

The Silver Lining

*I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.
My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth.
He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber.*

Psalms 121:1-3

June 2009

Sermon by Bro. Tim Ramsier, Rittman, OH
St. John 11 and II Timothy 2:1-13

As we were praying up here tonight, I heard the sound of children's voices, coughs and cries. Glad that children can be with us tonight. No matter what the ages, it is a blessing to have you here. There are many that are sick and perhaps like to be here tonight. We have two at home that are sick. We miss them when they are not here. I've thought a lot about that today. The blessings that many of us have had from our youth to be able to come to church and have parents that love us.

This morning I spent two hours with a woman that I'd never met before in my life. A very old and feeble woman that through an acquaintance of the church, asked if a minister could come and visit with her. I got a call and I agreed to go. I just wish you could have been there because it was an incredible experience. She told me when she was a child growing up, her dad had no desire for God. Despised Him. Called himself an atheist. She was beaten and beaten and beaten. We have so much, many of us! We don't know what that is like. I hope the children here appreciate the heritage that you have. That your parents love you and they brought you to church. Others have been able to gather and we appreciate you also.

She told me, after her dad had died, she went to a psychologist because she just could not cope with life. The psychologist told her, you go back to the grave where your dad's at and you stamp on that grave and you just shout at him. She did that. She said it didn't help. It was only when she got to where she could forgive and go back and say that I forgive you, that she could move on with her life.

Aren't we thankful that we have the Savior who can forgive today? He is still calling. He is still on the mercy seat. He is even merciful unto us, His children. Because we don't always do as we should either.

Perhaps it would be appropriate if we would just spend a few minutes on St. John 11. A beautiful account of three individuals that lived many years ago, that Jesus loved. He would go to their home at times in His traveling and He could be refreshed.

Mary would sit at Jesus' feet and

Martha would be busy about the kitchen preparing a meal. Perhaps at one time, she was even upset about that. Jesus said that Mary has chosen the better part, just to sit and listen (St. Luke 10:38-42). Tonight we have that opportunity, don't we, just to sit in a comfortable place, free from the elements outside and just meditate on the love that Jesus Christ has for us. Just as He had for this couple here, this special love He had for Lazarus and this wonderful story of compassion and love and great healing. God gave to Jesus the gift of healing. Even to bring those back to life who were dead.

As we can go through the story, can't we just picture ourselves there and Jesus coming on the scene and Martha running out to see Him and the weeping that was taking place (St. John 11:19,20)? Certainly it was a very sad time in the lives of these individuals. It was clear that there was a deep love for Lazarus.

But Jesus, at that time, knew what was going to happen. Because He has the ability to do what we cannot do, and that's see tomorrow, see next week, see next year. We sometimes wish we could do that, don't we loved ones? Feel maybe we could make better decisions. But we don't have that ability. We have to have faith. Sometimes we have to make difficult decisions and we pray and we plead for advice. We get advice and we read the Word. But sometimes there is no clear direction. So we make a decision in faith, don't we?

In this account, Jesus knew what was going to happen. It was going to be another time for Him to try to open some hearts of God's chosen people, that were stony. They lacked faith and they didn't want to believe Jesus, that He was really the Savior. Even though He performed many, many miracles, just as He did here. He performed this miracle and there was great rejoicing.

But we can read, in the end of the chapter, some went their way, that were stirred up in a wrong way. They had some jealousy and some anger. Definitely they had a lot of pride. They didn't want to humble themselves. The religious leaders at that time were

too concerned about themselves and their own power, weren't they? They worried about themselves.

Ourselves, loved ones, can get in the

Sermon continued on page 42

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"...repentance toward God,
and faith toward our Lord Jesus
Christ."

(Acts 20:21)

Light From The Word



Writings based
on God's Word

June 2009

Salvation, Repentance, Conversion

We are blessed beyond measure through God's love in that "he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). We must believe that Jesus died on the Cross and paid the price for our sins in order to be saved. The Bible teaches that we ourselves cannot atone for our sin. It is only by God's grace through faith that we are saved and inherit such a wonderful salvation (Eph. 2:8-10). This atonement was accomplished by Christ on the Cross, taking upon Himself the sins of the world, and giving His life in place of ours. It is His shed blood that can cleanse us of our sins if we come to Him in sincere faith and repentance (Rev. 1:5). When we answer God's call and come to Him in repentance with a broken and contrite heart, we receive grace to turn away from our old way of living and turn in faith toward God, praising Him for His mercy and forgiveness found in the shed blood of Jesus (Acts 20:21). This most important decision allows fulfillment of His purpose for our life. "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name" (John 1:12).

Ever since Adam and Eve sinned in the garden, all mankind has been born in sin and separated from a proper relationship with God. God has pronounced His judgment on sin: "The wages of sin is death..." (Rom. 6:23). However, our loving, merciful Lord has prepared a way by which we can be saved from His wrath: "...but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Rom. 6:23). The gift of grace to a humble heart will lead to fruitful repentance and conversion. Repentance would be ineffective without God's grace and power to convert the heart. A true conversion means we have been spiritually born again (John 3:3, 1 Pet. 1:23). This miracle of becoming a new creature in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17) is evidenced by a new walk of life, restoration of peace with God and man and bearing of the fruit of the Spirit, by His grace.

Before repentance we followed our own degenerate thinking and were blinded by Satan's deceptions. All have sinned and fallen short of God's standards as spelled out in His Word (Rom. 3:23). Before we are able to repent it is necessary for us to recognize our lost condition and need for a Saviour. Sorrow for sin, confession and restitution are some of the fruits of repentance (Matt. 3:6, 8). "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). As we seek God's forgiveness, we also must be willing to forgive others (Matt. 6:14). God also asks that we openly acknowledge Jesus as the only Saviour. "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" (Rom. 10:9). Justification by faith restores us to peace with God and allows open communion with Him. (Romans 5:1-2)

The Word directs us to make amends to anyone we have offended (Matt. 5:23-24). When Zacchaeus repented, he told Jesus that he would repay everyone whom he had wronged (Luke 19:8). The Word instructs us: "as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men" (Rom. 12:18), and "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love" (Rom. 12:10). Following these principles nurtures peace in our relationships with people (Rom. 14:19). We are called to be a Christ-like example, a light of the world and salt of the earth. (Matt. 5:13-14)

God promises a helper and comforter to all who believe (John 14:16). He is called the Holy Spirit. "...in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession unto the praise of His glory" (Eph. 1:13-14). This Spirit directs and teaches us; and by His work in our hearts, our actions and thoughts reflect the fruit of the Spirit, which "is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance... And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the

affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit" (Gal. 5:23-25). This will be reflected in a walk of life which includes separation from evil and unrighteousness. There is a turning away from those unwholesome things which once brought pleasure. This is a fulfillment of the biblical instruction to: "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him" (1 John 2:15).

Repentance is followed by baptism (Acts 2:38) in which there is a symbolic burial of the old nature which has been crucified with Christ and a coming forth in newness of life in the likeness of the resurrection of Christ (Rom. 6:4-6). Just prior to baptism a covenant is made to be true and faithful to God as long as we live—which is made possible only by His grace.

When God converts us, he also adopts us as children. His relationship to us is not only Lord, but also as a loving Heavenly Father. We become bound to Him in love. Jesus told His disciples before He left the earth, "If ye love me, keep my commandments" (John 14:15). Motivated by love for Christ, our greatest desire is to "serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear" (Heb. 12:28). John writes, "And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments" (1 John 2:3).

Thus it is clear that the believer is expected to live an overcoming life. God promises to be faithful, not allowing the believer to be tempted beyond what he is able to bear, providing a way of escape from temptation (1 Cor. 10:13). The Word teaches we should not sin, but that if we sin we are given a remedy, if we sincerely seek forgiveness, in that we have an advocate in our merciful Saviour (1 John 1:9; 2:1-2). We are exhorted to "come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need" (Heb. 4:16). We are blessed with a lively hope of being with our Lord eternally, if we are faithful to Him. "Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast..." (Heb. 6:19).

An editorial committee of elder brothers is preparing articles for this section of the Silver Lining to address some of the special needs of our times.

Suggestions for subjects are welcome and can be sent to:

Silver Lining Editorials, 1377 County Rd 1600 N, Roanoke, IL 61561 or by e-mail to cleman@mtco.com



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN Mission Committee

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

Prayers Answered at Casa Vida y Esperanza

So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and hasted not to go down about a whole day. And there was no day like that before it or after it, that the LORD hearkened unto the voice of a man: for the LORD fought for Israel. JOSHUA 10:13-14

The Lord stopped the universe because Joshua prayed... and He still hearkens unto our voices today. Praise be to the Lord our God for His faithfulness in answering the many prayers that have been offered up on behalf of CVE, the Magdalena Church, and the many that live here or visit CVE.

As we learn more about the necessity and power of prayer we will want to spend more time in prayer. The prayers offered for this place sustain and strengthen us. We give thanks that the Lord has blessed these past years! Thank you for your prayers.

Shew me thy ways, O LORD; teach me thy paths. PSALMS, 25:4

The orphanage is now home to thirty children who range in age from 1 to 15 years. Many of these children have lived at CVE for over 4 years now, and our desire is that they will grow to know Christ and become strong Christian men and women. Please pray for all the children here that they can truly know their Father through His Son, Jesus.

Daily we give thanks that these children are here with us, and that they are learning, searching, and finding the love their Father in heaven has for them. Although there are trying times, we trust that the Lord is faithful and will lead us to give our all in loving and raising these children to know Him. The

"least of these", who may never know their dad, can know their Father who loves them more than any earthly dad could. Pray that our children can find healing and life in the blood of Jesus and can fully trust in Him.

I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD. PSALMS 122:1

We are thankful to be using our new church building, and for those that shared our first Sunday with us. The church is the body of Christ and the building is only a building, but it is a blessing to have a designated place to gather each time we have the privilege to worship.



It is a special opportunity to be a part of the lives of children and adults outside of CVE. We were privileged to host our VBS program again in the past year and are thankful for over 300 children that attended during that week. The trust that the parents of these children place in CVE as they allow their children to attend is overwhelming, even though most do not personally know us.

Those that attend church every week are our extended family. Faith comes by hearing God's Word. The Holy Spirit, through the power of the Word is able to convert the soul. Recently a woman in her 60's

that had been coming to church for awhile, asked about being baptized. It was important that she understood what baptism is and what it isn't. She explained that she understood, and then told us that she has been searching for the truth for over 60 years, but everywhere she went she only felt worse.

She said, "I now have found the truth and I want to be baptized." We are thankful for those who have begun a new life in Christ, and challenge us daily to keep searching out the truth in His word.

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

The Lord has provided and our first group home has been completed, serving as a home for girls. We are grateful for the staff that have left their families and homes to serve as the only parents that these children may ever know.

Continue to pray for Godly individuals and couples to provide a family environment for all our children. God is moving our staff in many directions. Those interested in serving in various roles, including house parents, are encouraged to prayerfully consider this calling.

It is a privilege to have the support of many work teams, and we are thankful for the work that has been accomplished with the help of willing hands. The group home and the church, as well as our refurbished buildings, are a direct result of this help. May God bless those that have given of their gift of time and resources.

It is a blessing to wait on the Lord, and watch His perfect timing! Dios les bendiga! (God bless you all!)

www.cvemx.org



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
World Relief

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

A Spirit Filled Week in Haiti

In March, 2009, three brothers and two sisters from the Child Sponsorship Committee made a trip to Haiti for the purpose of accountability, exploration, and education. We criss-crossed the country at a crawl, bouncing along on rocky roads, fording rivers, and creeping up hand-carved trails on the mountain sides. The view as you look over the mountains, valleys, and sea are breathtaking; however, hidden among the trees and rocks is a level of poverty that tears at your heart.

You can visualize a Biblical setting here in Haiti. The primary mode of transportation is by foot as they travel the dusty and rocky roads from village to village through the valleys and up the mountains. You see many people walking in all directions, donkeys laden with supplies, women carrying their loads on their heads, often five gallon buckets of water from the nearest well or stream, as well as children walking long distances to school.

In spite of the extreme needs, there is a real peace and contentment among them. You can almost sense Jesus and his disciples walking along the way and conversing among the people. This creates a feeling of not wanting to leave.

We visited several schools along with a translator, and spent time with the principal, discussing the various needs as well as the progress at their school. Then we visited the crowded classrooms where the children, with big eyes and shy smiles, would jump to their feet out of courtesy as their dedicated teacher looked on. Some classes

would sing hymns for us with a genuine enthusiasm, often singing that they simply put their trust in Jesus. For this experience you wanted your handkerchief available.

Several times we were told by school officials, if it were not for our sponsorship program, the school would not be able to exist. Many comments were made regarding how the sponsored children look forward to correspondence from their sponsors, often asking their teachers if they have received a letter. Some children remember the names of their sponsoring family for years into adulthood. We strongly encourage a close and spiritual relationship between sponsor and child. We also need to remember the far reaching potential of this relationship. Our love and support can reach into an entire family and, if the Lord tarries, for many generations.

Among the true Haitian Christians we could sense a deep faith, but there are many children who cannot afford an education and have no exposure to Christ. A sponsorship puts a child into a Christian school where he or she learns of their Savior along with learning to read and understand His Word. It is our hope and prayer that by the grace of God, and through these teachings we might be able to walk the eternal pathways of Heaven together.

Thanks to our loving and giving brotherhood we are able to sponsor over seven hundred individual children plus almost ninety schools just in Haiti alone. As we had the privilege to visit numerous schools in outlying rural settings, we visited and saw the needs of many children. We felt an urge to scoop them up in our arms and promise them support.

However, we put our trust in our loving God, believing He will touch the hearts of our brotherhood so that His work will continue to grow. What does God expect from those to whom He gave so much?

In addition to Haiti there are sponsorships available in Jamaica, Mexico, and Guatemala. May we pray for the passion to serve so the name of the One who gave all for us might be glorified and lifted up.

To sponsor a child

To sponsor a student please fill out the following form and send to the office. A student will be assigned to you and you will be sent further information.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ St _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Please check preference:

☐ Haiti ☐ Guatemala

☐ Mexico ☐ Jamaica

☐ Wherever needed

If possible I would prefer:

☐ Boy - Age _____

☐ Girl - Age _____

☐ No Preference

Send to:

ACWR Child Sponsorship Office
PO Box 36

Morton, IL 61550

Phone: 309-266-6080

Fax: 309-266-5281

E-mail: childsponsorship@acwr.org

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED www.achh.org

In 2005, the CARES acronym was developed to assist all staff in better understanding our vision as well as to help acquaint new staff. The effort and thought put forth in the development of CARES has certainly been blessed in many ways. The CARES concept is also utilized in our staff education sessions which are held periodically throughout the year.

Our Staff Meetings for 2009 will center on our mission to fulfill the Agency vision of Caring Because God CARES. We will begin with a study on Character and then seek to better define and live what it means to show compassion, to act as an advocate, to show respect, to work towards excellence while keeping our homes safe for our residents and staff.

The first session for CARES this year addresses the "Compassion" component of CARES. The activities for "Compassion" were implemented in April and May.

The theme verse for these activities has been I Peter 1:8: "...be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another... and.... be courteous." Compassion has been defined as 1) selfless acts of love through serving, recognizing and responding 2) not pity nor is it simply an action of helping others 3) using positive words or actions to reduce the suffering of others.

An activity to create a heightened state of awareness of "compassion" has been to catch people in acts of compassion. This has included both staff and residents in all of our homes.

When did we see compassion? Well, a young man was scheduled to move from Timber Ridge (the larger facility) to one of our group homes (Oakwood Estate). A resident at Oakwood Estate learned that the man moving into their home liked a particular music track. When the man from Timber Ridge came for his first visit, the Oakwood resident went to her room to get a cassette tape of the mu-

sic the young man likes....and gave it to him. This act was more than an act of kindness. Actually, the young man has a specific challenge where routines and the same order of activities is very important for successful living for him. The young man successfully moved into Oakwood Estate and is glad for his new found friends. He lived at Timber Ridge 9 years before moving to Oakwood.

Compassion was equally observed with staff during this young man's move. On the day of the man's move, tears were shed by staff at Timber Ridge. These were tears of thankfulness for the new opportunities this man was experiencing. They were also tears of separation. That evening several staff from Timber Ridge stopped by Oakwood Estate after work...just to check and see that their friend was doing ok with this transition. These were moments when staff were "caught in the act of compassion", too. I Peter 3:8 had been applied in the lives of individuals.

GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME Nathan Mueller

Spent For The Glory of God

"Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."

I Corinthians 10:31

There is a story about a monk who became a Christian and left the monastery to become a missionary among Muslims. He started a small underground church because persecution was strong. As he grew older, his health began to fail, his eyes grew dim, and he grew increasingly weaker. He did not want to die slowly, but he wanted to die like our Lord Jesus. He went out to the town square and preached with all of his might to the Muslim crowd. The people grew furious, formed a mob, then took him outside of the city and stoned him.

Another story is about a family who adopted through Gateway Woods. This couple had two children who were grown and out on their own when they decided to reject the "empty nester" American dream. They welcomed into their family two brothers and a sister who had no home. The couple says, "There are few opportunities in life to do something significant...beyond yourself."

These examples of godly people are giving their lives for the glory of God. They are rejecting the fleeting treasures of this dying world for lasting eternal treasures. They are running their race well. They are not wasting their lives on entertainment and other things. We only get one chance at life. Don't waste it! Spend yourself for the glory of God and the good of His kingdom. What does God want you to do with the life He has entrusted to you?

NEWS:

- You are an important advocate to help us spread the word about God's work at Gateway Woods. Please continue to lift us up in prayer, check our website www.gatewaywoods.org often for updates, and make sure that you're on our mailing list. In an effort to be as efficient as possible, we are gathering as many email addresses as we can in order to send out our new e-newsletter. Please send a message to mail@gatewaywoods.org.

- Please mark your calendars for our next annual auction on Saturday, August 8, 2009. Information about this event will be available throughout the coming months.

- We are grateful to announce the hiring of Bro. Dustin and Sis. Mandy Hodel (Roanoke, IL) as the new Alternate Houseparents in the Hickory House. They will be working with Bro. Ryan and Sis. Bethany Donaghy and Sis. Abby Klopfenstein. Their first day of work began on June 1. Please remember to pray for them as they adjust to their new responsibilities.

- We are very thankful that God con-

tinues to provide us with the right staff. Because of our Adoption services expanding into Illinois, there is an open position for IL Adoption Manager. Please see the notice in this month's edition of The Silver Lining for more information. We trust that God will continue to provide us with qualified, mature Brothers and Sisters who will be able to serve Him in a ministry that is 'Turning Lives Around'. Perhaps this includes you!

- Finally, with spring in the air, Gateway Woods is gearing up for summer - which means volunteers! The brothers and sisters who serve during the summer are so crucial to our program, children and campus. Accordingly, we have hired Bro. Dustin Huber (Bloomington, IL) as the Summer Volunteer Coordinator. If you are interested in volunteering, please call us at 888-443-4283 or visit our website www.gatewaywoods.org where you can apply on-line to be a volunteer.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL Athens, AL Sarah Hodel

Is it really the end of another school year? Did we really just have graduation? Though there are days when we thought it couldn't come soon enough, I think we would all agree that the end of the year came faster than any of us thought possible. The kids did a great job at graduations. It is a test of our patience when we try to practice. Getting 26 little preschoolers to learn their parts, learn what to do and where to go, learn that it is not okay to push their friends off the risers and so on and so forth can be a little frustrating. The night of the graduation though, everyone did great. It wasn't perfect, but that's okay because perfection can be boring and no fun. The kids were so cute with their little caps and gowns. We have ten who will be moving on to Kindergarten in August and we will miss them.

Once graduation was over we were able to welcome summer with a field trip

to a local park. The kids liked it because they got to play on a new and exciting playground and eat their own sack lunch. The teachers liked it because the kids were wiped out and took great naps afterwards! We all had fun doing something a little out of the ordinary.

We are still looking and praying for a new teacher for the new school year. Not one teacher who has been here will say it was a bad experience. It is a great opportunity to work in a loving environment and be a part of a very special church. If you feel the Lord leading you, please don't hesitate to come. For more information you can contact Bro. Mike Moore at (256)777-3390 or (256)729-0620. His address is 8653 Beechwood Rd. Athens, AL 35611. His e-mail is ALM38@aol.com.

ALABAMA, ATHENS Louise Hall

As every Memorial Day rolls around, we look forward to our Tennessee Fellowship Weekend. This year we were able to have Bros. Larry Wenninger (Sis. Joyce, Latty, OH) and Lenny Meyer (Sis. Charlotte, Chicago, IL) do our topical presentations. The theme of the weekend was "Watch and Pray". Also that weekend we had our Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Sis. Roberta, Smithville, OH) and Bros. Roger Sauder (Sis. Judy, Ft. Lauderdale, FL), Fred Funk (Sis. Diane, Morton, IL), Ted Witzig Jr. (Sis. Donna, Morton, IL) and Paul Gasser (Sis. Joyce, Akron, OH). We were so thankful for these brothers and everyone else that made the effort to come for the weekend.

Also bringing the Word to us during the past month were Bros. Steve Pamer (Sis. Arliss, Akron, OH) and Tom Schambach (Sis. Connie, Elgin, IL).

Our prayers are with Bro. Don Ross who was in the hospital this month, and also Bro. David and Sis. Barbara Coulter's two daughters, Roslyn and Kendra. Roslyn was in a bus accident and hurt her foot. Kendra hurt her foot as well. We are thankful that both girls are okay. Also, Kendra is graduating from high school this year and we are ex-

cited for her!

ARIZONA, PHOENIX Heather Hinrichsen

We were privileged to hear the Word of God preached to us this month by Bro. Joe Klotzle (Altadena), Elder Bro. Steve Ringger (Bluffton North), and Bro. Nick Gutwein (W. Lafayette). Their willingness to proclaim the Gospel was greatly appreciated.

Sis. Cindy (Bro. Erik) Langhofer's mother, Sis. Carole Huber, passed away peacefully on May 7 in Francesville, IN. The family continues to appreciate your prayers.

Sis. Marie Beery and Bro. Ron Lindenbaum both had surgery this month.

Sis. Katherine Laukauf moved into an assisted living facility. We pray that they all will continue to feel the prayers of the church.

Liam Michael Virkler was born May 4 to Bro. Joel and Sis. Amber Virkler. His grandparents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Patty Greenbank and Bro. Stan and Sis. Beth Virkler (Remington).

We rejoice with the angels when sinners turn to Christ in repentance. Our two converts are Ruby Barna and Deanna De Vlleger.

We honor our graduates this month and pray God will reveal His future plans for each of them. Our 8th grade graduates are: Frederic Hoerr, Mark Hand, Kelsey Katich, Philip Huette, Nathan Huette, Koby Baum, Jessica Baum and Kristin Knochel. Our high school graduates are: Sis. Anneliese Hoerr, Bailey Roth, Camille Steffen, Jared Wuethrich, Sis. Laura Wiegand and Sis. Bethany Knochel. Our college graduates are Josh Roth and Bro. Joel Virkler.

"Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you."

I Thess. 3:1

On April 25, we witnessed the installation service for our new minister, Bro.

Keith (Sis. Tammy) Hinrichsen. We were encouraged as a church to pray for our ministers and Elders on a daily basis. May we each remember to follow this vital request.

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT **Denise Steidinger**

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."

We are so grateful to our visiting ministers this past month. They included Bros. Wayne Wiegand (Sis. Rosemary, Goodfield), Ed Strahm (Sis. Ramona, Bern) and Elder Bro. Ted Witzig Sr. (Sis. Cindy, Morton).

ARIZONA, TUCSON **Lisa Knapp**

Congratulations to Mindy Darling (Bro. Brad and Sis. Sandy Bauer) on completing her studies to become a nurse practitioner. Mindy graduated with a master's degree from the University of Arizona this May and we are so proud of her!

We are heading into Memorial Day weekend and enjoying a cooling trend in our weather. We had been having unusually high temperatures for May (low 100's) but are cooling down into the high 80's as some springtime thunderstorms roll in for a few days.

Our winter visitors are all gone and the summertime travel starts this weekend so we will be very small in numbers frequently throughout the summer. Our Wednesday evening services are over with until October 1 as are our Fellowship Suppers. Sunday School takes a break June through August.

We are planning a Vacation Bible School in July and some World Relief activities as travel plans allow. If you happen to be in the area, give us a call and we'll let you know what's happening. Have a blessed summer!

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA **Daniel Luthi**

"Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward."

Psalms 127:3

New life is a blessing, and is so amazing and wonderful to behold! We praised God for this awesome miracle recently, as we welcomed Jace Douglas Mangers into our congregation. Jace Douglas Mangers was born to proud parents, Bro. Scott and Sis. Shayna Mangers, and grandparents, Bro. Doug and Sis. Sandy Aberle and Bro. Dennie and Sis. Cheryl Mangers (Champaign, IL). We pray for God's continued blessing on Jace Douglas and his family as he grows and matures.

Bro. Braden Mogler has graduated this month from Pepperdine University after 4 years of study. It was a blessing to have his family, Bro. Kent Mogler (Sis. Mary, Minneapolis MN) and his siblings, out here to share and celebrate in the occasion. We congratulate Bro. Braden, and pray for God's continued direction in his life. We also thank Bro. Kent for his willingness to serve us from the pulpit.

Our prayers continue for those that we know and love who are sick. Our prayers for healing this month have been with Bro. John Klotzle and Aaron Yaussi during their recent hospitalizations. Aaron's brother has also recently passed away. May the comforting, healing Hand of our Father be near Aaron and his family.

We always enjoy our visitors out here. After assembling with us over the winter months, Bro. Reuben and Sis. Chrystol Luthi (Morris, MN) and Bro. Daryle and Sis. Edie Wieland (Bay City, MI) have returned home. They have been such a blessing to our gathering here. Though we will miss them, we wish them God's blessings, and, Lord willing, look forward to their return this fall.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO **Yasmin Koehl**

As we reflect upon the previous weeks, our hearts become increasable light as we recognize how the Lord has been at our side, loving, guiding, admonishing and caring for us each step of the way.

We praise Him for the unity and closeness we felt as we partook of the Holy Communion. What a marvelous God we serve, who knew we would need a special time such as Communion to be reminded of His continuous faithfulness as well as a time to cherish the bonds we share with our brothers and sisters in Christ. We thank Elder Bro. Tom Klotzle (Sis. Jody, Altadena, CA) for assisting our Elder Bro. Peter Petrovic (Sis. Marian) in serving us.

Amongst our visitors, we were blessed with the service and presence of ministering Bro. Mike Rieker (Sis. Carol, Peoria, IL) for so willingly giving of himself. The love and prayers for our church here in San Diego from both Bro. Mike and Sis. Carol have become a very precious part of our congregation. We thank them both for remembering us and look forward to their next visit.

