home. While we wanted to change the name, we felt strongly about keeping the Christian identity and the church affiliation as a part of the name.

There is an additional reason for making this change. We have grown from the original home and added additional smaller homes. This has created some confusion in the names of the homes. Originally the name of the large home and the name of the agency were the same. As we have added places, it has become problematic to have the agency and the large home the same. When people call or talk about the large home, they no longer know what to call it. We believe that giving the large home

its own name will clarify this. The legal name of the agency will continue to be Apostolic Christian Home for the Handicapped. We will use this for legal purposes and, when appropriate, to communicate with the churches.

We have discussed this new name with families, residents, staff and others and it has been well received. We are excited to put this in place and hope that all of you can also be comfortable with the change as well. A name change will inherently cause some confusion and some questions. We ask for your patience and cooperation in this change.

Residents celebrating birthdays in July are: ACHH - Randy Sieben-thal (3), Gary Feller (5), Walter McKeever (16), Michael Oates (18), Daniel Zimmerman (18), Clark Lewis (24), Janet Giberson (29), Kristie Ramp (31); OAK-WOOD ESTATE -Chris Knapp (17), Todd Schneider (29); LINDEN ESTATE -Billie Tatum (1), Cindy Virkler (6), Michelle Maloney (19); HAZELWOOD - Ed Getz (31).

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## **GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME Denise Klopfenstein**

Spring is in the air, and at Gateway Woods it brings a time of planning and anticipation of the summer months. During the summer, we take advantage of the extra time we have with the children to teach vocational skills, provide summer school classes and remedial education, teach independent living skills to older children, and enjoy some fun outdoor activities. We are thankful that God has provided Melissa Flickinger to help in the areas of summer school and independent living skills training.

We also look forward to having volunteers through the summer,

and welcome Bro. Clint Kaeb (Bloomington, IL) who will be working as our Summer Volunteer Coordinator. We depend on volunteer help to "fill in the gaps" during the summer, completing maintenance and household tasks, babysitting, helping with recreation activities, and much more. If you would be interested in spending a week or more volunteering this summer, please contact Clint at (219) 627-2159.

We appreciate the help that Sis. Aimee Meyer (Bluffton) has given us as she spent a week volunteering in May.

In late April, Bro. John Stoller left his position as Child Care Supervisor. We appreciate the years of service John has given to Gateway Woods and are grateful that Bro. Ed Graf will be taking over the job in August. We are also looking forward to the arrival of Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Angie Zimmerman (Roanoke and Peoria, IL) who will be working as Alternate Houseparents.

Sis. Lisa Waibel, who is the Assistant Houseparent in the Graf house, recently announced her engagement to Bro. Mick Laukhuf from Latty. We pray for God's blessing on their life together, trusting that as He provides for them, He will also provide another sister to take over Lisa's job here. We also continue to have a need for a counselor. It is often a test of faith to wait for God to bring the right people to fill staff positions, but we know that He can be trusted to provide for every need in His perfect time. Please see the ads for these positions in this issue. If God is moving your heart to serve Him in a new capacity, be assured that His strength and blessing will be ever present as you respond in obedience to His call.

Recently we welcomed John H. to the Wiegand household and Ashley B. to the Graf's. We pray

that their hearts will be soft and open to correction and healing during their time here.

## **APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL**

**Athens, Alabama**

**Erin Mott**

The Preschool is finally getting into the summer mode. We just recently had our graduation ceremony, and it was a great success. If only you all could have seen the excited faces there that night — the children were beaming as they got to perform in front of their family and friends. The program went well and only one child stood there in tears. But little Preston taught me a lesson that night. You see, we all can be like him sometimes. We choose to have a poor attitude and we miss out on a blessing — but we all know that even without us, the show must go on and it will (just as it did that night)!

During the summer, instead of our usual monthly themes, we have one bigger topic that we cover until we resume for fall. This summer we chose the seven days of creation to be our focus. We will spend approximately two weeks on each of the seven days. We pray this will be a good learning experience for all of our preschool students and for the few school-agers who are joining us for the summer.

We are excited about the few responses we've received for summer volunteer help, and pray even more of you could come down and experience Athens. The Preschool really is unique and it provides the type of work which touches the heart. If you like working with children, please give us a call. We'll be happy to arrange accommodations for individuals and small groups if you'll give us a little advance notice. Please call the Preschool at (256) 233-0591 or Sis.

Joan Reinhard at (931) 424-5838. Thank you so much for giving of yourselves!

We also want to thank all of you who have supported the children monetarily. This is another area which is always in need because so many families who wish to attend our school do not have the financial means to cover our costs. Please call us if you wish to sponsor a child or contribute to the fund. We truly want to thank you for your time and money, but we thank you especially for your prayers. This is a way in which all can help out, and we're thankful you do. God bless you all!

## **ALABAMA, ATHENS**

**Joan Reinhard**

Saturday, April 24, was the day set aside for a work day up at the Tennessee Fellowship Area in preparation for our Memorial Day Singing. We appreciated all who came up to Tennessee to help for the day. It is amazing how much working side by side with our brothers and sisters toward a common goal, just draws us together. It just strengthens the ties that bind us together. We had some visitors there that day and appreciated their efforts, too. We look forward to enjoying the fruits of our labor when Memorial Day comes.

We have had visitors this month from Bradford and Goodfield, IL and Junction and Smithville, OH. Thank you for coming and worshipping with us. What a day that will be when we worship our God face to face eternally in Heaven.

Sis. Nancy Sizemore's daughter, Stephanie, has spent some time in the hospital this past month. She has Crone's disease and we would all really appreciate prayers said on her behalf. We know God is the Great Physician and can heal if it is His will, but we just pray that

His eternal plan would be fulfilled by the trials of this life.

"I will praise thee, O Lord, among the people: I will sing unto thee among the nations."

*Psalm 57:9*

May 29-30 was the weekend for our 8th annual Memorial Day Singing. We thank all those who came and participated in a time of singing and fellowship. It is truly a blessing when we can gather from near and far and praise our Lord together. If you did not get to join us this year, put us on your calendar for next year. We would love to have you.

## **ARIZONA, PHOENIX**

**Ron and Ev Hoerr**

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity."

*Psalm 133:1*

We are grateful to Bro. Joe Gerst (Iowa City, IA), Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI) and Bro. Doug Wagenbach (San Diego, CA) for bringing us messages of God's love and hope.

On May 2, a reception was held for our graduates. From 8th grade: Aubrey Lindenbaum, Andy Knochel, Sam Sutton. From High School: Ryan Banks, Amy Ebert, Holly Kokanovich, Ashley Zettler. From College: Keri Baum, Nicole Baum, Jeff Klopfenstein, Kalette Niemeyer, Justin Roth, Chris Thorpe. Congratulations and best wishes. A guide for your future is in Exodus 20. God bless you.

Mark and Karen Anliker became parents to Logan James on April 24. Jim and LaVonne Anliker are his grandparents. We have a fine group of wee ones for Logan to join in Sunday School in three years.



Our thanks and appreciation to our Singles Group for serving lunch on Mother's Day. Yes, young folks, it is lots of work. Thank you!

Our hospital patients were Ray Peuschel, Bro. Floyd Banwart, and Bro. John Gerber. Bro. Glen Baumgartner had cataract surgery.

Our sympathy is extended to the Phoenix relatives of Bro. Bill Huber. Several flew to Francesville for the May 3 services.

Likewise to the relatives of Alice Marie Martin Metzger in West Bend, IA.

New officers elected to positions open this year are Bro. Larry Labudde (trustee/secretary), Bro. Joe Greenbank (trustee/ext. maint.), Bro. Nate Knochel (Sunday School Assistant Supt.), Bros. George Gramm, Marshall Witzig, Todd Klopfenstein and Shawn Maurer (ushers), Bro. Erik Langhofer (lunch fund treasurer). Our 1998 Sunday School Assistant Supt. becomes Supt: Bro. Herbert Knochel Jr. We appreciate our retiring officers' dedication in serving the church and the Lord and pray for our new group ready to honor God by serving our church.

Morgan Langhofer has the peace of God in his heart and awaits baptism on June 27. His parents are Bro. Erik and Sis. Cindy Langhofer.

Faith sees opportunities.

Correction: In the May issue, there was an incorrect spelling for Annita Marie Baum. It should have read: Annika Marie Baum was born on March 16 to Bro. Scott and Sis. Wendy.

## **ARIZONA, PRESCOTT**

**Jane Hodges**

Even though it is dry once again after the unusual rain in April, the desert is beautiful. The saguaros

are blooming, so it makes them look like they are wearing flowered hats. God's creations are beautiful.

Serving us in the ministry this last month were Bros. Jon Zeller (Morton, IL), Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL) and James Emch and Ken Lawson (both of Phoenix, AZ). We sincerely thank them for traveling the many miles to serve us and pray God will richly bless them and their families.

## **ARIZONA, TUCSON**

**Lisa Knapp**

Our annual business meeting was held in May. May God richly bless outgoing office holders, Bro. Brad Bauer, Sis. Lucy Knapp and Sis. Lisa Knapp for the time and effort they put forth fulfilling their duties. Our new office holders are as follows: Bro. Jay Knapp, Trustee; Sis. Gloria Bauer, Kitchen Chairman; and Sis. Sandy Bauer, primary Sunday School. We also ask God's blessing on the new office holders as they begin their terms.

Our dear Bro. Gene and Sis. Marge Fehr are planning to leave the Tucson area at the end of this week (May 28) and head for Illinois. We had been hoping to have them around for a few more weeks, but instead there will be a farewell for them this Wednesday evening after church. Bro. Gene and Sis. Marge have been a truly wonderful blessing for our little church in so many ways. They have been a smiling, cheerful presence here for many years. It is hard for us as a little church to say goodbye to dear brethren who are led by God to locate elsewhere, but we know we must wish them God-speed and not ask why. We thank Bro. Gene and Sis. Marge for being so loving, caring and easy to entreat as they have assembled with us in the past

years. We will truly miss their presence each and every time we gather together. We can only hope they will do as promised and try to visit us in the winter months, health permitting. We ask God to watch over them on their trip to Illinois and bless them in their new home in Eureka. We love you both!

Our weather has been fairly mild for this time of year. We have had a lot of breezy, warm days with temperatures in the high 80's and low 90's. We sometimes hit 100 degrees in May so we are thankful that this has not been the case in 1999.

## **CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA**

**Jim Klotzle**

As we proceed through life, day by day we realize that we are drawing ever closer to eternity. Our relatively short time spent here as earthly pilgrims is full of valuable opportunities to commune with God, read His Word and do His will. How we act on those opportunities is our service to Him. Recalling the hours of idle thought or vain entertainment wasted during our lives, we must realize that although time lost is gone, our present and future can be all the more devoted to the work and glory of God.

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

*II Timothy 2:15*

A good servant knows and follows the commands of his master. How can we be an unashamed worker for God unless we know His Word and have it hidden in our hearts? May we commit to the regular reading and discussion of the Bible in the time we have left

on this earth.

"And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

*Phil. 4:7*

In the coming weeks, we are also looking forward to the testimonies of our friends, Letty Chavez, Sam and Lilly Bence, and Justin Moser. It is a blessing to see this growth in our small congregation.

We were blessed to have ministering brothers, Elder Bro. Gene Marti and Bro. David Graf, with us this month to share the Word.

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### **ONTARIO, KITCHENER CANADA Laura Baxter**

"But as for me, I will come into thy house in the multitude of thy mercy: and in thy fear will I worship toward thy holy temple.

But let all those that put their trust in thee rejoice: let them ever shout for joy, because thou defendest them: let them also that love thy name be joyful in thee.

For thou, Lord, wilt bless the righteous; with favour wilt thou compass him with a shield."

*Psalms 5:7,11,12*

On May 19, with much joy, we were able to hold our first service in our new church building. We are thankful for the multitude of God's mercy and blessings on our small congregation. Elder Bro. Mark Bahr and retired Elder Bro. Ben Maibach, with their wives, came from Detroit, MI. We appreciate their willingness to help in the service. We are also thankful for their help and advice as we work to complete this building project.

We thank our other visiting

ministers this month, Bros. Victor Bauman (Smithville, OH) and Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit, MI), for ministering God's Word to us.

We welcome all visitors to worship with us. Please note that we are now in our new church which is four miles west of Waterloo on Regional Road 15 in the town of Heidelberg; 52 King St. East, Heidelberg, ON NOB-1Y0 is our church address. Please contact Bro. Mike Ursu (519) 669-8515 or Bro. Wayne Saddler (519) 662-6834 for directions and more information.

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### **COLORADO, DENVER Mark and Kelly Ramseyer**

The end of an era has come for our Denver congregation. On April 3, Sis. Kathryn Ries, then living at the nursing home in Rittman, OH passed away at the age of 97. She was the first member to be living in the Denver area having moved to Colorado Springs in 1977. A few years later in 1980, church services began and the Denver church sprang up. We presently have about 35 members, all of whom are grateful that someone was willing to venture out so that a church and a "family" could be here when we came. We pray that each one of us could add even a handful of members over the next 22 years.

This past weekend we held Communion services. We had several visiting Elder brothers, enough of a ratio that we had to double check to ensure we weren't hosting the Elder Conference. Our counseling Elder Bro. Nate Steffen (Elgin, IL) along with Kansas Elders, Bros. John Lehman (Bern, KS) and Charles Sinn (Ft. Scott, KS), joined us for a reuniting weekend. We were reunited with Jesus and His suffering on the cross for us. We were reunited with God and His incredible plan for us.

We were reunited as a congregation and our common love and commitment. And we were reunited with our Elders who care for us and our trip to Heaven. We pray that over the years these will always be reunions of close friends rather than reunions of mere acquaintances.

While here, Bro. John Lehman mentioned that he plans to return to Colorado in June for a family vacation. It was a quick reminder that our busy guest season is almost upon us. We look forward to see Bro. John again, along with his family. We also invite both old and new guests to come and visit and enjoy God's great creation, as well as to renew our friendships and create new ones.

As the school year ends, we have voted in two new Sunday School teachers. Sis. Lanette Meyer has replaced Sis. Yvonne Lehman and Bro. Mark Ramseyer has replaced Bro. Mike Martin. Both Sis. Yvonne and Bro. Mike have spent much time and energy teaching our children about everlasting goals and keeping them on the straight and narrow path. We pray that God will reward them for their efforts. We also pray that God will help Sis. Lanette and Bro. Mark continue that effort with patience and wisdom.

We are thankful that Bro. Doug Mangers has been transferred here from St. Louis. We welcome him and trust that he will feel God's love extended to him through the brethren here.

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### **CONNECTICUT ROCKVILLE Cherie Galat**

"My Lord, an off'ring do I bring..." (Zion's Harp #163). Four dear souls gave their testimonies and were baptized: Bro. Duane Zahner (Bro. Curt and Sis. Sally),

Sis. Colleen Ryan (Elder Bro. Kevin and Sis. Cheryl), Sis. Shannan Bocchino (Carlo Bocchino and Sherrie Bocchino) and Bro. A.T. Foote Jr. (Silvia). We lift them up in prayer as they walk in newness of life.

Our congregation shared Holy Communion and remembered our Lord's death. What a privilege to gather together in solemnity and be given strength for the coming year. Elder Bros. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) and Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN) assisted our Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan in this work of love and with the baptisms. We also are grateful for our other ministering brethren, Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton, IL), and Bros. Loren Knapp (Tucson, AZ) and Jerry Bauman (Rittman, OH). May He provide these brethren strength to preach the Word in truth.

"Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near."

*Isaiah 55:6*

We rejoice with both of our converts, Mary Manning (Raymond) and Greg Lanz (Sis. Linda). What a joy it is to hear of ones who are turning their life around to seek their God in repentance. Our prayers arise to our Heavenly Father that He would give them grace to fulfill His will.

We lift many loved ones up in prayer as some have had surgery or have been sick in the past weeks: Bro. Everett Gerber, Bro. Clint Webb (Sis. Eloise), Sis. Elsa Champ and Sis. Lois Schulz (Bro. Ken).

"When a Christian dies Precious is the prize!" (Hymns of Zion #248). Our prayers and sympathy extend to the family of Bro. Albert Schneider who passed away on

April 20. May God comfort his dear wife, Sis. Gladys; sons, Bro. Don (Sis. Sandy), Bro. Jim (Sis. Sandra) and Bro. Ralph (Sis. Tina), and other family members. We appreciate his labors of love in past years serving us in the ministry of proclaiming the gospel unto us.

Along with the coming of summer, June is a month that recognizes Father's Day. We have many fathers: our Heavenly Father in Heaven, our parental father and fathers of faith. May God give wisdom to the fathers to instruct their children in the ways of our Lord.

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### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA WASHINGTON Henrietta Meyer

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"Honor thy father and mother."  
*Ephesians 6:2*

We have just celebrated days our government sets aside to honor our earthly parents. How much more do we need to remember to honor and serve our Heavenly Father.

This past month we were only able to meet two Sundays. The ministers those weekends were Bro. David Graf (Akron, OH) and Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH). Other visitors this month were from Rockville, CT and Philadelphia, PA. Thanks for including us in your vacation.

Services are usually held the first, third and fourth Sundays of the month at the Tysons Corner Westpark (Best Western) Hotel, located about one mile west of the Beltway (I-495) on Route 7. In May we will meet four Sundays (2, 16, 23 and 30). In August we will be meeting the second Sunday (8th) instead of the first Sunday. Song service begins at 10:15, worship service at 10:30. If there is an interest expressed by our visitors, we

gather Saturday evening for fellowship and/or singing.

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. Barry Steffen (410) 569-3635.

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### FLORIDA FT. LAUDERDALE Gretchen Webb

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The Ft. Lauderdale congregation was shocked and saddened at the untimely death of John Klopfenstein, who was involved in a fatal boating accident in Mississippi. He is the son of our retired Elder Bro. Darrell Klopfenstein and his wife, Sis. Billie. In addition to his parents, he is survived by his son, David; his brothers, Richard (Sis. Diane) and Daniel (Sally); and his sisters, Sis. Sally Gress (Bro. Rod), Beth Houk (Robert), and Lory Klopfenstein. The funeral service was held in Madison, MS and our counseling Elder Bro. Joe Braker and Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore (Athens, AL) performed the service. We pray for John's family and especially for his son, David, during this difficult time in their lives.

All of us in Ft. Lauderdale express our sympathy to the family of Bro. Albert Schneider (Rockville, CT) and especially to his wife, Sis. Gladys, in his recent death. Bro. Al was a long-time winter visitor in Ft. Lauderdale and ministered to us from our pulpit for many years prior to his retirement from the ministry.

The sacred rite of Communion was practiced by the congregation on Saturday evening, April 24. Assisting Elder Bro. Joe Braker was Bro. Doug Sabo (Sarasota, FL). We thank Bro. Doug for Communion services and for worship services on Sunday morning. What a privilege to be able to partake in the



**Lord's Supper!**

Last month, Sis. Helen Mangold underwent successful open heart surgery. She is recuperating nicely and plans to return to her home in Roanoke, IL in May. Sis. Elena Zurz was also under doctor's care and we are happy to see her back in church.

*Note of Thanks:*

Our family wishes to express our appreciation for all of the food, flowers, gifts, transportation, cards, the phone calls, and expressions of love that have been showered on us as we mourn the death of our dear son and brother, John. The many prayers of the brethren have helped sustain us.

*Bro. Darrell and Sis. Billie Klopfenstein and family*

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**FLORIDA  
NORTH FT. MYERS  
Anjie Baum**

"...but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant. Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many."

We in Ft. Myers are grieving the loss of one such servant for the Lord, Bro. Carl Frautschi (Bloomington, IL). Bro. Carl and Sis. Ann have touched many lives with their faith and love for Jesus. We extend our prayers and sympathy to Sis. Ann, yet we rejoice for Bro. Carl that he is with the Lord.

My sincere apology for failing to report the passing of our Sis. Marie Keller's father. Peter M. Troesch passed away on March 14. He resided in Springfield, IL and was 89 years old. We also want to extend our sympathy to Sis. Marie and her

family for their loss.

Thank you to our Elder Bro. Doug Sabo (Sarasota, FL) and Bro. Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN) for visiting us this past month and for serving Communion.

*Note of Thanks:*

We would like to thank all of you for your expressions of sympathy with cards, prayers, and flowers during the loss of Sis. Marie's father in March. They were sincerely appreciated.

*Bro. Art and Sis. Marie Keller*

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**FLORIDA, SARASOTA  
Rachel Sabo**

Congratulations to our high school graduate, Bro. Billie Schnell, son of Regina Philipp and Bill Schnell. He plans to attend University of South Florida this fall.

Our concern and prayers are with Sis. Aldine Martin (Bro. Rich) who recently suffered second degree grease burns on her legs.

We want to extend sincere sympathy to Bro. Erv and Sis. Lorane Martin in the loss of his sister, Alice Metzger, of West Bend, IA.

It was a cooler day on May 1 when we gathered at Longwood Run Park for our annual Sunday School Picnic. Joining us for food and fellowship were loved ones from North Fort Myers.

Many thanks to Bros. Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN) and Paul Gasser (Akron, OH) for sharing the Word with us this past month. Bro. Paul and Sis. Joyce were here with Sis. Joyce's brother, Melvin and Kathryn Huber, and their daughter, Angela, who have been missionaries in Brazil for 43 years. Let's always pray that the Gospel message will continue to go forth to all mankind.

**GEORGIA, ATLANTA  
Keith and Carol Kaufman**

God is ever present!  
Let us now adore Him,  
And in reverence come before Him!

Holy, Holy, Holy!  
Angel bands are singing,  
And incessant praises bringing!  
Bow thine ear,  
Lord, and hear,  
As we in submission  
Offer our oblation!  
*Zion's Harp #68*

We rejoice that each time we gather in God's house He is truly present. We are very thankful that Bros. Arnie Gerst (Taylor, MO), Bill Brake (Sardis, OH) and Elder Bro. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO) could feel God's presence as they ministered God's Word to us. May God bless them, their wives and their families for their willingness to travel here to share God's Word with us.

