

The Silver Lining

*Put ye in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe: come, get you down;
for the press is full, the fats overflow; for their wickedness is great.*

*Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision:
for the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision.*

*The Lord also shall roar out of Zion,
and utter his voice from Jerusalem;
and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but
the Lord will be the hope of his people,
and the strength of the children of Israel.*

October 2009

Sermon by Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann, Chicago, IL

Jeremiah 49:23-33 and Philippians 2:1-18

This is a portion of Jeremiah where we have prophecy that was given to him by God. That was directed toward various nations surrounding Israel, various cities. All of whom have come to that point of God's displeasure reaching its limits, so to speak. Now a time of judgment is going to fall upon them. This is directed toward the city of Damascus.

It is interesting to see how some of the things leading up to this time of judgment for Damascus were that they became very fearful, they became faint hearted because they were hearing evil things. It says that they waxed feeble and in their fear were ready to flee. It compares it to a woman in a time of travail, a time where there is no escape. (v.23,24) How thankful we can be for the word of assurance of our great God. When we come into those circumstances that we cannot understand, when things are happening around us that would cause the human frame to be fearful and to want to flee, we can go to God, can't we?

That was really the greatest mistake of all of these nations, these various people that were coming into this time of judgment. They had the record of how God had dealt with the children of Israel, when they were obedient to Him. They knew about King David and King Solomon and all these mighty works that had taken place in that region. Many of them had seen the strength of God's people when they were depending upon God. But now it seems that they were falling prey to the thoughts of man and the things that just simply will never help us in those times of need. All of this is kept as a record for us, dear ones, that we can learn from these things. That we put our faith in this living Word that has been given to us by a loving God and who has promised that we will not have to be fearful if we put our trust in Him.

I am just going to mention the three subheadings on these eighteen verses we read together here in Philippians. Perhaps that will help us, as we categorize the main points

that were made by the Apostle Paul in this part of his letter, to think in an orderly way that will help us remember something. I am sure we all struggle with that at times. To be able to retain thoughts. I would feel a desire in my heart to be able to reiterate some of those key points from last evening and from this morning. I am sure you feel that also. I believe if we would go home and reread the scriptures and pray and ask God, much will come back to mind. And there is certainly always correlation. Some of those points that have been made already this weekend, I believe will be reinforced, as we wait upon the Spirit to instruct us here this afternoon.

The first segment it refers to here is the duty of harmony and humility. Harmony and humility. We trust that we can ponder that a few minutes together. Then it gives the example of Jesus. How beautifully that correlates with our Communion service last evening. Just the whole experience of having the Lord Jesus as our Savior, the one who, as we heard last night, had one thing that was paramount in His life. The greatest thing, the thing that was most important to Him - it seems so obvious but it was so good to hear that said again last night - to 'please my Father'. Wouldn't you agree with that assessment? It came out all the time in Jesus' life, didn't it? To please the Father. Here we have again the example of Jesus and some of the details of what He did to please His Father.

What an instruction that is for us. To look on His example. To learn from His example and to remember that's what God desires of us, to be more and more Christ like. So we want to spend some time with that also, the example of Jesus, which has been so much on our minds this weekend.

Finally, the last part is faithful living. You don't read very far at all in the Word of God to where you come to application. We were taught this morning how Peter and the others were brought to a frame of mind where they could be discipled. I hope

dear ones, every one of us, every one who is redeemed by the blood of the

Sermon continued on page 40

Cover Verses

Front: Joel 3:13-14,16

Back: II Thessalonians 2:3,11,13,15,17

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"Sanctify them through thy truth; thy word is truth."
(John 17:17)

Light From The Word



Writings based
on God's Word

October 2009

God's Word As Our Authority

Who are you? Your answer likely starts with, "I am..." but unless that's followed by a description, *I am* means nothing. Unless, that is, God is speaking.

Exodus 3 records how God revealed Himself to Moses in a burning bush and asked him to return to Egypt to liberate the Israelites. Understandably nervous about this task, Moses asked God who he should say had sent him. "They shall say to me, 'What is his name?'" Moses said. "What shall I say unto them?" "And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM. Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you." (Ex. 3:14)

I AM. Period. For God, nothing else needs to follow. As the uncreated Creator of the universe, He can't describe Himself relative to something else because without Him, there is nothing else. He just is. Notice how He emphasized this to Moses, "I am *that* I am." It's singular. There is no other I AM besides Him. He is the Maker of all that is (John. 1:3) and the ultimate Source of all truth (Col. 2:2-3). We learn truth by studying His nature. In fact, His revelation of Himself is at the core of who He is: revealed in the three persons of the Trinity.

Gen. 1:1 says, "In the beginning, God..." The next verse says, "And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters." We're only two verses into the Bible, and we've read of God the Father and God the Spirit.