As our Sis. Linda Fulop (Bro. Denes and Sis. Joy) was announced to Bro. Troy Steffen (Belvidere, IL), we've been anticipating the arrival of meeting Bro. Troy's parents, ministering Bro. Dean and Sis. Carol Steffen (also of Belvidere, IL). We were thankful a visit was possible and we appreciated Bro. Dean's labors of love on our behalf as he shared God's Word with us. We look forward to many more visits in the future as Bro. Troy and Sis. Linda are united in marriage and make their home here in San Diego.

As we now enter into a new month, may the Lord bless you and keep you. May you feel His presence at your side calling you to a more closer walk with Him, where true joy, love and peace abounds.

KITCHENER, ONTARIO CANADA

Johanna Fortenbacher

We appreciated Bro. Tom Bahler (Sis. LaNae, Rockville) for sharing the Gospel message to us this month.

We're happy to report that Nicklas Davidson is repenting which is such an encouragement for Kitchener church. He shared with us how he felt God calling him and the decision he made to follow Him. All of us, as well as our converts, Jesse Ursu, John and Liz Kralt and Nicolas's mother, Michelle Davidson, would love the extra prayers "while trav'ling o're life's rugged way". "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." (James 5:16)

Kitchener church was invited to Bradford, IL, for our May long weekend. God gave us a safe journey and we're thankful to Him and all the wonderful hosts in Bradford for the blessing of being with other believers.

COLORADO, DENVER

Ann Gonglach

In May, Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Sis. Julie, Oakville, IA) was here to partake in the reading of the Elder's Memorandum and also to exhort us in preparation for Communion; Bro. Jeff Bahr (Sis. Janice, Kiowa, KS) preached God's Word to us on Mother's Day; and Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich (Sis. Nancy, Phoenix, AZ) shared Communion with us. We appreciate these brothers and their wives making the trip to Denver and ministering to us on these special occasions.

We also gathered to celebrate some milestones in several lives including Bro. Joe Hohulin's 50th birthday and Bro. Doug and Sis. Sharolyn Hohulin's 25th wedding anniversary. A shower was held for Bro. Joel Leman and Sis. Kristi Stoller, who plan to be married soon in Illinois.

A couple of our young brothers (Dan Leman and Fred Leman) traveled to Haiti. They enjoyed their time visiting the brethren there.

"Serve the Lord with gladness . . . be thankful unto him, and bless his name."

Psalm 100:2, 4

CONNECTICUT ROCKVILLE

Amber Rocke Laura Virkler

Note: The first part of this month's article is news from February 15 to March 15 and was mistakenly unpublished. Feeling it should still be included, as many family circles experienced the loss of loved ones, it will appear here with this month's news.

Many of our brethren and friends are grieving the loss of loved ones in the recent weeks.

After a brief illness, Bro. Norman Barton passed away, leaving his daughter, Sis. Judy Stomberg (Bro. Ron) and her family. Besides Sis. Judy and Bro. Ron, he leaves his granddaughters, Sis. Deborah (Bro. Lenny) Schneider, Sis. Susan (Bro. Rudy) Virkler, Sis. Kathy (Bro. Mark) Kloter and Sis. Cindy (Bro. Ed) Garrow, as well as many great-grandchildren and nieces and nephews. Many will miss his familiar figure as they come in to church, and we will continue to keep this family in our prayers.

Our friend Hazel Jondreau recently passed away, leaving her daughters, Sis. Sherri LaPlante (Bro. Leo) and Karen Schambach (Bro. Gary) of Florida, Judy Wilke (Jack), and a son, Richard, as well as many grandchildren and great-grandchildren and friends. She will be missed by many who visit the Fox Hill nursing facility where she spent the last several years of her life. May the Lord continue to supply comfort and peace to her family.

We also extend our sympathy to Sis. Marge Schneider (Bro. Wilbur) at the passing of her brother-in-law, Bro. Les Roth (Sis. Ruth), of the Forrest, IL, congregation. Our Sis. Erin Hoffman recently and unexpectedly suffered the loss of her brother, Michael Doyle. We earnestly pray that she and her husband, Bro. John, and their family along with her parents, John and Gail Doyle,

will be upheld in this difficult time of sorrow, for which they were certainly unprepared. As the hymn writer wrote, "Not now, but in the coming years...sometime we'll understand." May all of these family circles feel our love and support.

News from April 15 - May 15:

"And as they did eat, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and brake it, and gave it to them, and said, Take, eat: this is my body. And he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them: and they all drank of it. And he said unto them, This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many."

Mark 14:22

In the recent weeks past we had the precious privilege to partake of Holy Communion. What a blessing to be brought back to the suffering of the Savior for us upon the cross and feel the love we have for each other as brethren and sisters of the Lord. Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Sis. Jeannine, Mansfield, OH) came to be with us for the weekend and it was a great blessing to have them with us once again.

On Mother's Day, which in itself is a special time to remember those who give so much of their love and time, two mothers had the added blessing to spend the day rejoicing with children making a covenant with their Lord. We welcome a dear Brother and Sister into the fold, Sis. Jane Schultz (Bro. Ken and Sis. Lois) and Bro. Kevin Gottier (Guy and Sis. Beth) as they were buried in holy baptism. To all our mothers, we thank them for all they do for others, whether they have children of their own, or simply children in the faith, for many are the mothers of faith who care in many ways for those beyond family circles. May they be blessed by our Lord for all they do.

Also on Mother's Day weekend, the engagement of our Sis. Holly Virkler to Bro. Toby Fehr (Eureka, IL) was made known to us. Although this means for

us that Sis. Holly will be making her home in Illinois, we wish them much joy as they plan a life together. Parents are Owen Virkler (Kim) and SueEllen Machuga (Tom) of New York and Bro. Ken and Sis. Sandy Fehr of Eureka, IL. May these families be blessed as their children are united by faith in marriage.

Where God the seal does give,
where two join hand and heart,
we find a threefold cord,
not lightly rent apart.

Zion's Harp #79

May they, as many have, find this to be true!

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA WASHINGTON Henrietta Meyer

Our caretakers for May are Bro. Everett and Sis. Nancy Gerber from Rockville, CT.

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Justin Koch (Sis. Marcia, Washington, IL), Bro. Mark Schmidgall (Sis. Lisa, Eureka, IL), Bro. Warren Zahner (Sis. Bonnie, Rockville, CT), and Bro. Les Kaeb (Sis. Christine, Francesville, IN). Other visitors this month were from Rockville, CT, and Akron, OH. We look forward to having more visitors as summer approaches.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Ken and Roberta Belsley as they continue to deal with various health issues. In our small congregation, two absentees leaves a big hole.

Directions in the new Ministers' Book are good for those coming from the north or west. For those coming up I-95 from south of DC or from the eastern part of the area, you need to take I-95/495 to Exit 28A (New Hampshire Ave) for approx. 2 miles to Rt. 29 North. Go about 3 miles to Fairland Road and follow the directions in the Ministers' book.

If you are planning to visit Washington, D.C. area for vacation or business, please contact Bro. Joe and Sis. Holly Bohart at jbohart@gmail.com or Sis. Henrietta Meyer at (703) 904-8301 for

assistance and to let us know how many to expect for Sunday services. If you would like to get together on Saturday evening, please let us know that as well. We would be happy to have an evening of fellowship and/or singing.

FLORIDA FORT LAUDERDALE Renee Mangold

We were thankful to have visiting ministering Bro. Fred Funk (Sis. Diane, Morton, IL) join us and help in sharing God's Word with us this past month. We pray that they will be blessed for their service to Him.

The necessary approvals for remodeling our church have been met and so we are beginning that process. There have been a few volunteer meetings to help in breaking down the kitchen and nursery areas. We are currently meeting for services in our fellowship hall. It's a step of faith to freshen up the old church in anticipation of many more wonderful services, fellowship, visitors and hopefully more families to join our small congregation in His time.

FLORIDA NORTH FORT MYERS Victor and Dorothy Beer

Memorial Day this month of May brings many of us to being very thankful for the end of hostilities in the European theatres of World War 2. As with the Veterans of Vietnam and Korea, Iraq and Afghanistan, showing their physical losses, we all are reminded to be thankful. Thankful to God for His keeping everyone that are able to get around and enjoy life, and prayerful for the many that are hurting from the strife. Our nearby Veterans Clinic is overrun with many needing help in many ways.

Our church is being blessed with those that have chosen to visit Florida in the summer. Some fear the heat, which is well taken care of by air conditioners, and the gulf water is inviting to enjoy. Fishing seems to be great now as well.

Above all, God's blessings seem to flow among us, just like any family of

God. Week by week, we all rejoice in getting together to worship our Lord, the King of Kings!

Our record drought has come to an end. This week all of south Florida got all the rain we wanted for the time being. Yes, they were really showers of blessings. Our harvesting season for oranges and grapefruit is soon over, and watermelons are going north by the hundreds of semi-loads each day.

FLORIDA, SARASOTA DiAnne Brown

This month finds our family in full tilt "end-of-the-school-year-it is." Projects, presentations, power-points, research papers, laboratory experiments, you name it, it's due. We've felt compassion as our son arises early and retires late to meet the demands of a special academic program he began this year. The temptation to step in and lift some of his burden is great, but resist we must.

I wonder if this is how our heavenly Father feels as we face a great challenge. A man named Job comes to mind. Thankfully, God knows there is value in allowing us to struggle. Our duty must be to learn to appreciate the struggle, for the hard won victory is truly greater.

The Sarasota church will host Vacation Bible School on June 24, 25 & 26 this summer. It promises to be a wonderful time of gathering and fellowship with a shared dinner and Bible study, hymn singing and activities for all ages. Prayers for the team giving leadership, the hands providing and the partakers would be appreciated.

Dear Sis. Marie (Germanvich) Reardon was called home on Friday, May 1. She had four children, Sis. Colleen Reardon, St. Augustine; Rosalind (Bill) Thomas (dec.), Livonia, MI; John (Linda), Warren, MI; and Ronald (Sue), Stanford, MI; nine grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. She moved to Sarasota around 1981 with her husband, Bro. George (dec.). We pray her family has peace in knowing her faith sustained her and she now resides with our Savior in heaven.

Sis. Betty Siladie is to have a hip replacement surgery on June 3. We send prayers for a successful surgery and a speedy and complete healing for her. We pray, too, for Bro. George as he tends to his dear wife through the recovery.

Leah Mae Koehl was safely delivered on Wednesday, April 29, to happy parents, Bro. Mark and Sis. Tricia (Gutwein) Koehl. She was welcomed home by her three older sisters, Kyra, Lily and Kylie. Leah's grandparents are Bro. Ron and Sis. Carol Koehl (Sarasota), Bro. Jerry and Sis. Janice Gutwein (Francesville, IN), and her great-grandparents are Bro. Harold and Sis. Maxine Gutwein (Francesville, IN), Bro. Elmer and Sis. Hazel Schmidt (Winthrop, MN) and Bro. Leroy and Sis. Janita Koehl (Forrest, IL). We join the family in the celebration of her safe arrival and good health.

Bro. Schuyler Brown and Sis. Lindsay Brown are serving on an ACWR work team to the Jamaica Deaf Village on May 22-30. Prayers for this mission to be an opportunity of service, fellowship and growth of the spirit and faith would be so appreciated. What a privilege it is to be called to serve.

Bro. Aaron (Sis. Kim) Ott graduated this month from the Physical Therapy Assistant program at Manatee Community College. We pray God will bless Bro. Aaron on his new path and know he will be a blessing to all under his care.

May God continue to bless and sustain our beautiful faith and help us remember to appreciate the struggle.

GEORGIA, ATLANTA

We rejoice with Bro. Rich and Sis. Julie Lindberg as their first grandchild has entered the world! Zoe Jean Lindberg's proud parents, Bro. Mark and Sis. Laura (Chicago), welcome this little angel home. Aunts and uncles of this blest little girl are Bro. Matthew and Sis. Renae (Atlanta), Bro. Joshua and Sis. Bethany (Roanoke), Jacob, Caleb, Benjamin, Lydia, Hannah, Joel, and Rachel. We miss Mark and Laura very much, but are so happy to hear

about their beautiful daughter's birth!

Mother's Day weekend our church family gathered together for a community outreach weekend. Breaking into a few different groups, our church reached out to many places that weekend including a children's shelter, a horse ranch for handicap children, houses needing cleaned for older ladies or those suffering from diseases, and making about 40 care packages which contents varied greatly. Some consisted of clothes while others were just "get-well" or "thinking of you" cards. It was wonderful to work together as a church serving those who some might call the "least of these".

Bro. Steve Martin (Eureka) ministered to us this month.

On Mother's day, the Sunday school class prepared the lunch and made each mother a special gift. We are so blessed to have our mothers in our lives!

On the National Day of Prayer, our church gathered together and were reminded of the importance of praying for our nation, church, and families.

We have had a wonderful spring with lots of rain to refresh the earth and end our multi-year draught. Our God is so amazing!

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE Doreen Moser Jenn Johnson

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

Ecclesiastes 3:1

~A time to be born...

We welcome Stacia Anliker, the newest addition to Bro. Brian and Sis. Peg Anliker's home. How precious she is, a perfect gift from the Lord.

~A time to Love...

Bro. Jordan Steffen (Bro. Dean and Sis. Carol) and Sis. Shayla Messner's (Bro. Dean and Sis. Wanda) engage-

ment was announced. Being a small church, we are so excited to have a new sister and a new couple in our Belvidere congregation. We know Sis. Shayla will be missed in Winthrop but we hope the Lord will provide His comfort where needed and we look forward to getting to know Shayla's family circle.

~A time to plant...

Although this is the season of the year to plant seeds into the ground, this is also the time when new Sunday school teachers are elected to plant seeds into the hearts of our children. Many thanks go to those who have taught our children with love and many prayers go to those who will now take on that responsibility. Sis. Doreen Moser, Bros. Trent Johnson and Jordan Steffen will be new Sunday school teachers and Bro. Brian Anliker will take over the duties as trustee.

~A time to break down...

Breaking down Satan's walls, Darcy Steffen has decided it is time to follow Jesus. May she rely on the Lord each step of the way.

~A time to weep and a time to laugh...

Many tears and memories that make us laugh are also a part of this time of the year as many graduate from high school. Darcy Steffen (Bro. Dean and Sis. Carol), Jake Darlington (Jerry and Sis. Sandy), Britny Knobloch (Bro. Brent and Sis. Michelle), and Kayla Braun (Karl and Mitzi) have reached that milestone. We lift them up in prayer as they venture out in the world to college or work.

A Farewell singing for Rod and Anne Anliker who are moving to Phoenix, AZ, also caused a few tears and many laughs. Our congregation will miss them, but feel this is the Lord's direction for them at this time in their lives.

As we celebrated Mother's day this month, truly the best gift we can give

them is our time. Gifts fade but the time we spend together will never fade, nor can the memories be taken away.

**ILLINOIS
BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL**

**Alissa Kieser
Jacki Masters**

Come then to the feast of His New
Covenant,
Members of His Church, your faith re-
new;
Thank the Founder of this precious
Covenant
Through the chalice He pours out for
you.
Zion's Harp #26, vs. 6

On April 25, we were blessed as a congregation to share in the symbol of God's covenant through Holy Communion. Bro. Mark shared a beautiful message of God's promises and covenant with us before we took part in God's Holy Sacrament.

In the past few months we have had several new families join our congregation in worship. We are so thankful that Mike and Annie Balch have answered the call and have given their lives to Christ. We wish them God's abundant grace as they begin their walk with Him. We are also thankful that Matt and Kirsten Hany have decided to make our church their home, and we look forward to greeting them as brother and sister in Christ.

Beautiful little Addyson Faith was born into the home of first-time parents, Bro. Ben and Sis. Taunya Sceggel, on April 21. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Mark and Sis. Judy Sceggel (Peoria) and Bro. Ron and Sis. Jackie Rumbold (Princeville).

We extend our love and sympathy to Sis. Rebekah Kaufmann (Bro. Matt), Sis. Heidi Rinkenberger (Bro. Jarod), and Sis. Tami Inoue upon the passing of their grandmother, Sis. Carol Huber (Francesville, IN).

**ILLINOIS, BRADFORD
Philip and Donna Nenadov**

"O taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him."

Psalms 34:8

Our church hosted the Kitchener, ON, church for a weekend of fellowship this past month. Nearly the entire church came down including ministering Bro. Mike Ursu (Sis. Barb). We also had a number of family and friends from the Illinois area attend as well which included ministering Bros. Curt Rassi (Sis. Kathy, Tremont) and Dale Stoller (Sis. Sandra, Fairbury). We were very thankful for the special opportunity as well as God's provision of safety for our guests' journey back home.

Our other visiting minister this month was Bro. Ken Schneider (Sis. Bernice, Remington). May the Lord be blessed whenever the Word is preached.

Our graduating students from High School this year are: Sis. Heidi Ehnle (Bro. Donn and Sis. Tracy), Calvin Fehr (Bro. Les and Sis. Barb), and Keith Wagenbach (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Sara). Eighth grade graduates are: Brendan Endress (Bro. Bill and Sis. Renee), Eden Endress (Kevin and Marina), Amy Hausmann (Bro. Fred and Sis. Sue), and Kaleb Wagenbach (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Sara). May the Lord direct the paths of these dear ones as they step into the next chapter of their lives.

God be with you 'til we meet again.

**ILLINOIS, CHICAGO
Rachel Meyer**

Greetings from Chicago. We thank the following Brothers for ministering to us in the past month: Bros. Randy Mogler (Washington, IL), Jedd Rocke (Goodfield, IL), and Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein (Francesville, IN).

On April 22, a Topical Bible Study was presented by Bro. Tom Bolliger (Tremont, IL). He spoke about "Lessons from the Life of Joseph." We thank him for all of his time and willingness to

teach us from God's Word.

On April 25, we were privileged to participate in Communion services. Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein assisted our Elder Bro. Dale in administering this holy rite. Thank you. The following day we enjoyed a delicious church dinner. Thank you to the kitchen committee and everyone who had a part in serving.

Little Zoie Jean Lindberg arrived on Monday, April 27. First-time parents, Sis. Laura and Bro. Mark Lindberg, along with baby Zoie are doing well. Praise God for His blessings. We welcome Zoie with open arms.

May 2 was the designated day to clean our church. We appreciate each one who assisted in cleaning and "de-cluttering".

Praise God that our dear friend Christine Eckel has professed peace with God and man and wishes to be baptized. As we rejoice with her, we look forward to her testimony and baptism on Sunday afternoon, May 31.

We set aside a Saturday in April and in May to assemble World Relief kits. Many turned out joyfully to help those in need. Thank you to the ones responsible for organizing and gathering materials.

As I was driving an eight-year old boy from school the other day, God reminded me that He speaks to old and young alike. It was raining hard as we drove. Suddenly he piped up from the back and said, "Rachel, I think I know why it rains." I asked him why. This dear boy answered, "Because God is crying and wants us to know it." So I asked him what he thought we could do to help God to feel better. His answer? "To pray." Two simple words...My heart was stabbed to the core. An astute observation and a Biblical answer...God feels sadness at times and we need to pray. In these very complicated times in which we live, simple answers are not what people are looking for. I confess that often I don't want to accept simple answers - I want explanations. You know, God is not obligated to explain or defend His actions. He calls on us to pray. It is our turn.

ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN

Jackie Eisenmann

Our church held its annual business meeting this past month. We give prayerful support to Sis. Amber Miller who will be blessed by teaching our children in Sunday school. We want to thank Sis. Heather Messner for her years of efforts in this capacity. Bro. Chad Kupferschmid was elected as trustee. We thank Bro. Art Walder for his willingness to serve as trustee for the last three years. We are thankful for all of those who are willing to do "what needs to be done" in order for a church to run smoothly. Many of those "unseen efforts" are not appreciated by us enough, but we know that God sees all things and will bless accordingly. As stated in Matthew 6 several times, "and thy Father which seeth in secret himself, shall reward thee openly."

We thank Bro. Glen Braker (Princeville, IL) for spending a Sunday with us on April 19, and being willing to be used on the pulpit. May God bless him for his ministry! Wednesday evening Bible studies brought us a few visiting ministers also. Bro. Jeff Thames (Washington, IL) was here on April 22, and Bro. Steve Baner (Gridley, IL) was with us on May 6. We thank these Brothers and ask that God will bless them for their efforts on our behalf.

"And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me."

I Corinthians 11:24

On Wednesday, May 13, Holy Communion was held. We were blessed by Elder Bro. Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL) who came to assist our Elder Bro. Wayne in serving us. It truly was a blessing for all of us in remembering what Jesus Christ has done for us. Bro. Jim also encouraged us to look forward to the future to the Hope that is in store for each one of us. "But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the

vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom." (Matthew 26:29).

Wednesday, May 6, we shared supper with the students in appreciation for them and all they do for our little congregation. We ask that God would bless each one of them in their individual lives as they pursue their education and seek future employment. We will miss them over the summer, but we are excited to hear that a few of them plan to stay in C-U for summer employment or classes. We want to congratulate the following graduates and hope they will come back to visit us. Bro. Blake Knapp (Goodfield, IL) – Masters in Architecture, Bro. Denver Rassi (Fairbury, IL) – Bachelor's in Architecture, Bro. Wesley Sutter (Taylor, MO) – Bachelor's in Architecture, Sis Sarah Drake (Gridley, IL) – Bachelor's in Speech and Hearing Science, Aaron Walder (Champaign, IL) – Bachelor's of Nursing, Robert Ealy (Champaign, IL) – Bachelor's in Geography and Urban Planning, Jolyn Koehl (Forrest, IL) – Bachelor's in Public Relations, Sis. Ashley Sauder (Bro. Mark, Champaign, IL) – Associate in Dental hygiene, Bro. Jaylin Teubel (Forrest, IL) – Associates in Electronics, Brad Kafer (Fairbury, IL) – Associate in Liberal Arts, Ashley Aberle (Forrest, IL) – Registered Nursing. Congratulations to all!

A note from our Student Officers for the 2009-2010 school year:

We are always thankful for the students that come to the University of Illinois and Parkland College and fellowship with our congregation and young group in Champaign. We would ask that if you (or your child) are planning to attend Parkland or U of I in the 2009-2010 school year that you please call Bro. Jeremy Stoller at (309) 319-4689, or send an email to jstolle2@illinois.edu and let us know that you plan to attend. Please include the student's name, parents' names, year in school, phone, address, and email. All new and returning students are invited to join the Champaign church to worship with us Sunday, Au-

gust 23, and then to gather at Crystal Lake Park in Urbana, for our annual Welcome Picnic. Invitations and RSVPs will be sent to new and returning students in July. Thank you for your cooperation, and we look forward to hearing from you. We trust and pray that the Lord will be with us and bless us in the coming school year as we strive to follow His will.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

Vickie Maul

Janie Waldbeser

We are always thankful for visiting ministers who share God's Word with us. Bros. Robert Beebe (South Bend), Les Kaeb (Francesville) and Don Sinn (Silverton) were all willing servants in the Lord's vineyard.

Grandchildren are a special blessing. Bro. Bruce and Sis. Bonita Frank welcome a new granddaughter. Megan Renee was born to Bro. Randy and Sis. Bonnie Manz of Junction. Also welcoming a new granddaughter are Bro. Roland and Sis. Mary Anne Young. Paige Abigail was born to Tim and Jennifer Young.

Our loved ones that spent time in the hospital this month were Sis. Kathy Stock (Bro. Gib) and Bro. Gerald Rudin (Sis. Joan). We pray they will improve in strength and good health.

Congratulations to our high school graduates, Aaron Kaeb (Bro. Hartzell and Sis. Denise), Maria Maul (Bro. Bill and Sis. Wanda) and Micah Wilkening (Mark and Sis. Dinah). May they each one seek God's will for guidance and direction on this life's journey.

We enjoyed having a foreign exchange student, Elina Buron, that spent the past school year with Maria Maul (Bro. Bill and Sis. Wanda). We enjoyed having her in Bible class. We will miss her.

The young Sunday school students were delighted to deliver flowers and fruit to the residents at Heartland Health Care on Sunday, April 26. The children also enjoyed sharing their hearts by singing their joyful songs to

the residents. It was a blessing to see the smiles of the residents.

We rejoice over the engagement of Sis. Melba Steffen to Bro. Al Zimmerman of Forrest. We wish them and their families God's richest blessings on their upcoming marriage.

On Sunday, May 3, our Bible Class along with Champaign hosted Bradford, Forrest and Elgin/Chicago/Belvidere for ACYF Day. Joining us for the day were ministering Bros. Brian Waibel (Champaign) and Brad Gudeman (Bradford). We pray that God's Word would linger in their hearts and bring forth fruit in their lives.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE Holly Zobrist

Haste and seek your soul's salvation;
Heed the Word of God today!
Haste to flee His condemnation;
Seek the straight and narrow way.
Evil are the worldly pleasures,
leading to eternal fire;
Seek the everlasting treasure,
Ere the day of grace expire.

Zion's Harp #52

We are so thankful that Jacob Luthi (Bro. Troy and Sis. Vanessa) has answered God's call and has come to him in repentance. May the Lord continue to lead and guide him.

We had the opportunity to host ACYF day this past month. We appreciated having ministering Bros. Don Gudeman (Sis. Mary, LaCrosse), Mark Zimmerman (Sis. Cheryl, Eureka), Steve Sauder (Sis. Mary, Tremont), John Hartman (Sis. Rosemary, Fairbury), and Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Sis. Sandra, Eureka) with us that day. We also appreciated Elder Bro. Ted Witzig Sr. (Sis. Cindy) being with us for Communion.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN Amy Gasser Miriam Gasser

We enjoyed having many visitors recently, including four brothers who la-

bored in the gospel. Our thanks go to Bros. Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL), Dan Koch (Tremont, IL), Alan Schambach (Remington, IN), and Todd Stoller (Latty, OH).

It was Elgin's turn to host ACYF on the evenings of April 19 and 26. The Sunday School appreciated the efforts and support of those who helped with these programs.

On April 28, John Paul joined the family of Bro. Eric and Sis. Erika Schambach. He was eagerly greeted by his siblings, Joseph, Kathleen, Jack, Kaelin, Jesse, Kalli, James, and Klair. John's grandparents are Ken and Anita Anderson and Bro. Bob and Sis. Jeanne Schambach.

Our high-school graduates this year are Lindsey Krueger (Jim and Mary), Jesse Leman (Bro. Keith and Sis. Libby), Stanley Moore (Bro. Larry and Sis. Beth), and Kyle Wewetzer (Bro. Mark and Sis. Nancy). We wish them God's blessings and direction in their choice of education or occupation.

Lydia Osmun passed away in Elgin on April 28, at the age of 101. She is survived by two children, a brother Bro. Robert Greiner of Cissna Park (Sis. Eileen), several grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, and nephews. Lydia's friendly spirit will be missed.

Bro. Chuck Kellenberger is healing after having surgery on his rotator cuff.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA Dee Baer Jodi Blunier

The following engagements were announced: Bro. Jonathan Leman (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Kathy) to Sis. Rebecca Leman (Bro. Chris and Sis. Marlene); Bro. Toby Fehr (Bro. Ken and Sis. Sandy) to Sis. Holly Virkler (Rockville, CT, Owen and Kim Virkler, Sue Ellen and Tom Machuga, New York); and Bro. Michael Hartter (Bro. Ron and Sis. Janet) to Sis. Melinda Sanders (Bro. Bill and Sis. Sue). We are thankful for God's direction in our young people's lives.