A hearty welcome is extended to each of you! The support, love and fellowship of each of you means so much to our little flock. Please include us in your vacation plans or just for a weekend. Sunday services begin at 10:15 and 12:30. We also meet at 7:00 p.m. on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. The church is located at 6225 Campbellton-Fairburn Rd., Fairburn, GA. Take I-85 south to Exit 13. Go west four miles. The church will be on your left. Please contact Bro. Linn Stoller (770) 631-4554, Bro. John Brewer (770) 502-8629 or Bro. Keith Kaufman (770) 304-8335 (new phone number).

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## ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE

### Sheila McCoy

Then come into our midst today;  
Impart Thyself to us, we pray.  
This cup and loaf are proof and  
sign  
Of this, Thy covenant divine  
In Jesus' blood.  
*Zion's Harp #200*

This month we were able to partake of Holy Communion. For this special service we were blessed to have Elder Bros. Nathan Steffen and Ron Schambach and Bro. Edwin Strahm (Elgin, IL) as our visiting ministers that Sunday.

We were blessed further this month in having Bros. Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL) and Chuck Kellenberger (Elgin, IL) as our other visiting ministers.

May God comfort the family of Jerry and Sis. Sandy Darlington in the loss of their sister-in-law in Texas. May we ever be as Job and be able to say, "The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord." (Job 1:21)

Bro. Matt Hein has been sick and hasn't been able to be in church this past month. We miss his support in our church. Bro. Matt has always traveled from Elgin to worship with us in Belvidere and he is special to us.

Our church has been cleaning, making curtains, doing repairs, and painting at a home that will be a women's crisis center in Belvidere. May God bless those who are giving of their time and talents so unselfishly.

Elections were held recently. Sis. Elizabeth Heinold will be the new teacher for the 3 and 4-year-old children. Bro. Ted Schock was elected to teach the 6-8th graders. Bro. Brian Anliker will be one of

our church's trustees. May we remember in our duties, "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men." (Col. 3:23).

With prayerful consideration, it was decided that a new church is needed for our growing congregation. We now number around 90, including 47 children. We started our Belvidere church in 1991 with 6 families and about 36 people. Those on the serving list are grateful to have seen it increase from six to fifteen! We feel very blessed. Please remember us in your prayers as we undertake this project.

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## ILLINOIS

### BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

#### Janice Horner Carol Sauder

On the weekend of April 17-18, we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of four dear souls. Our new sisters in the Lord are Sis. Jolynn Schmidgall (Bro. Randy and Sis. Marj), Sis. Denise Kieser (Bro. David and Sis. Wilma), Sis. Amber Albritton (Chuck and Sis. Marsha) and Sis. Jennifer Knapp (Bro. Keith and Sis. Kay). It was a time of great rejoicing as we welcomed them into the family.

We thank Elder Bros. Chuck Hemmer (Peoria, IL) and Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) and Bros. Steve Sauder (Tremont, IL), Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL) and Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL) for being with us and sharing God's Word with us this past month.

Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to Chuck Albritton and his family on the passing away of his mother, Pauline Albritton, of Grapevine, TX, formerly of Peoria, on April 23. May the Lord comfort Chuck and Sis. Marsha and their children at this time.

We gave a sad farewell to our dear Bro. Carl Frautschi whose funeral was on May 5. We especially remember in prayer his wife, Sis. Ann, and son, Bill, of Wapella and daughter-in-law, Deanna, of Bloomington, and son-in-law, Steven Kaiser (Joyce) and their three children, Ryan, Lindsay and Darin of Milford, IN.

Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL) assisted Elder Bro. Everett Hari with serving Communion to our Bloomington congregation. We thank both of these dear shepherds for so unselfishly giving of their time. It was a very inspiring evening as we went back to remembering all that our Lord and Saviour has done for us.

Bro. Phil Stoller (Eureka, IL) is still in the hospital recovering from a serious car accident in April. Bro. Phil needs our prayers as he has had numerous surgeries. A get well card would be greatly appreciated to lift his spirits. His address is 310 W. Darst, Eureka, IL 61530, c/o Lois Stoller. Also, Jon Knapp suffered a broken leg this month and is recovering.

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## ILLINOIS, BRADFORD

### Brad & Cheryl Kupferschmid

"Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding. For I give you good doctrine, forsake ye not my law."

*Proverbs 4:1-2*

When you need some advice, who is one of the best people to ask? A father, of course. And, though our earthly fathers have some wisdom and usually give good advice, we need to ask our Heavenly Father for wisdom and guidance that will not fail.

For those of us who have children, do we not try to teach them

and instruct them in some of the same things our fathers taught and instructed us in? And, as we did when we were young, they sometimes do not heed our advice and end up hurting themselves in some way just like we knew they would. Having some experience being fathers and mothers, we know how parents can often see the dangers up ahead that children are blinded to. With this knowledge, shouldn't we take great care to listen closely to our Heavenly Father's Holy Spirit and ask His advice in all our decisions in life? It would be well for us if we did. On Father's Day, let us remember to thank our fathers, earthly and heavenly, for being all that they are to us.

Right around the corner from Father's Day is Independence Day. We are again reminded of one more thing for which to be extremely thankful to God. Not only is our country free, but we have the freedom to worship as we choose. Who among us have given their lives or suffered greatly that we might enjoy these freedoms?

The Lord has blessed Troy and Sis. Heather Pyles with a healthy baby boy, Logan Jacob. He has an older brother, Morgan. His grandparents are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Becky Pyles and Bro. Jordan and Sis. Sharon Elsasser. May God bless Troy and Sis. Heather with His wisdom as they strive to rear their children in the fear of the Lord.

Our prayers are with Bro. Ed Ehnlé (Sis. Verla) and Bro. John Tanner (Sis. Margaret). They spent some time in the hospital this past month. We are thankful to see Bro. Ed assembling with us again. Our prayer is that God will grant them a complete recovery if it is His will.

A men's winter coat has been hanging on the coat rack in the

Bradford Church a few months now. If you, or someone you know, has left a size medium, dark gray, St. John's Bay coat with tan trim and a brown zip-out lining at Bradford, please contact Sis. Barb Klumpp at (309) 479-3272.

May God bless the ministers that visited us in Bradford this past month. They were Bros. Rick Plattner (Peoria, IL) and Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL).

### ILLINOIS CHAMPAIGN-URBANA

#### **Samuel and Pamela Furrer**

Last summer, Sis. Jeanne Metzger and her children, Kurt and Erin, moved here from Phoenix, AZ. They moved into their new home near St. Joseph earlier this spring so we had a housewarming to more formally welcome them to our congregation. It was a very nice evening to sing, fellowship and present a gift for their new home. We are glad to have them with us, and they have become a real part of our church family. We wish them the warmth of God's love in their new home at 2225 Nancy Lane, St. Joseph, IL 61873.

Yearly church business, including the filling of church offices, was conducted in late April. New Sunday School teachers will be Bro. Matt Ginzel and Sis. Margie Heintz. Bro. Darren Plattner was elected as a trustee, Bro. David Bauer as usher, and Sis. Jeanne Metzger will be the new member of the kitchen committee. The meeting was followed by the exhortation on Communion. Two weeks later, Elder Bro. Marvin Leiman (Bradford, IL) was with us to assist our Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart with the serving of Holy Communion. This event is always a special time for each of us. We thank Bro. Marvin for being with

us.

It was a blessed weekend in early May when we had the testimony and baptism of Kirk Wagenbach. A U of I medical student, Kirk is originally from the Oakville, IA church. Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) assisted our Elder Bro. Wayne for the weekend. We wish our new brother in Christ many blessings as he now leaves our immediate area to continue his education at the U of I School of Medicine in Peoria.

Graduation always seems to dominate the month of May and a sizable portion of our student group has concluded a stage of formal learning and will now be venturing on to other pursuits. At the high school level, our Dona Fehr (who actually lives in Pennsylvania now with her parents, Bro. Bob and Sis. Barb) graduated from Mahomet-Seymour High School, Scott Clarkson (son of Sis. Kathy and Steve) graduated from Monticello High School.

With the help of some of our college students, we have compiled a list of college graduates (our apologies to anyone who may have been omitted). From our own congregation, Bro. Scott Mangers graduated as a secondary math teacher. Bro. Andrew and Sis. Sandy Rassi have graduated and Andrew has taken a job with Caterpillar. From other churches, graduates include, Sis. Sarah Aberle and Sis. Shayna Aberle (Altadena, CA), Bro. Andy Kaufmann and Andrew Walter (Bloomington, IL), Bro. Brandon Rinkenberger (Chicago, IL), Bro. Ryan Weiss (Elgin, IL), Bro. Justin Stoller (Eureka, IL), James Schneider and Nathan Waibel (Forrest, IL), Bro. Nathan Romersberger (Gridley, IL), Sis. Deanna Geyer (Peoria, IL), Shirley Waibel (Remington, IN), Bros. Ben Hartter and Jesse Schroeder (Roanoke,



IL), and Bros. Tom Koch and Kevin Sauder (Tremont, IL). As these young people go on to a variety of pursuits, we wish them well and ask that they come back to visit us and that they send other students our way.

Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) was with us for the reading of the Memorandum. Other ministers included Bros. Randy Mogler (Washington, IL) and Frank Sauder (Roanoke, IL). We thank these brothers for giving of themselves on God's behalf.

With the approach of Father's Day, I think of sacrifices that fathers make for their families. As a father, I have a very deep love for my son and feel that I would do nearly anything in the world for him. I've surprised myself at some of the things I sometimes find myself doing either for him or because of him—things I'd seen others do and found disgusting, silly or simply "unthinkable". However, I've never been in a situation where I was asked to make much of a sacrifice for him. Sure, I've put aside my plans for the day to do something for him, but that's just a normal part of parenting that everyone does.

For the past three years, I have had the privilege and opportunity to work with the sons of two men who have made great sacrifices for their sons. These two men do not even know one another, but their stories are very similar. One is from Albania, the other from Jordan. I met each of them when they enrolled their sons in Urbana High School where I am a counselor. In each case, the father was the only one in the family who could speak enough English to communicate with me. A very educated man in his 50's, the father from Albania left behind a government job as a physicist. He had a relative living in our city and saw an opportunity

to improve the life of his family (his wife and son) by leaving nearly all earthly possessions, the security of a job, and family and friends to come to the United States. In the years since they arrived, his son has quickly learned English, excelled academically, and has been accepted into the University of Illinois. The family is supported by the mother's work in service occupations, as the man himself has been unable to locate a steady job. Each time I speak with the father, he is grateful for all that anyone does for his family and seems to have no regrets regarding his decision and sacrifices.

The father from Jordan has a similar story. He and his wife have a larger family of younger children. As an engineering worker for the airlines in Jordan, he had a good and comfortable job, but he knew that his children could have more opportunities if they lived in America. They, too, left all they had and moved to Urbana speaking limited English and having only the promise of help in finding housing and employment. Today, the family has been here for over two years and has established themselves. The father is not working in a job at the level he previously held, but is working at an international grocery that one of his friends owns. His sons work in an ethnic restaurant, and his wife attends classes at Parkland College. This man is one of the most concerned fathers I work with, always checking that his children are doing well and becoming quite upset with them if they are not taking full advantage of the opportunities at hand. He knows what he has given up, why he has done it, and what he hopes for in return. The most frustrating, maddening, disappointing thing in his thinking is that one of his sons would turn his back on

what his father has done for him.

As this Father's Day comes around, I think of these two men—both fine gentlemen who would deny that they had done anything remarkable or worthy of much mention—and I think of how poorly I compare to them. Although I doubt that I'd ever find it necessary to make the same decisions they have made on behalf of their families, I wonder what that would even be like. Would I be willing to give up so much? Relating this to our position as Christians, it makes us aware of how God sacrificed His Son for us; how in turn Christ has given so much for us and asks only that we take full advantage of the opportunities provided for us through the sacrifice of another. I wish my Albanian and Jordanian friends a very happy Father's Day with their families in Urbana.

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## ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

**Jill Rager**

A few days ago while I was outdoors with my children, we were observing the emerging flowers and checking on some new transplants. I noticed the first thistle of the season. It had already made some healthy progress and had chosen a rather hidden spot to take root. Initially, I didn't realize what type of weed it was, but I did stop before grabbing it with my bare hand. I thought, "I'll have to get a glove for that one." Well that thistle is still thriving because I didn't get the glove right away and had forgotten about it.

The thorns of life are a lot like thistles in the garden. That unkind word or a flare of the temper can be pretty prickly to handle. We might think "I'll come back later with a glove and take care of it," only to quickly forget about it. By the time we get back to it, it has

become more prickly and deeper rooted. Sometimes the thistle is just so well-hidden in our hearts we don't take notice until the growth is overwhelming. If there is a thistle taking root in your heart today, listen to the Spirit. Pull out that thistle, even if it means a prick or two in the process. Don't let it ruin the beauty of your heart's garden.

*In the Garden*

I'd stay in the garden with Him  
though the night around me be  
falling,

but He bids me go;

Thro' the voice of woe

His voice to me is calling.

Chorus: And He walks with me,

And he talks with me,

And He tells me I am His own;

And the joy we share

As we tarry there,

None other has ever known.

*Gospel Hymns #809, vs. 3*

We have had much new growth in the garden of our congregation this month. We welcome three new baby girls.

Bro. Larry and Sis. Melinda Gramm are happy first-time parents to Nikola Rose born April 19. Nikola's grandparents are Bro. Edward and Sis. Lucille Gramm (Eureka, IL) and Bro. Lynn and Sis. Sylvia Knapp (Cissna Park, IL).

We are very thankful for the early, but safe arrival of Kayla Jo Reimschisel on April 20. Bro. Troy and Sis. Bonny are Kayla's thankful parents. Big brother, Jordan, and big sister, Jenna, have made sure Kayla feels loved and welcome. Grandparents are Bro. Richard and Sis. Elaine Reimschisel (Bluffton, IN) and Bro. Bill and Sis. Nancy Klopfenstein (Leo, IN).

Mike and Gretchen Zimmerman are the parents of our third baby

girl, Lois Abigail. She was born on May 4 and was warmly welcomed by her siblings, Rose and Lucas. Grandparents are Bro. Leland and Sis. Laurene Zimmerman and Jim and Lois Vietti, both from Eureka, IL.

We wish these families our prayerful support as they seek God's wisdom in raising these children.

Our congregation is also growing in the number of newly married couples. Bro. Kory Kaeb (Bro. Bill and Sis. Patsy, Roanoke, IL) and Sis. Megan Ringger (Bro. Gary and Sis. Marla) were married in Gridley, IL on May 9.

Bro. Rocky O'Shea (Bro. Tom and Sis. Jean) and Sis. Sharon Kiser (Bro. Dave and Sis. Wilma) were married on May 16 in Bloomington, IL. Bro. Rocky and Sis. Sharon will be living in the Chicago area for the summer.

We extend a warm welcome to Sis. Sharon and Sis. Megan and pray that we can be a support to these couples as they establish Christian homes.

We offer congratulations to Bro. Miklos Bozzay Jr. (Bro. Miklos Sr. and Sis. Aranka) and Sis. Yael Howard (Kent and Mervi) of San Diego, CA as they announced their engagement.

We were abundantly blessed with visiting ministers this month. We appreciate the willingness of Bro. Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH) to minister to us as he often comes to Chicago for business. Bro. Jerry Wagenbach (Oakville, IA) and Elder Bros. John Klotzle (Altadena, CA), Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO) and Joe Braker (Morton, IL) also visited this month. Our own Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann presented a topical Bible study on "The Bible". Bro. Dale took a rather broad topic and taught us areas from historical accuracy to modern day translations. Many thanks to these

brothers for their willingness to serve.

**ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK**  
**Cheryl Eisenmann**  
**Darlene Walder**

It is so important to talk to God every day. Make time to be alone with Him. He has visions to reveal to us that are not for the eye of the world. To be alone with God is to know the depth and sweetness of our relationship to Him.

Precious, gentle, holy Jesus!  
Blessed Bridegroom of my heart,  
In Thy secret inner chamber  
Thou wilt whisper what Thou  
art.

"A calm hour with God is worth  
a whole lifetime with man."

—Robert Murray McCheyne

Rejoicing over the birth of their first grandchild is Bro. Lynn and Sis. Sylvia Knapp. They are the grandparents of Nicole Rose Gramm of Chicago. She is the daughter of Bro. Larry and Sis. Melinda Gramm. All new parents marvel at the miracle that lays in their arms on that blessed birthday of their child.

Sis. Mary Knapp was laid up in the hospital for a time this past month and is thankfully doing so much better now.

Our topical Bible presentation was led by Bro. Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL) for this past month. His topic was "Looking to Heaven". Every person there could relate to wanting Heaven's doors to be just a little bit closer. The old and young could benefit from the inspired words that were delivered that evening. We are all striving towards life with no ending, gloriously with our Heavenly Father.

Our Sis. Clara Hofer and her daughter, Diane, received word of the passing of their sister-in-law and aunt, Gladys Hofer. She is survived by her husband, Robert Hofer. When life comes to an end, there is often adjustments to be made by the surviving family and it is never easy to say good-bye.

The residents of Heartland Healthcare were surprised with a May Day basket delivered by our K-2nd grade Sunday School students. It is so important to impress on our young people the act of giving without receiving. Jesus left that perfect example of sacrificial giving and we can practice this in so many ways. Who do you work for? You work for the Lord and for His glory. In all that you do you retell the old story. The story of life and how we should live. How we should share and continuously give. (HSR)

Our Mother/Daughter Dinner was on May 7. "Mother, Teacher of the Heart" was the theme. We were reminded of how mothers are often like teachers.

Our graduating seniors from High School this year are Jessica Martin (Bro. Randy and Sis. Patti), Sarah Rudin (Bro. Gerald and Sis. Joan), Sis. Emily Young (Melvin and Marilyn), Sis. Renee Kaufmann (Bro. Sid and Sis. Sandy), Grant Heinold (Bro. Dan and Sis. Carol), and Kara Hoffman (Merle and Elsie Eisenmann). As they venture out into the world of work or higher education, we pray for each one that they put their hand in Jesus' hand and let Him guide them each step of the way.

#### *Note of Thanks:*

A sincere thank you to all who remembered me in prayers, calls, cards, and the carry in meals and food for Earl and myself; first after my emergency surgery and extended hospital stay in January.

Also, again in April after my follow-up corrective surgery. The many expressions of love and concern were greatly appreciated.

*Sis. Mary Knapp*

### **ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE** **Sandy Steiner** **Glenna Rinkenberger**

Recently, we heard in a sermon that when something happens that we might consider to be bad, good often results from it. John 12:24 explains, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit." We rejoice with the angels in Heaven that Mike Hartman (Paula) has found the grace to repent in the wake of earthly sorrow, looking ahead to eternal joy. He is the son of our Sis. Carrie and the late Bro. Gene.

We were blessed with many visiting ministers. Bros. Ted Witzig (Morton, IL), Rick Plattner (Peoria, IL) and Elder Bro. Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI) shared the pulpit and the Word with us.

Our Bible Class hosted Chicago, Elgin, Wolcott and Remington. On that day Bros. Trent Meiss (Eureka, IL) and Greg Stoller (Forrest, IL) spoke the Truth from God's Holy Word to the young people and the rest of the congregation.

The Agenda Committee met in our area. Following their meeting we were instructed through the Memorandum by Elder Bros. Dennis Warner (Lester, IA), Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN) and Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT). We were reminded that in the book of Revelation, it is recorded many times that the Overcomer will be in Heaven with God. Believing is not enough. The devils believe and tremble. We must live an overcoming life daily.

One of my children was working on algebra and happily remarked how good it was that there were examples in the book. It made me think, "What kind of example am I to my children?" And how thankful we should be for brothers and sisters who are fine examples to us. How often when we are struggling with the algebra of this earthly life we can turn to The Book and find examples to solve our problems.

### **ILLINOIS, ELGIN** **Peggy Heiniger** **Norma Schambach**

May 5, Bro. Mel Schrock and Sis. Nola Gramm (Gridley, IL) were united in Holy Matrimony. We wish them much happiness as they begin their life together.

We are thankful to report two more souls are seeking God in repentance. Sarah Moore is the daughter of Bro. Larry and Sis. Beth. Matt (Mary Jo) Kinsinger, who has been living in England for some time, is the son of Bro. Bill and Sis. Sandy. How thankful we are that no matter where we go, God is there.

Lori Battuello and George (Carole) Eason have confessed peace with God and await baptism. We look forward to hearing their testimonies of how God led them to our precious faith.

Emily Schambach (Bro. Ed and Sis. Gayle) and Jonathan Buehler have announced their engagement. We wish them God's blessings as they plan for their future.

This month we again enjoyed the message of two visiting ministers, Bros. Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN) and Dan Koch (Tremont, IL).

### **ILLINOIS, EUREKA** **Janet Zimmerman**

"Repent ye and believe the gos-



pel." (Mark 1:15). Our cups were overflowing once again as we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of three dear souls the weekend of May 22-23. We welcome our new brothers and sister in Christ, Bro. Tim Leman (Bro. Larry and Sis. Marilyn), Bro. Brian Leman (Bro. Terry and Sis. Shirley) and Sis. Teresa Blunier (Bro. Roger and Sis. Wendy). Elder Brothers present to assist our Elder Bro. Ervin with these duties were: Elder Bros. Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL) and Lavoyd Moore (Athens, AL). Also with us for the weekend were Bros. Greg Stoller (Forrest, IL), Fred Knapp and Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL), Ed Fritz (Washington, IL), Wayne Wiegand and Bruce Hohulin (Goodfield, IL).

Other visiting ministers this past month were Elder Bros. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO) and Charles Sinn (Ft. Scott, KS), and Bros. Kenny Dietz (Bradford, IL), Bob Stoller (Lamar, MO), and Randy Mogler (Washington, IL). May God richly bless each one.

We are thankful to report that Bro. Philip Stoller has been able to return home after a lengthy hospital stay. Bro. Philip suffered many serious injuries and broken bones due to an automobile accident. We pray that God will continue to be with him as he recovers.

Our prayers are also with Wilbur Rocke who was in the hospital and is now recovering at our Eureka Home. Sis. Louise Rocke (Bro. Ray) also had a brief hospital stay and is home again. Sis. Lavina Leman (Bro. Wilmer) was in the hospital, but is home again and doing well. May God grant each one returning strength and health according to His Holy will.