Best wishes to Regina Wiegand of

New York, NY (Dale and Sis. Freidora) who married David Park of Boston, MA. They were married in Eureka and will live in Boston.

Our baby room is bustling with four new babies. Logan Mikel came to bless Bro. Jonathan and Sis. Marla Wiegand. Grandparents are Bro. Mikel and Sis. Dianne Schmidgall and Bro. Don and Sis. Jane Wiegand. Laura Lynne made parents of Bro. Jared and Sis. Marsha Ehnle. Grandparents are Bro. Stan and Sis. Lola Stoller and Bro. Gary and Sis. Carole Ehnle. Rena Suzanne joins Bro. Adam and Sis. Bethany and Cyrus Garber. Grandparents are Bro. Craig and Sis. Marilyn Martin and Ray and Sue Garber of Roanoke. Josiah Bruce was added to Bro. Dean and Sis. Becki Martin's family. Siblings are Hannah, Charity, Amos, Roy and Benjamin. Grandparents are Bro. Lester and Sis. Ruth Martin and Roland and Sis. Deloris Martin.

We appreciate the visits of the following ministers: Bro. Don Manz (Junction, OH), Bro. Bill Dotterer (Lamar, MO), Bro. Kent Getz (Elgin, IA), and Bro. Rich Gramm (South Bend, IN).

Bro. Earl Zimmerman (Sis. Elsie) mourns the death of his brother, Donald Zimmerman, of Bloomington. Sis. Bena Mae Rocke and Sis. Doris Guingrich lost their brother, Bro. Ben Fehr (Helen, Roanoke). Sis. Salome Schumacher passed from life to eternity. She leaves stepchildren, Sis. Joyce Crawford (Bro. Maury), Bro. Gerald (Sis. Jane, Roanoke), Bro. Bob (Sis. Charlene), Sis. Mary Jane Knapp (Bro. Harold, Bloomfield) and Sam (Linda).

Hospitalized this month were Sis. Evelyn Gudeman (Bro. Don), Sis. Edie Stoller (Bro. Tom), Bro. Randy Huber (Sis. Lindsay), Bro. Bob Zimmerman (Sis. Kathy), Bro. Curt Rocke (Sis. Beth) and Bro. Brent Blunier (Sis. Trudy). Bro. Brent is at Loyola University Hospital in Chicago with a lung transplant. Our prayers are with our loved ones.

We said farewell to Sis. Tammy Mayhall who has moved to our congregation in Elgin, IA. May God bless her plans and adjustments.

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

Elizabeth Fehr Anna Schmidgall

What joy to hear of a new convert! Esther Koehl (Dick) has begun a walk of faith with the Lord. Our prayers are with her as she is battling health problems.

Bro. Alex and Sis. Traci Steidinger were blessed with a son, Stuart Wesley. His older brother and sister are Jaydon and Whitney. Joyful grandparents are Bro. Martin and Sis. Trish Steidinger and Bro. Ivan and Sis. Cinda Fehr. Great-grandparents are: Bro. Glenn and Sis. Kathryn Fehr, Maurice and Ruth Steidinger and Bro. Allen Zimmerman and Bro. Earl and Sis. Esther Gerber, all of Forrest.

Other families have been enlarged by adoption recently. Bro. Doug and Sis. Dixie Steidinger and daughters, Sis. Rachael, Ellen and Anna, welcomed twin boys, Owen Thomas and Connor James, into their family. Maurice and Ruth Steidinger are grandparents.

Katie Walter has adopted three siblings: Drake Alan, Mikayla Colleen and Madyson Kathleen. Grandparents are Bro. Rich and Sis. Colleen Walter. May God give them all grace to raise these little souls.

Two newly engaged couples are planning their weddings. Bro. Michael Slagel (Bro. Raymond and Sis. Gladys) and Sis. Rachael Steidinger (Bro. Doug and Sis. Dixie) plan a June wedding, and Bro. Ben Herr (Sis. Cindy) and Sis. Tessa Nussbaum of Forrest (Bro. Terry and Sis. Deb) will be married in July. We wish them God's blessings as they heed His direction for their lives.

We pray that our high school graduates will also seek God's direction for their lives. They are: Justin Kilgus (Bro. Paul and Sis. Carmen), Britney Kafer (Bro. Ben and Sis. Carol) and Tess Zehr (Bro. Quinn and Sis. Joan), all converts; and Lee Waldbeser (Jim and Sis. Renae), Ellen Steidinger (Bro. Doug and Sis. Dixie), Wesley Kaeb (Leon and Sis. LeAnn), Tyson Fehr (Bro. Ivan and Sis. Cinda), Drew Banwart (Bro. Dale

and Sis. Donna), Jacob Huber (Bro. Rich and Sis. Dawn), Caleb Steidinger (Bro. Keith and Sis. Kristine) and Jared Walter (Bro. Alan and Sis. Linda).

Holy Communion was served to us in April by Elder Bros. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke) and Marvin Dotterer (Forrest), along with our Bro. Rick. May God reward each of you for your service and exhortations.

ILLINOIS, FORREST

Jill Wenger Lisa Aberle

Our church rejoiced the weekend of May 9-10 when we welcomed four dear Sisters in Christ into the fold. These Sisters are LeAnne Edelman and Carmen Edelman (Bro. Ken and Sis. Carol), Mandy Mueller (Bro. Stacey and Tonda) and Kinsey Teubel (Bro. John and Sis. Lavonne).

Now it is accomplished! I'm no longer mine;
Lord, I will forever and always be Thine,
For Thou hast created and purchased me, too,
Baptized with Thy Spirit, Thou makest me new.
Zion's Harp #209

We sincerely thank Elder Bros. Duane Rocke (Minneapolis, MN) and Rick Plattner (Fairbury, IL) and visiting ministering Bros. Trent Meiss (Eureka, IL) and Kerwin Edelman (Athens, AL) for their part in this special weekend at Forrest.

We are rejoicing to hear of another soul seeking salvation. Pete Walter (LaRae) has made a beginning in repentance. We pray that he can kneel humbly at the foot of the cross and give his all to Jesus.

Bro. Al Zimmerman was announced to be married to Sis. Melba Steffen (Cissna Park, IL). Bro. Ben Herr (Sis. Cindy, Fairbury, IL) and Sis. Tessa Nussbaum's (Bro. Terry and Sis. Deb) engagement was also made known the same Sunday. As God continued to work in our congregation, the engagement of

Bro. Andy Rudin (Bro. Craig and Sis. Trudy) and Sis. Jenise Kaeb (Maurice and Brenda) was announced also. We pray that God's name can be glorified as each of these couples, in different stages of life, plan for a future together.

Three precious new babies were born to families this month. Ruth Louise came to grace the home of Bro. Jeff and Sis. Stephanie Zimmerman. Excited to get a baby sister are brothers, Thadd, Philip, Luke and Reuben. Ruth's grandparents are Bro. Eldon and Sis. Marge Waibel, and Bro. Glen and Sis. Mildred Zimmerman. Welcoming Rustin John into their family circle are Bro. Kevin and Sis. Jodi Slagel. Excited to get a baby brother are big sisters, Haley, Janelle, and Brittney. Loving grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Lucy Slagel. Another sweet little girl, named Naomi Lynn, was added to the Bachtold family of Ted, Teresa and Kinzey. Naomi's grandparents are Bro. Marvin and Sis. Mary Bachtold.

Sis. Alma Bolliger had a hospital stay this month and is recuperating nicely. May she feel God's healing power upon her.

Funeral services were held for Kimberly Nichols on April 24. We extend loving sympathy to her family and pray that they can feel God's comfort at this difficult time.

We were thankful to partake of the sacred rite of Holy Communion the evening of May 16. Here to help our Elder Bro. Marvin serve us were Elder Bros. Ron Messner (Washington, IL) and Rick Plattner (Fairbury, IL). We thank these Elder Brothers for their loving labors among us.

"And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me."

I Corinthians 11:24

ILLIOIS, GOODFIELD

Donna Wyss Rita Bauman

Congratulations to Bro. Ross and Sis. Kitty Herrmann on the birth of

their new daughter, Sierra Lauryn. Little Sierra was welcomed into the world on May 1 by Kinsey, Ambria, and Marisa. Thankful grandparents are Roy and Sis. Corrine Roth and Bro. Walt and Sis. Betty Herrmann (Princeville, IL).

We continue to be fed the Living Word by our own ministers which we appreciate. In addition, we were privileged to have Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL) and Bros. Steve Sauder (Sis. Mary, Tremont, IL), Steph Baner (Sis. Donnalou Gridley, IL), Keith Hinrichsen (Sis. Tammy Phoenix, AZ), Clark Stoller (Sis. Cindy, Gridley, IL), and James Knapp (Sis. Lisa, Congerville, IL).

On May 16, Cassie Gerber and Alex Knepp were united in marriage. Their parents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Trish Gerber and Bro. Richard and Sis. Janet Knepp (Roanoke, IL). We wish them God's blessings as they start their life together as one.

We congratulate our recent 2009 High School graduates: Brock Bauman, Sis. Emily Hinrichsen, Maci Hohulin, Cameron Steffen, Abbie Wiegand, Scott Wiegand, and Jared Wyss. We wish them God's blessings as they make plans for their future.

Brock Wiegand (Bro. Greg and Sis. Jenny) spent a few days in the hospital this past month. We are thankful that he is home and doing well.

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil: my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever."

Psalms 23:4-6

Our prayers, sympathy, and support go out to many families this past month as they laid to rest dear loved ones. Bro. Gary (Sis. Connie) Allen's father, Berwin Allen, Deer Creek, IL, passed away on May 7. Gilbert Knapp, brother

to Bro. Wes (Sis. Mildred) Knapp, passed on May 21. On May 25, Sis. Connie Rocke (Bro. Mark) laid her father, Bro. Ben Fehr (Roanoke, IL), to rest. Two pillars in our church were taken to their eternal home on May 26. They were Sis. Minnie Grusy, mother of our Sis. Bonnie (Bro. Steve) Gerst, and brother to Bro. Ben Tanner; and Bro. Bob Schieler, father of Bro. Brian (Sis. Teresa) and Rich (Lisa) Schieler. Russell Hartter passed from this life on May 29. He is survived by his wife, Susie; children, Lisa (Will), Mike (Melissa), and grandchildren. We also pray for his parents, Bro. Rich and Sis. Verna Hartter, and his siblings, Sis. Eddis Blunier (Bro. Denny), Melvin Hartter (Elaine), Sis. Lucy Blunier (Bro. Daryl). May God comfort each one as only He can.

"Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice."

Phil 4:4

We rejoice as we report two more souls turning their backs to the world. Cameron Steffen (Bro. Dirk and Sis. Deb) and Kalene (Chad) Kloter have decided to follow Jesus, for which we are so thankful.

We wish them God's grace and nearness. May we continue to pray for God's special conviction on the many lost souls that yet remain to answer His call, especially those of our church families.

Note of Thanks:

Thanks to each one for remembering me with cards on my 80th birthday. I sure enjoyed them. May God bless each one.

Sis. Mildred (Bro. Wilbur) Heinold

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY Perry A. Klopfenstein

Years ago, Elder Bro. Henry Souder, Sr. of Leo, Indiana, made a comment that appeared in the Silver Lining: "In our pathway, which is always growing shorter, we want to be kind and a light to all. We shall not pass this way again,

ever." Such good advice resounds yet today to all of us.

To be kind and to be a light effectively summarizes the Christian life. Kindness is love in action. Who of us does not respond affirmatively to acts of kindness? Likewise, to be a light is to shine with the virtues of Christ Jesus, and His teachings (and those of the Apostles).

Sis. Mindy Campbell was announced to marry Bro. Karl Weyeneth of Peoria. Her parents are Bro. Mark and Sis. Mindy Campbell. He is the son of Bro. Merle and Sis. Mary Weyeneth (Peoria).

For our Vacation Bible School, guest speakers were: Bro. Jeff Neihauser (Francesville, IN), Bro. Matt Steffen (Princeville, IL), Bro. Justin Koch (Washington, IL), Bro. Fred Funk (Morton, IL), and Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN). We appreciate their traveling, and speaking to us on Christian values.

Kiley Rose Knapp was born on May 28. She is the daughter of Bro. Mark and Sis. Kathy Knapp. She has two brothers, Jeremiah and Joah. Grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Mary Bradle (Roanoke), and deceased grandparents, Bro. Larry and Sis. Rosella Knapp.

Sis. Betty Klopfenstein was hospitalized with congestive heart failure, and is now home recuperating. Bro. Barry Ehresman continues to receive treatments for cancer. Bro. Bill Romersberger was scheduled for hip surgery. Health concerns surely are prominent in our time, and yet God hears our prayers for the sick and failing. May we all look to Him in these matters.

Three more souls have turned to God in repentance. It is a blessed doctrine of the Bible that takes place in our midst — when souls repent, with earnestness and sorrow as they turn from their sinful ways, and seek by God's grace to obey His will and ways. May we as a church body never compromise the doctrine of repentance, which includes the steps of confession, restitution, and living anew in Christ Jesus — all via His grace and power.

ILLINOIS, MACOMB

Norm and Janis Rechkemmer

Greetings to all. We are looking for students attending Western Illinois University and anyone living in our area who would like to attend Wednesday night services in Macomb. In past years we have had services in our home twice a month during the WIU school year. Thank you to all who have supported us. We would like to resume these services this fall. Please contact us with names of those who would like to join us in these blessed evenings of fellowship. We need a timely response so that we can set dates and schedule ministering brothers. Please contact us at 309-231-0098, 309-313-4924 or email at janorm67@yahoo.com.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

Annette Tanner Julie Bahr

The evening of May 6, Bro. Jon Zeller gave the worship service for our graduating seniors. Bro. Jon had recently returned from a Missions Work trip to Haiti and had brought back with him a Mud Cookie. A Mud Cookie, he explained, is made with dirt and lard and contains no nutritional value, but serves a purpose of filling a void in the stomach to alleviate hunger pains. Bro. Jon gave a spiritual comparison to our seniors that as "voids" are experienced in our hearts, they must be careful with what that void becomes filled with. Nutrition from God's Word is the only "filling" that will be lasting and everlasting! Morton's graduating seniors were listed in our last month's article.

Our visiting ministers that we so appreciate were: Bro. Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy, Portland, OR), Bro. Scott Schafer (Sis. Gigi, South Bend, IN), Elder Bro. Mike Leman (Sis. Deb, Denver, CO), Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Sis. Bev, Detroit, MI), Bro. Ron Kipfer (Sis. Linda, Bluffton, IN), and Bro. Glen Funk (Sis. Sally, Wichita, KS).

We are deeply grateful to our retiring Sunday school teachers and also to

those who have agreed to fill those positions. Retiring are Bro. Allen Kaiser, Sis. Marcy Stoller, Sis. Dannelle Zeller, and Sis. Erica Kipfer. Filling these vacancies are Bro. Clint Heinold, Bro. Andy Sauder, Bro. Brian Tanner, Sis. Abby Kaufman, Sis. Sandy Rassi and Sis. Geana Tanner.

We want to extend a warm welcome to Bro. Ken and Sis. Devon Rinkenberger to our Morton Church Family. Bro. Ken and Sis. Devon moved here from St Louis.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Pam Fritzenmeier

The weekend of April 25-26 we were blessed and encouraged to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of four dear young souls: Caleb Hoerr (Bro. Don and Sis. Jackie), and Alexandra, B.J. and Michel Elsasser (children of Bro. Brian and Mary). Thank you, Bro. Jeff Thames (Sis. Brenda, Washington), for ministering God's Word on their baptism day.

We are thankful to report two new converts. They are Leslie Dingleline (Bro. Ed and Sis. Sara) and Quintin Scholl (Bro. Kyle and Sis. Jane).

Saturday, May 2, was our annual choir benefit dinner. We pray the donated funds will be as much of a blessing to the recipients as the food, fellowship and songs were to us.

Our sixth, seventh, and eighth grade Sunday school students and the Goodfield Choir sang as a part of our monthly hymn sing May 3. "I will sing, yea, I will sing praises unto the Lord". (Psalms 27:6).

As our nation observed the National Day of Prayer, May 7, we can be truly grateful for this freedom to pray openly here in America. Let us keep those persecuted for their belief in the one true God in our daily prayers.

Sunday, May 10, was a very special Mother's Day for Bro. Merle and Sis. Mary Weyeneth, as their son, Bro. Karl, was announced to Sis. Mindy Campbell, daughter of Bro. Mark and Sis. Marcia (Gridley). Then all the ladies sat down

first to be served lunch by our young group. What a gift from God our dear mothers are!

Bro. Jason and Sis. Lindsey (Schroeder) Getz have been blessed through adoption with a little boy, Jonah Ray, born on March 27, 2009. Grandparents include Bro. Duane and Sis. Rachel Schroeder (Roanoke), Sis. Judy Getz, and Rod and Jane Getz.

Bro. Tom Hoerr Sr. (Sis. Jeanette) is very ill, suffering complications after surgery. Sis. Mazie Thomas is experiencing much pain from a fracture in her spine. Please remember these dear ones in prayer.

Twenty graduating seniors were honored at our annual Senior Breakfast Sunday, May 17. They include Sis. Allison Aupperle (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Cindy), Ashley Christ (Bro. Ron and Sis. Carol), Bro. Michel Elsasser (Bro. Brian and Mary), Sis. Larissa Feucht (Bro. Tim and Sis. Robyn), Brad Gerst (Bro. Jim and Sis. Diane), Jason Grassi (Bro. John and Sis. Cheryl), Alec Hohulin (Gary and Lesa), Sis. Emily Kieser (Bro. Mark and Sis. Cathy), Ty Kieser (Bro. Wes and Sis. Lena), Bro. Zachary Knobloch (Bro. Paul and Sis. Lynne), Aubrey Leuthold (Bro. Steve and Sis. Lois), Matthew Moser (Bro. Matt and Sis. Aimee), Bro. Jesse Rieker (Bro. Jim and Sis. Jane), Bro. David Sauder (Bro. Dave and Sis. Rachel), Sis. Sarah Sceggel (Bro. Mark and Sis. Judy), Quinton Scholl (Bro. Kyle and Sis. Jane), Samantha Senders, Nathan Stickling (Chris and Sis. Marsha), Sis. Rachel Streitmatter (Bro. Doug and Sis. Cindy), and Sis. Jessica Waibel (Bro. Mike and Sis. Rose).

Sunday, May 17, was also a beautiful, sunshine-filled wedding day for Sis. Leah Stickling (Bro. Craig and Sis. Jacki) and Bro. Devon Knobloch (Bro. Keith and Sis. Lisa), of Princeville. Bro. Craig spoke from his heart in his daughter's wedding ceremony. Elder Bro. Jim Plattner (Sis. Marlene, Princeville), Bro. Ted Witzig Jr. (Sis. Donna, Morton), and Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein (Sis. Linda, Francesville) blessed us with their ministry on this special day.

Bro. Ken Hoerr and Bro. Fedi Davidovics recently returned from Romania where they toured a new church building and met the volunteers and prison directors of the three new prisons that Berean Prison Ministry has been given the chaplaincy of. Pray the seeds will be planted, then spring up and grow. Also keep our missionaries in your prayers: Bro. Tim and Sis. Joan Reinhard and family, Haiti; and Bro. David Sceggel and Bro. Jonathan Aupperle, Magdalena.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

**Linda Joos
Connie Christ**

“For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife;”

St. Mark 10:7

Bro. Devon Knobloch (Bro. Keith and Sis. Lisa) and Sis. Leah Stickling (Bro. Craig and Sis. Jackie) of Peoria were united in holy matrimony at Peoria on Sunday, May 17. We pray God's blessings and nearness as they begin their life as one in the Lord.

We are so thankful that Drew Martin (Bro. Alan and Sis. Janice) and JayLyn Knobloch (Bro. Jay and Sis. Deanne) have found grace to begin their repentance and walk with the Lord. Our prayers will continue with them and all of our converts as they submit their lives to the Lord.

Princeville was privileged to host a Youth Fellowship Day on Sunday, May 3, with Goodfield, Morton and Washington Bible Classes and teachers attending. Ministering brothers who came from these congregations include Bros. Ted Hirstein (Morton, IL), Jeff Grimm (Goodfield, IL) and Justin Koch (Washington, IL). We thank these brothers for their willing labors of love, and pray that everyone attending received a blessing. Other visiting ministers this month included Bros. Fred Witzig (Indianapolis, IN) and Brad Eisenmann (Chicago, IL). We appreciate each of

these brothers' willingness to be used for our benefit.

The Senior Breakfast was held on Sunday, April 26, and our eight high school graduates received their Bibles. These graduates include Bro. Stephen Braker (Bro. Glen and Sis. Audrey), Kayla Christ (Bro. Fred and Sis. Tina), Sis. Lena Christ (Bro. Kurt and Sis. Connie), Lindsey Kieser (Bro. Tim and Sis. Denise), Drew Martin (Bro. Alan and Sis. Janice), Kendall Stahl (Bro. Rod and Sis. Cathy), Sis. Brooke Streitmatter (Bro. David and Sis. Crystal), and Sis. Myca Steffen (Bro. Matt and Sis. Deanna). We pray God's blessings and guidance in their lives now and always.

Bro. Ronnie and Sis. Jackie Rumbold are rejoicing as a precious new granddaughter was added to their family. Bro. Ben and Sis. Taunya Sceggel (Peoria, IL) welcomed their firstborn child, Addyson Faith, on April 21. We pray God's blessings and grace as they love and nurture this precious soul.

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

**Jamie Hodel
Judy Sauder**

“...For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; the flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come...”

Song of Solomon 2:11-12

What a blessing to be able to watch the changing of the seasons and know that summer will soon be here. Along with the changing of seasons, we mark the ending of another school year. We offer our congratulations and best wishes to the high school graduating class of 2009: Cody Barth (Bro. Mike and Sis. Joyce), Brittney Durand (Tom and Sis. Marsha), Jordan Fehr (Bro. John and Sis. Jill), Jay Hinrichsen (Bro. Mark and Sis. Sue), Bro. Colin Hodel (Bro. Curt and Sis. Jenell), Sis. Heather Leman (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Julie), and Sis. Alison Sauder (Bro. Tom and Sis. Mary). Our baccalaureate service was

held Sunday morning, May 17. Bro. Wayne Leman encouraged the graduating class to think on the words of Jeremiah 33:3, “Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.”

We were thankful to have visiting ministers with us this month. Bro. Willis Enhle was with us for our April Family Worship. His topic was, “How to save your life”. Also with us in the month of April were: Bro. Craig Stickling (Peoria), Bro. Mike Hohulin (Ft. Lauderdale) and Bro. Ron Kipfer (Bluffton).

We rejoice with Bro. Blake and Sis. Kristin Gerber in the birth of their little girl, Molly Anne. Also welcoming Molly home are big brothers, Gabriel and Austin. Molly's grandparents are Bro. Curt and Sis. Denise Knepp and Bro. Roger and Sis. Trish Gerber (Goodfield).

Our prayers are with Jan Rassi (Bill) who lost her brother, Roland Schieber of Secor, on April 17. On May 5, Don Zimmerman of Bloomington passed away. He is a brother of Sis. Mary (Bro. Bob) Bradle. Then on May 17, Bro. Ray Hodel passed away. Bro. Ray leaves behind his wife, Sis. Kathryn, and children: Larry (Judy) Hodel of Leawood, KS; Alan (Beverly) Hodel of Tequesta, FL; Sis. Judy (Bro. Harold) Sauder; and Joyce Hodel of Evanston, IL. Also surviving Bro. Ray are his two sisters, Sis. Lena Wiegand and Sis. Mae Rocke.

“Simply trusting every day, trusting thro a stormy way, even when my faith is small, trusting Jesus, that is all...”

Gospel Hymns # 581

We pray this can be true for our Bro. Don Sauder and his family as he faces uncertain health issues. We pray he can continue to feel the peace of God.

Our Sunday School elections were held this month. Bro. Scott Luginbuhl was selected as intermediate teacher. Bros. Byron Gerber and Dave Leman were selected for Bible Class Sunday School teachers. May God bless these brothers as they teach our children the

truth of God's Word.

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

Genesis 2:18

May 16 was the wedding date of Alex Knepp and Cassie Gerber. Their parents are Bro. Rich and Sis. Janet Knepp and Bro. Roger and Sis. Trish Gerber (Goodfield).

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

**Teresa Rowell
Janice Sauder**

"When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also."

II Timothy 1:5

We truly are thankful for the teaching of godly, loving mothers and pray for God's blessing on each mother still alive, and His blessing on the memories of those mothers who have gone on to their reward.

We want to thank our many visiting ministers, as they shared Godly counsel, encouragement and hope with us this past month. They are: Bro. Jeff Thames (Washington, IL), Bro. Akihiro Ito (Shioda, Japan), Bro. Willis Ehnle (Peoria, IL), Bro. Jedd Rocke (Goodfield, IL), Bro. Lenard Meyer (Chicago, IL), Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL) and Bro. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH). We now need to "arise, and go" about the work of the Lord, with God's help and grace.

Our congregation joins in wishing God's blessings upon three young couples' marriages. Bro. Joel Cox (Bro. John and Sis. Ellen, Washington, IL) and Sis. Marcy Kaiser (Bro. Don and Sis. Sandy) exchanged vows on April 19. The following Sunday, April 26, Bro. Bob Koch (Bro. Roger and Sis. Sally) and Sis. Jenny Wyss (Bro. Ed and Sis. Kathy, Washington, IL) were married.

Then Zach Garman (Steve and Sis. Sara) and Jen Shrum (Ken and Robin, Brimfield, IL) promised their lives to each other on May 9. We are thankful for these newlyweds and their families.

Bro. Larry and Sis. Barb Reinbeck are thankful for another granddaughter, Naomi Mae. Her parents are Bro. Adam and Sis. Katie Reinbeck (Taylor, MO), and her siblings are Rachel, Rebecca, Heidi, Jacob, and Nemion. Bro. Terry and Sis. Christine Koch are also thankful for a new grandson, Logan Frederick. His parents are Lindsey and Vince. Todd and Jodi Dawson welcome another son, Aaron Charles, to their family. Big brother, Andrew, and grandparents, Bro. Si and Sis. LaVonne Wagenbach, are also delighted. May God bless these little ones!

We hope that our brethren that had to spend time in the hospital can find healing and recover their strength soon. These include Bro. Dave (Sis. Francie) Koch, Sis. Brenda (Bro. James) Fehr, and Bro. Glenn (Sis. Dorothy) Stuber. Bro. Dave and Bro. Glenn will be spending time at Apostolic Christian Restmor (Morton, IL) for therapy. We especially pray that Bro. Glenn can find patience, peace and hope as he has had to endure many set-backs.

Best wishes to Melissa Zuercher (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Kathy) as she is now at home at Timber Ridge in Morton, IL. May God continue to direct her life and keep her in His care. We'll be glad to see her in church on Sundays, when she is home for the weekend spending time with her family.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

**Linda Folkerts
Elizabeth Heinold**

Now thank we all our God,
with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done,
in whom the world rejoices,
who from our mother's arms
has blest us on our way,
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.

Zion's Harp #236

Each year we set aside days in May and June to honor our mothers and our fathers. May we each remember to thank God with love and gratitude for the precious mothers and fathers He has blessed us with.

Our church enjoyed "Invite-a-Guest" Sunday on May 3. Thank you to our guests for spending the day with us in worship and song.

Our visiting ministers this past month include Bro. Brent Kellenberger (Sis. Beth, Kansas City), Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen, Kansas City), Bro. Steve Sauder (Sis. Mary, Tremont) on April 26; Bro. Tim Hohulin (Sis. Cathy, Roanoke) on May 3; Bro. Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha) on May 10; and Bro. Dennis Kaufman (Sis. Bonnie, Bloomington) for our April Bible Study. We thank these brothers for their service.

On April 26, Sis. Jenny Wyss and Bro. Bob Koch were united in holy matrimony. We wish them God's blessings as they now live their lives together as one in the Lord. Their parents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Kathy Wyss and Bro. Roger and Sis. Sally Koch (Tremont).

Our prayers are with Sis. Ellen Cox, Sis. Dolly Schick and Sis. Vicki Hodel as they continue to have serious health issues.

We extend our sincerest sympathy to Sis. Pam and Bro. Elliot Yudenfriend on the death of Sis. Pam's mother, Sis. Carol Huber. May they feel our love and prayerful support at this time.

Our congregation enjoyed hearing the testimonies and witnessing the baptisms of Jason Slagel and Jodi Slagel (Bro. Tim and Sis. Barb) on May 9 and 10. We rejoice with Bro. Jason and Sis. Jodi and welcome them into the family of God.

We want to welcome Bro. Andy and Sis. Frieda Mogler to our congregation. They are the parents of Bro. Randy and have recently moved to our area from Lester, IA.

Finally, we wish to congratulate our 2009 high school graduates. They are: Bro. Peter Barth (Bro. Jim and Sis.

Julie), Sis. Rebecca Drete (Bro. Mike and Sis. Kathy), Sis. Joy Hangartner (Bro. Dan and Sis. Donna), Sis. Haley Herrmann (Bro. Mark and Sis. Tammy), Sis. Ellie Hoerr (Bro. Doug and Sis. Peg), Cali Ledford (Bro. Chris and Sis. Stacy), Kendra Leman (Bro. Herb and Sis. Lori), Sis. KaraLea Thames (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Brenda), and Sis. Michelle Wyss (Bro. Ed and Sis. Kathy). May each one seek God's direction as they ponder the path before them.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

**Grace Gerber
Stefanie Kipfer**

"Be strong and courageous, be not afraid nor dismayed for the king of Assyria, nor for all the multitudes that is with him: for there be more with us than with him: With him is an arm of flesh; but with us is the Lord our God to help us, and to fight our battles."

II Chronicles 32:7-8a

Every month it seems as if the prayer requests multiply, but we were reminded this month that the Lord our God is here to help us and to fight our battles when we call on Him in prayer. Sis. Connie Kaehr (Bro. Lyle) and Sis. Genny Isch (Bro. Stan) both asked for prayers in regards to cancer and treatment. Bro. Dick Reinhard requested prayer as he has been facing some health issue. We would also like to lift up the family of Bro. John Fiechter who passed away this month. Our prayers are with Sis. Shirley and John's children and grandchildren.

In spite of the sadness, some families were rejoicing as they welcomed new babies into their lives. Bro. John and Sis. Trudy Eisenmann lovingly embraced Evan James on April 14. Evan joins siblings, Danielle, Alyssa, Erika, Andrew, Jason and Jeremy. Bro. Leon and Sis. Cindy Kauffman were overjoyed with the addition of Hannah Faith Fox to their list of grandchildren. Hannah's parents are Nate and Jamie Fox. Bro.

Mike and Sis. Carmon Bertsch added two more grandchildren to their clan. On April 24, Bro. Brad and Sis. Sonya had Ashlyn Carol Bertsch, and on May 15, Bro. Zach and Sis. Jenny Bertsch were graced with Moriah Grace Bertsch. Each family is thanking God for their bundle of joy.

The Bluffton congregation also had reason to celebrate three souls who were baptized this month. Jesse Krizan (Bro. Eugene and Sis. Elizabeth), Jessica Bertsch (Bro. Tom and Sis. Brenda), and Justin Grube (Bro. Jay and Sis. Rhonda) gave their testimony and were baptized on the weekend of May 16-17.

During the first weekend of May, we were blessed with the singing and fellowship of Sister Heart. A huge thank you for all those sisters and families that traveled to Bluffton to take part!

On Sunday, May 17, we also had the opportunity to celebrate our senior students with a graduate breakfast and special service in the morning.

May we all rest in the knowledge this month that there is more with us than with the world.

INDIANA BLUFFTON NORTH Jessie Longenberger Sherry Pfister

"Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:

Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us unto the kingdom of his dear Son:

In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins"

Colossians 1:12-14

On April 26 our congregation had the privilege of living out the reality of the above verses as we remembered our Lord's Last Supper and Sacrifice in Holy Communion. Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz and his wife, Sis. Leonda (Leo),

were here to assist and Bro. Phil Stettner had the message from the Word.

Bro. Howard and Sis. Kristen Plattner (Alto) were visiting for our Mother's Day service. We are grateful to Bro. Howard for his insights and perspectives as he shared the Word with us.

This month we had several loved ones go to their eternal rest. Sis. Sandra J. Kipfer went to be with the Lord on April 20. Her husband is Bro. Aaron. Also surviving are their two sons, Floyd A. (Cindy) Kipfer and Tony R. Kipfer, both of Bluffton, six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Sis. Wava Bertsch's brother, Lester Steffen, passed away on Monday, April 27. His wife, Carol Ann, preceded him in death on February 20, 2009. Another sister, Sis. Carolyn (Bro. Ben) Manz (Junction), survives. Our sympathies to these families in their loss.

We have two new babies in our congregation. Bro. Jerry and Sis. Lois Drayer were blessed twice with a new granddaughter this month. Bro. Darren and Sis. Amanda Drayer have a new little daughter, Samantha Rae, born on April 16. Sis. Amanda's parents are Jim and Karen Brudi. Bro. Tim and Sis. Gwen Drayer welcomed a daughter, Rori Layne, on May 14. Rori has a big brother, Brock, and big sister, Marly. Sis. Gwen's parents are Kent and Janelle Kloter (Goodfield).

May 11 was our annual church cleaning. It was a blessed evening as we did the housework for our church home together and shared a light refreshment afterwards.

Several brothers and sisters recently took part in Spanish Class and have the following to share about their experiences there.

Buenos Días, hermanos y hermanas.

Recently a group of brothers and sisters took an eight-week Spanish class. Our teachers were Sis. Denise Maller and Bro. Spencer Lewis. Students ranged in age from 15 to 66. Some of the students were from Mexico working in Bluffton for church families. They worked on their English skills while

adding more local color of Mexico to the class. They also were a resource for Denise and Spencer when questions arose. Reasons for taking the class? Some plan to go on work teams to Mexico; others were refreshing their previous Spanish skills; and some wanted to broaden their knowledge of another culture.

Each class consisted of vocabulary practice and a Bible study. Our vocabulary consisted of practical words like numbers, tools, health, and shopping. Sis. Terri Mueller played the keyboard while we sang two hymns in Spanish and two in English. This was followed by reading a Bible story in English then in Spanish. Our class culminated in a fiesta, composed of Mexican and American delicacies.

While we did not learn to speak Spanish fluently in this short time, we did develop a further appreciation of the story of the tower of Babel and the song "Red and yellow, black and white; they are precious in His sight" took on a deeper meaning. We look forward to building on what we learned in the next class. We thank God for this opportunity. Dios te bendiga.

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE
Mildred Clauss
Jacki Huber

May could be called a "month for remembering".

On Mother's Day we remember with thankful hearts our own dear mothers who taught us to walk in ways of truth and to serve the Lord! What a blessing a loving mother is!

On Memorial Day we remember and honor our brave young soldiers who secured and who still defend our freedoms. These freedoms are precious and we dare not to take them lightly. And if, by God's grace we are free from the bondage of sin, the Scripture reads "we are free indeed" (St John 8:36).

The Bible encourages us to remember our Creator in our youth and to remember His faithfulness in every circumstance in life. When He insti-

tuted the Lord's Supper He said "This do in remembrance of Me". So we do well to remember and to rejoice in the goodness of the Lord!

Trent Metzger (Bro. Dave and Sis. Arlene) recently exchanged marriage vows with Kelli Christy (daughter of Lisa Christy and Dave and Jill Christy) and we wish them much happiness in their life together. May the Lord bless them and direct their paths!

After an illness of several years, our dear Sis. Carol Huber (widow of Bro. Wayne) died on May 7 at the home of her son, Bro. Brian (Sis. Jacki) Huber. Sis. Carol had been lovingly cared for by her family and lived the last years of her life with her daughter, Sis. Pam (Bro. Elliot) Yudenfriend. Our hearts are thankful for Sis. Carol to be "at home with Jesus" and we know the Lord is the true Source of Comfort for her surviving children, which also includes another son, Bro. Dave (Sis. Candy) Huber, and another daughter, Sis. Cindy (Bro. Erik) Langhofer. A daughter, Sis. Kathie (Bro. Hisato) Inoue, preceded her in death.

Our Graduation Program was presented on Wednesday evening. Before Bro. Wendell Gudeman gave the opening prayer, he quoted a verse from Psalm 37: "I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread." What a wonderful encouragement for our young people to trust in the Living God! Our high school graduates include: Tabitha Abair (Ray and Lynette Finnegan), Melissa Edwards (Patty Hull and Martin Edwards), Sis. Leah Kaeb (Bro. Les and Sis. Christine), Cali Ledford (Sis. Stacy and Bro. Chris), Cecelia Neihouser (Bro. Brad and Sis. Barb), Sis. Elizabeth Rayburn (Bro. Jim and Sis. Barb), Sabrina Tanner (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Gina), Sis. Annie Wuethrich (Bro. Mark and Sis. Lynne), Bro. Quentin Gudeman (Bro. Randy and Sis. Becky), and Bro. Joel Putt (Bro. Brian and Sis. Tami).

Our graduates from Purdue University are Amy Pelsy (Bro. Dale and Sis. Terri), Sis. Kendra Neihouser (Bro. Jeff

and Sis. Sue) and Bro. Luke Gudeman (Bro. Randy and Sis. Becky).

Sgt. Nicholas Leman (Bro. Larry and Sis. Pam) recently graduated from Marine Security Guard Training School in Quantico, VA, and is presently assigned to the US Embassy in Stockholm, Sweden. His parents, his grandparents, Bro. Sid and Sis. Fern, and Bro. Chris and Sis. Jennifer Nuestr attended the graduation. We sincerely pray for the Lord's protection and for His direction in every circumstance.

Bro. Stan and Sis. Andrea Gutwein and their children gave an interesting and informative presentation on their mission work in India. As we see the multitudes of people and the many different cultures and lifestyles, we can only comprehend in part the mercies of the Lord and the magnitude of His love. Every human being has an undying soul and the Word needs to be preached to all nations. May the Lord bless the labors of His people who are called to this work.

Note of Thanks:

The family of Sis. Carol Huber wishes to thank the many loved ones who have expressed love, prayers and kindnesses to Mom during her years of illness, and to us in so many ways. The prayers were felt and appreciated so much as Mom peacefully went to be with the Lord. The phone calls, plants and flowers, food, cards and expressions of love in countless ways were a wonderful help to us. May the Lord bless you all.

INDIANA
INDIANAPOLIS
Gail Bradford
Sandy Lichtle

It was with joy that we witnessed the uniting in marriage of Sis. Anna Bollier and Bro. Makoto Inoue on May 3. The bride and groom's parents, Bro. Ron and Sis. Edie Bollier and Elder Bro. Akito and Sis. Marie Inoue, and other family members and friends came from across the country (and the world!) for the happy occasion. We are pleased that the young couple will remain in the In-

dianapolis area and continue to worship with us.

Visiting ministers that day were Elder Bro. Akito Inoue (Sis. Marie, Tokyo, Japan), Bro. Randy Mogler (Sis. Evie, Washington, IL), Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign, IL), Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein (Sis. Linda, Francesville, IN), Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Sis. Leonda, Leo, IN), and retired Elder Bro. Willis Enhle (Sis. Lois, Shioda, Japan).

Other visiting ministers this month were Bro. Tom Bolliger (Sis. Jane, Tremont, IL), Bro. Nile Bucher (Sis. Phyllis, Bluffton North, IN), and Bro. Bob Beebe (Sis. Sue, South Bend, IN).

Whether on a special wedding Sunday, or a "regular" Sunday, we welcome all our visiting ministers and appreciate that the Word goes forth in its simplicity and purity, no matter who speaks.

On a recent Wednesday night, Bro. Blake Widmer gave a presentation on his new position in Jamaica, and told us of opportunities for participating in the ministry there.

As the calendar moves from winter to spring to summer in Indiana, we witness changes in the landscape. Life, too, invariably brings changes – many are happy, some are sad. But whatever the season of our life, Jesus is the same yesterday and today and forever (Hebrews 13:8). That is one fact we can count on!

INDIANA, LACROSSE **Bethany Johnson** **Julie Rocke**

"She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness. Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her."

Proverbs 31:27-28

We enjoyed having some visitors boost our numbers on Mother's Day, and the warmth and love was felt all around. The young brothers and friends served the tables so that the sis-

ters could have a relaxing day. Bro. Dan Moser (Sis. Anne, Elgin, IL) had the morning sermon on Proverbs 31 and the Sunday school students brought flowers to their mothers at lunch. It was a very blessed day.

The Spring Luncheon was enjoyed by all on April 25, as the ladies of the church got together for wonderful food, fellowship and singing. It is such a nice time to be reminded of our work here on earth, and how we can be good examples to those around us.

Bro. Steve and Sis. Anna Marie Stoller were blessed with a new grandson, little Oliver Steven Stoller. He was gladly welcomed home by Bro. Ned and Sis. Heidi (Alto, MI), Elly, Ivy, Lena, Josie and Lowell. We are always thankful for the safe arrival of another of God's blessings.

MaryAnn Feller had her 80th birthday this month and we had cake and ice cream for her after Wednesday evening services. It is wonderful to have those with more of life's experiences to share with us so we can learn from them. We hope that her zeal for life will continue to rub off on each one of us!

We thank all of our visitors for being with us this month. Ministering Bro. Ron Palitto (Sis. Lynell, Akron, OH) was with us for a Wednesday evening and we thank him for his efforts. It is always good to sit under the sound of the Word, whether from our brothers or those who visit.

Sis. Carolyn Levy was ill and we pray that God will put His healing hand on her.

We are thankful for a break in the weather which has allowed many of the farmers in this area to begin working the ground and sowing the seeds in the fields. We pray that God will be with them as they finish planting and keep them safe in the long days that they put in.

INDIANA, LEO **Elizabeth Schrenk** **Abigail Schrenk**

"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 37:4-5

One thing that our present culture lacks is commitment. Elder Bro. Mark Streitmatter (Sis. Sara, Bloomington) recently spoke on this verse while visiting our congregation and gave us all a challenge. We should commit our life to God and in return, He will fill our desires with a fullness that comes only from doing His will.

Bro. Alan Schambach (Sis. Sarah, Remington) also visited us within the last month and we want to thank both of these ministers for their service.

At Leo, we have the pleasure of getting to know many brothers and sisters from various congregations who have come to volunteer at Gateway Woods. Sis. Stephanie Moser recently returned to share with us about her work in China. We want to remember her in our prayers as she shares the Good News to a closed country.

The month of May and June is a busy time for our graduates. From High School, Billy Blunier, Andre Sauder, Andrew Fischer, Sis. Tianna Stieglitz, Angela Larkin, and Sis. Abigail Schrenk will be graduating and starting a new chapter in their lives. We want to wish each of them the Lord's guidance as they start the next part of their journey.

June is also the time to switch Sunday School teachers. Bros. Jeff Waibel, Erik Wiegand, Tim Sauder, Zach Bertsch, and Clint Plattner were asked to serve as well as Sis. Kim Plattner, Judy Schlatter and Abigail Schrenk. We want to thank our out-going teachers for their devotion and time spent teaching the Gospel.

Congratulations to Bro. Zach and Sis. Jenny Bertsch. On May 15, Moriah Grace was born and welcomed home by

big brother Zion. Grandparents, Bro. John and Sis. Janice Rufener (Smithville) and Bro. Mike and Sis. Carmon Bertsch (Bluffton) are excited to receive this second addition.

Tashi Bent has been with our congregation for the past 4 years while getting her B.S. in counseling. As a deaf Jamaican, she has made a big impact on us and we want to wish her God's richest blessings as she returns to be used in His service in her deaf world.

INDIANA, MILFORD

**Pam Beer
Carol Hurd**

First we want to thank the Milford Apostolic Church trustees and others for the upgrading and beautifying of the church buildings. May God bless you for seeing the needs and seeing that the work was completed.

Births:

Greg and Kelli Koutsouros, West Lafayette, are the parents of a daughter, Mia Kate, born at 2:53 p.m. April 30 in St. Vincent's Women's Hospital, Indianapolis. She weighed 6 pounds 12 ounces, 12 inches long. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Alvin and Sis. Carol Haab. Paternal grandparents are Greg and Susan Koutsoursos. Paternal great-grandmothers are Laverne Dondlinger and Dortha Koutsouros.

Mia joins two sisters, Kylie Danae, 9, and Hannah Grace, 5, and a brother, Carter Rhys, 2.

Deaths:

We wish to express our sincere sympathy to Bro. Alan and Kathy Wuthrich in the passing of Kathy's father. Also our sincere sympathy goes to Sis. Maydene Lehman in the passing of her sister.

Medical this month:

Claire Beer (Bro. Brent and Sis. Pam) had eye surgery. Sis. Carol (John) Hurd had a heart cath. Bro. Don Beer was in and out of hospital with nose bleeds. We continue to pray for God's

healing powers.

On Sunday, May 17, the Milford congregation was blessed to have visiting Bro. Arthur Ingold, his wife, Sis. Bonnie, and their granddaughters with us from Rittman, OH. Bro. Arthur reminded us that God has a plan for each of us if we but seek His will.

Then Sunday evening was our annual Promotion Program where our Sunday School classes recited Bible verses and sang songs they had learned this past year. Bro. Jesse Beer had the privilege of presenting Bibles to students entering high school. Bro. Jesse encouraged them to add to their names and dates already in these Bibles the names of teachers and classmates. To many of us who have been privileged to receive these Bibles, that Bible is the one we seek to read first because of its special meaning to us.

Bro. Carlton Beer was heard to say that the prayer we learned as children really says it all:

"Now I lay me down to sleep
I pray the Lord my soul to keep
If I die before I wake
I pray the Lord my soul to take."

INDIANA, REMINGTON

**Jenni Honegger
Marcella Tyler**

Greetings from Remington! We were awed to once again receive the very presence of the Lord into ourselves through His body and blood at Holy Communion. What an unspeakable privilege! Many thanks to Elder Bro. Don Braker (Sis. Eileen, Kansas City, MO) for his efforts on our behalf during that blessed weekend. We also want to thank Bro. Brian Waibel (Sis. Wendy, Champaign, IL) for sharing the Word with us on Mother's Day. Their daughter, convert Hannah Waibel, will be working as an intern at Purdue for the summer, and they were here to help settle her into her "home away from home". We look forward to enjoying Hannah's fellowship, and we encourage Bro. Brian and Sis. Wendy to visit her of-

ten.

Also making Remington his temporary home is Bro. Jared Bauman of Rittman, OH. He is working here short-term until he leaves for further schooling in a few months. We enjoy Bro. Jared's fellowship and are glad he is spending this time with us.

We were so pleased to come to church on May 3 and hear that a little girl had been born just hours before to Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Amanda Scheitlin. Gracie Noelle has blessed the lives of all those around her, especially big sisters, Ellie and Amalee, and grandparents, Bro. Rolyce and Sis. Lori Scheitlin and Bro. Dan and Sis. Deb Stoller. Thanks be to God for her safe and healthy arrival!

Heidi Getz (Matt) is once again worshipping with us after a lengthy illness and a week-long hospital stay. We are thankful God is continuing to heal Heidi and will keep her often in our prayers.

We have several graduates to congratulate this month. Timothy Virkler (Bro. Stan and Sis. Beth), Bro. Mark Waibel (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Jody) and Bro. Luke Bahler (Bro. Tim and Sis. Lynette) have completed their high school education. We wish Timothy, Bro. Mark and Bro. Luke much grace as they begin this new chapter of their lives, and we pray that they will allow the Lord to direct the paths they will take from here. Bro. Jesse Stoller (Bro. Dan and Sis. Deb) graduated with a degree in Ag Equipment Management from Ivy Tech and has moved to West Bend, IA, for employment. We congratulate Bro. Jesse on his achievement and wish him many blessings as he pursues this next step in his life. Sis. Tanya Wulf (Bro. Arnie and Sis. Myra, Lester, IA) will be receiving her Master's of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering with a concentration in Acoustics from Purdue University this summer. She has a job in Chicago and will be moving June 1. We will miss Sis. Tanya but wish her much success and God's direction as she enters the working world. We hope she will visit us here in Remington often!

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

**Rachel Langhofer
Joshua Martinez**

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

Exodus 20:12

Greetings of love from South Bend!

We honored our mothers in May and wish to thank them for their immense love for us, second only to that of our Heavenly Father. All mothers, grandmothers, mothers-in-law, birth and adopted moms deserve a hug and a kiss every time we see them. We thank them for making our earthly lives bright and beautiful and for the countless hours they spend praying, loving, protecting, feeding, instructing, nurturing and caring for us.

We wish to thank each and every one of our visitors. We especially thank Bro. Walter Rager (Sis. Sharon, Toledo, OH) and Bro. Daron Price (Sis. Monica, Milford, IN) for sharing the Great News and God's message of love with us from the pulpit.

God be with you 'til we meet again!

Note of Thanks:

We would like to thank each of you for your prayers and expressions of sympathy since the passing of our Mom & grandmother, Margaret Kupferschmid. May the Lord bless you richly for your kindness.

Bro. Bob and Sis. Sue Beebe

INDIANA, VALPARAISO

Marguerite Hoerr

The last Sunday in April happened to be Bob's 88th birthday. To his surprise, after everyone had eaten at our noon fellowship hour, and before everyone left the tables, a big birthday cake with candles was set down in front of him by Bro. Lyle Zeltwanger, and everyone sang the traditional "Happy Birthday" to him, with the "Jesus Bless You"

added. He loved it and so did I.

The first Sunday in May we held our Spring program. We enjoyed songs by two of our Sunday school girls, Tasia Weiss and LaToya Thomas; scripture readings by Logan Weiss and Isaiah Thomas. Sis. Claudia Thomas blessed us with a reading. Ministering Bro. Cal Schneider (Sis. Jeannie, LaCrosse), visited that day, and we were blessed as he shared the Word with us in the morning, and spoke during the program in the afternoon. A mixed group from LaCrosse sang to us so beautifully, lifting our joy as we thought of the miracle of the Resurrection and heard their message in song. Sis. Caroline Lester read a poem "The Miracle of Spring" and it touched me deeply. Two of the verses follow:

"Then why art thou cast down, O soul:
Why not let hope hold sway?
For crucifixion always ends
In a resurrection day.

God's promises are kept, O soul,
Why not look out and sing:
My God is Life and Life is mine,
Sweet certainty of Spring."

—*Author unknown*

Aside from the program, our hearts were filled with the beauty of the singing during services on that day, and the voices of young children.

The following Sunday, May 10, we were given blessings and happiness again by more visitors. The family of Bro. Marvin Stieglitz (former minister in Leo, IN, and now deceased) met together and they chose a spot near us. Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Sis. Leonda) ministered to us during morning services. We were doubly blessed in that the family of Dick and Gwen Steffen (Milford) chose to meet near Valpo and they attended that Sunday also. Their son-in-law, ministering Bro. Daron Price (Sis. Monica) of the Milford congregation, spoke to us during our second service. Others visiting that day were from Tremont, IL. Our pews were filled and we heard again the happy voices of young children singing. It was

a special blessing to me that day to see my friend of many years, Sis. Joan Stieglitz, mother and grandmother to the Stieglitz family. We ask God to bless everyone who came to share these two Sundays with us. After church, Dick and Gwen Steffen drove the extra miles to New Buffalo to share leftovers with us. It was another blessing on top of all the other ones.

Our Sis. Claudia Thomas (ministering Bro. Mike) has had two surgeries recently. We're grateful to God that our prayers have been answered and that she has returned home and is free of pain. Sis. Claudia developed gangrene from the first surgery and the second surgery was done as an emergency. We love her and were so glad when she could be back with us. We miss her vivacious Christian spirit, when she isn't.

By the time this is printed, Sis. Leona Bucher (Bro. Merle) will have been honored with a surprise 80th birthday dinner, hosted by her daughter and son-in-law, Diane and Andy Moser. The first Sunday we attended Valpo church after our move from Milford, Diane and Andy were having a dinner to celebrate Bro. Merle's and Sis. Leona's 50th wedding anniversary. After church we were surprised and honored to be invited to this dinner, even though no one knew us. It felt like warm acceptance to us and we'll never forget it.

We've been blessed with visitors recently and we're always ready for more. Remember, we're just 2 ½ miles South of U. S. 30 on SR 49. We love visitors at Valpo and will feel blessed if you join us some Sunday.

INDIANA WEST LAFAYETTE

**Hollie Meister
Darlene Walder**

Our May Purdue graduates are Curt Schieler, Ross Feller, Luke Gudeman, Kendra Neihouser, Leah Gerber, Ashley Troxel, Aaron Gerber, and Ned Troxel. We will miss each of them and pray for them as they start a new chap-

ter in their lives.

Our high school graduates are Amber Furrer (Bro. Brian and Sis. Lorene), Clayton Walder (Bro. Russ and Sis. Darlene) and Steven Adjorloro (exchange student of Bro. Nick and Sis. Suzanne Gutwein). We pray for them as they continue their education.

We are joyful to hear that Andre Gutwein is repenting (Bro. Nick and Sis. Suzanne). We continue to pray for him on his journey to peace.

We rejoice greatly with Bro. Kevin and Sis. Laura Gutwein and children, Kaitlyn, Brecken, and Bella, as they have adopted a new son and brother, Taye, from Ethiopia. All are adjusting well and we continue to pray for their family.

Bros. Blake and Matt Widmer have left for Jamaica for mission work. Bro. Matt will return in July and Bro. Blake will return in August but will go back after obtaining a work visa for full time mission work. We will miss them and pray for them as they do God's work.

Bro. Rustin Meister had surgery this month and is recovering at home. We pray for God's healing hand as he recuperates.