Our congregation bid its final farewell here on earth to our dear Bro. Leroy Stoller. Bro. Leroy was suddenly called to his Heavenly

Home on April 30. We extend our Christian love and sympathy to his children and grandchildren. His children are Sis. Jane, Bro. Jim

(Sis. Janet), both of Eureka, and Bro. Larry (Sis. Ardean) of Gridley; and his two sisters, Sis. Mabel Wittmer (Bro. Carlton) of Eureka and Vera Kibler of Peoria.

We also extend our sympathy to Sis. Bena Mae Rocke and Sis. Doris Guingrich on the death of their brother, Ed Fehr, of Washington. He died April 19.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Vernon Leman on the death of his brother, Bro. Harry, of Roanoke. He died on May 7. May God comfort each one in their time of sorrow and grief.

Precious memories, how they  
linger,

how they ever flood my soul.  
In the stillness of the midnight,  
precious sacred scenes unfold.

*Gospel Hymns #408*

Congratulations to our graduating seniors: Jodi Anliker, Kandi

Bauman, Sis. Tami Bauman, Sis. Andrea Beutel, Jill Blunier, Doug Bradle, Emily Fehr, Heidi Hartter, Amanda Hoerr, Bro. Jeffrey Huber, Katie Kupferschmid, Jill Leman, Joni Martin, Lori Martin, Jonathon Sanders, Lowell Stoller, Kevin Vierling, Alan Wettstein, Ed Wettstein, Alissa Wiegand, Regina Wiegand, Chad Zimmerman and Rachel Zimmerman. We pray that each one will seek God's guidance as they plan for the future.

As Father's Day approaches, may we take time to thank our fathers and appreciate all that they have done for us. May we realize that they are one of God's blessings to us. For those of us whose fathers have already passed on, we still have many precious

memories of prayers and reading Bible stories at the supper table and other special family times together. May God bless each father.

#### *Note of Thanks:*

The family of Leroy Stoller would like to express our thanks and appreciation for all the prayers, cards, food, visits and the many other kind deeds shown to us at the time of our father and grandfather's death. May God bless you.

*Bro. Larry and Sis. Ardean Stoller and family*

*Sis. Jane Stoller*

*Bro. Jim and Sis. Janet Stoller and family*

Build a little fence of Trust  
around today,  
Fill the space with loving words  
and therein stay;  
Look not through the sheltering  
bars upon tomorrow  
God will help thee bear what  
comes of joy or sorrow.  
—Mary Frances Butts

#### **ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY**

**Sally Fehr**

**Joann Zehr**

Father's Day—a special day set aside to remember our dear fathers. We can never thank our Heavenly Father enough if we were blessed with parents who led a God-fearing life and taught us the truth. If our fathers (and mothers) are still living, let us take the time to personally thank them. For many of us, our parents live in "precious memories" and may we strive daily to live by the examples they have left for us.

Our high school graduates are Bro. Walter Edelman (Bro. Walt and Sis. Rosetta), Sis. Lisa Herr (Bro. Gary and Sis. Cindy), Sis. Katie Kaisner (Bro. Jerry and Sis.

Donna), Tim Kieser (Bro. Carl and Sis. Becky), Sis. Jessi Maurer (Steve and Sis. Donna), Sis. Melissa Slagel (Bro. Ray and Sis. Gladys), and Mark Steidinger (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Jane). We congratulate them on this milestone and might they look to God for His guidance and help as they plan their future.

May God bless the ministering Bros. Byron Stoller (Gridley, IL) and Ralph Garber (Morton, IL) for their willingness to visit and bring us God's Word.

Bro. Melvin Hartman and Ken Headley (Delores) spent some time in the hospital. Sis. Sally Schieler has just had surgery. May God's healing power be extended to them.

We extend our sincere sympathy to Mary Beth Slagel (Al) and Ruth Teubel in the passing of their father, Herman Teubel.

### **ILLINOIS, FORREST**

**Jean Knapp  
Linda Anliker**

We drink one cup; we break one bread;

One Saviour suffered in our stead.

*Zion's Harp #25*

Gathering together on April 24 in remembrance of our Lord's suffering and death, we thank Elder Bros. Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN) and Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) in assisting our Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker in serving Holy Communion. In oneness of mind and unity of spirit in Christ may we go forth serving our God and Father in Heaven.

Finding the Lord's suffering and death meaningful in their lives are Lisa Dotterer (Bro. Wendell and Sis. Kathy) and Joel and

Lana Brown. May they find God's grace sufficient as they turn to Him in repentance.

We thank visiting ministers, Bros. Dale Stoller (Fairbury, IL), Brian Waibel and Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL) and Tom Schambach (Elgin, IL) for sharing God's Word with us. May God bless their kind efforts.

We bid farewell to Bro. Keith and Sis. Nadine Edelman and family as he has found new employment and they plan to live and attend church in the Eureka area.

High school students graduating this school year are Sis. Amber Adams (Sis. Sharon), Bro. Eric Bachman (Bro. Larry and Sis. Donna), Sis. Michelle Bachtold (Bro. Herb and Sis. Jan), Ted Bachtold (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Mary), Bro. Kraig Edelman (Bro. Levi and Sis. Donna), Jared Knapp (Bro. Harlan and Sis. Jean), Sis. Erika Schlatter (Sis. Sherri), Sis. Carrie Steidinger (Bro. Ray and Sis. Shelly), Sis. Rachel Wenger (Bro. Ed and Sis. Renee), convert Trisha Young (Bro. Terry and Sis. Peggy) and Bro. Ben Zimmerman (Bro. Paul and Sis. Loretta). May they be willing and ready to acknowledge the Lord in His righteousness and desire to have Him direct their lives.

Announcing their engagement and approaching marriage are Ryan Honegger and Tabatha Orsow. Their parents are Ron and Laurie Franz (Chatsworth, IL) and Bro. Lloyd and Joyce Honegger.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Jim and Sis. Sandra Schneider and Bro. Don and Sis. Sandy Schneider and their families in the passing of their father and grandfather, Bro. Al Schneider (Rockville, CT). May the Spirit of comfort rest upon them.

Several loved ones spending time in the hospital were Sis.

Janny (Bro. Duane) Schneider, Bro. Wendell (Sis. Kathy) Dotterer, Bro. Sid (Sis. Helen) Leman, Bro. Ben (Sis. Irene) Traub, Sis. Sherri (Bro. Paul) Kelson. We pray for the Lord's mercy and healing where He sees best.

### **ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD**

**Jan Beer**

Visiting ministers since the last report have been Bros. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH), Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL) and Paul Gasser (Akron, OH). Thank you, brothers, for ministering to us.

Beyond the usual illnesses associated with our rainy, unseasonably cool Illinois weather, several folks in our fellowship have suffered serious illness. Our prayers are with Sisters Brenda Hinrichsen, Vera Heinold, Kris Bauman, Cora Rogers and Bros. Roy Wyss and Elmer Bauman. Even though we are not aware of each person's afflictions, we pray for God's touch on all in our assembly who need His healing. Just as important, our prayers are extended for the caregivers of the ill.

Thank you, young group, for the terrific job you did of taking care of the church lunch on Mother's Day. Your service was a fine tribute to each of your mothers and to all the ladies in the Goodfield congregation who usually serve in that capacity. Thanks for putting your love into action.

We hope Karen Harminson, Brooke, Brad, Jim and Jim's very recent bride can feel the love and prayers of the Goodfield congregation wrapped all around them as they grieve the loss of their husband and dad. It is believed that a heart attack took Rich Harminson from us very suddenly. His body was found by his brother-in-law, Glen Bauman, on Mother's Day

morning. Karen's parents are Sis. Mildred and Bro. Elmer Bauman. Our prayers include Glen and all the Bauman family during this very sad and very difficult time.

On May 12, Kaitlynn Renee Wiegand came to bless the home of our converts, Lynn and Doug Wiegand. Big brother, Cole, completes that family circle. Grandparents in the Goodfield fellowship are Sis. MaryEllen and Bro. Steve Wiegand.

Twenty-two of our young people are looking forward to high school graduation in the next week or two. We rejoice with you and pray that you will allow God to direct your life to fulfill His special purpose for you.

### **ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY** **Perry A. Klopfenstein**

The Lord taught, "I am the vine and ye are the branches." As branches, God's people are to bear fruit. The power comes from the vine and enables the branches to be fruitful. May God give each believer sufficient power on a daily basis to bear fruit—and to both strengthen and expand the kingdom of God.

As God's children we are also taught to rejoice with them that rejoice. In this, we have rejoiced here in Gridley over two weddings that took place in May.

The first was on Wednesday evening, May 5, when Sis. Nola Gramm was married to Bro. Mel Schrock of Elgin, IL. Both, after long marriages, had lost their mates; and now God had drawn them together to share life in marriage. May God be praised. We wish these newlyweds much happiness in the years ahead.

The second wedding was on May 9 (Mother's Day). Sis. Megan Ringger was married to Bro. Kory Kaeb of Roanoke, IL. Her parents

are Bro. Gary and Sis. Marla Ringger. He is the son of Bro. Bill and Sis. Patsy Kaeb. May God bless this union. It's wonderful that these souls put God first in their lives and sought His will regarding marriage.

Marriages and receptions are a time of joy and fellowship. Much planning goes into these special occasions. And yet, the crowning aspect of a wedding is when both souls take their vows of faithfulness to each other (until death), and are proclaimed husband and wife in the Lord. They are thence united as one flesh. The vows are an inspirational part of a wedding ceremony.

Bro. Mark and Sis. Kaylene Butikofer became the parents of their third daughter on May 11. She was named Sydney Marie. She has two sisters, Whitney, 9, and Nicole, 5. Grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Norma Butikofer, and Sis. Laura and the late Bro. Glenn Knapp (Forrest, IL).

Several ministering brothers were here on May 9 for the wedding. Laboring on the pulpit were Bros. Bob Meyer and Steve Ringger (Bluffton North, IN) and Mark Gerber (Bluffton, IN). Bro. Brace Wieland (Leo, IN) took part in the wedding ceremony. Other ministers present for the wedding were Bros. Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL), Kevin Knapp (Bloomington, IL) and Tim Hohulin (Roanoke, IL).

On Wednesday evening, May 12, Bro. Ted Hirstein (Morton, IL) was the speaker at our monthly Topical Bible Presentation. His topic was "Beware of the Beast".

The annual Sunday School picnic was held on Sunday afternoon, May 16, at the Gridley Community Building. The children participated in organized activities in the park across the street after eating. This is a time that creates many nice memories for the children.

### **ILLINOIS, MORTON** **Phyllis Farney** **Cheryl Wuthrich**

The funeral for Fred Sollberger was held on May 8. He died suddenly at the age of 44 leaving behind his wife and young family. May the Lord grant them an extra measure of strength and sense of His guidance and protection. Surviving are his wife, Sis. Elaine (Zimmerman); his sons, Fred and Samuel; and his daughter, Madeline; his mother, Twila Schubert and his stepfather, Donald Schubert; his brother, Robert; his sisters, Debbie Walz (John), Patty Everhart (David) and Jane Perry (Daron). He was preceded in death by his father. Condolences also go to his many business associates and friends.

Life and birth continues to co-exist with sorrow and loss. We rejoice that a new baby has been born into a loving family. Isaac Daniel was born April 29 to Bro. Steve and Sis. Susie Jones. Welcoming him into their home are brothers, Bobby, Caleb and Zachary, and sister, Jessie. His grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Lorna Schrock and Sis. Sherrill Jones and Gene Jones, all of Morton.

There is further cause for rejoicing in our congregation. On May 15-16, we heard the testimony and witnessed the baptism of Adam Hermann. He is the son of Dennis and Sis. Ginger. His grandparents are Sis. Helen Hermann and Bro. Bob and Sis. Dorothy Frank. Our prayer is that Bro. Adam continues his close walk with the Lord and remains the humble servant of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Two brothers have been selected for the important duty of teaching Sunday School. They are Bro. David Jones and Bro. Todd



Braker. We pray that the Lord will use them mightily as they work with the young people.

We wish our graduating high school seniors God's fullest blessings and guidance in their lives. It is our prayer that each one submits to and serves the Lord in fullest measure. They are Chad Grimm, Aric Hermann, Jay Knobloch, Jesse Psinas, J.R. Sauder, Kirk Schick, Amanda Zimmerman, Bro. Justin Bertschi, Sis. Holly Kaiser, Bro. Chris Kaufmann, Sis. Jessica Putman, Bro. Bob Salter, and Sis. Stephanie Schick. They and their parents were honored with a dinner on May 5 at the Fellowship Hall followed by the Family Worship Service.

We wish to thank the ministers and their families who visited Morton this month. They were Bros. Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL), Ed Sauder (Roanoke, IL), Dave Marquart (Taylor, MO) and Jim Rinkenberger (Bluffton, IN). We are so thankful for the message of truth they brought.

## ILLINOIS, PEORIA

### Peter and Mabel Weber

"You all come now" was the invitation from Bro. Ed and Sis. Bernie Meister to all former choir members for April 17 at the Fellowship Hall. They had sung under his direction from 1966 to 1991, which was a most enjoyable time of fellowship and singing praises to the Lord, and an asset to the Church. He mentioned that 39 members, who once sang in the choir, have passed on and mused with a flair of anticipation that we should consider another reunion in 50 years, probably in the heavenly choir for most of us. It was an evening of joy and fellowship as we walked down the path of memories, singing the old familiar

hymns once more under Bro. Ed's direction: "Hold it! Hold it! Hold it!//Watch that finger!//Let's do the first verse over (again), just from the chorus!" May the Lord bless him for his untiring efforts over the years, kindly coaxing and molding us lesser lights of vocal abilities into a cohesive group, and initiating this reunion which, he stated, was the culmination of his singing achievements.

Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore (Athens, AL) and his wife, Sis. Doris, had come for the reunion and he conducted the service on Sunday morning. It is foolish to be overly concerned with things we have no control over. We must be submissive and don't compare ourselves among ourselves. What is the reason you don't repent today? Be still, and know the Lord is real, seek Him and ask for His help. Prestigious things will not bring happiness. We must use our gifts to accomplish God's will according to the royal law: love thy neighbor as thyself, and love the unlovable. What God made, He can fix. Thanks, Bro. Lavoyd, for your warm way of bringing simple truths to us (even with Q and A audience participation) in your attention-getting style. Also, Bro. Ron Kipfer and his wife, Sis. Linda (Bluffton, IN) had come for this event and we thank him for his ministry.

Bro. Mike Rieker read and spoke on Psalm 128 on April 24 for the 50th wedding anniversary of Fred and Sis. Norma Rieker. On May 2, Bro. Dave and Sis. Hattie Hoerr observed their golden anniversary at the Fellowship Hall and we extend our sincere congratulations to both couples and wish them many more happy and healthy years of married life.

We thank Bro. Rich and Sis. Kathleen Sutter (Ft. Lauderdale, FL) for their visit on April 25 and

his meditation on Gal. 3. Ninety percent of our New Year's resolutions are broken by March 1. Why would God give us mortals something we cannot live up to in the law? Trying is not going to do it. We need something else. The Gospel always has a way to resolve problems. We bear the penalty for being imperfect, but faith released the grace which is given by God. What does a righteous person look like? Take off the old garment of sin and put on the right (wedding) garment and from then on God sees us through Jesus. We all wear the same garment if we have faith in Jesus and will have joy and bliss forever in a whole new dimension. Let us put on the new garment of Jesus and in a quiet, humble way let actions speak louder than words and let the freedom of the Gospel rule our lives.

"To love is nothing, to be loved is something, to love and be loved is everything" was the beginning of Mother's Day services on May 9 by Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer. Thanks be to our mothers who brought us into this world, fed, protected and clothed us because of the love of God which He instilled into their hearts. Her price is far above rubies and a mother who fears the Lord shall be praised (Prov. 31:10,30). Bro. Mike Rieker cited two scriptural examples of mothers pleading for their children: Hagar cried to the Lord in the wilderness of Beersheba for her son Ishmael and God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water (Gen. 21:19); the Canaanite woman interceded with Jesus for her daughter and the devil departed out of her and the child was cured from that very hour (Matt. 15:28).

"Values" was the topic of Bro. Art Baurer (Princeville, IL) for our family night service on May 5. We need them in life and it is impor-

tant that our children know the proper values. Job rebuked his three friends to be "physicians of no value" (Job 13:4) because they gave him bad advice. God values us so much that He provided a way of salvation. We should not be overzealous of the things that have value in this life only and neglect the things which have value that will last eternally. We can deplete our assets but never what Jesus has done for us. We only go through life once, let's value it. With idle time and ample funds, we need a correct value system, observing the nine fruits of the Spirit. May we value each day, each other and the promises we have of life eternal. Jesus only requests a reasonable service of value and attitude. Thanks, Bro. Art, for challenging us to look at the various values in our lives.

Mulhall, OK was one of the hard-hit small towns (800) when a F5 twister swept over the plains, destroying 80 homes. Bros. Carl Hoerr II, Jack Hoerr, Larry Herman and Brandon Schock (with his wife, Cassie) went there on May 6 with heavy equipment to knock down debris, pushing it to the streets for later pickup and clearing the cemetery to permit burials. Sis. Cassie worked for the Red Cross, sorting clothing. They slept on cots in a church basement. May the Lord reward their example of love and compassion. Despite the great devastation, they found the people to be of good spirits, working together and making plans to rebuild their town.

We said farewell to Sis. Doris Banwart who has returned to her native West Bend, IA to live in the Church Retirement Village after 35 years in Peoria.

Bro. Kent Steffen, son of Sis. Eleanor Steffen, has joined our congregation from Kansas City, MO and we welcome him and are

happy to have him assemble and fellowship with us. His engagement to Sis. Joanne Hemmer was announced on May 16 and we wish them the Lord's richest blessings for their life together.

Alec Dean (#1) was born to Bro. Tim and Sis. Tricia Wagenbach (Princeville, IL) on May 15; and Sophia Rose (also #1) to Bro. Dan and Sis. Susan Meister on April 27, and we wish them the Lord's guidance as they begin raising their families. Congratulations to Bro. Matt and Sis. Lisa Waibel for Madelaine Noel (#3) who was born March 22 in Indianapolis, IN. Since then they have moved to Leo, IN to become alternate houseparents at Gateway Woods and we wish them God's blessings in their career change.

Alice Metzger (73) passed away at West Bend, IA on April 29. We extend our sympathy to her sister, Sis. Janet Schubert, and the Metzger and Martin families.

Most of us experience white-coat and hospital angst syndromes; researchers found that relaxation plus belief equal what they call the "faith factor", which has positive results for healing and recovering. Bro. Harold Leman and Sisters Verna Baurer, Frieda Joos and Mabel Weber were hospital patients and we wish them speedy recoveries.

It has been said there are two ways to travel: first class...and with children (are we there yet?). The vacation season will soon be here and we wish you a safe and enjoyable time, regardless of how you travel. Bro. Jim and Sis. Virginia Hoerr plan to embark on a six-week trip to Alaska and we pray for the Lord's protection on their journey.

## ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

**Sheryl Martin**

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; but fools despise wisdom and instruction. My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother: For they shall be an ornament of grace unto thy head, and chains about thy neck."

*Proverbs 1:7-9*

On April 29, Tasha Eileen was born to Bro. Craig and Sis. Terri Martin. Her brother, Clint, and sisters, Tonya and Tiana, welcome her home. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Nathan and Sis. Esther Martin and Bro. Vernon and Sis. Bernice Stoller.

First-time parents, Bro. Tim and Sis. Tricia Wagenbach, are rejoicing in the Lord as a son, Alec Dean, was born on May 15. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Elaine Wagenbach and Bro. Dean and Sis. Judy Martin (Tremont, IL). May God grant these two families His strength and grace as they teach their children the instructions of the Lord.

"Trust in the Lord, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed. Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass."

*Psalms 37:3-5*

On May 2, many of us attended services in Tremont for the wedding of Bro. Troy Wagenbach and Sis. June Steiner. Bro. Troy is the son of Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Elaine Wagenbach and Sis. June is the daughter of Bro. Joe and Sis. Marcella Steiner (Tremont, IL).

Bro. David Blunier and Sis.

Kara Leman were joined together in Holy Matrimony on May 16 in Bradford, IL. Bro. David is the son of Sis. Joyce and the late Bro. Dale Blunier and Sis. Kara is the daughter of Elder Bro. Marvin and Sis. Jane Leman. May God bless these two couples as they begin their future together. We welcome both Sis. June and Sis. Kara to our congregation as they establish their homes in our area.

As one chapter in life closes and a new one opens, may our graduates look to God for His guidance and direction and commit their ways unto Him as they face new decisions in their lives. Our High School graduates are: Cyrena Baer, Abigail Feucht, Jamie Gray, Taunya Rumbold, Dustin Blunier, Andy Feucht, Dustin Herrmann, Trent Regier, Alex Stoller, and Bro. Jason Stoller. Our 8th grade graduates are Megan Baer, Ashley Ehnle, Kristen Gerst, Amber Herrmann, Heidi Herrmann, Bethany Wagenbach, Nathan Christ, Aaron Ehnle, Benji Martin, Mark Stoller, Ryan Stoller and Travis Wieland.

Our continued prayers are with Bro. Noah Herrman as he battles with the afflictions of the body.

If a single fervent pray'r  
of a soul prevailing  
On the tender heart of God  
Brings it fruit unfailing,  
How much more  
is in store,  
When whole congregations  
Bring their supplications?

*Zion's Harp #174, vs. 6*

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**ILLINOIS, ROANOKE**  
**Boni Stoller**  
**Linda Hodel**

"Obey them that have the rule  
over you, and submit yourselves:

for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you."

*Hebrews 13:17*

We were thankful to have the reading of the Memorandum with the help of Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL). It was truly inspiring to hear the encouragement received from the unity of the Elders. We thank Bro. Wayne for his labors of love on our behalf and also include other visiting ministers this past month: Bros. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA), John Rowell (Burlington, IA) and Vernon Wettstein (Congerville, IL).

Having just passed Mother's Day, and nearing Father's Day, I am reminded of the words of Jesus: "For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother and sister, and mother," (Matthew 12:50), in that all of us would qualify, as long as we are "doing the will of the Father." May we not take it lightly that our Heavenly Father has a divine will for each one of us; and may our prayer truly be, "Thy will be done," as we walk this narrow pathway of life. We have been reminded recently how sly the enemy of our soul is, in that if he can get us to veer off course just one degree, the end result could be fatal to our soul.