Our visiting ministers this month were Bro. John Lehman (Wolcott, IN), Bro. Alan Schambach (Remington, IN), Bro. Fred Witzig (Indianapolis, IN), and Bro. Randy Gudeman (Francesville, IN). We are thankful for their willingness to share His Word.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Donita Edelman

Lynell Blume

Our brotherhood assembled together to partake of Holy Communion on Saturday evening, April 24. As we broke the bread and sipped the cup of wine, our thoughts were taken back to Calvary where our Lord's body was broken, and His blood was shed for the sins of all mankind. We appreciated Elder Bro. Don Braker (Sis. Eileen, Kansas City, MO) assisting our Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Remington, IN) in serving us. Bro. Dan visited us on a re-

cent Sunday this month, and Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, LaCrosse, IN) also taught us from God's Holy Word. We certainly thank these Brothers for their labors of love on our behalf.

We rejoice with Rodney and Jennifer Ross, Josh Furrer (Bro. Troy and Sis. Lisa), and Adrienne Lehman (Bro. Greg and Sis. Mary Beth), as they were announced as having the "peace that passeth all understanding". We look forward to their testimonies of how the Lord has worked in their hearts and also to their baptisms.

Bro. Dave and Sis. Merri Schieler were blessed with a new grandson to hold and to love. Nolan Michael was born to Alex and Lisa Schieler on April 30. Ethan will play the role of "big brother" to Nolan.

We certainly are going to miss our converts, Eric and Marissa Bahler, as they have moved to Hawaii concerning Eric's job. We pray that the two to three years that they will reside there will pass quickly. We entrust them into the Lord's care and keeping, and pray they will feel His grace and nearness each day.

God is our refuge and our strength,
A very present help indeed;
He in the time of trouble sends,
His grace to meet our every need.

Hymns of Zion #4

We continue to lift Sis. Ruth Ann Lehman (Bro. John) up in prayer as she has been receiving treatment for cancer. Judy Heinzelman (Frank) has also battled with the afflictions of the body and required hospitalization this past month. May they both feel the love of our church family, and may they experience that refuge, strength, and grace that comes from God.

We want to extend our sincere congratulations to our graduates this year. Graduating from High School are Sis. Emily Bahler (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Heidi), Mindy Furrer (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Pam), Brett Gerber (Bro. Bob and Sis. Luann), Benjy Lehman (Bro. Rob and Sis. Beckie), Sis. Maria Lehman (Bro.

Greg and Sis. Mary Beth), Jesse Schieler (Bro. Dave and Sis. Merri), and Brandi Huff (Lee and Michelle). College graduates are Eric Bahler (Marissa) and Sis. Daveana Schieler (Bro. Dave and Sis. Merri). Clint Blume (Bro. Larry and Sis. Lynell) finished college in December and has found employment in the Indianapolis area. May each one of these graduates look to God for His guidance and direction as he/she seeks further education or employment.

IOWA, BLOOMFIELD

Christy Wiegand

We shared in Holy Communion on April 18. It was a blessing to be reminded of the Lord's suffering, death on the Cross and victory over the grave! We appreciate the help of Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Sis. Sandra, Morris). Other visiting ministers this month were Bro. Mark Zimmerman (Sis. Cheryl, Eureka) and Bro. Jim Butikofer (Sis. Diana, Iowa City). A special thanks to each of these brothers for ministering the Holy Word of God to us.

Our congregation lost some of it's family this month. Bro. Henry and Sis. Wendy Wettstein have felt led to relocate to Oakville, IA. And Sis. Audi Kuenzi and Sis. Emily Sinn have graduated from their college programs and are both relocating back to Silverton, OR. We will miss all of them and hope they come to visit us often.

We were so thankful to hear Tim Dotterer has found peace with God and man. We pray for him that he can continue to cling to that peace throughout his lifetime.

Our congratulations go out to our high school graduates this month: Caleb Wettstein (Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Carol), Kurt Dotterer (Bro. Joe and Sis. Rose), and Steven Schock (Elder Bro. Doug and Sis. Clara).

IOWA, BURLINGTON**Karla Gerst
Dixie Messner**

"Who can find a virtuous woman?
For her price is far above rubies."

Proverbs 31:10

As Mother's Day comes and goes, we want to give a special tribute to our mothers. Our mothers pray, encourage, correct, teach, admonish, guide, worry and so much more. They are our constant support from the time we are babes in their arms and even after we have become an adult and moved out away from home. We need to remember to thank our mothers more often for all they do for us.

We would like to welcome Sis. Mary Knapp who assembles with us on Wednesday evenings. She moved to Burlington with a job transfer and assembles with us midweek. She is thankful to be able to go back to Congerville on weekends to be with her family.

Jacob Schulz (Bro. Gary and Sis. Melody) has graduated from high school. We want to wish him God's blessings as he plans to continue his education in the fall.

Patsy Esslinger (Bro. Lee) and Bro. Earl Massner (Sis. Ada) spent some time in the hospital. We are thankful they have both been released. Patsy is convalescing at home and Bro. Earl was moved to Prairie Ridge Care Center in Mediapolis.

IOWA, ELGIN**Maria Rocke**

Bob and Julie Frieden were blessed with a little boy on April 27. Broden Christopher was welcomed home by his siblings, Kyella and Trey. Broden's grandparents are Bro. Floyd and Sis. Jan Frieden and Gary and Carol Berns.

We are looking forward to this coming Sunday, May 24, along with Kirstin Knobloch. Kirstin (Bro. Jim and Sis. Marcy) will graduate from high school. We wish all of the graduates of 2009 the Lord's nearness as they enter a new

stage in life. May those of us who are God's children look forward to our graduation from the School of the Cross.

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE**Rhoda Plattner**

We enjoyed our Sunday we gathered together for Holy Communion when we were reminded again of our Lord's suffering and death on the cross. We rejoice anew in the freedom that is ours because of His shed blood. We were so thankful to have with us Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern, KS) along with our Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Sis. Clara, Bloomfield, IA) for this special occasion. We were also thankful to have Bro. Dale Frank (Sis. Tina, Oakville, IA) minister to us this month.

We are all looking forward to another blessed month in which we can serve our Almighty God with joy and thanksgiving.

IOWA, IOWA CITY**Diana Butikofer**

We congratulate Bro. Kris Messner (Sis. Dixie) on his B.S. degree in Radiation Sciences. Bro. Kris graduated from the University of Iowa and we pray the Lord will guide him as he searches for a job.

Bro. Darren and Sis. Sue Plattner (Champaign, IL) and their family visited in April. We appreciate their fellowship and Bro. Darren's assistance on the pulpit. May the Lord bless them.

Our Elder Bro. Jon and Sis. Julie Schmidgall (Oakville, IA) joined us for Holy Communion. We thank Bro. Jon for serving us during Communion and preaching the Word of God to us.

IOWA, LESTER**Polly Metzger
Gloria Moser**

All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small.
All things wise and wonderful....
The Lord God made them all.

Hymn of Zion #207

On April 24, Bro. Willis and Sis. Joann Nester welcomed beautiful twin daughters, Ava Grace and Adria Joy, into their hearts and home. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Raymond and Sis. Twyla Meyer and Bro. Gene and Sis. Shirley Nester. Jonathon David Leuthold was born on May 1 to Bro. Mark and Sis. Lee Leuthold. Siblings, Jenna, Ella and Justus, are excited for a new little brother. Bro. Bob and Sis. Cindy Leuthold are the happy grandparents. God bless these young families as they raise their children in His ways.

Our hospital patients this past month were Sis. Mariann Metzger and Sis. Esty Metzger. Sis. Mariann is now recuperating at the Tuff Nursing Home. We pray that God's love and healing powers will be felt by all who are suffering from bodily afflictions.

Visiting Elders among us were Bro. Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN), Bro. Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL), Bro. Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA) and ministering Bros. Bill Schick (Magdalena, Mexico), Bro. Ron Isch (Lamont-Gridley, KS) and Bro. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS). May God bless the efforts they put forth in expounding God's Word to us.

May 16 was the wedding day of Amy Tuenge and Eric Hartter (Bro. Jerome and Sis. Gail). We wish them God's blessings as they begin their married life.

TO OUR GRADUATES

You've come to the end of one path,
And now it's time to explore
New dreams and distant horizons,
More challenges than before.

The road won't always be easy
It may get rocky and rough.
But keep on going, don't turn back:
In God you'll find strength enough.

Always trust in Him for guidance
And give nothing but your best,
Then your journey throughout this
life
Will be by Him richly blessed.

Our desire is that our young people

will look to God for guidance and direction as they start employment or go on to higher education. Our high school graduates include: Cody Doorneveerd (Bro. Lynn and Sis. Kathy), Ruth Feucht (Bro. Roy and Sis. Melisa), Brett Knobloch (Bro. Myron and Sis. Beth), Sis. Kyla Knobloch (Bro. Stan and Sis. Dawn), Amanda Metzger (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Harriet), Sis. Whitney Metzger (Bro. Blair and Sis. Julie), Caley Moser (Bro. Rick and Sis. Lori), Tyler Moser (Bro. Brad and Sis. Gloria) and Jennifer Popkes (Bro. Greg and Sis. Lori). Our college graduates are Sis. Elyse Moser (Bro. Kent), Sis. Laura Knobloch (Bro. Myron and Sis. Beth), Bro. Chet Mogler (Bro. Brian and Sis. Bev) and Alvie Meyer (Bro. Dean and Sis. Linda).

Note of Thanks:

We would like to thank everyone who remembered Sis. Sherryl and our family with prayers, love, encouragement and deeds of kindness during her illness and recent passing. May our Heavenly Father richly bless you.

In Christian Love,

The Family of Sis. Sherryl Knobloch

IOWA, OAKVILLE **Sharla Wiegand**

Farewell, farewell, my morning
dawns,

Farewell, my rest I see.

The strife is o'er, my morning dawns,
The Master calleth me.

Hymns of Zion #194

On April 17, Sis. Marian Schmidgall peacefully passed away from this life. Our prayers and sympathy are extended to her husband, Bro. Hartzell, and their children, Don and Carol Schmidgall, Ron and Jane Schmidgall, Bro. Tom and Sis. JoAnn Steiner, Elder Bro. Jon and Sis. Julie Schmidgall and Bro. Ken and Sis. Janet Lanz.

A Christian, now baptized,
To me much grace is given.
Why was this granted me?

That I with Christ am risen!

Zion's Harp #43

Carolyn Stoller gave her testimony and was baptized on April 26. How wonderful to welcome her as a new sister-in-faith. Bro. John Rowell (Burlington, IA) ministered the Word to us that day.

On Mother's Day, we enjoyed visiting ministers, Bro. Gary Endress (Bradford, IL), Bro. Michael Wagenbach (Wolcott, IN) and Bro. Phil Schulz (Burlington, IA).

We are thankful for other visiting ministers who have come this month: Bro. Tom Schambach (Elgin, IL), Bro. Scott Wegman (Taylor, MO), and Bro. Matt Steffen (Princeville, IL). May the Lord richly reward them for their labors.

It is heartwarming to see the progress of the repair/remodeling of our Fellowship Center. Many thanks to all of the volunteers and National World Relief for their part. I don't think we realized how much it would be missed and we will be very glad to be able to use it again!

IOWA, WEST BEND **Janet Fehr** **Sue Schneider**

We were happy for the visits of several ministering brothers over the past few weeks. These included: Bro. Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy, Portland, OR), Bro. Greg Braker (Sis. Wendy, Lamar, MO), and Bro. Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata, TX). May each be blessed for their traveling efforts and their willingness to speak the truths of God's Holy Word.

Three of our dear elderly sisters spent some time in the hospital in the past month. They are Sis. Marie Gress, Sis. Ruth Metzger, and Sis. Matilda (Bro. Elmer) Fehr. May each feel God's comfort and peace now as they journey toward their heavenly home.

We are privileged to have Bro. Ted and Sis. Kelly Schmidt relocate their family to West Bend. We hope they feel

welcome, and pray they will feel God's nearness during this time of change.

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

Exodus 20:12

What a special gift to have or have had a loving, nurturing earthly father. And then to have and personally know an all knowing and caring Heavenly Father. Let us be thankful for both. Let us honor both.

JAPAN, TOKYO **Jana Klaus**

We extend our hearty congratulations to Elder Bro. Akito and Sis. Marie Inoue as their son, Bro. Makoto, and Sis. Anna Bollier (both of Indianapolis, IN) became one in the Lord on May 3. Bro. Makoto's immediate family (his parents and brother, Koichi, and sister, Sis. Ayako), as well as Bro. Kan Umemura, a longtime childhood friend of Makoto's, were all able to go and return safely. All of us from Tokyo and Shioda would have liked to have been there to witness the joyous occasion, but our prayers were certainly with them and will continue to be.

It was a pleasure to have Bro. Mark and Sis. Bekah Klaus (Athens, AL) worship with us in early May. Bro. Mark is Bro. Andrew Klaus' brother and they both grew up in Japan, so Mark was able to bring his new wife, Bekah, for a first time visit to his childhood home. We appreciated Bro. Mark's Bible study in the afternoon on his experience with "having faith in God" through all situations and seeing the blessed results.

Elder Bro. Mark and Sis. Bev Bahr spent two weeks in Japan once again. Even though they did not worship with us in Tokyo on a Sunday, we had several other opportunities to be with them as they were at both the monthly Ladies Meeting and Bible Study in Tokyo Church, as well as in some of our homes. We extend another big thank you to the Bahr's for their love and support.

We look forward to the coming of Sis. Kimberly Lehman (Wolcott, IN, daughter of Bro. Greg and Sis. Mary Beth) as she is to come from the end of May for two months at the Klaus household as a helper and support to our little church. We pray for a blessed stay for her!

We also got word that Bro. Ryan and Sis. Becky Weiss and children, who have been in Singapore for a year and a half, will be leaving our side of the globe to return back to the States in June. We are thankful they made a stopover in Tokyo this past December and were able to worship with us. We trust the Lord used their time in Singapore for His glory and our prayers go with them as they adjust back to the States.

KANSAS, BERN
Sheri Edelman
Jill Meyer

"Bow down thine ear, and hear the words of the wise..."

Proverbs 22:17

Bro. Brent (Sis. Beth) Kellenberger of the Kansas City congregation shared God's Word with us this month. Thank you for coming and lending yourself in the Lord's work!

Our sympathy is extended to Fremond and Ruth Meyer at the passing of Ruth's brother, Gene (Judith) Strahm. May God provide the comfort you need during this time.

We have two high school graduates this year: Bro. Duane Kaeb (Bro. Paul and Sis. Joan) and Sis. Lauri Stoller (Bro. Arden and Sis. Darlene). Our college graduates are Tara Rokey (Bro. Joe and Sis. Kathy) and Kari Meyer (Bro. Steve and Sis. Kaye). We hope you look to God to lead you on the path ahead!

Kerry Berg (Bro. Bill and Sis. Mary) is engaged to Kevin Haefflinger (Earl and Julie), both from the Denver, CO, area. A July wedding is being planned.

The Sunday school enjoyed a weekend in Ft. Scott, KS, recently. We thank the brethren there for the warm hospitality they provided!

Our prayers are with Bro. Bill Berg as he has been suffering with back problems. Also, Bro. Allen Rokey (Sis. Glenda), Bro. Neil Hartter (Sis. Evelyn) and Bro. Wilfred Strahm (Sis. Verona) have undergone tests recently. Bro. Joe Rokey (Sis. Kathy) and Bro. Robert Meyer had surgery. We wish God's healing hand on each of you!

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT
Martin Hohulin

"I complained because I had no shoes until I met a man who had no feet." Many years ago I saw this thought provoking message in a cafe. I never forgot it. Unfortunately, I have failed to be thankful in all situations. This has been a trying Spring with unending rainfall, storms, and breakdowns. One evening, after a series of disappointments, I received a phone call from a beloved Brother in Faith who was my classmate in high school. His usual greeting was "How are you?". Without thinking, I said I was dog tired from picking up downed limbs. As the conversation progressed, he told me he had lost a leg due to poor circulation and the doctor barely saved his remaining leg. He was thrilled to report he was getting some feeling in the surviving leg. He said he was home bound, but now was going to church some. I was humbled and ashamed, to say the least, when he went on to say the Lord had blessed him as he had a grandson who was repenting. After I came to my senses, I told him that was a blessing money couldn't buy.

The weekend of May 2-3 our Sunday School and worship services came alive with Jr. High students from Denver, CO; Kiowa, Bern, and Sabetha, KS; Garden Grove, IA; and Kansas City and Lamar, MO. The speaker for the occasion was Bro. Brent Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO). Bro. Brad Funk (Garden Grove, IA) brought students here and spoke on Sunday afternoon. My nephew from Denver, CO, took his students to the Missouri state line so the children could add Missouri to their list of states visited.

We extend our sympathy to Becky (Sinn) Blaser and family of Lamar, MO. Her husband, Randy Blaser, lost his battle with cancer. Becky is the daughter of Bro. Wayne and Sis. Juanita Sinn of Fort Scott. Becky's sister and brother-in-law, Sis. Linda and Bro. Gene Banwart of Lamar are also members of the Fort Scott congregation. May God be with them.

On May 7, Micah Nelson Lewis was welcomed into the world by first-time parents, Bro. Ryan and Sis. Amber (Kellenberger) Lewis. Grandparents are Bro. Rick and Sis. Karen Kellenberger, and Tom and Kathy Lewis. May God bless this family.

KANSAS, KIOWA
Janice Bahr
Jenny Stewart

"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die..."

Ecclesiastes 3:1, 2

Our prayers are with the family of Sis. Mildred Farney as she passed from this life to be with her Savior. We pray God will grant them His grace and comfort. Her presence among the congregation will be greatly missed.

One of our Sunday school students traveled to Fort Scott to attend the annual Sunday school fellowship for Junior High school students. We appreciate the time and efforts put forth by the entire Fort Scott congregation for a wonderful weekend.

Our hospital patients this month were Sis. Helen Murrow and Annabelle Kisling (Bro. Frank Kisling). We pray that God's healing hand may be upon them both and comfort them as they heal.

KANSAS
LAMONT-GRIDLEY
Ester Knobloch

We were thankful to have Bro. Gary

Brown (Sis. Jane, Forrest, IL) visit our congregation and bring forth the Word of Truth. Several families from Forrest came with him and we enjoyed the fellowship of our precious faith.

Michael Luthi (Bro. Jay and Sis. Jane) graduated from high school. We wish him God's blessing as he starts a new chapter in life. "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." (Proverbs 3:5-6)

KANSAS, SABETHA

**Rebekah Beyer
Carrie Grimm**

Spring-time is well under way in our area. With it are the April showers (and in our case lots of May showers, too) that refresh and clean the land of its dust and dirt. Our souls also are refreshed and cleaned as God showers us with His love.

On April 19, our Singles Group had an invite-a-guest weekend. The weekend provided a great blessing for many of us.

Todd and Kara Strahm became our Brother and Sister in Christ on April 26. We enjoyed a large group of visitors that weekend as well as God's provision on the pulpit. Visiting ministers were Bro. Larry Bahr (Sis. Julie, Fort Scott, KS), Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Elizabeth, Silverton, OR), Bro. Wes Moser (Sis. Esther, Lester, IA), Bro. Darren Fehr (Sis. Nora, West Bend, IA), Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern, KS), Bro. John Baumgartner (Sis. Lori, Bern, KS), and Bro. Brad Strahm (Sis. Michelle, Bern, KS).

May 2 was a time for our congregation to reflect on Christ's suffering as He paid the price for our sins on Calvary's Cross. Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Sis. Clara, Bloomfield, IA) was with us for Holy Communion.

We also enjoyed the ministry of Bro. Ron Isch (Sis. Jane, Lamont-Gridley, KS) on Mother's Day, May 10. He gave us clear reminders of the love of a mother and how God's love for us is sim-

ilar. "The rod and reproof give wisdom..." "Proverbs 29:15

Hospital patients this past month included Sis. Marian Kellenberger (Bro. Gene), Sis. Marie Hartter (Bro. Virgil), and Sis. Lois Meyer (the late Bro. Eli). We lift them up to God in prayer as He performs His healing work.

Mark Hertz (Elder Bro. Gerry and Sis. Ellen) and Kari Meyer (Bro. Steve and Sis. Kaye, Bern, KS) are engaged and planning an October 3 wedding. May they seek God's will as they make preparation to become one.

Our prayers are extended to Sis. Komari Aberle (Bro. Rick) as she mourns the loss of her special loved one and grandmother, Sis. Mildred Farney, of the Kiowa, KS, congregation.

High School graduates for the year 2009 include: Sis. Lena Hartter (Bro. David and Sis. Beth), Gabe Kaster (Eldon and Lana), Kendall Grimm (Bro. Rodney and Sis. Arlene), Julie Grimm (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Nita), Sophia Brownlee (Bro. Steve and Sis. Selena), Brianna Huber (Bro. Gordon and Sis. Sharlyn), Ethan Young (Roger and Janice), and Abby Kellenberger (Bro. Brad and Sis. Teresa). May the Lord be with them as they pursue further education or employment.

Bro. Seth Hartter (Sis. Brenda) has finished his college education and has accepted employment near our Bloomfield, IA, congregation. We will miss them worshipping with us here but know they will be warmly welcomed at Bloomfield. Bro. Seth's parents are Bro. Tim and Sis. Charleen Hartter.

KANSAS, WICHITA

Emma Miller

Bro. Loren Schrenk, his wife, Sis. Betsy, and their believing son came to Wichita in late April. On Saturday evening, Bro. Loren encouraged us concerning small church issues and willingly ministered to us on Sunday. I am certain Monday morning came rather soon for them after a time-demanding weekend of travel and ministry.

The first weekend in May a group of young adults from the Kansas congregations and colleges formed a work team to build a new portico on our church building and to prepare the basement floor for a new carpet which we hope can be installed soon. While we thank them for their labor, we are also thankful they chose to spend Sunday with us. It was refreshing to feel the joy as they contributed to the worship service.

That same Sunday, Elder Bro. Jay Luthi and family came for the day. He shared the minutes of the recent winter Conference with us.

Instead of our usual mother-daughter banquet this year, it was changed to a mother-son affair. We were blessed with the presence of older sons who were our babies in times past. They made an effort to travel the miles necessary to be present along with the sons who worship with us on a regular basis. I was impressed by the respect these sons showed for their upbringing.

I frequently go into a local business where one must "check in". Beside the check in sheet is a jar filled with words of wisdom written on strips of brightly colored paper which have been coiled into a compact size. We are free to help ourselves to a coil. One day I picked one that said, "RESTLESS? Take Vitamin R." "Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass." (Psalm 37:7)

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON

Barb Huber

"Truly my soul waiteth upon God; from Him cometh my salvation. He only is my rock and my salvation, He is my defence; I shall not be moved."

Psalm 62:1,6

Though we are few in number, God continues to bless our gathering through the preaching of His Word each Lord's day. We extend warm thanks and

appreciation to Bro. Todd Graf (Sis. Lydia, Akron, OH), Elder Bro. Tim Funk (Sis. Debra, Peoria, IL), and Bro. Bruce Frank (Sis. Bonita, Cissna Park, IL) for faithfully expounding God's Word to us. We feel so unworthy of the many efforts and sacrifices put forth to travel the many miles for the furtherance of God's kingdom. May the Lord bless you and your dear families is our prayer.

We're thankful for answered prayer that Dan Henderson's ankle has healed and that he is able to assemble with us again.

We extend a warm welcome to anyone who may be in our area or travelling through to worship with us. You may contact Bro. Lester Huber (859) 745-2541. Church services are no longer being held at the Comfort Inn. Directions to the church are:

From Lexington: I-75 exit #110 (US 60), east about 6 miles to Road #1923 (Combs Ferry Road), right about 5 miles to Road #3371 (Becknerville Road), left about 1/2 mile on the right.

From Winchester: Road #1958 (Bypass) south to Road #1927 (Colby Road), west about 3 miles to Road #3371 (Becknerville Road), left 2 miles on the left.

MEXICO, IXTLAN

Matt Gerber

"Sirs, why do ye these things? We also are men of like passions with you, and preach unto you that ye should turn from these vanities unto the living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein: Who in times past suffered all nations to walk in their own ways. Nevertheless he left not himself without witness, in that he did good, and gave us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness."

Acts 14:15-17

The first refreshing rains have arrived in Ixtlan after several months of dry 90-degree weather. Soon the brown

hills will turn lush green, and millions of plants will spring out of hiding and transform the dull landscape into a world of color. The farmers are busy planting corn and sorghum, hoping for good rains, no plagues, and a fruitful harvest. Yet, something is terribly wrong. In at least one nearby town this week, people gathered together for a time of prayer for rain. But it wasn't a time of worship to the Creator. They brought out an idol of a certain "saint", an image of a man plowing behind oxen. They prayed to this image and asked it to bring rain. This is a common practice every year in our area. Idolatry in its raw, unsophisticated form is still very alive here.

But lest we self-righteously shake our heads in disbelief at these pagan practices, we need to remember that idolatry is just as real in the United States, and in every culture. No, it's not so obvious and unsophisticated. But it's just as deadly. We aren't bowing down and worshipping an image of a man with oxen, but are we bowing down before our bank accounts ... are we trusting in our retirement funds to bring us the good life we've earned with our years of hard work ... is our hope in the dollar, or the stock market, or the latest economic plan ... in our college degrees and our job security ... in our house, our health, our family, our wisdom, or our human efforts? Or are we filled with gratitude, and dependent worship toward our Creator and Redeemer? Do we trust Him for the future?

As far as news, the swine flu scare has died down, and life is basically back to normal with schools back in session. We give God thanks that there haven't been any cases of the flu in our area.

We received word that our school should be receiving the government certification soon. This means a very busy next couple of months so that we can start classes in September, Lord willing.

The young group planned a special Sunday school activity for the children that come to church. They spent a week working on costumes and getting ready

for an exciting skit of David and Goliath. Most of the children loved it, except for a few little girls who were petrified of giant Goliath when he yelled and shook his spear! The following Sunday was Mother's Day, and the young group baked cookies and sang a song for the mothers. We're also looking forward to Bro. Grant Herrmann coming back again this summer to volunteer.

MEXICO, MAGDALENA

Kali Zobrist

"For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved."

John 3:17

There are many times we could be condemning of those that say they know God but do not know Christ, but Jesus did not come to condemn, He came to save. We are thankful that our responsibility is to speak the truth of the Word and believe in the power of the Word to convict the soul.

Another laborer has been sent here to Magdalena to help in the harvest. We welcome Sis. Jarrin Rabe (Fairbury, IL) to the staff here at Casa Vida y Esperanza. She would appreciate prayers as she adjusts to a new home and culture. She also spends some time in language school over the next few months.

There has been much in the news lately about both the violence and the flu in Mexico. It seems from our perspective that both of these issues have been grossly exaggerated by the news media, causing undue fear. Here at CVE we have not seen either of these and as far as the flu goes, there have only been a few cases in our state, and none close to us. We will continue to monitor these situations and will not put visitors at risk if either of them change.

We praise God that His message of good news to the nations is one of hope and salvation! Thank you for your prayers.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

**Sarah Knochel
Janelle Ramseyer**

We are rejoicing with Bro. Joe and Sis. Dort Ramseyer and Bro. Rod and Sis. Evelyn Wieland as each couple recently welcomed a new grandchild into their family circle. Grant Samuel was born to Bro. Mark and Sis. Kelly Ramseyer (Detroit, MI), and Bro. Steve and Sis. Tiffany Wieland (Detroit, MI) are thankful for their little Alexa Violet.

Even as there is joy in some homes, there is sadness in others. We pray for the family of Sis. Eleanor Munsel who passed away on May 9. She is survived by her children, Bro. Fred (Sis. Delores) Munsel, Sis. Marilyn Munsel and Colleen (Jim) King. She is also survived by a brother, Bro. Fred (Sis. Marilyn) Ruegsegger and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

We also want to remember those who spent time in the hospital. They include, Jennifer Curtis, Sis. Mabelle Wackerle, and Sis. Nina (Bro. Erwin) Wieland.

We know the Lord is faithful and we trust the Holy Spirit will continue to guide Bro. Bob and Sis. Rhonda Knochel as Bro. Bob was recently selected to be a minister for our congregation. Our prayers are with this dear couple and we are thankful that they are so willing to be used for the Lord's service.

With the end of the school year upon us, we ask the Lord's blessings on our graduates. Sis. Christi Jackson (Bro. Don and Sis. Tina) and Kathy Knochel (Bro. Jim and Sis. Kay) are graduating from high school. We also congratulate Sis. Caitlin Long (Rick and Sis. Joan) on her college graduation. We trust the Lord will guide and bless their future as they pursue higher learning or employment.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

**Kay Rauhe
Tamra Coughlin**

"And he changeth the times and the seasons..." (Daniel 2:21). Our church

family is adapting to many new changes this month. New babies are born, people move in, people move out. What a good time to be reminded of God's faithfulness at leading each one of His children and the shed blood of Jesus Christ that keeps us all united in spite of being scattered abroad. "Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations." (Deuteronomy 7:9). "Jesus should die...that he should gather together in one the children of God that were scattered abroad." (John 11:51-52). We are excited to announce the birth of three new babies to families in our congregation.

Grant Samuel Ramseyer was born to Bro. Mark and Sis. Kelly on May 3 at 4:58 p.m. weighing 7 lbs 10.8 oz and measuring 21 3/4 inches long. Grant joins his older siblings, Sis. Carrie Ramseyer, Caleb and Grace. Grandparents are Bro. Chris Lee and Sis. Ruth Wuethrich (Francesville, IN) and Bro. Joe and Sis. Dort Ramseyer (Bay City, MI).

We welcome into the world Liam Michael Virkler, who will be joining our church family in June when his parents move here from Phoenix. Liam is Bro. Joel and Sis. Amber's firstborn and was born on May 4 at 7:24 a.m. weighing 7 lbs 7 oz and measuring 20 inches. Liam's grandparents are Bro. Joseph and Sis. Patricia Greenbank (Phoenix, AZ) and Bro. Stan and Sis. Beth Virkler (Remington, IN).

Joining the boys is Alexa Violet Wieland, born to Bro. Stephen and Sis. Tiffany Wieland on May 13. Alexa is also the firstborn in her family, weighing 6 lbs 14 oz and measuring 21 inches. Alexa's grandparents are Bro. Fred and Sis. Mary Gasser (Rittman, OH) and Bro. Rod and Sis. Evelyn Wieland (Bay City, MI).

We have two Spring '09 graduates in our congregation. Sis. Caitlin Long (Rick and Sis. Joan) graduated with honors from Eastern Michigan University with a B.S. in Business Administra-

tion, majoring in International Business and Marketing and minoring in Business German. She will be moving back home to Bay City while she prepares to move to Budapest, Hungary, as a staff member with Campus Crusade for Christ taking the gospel to students at universities across the city.

Sis. Manuela Denes graduated from University of Windsor with a Bachelor of Education. She specialized in Kindergarten through Sixth grade and is currently searching for a teaching position. She has also graciously agreed to reacquire her Silver Lining responsibilities as Bro. Daniel and Sis. Tamra Coughlin will be moving to Cincinnati, OH, and worshipping with the Lexington, KY, congregation for the summer.

We extend thanks to Bro. Bob Knochel (Sis. Rhonda) and Bro. Neil Ramseyer (Sis. Sharon) for sharing God's Word at Woodhaven during the vesper worship service. We truly appreciate their efforts to travel to Livonia from Bay City during the week.

We extend our sympathy to John and Linda Reardon, Sis. Colleen Reardon, and Ron and Sue Reardon with the passing of their mother, Sis. Marie Reardon in Sarasota, FL. Our prayers for healing are with Joe Sabados and his family as well as Sis. Eloise Bahr (Bro. Willard) who have been hospitalized this past month.

Everyone is warmly welcomed and encouraged to attend our Choir's 21st Annual Choir Benefit scheduled for Sunday, July 12, with a meal at 2:30 p.m. followed by the choral program at 4:30 p.m. Anyone needing overnight accommodations can contact Scott Bahr at spbahr@yahoo.com or 734.513.5907.

**MINNESOTA
MINNEAPOLIS
Mary Mogler**

We enjoyed Christian fellowship as brothers, sisters and children traveled to be with us for our annual Winthrop/Minneapolis potluck. It was an added blessing to have Bro. Tim Sauder

and his wife, Sis. Jenny, share the weekend and a presentation on Gateway Woods. It was good for us to see God's faithfulness and His hand on this ministry over the years.

We're thankful that Bro. Dale and Sis. Rachel Zeltwanger (Morris, MN) were in the Rochester area with brethren from Rockville, CT, and could share God's Word. We continue to extend a warm welcome to brethren and friends traveling to the Rochester area to join in worship the 3rd Wednesday of the month.

Congratulations to college graduates, Bro. Ben Dill and Bro. Brett Messner (U of MN) and Bro. Braden Mogler (Pepperdine Univ. near Altadena, CA). Bro. Ben has taken employment locally, Bro. Brett has employment near his home church of Winthrop, and Bro. Braden plans to continue his studies in the medical field. We pray God's continued blessings and guidance in their lives.

We welcome Bro. Brett Schwab from Wolcott, IN, to the area for the summer on an internship. We're thankful to God for bringing brethren into our fellowship and trust He'll continue to encourage others to come and worship with us.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS **Susie Wulf** **Sheila Reuter**

We were very thankful for our visiting ministers: Elder Bro. Akito Inoue (Japan), Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi (Lamar, MO), Bro. Dan Dubach (Prescott, AZ) and Elder Bro. Duane Rocke (Minneapolis, MN). May God bless them for their willingness to feed His flock.

We also were blessed with the provings and baptisms of Rita Wulf (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Linda) and Ben Furrer (Bro. Tom and Sis. Jill). We welcome them into the fold.

Our sympathy goes to Sis. Minnie Kussatz in the passing of her son-in-law, Anthony Leo O'Keefe (wife Kathy). May God comfort her in the

days ahead.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP **Julie Schmidt** **Lindsay Schmidt**

We, who in God's name are here assembled,
solemnly do clasp our hands;
That Christ's death and suffering be remembered,
faithfully for Him to stand.
Thus in unison our hearts have spoken.

Lord to show Thy favor give the token;
Speak Thy blessing ever true;
Amen. Peace be unto you.

Zion's Harp #11

We are thankful for the labor of love from Elder Bro. David Graf (Sis. Barb, Akron, OH) in helping serve Holy Communion to our congregation with our local Elder Bro. Paul Messner. We also appreciated his labors on Sunday.

He leadeth me! O blessed tho't!
O words with heav'nly comfort
fraught!
Whate'er I do, wher-e'er I be,
Still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.
He leadeth me, He leadeth me,
By His own hand He leadeth me:
His faithful follower I would be,
For by His hand He leadeth me.

Hymns of Zion #162

Believing that the Lord has directed their lives, the engagement of our Sis. Shayla Messner (Bro. Dean and Sis. Wanda) to Bro. Jordan Steffen (Bro. Dean and Sis. Carol) of Belvidere, IL, was recently announced. May they ever rely on God's guidance as they walk life's pathway together.

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

Proverbs 22:6

Bro. David and Sis. Bethany Messner were blessed with a baby boy on April 24. Eric David is welcomed

home by his brothers, Justin and Darren. May God bless this family with their new addition and guide the training of this child. Eric's grandparents are Bro. Tony and Sis. Nancy Messner (Morris, MN) and Bro. Terry and Sis. Ann Kuenzi (Silverton, OR) and great-grandmother is Sis. Georgia Messner.

"Blessed be God, which hath not turned away my prayer, nor his mercy from me."

Psalms 66:20

Prayers have been offered for Trey Stoll (Bro. Ed and Sis. Ginny) and his family during his recent accident and hospital stay. We will continue to pray for him since he still has several surgeries ahead. We pray that God will continue to grant grace and mercy on his recovery.

"Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say."

Exodus 4:12

The responsibility and privilege of teaching Sunday school has fallen on Sis. Joleen Elder (Bro. John), as a full time teacher, and Sis. Rachel Messner (Michael), as a substitute teacher. They have our prayers and support with their new positions and may God give them the words to speak so that the seed can be planted in the tender hearts of the children.

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY **Brittany Fehr**

We rejoice with Bro. Alan Banwart and Sis. Holly Wales, whose engagement has recently been announced to the church! Bro. Alan is the son of Irene Banwart and the late Dean Banwart; Sis. Holly's parents are Don Wales and Sis. Carol Wales. May God richly bless this couple.

Also, we request God's blessings upon Bro. Ned Kellenberger, as he has just graduated from high school. We

trust that he will continue to serve God and follow His leading as he continues his studies in Wichita, Lord willing, this fall.

We appreciate the labors of Bro. Glen Funk (Sis. Sally, Wichita, KS), as he recently was a visiting minister in our congregation, and pray that God will bless him, too.

MISSOURI, LAMAR
Rebecca Dotterer
Dana Kellenberger

This month we were blessed to partake of Holy Communion. Elder Bro. Rick Plattner (Fairbury, IL) was here to assist our Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi in this work. It is always good to be reminded of our Lord's suffering and renew our love and zeal for His service. We were also thankful to have Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL) here to share the Word with us.

Graduating from high school this year is Jesse Braker (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Carol). May he seek the Lord's direction as he takes this step in his life.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS
Meagan Wuethrich

We spent a blessed weekend of love and fellowship as we had our business meeting, Communion, and Memorandum. We would like to especially thank our Elder brothers and their wives, Bro. Kent and Sis. Jan Heimer (Taylor, MO) and Bro. Marvin and Sis. Nancy Dotterer (Forrest, IL) for their service and fellowship.

Our love and thanks also goes out to Bro. Ken and Sis. Devon Rinkenberger, as they recently spent their last Sunday fellowshiping with us in St. Louis. We will miss their presence with us, but are thankful that the Lord is leading them, and pray His grace will be with them as they share their lights in Morton, IL. Ken and Devon, may God richly bless you both for your years of love and service to our St. Louis church, as we have felt blessed to have had you with us, and welcome you back anytime. We con-

tinue to ask for prayers for our small congregation, that we could not only grow in numbers, but also "in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

Note of Thanks:

Brothers & Sisters in Christ:

Although many miles separate us, we have felt your love and support in the loss of our daughter, Cassandra. We would like to express our deep gratitude for the many cards, gifts, and especially the prayers that were offered on our behalf. God has certainly answered your prayers and we have felt His comforting Spirit. God bless you!

Love in Christ,

Bro. Nathan and Sis. Michelle Rassi

MISSOURI, TAYLOR
Kathy Eberhardt

In a recent sermon we heard that God's plan is perfect. It always has been and always will be.

Jimmy Sutter (Bro. Jim and Sis. Chris) was baptized on April 26. We rejoice with him and his daughter, Presley.

Mercedes Thompson has recently answered God's calling and has begun repenting. We rejoice with you, Mercedes, and hope that you will always feel welcome at our Taylor church.

Retired Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle recently gave a Bible Study with the topic "Love Seeketh Not Her Own". Bro. Willis reminded us in so many examples in the Bible how to seek God first and not our self. He also told us the history of the Japan churches and his involvement in their establishment. Thanks, Bro. Willis, for making the trip to Taylor and also all your years of service in our church.

We welcome Bro. Norman and Sis. Jan Rechkemmer from the Roanoke congregation to our Taylor church. May they feel God's presence and love here.

NEW YORK
CROGHAN-NAUMBURG
Hope Graves

We had a blessed weekend on April 25-26 when Elder Bro. Peter Petrovic and his wife, Sis. Miriam (San Diego, CA), joined us for the baptism of Jacob Farney. What a joy to have a new brother in faith added to our congregation. It was a wonderful weekend for all and we enjoyed the many that traveled to our area to rejoice with us. We pray for Bro. Jacob as he goes forth as a soldier for Jesus and pray for the mighty strength of God to be with him always.

"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil ... wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand."

Ephesians 6:11,13

Our hearts rejoice with Bob and Tessa Millard in the arrival of their baby girl, Alyssa Grace, on May 25. Alyssa joins older brothers, Jordan, Brent and Tanner, who are excited to have a new little sister at home. Thankful grandparents are Elder Bro. Duane and Sis. Karen Farney. May the Lord richly bless and guide this growing family.

OHIO, AKRON
Mara Henico
Rachel Pamer

He graciously beholds us
 And leads us in His way
 And joyfully we'll journey
 To heaven day by day...
Zion's Harp #136, vs. 8

We were blessed to be able to host the World Relief National Board Meeting and hope that all of our visitors felt welcome. We enjoyed the days of fellowship! Elder Bros. Jim Plattner (Sis. Marlene, Princeville), and Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan, Taylor) as well as ministering Bros. Joe Klotzle (Altadena), Virgil

Kaeb (Sis. Sueellen, Sarasota), and Chuck Kellenberger (Sis. Debbie, Elgin) were able to participate in those meetings and also serve us in the Word. We trust that God will continue to bless them and give them words of edification for the Church as they humbly seek to serve.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with our Sis. Ilona Laubli (Bro. Gaius) as her mother recently passed away in Hungary. How thankful we can be that we have a hope for eternity, and that helps even through the difficulties of parting here on earth.

We rejoice with our friend, Tom Reljin, who has found peace with God and awaits the opportunity to bring a testimony and be baptized. We are also thankful to be able to pass on the news that Andrew Graf (Bro. Eric and Sis. Erika) has felt God's call and begun his repentance. May God be with him and each of our converts as they allow God to re-make them into vessels of honor for His glory!

It was also a blessing to remember the Lord's death in partaking of Holy Communion. We were thankful that Elder Bro. Ben Walder (Sis. Juanita, Congerville) could be here to assist our own Bro. Dave on that weekend. May God bless all of the brothers who are willing to serve us in so many ways!

As we recently had our annual church cleaning, we are thankful to all who lent a hand to help with the special once-a-year jobs. We are blessed to have the health and means to keep God's house in good order.

On May 7, Bro. Ben and Sis. Joanne Henico welcomed home two little baby girls. Annie Mae and Gracie Lyn are also welcomed home by big brother, Simon, and big sister, Lilly. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Alph and Sis. Denise Maibach (Rittman) and paternal grandparents are Bro. Greg and Sis. Sarah Henico of our congregation.

The Sunday School makes church lunch on Mother's Day, and what a blessing it was to see so many willing hands and cheerful smiles to assist on that day (and before)!

OHIO, COLUMBUS

Julie Grimm

This month we have been abundantly blessed with many visiting brethren and ministers. We were thankful to Bro. Tony Manz (Junction, OH), Bro. Gary Sinn (Latty, OH), and Bro. Tim Gerber (Mansfield, OH) for sharing the Word of Life with us. May the Lord richly bless them and their families.

Believing it is God's will, Bro. Todd Saurer (Bro. Roger and Sis. Sue, Smithville, OH) and Sis. Esther Stoller (Bro. Craig and Sis. Ruth, Latty, OH) have announced their engagement. We rejoice with them and wish them the Lord's nearness as they prepare for their future together.

It was encouraging to work together at our annual spring cleaning to maintain our church house. May we also continue to labor together to keep our hearts clean and purged from the filth of this world and spotless for the return of the Lord. "Therefore be ye also ready, for in such an hour as ye think not, the son of man cometh." (Gospel Hymns #290)

OHIO, JUNCTION

Vicki Boroff

Camdyn Rae was born April 22 to Bro. Chad and Sis. Loral Manz. Camdyn has two older brothers, Carter and Clayton. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Lester and Sis. Karen Manz, and Bro. Ray and Sis. Corrine Schlatter.

Megan Renee was born April 24 to Bro. Randy and Sis. Bonnie Manz. Pleased grandparents are Bro. Russ and Sis. Vera Manz, and Bro. Bruce and Sis. Bonita Frank (Cissna Park).

We were appreciative of our recent visiting ministers: Bros. Bruce Frank (Sis. Bonita, Cissna Park), Bill Brake (Sis. Miriam, Sardis), Jesse Bedolla (Sis. Bonnie, Detroit), and Greg Stoller (Sis. Jill, Forrest).

We've had many hospital patients recently: Eleanor Gerber, Sis. Sheila

Schlatter, Chelsea Rose, Sis. Cathy Manz, Sis. Evelyn Manz, Kellan Manz, and Darren Manz were recent hospital patients. We pray for His healing hand upon all of them.

Our love and prayers go to the family of Bro. Ben and Sis. Carolyn Manz in the loss of her brother, Lester Steffen. We wish the entire family the Lord's comforting hand during this time of grieving.

Congratulations to our high school graduates: Sis. Brenda Manz (Bro. Ken and Sis. Gwen), Michael Schlatter (Elder Bro. Bill and Sis. Emily), Sis. Lily Manz (Bro. Russ and Sis. Vera), and Sis. Christa Gasser (Bro. Roger and Sis. Sue).

OHIO, LATTY

Amanda Wenninger Carmen Eisenmann

Three souls gave their testimonies and were baptized this month. Bro. Harlan Riggensbach (Sis. Dolores) was baptized on the evening of April 29. How encouraging to hear that God continues to call souls in the twilight years of life. The weekend of May 2-3 was the weekend for the baptisms of Sis. Holly Stoller (Bro. Todd and Sis. Pam) and Bro. Jordan Miller (Bro. Roger and Sis. Kay). Elder Bro. John Jackson (Sis. Peggy, Bay City, MI) was here to assist our Bro. John and spend the weekend with us. May God reward him for his efforts.

The engagement of Sis. Esther Stoller (Bro. Craig and Sis. Ruth) to Bro. Todd Saurer of Columbus was made known recently. They are anticipating an August 9 wedding date. God be with them as they make their plans for their wedding and their subsequent life together.

Sis. Mildred Stoller was a hospital patient this month. It is good to see her back in church, and may God continue to be with her.

It is wonderful to share good news with the world! Aaron Nuest (Bro. Lee and Sis. Paula) has begun his repentance. God grant him grace as he begins

his walk with the Lord.

OHIO, MANSFIELD **Esther Baumann**

"Wisdom is the principal thing;
therefore get wisdom: and with all thy
getting get understanding."

Proverbs 4:7

Congratulations to our recent high school graduates: Bro. Jesse Boliantz (Bro. Doug and Sis. Connie), Amanda Gabor (Scott and Lori), Sis. Rachel Gerber (Bro. Tim and Sis. Wendy), Nathan Masters (Elder Bro. Mark and Sis. Jeannine), Abraham Sauder (Mark and Diane), Courtney Sauder (Greg and Sis. Missy), and Matt Sauder (Randy and Pam). We pray they will rely on Godly wisdom to guide their decisions in life.

We were excited to hear of the engagement of Elijah Foss (Rick and Sis. Susan) to Becky Stubbs (Cathie). We pray for them as they plan for their life together.

Bro. Harry Bocka passed out of this life to his eternal reward on May 6. He is survived by three children: Annette (Ray) Goines, Paula Them, and Fred. Our sympathy and prayers are extended to the family.

Continue to pray for Sis. Lucy (Bro. David) Baumann as she was recently hospitalized.

OHIO, RITTMAN **Heidi Rufener** **Laurie Beery**

Bro. Ryan and Sis. Laura Riggenbach welcomed Oliver Irwin into their family on April 22. Big brothers are Owen and Wyatt. Grandparents of Oliver are Bro. Don and Sis. Gail Riggenbach (Smithville, OH) and Bro. Rich and Sis. Pat Steiner. We are thankful for the safe arrival of Sawyer Timothy born to Bro. Tim and Sis. Crystal Zollinger (Smithville, OH) on April 24. Big sister, Ashlie, will enjoy having a playmate. Grandparents of Sawyer are Bro. Ken and Sis. Becky Zollinger

(Smithville, OH) and Bro. Bob and Sis. Lorie Riggenbach. First-time parents, Bro. Aaron and Sis. Becky Bauman (Smithville, OH) welcomed Lauren Elise into their lives on May 2. Grandparents are Sis. Diane Raifsnider (late Doug) and Bro. Vic and Sis. Brenda Bauman (Smithville, OH). On April 30, Bro. Ethan, Sis. Trudie and Haylan Schar welcomed Ayla Melvene into their family. Bro. Rowen and Sis. Judy Schar and Bro. Tom and Sis. Diane Hartzler are Ayla's grandparents. Twin girls, Annie Mae and Gracie Lynn, were born to Bro. Ben and Sis. Joanne Henico (Akron, OH) on May 7. Siblings of Annie and Gracie are Simon and Lilly. Grandparents are Bro. Greg and Sis. Sarah Henico (Akron, OH) and Bro. Alph and Sis. Denise Maibach. Emmett Luke was born to Bro. Luke and Sis. Pam Steiner on May 12. Emmett's brothers are Aidan and Evan. Grandparents of Emmett are Bro. Matt and Sis. Gail Steiner and Bro. Dave and Sis. Connie Maletich (Smithville, OH). A little girl, Alexa Violet, was born to Bro. Steve and Sis. Tiffany Wieland (Detroit, MI) on May 13. Grandparents are Bro. Fred and Sis. Mary Gasser and Bro. Rod and Sis. Evelyn Wieland (Bay City, MI).

Thoughts and prayers have been with Bro. Orin Rufener (Sis. Anna), Sis. Ruth Hilty, Sis. Eldora Steiner, Bro. Kevin Rufener (Sis. Marsha), Sis. Rowene Howell, Sis. Eleanor Ramsier and Jeffrey Gerber (Bro. Tom and Sis. Laura) who have spent time in the hospital recently.

The engagement of Bro. Ben Stoller and Sis. Cymbal Riggenbach was recently made known. Their parents are Bro. Rob and Sis. Joanne Stoller and Bro. Bob and Sis. Lorie Riggenbach. Bro. Andrew Raifsnider and Sis. Esther Rupp were united in marriage on April 26. Their parents are Sis. Diane Raifsnider (late Doug) and Bro. Jim and Sis. Sharon Rupp. On May 10, Bro. Aaron Steiner and Sis. Holly Stoller (Smithville, OH) were united as one. Bro. Matt and Sis. Gail Steiner and Bro. Ed and Sis. Verla Stoller (Smithville, OH) are their parents. The wedding of

Amanda Murray (Gary and Sis. Susan) and Brad Gasser (Bro. Roger and Sis. Sue, Junction, OH) was witnessed on May 9. Steve Widmer and Lisa Ashe were united in marriage on April 18. Their parents are Bro. Darrell and Sis. Alice Widmer and Kevin and Diane Slabach.

We recently were privileged to partake in Holy Communion. We are thankful that Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN) was able to share in this special evening with us. Also, Bro. Bill Brake (Sardis, OH) recently ministered to us.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to those who have recently said good-bye to their loved ones. The father of Sis. Karen Ramsier (Bro. Steve), William Baisden, passed away on April 26. Sis. Erma Ingold passed away on April 28. Her children are Marie Webster (AJ), Bro. Art (Sis. Bonnie), Marilyn Jacquet (Dale) and John. On May 11, Dale Steiner (Beth) took his last breath. His parents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Betty Steiner. Dale's children are Brandy, Josh and Rachel. His siblings are Sis. Diane Raifsnider (late Doug), Dane (Denise), Sis. Debbie Jenkins (Bro. Tom) and Sis. Darlene Acker (Bro. Brian).

Several from our congregation will be graduating from High School soon: Minnie Baltic, Brooke Bauman, Tricia Bauman, Austin Beery, Maria Beery, Janette Calame, Carrie Clark, Daniel Gasser, Kirk Gasser, Nathan Gasser, Amy Gerber, Megan Hanzie, Molly Hanzie, Douglas Haynes, Anne Klotzle, Scott Lanz, Carla Pope, Sis. Charity Riggenbach, Kristina Rufener, Troy Rufener, Rachel Stoller, Rebecca Tieche, Polly Widmer, Katie Winkler and Eric Zollinger.

OHIO, SARDIS **Faith Beard**

Be it so, be it so.

Do you feel His blessed tread
Drawing near to our assembly,
Heav'nly gifts for us to spread,

Living bread and drink to render?
Streams of blessing from His hand
partake,
Come and take, come and take.
Zion's Harp #24, vs. 4

We were privileged to partake in Holy Communion as served by our Elder and Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Sis. Judy, Chicago, IL). We also appreciate Bro. Dale's willingness to serve us from the pulpit that Sunday.

Our high school graduate this year is Kurt Indermuhle (Bro. Allen and Sis. Janet). We wish him God's blessings and direction as he completes this chapter in his life and plans to continue his education.

As Memorial Day is upon us and Independence Day is fast approaching, we remember those who died for their country to give us the religious freedoms we so often take for granted. We must remember to pray for those who are this day being physically persecuted for their faith in Jesus Christ.

"If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed."

St. John 8:36

OHIO, SMITHVILLE

**Ruth Gasser
Edith Miller**

Lest I forget Gethsemane
Lest I forget Thine agony
Lest I forget Thy love for me
Lead me to Calvary.

Hymns of Zion #182

On a recent Saturday evening, our congregation was reminded of Calvary and the price that was paid so that we might have a hope of life eternal in heaven. We appreciate the efforts of our Elder brothers in serving us as we partook of Holy Communion. Assisting our Elder Bro. Andy Stoller for this occasion was Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH) and Elder Bro. Merle Hartzler (Rittman, OH).

We witnessed two weddings during the past month. On April 19, Bro. Jarin

Tucker (Jay and Julie, Bluffton, IN) and Sis. Julie Widmer (Bro. Jim and Sis. Karen) were joined together as one. Visiting ministers who were present for this occasion were Elder Bro. John Laukhuf (Latty, OH), Elder Bro. Lynn Fiechter (Bluffton, IN) and Bro. Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH). On May 10, Bro. Aaron Steiner (Bro. Matthew and Sis. Gail, Rittman, OH) took Sis. Holly Stoller (Bro. Ed and Sis. Verla) to be his wife. Ministers who visited on this day were Elder Bro. Merle Hartzler (Rittman, OH), Bro. Jerry Bauman (Rittman, OH), and Bro. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI). For both couples, we wish God's blessings, and trust that God will be in the center of their marriages.