Those who have struggled with their physical health this past month and required hospitalization were: Noah Eckman (Troy and Jennifer), Sis. Elsie Zimmerman, Sis. Ruth Hodel (Bro. Warren), Leigh Getz (Bro. John and Sis. Lynn) and Bro. Ben Fehr (Sis. Helen).

Our congregation has been touched by the life of a dear Haitian who Bro. Rich and Sis. Bev Bertschi and family have hosted.

In God's perfect will, He saw fit to relieve Linda Menard of her earthly struggle of cancer. She was a beautiful example to all who had opportunity to visit with her, and as her earthly body weakened, her spirit was at peace and she was thankful to be strengthened by scripture she requested to be read: "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away." (Revelation 21:4). She loved our singing, and her mother requested that the whole congregation sing at her funeral, which was held May 6.

The Lord also saw fit to relieve Bro. Harry Leman of his earthly toil, and funeral services were held May 11 for him. We extend our sympathy to his wife, Sis. Millie, and family.

We rejoice with the union of Bro. Calvin Moser to Sis. Jan Stoeker on May 2; and Bro. Kory Kaeb (Bro. Bill and Sis. Patsy) to Sis. Megan Ringger (Bro. Gary and Sis. Marla) in Gridley, IL on May 9. A beautiful analogy of a marriage is a triangle where Jesus is at the top and each one at the bottom corners, and the way you get closer to each other, is by "moving up the triangle," getting closer to Jesus. Truly this analogy can work for anything wherein we are striving to be as close to Jesus; it will help in any relationship.

I would like to close with a word of encouragement to keep our brethren in Yugoslavia/Serbia in our prayers. We cannot imagine the suffering, heartache and probably persecution they are enduring for our Lord. We are instructed in Galatians 6:2 to "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ." May the believers feel our prayers, and be strengthened at this time.



"But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing. Now the Lord of peace himself give you peace always by all means. The Lord be with you all. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen."

*II Thess. 3:13,16,18*

## ILLINOIS, TREMONT

**Barb Dill**

**Barb Kaeb**

Thankful are we that our retired Elder Bro. Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL) could bring us a topical Bible lesson on the "History of the Early Church".

"That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full."

*I John 1:3-4*

We also thank our other visiting ministers, Bros. Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL), Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL), John Hartman (Fairbury, IL), Walt Herrmann (Princeville, IL) and Elder Bro. Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL) for their willingness to minister the Word of God to us.

"And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him."

*Genesis 2:18*

Bro. John Rassi (Bro. Curt and Sis. Kathy) and Sis. Heather Stuber (Bro. Todd and Sis. Beth) were united in Holy Matrimony April 25. Sis. June Steiner (Bro. Joe and Sis. Marcella) and Bro. Troy Wagenbach (Bro. Lawrence and

Sis. Elaine) of Princeville were united in marriage on May 2. Janese Hangartner (Sis. Melba and Jerry) and Larry Howell (Kenneth Howell and Laverne Howell) were married May 15. May these couples walk hand and hand with God that He may richly bless their lives is our prayer.

"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

*Philippians 4:19*

We have those in our congregation who are suffering from the afflictions of this life: Levi Kaiser (Bro. Tim and Sis. Ruth), Sis. Bernice Frank, Sis. Vera Aberle (Bro. Walt) and Bro. Glenn Stuber (Sis. Dorothy). Thankful are we for the promise "that God shall supply all your need according to His riches."

## ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

**Denise Romersberger**

**Sue Ruppert**

Flash! KABOOM! Flash! KABOOM! As the violent storm rolled through, and the echoing thunder awoke me from a deep sleep, I once again was thankful to be protected in a sturdy, dry house. Thunderstorms always remind me of the awesome power of our God. In I Kings 19:11, Elijah experienced the power of God, "...and behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks...and after the wind, an earthquake...and after the earthquake a fire..." (Of course in this account, God demonstrated his power in these things, but spoke to Elijah in a still, small voice.) In Exodus 33:12-23, Moses talks with God and asks to see God's glory. God agrees, but knows that no man can see His face and live, and

so says "And it shall come to pass, while my glory passeth by, that I will put thee in a cleft of the rock, and will cover thee with my hand while I pass by..." (vs. 33).

God does the same thing for us. Not only have we been physically protected through the homes that we live in, but spiritually we are kept in a cleft of the rock. As we live our lives for Christ, following His commandments and aligning our lifestyle to honor Him, we are protected from many personal troubles of life. When we try to lead holy lives, we are spared these troubles that others may experience because of the influence of Satan in their lives. The world we live in is full of bad news, causing much anxiety for many people. Through all of this we can find peace in knowing God and His love for us. Our confidence in Him is the rock that we stand on in the time of storm.

"In thee, O Lord, do I put my trust; let me never be put to confusion. Deliver me in thy righteousness, and cause me to escape: incline thine ear unto me, and save me. Be thou my strong habitation, whereunto I may continually resort; thou hast given commandment to save me; for thou art my rock and my fortress."

*Psalms 71:1-3*

Thank you to Bros. Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL) and Bruce Hohulin (Goodfield, IL) who came to share with us from the pulpit and in our Bible Study this month.

The annual Bible Class breakfast was held for our high school students. We also wish congratulations to the graduates of our congregation. God be with you and guide you.

We welcome Jonathan Mark Thames, the new son of Bro. Jeff and Sis. Brenda, to our church

family. Grandparents are Robert and Delores Kiefer (Oakville, IA) and Kay Thames of Normal and Phil and Rita Thames of Mackinaw.

We also welcome Sis. Charla Huber, who has moved to this area from Phoenix, AZ.

The wedding of Dawn Martin and Dan Boles was celebrated by family and friends. Dawn is the daughter of Bro. Harvey and Sis. Sharon Martin and Dan is the son of Dennis and Joann Boles. We wish them the presence of God in their new life together.

Rachel Folkerts underwent surgery for her appendix this month. Parents are Bro. Gary and Sis. Linda. We pray for a speedy recovery.

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## INDIANA, BLUFFTON

**Catrina Rinkenberger**  
**Beth Aschliman**

Greetings from Bluffton! This is such a beautiful time of year when the sun is shining bright, the flowers are growing, the crops are all in and beginning to grow, just to mention a few. We are such a blessed people and we have so much to be thankful for. Let's try to remember to count our many blessings and thank God for them.

Joining hand and heart on April 17 were Jenni Steffen (Bro. Craig and Sis. Jean) and Jeff Hudson (Bill and Joan). We wish them God's richest blessings as they now live their lives as one.

Announcing their engagement are Teresa Bertsch (Bro. Stan and Sis. Cindy) and Heath Gibson (John and Connie). May they always feel His presence as they prepare for this special day.

On April 19, Sis. Gladys Kipfer, 89, went Home to be with the Lord. Gladys is survived by two sons, Bro. Jay (Sis. Dot), Bro. Ned (Sis. Dixie), and two daughters, Nondas

(Frank) Castello, and Karyl (Elim) Smith. We pray they will feel His grace during this difficult time.

May 16 was a beautiful day, not only outside, but also inside as five young men were baptized. They are Bros. Luke Gerke (Dennis and Lori), Bryce Isch (Bro. Les and Sis. Ann), Justin Reinhard (Bro. Doyle and Sis. Jan), Bryan Schwartz (Bro. Gary and Sis. Barb), and Kent Merritt (Gary and Sis. Sharon). "Let all those that seek thee rejoice and be glad in thee: and let such as love thy salvation say continually, Let God be magnified." (Psalm 70:4)

This past month we've had a few people in the hospital. They are Sis. Naomi Ringger (retired Elder Bro. Orville), Bro. Ralph Schwartz (Sis. Leona), Dave Hill, Taylor Maller (Bro. Ben and Sis. Jaime), and Chelsea Fletcher (Bro. Troy and Sis. Brenda Kipfer). May God give them all strength so they are all feeling well again soon.

Those that came to serve us so willingly are Elder Bros. Jesse Beer (Sis. Shirley, Milford, IN) and Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North) and Bro. Brace Wieland (Sis. Brenda, Leo, IN). We thank you all for bringing forth the Word.

On Sunday, May 16, it was so refreshing to see all of the high school seniors sitting up front along with their parents. We have 28 graduating and what a great achievement this is!

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## INDIANA BLUFFTON NORTH

**Ann Meyer**  
**Rhonda Maller**

Our church shared Holy Communion together on April 24 with Elder Bros. Ron Messner (Washington, IL) and Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN) assisting our Elder Bro. Phil Stettner. It was a time of

unity with Christ and with our brethren.

Other visiting ministers that we enjoyed this month were Bros. Will Schieler (Milford, IN), Bruce Hohulin (Goodfield, IL) and Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN). We sincerely appreciated them and their wives. In one sermon we were asked if we have a deep passion for Christ. Are we treating our inheritance with respect (like we would an inherited family business)? Why do we sometimes rebel against a father who always makes perfect choices for us? Let us seek to serve our Heavenly Father with passion and devotion.

Our church was saddened by the death of our Bro. Lennie Gerber on April 22, but we're glad his battle is over and he's safe in the arms of Jesus. May his wife, Sis. Nancy, and his children, Jackie (Rick) Jenkins, Sis. Jill (Mark) Middaugh and Bro. Jarrod (Sis. Amy) Gerber, along with his grandchildren, feel the Lord's peace in their time of loss.

We also had a funeral on May 15 for Amos Gerber, a well-known banker in our town. Our sympathy extends to his sons and their families.

Spending time in the hospital were Taylor Maller (Bro. Ben and Sis. Jaime) and Bro. Joe Schwartz (Sis. Jan). Also in failing health is Sis. Verna Roth. We're thankful the Lord hears each prayer we offer for them.

On May 16, our high school graduates were honored at a special breakfast. They include: Benjamin Aeschliman (Bro. Dale and Sis. Beth), Travis Aeschliman (Bro. Alan and Sis. Deb), Sis. Ashley Drayer (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Jan), Bro. Darren Drayer (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Lois), Leah Fiechter (Bro. Dean and Sis. Cyndee), Bro. Seth Fischer (Bro. Steve and Sis. Joyce), Jesse Frauhiger (Bro.

Steve and Sis. Irene), Natasha Gilgen (Bro. Gene and Sis. Melinda), Jennifer Bynum (Ron and Brenda Werling), Bro. Kent Rockwell (Kevin and Beth King), Janelle Steffen (Bro. Keith and Sis. Kay) and Jayde Steffen (Bro. Tim and Sis. Marlise). May each graduate choose to keep the Lord in their future and let Him direct their paths. We also have dear ones finishing their college degrees: Troy Bertsch (son of Sis. Connie), Bro. Bruce Drayer (Sis. Heather), Bro. Tim Jolloff (Sis. Robin), Bro. Joe Sprunger and his wife, Sis. Tara.

"Apply thine heart unto instruction, and thine ears to the words of knowledge."

*Proverbs 23:12*

### INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE Pam Huber

"So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God."

*Romans 14:12*

When we see our Lord face to face one day, what will our account look like? Our dear Bro. Bill Huber (Sis. Betty) went before us to his Heavenly Home on April 29. Our prayers are with his family, including two sons, Brent (Julie) and Bro. Bob (Sis. Joy), and daughter, Brenda. Those around him could see his account by the life he lived. When will our time come? Only God knows and so "let us live like Christ died yesterday, rose today and is coming back tomorrow."

Six souls were baptized this past month as they gave their account of God's grace in their lives: Alex Leman (Bro. Doug and Sis. Margaret), Alivia Metzger (Bro. Dave and Sis. Arlene), John and Jessica Murray, Joshua Overmyer (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Tianne) and Miranda Wuethrich (Bro. Bruce and

Sis. Kathy). We had the pleasure of Elder Bros. Chuck Hemmer (Peoria, IL) and Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN) assisting Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman and Bro. Steve Gutwein on this blessed occasion. Also joining us for the day were Bros. Steve Frauhiger and Bob Meyer (Bluffton North, IN) and Neal Widmer (Wolcott, IN). May the Lord bless you with continued grace and strength as you take your place in the body of Christ.

We also look forward to hearing the testimony of Luke Gutwein (Sis. Donna) as he was announced to have peace with God.

The Lord has also blessed two families with new life recently. Bro. Randy and Sis. Mara Leman, along with their daughter, Sydney, welcomed Darrin Randall into the world on April 28. Thankful grandparents are Ken and Denise Bailey and Bro. Dennis and Sis. Linda Leman. Bro. Ben and Sis. Deana Cook finally met little McKayla May for the first time as she was born on May 13. Joyfully welcoming her were grandparents, Sis. Debbie Cook and Bro. Roger and Sis. Janet Overmyer. God bless you as you raise your little ones for Him!

Please remember Sis. Catherine Neihouser in your prayers as she has been hospitalized recently.

"The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth."

*Psalms 145:18*

We are very thankful to Bro. Steve Ringger (Bluffton North, IN) for taking the time to share God's Word with us. May the blessings you've brought to us return to you!

### INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS Lauretta Schafer Gail Bradford

"And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it."

*Isaiah 30:21*

The Bible class and their families gathered for a senior breakfast to support our three graduating high school seniors, Joshua Freed, Rob Witzig and Bro. Joel Zeller. We are praying that they will heed the Lord's direction as they pass this milestone in their lives.

Young people came to Indianapolis on April 17-18 to take part in a number of ministries, including hospital and home visits, activities at the boys' and girls' schools, maintenance and Bible distribution. It warms our hearts to see how their energy and zeal reflect God's love. Often people express amazement as they see teenagers and young adults spending their weekends reaching out to others instead of participating in activities the world idolizes.

We recently welcomed several ministers to our city. They included Bros. Erik Givens (Princeville, IL), Fred Witzig (Altadena, CA) and Nile Bucher (Bluffton North, IN). God is truly faithful to our ministers as they travel away from home to preach the gospel. It's our prayer that they always feel welcome here and that they'll return often.

We celebrated the 80th birthday of our beloved Sis. Edye Mayer with refreshments after church. Many visitors came to help wish her God's blessings. Bro. John and Sis. Edye have been a blessing to this congregation for many years, helping in so many ways. Their love of God shines on all of us!

"By humility and the fear of the



Lord are riches, and honor, and life."

*Proverbs 22:4*

## INDIANA, LACROSSE

### Anna Marie Stoller

Bro. Ken Schneider (Remington, IN) proclaimed the Word of Life, including these thoughts, "Blessed is the peacemaker. Jesus was a peacemaker, and those who do not follow Him are not peacemakers."

As Bro. Aaron Heinold has faithfully prayed for the church, so we now pray special prayers for him and Sis. Grace. He is in the hospital after becoming suddenly ill, and will soon be able to return home.

Touching all of our hearts were the farewell words that Bro. Roger Levy spoke to the congregation on his family's last Sunday assembling with us. Bro. Roger and Sis. Sue, Bro. Scott, Melanie, and Kent will be worshipping with the Indianapolis congregation, since Bro. Roger has employment near that area. There are not words to express how much we love, appreciate, and will miss this cherished family, but our prayers go with them as they adjust to new surroundings. A farewell singing was held by the LaCrosse congregation on May 22. May we all be forever united in Heaven someday.

We are thankful that Bro. Dan Stoller submitted himself to preaching the Truth on Mother's Day. The Holy Spirit led us into the Book of Ruth for meditation, worship, and encouragement. "We're not expected to do things we cannot do — just to be faithful. Naomi was blessed due to faithfulness, and Ruth was devoted to her. Naomi and Ruth were poor. They didn't know the end of their steadfastness and faithfulness." "God does not want us to feel of no use.

He wants us to see our purpose in life. We should not circumvent God's order and way. Don't take shortcuts in serving God." "The story of Ruth shows the result of faithfulness."

"That our sons may be as plants grown up in their youth; that our daughters may be as corner stones, polished after the similitude of a palace:"

*Psalms 144:12*

There are several families who have had special prayers answered in the lives of their children. Bro. Randy and Mary Lynn Massner rejoice that their son, David, has turned his back to all the world has to offer. David is turning his life to the Lord in true repentance, and the whole congregation is uplifted for another soul who has chosen the way of Truth.

Karina Troxel (Bro. Ed and Sis. Carol) and Mark Heinold (Bro. Glen and Sis. Sandy) have repented and found the precious pearl they have been seeking: peace with God and man. The church of God anticipates baptismal services in mid-July, and we are thankful for the progress these beloved souls have achieved.

A joyful day was experienced by the families and friends of Bro. Ned Stoller and Sis. Heidi Kaeb when they exchanged marriage vows before the Alto congregation on May 2. Parents are Bro. Curt and Sis. Luann Kaeb of Alto, and Bro. Steve and Sis. Anna Marie Stoller of LaCrosse. Our earnest prayer is that their marriage will exemplify the relationship between Christ and His church.

Graduating from high school are Sis. Molly Frank (Elder Bro. Curt and Sis. Lyla), Sis. Julie Heinold (Bro. Gene and Sis. Evie), Ben Troxel (Bro. Ed and Sis. Carol), and Sis. Lana Stoller (Bro. Steve

and Sis. Anna Marie). The end of high school seems to be the final step out of childhood, the security of home and parents' guidance, with a leap into life and it's challenging experiences. The school years have prepared each of these young people to face higher education or careers, and they are now equipped to put to use the elements of learning. As parents, we pray that our young adults will prize much higher than earthly wisdom all the truths of the Lord — that they will walk uprightly before Him and glorify His name wherever they go in life. "Only one life; 'twill soon be past. Only what's done for Christ will last." How true is this quote, "Only what's done for Christ will last."

## INDIANA, LEO

### Ethelyn Schlatter

Sis. Maudie Greuter, 92, was relieved of her earthly trials and entered the heavenly portals on April 24 at her home in Corunna, IN. Surviving are a son, John; daughters, Sis. Wanda Halte, Sis. Ruth Garman and Alice Thompson; 13 grandchildren; 34 great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild and one sister. She made blankets and mended clothing for many years for World Relief.

We welcome Bro. Brett Wieland (Bro. Brace and Sis. Brenda) and Bro. Stuart Reynolds (Larry and Linda) into the fold of our Lord Jesus. They gave their testimonies Saturday evening and were baptized on May 2. Many of the Ringger family from Gridley, IL were here, including Elder Bro. Earl Ringger who shared with Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN) on Saturday evening.

We appreciated our visiting ministers this month. Bro. Howard Plattner (Sis. Kristen, Alto, MI) brought us a timely mes-

sage one Sunday. Bro. Randy Gasser and family (Detroit, MI) spent Mother's Day with us. His non-traditional mother's day message was thoughtful.

Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North, IN), and Bro. Gene Lehman (Sis. Verna, Wolcott, IN) were here for our monthly topical Bible study. They brought us an update of the conditions in Yugoslavia. War is very real and near to them. Some have moved to safer areas. They need our prayers and financial support that the Lord continue to care for them. For more information, read the Mission Committee report in each Silver Lining.

"And ye now therefore have sorrow; but I will see you again and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you...These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation; but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."

*John 16:22,33*

"Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh."

*Matthew 25:13*

Welcome to Bro. Jason and Sis. Janel Habegger who moved to Auburn, IN and are attending Leo Church. Bro. Jason is going to school and Sis. Janel is teaching school.

"In my Father's house are many mansions, if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you."

*John 14:2*

What better promise could we have for Father's Day, especially since we see the deterioration in the world today.

#### *Note of Thanks:*

Thank you to every one who sent cards, visited, made phone calls and sent flowers and especially for the prayers sent our way during mother's illness and passing. God bless you all for your love and concern.

*The Family of Maudie Greuter*

### **INDIANA, MILFORD Marguerite Hoerr Pam Beer**

"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:"

*Romans 5:1*

We as a church family rejoiced together to hear that Daron Price (Bro. Phil and Sis. Jane), Katy Schlipf (Bro. Rich and Sis. Kathy) and Phil Yargosz (Michael and Donna) have found peace with God and man and look forward to giving their testimony and being baptized.

May God bless Bro. Wayne Leman (Sis. Julie, Roanoke, IL) for coming and ministering to us this past month.

We are thankful that God's healing touch was upon Bro. Carlton Beer (Sis. Mary Ann) as he underwent surgery and a short hospitalization.

Our sympathy goes out to Sis. Kate Price (Bro. Glenn) whose sister, Magdalena Kern, passed away recently. May God comfort you, Sis. Kate, as only He can.

#### *Hold Fast To The Right*

"You leave us to seek your employment my boy, by the world you have yet to be tried.

But amid the temptations and trials you meet,

May your heart to the Saviour confide."

Our college graduates this month are Bro. Barry Beer (Bro. Dan and Sis. Deb) who graduated from Purdue University with a degree in Computer Science, Sis. Holly Beer (Bro. Fred and Sis. Pat) who also graduated from Purdue University with a degree in Elementary Education, Bethany Cockburn (Bro. Bob and Sis. Sue) who graduated from Indiana University with a double major in Psychology and English, and Kevin Lehman (Bro. John and Sis. Pam) who graduated from Northwestern College with a degree in heating and air conditioning. Our congratulations and best wishes to all four of you.

"And he saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then he arose and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm. But the men marvelled, saying, what manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him!"

*Matthew 8:26-27*

Katy and Kristi Schlipf, daughters of Bro. Rich and Sis. Kathy Schlipf, learned first hand the powers of the wind when the FFA school group they were with experienced a tornado while staying in Oklahoma City. The top floor of their hotel was gone along with their possessions, and their van received such heavy damage they were unable to drive it home. That night they stayed in a shelter with only the clothes on their backs and the following morning they flew home to where very thankful parents were waiting. We as a Milford congregation are also very thankful that the Lord's protective hand was over Katy and Kristi and that they are back home among us.

Isabell and Sis. Lorrene Schieler.

## INDIANA, REMINGTON

**Rochelle Ward**

**Beth Virkler**

Our church spent several evenings this past month going to the homes of our graduates wishing them Godspeed during this huge change in their lives. Our youth certainly need our prayers and encouragement as they branch out into the immoral climate that permeates our culture. Graduating from high school are: Sis. Rachel Bahler (Bro. Mark and Sis. Benita), Kylie Clauss (Bro. Rex and Sis. Tammy), Bro. Aaron Kilgus (Bro. Dan and Sis. Jenna), Rachel Lehman (Chuck and Pat), Jeremy Scheitlin (Bro. Rolyce and Sis. Lori), Sis. Amanda Stoller (Bro. Dan and Sis. Deb), and Kerry Tyler (Dale and Marcella). Graduating from college are: Bro. Rustin Meister - Basic Construction Management (Bro. Dick and Sis. Sharon), John Waibel - Hotel and Restaurant Management (Bro. Clyde and Sis. MarySue), and Shirley Waibel - DVM (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Helen).

"Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say: I have no pleasure in them. Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man."

*Eccles. 12:1,13*

Blaize Austin Reyes entered the arms of his mother and father (Megan and Rick) on Mother's Day. Siblings, Kaleb and Sierra, along with grandparents, Bro. Phil and Sis. Diane Isabell, welcome him home.

Spending time in the hospital was Sis. Charity Isabell, Bro. Phil

## INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

**Jennifer Mangold**

**Sue Beebe**

"Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh."

*Genesis 2:24*

With much joy, both Sis. Sue and Sis. Jennifer, with our families share in the engagement of Julie Kellenberger to Mark Beebe. Parents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Sue Beebe and Sis. Dianne Kellenberger (Morris, MN) and Mark Kellenberger of Leicester, NC. They plan to wed in September and then live in Indianapolis.

We were privileged to have our Elder Bro. Jesse Beer with us twice this month to share Holy Communion and the Memorandum. Other visiting ministers were Bros. Walt Rager (Toledo, OH) and Mark Gerber (Bluffton, IN).

The brethren and a few friends shared in a day of outside work and inside cleaning at the church this month. It is appropriate, I suppose, for each of us to care for our spiritual lives as we care for the physical things in our lives. Certainly we need to work every day in prayer and meditation on our spiritual lives and that would also include cleaning out those things that would be displeasing to God or a hindrance to others.

Our prayers are with the son of Sis. Pauline Laidig, Roger, who suffered a mild heart attack this month. We understand he is home with his family recuperating. Requiring hospital attention, we trust that God's Almighty healing powers will be upon David Mangold (Mike and Sis. Renee) and Sis. Jennifer Mangold (Bro. Matt).

## INDIANA, VALPARAISO

**Cheryl Bucher**

**Hope Bucher**

God invites us to bring our worn, frayed hopes, our broken dreams, our care laden hearts, and let Him relieve and restore and renew, as we rest in God's love. Our congregation recently heeded the invitation as we took part in the most sacred of experiences, Holy Communion. Holy Communion is the special reminder which takes us through the Saviour's last hours. Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford, IN) assisted our Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL). Our thanks to these Elder Brothers who gave of their time to administer this sacred rite.

Our other visiting ministers were Bros. Tom Schambach (Elgin, IL) and John Stoller (Leo, IN). We enjoyed their ministry and the fellowship with their families. Come back anytime.

Many of us enjoyed the Mother-Daughter dinner together. The amount of ladies was smaller; but still enjoyed it very much.

Kim Frieden was united in marriage to Shawn Salome. Kim is the daughter of Bro. Butch and Sis. Sue Frieden. We wish Kim and Shawn God's richest blessings.

## INDIANA, WOLCOTT

**Beckie Lehman**

**Mary Beth Lehman**

"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night."

*Psalms 1:1-2*



As we remember and honor our fathers on Father's Day, we are thankful for the loving example of our Heavenly Father. As humans, we often fall short yet we rest in His loving mercy. Our prayer for fathers young and old is that the Word could truly be their delight and the light unto their paths as they guide their children.

We are thankful once again that a soul has answered the call of the Holy Spirit. Katie Schwab (Bro. Tim and Sis. Rachel) has given her heart in repentance to the Lord. May His Spirit guide and bless her in the years to come.

Our thanks go to Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN) for his loving service in sharing God's Word. May God bless him for giving his time in this way.

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**IOWA, BURLINGTON**  
**Judy Gehring**  
**Karla Gerst**

"Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God."

*Philippians 4:6*

Prayers for God's care and blessings were said for those in our congregation this month who have started on new pathways in life. Nathan Rowell (Bro. John and Sis. Nelda) and Shanna Moser were united in marriage. We pray that they will seek God's direction in their life together. We share the same prayer for John Beyer (Bro. Henry and Sis. Barbara) and Sarah Webb as they were also joined in marriage in the past month.

We rejoice with Philip Schulz (Bro. Gary and the late Sis. Karen) as he graduates from high school this year. We pray that he will al-

ways remember to look to God for all guidance and counsel as he makes decisions in his life.

Our prayers also go out to the dear ones in our congregation that have been sick or hospitalized in the past month. It seems like there is always someone who is not feeling well. May we always remember to pray for our brethren that they might feel the strength and grace from God to face each trial.

How sweet the privilege of  
 prayer,  
 When we our cares and sorrows  
 share  
 With Him who understands,  
 With Him who understands.  
 Our Father's house has large  
 supplies  
 He owns and rules the earth and  
 skies  
 And bounteous are His hands,  
 And bounteous are His hands.

'Tis not command nor mere  
 decree  
 That makes men come on  
 bended knee  
 To seek His holy face,  
 To seek His holy face.  
 When'er the soul's deep needs  
 arise,  
 In fears and trials it relies  
 On His sustaining grace,  
 On His sustaining grace.  
 —Hymns of Zion #205

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**IOWA, ELGIN**  
**Gloria Frieden**  
**Heidi Butikofer**

As we journey through this life, it seems there is always something to look forward to. As a child it might be that next birthday which seems will never get here. As we grow a little older and the time seems to pass more swiftly, we wonder if we'll be ready to meet

each event as it comes. And for the elderly, who have weathered the heat of many battles, life settles down to slower pace and thoughts turn heavenward as they wait patiently for their summons into eternity.

We have one high school student looking forward to graduation this year: Jack Hanson (Albert and Trudy). Jack plans to enter the Navy in September and gain an education in Advanced Electronic Computers. May he feel the Lord's presence and direction as he continues on life's pathway.

Here in Elgin we are looking forward to reunions with former Elginites as they return for Elgin's Homecoming which is held every five years. This year it is planned for June 24-28.

Also in the month of June, many families will be gathering to pay tribute to the dads in the family on Father's Day. May God grant our earthly fathers much grace to be the Christian head of the home that is their duty to be.

As we soon will be remembering the birth of our nation, may we be thankful to God for the many, many blessings that are ours. I know how easy it can be to murmur and complain but there are really many blessings for us to count. God has indeed been good to us.

As we look forward to all these future events, our retired Elder Bro. Paul Butikofer and his wife, Sis. Milly, have been reminiscing the blessings they have shared over the past 50 years of married life. Bro. Paul and Sis. Milly remain very active and we wish them continued good health and God's blessings as they continue, hand in hand, in their walk with the Lord.

We are thankful that George Schupbach is able to be home again after spending a few days in the hospital.

*Note of Thanks:*

We wish to express our sincere thanks to all who made our 50th Golden Wedding Anniversary so special. The response of the many cards and gifts were overwhelming. At the time of this writing, we have received two hundred plus cards and are still receiving some every day. Thanks again for so lovingly remembering us and may God richly bless each and every one of you.

*Humbly,*

*Paul and Millie Butikofer*

## IOWA, GARDEN GROVE

**Laura Funk**

Visiting ministers this past month include Bros. Ron Joos (Pulaski, IA), John Rowell (Burlington, IA) and Dave Zehr (Gridley, IL). We were reminded that Satan uses many avenues to lure us back into sin. If we look at the nature of those sins, we see they can be categorized into the lust of the flesh, lust of the eye, and the pride of life.

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

*1 John 2:16*

Becca Snodgrass, 6 year-old daughter of Bro. Wayne and Sis. Becky, was hospitalized and had surgery. She is recuperating at home now. We pray for God's continued healing of Becca.

We had the privilege of hosting a potluck group from Pulaski. What a blessing to meet those from miles away of the same faith.

Graduating from college this year is Jim Webber and from high school is Jason Smith. Jim's parents are Bro. Phil and Sis. Jan. Jason's parents are Rachel and

Gene Smith. We pray God's guidance for these two gentleman as they embark upon the next step in their lives.

I knelt to pray but not for long  
I had too much to do.

I had to hurry and get to work  
For bills would soon be due.

So I knelt and said a hurried  
prayer  
and jumped up off my knees.  
My Christian duty was now done.  
My soul could rest at ease.

All day long I had no time  
To spread a word of cheer.  
No time to speak of Christ to  
friends,  
They'd laugh at me I'd fear.

No time, no time, too much to do,  
That was my constant cry.  
No time to give to souls in need.  
But at last the time, the time to  
die.

I went before the Lord,  
I came, I stood with downcast  
eyes  
For in His hands God held a  
book;  
It was the Book of Life.

God looked into His book and  
said  
"Your name I cannot find  
I once was going to write it  
down...  
But never found the time."

## IOWA, IOWA CITY

**Sharon Gerst**

We had many visitors this last month. The weekend of April 17-18 we were blessed with a busload of Chicago brothers, sisters and friends. We enjoyed having them fellowship with us and appreciate

the many encouragements they gave us. Among the visitors from Chicago were ministering Bros. Lenny Meyer and Greg Rassi. We hope God will richly bless these brothers for sharing the Word of Life with us.

The first Saturday in May, Elder Bro. Dennis Warner (Lester, IA) came to help Bro. Joe serve Communion. What a good reminder it was of the blood Christ shed for us and the suffering He endured on the cross as the perfect sacrifice for our sins. We also are grateful for Bro. Dennis' efforts on Sunday as he broke the Bread of Life with us.

Other visiting ministers that preached God's Word to our congregation were Bros. Trent Meiss (Eureka, IL) and Kent Getz (Elgin, IA). May they feel the Lord's blessings in their life for their kindness shown towards us.

The coming marriage of Sis. Carrie Gress (Bro. Cloyce and Sis. Carol, West Bend, IA) to Bro. Jason Rauhe (Bro. Warren and Sis. Kay, Detroit, MI) was announced. We pray that this young couple will be blessed always as they live their lives in faithfulness to God and to each other. We look forward to having Sis. Carrie and Bro. Jason assemble with us the next two years as she finishes her schooling.

Elections for Sunday School teachers, trustees and treasurer were held this month. The new Sunday School teachers for this fall include: Sis. Emily Peterson, Bro. Brad Eland, and Bro. Ben Weyrick. Bro. Ben was also voted in as our new treasurer. The new trustees are Bro. Larry Peterson and Bro. Roger Reker. May these brothers and sister feel God's grace and guidance as they seek to fulfill their duties.

**IOWA, LESTER  
Cindy Leuthold  
Sue Warner**

We are always grateful for our ministers who share with us the Word of Life. We pray that God will bless them and their families. Bro. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS) visited us and ministered to us.

We rejoice with Benji Kellenberger (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Shirley) and Joann Meyer (Bro. Raymond and Sis. Twyla) who have repented of their sins and have been granted the gift of peace. We look forward to hearing their testimonies.

On April 17, K'jert Gramstad and Michelle Van Wyhe (Bro. Pete and Sis. Susan) exchanged wedding vows. We congratulate them and pray that God's love will always be present in their home.

Clark Meyer (Bro. George and Sis. Charlyn) and Suzi Paulsen were married on April 24. We wish them many blessings as they walk the path of life together.

Believing that God has brought them together, we were gladdened to hear the engagements of Sis. Tami Bajema (Bro. Rod and Sis. Twyla) to Bro. David Lantz (Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Janet, Oakville, IA) and of Bro. Paul Metzger (Bro. Eli and Sis. Alice) to Sis. Delores Metzger (Bro. Noah and Sis. Emma, West Bend, IA). We pray that God will be near both couples as they make plans to serve Him together.

Our hearts sorrowed as we laid to rest a brother in faith, Bro. Edward Roemen. We pray that God will comfort his wife, Sis. Amelia, and his children, Marlene (Frank) Tullar, Marvin (Joyce), Ella Bartels, Leonard (Donna), Dean, Roy (Susan), David (Serena), Glenn (Kathy), Sheila (John) Feekes, Terry (Kristi), Les (Linda), and Nettie, and his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

We extend our sympathy to Gil-

bert and Sis. Vicki Knobloch on the death of their grandson, Scott Walters. We also share sympathy with Sis. Zelma and Iola Knobloch on the death of their sister-in-law, Alice Marie Metzger (West Bend, IA). May God comfort all who sorrow.

Our prayers are with the many loved ones from our congregation who suffer bodily afflictions. Leah Doorneweerd (Dick) was a surgical patient. Bro. Fred Metzger (Sis. Esty), Sis. Ella Metzger (Bro. Ernst), and little Logan Leuthold were hospital patients. Bro. Alfred Feucht has been diagnosed with leukemia. We pray that the Great Physician will comfort and heal where it is His will.

"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*

We extend our congratulations and best wishes to our graduates as they embark on the next step of life's journey. High school graduates include: Heidi Bajema (Bro. Rod and Sis. Twyla), Sarah DeHaan (Bro. Tim and Lois), Matt Hartter (Bro. Jerome and Sis. Gail), Erin Knobloch (Bro. William and Sis. Eleanor), Carrie Knobloch (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Coralee), Hana Larson (Tedd and Sis. Diane), Catherine Leuthold (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Vicki), Annie Metzger (Bro. James and Sis. Lois), Kim Metzger and Stan Metzger (Bro. William and Sis. Charlotte), Gwen Meyer (Bro. George and Sis. Charlyn), Alex Moser (Bro. Wes and Sis. Esther), Josh TeSlaa (Gary and Barb TeSlaa and Jim and Ronda Thielen), Monty Van Wyhe (Bro. Pete and Sis. Susan), Trista Van Wyhe (Leroy and Shelley) and

Tammy Wulf (Bro. Dale and Sis. Becky).

Graduating from college are: Curtis Doorneweerd and Betsy Doorneweerd (Bro. Butch and Sis. Marlys), Jeanne Leuthold (Bro. Robert and Sis. Cindy), Sis. Jerilyn Knobloch (Bro. Larry and Sis. Sherryl), Jeff Metzger (Keith and Mary), and Rick Metzger (Bro. Dale and Sis. Christine).

*Note of Thanks:*

The family of Edward Roemen wish to thank all those that have remembered us with cards, plants, gifts, food, phone calls, memorials, and prayers during the time of our loss. Your support has meant so much to us. May God bless you all.

*Sis. Amelia Roemen and family*

**IOWA, OAKVILLE  
Melody Steiner  
Debra Wagenbach**

We welcomed five new precious souls into our brotherhood. Our hearts warmed as we heard testimonies from Natasha Wiegand (Bro. Brian and Sis. Cindy), Ryan Frank (Bro. Curt and Sis. Kathy) and Kent Schmidgall (Bro. Jon and Sis. Julie) the last weekend in April. May God bless Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN) and Bro. Dale Wulf (Lester, IA) for allowing themselves to be used in the Lord's service. Then, just three weeks later we welcomed Carrie and Christin Gerst (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Joleen) into the fold. Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA) spent Saturday evening with us for the provings. Several from our congregation traveled to Champaign, IL to hear the testimony and witness the baptism of Kirk Wagenbach. Kirk is the son of Bro. Craig and Sis. Michelle Wagenbach. His grandparents are Bro. Paul and Sis. Dorothy Wagenbach and Bro. Al



and Sis. Martha Wiegand.

Visiting ministers this month include Bros. Ken Hoerr (Peoria, IL) and Gary Endress (Bradford, IL). May God bless them and their families.

We rejoice with our Bro. Dave Lanz (Bro. Ken and Sis. Janet). His engagement to Sis. Tami Bajema (Bro. Rod and Sis. Twyla) of Lester, IA was made known to our congregation on May 2. May they look to the Lord for guidance as they plan for a July wedding.

May 15 was the wedding day of Chaylee Hudson (Gail Wagenbach) and Ryan Kuntz (Mr. and Mrs. Paul Kuntz, Mediapolis). Bro. Paul and Sis. Dorothy Wagenbach are Chaylee's grandparents. May God bless Chaylee and Ryan as they begin their life together.

We have several high school graduates this year. Congratulations to Royce Anliker (Bro. Dan and Sis. Delores), Sis. Christy Frank (Bro. Curt and Sis. Kathy), Steve Lindeen (Bro. Tom and Sis. Vera), Nichole Massner (Bro. Ron and Sis. Donna), Curt Schmidgall (Bro. Ron and Sis. Jane), Sis. Bethany Schulz (Bro. Roger and Sis. June), Randy and Rob Steiner (Bro. Tom and Sis. JoAnn). We pray for them and trust that as they make choices that will affect their future, they will consider God's will for their lives.

*Note of Thanks:*

My heartfelt thanks to my family and to our many dear friends for all the love and kindness shown me during my stay at the hospital. Thank you for your prayers, visits, calls, and cards. Pray God will richly bless each one of you.

*Sis. Luella Anliker*

**IOWA, PULASKI**

**Lisa Knecht**

Greetings of love to each of you!

We are always grateful for the ministering brothers who visit our congregation. We wish to thank Bros. Paul Eisenmann (Sis. Elaine, Burlington, IA) and Brad Funk (Sis. Laura and family, Garden Grove, IA).

As another school year comes to a close, we want to extend congratulations to our graduates. College: Darren Wiegand (Bro. Dave and Sis. Mary). High School: Star Esslinger (Bro. Leland and Sis. Patsy) and Eric Teubel (Carolyn and the late Dennis). Eighth Grade: Jacob Joos (Bro. Ron and Sis. Christy), Ryan Schock (Bro. Dale and Sis. Teresa), Jonathon Teubel (Bro. Paul and Sis. Charlotte), Boni Wettstein (Bro. Jon and Sis. Rita) and Stacy Wuthrich (Bro. Roger and Sis. DeAnn).

May each of you be guided and protected in the coming years.

There is beauty all around,  
When there's love at home...  
Time doth softly, sweetly glide,  
When there's love at home.

A Christ-centered, peaceful, and loving home is truly a place of refuge in this confused world. An endless note of gratitude is given to all fathers, who spend much time in thought and prayer for the spiritual well being of their families. May God bless and grant courage to each of you!

**IOWA, WEST BEND**

**Berniece Banwart**

**Eunice Fehr**

We appreciated having Elder Bro. Leroy Messner (Sis. JoAnn, Winthrop, MN) spending a weekend with us. He assisted Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr and Bro. Wayne Grimm with serving us Holy Communion. Other visiting ministers that have lent themselves in the service of the Lord are Elder Bro.

Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, LaCrosse, IN), and Bros. Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha, KS), Dean Messner (Sis. Wanda, Winthrop, MN) and Dale Moore (Sis. Cheryl, Elgin, IA).

The death angel has called and taken Alice Marie Metzger from our midst. Left to miss this special mom are sons, Kurt and Wyan; and brothers, Ervin Martin (Venice, FL), Nathan, Gerald, and Ellsworth Martin (Princeville, IL), and sisters, Janet Schubert (Peoria, IL), Doris Michel (Morton, IL) and Arlys and Arlene Martin (Princeville, IL). She was preceded in death by her husband, Bernard; daughter, Beth; and her parents. Also left to mourn her passing are many of her in-laws, Bro. Arnold, Bro. Silas, Emil, Sis. Darlene, Sis. Marie, and Rosie Metzger, all from West Bend, and Sis. Iola Knobloch and Sis. Zelma Knobloch from Lester, IA. May this dear family find comfort from God in their lonely times ahead.

Our hospital patient was Bro. Silas (Sis. Della) Metzger. We are thankful that he can be home again.

Congratulations to first-time parents, Bro. Matthew and Sis. Rachel Fehr, as they welcome their son, Loren Matthew, on April 16. Bro. John and Sis. Paula Schmidt and Elder Bro. Wayne and Sis. Kathy Fehr share in their joy as grandparents.

We rejoice as four couples have found faith in the Lord's leading for their lives together. We are looking forward to four summer weddings. Announcing their engagements are: Sis. Carrie Gress (Bro. Cloyce and Sis. Carol) and Bro. Jason Rauhe from Chicago, IL (Bro. Warren and Sis. Kaye, Detroit, MI); Sis. Delores Gerber (Bro. Noah and Sis. Emma) and Bro. Paul Metzger of Lester, IA (Bro. Eli and Sis. Alice); Sis. Ken-

dra Banwart (Bro. Ken and Sis. Marlene) and Bro. Ben Stoller of Latty, OH (Bro. Bill and Sis. Barb); and Sis. Molly Skoglund (Bro. Mark and Sis. Lori) and Bro. Barry Fehr (Bro. Dan and Sis. Eunice). May these couples seek God's direction during their engagement and through their married life.

Congratulations and God's blessings to our college and high school graduates. Those graduating from high school are Charles Anliker (Bro. Leonard and Sis. Helen), Alan Banwart (Dean and Irene), Eric Banwart (Ron and Carolyn), Michael Bruellman (John and Cindy), Eli Fehr (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Charlotte), Lee Fehr (Bro. Jim and Sis. Sharon), Sis. Sally Fehr (Bro. Dan and Sis. Eunice), Carl Gerber (Bro. Dave and Sis. Diane), Sis. Breann Messner (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Audrey), Amy Schneider (Dave), and Sis. Molly Skoglund (Bro. Mark and Sis. Lori). We pray for each student that as they go out into the world, whether it be higher education or employment, that they would seek God's direction in their lives.

As Father's Day will soon be here, we want to praise God for our fathers and father figures who have instructed us wisely and lovingly. We give them the honor on Father's Day which they deserve all year.

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### **JAPAN, SHIODA** **Willis Ehnle**

May 9 was Mother's Day in Japan, too, so a group of us went to the local hot spring hospital to visit the mothers there. We went from room to room giving each mother a Mother's Day pamphlet and a small towel which might be used as a wash cloth. Sis. Ayako Inoue and her grandmother, Sis. Inoue,

were towban for this activity. That means they were responsible for making the arrangements and the preparation. We have the opportunity to invite people to church.

On May 16 we had a singing here at our church. Bro. Akihiro Ito was towban for the singing. Bro. Andrew Klaus was our guest minister that day and he led the singing all day. Bro. Akito and Sis. Marie Inoue came from Tokyo for our singing in the afternoon. They brought Bob Allen and his Japanese wife, Rika, from Pennsylvania, who were visiting our Tokyo Church that day. In the future, they might find employment in Japan and attend our Tokyo Church.

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### **JAPAN, TOKYO** **Chris Aberle**

Christian love and greetings from Tokyo. This past month began with what is called Golden Week here in Japan. It is a very special holiday for this country because everyone takes time off from their responsibilities for a full week. It is a good opportunity to enjoy the many beauties of nature that the coming of spring brings. A group of members from Tokyo and Shioda church took a day to go hiking and have a barbecue picnic, and had a wonderful time of fellowship. Also during this holiday week, Chris Aberle's sister, Carla Schafer, from Morton, IL came for a visit and did quite a bit of sightseeing. It's always a great joy to have visitors.

As mentioned in last month's article, Sis. Urushino's husband continues to battle health problems. Please keep them in your prayers.

On May 9, we had our annual business meeting. After the financial report, we discussed several issues including the need for a larger church structure. The cur-

rent church and attached personal residence are showing their age, and different alternatives were considered to make the best use of the church property. Knowing this is a significant step in which we want the Lord's direction and peace among the church body, we were encouraged to commit this issue to prayer.

Another topic that was discussed at the meeting was how we as Christians can improve our relationship with the friends that regularly attend church but have not yet made a commitment to Christ. It is often easier to take the gift of salvation we have been given and keep it to ourselves rather than make the effort to share it with others that are so needy. Our little church here needs your prayers that the truth of the Word spoken would reach hearts prepared by God to accept His salvation plan.

May the Lord bless and keep you all in Christ Jesus.

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### **KANSAS, BERN** **Jill Hartter** **Holly Meyer**

"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

*Philippians 4:19*

May God's provision be felt by each of our graduates as they move on to the next phase of life. Graduating from high school are Angela Edelman (Bro. Earl and Sis. Donna), Brian Edelman (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Linda), Aldana Gonzalez (foreign exchange student of Keith and Deb Meyer), Mark Hartter (Bro. Steve and Sis. Lois), Jody Kaeb (Bro. Jim and Sis. Diane), Sis. Kim Kaeb (Bro. Paul and Sis. Joan), Kevin Rokey (Bro. Morris and Sis. Arlinda), Rick

Stoller (Bro. Arden and Sis. Dar), and Evan Strahm (Bro. Richard and Sis. Kathy). Graduating from Vo-Tech are Joshua Meyer (Keith and Deb), Bro. Dominic Meyer (Earl and Sis. Darlene), and Bro. Lynn Strahm (Bro. Dale and Sis. Shelby). Our one college graduate is Bro. Ryan Menold (Bro. Joe and Sis. Kathy Rokey).

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Harvey and Sis. Marie Grimm, and their son, Greg, for the death of his brother, Glen Grimm (Battle Creek, MI). Our dear friend, Arlene Bauman, passed away on May 16 and leaves several nieces and nephews to mourn. Many from our congregation have fond memories of her as their elementary teacher, as she dedicated 46 years of her life to service in that area. She also was an active volunteer in several area nursing homes until her health failed.

Sis. Lila Rokey (Bro. Joe) has certainly been in our thoughts and prayers as she had a lengthy hospital stay, due to a blood clot. Sis. Kathy Strahm (Bro. Richard) has spent the past week in the hospital for a special eye treatment. We're thankful they could both worship again with us, and also that Matthew Meyer (infant son of Bro. Alan and Sis. Colleen) is home from the hospital, is doing well, and can also come to church with the rest of his family - praise God for His healing mercies!

Bringing home a precious bundle from the hospital were Bro. Jim and Sis. Kristin Meyer, as Elizabeth (Ellie) Janae was born on April 17. She is also welcomed home by three older brothers, Travis, Darren, and Eric. Ellie's grandparents are Bro. Robert and Sis. Janet Meyer and Dave and Virginia Mars (Sabetha, KS).

Our congratulations goes to Les and Leora Baumgartner, who re-

cently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. May the Lord continue to bless them and their family.

Bern was privileged to host the World Relief meeting on April 10. We were able to see and hear about projects in Haiti and Ixtlan, Mexico by a slide presentation on Friday evening. We also were encouraged that we can do many things for the needy right in our own community. Above all, we were instructed to pray for one another and do what we can. We enjoyed the many visitors it brought to our church. Among them were several ministering brothers, Jerry Bauman (Rittman, OH), Arnold Gerst (Taylor, MO), Roger Sauder (Fort Lauderdale, FL), and Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN). We were also blessed to have Elder Bros. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO), Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL), and Ron Messner (Washington, IL). We want to thank each one of you for being with us and serving our church in various capacities.

We have been blessed with more visiting ministers this month as Bro. Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL) spent a weekend here and Elder Bros. Gene Marti and Gerry Hertzler were also in Bern on a Sunday afternoon.

We are rejoicing that more prayers have been answered and souls are realizing their need for a Saviour! Cara Hartter (Bro. Neil and Sis. Evelyn), Brent Strahm (Bro. Richard and Sis. Kathy), and Diane Strahm (Bro. Curt and Ellen) are beginning their conversion; may we as a church, do our part in encouraging them and lifting them up in prayer.

*Note:* At the World Relief Meeting on the weekend of April 10-11, a women's long navy coat (Worthington), size 8, was left.

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## KANSAS, KIOWA

### Laura Wagenbach

### Jennifer Stewart

"The east wind carrieth him away, and he departeth: and as a storm hurleth him out of his place."

*Job 27:21*

We are thankful that we were spared from the tornadoes that touched down around our area the first week of May. Some from this area had family and friends that weren't so lucky. One man from Haysville, KS was said to have been sleeping on his couch and when he woke up his house was gone around him. They were warned of the coming tornado and took precautions. The first one came through and didn't touch down and they let their guard down. Then the second one hit.

Are we like that spiritually? We are warned and we take precautions. The storms pass and we let our guard down. When we let our guard down, is Christ coming then?

The first weekend in May we had the reading of the Memorandum. Elder Bro. John Lehman and his wife, Sis. Connie, brought Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Sis. Clara, Pulaski, IA) for the weekend. We also had several young brothers from the Bern-Sabetha area here for their annual camp-out. We always appreciate a full church.

Our sympathy goes out to Marvin Ott on the tragic death of his granddaughter, Kami Ott.

Congratulations to Sis. Mildred Farney on the birth of her great-grandson, Grant Cantrell. Parents are Jenny and Matt Cantrell and grandparents are our dear friends, John and Cheryl Farney.

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## **KANSAS LAMONT-GRIDLEY Sarah Somerhalder**

We assembled together to partake of Holy Communion on May 1. It was a blessed evening remembering our Lord's suffering and all that He has done for us. We wish to thank Elder Bro. Robert Walder (Sis. Gloria, Congerville, IL) for helping our Elder Bro. Jay Luthi serve Communion.

May God grant healing to Bros. Eldon Metzger and Roy Wernli who have been hospitalized recently. We especially want to remember Bro. Roy in our prayers as he has not been able to assemble with us for several weeks.

A baby is always a special reason for rejoicing. Bro. Ron and Sis. Jane Isch are the happy grandparents of their first grandson, Daniel Eric. Daniel is the first child of Bro. Duane and Sis. Jill Gudeman (Congerville, IL). Paternal grandparents are Bro. Donald and Sis. Mary Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN).

As Mother's Day was celebrated this month, we want to thank the Lord for our mothers. May He bless and richly reward them for all their prayers and teaching us to love and serve the Lord.

We welcome Lloyd and Barbara Jacobs (Bellevue, WA) assembling with us again this spring. In our small congregation, each one is appreciated.

Congratulations and best wishes to James Wernli and Susan Lechner (Wichita, KS) in their recent marriage. James is the son of Bro. Roy and Betty Wernli.

Our senior graduates this year are Bryden Burdick (Rick and Mary Anliker), Jeremy Kraft (Jim and Kathy) and Amoz Bazil (grandson of Sis. Dorothy Young); 8th grade graduates are: Brock Bahr (Bro. Brian and Sis. Julie), Kent Kraft (Bro. Doug and Sis. Judy), Aaron Luthi (Elder Bro. Jay

and Sis. Jane) and Ryan Reed (Tim and Cheri Adams).

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## **KANSAS, SABETHA May Kay Wenger Brenda Grimm**

We remembered the Lord's suffering when we partook of Holy Communion April 17. We felt very blessed as we pondered the passovers in the old and new testaments. We appreciated Elder Bro. Eugene Marti (Kansas City, MO) assisting our new Elder Bro. Gerry Hertz. Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS) had the closing prayer and made reference to seeing an ending and a beginning in the leadership of our church.

The next day the Sabetha Church was given an opportunity at a potluck for Elder Bro. Eugene Marti and his wife, Sis. Mary, to thank them for their years of service. We also congratulated them on their wedding anniversary.

April 24-25 our Junior Bible Class was in Wichita, KS. Our thanks to the Wichita congregation in hosting a weekend that will leave many happy memories.

We extend sympathy to Sis. Irene Lehman (Bro. Andy) on the passing of her brother, Wilbur Grimm, of Sabetha.

A reception was held of Bro. Walter and Sis. Mildred Strahm on their 50th wedding anniversary on May 8. May God continue to bless their union. Birthday blessings also to Sis. Mildred who observed her birthday on the same day.

Visiting minister, Bro. Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MN), was with us on Mother's Day.

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## **KANSAS, WICHITA Emma Miller**

Wichita was privileged to be in charge of the 6-8th grade Sunday School Youth Fellowship on April

24-25. Congregations from Colorado, Kansas and western Missouri were represented. The theme for the weekend was "Friends". Bro. Jeff Bahr (Kiowa, KS) used that topic for the Sunday morning lesson. I was happy to observe the polite, well mannered, cooperative attitude of the participants. Surely they are reflecting their Christian upbringing.

Sis. Lillian Bowers and her family hosted the annual Mother-Daughter Banquet this year. They used "Angels" for their theme. Sis. Lillian presented an interesting lesson on Angels, using scripture verses as the authority. May Sis. Lillian and her talented family feel the gratitude of the rest of us for continuing the tradition of a congregational reunion of mothers and daughters.

Then on the following day, the men in the congregation honored the mothers again by taking over the kitchen duties, including preparing the food. They did so well. Perhaps a new tradition will be started.

South Wichita and nearby Haysville were devastated by a tornado the first week in May. No one from our congregation was directly involved. Several helped with the clean up and we all have the opportunity to contribute to the disaster relief as the Spirit directs us.

Bro. Milton Bower was a recent surgical patient. May he be blessed with an improved quality of life.

We have three high school graduates this year. Jennifer Greiner, Matthew Long and Tim Funk have met the requirements for this milestone in life. Their parents are Frank and Anna Greiner, Bro. Jonathon and Sis. Ruth Long, and Bro. Glen and Sis. Sally Funk.

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**MICHIGAN, ALTO**

**Kristen Plattner**  
**Michelle Oesch**

"We never live so intensely as when we love strongly. We never realize ourselves so vividly as when we are in the full glow of love for others."

—Walter Rauschenbusch

Putting their faith in God and each other, Bro. Ned Stoller and Sis. Heidi Kaeb were united in marriage on May 2. We rejoice that the Lord brought them together in His love and our prayers for God's blessings go with them as they make their home in Indiana. Their parents are Bro. Curt and Sis. Luanne Kaeb and Bro. Steve and Sis. Anna Marie Stoller (LaCrosse, IN).

We honored our mothers with a Victorian Tea on May 8. It was a special time to share with our moms. Often we take for granted all that our mothers do for us, the sacrifices they made while we were growing up and the prayers on our behalf. Truly a mother's love is more precious than gold.

"Therefore said he unto them, the harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest."

*Luke 10:2*

"And he that reapeth received wages, and gathered fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together."

*John 4:36*

We recently gathered to hear the reading of the Memorandum. We were reminded that there is always room for improvement in our Christian walk, so may we

strive to be more holy as we live this earthly life. We never know who is watching us or who we may have to have an answer for. Elder Bro. Andy Virkler (Sis. Maxine, Bay City, MI) was here to share in this work and we are thankful for his visit and his labors of love.

We wish congratulations to our graduating students for this year: Joanna Blough (Bro. Jim and Sis. Julie), Aaron Plattner (Bro. Howard and Sis. Kristen), Dan Schrenk (Bro. Duane and Sis. Cathy), Betty Jo Meyer (Don and Sally), and Danielle Oesch (Ken and Sis. Denise). I came across this little story that seemed appropriate for this important time in their life.

"Once, while hiking high in the mountains, I came upon some scraggly pines struggling for a foothold among rocks and lichen. A strong wind was blowing, and they bent willingly to avoid being torn from their stand. Looking below, I saw large, healthy trees. They had found a more agreeable soil in which to sink their roots. Above me there were no trees at all. I was at the timberline, where the last life-giving nutrients sustain plant life.

You and I have, or will have times in our lives when we stand at the timberline—lonely, tested. Like the pines, we will need to be limber to deal with adverse winds, flexible in the face of problems. By ourselves we might have trouble enduring. But if we rely on our Heavenly Father, we can handle any difficulty. He is the Rock to which we can root our lives with assurance."

—Fred Bauer

Wishing each of you God's many blessings.

**MICHIGAN, BAY CITY**

**Rhonda Knochel**  
**Peggy Jackson**

Recently I read an article on killdeer, a bird very common in Michigan. The article was specifically talking about killdeer males who become protectors and guardians of their young from the time the eggs are laid in the nest. The nest is made on the ground and because of this, can easily fall prey to wild animals and other birds. The article went on to describe how the father killdeer, when he sees a predator approaching the nest, will become quite an actor calling and flapping his wings. When he is sure that he has the predator's attention, he leads it away from the nest often putting himself in danger to save his young.

This made me think of our fathers and how often they sheltered and protected us from the evil that is a common predator in our world today. Those of us who have Godly fathers know how they looked after us and what a blessing they are to our lives.

Sadly, not everyone experiences this fatherly love. However, our Father in Heaven wants to fill our longings for a father. He longs to protect us from the enemy, Satan. His desire for relationship with us was so great that He actually sent His Son to remove Satan's sting of death and to protect us from destruction. Because of our Father's sacrifice, we can know true peace and happiness and fulfillment in God himself.

We are always so thrilled when we are able to celebrate life's milestones with our brothers and sisters and friends. It is especially wonderful when we can celebrate marriage with those who have had many years together. We are thankful for: Bro. Victor and Eli-

nor Knochel as they celebrated their 50th anniversary; Bro. Erwin and Sis. Nina Wieland who celebrated their 60th; and Bro. Winsor and Sis. Loretta Mosher as they celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary. Couples such as these are a real encouragement to younger couples to esteem the covenant of marriage. May God bless them with many more years together.

As these couples celebrated many years together, we also rejoiced with Karen McNally (Lyle and Sis. Marlene) and Bill Middleton as they were united in marriage. We pray that God's hand will be upon them as they begin this new era in their lives.

"Two are better than one...and a threefold cord is not quickly broken"

*Eccles. 4:9,12*

We were very excited to hear of the engagement of Sis. Lisa Waibel (Bro. Bill and Sis. Carol) to Bro. Mick Laukhuf (Bro. Duane and Sis. Juanita). May God be near them as they make their wedding plans.

It is always such a privilege to watch God's work of redemption in the lives of those who humbly turn to Him. We rejoice with Tom Wackerle (Kim) and Andy Wieland (Bro. Rod and Sis. Evelyn) as they have professed peace with God and man. We pray that they will continue to feel God's loving guidance in their lives.

Along with all the joys come the harder times in life. There are often occasions where we can share the burdens of those we love through prayer and encouragement.

We want to express our sincere sympathy to Char Wieland (Bro. Brian) in the passing of her grandfather. We hope that Char will

know that we are praying for her and her family in this time of loss.

We also want to seek the Lord's healing in the lives of: Bro. Dave Schlatter (Sis. Margaret), Sis. Mabelle Wackerle and Bro. Henry Meylan (Sis. Helen) as they all experienced illness or other weaknesses of the body this month. We pray that God's hand will be upon each of them and that they will be restored to health if it is His will.

May God be your Father and Protector in the month ahead.

### **MICHIGAN, DETROIT**

**Bonnie Bedolla  
Crystal Ramsier**

People have spent a lot of time and money creating things that will be tangible reminders. From something as small as a "sticky note" to something as large as a monument, visible reminders are all around us. Jesus knew that we would need a tangible reminder of the sacrifice He made for us and a regular reminder to evaluate our spiritual condition when He instructed His disciples to remember Him with the sacrament we know as Communion. We were privileged to once again share Communion on April 24. Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) assisted with the Communion ceremony and we enjoyed having him and his wife, Sis. Roberta, spend the weekend with us.

We were also fortunate to have Bro. Mike Ursu (Kitchener, Ontario), his wife, Sis. Barb, and their family spend a weekend with us and to hear Bro. Mike minister to us from God's Word.

Dan Kujawa (Bro. Bill and Sis. Darlene) has felt the peace in his heart that only Christ's redemption can bring. We rejoice with Dan and his family and look forward to hearing him share his testimony of faith and witnessing his

baptism.

Bro. Steve Wieland and Andy Wieland (Bro. Rod and Sis. Evelyn, Bay City) are recent college graduates. Bro. Steve completed a bachelors degree in electrical engineering and Andy received a bachelors degree in facilities management. We wish them God's blessings and guidance as they enter a new phase of their lives and face new opportunities and challenges.

Our choir held its 11th annual benefit dinner for the Woodhaven Retirement Community on May 2. We began the evening with a delicious pork chop dinner and then enjoyed a beautiful evening of fellowship and song worship. Col. 3:16, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord." We are thankful that so many people in our congregation and from the Alto, Bay City and Toledo churches are willing to generously support Woodhaven's many programs and services for the elderly.

### **MINNESOTA MINNEAPOLIS Delores Sauder**

God has blessed Bro. Dick and Sis. Gail Metzger with a little boy born on April 19. They have named him Chase Emil. His big brothers are Mason and Connor. Grandparents are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Ruby Schmidgall (Morris, MN).

Bro. Joe Bednarski (Sis. Ethel) spent several days in the hospital and Sis. Connie Bergstrom (Bro. Doug) had knee surgery. We pray that they will be able to assemble again with us shortly.

We thank our Elder Bro. Leroy Messner (Winthrop, MN) and his



wife, Sis. JoAnn, for spending a weekend with us. We certainly appreciate all his labors.

I was recently reminded that we all have a cross to carry. It is that cross that is the "key" that opens Heaven's door.

### MINNESOTA, MORRIS

**Dianne Kellenberger**

**Nancy Wulf**

Lord, help and make us brave  
To bear our cross and burden,  
That we may not grow faint  
Nor yet give up the battle.  
Yea, from Thy crown of thorns  
Let us our courage take,  
That through reproach and  
shame  
We ne'er Thy ways forsake.  
*Zion's Harp #44*

As Father's Day approaches, we think of our Heavenly Father, and our earthly fathers who so willingly and lovingly strive to set the example for us to follow. May we all continue to strive daily for that heavenly goal for eternity.

We are thankful for ministering brothers who come to share our pulpit and the Word. This month they were Bros. Ken Lawson (Phoenix, AZ), Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN) and Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA).

Rejoicing over the blessed arrival of their firstborn, Bro. Terry and Sis. Connie Timmerman welcomed Courtney Ann on April 27. Both sets of grandparents are also first timers, and equally rejoicing, Bro. Arnie and Sis. Sharon Koehl and Don and Marsha Timmerman.

On May 12, Marty Ray arrived to warm the hearts and home of Bro. Randy and Sis. Shirley Koehl, and siblings, Mitchell, Alexis, Andrea and Alissa. Thankful grand-

parents are Bro. Leonard and Sis. Violet Wulf and Sis. Esther Koehl.

But into each one's life some rain must fall, and our hearts reach out to Bro. Duane and Sis. Kay Feuchtenberger for the infant death of their son, Cameron D on April 30. Our sorrow also reaches out to his siblings, Tristan, Shanda and Natalie, and grandparents, Bro. Eddie and Sis. Lois Koehl and Bro. Gerald and Sis. Karen Feuchtenberger and all of their families. May God wrap His loving arms around you and give you peace.

Hospital patients this month are Bro. Alphai Moser (Sis. Pearl), Bro. Leonard Wulf (Sis. Violet) and Bro. Gerald Feuchtenberger (Sis. Karen). May God lend His healing powers in ways that He knows best.

The month of May always brings about a multitude of graduations, and we celebrate the accomplishments of each hard working student. Might each one's education be applied to the glory of God.

High School graduates are Echo Fehr (Bro. Cork and Sis. Pam), Lindsay Gramm (Bro. Ted and Sis. Wanda), Alexis Koehl (Bro. Randy and Sis. Shirley), Blaine Koehl (Bro. Karl and Sis. Marilyn), Sis. Katie Messner (Bro. Beirne and Sis. Joyce), Bro. Gary Nohl (Bro. DeWayne and Sis. Janice), Greg Reuter (Bro. Jim and Sis. Carolyn), Rekeeta and Rustin Schmidgall (Bro. Mike and Sis. Diane), Sis. Rosie Zeltwanger (Bro. Dale and Sis. Rachel) and Heidi Sauder (Bro. Verle and Sis. Christa).

Graduating from technical college are Leah Messner, Michelle Feuchtenberger, Bro. Matt Koehl, Bro. Jonathan Joos, and David Messner.

Graduating from university are Paula Lesmeister, Tom Koehl,

Brian Reuter and Bro. Kevin Wulf.

### MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

**Carol Ann Messner**

**Becky Braulick**

"But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

*Isaiah 40:31*

Sis. Rebecca Schaefer (Morris, MN) showed our congregation her slides from Hungary and the Ukraine, traveling with people from World Relief. We also want to welcome Sis. Rebecca into our fellowship. She has found employment in New Ulm near here.

Voting was held for Sunday School. Sis. Julie Knobloch is our new teacher and Sis. Jolene Elder (Bro. John) is our sub. We wish them God's guidance as they assume their new duties.

Our hospital patients this past month were Bro. Ray Messner (Sis. Bernadine) and Sis. Gerry Messner (Bro. Harold). May God place His healing hands on them.

"My son, hear the instruction of thy father."

*Proverbs 1:8*

We are thankful for our earthly fathers and our Heavenly Father.