The Lord continues to bring souls together, as another engagement has been announced to us recently. Bro. Todd Saurer (Columbus, OH) has felt led to ask for Sis. Esther Stoller (Toledo, OH) to become his wife. Parents of this couple are Bro. Roger and Sis. Sue Saurer (Smithville) and Bro. Craig and Sis. Ruth Stoller (Latty, OH). May they look to the Lord for further guidance and direction as they plan their wedding and marriage.

We have quite a few new babies to report this month. Grandparents, Bro. Don and Sis. Gail Riggenbach, welcomed a new little grandson on April 22. Parents of Oliver Irwin Riggenbach are Bro. Ryan and Sis. Laura (Rittman, OH). Oliver's brothers are Owen and Wyatt. On April 24, Bro. Tim and Sis. Crystal Zollinger welcomed their new son, Sawyer Timothy. Sawyer's big sister is Ashlie, and his grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Lorie Riggenbach (Rittman, OH) and Bro. Ken and Sis. Becky Zollinger. On April 27, Hannah Lynn Maibach was born to parents, Brad and Trisha Maibach. Hannah is welcomed by siblings, Skylar, Holleigh, and Seth, as well as grandparents, Bro. Rudy and Sis. Barbara Maibach. On May 2, Bro. Aaron and Sis. Rebecca Bauman became first-time parents to Lauren Elise. Also rejoicing in her birth are grandparents, Sis. Diana Raifsnider (Rittman, OH) and Bro. Vic and Sis.

Brenda Bauman. Baby Lauren arrived earlier than expected and needed to stay in the hospital for a few extra days, but thankfully she is home now and doing well. On May 4, Bro. Cody and Sis. Kara Stoller were thankful for the birth of their newest daughter, Taryn Lane. Hayden, Ava and Jule are excited for a new baby sister. Grandparents of Taryn are Bro. Vic and Sis. Brenda Bauman and Sis. Irma Stoller (Latty, OH). On May 12, Bro. Dave and Sis. Connie Maletich received a new grandson born to parents, Bro. Luke and Sis. Pam Steiner (Rittman, OH). Emmet Luke is also welcomed by his two brothers, Aiden and Evan. We extend our best wishes and God's blessings to all of these homes, and trust each of the parents will daily seek the Lord's direction in bringing up their children in the fear of the Lord.

Sis. Luella Stoller has needed to be hospitalized for a short time. We're thankful she is assembling with us again and wish her the blessing of good health.

Our high school graduates this year are Peter Fetzer (Bro. Andy and Sis. Elizabeth), Todd Gasser (Bro. Ken and Sis. Sue-Ellen Maibach and the late Bro. Greg Gasser), Jasalyn Hartzler (Bro. Bill and Sis. Pam), Bethany Indermuhle (Bro. Brian and Sis. Beverly), Erin Maibach (Bro. Jay and Sis. Marsha), Emily Maibach (Bro. Rudy and Sis. Barbara), Morgan Pertee (Bro. Dave and Shelly Colvin), Sis. Josie Rufener (Bro. John and Sis. Janice), Bro. Doyle Stoller (Bro. Scott and Sis. Charlene) and Sis. Roseanna Stoller (Bro. Dan and Sis. Kim). Our prayer for each of these young people would be that they would look to the Lord for direction in all the decisions that they will be making.

"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 3:6-7

OHIO, TOLEDO **Teresa Rywalski** **Rebecca Beard**

Winter has passed and Spring is upon us! How beautiful the green grass and flowers are! Everywhere we look we can see the handiwork of God.

Our graduates this year are John and Doug Harmon (Bro. Doug and Sis. Lanna) from high school. College graduates are Linda Harmon (Bro. Doug and Sis. Lanna) and Sis. Alissa Maibach (Bro. Jay and Sis. Marsha, Smithville, OH). We pray that these young people will look to God for direction in their future.

May God grant His blessings on Lance Harris (Sharon) and Ashley Lancaster as they were married on May 9.

OREGON, PORTLAND **Renee Angstrom**

Sharing the Word this month from Silverton was Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Betty), Bro. John Wiegand (Sis. Jane) and Bro. Christopher Kuenzi (Sis. Mary). We appreciate their support and bringing forth the Word.

Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to Bro. Ron and Sis. Liz Jones on the passing of his mother, Sis. Sherrill Jones (Morton, IL). May the Lord comfort their family.

OREGON, SILVERTON **Cindy Metzger**

We are thankful that both Sis. Marie Jensen (Bro. Paul) and Sis. Karen Walter (Bro. Chuck) are home from the hospital and are doing well.

We always appreciate visiting ministers that join us from time to time. This month we want to thank Bro. Dale Wulf (Sis. Becky, Lester, IA), Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy) and Ron Jones (Sis. Liz) of Portland, OR.

PENNSYLVANIA **PHILADELPHIA**

We had a blessed Communion weekend recently with several visitors in-

cluding Elder Bro. Dave and Sis. Barb Graf (Akron, OH). We are thankful for the spiritual uplift and for Bro. Dave's support as he assisted Bro. Ben in serving Communion.

On another weekend, we enjoyed a visit from ministering Bro. Tom and Sis. Luanne Troxel (LaCrosse, IN). Also, Bro. Tom and Sis. Lanae Bahler (Rockville, CT) spent a weekend with us recently. Thanks to both Brothers for sharing the light of the Word from our pulpit.

Our dear friend, Abby Lanz, is graduating from high school this month. Abby, may God be your guide with each step you take into the future.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE **Mike and Monica Fritz**

This month marked the high school graduation of our son, Obed Fritz. We pray that he will seek the Lord's direction in his life.

We have been greatly blessed in our walk of faith by the Word of God as shared with us by our visiting ministering brothers. Our recent visitors have included Bros. Jim Vierling (Sis. Linda; Eureka, IL), Virgil Kaeb (Sis. Suellen; Sarasota, FL), Mark Wettstein (Sis. Karen; LaCrosse, IN), and Earl Beery (Sis. Susie; Rittman, OH). We also have been encouraged by the fellowship of brethren and friends visiting from Sarasota, FL; Eureka, Goodfield, and Gridley, IL; LaCrosse, IN; and Junction and Rittman, OH.

If you are traveling in or through the Nashville area, please plan to worship with us. The following churches are scheduled for services in the near future: Roanoke, IL (6/21); Alto, MI (6/28); Francesville, IN (7/5); Champaign, IL (7/12); Sardis, OH (7/19); and Peoria, IL (7/26). If you are planning to worship with us, please call ahead to confirm our schedule. Often we gather on Saturday evenings for fellowship, and all are heartily welcome. We also usually meet on Wednesday evenings for a song service at 7:15 p.m. and would welcome any midweek visitors. Con-

tacts are Bro. Don and Sis. Faye Sauder, (615) 373-8928; Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica Fritz, (615) 866-5543; and Sis. Gwen Leuthold, (615) 356-5755.

TEXAS, AUSTIN **Amy Ringger** **Serenity Ringger**

"He shall come down like rain upon the mown grass: as showers that water the earth. In his days shall the righteous flourish; and abundance of peace so long as the moon endureth."

Psalms 72:6-7

After a year-long drought in our area, we've wondered at the greening up after recent rains. The multi-colored wildflowers are beautiful against the bright green grass in the background; it's never tiresome to look at. It seems other people think the same as I do. I overheard a newcomer ask an old-timer, "So, how long does it stay green around here?" The old-timer grinned and replied, "Well, as long as it keeps raining."

A principle of life on earth: Cause and Effect. A perfect reminder for us that we will have the blessing of God as long we obey His Word, and we will have the beauty of holiness in our lives if we strive to please the Father.

At milestones in their lives, Tucker Huber (Bro. Eric and Sis. Marcel) and Sis. Jasmine Ringger (Bro. Dale and Sis. Amy) both graduate from high school. Vickie Manz, a convert, who worked here for a scheduled three months, has moved back to Junction, Ohio. To each one, we extend a prayerful wish that they would strive to please God in their lives, with Jesus as their example and teacher. John 8:29 "And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him."

Thanks to our visiting ministers: Bros. Marvin Leman (Sis. Jane, Bradford), Duane Metzger (Sis. Ruth, West Bend), Bob Dotterer (Sis. Laura, Sardis), Scott Schafer (Sis. Gigi, South Bend), and Elder Bro. Ted Steffen (Sis. Sandy, Alto). Other visitors were from

Fairbury, Lamar, Sabetha, Smithville, Latty, and Akron.

The following is the minister schedule for August: (2) Elgin, IL, (9) Wolcott, (16) Philadelphia, (23) Francesville, and (30) Champaign. We extend a warm welcome to anyone who may be in the area to worship with us, on Sundays or mid-week. Please call ahead to help us plan for serving lunch. Also, because visitors add much to our local fellowship times, it helps if we know about your visit well in advance, perhaps even a month or more if possible, so that we can accommodate you more readily in our weekend gatherings. In addition to the contacts in the minister book, you may contact our local minister, Bro. Dennis and Sis. Diane Rassi at 309-275-7775.

Directions to our church are these: from the intersection of Hwy 71 and 21 on the west side of Bastrop, go east on Hwy 71 about 1/2 mile and take the first exit (by the Ford dealership), proceed on the eastbound frontage road about 4/10 mile. The church is on the right. It is located about 18 miles east of the Austin airport. The address is 1025 W. Highway 71, Bastrop, TX 78602. It is a one-story building with a limestone façade, and the church sign in the front. Quite a few people have tried using the GPS system to find the church; but they found out that GPS took them to the east side of town, rather than west. We advise following the directions herein instead of GPS.

In the church, there are two furnished bedrooms for the ministers to use when coming for services. When you contact someone about coming for services, please let them know if you would like to use the bedrooms during the time you are here.

TEXAS, McALLEN **Joyce Nohl**

With friends on earth
we meet in gladness,
While swift the moments fly,
Yet ever comes the tho't of sadness,
That we must say, "Goodbye".

We'll never say goodbye in heav'n,
We'll never say goodbye,
For in that land of joy and song,
We'll never say goodbye.

Hymns of Zion #122

It was the time of year to say "good-bye" to the last of our dear brothers and sisters in faith who traveled back north to their home and families. Each time it is with sadness that we bid them farewell and wish them God's traveling mercies. It was with great sorrow then that a couple weeks later we received a call that Sis. Sandra Kipfer (Bro. Aaron) had gone to her eternal home. She will certainly be missed as they have been coming to the valley for around fourteen years. Our sympathy goes out to Bro. Aaron and his family.

Our visiting ministers for the past two months were Bros. Dale Zeltwanger (Sis. Rachel, Morris, MN), Jerry Meeks (Sis. Christy, Sabetha, KS), Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata, TX) and Ed Sauder (Sis. Bonnie, Roanoke, IL).

We thank each of them for their time and effort to come and serve us. May God richly bless them.

The following churches are scheduled for services: (July 5 - Gridley, IL), (July 19 - Junction, OH), (August 2 - Bluffton North, IN), (August 23 - Goodfield, IL).

Our address is: Holiday Inn Express, 1921 South 10th Street. Turn 1 1/2 blocks off the Expressway on 10th Street. Services will be held at 10:30 and 12:30. Please see ministers' directory for local contact information.

VERMONT **NORTH CLAREN-** **DON/NORWICH**

Nathan and Miriam Reutter

This past month we had the following ministers come to serve us. They were Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Sis. Cheryl), Bro. Duane Reutter (Sis. Kay), Bro. Tom Bahler (Sis. LaNae), and Bro. Dan Stoller (Sis. Diane), all from Rockville, CT. We thank these dear

Brothers and their wives who countless times come to serve the small flock here in Vermont. It was a blessing to have others come to visit as well. We enjoyed Christian fellowship with other believers that were in the area.

Now that the beautiful spring and summer is upon us, we hope you will be able to come and enjoy God's beauty and establish new friendships with the Vermont brethren and friends. If you are interested in fellowshiping with us here in Vermont, and would like information about service locations and dates, please contact Bro. Chad and Sis. Jenny Virkler (802-293-2724). We love to fellowship with believers whether it is during the week or on the weekend. Please let us know if you are planning on being in our area so we can accommodate you. Service times are as follows:

Mid-week services

(Contact local brethren)

Sunday Morning Service

10:10 AM

Sunday Afternoon Service

12:15 PM

Sunday school is held during the morning service.

If anyone is interested in purchasing beautiful head-coverings hand-made from our dear Sisters in Ixtlan, Michoacan, Mexico, please contact Sis. Areli Reutter at Home: 802-862-0830 or Cell: 860-878-9346 or by email at areutter@hotmail.com. Inventory is available upon request. This is a wonderful opportunity to support those of the household of faith (Galatians 6:10).



The Church and The World - Author Unknown

The church and the world walked far apart
On the changing shore of time,
The world was singing a giddy song
And the church a hymn sublime.

"Come, give me your hand," said the
merry world

"And walk with me on the way;"
But the good church hid her snowy hand.
And solemnly answered, "Nay."

"I will not give thee my hand at all,
And I will not walk with you.
Your way is the way of eternal death,
And your words are all untrue."

"Nay, walk with me a little space,"
Said the world with a kindly air.
"The road I walk is a pleasant road,
And the sun shines always there."

"Your way is narrow, and thorny, and
rough,
While mine is flowery and smooth;
Your lot is sad with reproach and toil,
But in rounds of Joy I move.
My way, you can see, is a broad, fair one,
And my gate is high and wide,
There is room enough for you and me,
And we'll travel side by side."

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

The church looked down at her plain white
robes
And then at the dazzling world.
And blushed as she saw his handsome lip
With a smile contemptuous curled.
"I will change my dress for a costlier one,"
Said the church with a smile of grace;
Then her pure white garment drifted away,
And the world gave in their place.

Beautiful satins, and fashionable silks,
And roses and gems and pearls;
And over her forehead her bright hair fell
Waved in a thousand curls.
"Your house is too plain," Said the proud
old world,
"Let me build you one like mine,
With kitchen for feasting and parlor for
play,
And furniture ever so fine,"

So he built her a costly and beautiful house
Splendid it was to behold;
Her sons and her daughters met frequently
there,
Shining in purple and gold.
And fair and festival-frolics untold,

Were held in the place of prayer;
And maidens bewitching as sirens of old,
With world winning graces rare.

Bedecked with fair jewels, and hair all curls,
Untrammelled by Gospel or laws,
To beguile and amuse, and win from the
world
Some help for the righteous cause.
The Angel of Mercy rebuked the church,
And whispered, "I know thy sin."
Then the church looked sad and anxiously
longed
To gather her children in.

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

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

"They talk of Judgment and fire and pain,
And the doom of endless night;
They warn of a place that should not be
Thus spoken to ears polite!
I will send you some of a better stamp,
More brilliant and gay and fast,
Who will show how men may live as they
list
And go to Heaven at last.

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

Then Mammon came in and supported the
church
And rented a prominent pew;
And preaching and singing and floral dis-
play
Soon proclaimed a Gospel New.
"You gave too much to the poor," said the
world,
"Far more than you ought to do;
Though the poor need shelter, food and
clothes,
Why should it thus trouble you?"

"Go take your money and buy rich robes
And horses and carriages fine,
And pearls and jewels, and dainty foods
The rarest and costliest wine.
My children, they dote on all such things,
And if you their love would win
You must do as they do and walk in the
way,
The flowery way they're in."

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

And they of the church and they of the
world
Journeyed closely hand and heart,
And none but the Master who knoweth all,
Could discern the two apart.
Then the church sat down at her ease and
said,
"I am rich and in goods increased;
I have need of nothing and naught to do,
But to laugh and dance and feast."

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

Then the angel drew near the mercy seat
And whispered in sighs her name,
And the saints their anthems of rapture
hushed,
And covered their heads with shame.
A voice came down from the hush of heaven
From Him that sits on the throne,
I know thy works, and what thou hast said,
But, alas! thou hast not known.

That thou art poor and naked and blind,
With pride and ruin enthralled;
The expected bride of the Heavenly groan
Is the harlot of the world!
Thou hast ceased to watch for that blessed
hope,
Hast fallen from zeal and grace
So, now, alas! I must cast thee out,
And blot thy name from its place.



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Dealing With Change - Part I

We often hear in the world today that the only constant in our lives is change. As we consider the global economic crisis and governmental transitions, it does appear that more things are changing than staying the same. However, we read in Scripture, *Malachi 3:6 "For I am the Lord, I change not."* And, in *Hebrews 1:12 "And as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed: but Thou art the same, and Thy years shall not fail."* It is evident that God changes not and neither does His Word.

There are several ways to categorize change but for our purposes let's explore five distinct types: simple change, relearning, necessary change, changing beliefs, and imposed change. The last type of change has two parts; change imposed by man and change imposed by God.

Simple or straightforward change might be something as simple as changing our clothes, getting a new car, remodeling a room, or changing how we wear our hair. Although we can experience some stress with these changes according to our finances and disagreement in personal tastes, generally we take these in stride on a daily basis. *Genesis 41:14 "Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph, and they brought him hastily out of the dungeon: and he shaved himself, and changed his raiment, and came in unto Pharaoh."*

Relearning or changing behavior is more difficult and may involve something as simple as a different job execution method at the workplace or as complex as modifying our behavior to improve our relationship with others. Breaking a bad habit also requires relearning. This type of change often takes time and discipline because it can require a change of attitude and perspective. *Proverbs 1:5 "A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:"*

The next category, necessary change, can be linked to changing behavior but is more associated with a change of heart or intent. It occurs at a deeper level and therefore is more difficult to effect. Trying to break a bad

habit may be something we know we should do but can't quite see how to accomplish it. Working through various relational and personality conflicts often requires us to change our approach and thinking. We first must accept the necessity of change before we can actively make steps toward a goal. As believers, we rely on the grace of God to help us. After God showed him his error, one Old Testament king had a dramatic change of heart and behavior; *Daniel 3:28 "Then Nebuchadnezzar spake, and said, Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who hath sent his angel, and delivered his servants that trusted in him, and have changed the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they might not serve nor worship any god, except their own God."*

Changes that challenge our belief system are often extremely difficult to deal with. Being expected to change our point of view or adopting a way of seeing the world that is at odds with the way we are used to seeing it can be very unsettling and may shake our security, causing us to doubt even our deepest held beliefs. Thankfully we find in Scripture, *2 Timothy 2:19 "Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity."*

So we can be assured that God and His Word never change regardless of the sweeping changes that are taking place in the world today that are contrary to biblical principles but yet in fulfillment of Bible prophecy. *Habbakuk 1:11 "Then shall his mind change, and he shall pass over, and offend, imputing this his power unto his god."* However, not all such change in beliefs are bad as we consider the repentant sinner who sees his/her lost condition and is transformed to think differently and see things in a way that could scarcely have been previously imagined. *Romans 12:2 "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."*

Even after conversion we are occasionally confronted with a situation that causes us to revalue why we think

the way we do and our belief system may be challenged toward a good result. The Apostle Peter was required to re-examine his beliefs and it wasn't easy for him to accept the change even after God showed him clearly. We see here that he even argued with God. *Acts 10:14 "But Peter said, Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten any thing that is common or unclean. And the voice spake unto him again the second time, What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common."*

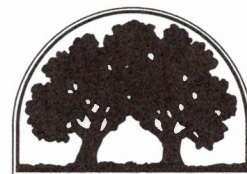
The final category is those changes over which we have no control. As a result, they most likely cause the most stress as we attempt to work through them. Some of them are imposed by man such as losing a job, health issues from bad habits, or a failed relationship. Others are considered acts of God like death, disease, and natural disasters. When we are confronted with such transitions in life we can easily question "why?" and we experience a desperate need and desire to put things back the way they were. *Daniel 2:21 "And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding."*

There are five basic steps that lead to acceptance of such life changing transitions. They are often referred to in grief counseling but certainly are applicable in many ways. The steps are; denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance. Every individual handles the stresses of change differently but these five emotional steps towards acceptance will be identifiable in nearly every situation. It is difficult even for a believer to simply accept in faith these changes that so completely affect our lives. We are comforted to know that God is the ultimate Provider and will not forsake those who trust in Him. *Lamentations 3:31-33 "For the Lord will not cast off for ever: But though he cause grief, yet will he have compassion according to the multitude of his mercies. For he doth not afflict willingly nor grieve the children of men."*

In a future article we want to explore in more depth the various changes we are confronted with in life and how our perspective and attitude contribute greatly towards how we deal with them.

Child Placement Manager Opening

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*...This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of me, saith the Lord.
Isaiah 54:17*

Sermon continued from page 2

way of God's Spirit. Often we don't humble ourselves the way that we should. Perhaps we resist God's Spirit. Just like these chief priests and Pharisees and scribes. They resisted Christ. They put up their hands, concerned about themselves. Sometimes we can do that. God forbid that that is a normal procedure in our life. Because that is getting back to an old nature. A nature of pride. When we are proud, God can't work with us.

So we appreciate these messages to us. Because God can speak to us and He knows how our heart is. If it is like Mary, tender. Just ready to receive the message. Ready for help, ready for advice. Or if we can become a little bit hardened.

We know there are many friends and we had that one time in our lives - long ago for some of us and for some of us sitting amongst us tonight, perhaps just a few weeks or months - where we had that hardness. Where we resisted our parents. Where we resisted what the Sunday School teacher said. Where we resisted the still, small voice.

We are so thankful, just as Jesus here had mercy to Lazarus, He raised Him up, He is still that way today. The same Jesus. May we take courage in that. May we be so thankful that His Word is still alive and He still loves us. He can still perform a miracle in our lives.

You know, loved ones, most of us here tonight, we were dead weren't we? Not physically. We weren't in the grave. But we were spiritually dead. But thanks be unto God, we could be reborn. We could have a rebirth in a miraculous way. We know today, even though it is not impossible, not out of Jesus' realm, there are not many miracles where somebody is dead for four days and then they are raised again.

But Jesus had a purpose at that time to promote His message. To try to get people stirred up, He performed these miracles. Even the apostles, even Peter and Paul, they performed miracles. Wonderful miracles! But today it is more faith. Faith that God is real. That Jesus is the Savior. The Word of God is still alive. We just need to trust Him. Just have a simple faith.

We can see in verse 35, a verse that we should just cling to, "Jesus wept." I

think this is the shortest verse in the Bible. Two words. But it just tells us a little bit about the personality of Jesus Christ. It says that He was in all ways, tempted as we were, yet without sin (Hebrews 4:15). So He had feelings. Feelings of love.

He could get angry, couldn't He? But He really never got angry at the lost soul, did He? The only people that I can find that Jesus actually got angry at were what we would call 'the fakes'. The Pharisees. The people that were clean on the outside but inside they were fake! They were leading people the wrong way. He could become angry at that, couldn't He? He could make a whip and drive them out of the temple (St. John 2:15). Because He hated to see His house profaned. Just as He dislikes that today.

But there is a side of love and compassion. Even as we go through difficulty in our lives, and sometimes we weep, and we cry out to God, God sees those tears. He can wipe them away. Because He loves us. He loves you individually. He loves me individually. No matter what comes, no matter what the devil tells us, let's just keep that faith, that Jesus does care about you. He cares about me. We're thankful for the Word of God. For the miraculous healing of Lazarus. We can read that story today. Our children can read it in Sunday School. They can be encouraged. Someday, loved ones, we will have the opportunity to meet Jesus and maybe Martha and Mary and Lazarus. We don't know how that will be but it is an interesting thought, isn't it? To see some of those we read about, someday. So let's keep on keeping on and let's keep the faith that God has given to us.

II Timothy 2 is words of the Apostle Paul, an outstanding witness for Jesus Christ. One whose life, at one time, was in disarray. Who God called. He struck him down and he completely changed (Acts 9:3,4). Loved ones, there are probably very few of us here tonight, that had a calling like that, where God struck us down on the road. But we all were called. He wants the same thing. He wants a new nature. We call it being born again.

In St. John chapter 3, when Nicodemus went to Jesus at night, a ruler of the council, the Sanhedrin, the

same one that Caiaphas that we read about was part of, he was troubled and perhaps embarrassed to go in the day. So he went at night. Just as many of us went to the Elder at night to make a beginning. He sought direction and Jesus told him, except a man be born again of water and Spirit, he cannot, cannot see the kingdom of God (v.5). Aren't you thankful, loved ones, that that message is still proclaimed today! Hopefully from all the churches across the land.

But loved ones, I had someone tell me today, that was not the case in the church that she went to. She didn't hear that word 'born again'. She even went to her pastor because she knew a little about that years ago and she said that. The answer was, you need to be a good person. Loved ones, our good works, if we even could do them, there is nothing that we can do good enough that can get us into heaven.

When we are born again we are supposed to have good works, aren't we? We are supposed to have love and joy and peace and the fruit of the Spirit radiating from our lives. That's expected. That's desired. We know on our own, we can't do it. So let's just be thankful that that message is still proclaimed from the pulpits of this church; of repentance, of conversion. Or we can put those together and call them a born again experience. Even if our children or the Sunday School students get tired of hearing it, it's the truth. Unchanging. May we never get tired of the pure, simple gospel message.

This man, the Apostle Paul, as he was writing this to Timothy, he was in bonds. He was in prison at that time, in Rome. History would say it is the second time he was in prison for his faith, by an evil man, a ruler called Nero. At that time, Rome had a huge fire. Perhaps even burnt by himself. History would tell us he had a desire to rebuild part of Rome so he just burned down a big section to do it. But there were those that came to him, the leader and said, there are people who think you did this. So he took this as an opportunity to blame the believers and persecute them. The Apostle Paul was thrown back in prison. He knew his time was at hand. This book of II Timothy is written very shortly before his

death.

Here the Apostle Paul could say that he could encourage the church. He could encourage Timothy at Ephesus, to be faithful. To be a good teacher. He said, "And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also." II Timothy 2:2. Not all of us will have the responsibility, although very unworthy, to stand on a pulpit. You also, loved ones, have the opportunity, the privilege and the responsibility to preach. It could be mothers, right in your home, to your children. Grandmas, to your grandchildren. To you fathers, to your children. Grandfathers, to your grandchildren. You that have the privilege to stand before Sunday School classes, our sisters and brothers, this Word is committed to you. The Apostle Paul said, you need to be faithful. That is a charge to the church, to all of us, to be faithful.

"Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ." v.3. We are not enduring the hardship that the Apostle Paul was at this time. I assure you, loved ones, the prisons that he found himself in, they were not like the ones we have today.

This past fall, the Wayne County Justice Center had an open house. It was a Sunday afternoon after church, there were other brethren there, we had the opportunity to go and view that. You could see where they housed prisoners. They opened one floor of the jail. They put all the prisoners on the next floor and you could go in and out of the cells. You could see where they spent their time during the day. They had video there that you could watch the prisoners. There was one man who evidently misbehaved. They had him in a strait jacket in a little room all by himself. But there was light. There was air conditioning. There were blankets and there was food.

The Apostle Paul didn't have that. So when he talks about hardship, he was speaking about something that we have no idea what it is like to be in a dark, dungy prison. Poorly fed. But he kept the faith, loved ones! And he told us we need to do the same.