Fathers are wonderful people  
too little understood,  
And we do not sing their praises  
as often as we should...

For, somehow, Father seems to  
be  
the man who pays the bills,  
While Mother binds up little  
hurts

and nurses all our ills...  
 And perhaps that is the reason  
 we sometimes get the notion  
 That Fathers are not subject  
 to the thing we call emotion,  
 But if you look inside Dad's  
 heart,  
 where no one else can see,  
 You'll find he's sentimental  
 and as soft as he can be...  
 And like our Heavenly Father,  
 he's a guardian and a guide,  
 Someone we can count on  
 to be always on our side.  
 —Helen Steiner Rice

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### MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY Brent Kellenberger

Our visiting minister this past month was Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI). We are thankful he and his wife, Sis. Bev, and daughter, Amber, could be with us. Please come back again soon.

We have two graduates this year. Amity Wales (Sis. Carol Wales and Don Wales) is graduating from Blue Valley High School. Our prayers will follow her in life as she plans to attend college this fall. I graduated from Kansas State University in May.

Thankfully, for some of us, summer is here. May God grant us safe travels and precious memories as many unite for reunions and church activities. What a blessing it is to travel freely!

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### MISSOURI, LAMAR Kristi Huber Carolyn Banwart

"And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take eat; this is my body. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, Drink ye all of it; For this is my

blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins."

*Matthew 26:26-28*

It is always uplifting and encouraging to partake of Holy Communion and we were thankful to have Elder Bro. Charles Sinn (Sis. Karen, Fort Scott, KS) assist Bro. Lawrence. May God bless the Elders for their labors of love.

We appreciated having Elder Bro. Art Bahler (Sis. Suzanne, Fairbury, IL) minister God's Word to us.

Bro. Jay and Sis. Sharon Braker were blessed with a son, Tyler D., born April 20. His brothers and sisters are Nicole, Haley, Caleb and Corey. His grandparents are Bob and Leta Borghardt.

Sis. Kathy Marti (Bro. Kevin) had surgery and we are thankful she is improving and back home again.

We wish our graduates God's blessings and guidance as they plan for their future. The high school graduates are Greg Braker (Bro. Bob and Sis. Janice Stoller), Sis. Sarah Braker (Bro. Roy and Sis. Judy), and Venetta Banwart (Bro. Alfred and Sis. Carolyn). Also, Bro. David Dotterer (Bro. Bill and Sis. Sharon) is graduating from college.

We want to extend our sympathy to Bro. Jay and Sis. Sharon Braker on the death of his brother, Wayne, of Lamar.

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### MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS Rachel Schrock

"When once the master of the house is risen up, and hath shut to the door, and ye begin to stand without, and to knock at the door, saying, Lord, Lord, open unto us; and he shall answer and say unto you, I know you not whence ye

are..."

*Luke 13:25*

Sometimes we are embarrassed to find ourselves late for an appointment. We were reminded during a recent sermon, however, that we do not want to be late for Heaven. What a tragedy if we wanted to get in and found Heaven's door closed! Let us hasten and let Jesus in.

We were blessed this past month to be spiritually fed by our ministering brethren, Bros. Don Braker (Kansas City, MO), Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN), and Elder Bros. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO) and Wes Knapp (Goodfield, IL). Bros. Roy and Wes conducted our annual business meeting, served Communion, and read the Memorandum to us. May God bless all of these brothers for their labors of love on our behalf.

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

With gladness we welcome Bro. Rustin Meister (Remington, IN) into our little congregation as he interns in St. Louis this summer. May God bless him for following His leading.

"If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

*Romans 10:9-10*

**MISSOURI, TAYLOR**  
**Peg Haerr**

On April 26, a precious son was born to Andy and Erin Johnson. Big brother, Alex, is also happy to welcome little Eli Andrew. Grandparents are Myron Barkley, Taylor, and Deb Barkley, Quincy, IL and Mr. and Mrs. Ron Johnson, Ewing, MO.

Recently our congregation has been blessed with several converts! May we all continue to pray for many more to be added to that number, and that those who have made a beginning could build a firm foundation for their faith.

We wish to thank Bro. Andy Moser (Sis. Diane, Valparaiso, IN) for ministering God's Holy Word this month. May God richly bless him and his wife for their service.

Bro. Ben Knapp has spent some time in the hospital recently. We're thankful he is again able to assemble with us. Also, Bro. Gerald Sutter was spared injury in a recent car accident.

Finishing a chapter in their lives by graduating from high school this month are: Nikki Haerr (Bro. Norman and Sis. Sally), Jesse Heimer (Bro. Rodney and Sis. Barb), Luke Knapp (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Linda), Bro. Joseph Knochel (Bro. Eric and Sis. Penny), and Nicole Yackley (Bro. Elwood and Sis. Trudie). We pray for God's guidance in their lives as they continue down their respective paths.

Finally, mere thanks does not seem like enough when we try to express our gratitude to our dear Bro. Gerald Sutter. He has decided to retire from the ministry after almost 44 years on the pulpit. May God richly bless Bro. Gerald and Sis. Marge for all their love and service over the years.

**NEW YORK**  
**CROGHAN-NAUMBURG**  
**Anna Mellnitz**

"He maketh the barren woman to keep house and to be a joyful mother of children. Praise ye the Lord."

*Psalms 113:9*

May 10 was Mother's Day; a time for God's blessing on all mothers.

We had World Relief work day April 23. Afterwards, we had a potluck supper.

Bro. Ted Herzig had surgery on April 29. He is doing fine and was able to assemble with us on Sunday, May 9.

On May 9, we had visiting brothers and sisters from Kitchener, Ontario, Canada and Rockville, CT.

Bro. Lowell Virkler (Sis. Celia) had surgery on May 10 and came home May 17. We pray God's healing hand will help him to recover.

"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted"

*Eccles. 3:1-2*

On Sunday evening, April 25, our beloved Bro. Niles Farney Sr. was called from this life into eternity. He is survived by his wife, Sis. Polly (Jane); four sons, Elder Bro. Duane Farney and family, Niles Jr. and family, Bro. John and family, and Tom and family.

The Christian's robe and badge of love  
it is the cross of Christ.  
And he who knows the worth thereof

will bear it without sighs.  
Will bear it without sighs.  
*Zion's Harp #252*

*Note of Thanks:*

Our sincere thanks for all the love and concern shown us during Bro. Nile's surgery and when he returned home and at the time of his death. The many cards, calls and gifts of love were very much appreciated. May God richly bless you all.

*In Christian love,  
Sis. Polly Farney and family*

**OHIO, AKRON**  
**Joyce Gasser**

For Mother's Day, our Sunday School children treated us all by doing the work for our Sunday noon lunch. They did a wonderful job and we commend them for it.

Sis. Marie Ritzman was hospitalized, but is back in the Assisted Living part of the Nursing Home.

**OHIO, COLUMBUS**  
**Anita Steiner**

It is wonderful to again see the flowers blooming, the leaves growing on the trees and to feel the warm sun shining down upon us.

We have been blessed this last month with the following visiting ministers, Bros. Dale Stoller (Fairbury, IL) and Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH). May God bless these brothers for their efforts.

We also appreciate Elder Bros. Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH) and Ken Sauder (Mansfield, OH) who were with us to partake of Holy Communion. How humbled we are when we think of how much our Lord loved us when He went to the cross and shed His blood for the sins of each one.

We would also like to thank everyone who came and did their part at spring cleaning.



## OHIO, JUNCTION

### Cindy Schlatter

We rejoice with Wendy Manz (Bro. Paul and Sis. Sandra) who has confessed peace and we look forward to the weekend of her testimony and baptism. May God continue to be with Wendy as she awaits this most precious time of her life and may He also be near our other converts as they continue on in their repentance and look forward to this precious time in their life.

Bros. Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN) and Gary Tonner (Bluffton, IN) were our visiting ministers this past month. We appreciate their willingness to serve us in expounding the Word in truth and purity.

Those who spent time in the hospital or met with misfortune were Bro. Ben Manz (Sis. Carolyn), Bro. Rex Boroff II, and Bro. Sam Schlatter (Sis. Linda). We are thankful all are feeling better and are back in church again.

## OHIO, LATTY

### Kathy Sinn

### Heidi Hackenjos

The Lord's healing hand once again touched members of our congregation. Sis. Mildred Stoller is able to gather with us again after a recent hospital stay. Evan Klopfenstein (Bro. Roy and Deb) was also hospitalized during the past month. We trust the Lord will continue to strengthen them.

Bro. Nelson Beer (Milford, IN) assembled with us recently. We welcome him to come again and share the truth of the Word with us.

Sis. Arvilla Kipfer has another family member awaiting her in Heaven. Her sister-in-law, Sis. Maudie Greuter, has passed onto

her eternal reward. May the comforting spirit of our Lord be ever near Sis. Arvilla in these coming days, especially now that we learn that she has cancer.

Another son has joined the home of Bro. Tim and Sis. Marlene Sinn. Daniel Frederick will soon become a welcome playmate of his brother, Zachary. Grandparents are Bro. Walter and Sis. Renee Sinn and Bro. Dan and Sis. Delores Reinhard (Kitchener, Ontario).

We rejoice with Joni Klopfenstein (Bro. Keith and Sis. Joanne) as she has felt the peace of God and all men. We await her baptism within the coming days. May the Lord continue to be ever near her and guide her steps aright.

We are so thankful to receive home those brethren who winter in the south. We appreciate the safe keeping of them in their absence. It also serves as a reminder that another season has past and the Lord is still true and faithful.

Stephanie Stoller (Bro. Mark and Sis. Shirley) and Wesley Merrillat (Randy and Penny) were united in marriage on May 15. We ask God to bless their marriage.

The wedding engagement of Bro. Mick Laukhuf (Bro. Dwain and Sis. Wanita) and Sis. Lisa Waibel (Bro. Bill and Sis. Carol, Bay City, MI) was announced on May 9. That same Sunday Bro. Ben Stoller (Bro. Bill and Sis. Barb) and Sis. Kendra Banwart (Bro. Ken and Sis. Marlene) were announced to be married. May the Lord continue to lead and guide these two couples as they plan their lives together.

We extend our sympathy and prayers for the family of Sis. Viola Schlatter (Bro. Dick) whose brother, Bro. Bill Huber (Francesville, IN), entered into that Eternal City. May God's presence be ever near to this family in their

time of loss.

As we read this issue, Father's Day is the holiday of the season. As we take time to appreciate our earthly dads, let us not forget our Heavenly Father. The greatest gift to be given to both would be a submissive spirit throughout our entire lives.

## OHIO, MANSFIELD

### John and Marci Pfeiffer

Our prayers are with our Sis. Lillian Miller (Bro. John) who was hospitalized. May God be with her as she recovers from surgery.

One by one their seats were emptied,

One by one they went away.

*Hymns of Zion #222*

We bid our final farewell to our Sis. LaVersa Sabo on May 5. We extend our deep sympathy to her family.

Elder Bro. Doug Sabo (Sarasota, FL) traveled to Mansfield and visited us. We thank the Lord and him for serving us of the Living Word.

On May 16, we had a Senior Recognition Breakfast for our high school graduates. The Class of 1999 is: Douglas Domka (Bro. Dan and Sis. Mary Ann), Sis. Heidi Domka (Bro. Fred and Sis. Connie), Sis. Jessica Keever (Bro. Clair and Sis. Beverly), Sis. Elizabeth Masters (Bro. Mark and Sis. Jeannine), Mark Rufener (Bro. Ron and Sis. Kay), Jennifer Them (Jim and Anita), and Archie Tucker (Dan and Sis. Barbara).

Flourishing youth, Thou our hope and our fond expectation,  
Hark to the voice that is calling  
in kind invitation!

That hand obey Which oft has  
pointed the way

To the dear Saviour's salvation!  
*Zion's Harp #168*

*Note of Thanks:*

The family of Sis. Ella Harmon and Sis. LaVersa Sabo wish to express their appreciation for all the kindness, love and prayers during their time of sickness and death.

### OHIO, RITTMAN

**Lynda Beery  
 Lucy Gasser**

Four families experienced the miracle of the birth of a child this past month. May they seek the presence of our Heavenly Father, who is love and the source of wisdom in their homes, as they rear these newborn babies. Lydia Grace was born April 20 to Bro. Matthew and Sis. Gail Steiner. She joins Bro. Nathan (Sis. Anita), Joel, Luke, Aaron, Sis. Mary, Andrew, Ethan, Matthew, Lois and Joanna. Her family eagerly awaited her arrival. Grandparents are Sis. Doris Gasser and Bro. Alvin and Sis. Eldora Steiner. The same day, Daniel John was born to Bro. Scott and Sis. Ruth Bachman. Soon, brother Gregory will have a playmate. Grandparents are Zane and Sis. Betty Bachman and Bro. Dave and Sis. Mary Ann Zollinger (Smithville, OH). Bro. Rod and Sis. Jill Steiner, Jeremy and Jessica welcomed Riley John into their family on May 11. His grandparents are Bro. Ron and Sis. Ruth Steiner and Bro. John and Sis. Joyce Schamback (Akron, OH). Greg and Sis. Peggy Tieche have a new daughter, Leah Marie, born May 13. She joins older sisters, Kelly, Sarah, Rachel, Ruth, Abigail, Rebecca, Mary, and Anna, in their home. Grandparents are Bro. Andrew and Sis. Lillian Maibach and Miriam Tieche.

We extend our sympathy to the family of John Schar (Marie) who

passed away after a period of declining health. Son, Bro. Rowen Schar (Sis. Judy), grandchildren, great grandchildren, and a sister, Sis. Elda Hartzler, are survivors who worship with us.

Sis. Elizabeth Widmer passed away. At 102, she was our oldest sister. She was the first resident to move into our nursing home when it opened in 1976. Nieces and nephews who often visited her there survive her.

Bro. Glenn Gasser (Sis. Liz), Benjamin Stoller (Bro. Rob and Sis. Joann), and Bro. Galen Indermuhle (Sis. Cheryl) have been surgical patients. Sis. Neva Gasser (Bro. Robert) and Bro. Everett Stoller (Sis. Marge) have also spent time in the hospital. We pray for these dear ones and all others who are suffering in our nursing home and at their homes. May the love of God and His presence be with them.

Special thoughts and prayers will accompany our high school graduates as they receive their diplomas and as they attend the graduate breakfast and presentation of their gift of The Holy Bible. Graduates are Jolene Bachman (Bro. Gene and Sis. Kathryn), Jeremy and Joshua Bauman (Bro. Allan and Rose), Laurie Beery (Bro. Walt and Sis. Lynda), John Calame III (Bro. John II and Sis. Jody), Lori Christian (Bro. Ron and Sis. Joann), Brant Gasser (Bro. Dale and Janet), Brian Gasser (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Ellen), Ryan Gasser (Bro. Fred and Sis. Mary), Judy Hartzler (Bro. Merle and Sis. Bonnie), Julie Hartzler (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Bev), Jason Musser (Bro. Mike and Sis. LuAnn), Nathan Sample (Terrance and Dorothy), Anna Schar (Bro. Rowen and Sis. Judy), Michael Steiner (Don and Sis. Debbie), Tara Steiner (Mark and Sis. Deb), Audrie Stoller (Bro. Rob and

Sis. Joanne), Keith Stoller (Bro. Joe and Sis. Mim), and Sharon Stoller (Bro. Fred and Sis. Joyce).

Our thanks to Elder Bros. Kenneth Sauder, Eugene Pamer, Kenneth Indermuhle and Andrew Stoller for serving us one week-end. We appreciate their service unto us and ask the blessing of the Lord upon them and their labors.

### OHIO, SARDIS

**Angie Figel**

Blessed assurance,  
 Jesus is mine!  
 Oh, what a foretaste  
 of His glory divine!  
 I'm an heir of salvation,  
 purchased of God,  
 I am filled with His goodness,  
 and I'm lost in His love...

—Fanny J. Crosby

We rejoice with the angels as a dear soul has given her testimony of faith and has been washed in the blood of Jesus, the perfect Lamb. Sis. Stephanie Alrutz (Bro. Allen and Sis. Janet Indermuhle) has begun a new walk of life in the Lord. It is our prayer that God will always be the center of her new life, and that He will continue to bless and guide her actions each and every precious day.

Visiting ministers who participated in this wonderful occasion were Elder Bro. Bob Walder (Sis. Gloria, Congerville, IL) and Bro. Art Ingold (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman, OH). God bless them for their kind efforts.

There is also more great news this month as Amanda Alrutz (Bro. Allen and Sis. Janet Indermuhle) wants to repent, and a live a new life in Christ. May God grant her courage and strength in the coming days ahead, that she may do what is needed with grace

and much prayer.

We gladly welcome a new family to our little congregation. With many prayers, Bro. Bob, Sis. Laura and little Kara Dotterer have just moved from Phoenix, AZ to assemble with us in Sardis. We are thankful that God has blessed them with a safe journey, and we pray that God will continue to bless and guide them in His perfect will.

We also would like to thank Bro. Paul Gasser (Sis. Joyce, Akron, OH) for coming and ministering to us this month. May God bless them for their kindness.

How beautiful the hands that  
served

The wine and the bread  
And the sons of the earth.  
How beautiful the feet that  
walked

The long dusty roads  
And the hill to the cross.  
How beautiful the heart that  
bled.

That took all my sin,  
And bore it instead.  
How beautiful the tender eyes  
That choose to forgive  
And never despise.  
And as He lay down His life,  
We offer this sacrifice,  
That we will live just as He died:  
Willing to pay the price.  
How beautiful,  
How beautiful,  
How beautiful is the body of  
Christ.

—*Twila Paris*

It is truly a fulfilling blessing to reserve a special day to partake in Holy Communion with our brothers and sisters in Christ, and remember what Jesus has done for us. We have infinite gifts to be thankful for. Our thanks go to Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Sis.

Judy, Forrest, IL) for being so kind to assist Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle in this special, but solemn, occasion.

### OHIO, SMITHVILLE

**Ruth Gasser  
Edith Miller**

"And let the peace of God rule  
in your hearts..."

*Col. 3:15*

We rejoice with Mary Beth Rufener (Bro. John and Sis. Emily), as she has found this precious peace and awaits baptism in the near future.

Two families have welcomed new babies into their homes recently. On April 30, Ella Rose was born to Mark and Michelle Zollinger. Also awaiting her arrival were big sister, Allissa, as well as grandparents, Bro. John and Sis. Marge Zollinger.

Bro. Mike and Sis. Susie Walder are thankful for the safe arrival of Trinity Renee, born May 4. She is also welcomed by brothers, Evan and Grant. Grandparents of Trinity are Bro. Melvin and Sis. Irma Walder (Champaign, IL) and Bro. Fred and Sis. Eva Grawunder (Akron, OH). May God bless these and all parents with wisdom from above so that their children can be taught the truth.

We are sorry Travis Bauman, infant son of Bro. Roger and Sis. Jennifer had to spend a few days in the hospital this month, but are thankful he is home again and doing better.

"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*

This is certainly good advice for all of us, but especially we think of our young people graduating from high school. Our high school graduates this year are: Kathryn Beery (Bro. Norman and Sis. Audrey), Bonnie Dotterer (Dale and Sis. Elaine), John Emch (Bro. Craig and Sis. Gale), Stephanie Johnson (Richard and Ellen), Sis. Rachel Maibach (Bro. Tim and Sis. Mary), Sis. Pamela Maletich (Bro. Dave and Sis. Connie), Sis. Jessica Riggensbach (Bro. Glenn and Sis. Lou) and Hannah Rufener (Bro. Larry and Sis. Susan). We hope and pray each one will allow the Lord to direct their path.

### OHIO, TOLEDO

**Rebecca Beard  
Edie Fetter**

We were privileged to take part in Holy Communion on April 24. Elder Bros. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI) were with us to assist Bro. Walt Rager. We were reminded of the great price that was paid for our redemption, and thank our brothers for their faithful service.

Congratulations are extended to our college graduates. Bro. Eric Gasser (Rittman, OH) has earned a bachelor's degree in nursing and Sis. Tami Baltic (Mansfield, OH) has completed her master's degree in occupational therapy. Bro. Wendell Spangler (Junction, OH) has earned his medical doctor degree, and will be staying in Toledo to complete his residency. We wish God's blessings to each one as they seek to serve God in their occupations. Bro. Al and Sis. Mary Ann Weigele are glad for the safe arrival of a new granddaughter. Remy Katherine was born to Todd and Julie Schultz of Hudson. Her big sister, Elise, also welcomes her home.

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## OREGON, PORTLAND

### Louisa Gallup

*The Faith of The Fathers*  
 Lord, endue us with Thy  
 blessing;  
 That, though babes we be in  
 grace,  
 Faith and love and zeal  
 possessing  
 We may give our dearest  
 treasure,  
 All good things of this life,  
 Honor, wealth, and dearest  
 pleasures,  
 In the great and holy strife.

Give us Abrah'ms faith unshaken  
 That Thy promise must be true,  
 And what God has undertaken  
 He assuredly will do;  
 Which not only could unmoved  
 Trust the covenant of grace,  
 But the thing which he most  
 loved  
 At the Lord's disposal place.  
*Zion's Harp #175*

We sang this hymn in church recently, and with Father's Day approaching, thoughts turned to our earthly fathers who kept the faith and passed it on to the next generation. With all the moral and spiritual decay around us today, we can be especially thankful that our church is still standing firm. Let us hope and pray the Lord will help us to keep it that way.

We had the privilege to hear Bro. Michael Baumann (Sis. Florina) from Mansfield, OH for our mid-week services recently. We sure appreciate his efforts on our behalf and hope he and his dear wife had a safe trip home. May the Lord bless them both.

Also appreciated are the sermons of Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Betty, Silverton, OR) and Bro. Ed

Knecht (Sis. Judie, Silverton, OR). Their faithful support of our small congregation warms our hearts and lifts our spirits. We thank all visitors for worshipping and singing with us; we do need and appreciate you all!

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## OREGON, SILVERTON

### Rosa Lee Kuenzi

We have had a cold and wet spring, so far, in Oregon. But, thankfully that hasn't stopped the many spring flowers and blooming trees and shrubs from putting on their usual beautiful display. This is probably the most colorful season here, from the fields of tulips and the daffodils of April to the blooming azaleas, rhododendrons, lilacs, dogwoods, magnolias and fields of iris of May. It is an encouraging reminder that God's wondrous plans continue onward unfaithfully even though we weak humans tend to complain that our activities are not on schedule, especially us farmers.

With spring comes the annual necessary cleaning, commonly bringing up visions of the ladies with bandanna covered heads, swishing feather dusters and mop buckets. While this may be more or less true in many households, the picture is somewhat different at our General Spring Church Cleaning and at the Spring Cleaning at Restless Surf, both held recently. At these events, men and women, young and old, work together to clean from top to bottom, inside and out. Those serve also who watch young ones so others can come, or send food or lend their prayerful support that all can receive the blessing.

We rejoice with Bro. Lynn and Sis. Marilyn Kuenzi and Bro. Loren and Sis. Marlene Dettwyler and their children, Christopher Kuenzi, Kim Kuenzi and Kevin

Dettwyler. These dear young people have been seeking their Lord in sincere repentance and believe that they have received the peace of His forgiveness. The weekend of June 12-13 has been set aside for them to give their testimony of faith to the membership. We will keep them in our prayers at this most precious time in their lives.

Special thanks to ministering Bro. Mike Baumann (Mansfield, OH) for his willingness to bring us the Word of the Lord while here visiting with his family recently.

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## PENNSYLVANIA PHILADELPHIA

### Nathan Gasser

We rejoice this month as the grace of God has brought another precious soul to His side! Megan Rader (Sis. Monique Rader) has found the strength and desire to give her life to the Lord. Our prayers and our encouragement are with her and her family as she begins on the more excellent way.

As God's glorious creation springs into new life around us this season, we shared a blessed Saturday cleaning in and around our little church. This season, let us all take time to do our own spring cleaning and make our hearts a more welcome place for the Lord to dwell.

### *Note of Thanks:*

We want to thank you all for your love, prayers, phone calls, cards and support during the illness and the passing of our husband and father, Bro. Ed Aeschleman. Everything was appreciated so much. God bless you all for your deeds of kindness.

*Sis. Nancy Aeschleman and family*

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## TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE

### Gwen Leuthold

"...and the glory of children are their fathers."

*Proverbs 17:6*

Thoughts for Fathers: A young successful attorney said: The greatest gift I ever received was a gift I got one Christmas when my dad gave me a small box. Inside was a note saying, "Son, this year I will give you 365 hours, an hour every day after dinner." My dad not only kept his promise, he said, but every year he renewed it and it's the greatest gift I ever had in my life. I am the result of his time. (unknown)

"The most effective thing we can do for our children and families is pray for them."

—Anthony Evans

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

*Ephesians 6:4*

On Father's Day and throughout the year, may we remember to take time to honor and thank our Fathers.

This past month, we welcomed ministering Bros. Glenn Price (Sarasota, FL) and Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN). We thank these brothers and their families for being willing to travel and minister the Word of God to us.

If you are in the Nashville area, please plan to stop and worship with us. We meet for regular services on the first and third Sundays

of each month, and tape services on the other Sundays. Please contact one of the numbers listed to assist us in meal planning. Contact Bro. Don and Faye Sauder (615) 373-8928; Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica Fritz (615) 952-9933 or Sis. Gwen Leuthold (615) 662-2946. Upcoming services are scheduled for July 4 (Francesville, IN); July 18 (Peoria, IL); August 1 (Eureka, IL); and August 15 (Milford, IN).

"The greatest thing a father can do for his children is to love their mother." (Josh McDowell)

"A child is not likely to find a father in God unless he finds something of God in his father." (Glen Wheeler)

"Every dad is the family role model, whether he wants the job or not." (Dennis Rainey)

All quotes were taken from God's Little Instruction Book for Dad.

## TEXAS, CENTRAL

### Dan and Pam Sauder

We appreciate our visitors who make the effort to support our small gathering. Ministers who have shared the Word with us this month include Bros. Gerry Hertz (Sis. Ellen, Sabetha, KS), Frank Sauder (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL), Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata, TX) and Elder Bro. Ken Sauder (Mansfield, OH).

Central Texas services are held on all Sundays except the first Sunday of the month. The third Sunday we meet in the San Antonio area at the Comal County Senior Citizens Center in New Braunfels. The last Sunday we

meet at Bro. Bill Zeltwanger's home at Round Top. The remainder of the month we meet in Austin at the Omni Hotel at I-35 and Hwy. 290.

Visitors are always welcome. For your benefit, please call ahead to confirm our schedule. Contacts are Bro. Bill Zeltwanger (409) 249-5102; Brian and Terri Kaisner (512) 266-0178; Bro. David and Sis. Shella Brummitt (512) 360-3379; Sis. Dorothy Martin (210) 658-1968; and Bro. Dan and Sis. Pam Sauder (210) 651-4996.

## TEXAS, ZAPATA

### Viola Perdelwitz Melva Messner

Many of the people that were with us this winter have gone to their homes up north. We had a good winter and enjoyed the fellowship. Now there are few members and friends but we still enjoy the fellowship we have.

"As the mountains are round about Jerusalem, so the Lord is round about his people from henceforth even forever."

*Psalms 125:2*

It is important we stay close to our Lord.

O Faithful Lord, Thy love and truth sincerely  
Thou dost bestow on us each day clearly,  
So grant that we also each day anew  
Become more faithful, loving, kind and true.  
*Zion's Harp #172*



*Sermon continued from page 2*

words out, we have lost the total message that God has.

This temple was so destroyed that nothing can be found except one wall that has been excavated. The Lord left just enough evidence that when the next temple is to be built, they know where to build it.

It has been said that when the Romans came and started laying siege and circled the city of Jerusalem, the church was still in Jerusalem and it was still the "home parts", so to speak, of the church in Jerusalem. The Lord here said that when you see that time come, it was normally you go behind the walls. There were fountains in Jerusalem, there were storehouses, there was a wall around Jerusalem and if the enemy attacked, it was but for one purpose. That was all there, you go behind the walls for security.

The Lord said to do the opposite. When you see these things, when the destruction of Jerusalem shall come, you go out. If you are in the mountains in Judea, don't go into the city; go the opposite direction. It should not be strange to us, brothers and sisters, that God's children go the opposite direction of the Lord. If you and I—let me humbly say that—find ourselves in step with the world, let us stop and examine where we are going. Most likely, we are going the wrong direction.

The Lord told those people and it is said that this word was read when Titus the Great came and laid siege to the city of Jerusalem before the circle was completed. The church escaped because it heeded the words of the Lord Jesus Christ. They took each other by the hand and walked against the masses. The masses came into the city and the small number of the

faithful walked out of the city. The church was saved.

While you are in Rome today, if you go, go to the coliseum. It was built by eighty thousand captive Jews that Titus the Great brought back. Forty thousand of them died while building the coliseum.

In the future, one of the things that the Lord said here was that we need to be careful not to be deceived. Oh, the plumb line of God's Word. It is good that we don't go by our feelings or by what we think, but that we go by the Word of God.

Recently I heard an elder brother say in Mansfield, "The person that is deceived is always the last one to know that he is deceived." Everyone else around you knows it except the one who is deceived. Oh, how true that is!

My, dear ones, the nation of Israel was dispersed of all nations. When this Word opened, I know what the twenty-first chapter in the gospel of Luke says. Just this past week, I was so richly reminded in private—in a private setting with about ten or twelve of us around the table—of the coming of the Lord. I wonder if I need that more than anyone else because this is the Word that opened.

The people, for one thousand nine hundred years, have been dispersed among all nations. Do you know of any religion of any nationality, of any race that you can find someone in every nation? None, but the Jews. Do you believe the Word of God is true? Oh, what a refreshing it is for me this afternoon to be able to know that the Word of God is unfailing.

My dear ones, the prophet Ezekiel in the thirty eighth chapter from the eighth to the twelfth verse says there will come a time

when Israel will be back in the land and they will live at peace. Loved ones, Israel has been back for fifty years and the prophet is specific as it says in the latter days, not just any time, but in the latter days, Israel will return. For fifty years, we have lived in the latter days, brothers and sisters.

What is the most important thing that the world is trying to do, especially this country? They are trying to bring peace to Israel. Peace treaty. Peace treaty. Brothers and sisters, according to the Scripture, not according to the newspaper, Israel will have a peace. It will look so good that they will trust in it. They will not wall, they will disarm, they will have no walled city, they will be prosperous and then they will be attacked by a nation from the north, and that is the beginning of the end.

In II Thessalonians, the second chapter, the Thessalonians were waiting for the return of the Lord already. In fact, some of them quit working. The Apostle Paul told them what time it was and what they have to look for. He gave them several signs in the second chapter, if you would like to read it at your own convenience.

Again he comes out and warns the Thessalonians that they be not deceived. How important it is that we be not deceived this afternoon. Brothers and sisters, I did not seek this word. He tells us also what first must come to pass. One of the things that will come to pass is that there will come a great falling away. Now that is not people that live in darkness, brothers and sisters, those are people that have repented and are converted. I ask you a question on God's time table: "What time is it?"

Next, the son of perdition will be

revealed. He will set himself up in the temple of God shewing himself as God. Right now there is no temple built. A temple has to be built according to that Scripture passage. On the temple site sits part of the Dome of The Rock. I have never been there, but that's what I have been told. What do you think will happen, my dear brother and sister, when the wrecking ball pulls up to the Dome of The Rock and starts

swinging at it? There could come times when it would come worse and there could come things that will come to pass in a speed, such as we have never seen before.

It will overtake the world as we have read here, but those of us that are not deceived, that are spiritually awake, vibrant, filled with the Spirit of God, lifting up our heads, we will see that the time is drawing near. Loved ones, the time clock, even as we have here, is not made for us to adjust it to fit our lives, The time clock is for us to adjust our lives to the time clock. The time clock of God is given to us so we would live according to the clock that God has given to us.

I have given this example before but let me give it again from every day life. Many of us travel at airports and we sometimes have quite a long lay over. I do, too, sometimes have a lay over. Having had a pilot's license at one time and flew, I am interested in flying. Go to the airport with me and you will often hear and see it. The first

call is for first-class boarders. Second call is for row one through thirty or whatever it is. Then, thirty through fifty or whatever it may be boarding. Then, loved ones, there comes a call that says, "Final boarding call."

I remember one time standing across (it was not my flight) just watching people going in. People came in on the final boarding call. After that, the people who were at the desk went over to the door and gently closed the door and hung a velvet string across the door. The door was closed. The aircraft was pushed away and started to take off. Just as it was roaring down the runway, here comes a man running. The lights were out already.

He said, "Is this for flight 200?" Or 100 whatever he was looking for. "Yes." He said, "Did it leave?" They said, "Yes, it left." He said, "It can't leave. I have a ticket. I am only a little late. Where are they?" "Sorry, the flight left." He said, "I have a family waiting on the other end. There are people looking for me. I must attend something." He had to go somewhere, as I listened to him. He walked back and forth. He walked to the door, turned around and came back. He tried to open the door and there was nothing there. The door was closed. He missed the final call. The first call, the second call and then the final call.

Loved ones, the Lord is coming. I am not saying tomorrow, but it may be tomorrow. Be sure our living in the last days is according to

the Scripture, not my feelings or your feelings and not someone's headlines, but according to Ezekiel, the thirty-eighth chapter, when the children of Israel are back in the land.

The land, after one thousand nine hundred years, is in the possession of God's chosen people again, though disobedient they are. They are still working and depending upon themselves in trying to work out their own soul salvation by their own strength.

Loved ones, may nothing else concern us. Of all the headlines that you see daily in the paper and hear on the radio and wherever you see them, nothing is more important than that little strip of land by the Mediterranean where God placed His name four thousand years ago when He sent His called and chosen Abraham to offer his son Isaac. That is the most important headlines to watch. That is a time clock that will tell us what time it is.

The Lord Jesus tells us this afternoon, "Be not deceived." Brothers and sisters, may we be found faithful when He comes. He will come at midnight at the darkest hour. Can you not tell that the hour is getting darker and darker? We are of the light and we can see what is going on.



## OPENING FOR DIRECTOR OF NURSING AT CEDARS RETIREMENT HOME, LEO, IN

We have an opening for a Director of Nursing.

Requirements: R.N. background, managerial skills, love for the elderly.

For more information, call:

Bro. John Klopfenstein  
219/627-3934  
or write:  
15028 Reservoir Rd, Box 8  
Leo, IN 46765

## CASSETTES FROM EUROPE

We still have a supply of the cassette tapes produced in Austria containing beloved hymns of our old Heft (Long Book).

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.

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.

Long Book 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 CHURCH MENTAL HEALTH HOTLINE 1-800-747-9049

Calls are answered by an answering service and referred to the hotline. You will receive a return call shortly. All calls are strictly confidential.

Callers will receive a screening, suggestions for appropriate services and assistance with appropriate referrals.

The hotline will not provide diagnosis or treatment.

## Counselor Needed

Gateway Woods, a Christian residential childcare facility, has an immediate opening for a male or female counselor. Qualified persons for this position must hold a minimum of a Bachelors degree in Social Work, Counseling or related field. A Masters degree is preferred. Responsibilities include individual and family counseling, case management, and consultation with the treatment team.

For more information on this position, please call one of the brothers listed below:

Tim Sauder  
Box 151  
Leo, IN 46765  
219-627-2159

Phil Stettner  
Counseling Elder  
219-565-3499



## Assistant Houseparent Needed

Gateway Woods has appreciated the Lord's blessings by being fully staffed with Houseparents for some time now. With the engagement of Sis. Lisa Waibel, we will have an opening for a single sister, directed of the Lord, to come to work in a full-time ongoing ministry with the rest of the staff at Gateway Woods. This position offers competitive wages and benefits and a close relationship with brothers and sisters whose hearts and lives are dedicated to a mission with an eternal reward. If you feel the call to explore the possibilities, please call one of the brothers listed below.

Jeff Schumacher  
(219) 627-2159

Phil Stettner  
(219) 565-3499

## USED EYEGLASSES ARE NEEDED FOR FREE IXTLAN CLINIC

A free eye clinic is being established in Ixtlan, Mexico, by Bros. Dr. Loren Schrenk and Dr. Bryan Stoller. Used eyeglasses are needed to support this effort. Please send your used prescription eyeglasses (with cases if available) to:

Bryan Stoller  
817 S. Locust  
Pontiac, IL 61764

## - NOTICE -

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

We're distributing more used Bibles in the United States now, although some are still sent overseas. Thanks for your continued support. You may get your books to either of us or Wing or Bluffton World Relief Centers.

**WE DO NOT ACCEPT ZION'S HARP HYMNALS SINCE WE DO NOT HAVE ANY PLACE TO DISTRIBUTE THEM.** Continue to bring used Bibles, Bible Story Books, Hymns of Zion, Tabernacle, or Gospel Hymn Books to:

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

## Human Services Scholarship

Gateway Woods-Apostolic Christian Children's Home is offering two \$2,000.00 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, 1999.

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



**Gateway Woods Auction**  
Saturday, August 21, 1999



# Silver Threads

## Motivated By the Divine Beauty of Nature

As I walk along the flower-strewn pathway,  
Of wooded splendor radiant, grand and free,  
My eyes soak in the rapturous, blissful wonder,  
Of such a landscape, soothing, moving me.  
I hear the birds in carefree, eager chatter,  
See the squirrels pit stealthily and patter,  
Watch the deer look up, get tense, then scatter,  
Then I know what joy this life can be.

With this view I have true consolation,  
That living has a meaning still for me.  
Encouraged by the Great Creator's artwork,  
I'll spread with thanks my hope, serenity.  
To those too busy to enjoy this beauty,  
Too occupied with stressful, endless duties,  
And find empty, futile lives of envy,  
I can share His joyful way to peace.

Nature gives me reason to express life's simple treasure,  
It reinforces my belief, renews my strength and vigor.  
So, thus, I'll strive to bask anew in upright, wholesome things,  
And share with sad but searching folks the joy God's service brings.

—a Brother in Faith



### Teachers

Gateway Woods is excited to announce a new position for a teacher at Gateway Woods School. Our school is an accredited education program serving students who are having difficulty being successful in public school. We are accepting applications for a second full-time teacher due to continuing. Qualifications include a Bachelor's Degree in Education and work experience in the education field. Special Education Certification would be especially useful. If you hold these qualifications and have a heart for children, please ask the Lord if this is the position He has in mind for you. For more information, please contact one of the brothers listed below.

Jeff Schumacher  
Residential Program Director  
P.O. Box 151  
Leo, IN 46765  
(219) 627-2159

Phil Stettner  
Counseling Elder  
1780N 450E  
Bluffton, IN 46714  
(219) 565-3499



*This is a continuation of excerpts from the book entitled "The Nazarenes In Yugoslavia."*

*The Nazarenes, in this instance, are the offspring of the Froehlich movement in the Balkan states. This book lists the many difficulties believers had in dealing with governmental authorities, especially while serving in the military as noncombatants.*

*We today can learn many lessons from these devout forbearers. Among those are devotion to keeping God's ways, and a special God-inspired courage to not relent in the face of ungodliness. The comments below occurred in the 1920's.*

The Nazarenes in Yugoslavia again and again have given assurances that they are ready, at once and gladly, to serve their time as soldiers in the sanitary service, or if this is not possible, among other unarmed troops. Indeed, they have even made the offer to the War Office to serve a longer period, in case it would comply with their request.

Besides the men already mentioned, there are still more than fifty other young, active men imprisoned in Yugoslavia, every one serving a sentence of 4-8 years. Some are kept in solitary confinement, while others must mingle with the worst criminals; and all this for conscience's sake.

Among the prisoners in Peterwardein there are Nazarenes who ought to have been excused from all military service, because they were physically disabled in army service to the extent of 30 percent. These have again been sentenced to 9-10 years imprisonment.

A Nazarene in Srem (25 years old) was sentenced since the close of the

war, because he refused to take up arms, for the sake of his conscience, to five years in prison. After having served half of this time, he was "pardoned" by the king and set free. He was called into the army again and sentenced anew to nine years in prison.

The distress of the Nazarenes in Yugoslavia could not remain a secret. Their brothers in faith in Switzerland and in America became interested in the case. In January, 1927, four Swiss brothers made a trip to Yugoslavia to investigate the troubles. They were convinced of the truth of these facts.

In the beginning of February, 1927, another group of 80 Nazarenes were sentenced to 9 1/2 and 10 years in prison.

Now the Society for the League of Nations in Switzerland interceded in their behalf. In a meeting of the International Commission for Minorities held in Brussels on February 23, 1927, Prof. Bovet appealed to the delegation from Yugoslavia, and this delegation promised: To redress the grievances. As a result of their magnanimous mediation the king pardoned more than 200 Nazarenes on March 7, 1927. They were dismissed from prison. But more than 50 young, active men remained prisoners in the various prisons.

In order to get these men out of prison and, perhaps, to bring the problem of taking up arms closer to a solution, three Swiss brothers went once more to Yugoslavia in July, 1927. The king had gone to Bled (Slavonia) to take up his residence in this health resort. They waited for three days trying to get permission to see the king, but to no avail. They could not pene-

trate "the iron ring of the court."

The joy of those who were pardoned March 7 was of short duration.

On the 11th and 14th of July, 1927, the Nazarenes were again called into the army, only Nazarenes, up to 50 years of age. Nearly all those who had been "pardoned" March 7, were again imprisoned. The torture began anew: To swear and to take up arms and to renounce the faith of the Nazarenes. As they refused to do so, they were tried again in court. Practically all of them have again been sentenced six to ten years in prison at hard labor. Among them are men who are completely "unfit for military service."

Since that time men have constantly been called singly into the army. Only Nazarenes. No other persons. Men, 40 to 50 years of age, who have never served in the army are called.

A young Nazarene in Srem-Mitrovica is said to have been examined four times by the army surgeons, and each time declared to be completely unfit for military service. But the commandant in authority took away his certificates and his testimonials and had him escorted under military guard to a distant cavalry barracks.

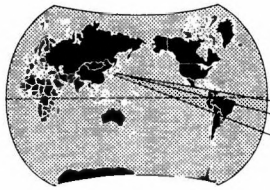
*By: Perry A. Klopfenstein*

#### **Next Issue:**

*More on the Nazarenes in Yugoslavia. Specific instances of hardship will be cited.*

# The Light Of Hope

## From Across The Ocean



# 希望の光

## "One Father"

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

"Have we not all one father? Hath not one God created us?" (Malachi 2:10). Sometimes we hear that all human beings are brothers and sisters and that the Living God is Father of us all. I've wondered about that and concluded that from the standpoint of creation, it is true. There are several places in the Bible where God is spoken of as Father of us all.

"But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things." (I Cor. 8:6). This scripture also teaches us that there is but one God and it insinuates that He is our one and only Father.

In considering this matter I remember that Jesus told the Pharisees, "Ye are of your father the devil." (John 8:44). This scripture in particular, has caused me concern about saying that God is Father of us all and we are all brothers and sisters, unless an explanation is attached, to the effect that this refers to the fact that God created us all and in that sense we

are all brothers and sisters and He is Father of us all. Spiritually speaking, it is also possible for the devil to be our father. Through repentance, faith and obedience, let's make sure that God is our Father, our one and only spiritual Father.

There is also the matter of our earthly fathers. Surely we honor and respect them. I, too, am a father, and while I do not ask for any honor, I appreciate a little respect. To be respected for something or other is very important for all human beings. It's a lot like love. If no one loves us while everyone criticizes us, we will be sad, lonely, and will probably become sick. We solicit help on how to improve and ask for forgiveness where we have failed. It is not profitable for us to spend all our lives in repentance and remorse for not having done better. We are to surrender to God and rejoice at the opportunity to try again.

The One Father concept empha-

sizes that there is only one God, the Creator God, who is our spiritual father. There is another spiritual father, the devil, but we have no desire to be in his family. It is important to show respect to our earthly fathers but it is even more important to show respect and obedience to our Heavenly Father. He is only one and beside Him there is no other.

We earthly fathers have responsibility not only to our children, but also to our wives. One of the strongest influences on our children is to let them see that we honor and respect our wives. We need to do the same toward our children but they want us to be strong enough and wise enough to have a wonderful relationship with the mother in the home. We have One Father in Heaven and His Word teaches us that we should model after Christ in regard to self-sacrifice.

# 希望の光





*Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else.*

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