But there is an evil adversary out there who wants to destroy us. He

wants to destroy the church. No need to talk around that. It's the truth. But he knew that. He could say, after my departing, grievous wolves are going to enter the flock and try to tear down what he tried to build, based on the inspiration of God (Acts 20:29). And still today. So when our shepherds get together, three days of perhaps some very, very difficult issues because of the enemy working, trying to tear down what we need to hold up, may we take heed that we are not responsible for bad leaven. May we be really honest with ourselves. Are we keeping the faith? Are we enduring hardship as we should? I trust we all are. If not, even as we spoke earlier, that we would not resist the Holy Spirit if there is some area we need to be improving on. May God help all of us, each one of us.

"Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things." II Timothy 2:7. May He help us to apply, to think about the simple teachings.

It says at the end here, "*It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him: If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us:*" v. 11-12. I imagine as each one of us reads that verse twelve, it has to give us some godly fear that we would never, ever deny the Word of God. Maybe we will never be taken before a king and be asked to give up our faith. But there will be times in our lives, loved ones, perhaps quick instant circumstances will come up that perhaps we weren't even prepared for, that we'll be given the opportunity to either stand up for Jesus or perhaps we will hang our head and be ashamed. In a sense, deny that Jesus Christ is the Savior.

I have been in those times in my life, loved ones. Where situations came up really quick and unexpected. It could be at a meeting where somebody offers you an alcoholic beverage and you need to stand up for Jesus. I've faced that. It could be our loved ones in school where someone comes up to you and says, what's that thing on your head? You need to give an answer. We never know. It could be loved ones in school and someone asks you why you are praying before you eat. We need to be prepared. We ourselves, we can't do it. But God has given us the Comforter,

His Holy Spirit to go before us to prepare the way.

That's why, loved ones, we need to have an effective prayer in the morning. We need to take time to be holy. It is easy, perhaps, to hit the snooze button and shorten our personal devotions. There is a price to pay for that, loved ones. Also, you probably all have it, it's shame at the end of the day when we get down on our knees and we feel a conviction. We know that we have fallen short. It is not because Jesus hasn't been faithful. It's because we haven't done our part. So we need to be stirred up. We need to have a spiritual mind. We need to have an effective prayer life. We need to read the Bible. We need to be on fire for Jesus Christ.

"If we believe not, *yet* he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself." v.13. Spoke earlier of that man, that father who was so mean to his children. She [his daughter] told me he divorced her mom and he went to the judges, whoever was going to give custody of the children and she said he bribed them. Said some awful things about the mother. He was given the children to raise.

But you know what, loved ones? Everyone can deny Jesus Christ. But He is faithful. He is here. There is going to be a price to pay someday when those lost sinners die. Even though they denied Him, said He didn't exist. He abideth faithful because He is. Jesus said, I am the great I AM. The great God.

So may we take these teachings, the miracle of Lazarus, how he was raised from the dead and apply that to our own lives, that we were raised from the dead, spiritually, many of us. May we pray that there can be many more and that our converts can be fully persuaded and they can be completely born again and the hard hearted can be given the opportunity to come.

Even as the Apostle Paul, he was marched outside the city and a sword chopped off his head. Before he died, he said, I have fought a good fight. I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness which endureth forever (II Timothy 4:7,8). May that be our lot, loved ones. May God bless you and these words into your heart.

Important Notice to Americans Crossing the Canadian Border by Land.

All adults will need just one of the following documents:

1. Regular U.S. Passport
2. U.S. Passport Card
3. **Enhanced** Driver's License
4. any Trusted Traveler Program (*ex Nexus card*)

Beginning **June 1, 2009**, U.S. citizens under the age of 16, or under the age of 19 if travelling with a school, religious, or other youth group, may present a birth certificate, Consular Report of Birth Abroad, or a naturalization certificate. Birth certificates can be original, photocopy, or certified copy.

Anyone interested in receiving a printed sermon, please send info to:

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After entering the web site, click on the item located in the left hand frame entitled, "Light from the Word Reprints". The entire set of editorials are available in a complete download (*June 1987 through June 2009*).

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The Eye Clinic in Ixtlan, Mexico, has been providing eyeglasses and surgical assistance free of charge to the local community for over 10 years now. We are once again in need of donated eye glasses.

Please only send complete pairs of glasses in good condition. We are unable to use loose lenses without their original frame.

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Restoring Oakville - A Labor of Love

A NOTE OF APPRECIATION FROM OAKVILLE

The Oakville, IA church and community wish to express a sincere "Thank You" to all who have helped us this past year. On June 10th, the National World Relief sent out the call for help in fighting the rising waters of the Iowa River in the Oakville area. Many hundreds of you came to help, and even though we made a valiant effort to contain the river, it was not the Lord's will and on June 14th the waters flooded the Oakville bottoms, including the town of Oakville.

As a church and community, we were devastated, but God used this disaster to bring many blessings to us. It was too big for us, so we turned to God and our church family for help and you came. You gave of your time and talents to clean up, repair and restore what had been damaged and lost. We cannot "thank you" enough for your labors of love, your financial support and most of all your prayers. Those of us who directly received your help in restoring our homes and businesses are deeply humbled and grateful for your help and support. Only God knows what sacrifices each of you made in helping us through this difficult time. May He bless each of you in His own way. The Oakville church has been blessed by your fellowship and willingness to come week after week to help us.

The Oakville community has been amazed and overwhelmed knowing you came from all over the country to help people you didn't know and to see the selfless attitude of Christ shown them. They are very appreciative. What a testimony of His love!

May the blessings and peace of God be upon each one of you for being a willing servant in our time of need.

Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.

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

Matthew 5:14-16

Thank You From World Relief USA Committee

For nearly an entire year, volunteers have been responding to the need for help in the area of Oakville, Iowa. From the very first plea for assistance in sandbagging along the Iowa River on June 10th, 2008 through the end of the World Relief Work Project there on May 31st, 2009, willing workers have come to aide in this monumental effort. Prayers, financial gifts and thousands of volunteer hours have been given to help our brethren, friends and our "neighbor" who we really don't even know. We have had the opportunity to be the "Good Samaritan" of the 21st century.

The USA Committee of World Relief began assisting the local efforts on July 7th, 2008. The responsibility of providing accommodations, serving meals and directing volunteers was then transferred from the local brethren to those sent by World Relief to work as project coordinators and cooks.

Without the support of the brotherhood, it would be impossible to accomplish a project of this magnitude. Volunteers have worked in restoring the homes of eleven church families. Approximately thirty-five community homes have received volunteer labor assistance through World Relief. Additionally, the Oakville church fellowship center has been restored with the help of volunteers.

The USA Committee wishes to express our thanks to all who have supported the relief efforts in Oakville. Without your willingness to sacrifice for the sake of those in need, the work could not be accomplished. It is our prayer that God will richly bless each one of you.

Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.
Matt. 25:40

Sincerely,
The USA Committee of World Relief

Anyone interested in supporting the ongoing efforts in Oakville outside of World Relief can contact Sis. Tonya Lanz @ 319-759-7685.

Summer Worship Services in Colorado

In addition to our regular worship schedule in Aurora, if the Lord is willing, we plan to hold services at the following locations:

July 19 - Best Western Alpenglo Lodge - Conference Center

Located downtown Winter Park (78665 U.S. Highway 40)

Office: 888-726-8088 (Toll free) www.wplodging.com

July 26 - Best Western Alpenglo Lodge - Conference Center

Located downtown Winter Park (78665 U.S. Highway 40)

Office: 888-726-8088 (Toll free) www.wplodging.com

August 2 - Ponderosa Conference Center (Fox Run Room)

Located near Colorado Springs at Larkspur

15235 Furrow Road

Larkspur, CO 80118

(719) 481-2482 www.visitponderosa.com

Morning song service will begin at 10:15 A.M.; worship service at 10:30; followed by lunch and afternoon service. Ministering Brothers from the Denver congregation will be responsible for the services, however we welcome and encourage visiting ministers to support this effort if your travel plans bring you out west this summer. The intent of these services is to alleviate *some* of the crowding that we tend to experience during the busy summer travel season. (We don't want all our visitors to avoid Aurora!) We welcome all our visitors and deeply appreciate the fellowship that we share in Christ, whether in Aurora, or at the optional locations. For more information, and to help us plan more effectively, please notify Bro. Tom Leman if you will be attending services on any of these dates. Home telephone: (303) 696-1540 E-mail: lemantom@comcast.net

Apostolic Christian Counseling and Family Services

515 East Highland St,

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Athens Teacher

There is currently a need for a teacher at the preschool in Athens, AL. It is a great opportunity to work and serve in a Christian atmosphere and support a small church. For more information please contact Bro. Mike Moore. (256)777-3390 or

ALM38@aol.com

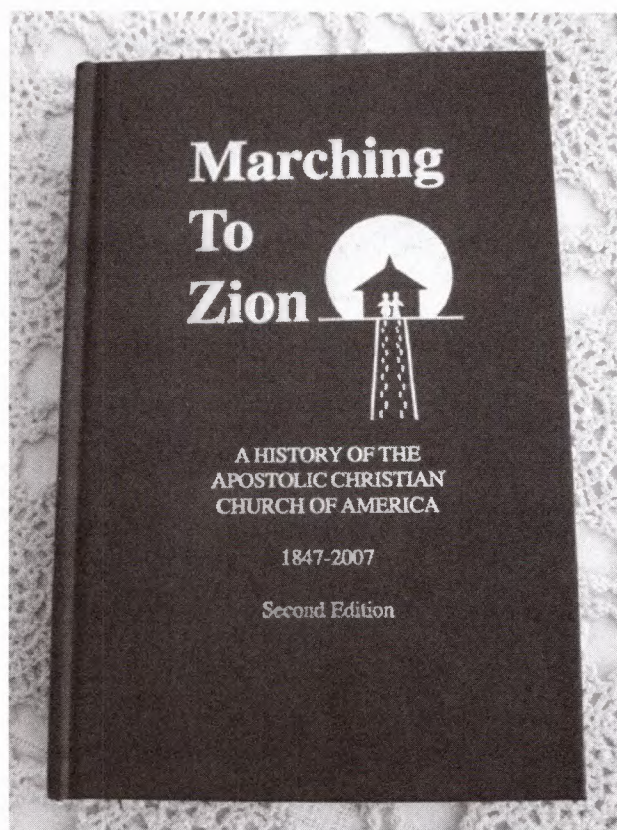


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Marching to Zion

- History of the Apostolic Christian church of America, 1847-2007, Second Edition is now in stock.
- Brings the first edition, which stopped at 1984, up to date through 2007.
- Covers the churches' service entities including World Relief and church homes for the elderly.
- Includes all congregations, past and present, and traces the church's origins in Europe.



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Order blanks available: at each Church, by calling AC Publications, or by emailing jeffg@grimmauto.com or jl74@frontiernet.net

CARIBBEAN BOARD PROJECTS - 2009/2010

All volunteers should contact the project coordinator. Should you not be able to contact the coordinator, for Haiti direct your inquiry to Bro. Rich Bertschi, Ph. 309-467-6110, E-mail lemangm@mtco.com.

HAITI

Data updated from the Apostolic Christian World Relief web site as of June 10th, 2009 -www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-caribbean/

Project	Year 2009	Coordinator	Capacity				
Les Cayes AWA Water Aid	Nov 17-24	Troy Stuber 309-925-2603 troystuber@verizon.net	4	Croix De Bouquets Lifeline Constr/Medical	Feb 9-16	Neil Bahler 815-692-2370 nbahler@gmail.com	12
Les Cayes MEBSH School Roof	Dec 4-11	Ted Habegger 260-694-6765 tjh@citiznet.com	12	Haiti Palm Grove Construction	Feb 12-20	John Aberle 785-459-2423 jraberle@hotmail.com	
Les Cayes FRW Vocational School	Dec 4-11	Rick Wuethrich 219-567-9488 topnotch@home.ffi.com	4	Les Cayes MEBSH School Roof	Feb 22-Mar 1	Randy Kieser 309-695-6340 kieser84@geckocot.com	12
Les Cayes MEBSH Haiti Support	Dec 11-14	Rich Bertschi 309-467-2351 lemangm@mtco.com	Invitation	Les Cayes FRW Vocational School	Mar 3-12	Rick Wuethrich 219-567-9488 topnotch@home.ffi.com	4
Project	Year 2010	Coordinator	Capacity				
Les Cayes MEBSH School Roof	Jan 8-15	Ron Palitto 330-336-5373 Ronp@palittoconsulting.com	12	Les Cayes FRW Simone Orphanage	Mar 12-19	Rick Wuethrich 219-567-9488 topnotch@home.ffi.com	12
Les Cayes AWA Water Aid	Jan 22-29	Troy Stuber 309-925-2603 troystuber@verizon.net	4	Les Cayes MEBSH School Roof	Mar 19-26	Rich Bertschi 309-467-2351 lemangm@mtco.com	12
Haiti Palm Grove Construction	Jan 15-23	John Aberle 785-459-2423 jraberle@hotmail.com	12	Les Cayes MEBSH Haiti Support	Mar 26-29	Rich Bertschi 309-467-2351 lemangm@mtco.com	12
La Higuera - D/R Lifeline Construction	Jan 26-Feb 2	Jim Koehl 309-377-3201 jmkoehl@yahoo.com	12	Les Cayes MEBSH Maintenance	Mar 26-Apr 2	Jon Zeller 309-266-9009 jzeller@mtco.com	12
Les Cayes MEBSH School Roof	Jan 29-Feb 5	Dean Pashak 989-662-7685 dwpashak@charter.net	12	Les Cayes AWA Water Aid	Apr 23-30	Troy Stuber 309-925-2603 troystuber@verizon.net	4
La Romana - D/R Lifeline Construction	Feb 2-9	Ted Steidinger 815-867-6452 tsteid@route24.net	12	Les Cayes MEBSH Medical	May 7-14	Keith Knepp 309-467-4691 kknepp@mchsi.com	8
Les Cayes SEED Agriculture Aid	Feb 5-12	Dale Frank 319-766-3661 dtfrank@louisacomm.net	12	Les Cayes FRW Vocational School	Jun 4-11	Rick Wuethrich 219-567-9488 topnotch@home.ffi.com	4

Haiti and Jamaica Work Team Code Definitions

CCCD= Caribbean Christian Center for the Deaf

MEBSH = Missions of Evangelical Baptists of South Haiti

Palm Grove = Mission of Haiti

S.E.E.D. = An Agricultural School & Extension Service

TBA = To Be Announced

Palm Grove = Mission of Haiti

A.W.A. - B. = Apostolic Water Aid/Bluffton

A.W.A. - FRW = Apostolic Water Aid/Francesville, Remington, Wolcott

A.W.A. - T = Apostolic Water Aid/Tremont

(*) = Changes or additions since last issue

()** = Spring Break Timeframe

JAMAICA

Data updated from the Apostolic Christian World Relief web site as of June 10th, 2009 -www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-caribbean/

Project	Year 2009	Coordinator	Capacity
Jamaica Deaf Village CCCD Goodfield SS	Jun 6 - 13	Andy Bauman arbauman@mchsi.com	40

Jamaica Deaf Village CCCD Akron, Rittman, Smithville SS	Jun 20 - 27	Jay Maibach jmmaibach@embarqmail.com	40
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MEXICO

If anyone is interested in leading a team to Mexico, contact Bro. Mike Fiechter at 260-597-7330 or mfiechter@onlyinternet.net
Data updated from the Apostolic Christian World Relief web site as of June 10th, 2009 -www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-mexico/

Location	Year 2009	Coordinator
Magdalena Construction	Jun 13-20	Brent Knobloch 815-923-4736 bmknob@mc.net
Agua Prieta Construction	Jun 20-27	Brad Leman 260-273-1953 crazyhorsebrad@gmail.com
Magdalena Construction	Jun 20-27	Aaron Klopfenstein Indianapolis Bible Class 317-596-8739 aaronklop@sbcglobal.net

Juarez Medical	Sep 16-23	Cheryl Herrmann cherrmann@verizon.net
Zacatecas, MX Medical	Oct 14-21	Cheryl Herrmann cherrmann@verizon.net
Magdalena Construction	Nov 21-28	Rod Schmidt 303-774-7913 rschmidt@Acosta.com

USA World Relief Committee

For area work or disaster projects, please contact the following USA committee member:

* Bro. Kent Heimer	<i>Counseling Elder</i>	Taylor, MO	Cell# 573-248-5701
* Bro. Paul Kaeb	<i>Chairman</i>	Bern, KS	Cell# 785-547-5269
* Bro. Chuck Kellenberger	<i>Sec/Treasurer</i>	Elgin, IL	Cell# 224-629-6531
* Bro. Les Schambach	<i>Administrator</i>	Elgin, IL	Cell# 630-247-5271
* Bro. Arnold Gerst		Taylor, MO	Cell# 217-242-8996
* Bro. Tom Neuenschwander		Bluffton, IN	Cell# 260-307-6026
* Bro. Ray Slagel		Fairbury, IL	Cell# 815-848-3714

Official Apostolic Christian Church Website

** Providing basic information about our church and linkage to other church-related sites is located at:*

www.apostolicchristian.org



REMEMBERING

Our Spiritual Heritage

Gridley Pioneer Hears Last Call

The following is the obituary of Bro. Jacob Ringger, a minister at Gridley, Illinois, who died in 1929. This appeared in the Gridley Advance, a weekly newspaper. Bro. Ringger is the grandfather of retired Elder Edwin Ringger, and great-grandfather of current Elder Earl Ringger

Rev. Jacob Ringger, for fifty-five years, a resident of Gridley and vicinity, died at his home on East Fourth Street at 10:45 o'clock on Sunday night, in his eightieth year. Death was due to heart disease.

Rev. Ringger was born at Zurich, Switzerland, on August 17, 1850, the son of Henry and Amelia Seller Ringger. He emigrated to the United States at the age of twenty-four years, living first at Forrest and then at Roanoke. In 1874, he came to the Gridley vicinity and engaged in farming for many years, with great success. Seven years ago, he took up his abode in town.

On September 21, 1884, he was married to Miss Mary E. Gramm, who survives with four sons and two daughters, namely Edward Ringger of Berne, Indiana; George Ringger of Bluffton, Indiana; Berhnardt and Henry Ringger and Mrs. Ida Kuerth, wife of Henry Kuerth, all of Gridley, and Miss Lillie Ringger, at home. One son,

Jacob, died at the age of thirteen years. There are thirty-one grandchildren. Two brothers, Fred Ringger, of Fairbury, and Rudolph Ringger, of Peoria, also survive.

Rev. Ringger was a minister of the Apostolic Christian Church for the past forty years. A man of fine character, he was much esteemed by the people of the community.

Funeral services were held at the home at 9 o'clock and at the Apostolic Christian Church at 10 o'clock, on Wednesday morning. Interment was made in the Gridley Cemetery.

The following gentlemen acted as pallbearers: Chris Stoller, Joseph Funk, Joseph Kuerth, Emil Zurlinden, Paul Hany, and Emil Witzig.

The services were conducted by the Rev. Sam Slagell of Fairbury, whose sermon was in the German language, and Rev. Dan Stoller of Latty, Ohio, who preached in English.

People from far and near came to attend the services and not all could get into the church, with many standing on the outside. It was one of the largest funerals ever held in Gridley. Several states were represented.

If I Could Do It Over

The following are "One Father's Reflections." Author is unknown.

1. I would love my wife more in front of my children.

2. I would laugh with my children more — at our mistakes and our joys.

3. I would listen more, even to the littlest child.

4. I would be more honest about my own weaknesses, never pretending perfection.

5. I would pray differently for my family — instead of focusing on their shortcomings, I'd focus on mine.

6. I would do more things together with my children.

7. I would encourage them more and bestow more praise.

8. I would pay more attention to little things, like deeds and words of thoughtfulness.

9. I would share God more intimately with my family. Every ordinary thing that happened in every ordinary day I would use to direct them to God.

A Request

The Remembering column is requesting obituaries and other historical data of interest that might be included in the Silver Lining. Please send to P. O. Box 404, Pontiac, Illinois. Or email to perry@route24.net

By Perry A. Klopfenstein

Next Issue:

A List of Things To Appreciate About Our Church

The Light Of Hope

"Parents"

Retired Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

Every year in May we have Mother's Day and every year in June we have Father's Day, which is a reminder to all of us that we should honor our parents. What does the Bible say about honoring our parents? We shall see.

In the Ten Commandments, Exodus verse 12, it is written, "Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee." This is the fifth commandment, if I am not mistaken. I notice that in the King James Bible, honor is spelled honour, the British spelling, so in deference to the British, I will henceforth spell it in this article, honour.

Now how does honouring our parents cause us to live longer than we would otherwise? First of all, if we honour our parents, it may move God to extend our lives miraculously, by His power. Also, if we honour our parents, we will listen to their advice and not take unnecessary risks, which may save our lives from automobile accidents, etc. When this was written, they didn't have automobiles, but I think there were no doubt other dangerous things that young people could think of to do. Also, if we eat our fruits and vegetables like our parents tell us to do, we will be healthier and avoid disease, at least to a certain extent. We

might still get sick, but at least there should be less sickness and disease.

In Matthew 15:3-6, the Lord Jesus talks about the above commandment. The scribes and Pharisees said, "Whosoever shall say to his father or mother, It is a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me; and honour not his father or his mother, he shall be free." Here the phrase, "It is a gift," probably means that the money which should have gone to the parents for their livelihood had instead been given to the scribes and Pharisees to be used for God. Evidently there was a new rule that if you give money or possessions to the scribes and Pharisees, then you are excused from giving it to your parents. In this way, the scribes and the Pharisees could get more offerings. The love of money is often a problem.

It is interesting to note that in the Bible, honouring your parents includes providing for them in their old age. Our standard of living has risen so high that things are turned around. Parents are expected to leave an inheritance for their children.

Jesus spoke of honouring His Father in John 8:49. Beginning at verse 48, it reads, "Then answered the Jews and said unto Him, Say we not well that thou art a Samaritan, and hast a

devil? Jesus answered, I have not a devil; but I honour my Father, and ye do dishonour me." Jesus honoured His Father by doing His Father's will. In Gethsemane He said to God, "Thy will be done."

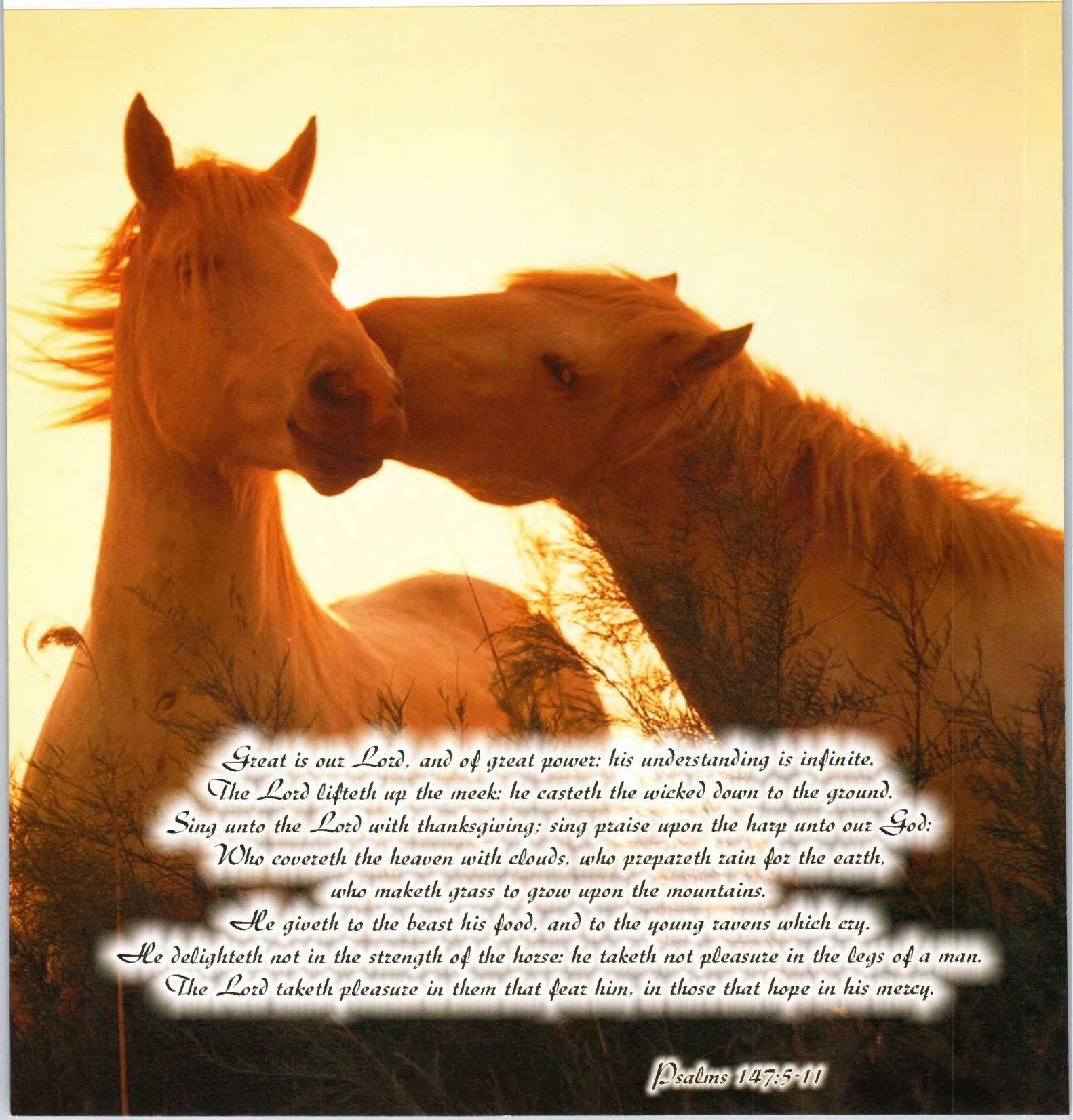
When Jesus was on the cross, He honoured his Mother, Mary, by saying to her, Matthew 19:26, "Woman, behold thy son! Then saith he to the disciple, (John), Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home."

Timothy honoured his mother and his grandmother by following their example of repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. In Second Timothy 1:5, Paul writes, "When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also." Unfeigned means not a fake but genuine, if I have it right.

It is a good thing to honour our parents and when and if we become parents, it is a good thing to honour our children. In Japan there is a national holiday called "Children's Day." Children, too, appreciate a little respect. In Ephesians 6:4 we read, "Provoke not your children to wrath." If we fail, let's apologize.

希望の光

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*Great is our Lord, and of great power: his understanding is infinite.
The Lord lifteth up the meek: he casteth the wicked down to the ground.
Sing unto the Lord with thanksgiving; sing praise upon the harp unto our God:
Who covereth the heaven with clouds, who prepareth rain for the earth,
who maketh grass to grow upon the mountains.*

*He giveth to the beast his food, and to the young ravens which cry.
He delighteth not in the strength of the horse: he taketh not pleasure in the legs of a man.
The Lord taketh pleasure in them that fear him, in those that hope in his mercy.*

Psalms 147:5-11