Then, in a most spectacular moment, God expressed Himself. "God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all" (1 John. 1:5), so it makes sense that His first recorded words were, "Let there be light!" When He said this, there was light (Gen. 1:3). In a sudden flash of glory, the deep darkness of nothingness obeyed His command and became the bright light of "somethingness."

God's Word is more than just what He says; it is *Him*. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (John. 1:1). No picture or image could ever capture His glory. We know Him by His Word, which was "made flesh and dwelt among us" (John. 1:14). Jesus Christ, the Son, is the self-expression of the Father, completing the Trinity. When God said, "Let

there be light," it was Christ (His Word) who created the light. When God walked as a man, it was Christ. Even before Christ's birth, the Word which God revealed to the Old Testament prophets was Christ, so all men for all time who have placed their faith in God have been placing their faith in Christ. As you study and live God's Word, you are studying and living Christ. Truly, Christ "is before all things, and by him all things consist" (Col. 1:17). He is the root of all reality, and as one with the Father, He is given all authority (Mat. 28:18).

2 Timothy 3:16 tells us that "all scripture is given by inspiration of God," which means that it is "God-breathed," the literal words of God. Exodus 32:16, Leviticus 1:1, Numbers 1:1, and Deuteronomy 31:24-26 all claim to be God-inspired. Genesis does not directly claim this, but it is included in the Book of Moses (2 Chron. 35:12; Neh. 13:1), which Christ confirmed as the Word of God.

The Old Testament prophets also claim divine inspiration. Phrases like "thus saith the Lord" (Jer. 11:11) and "the Lord hath spoken" (Is. 1:2) occur hundreds of times in the Old Testament. Jeremiah writes, "...and the Lord said unto me, behold, I have put my words in thy mouth" (Jer. 1:9).

Likewise, the New Testament books claim divine inspiration. Christ both confirmed the inspiration of the Old Testament and promised that the Holy Spirit would direct the apostles into "all truth" (John 16:13), who then wrote according to the inspiration they received. In summary, the entire Bible claims the authority of God's inspiration, and the external evidence overwhelmingly supports these claims.

God's Word is the standard of truth; the ultimate authority of right and wrong. According to 2 Timothy 3:16, it teaches us the reality of the world's condition, including our fallen state before God and what we must do to be restored to Him (doctrine); convicts us of sin and the judgment we deserve (reproof); offers God's plan of salvation, restoring us to our Creator (correction); and gives practical instruction for living according to God's perfect will (instruction in righteousness). He has given us everything we need (2 Pet. 1:3). His

Word – the same Word that willed the universe into existence – defines our purpose, forms our opinions, and guides our decisions. It is our worldview. It is ours to obey.

A common criticism of the Bible is that it's too restrictive. People don't like commandments beginning with "thou shalt not" or claims of *only one* way. Man's sinful nature naturally resists the concession of control that these statements demand. Yet, what happens when man has control? On a global scale, we see death, destruction, grief, and pain. It's no different in the human heart, where thoughts are "evil continually" (Gen. 6:5).

In contrast, God's Word builds up. From Genesis 1 until today, it has brought order from chaos. The same God who *breathed* life into Adam (Gen. 2:7) has *breathed* His Word through the prophets, the Lord Jesus and the Apostles and preserved it for all time. His Word literally gives life, and His Law is for our preservation (Deut. 10:12-13; 6:24).

Why has God revealed Himself to us through His Word? Because we were created in His image for a relationship with Him. He wants to be our friend (Ex. 33:11), to protect and nurture us (Mat. 23:37), and to spend eternity with us (John 17:3). Yet, He gives us a choice: "Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse. A blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the Lord your God, which I command you this day. And a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the Lord your God, but turn aside out of the way which I command you..." (Deut. 11:26-28).

We should not wrest the Scriptures to justify our own opinions (Rom. 12:16; 2 Pet. 1:20-21; 3:16) nor should we over-emphasize or under-emphasize any of its teachings (Rev. 22:18-19). We are called upon to adhere to the whole counsel of God (Acts 20:27). God is the ultimate authority, and His Word alone defines what is perfect, good, right, and blessed (James 1:17). If we seek to rightly divide (interpret) His Word (2 Tim. 2:15) with prayer and in humility, His Spirit will guide us into all truth (John 16:13).

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@mto.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

Ixtlan, Mexico Update

This summer, four individuals were the first Apostolic Christian converts baptized in Barra Vieja: Bro. Bartolo Ramirez Rosario and his wife, Sis. Kike (Virginia) Angelito Villalba, Sis. Maria de la Paz Salinas Manzanares, and Sis. Maria de la Cruz Villanueva Ojeda. The baptisms were an occasion of great thanksgiving to God for His work of transforming lives and spreading the gospel.



Seeing a need

We have started a private Christian school in Ixtlan. The need is two-fold. The obvious need is better education for children. Children who go to the public schools often have a difficult time learning because of frequent strikes by the teachers' union. It's not rare for them to miss weeks of class, and many days they're only in school for a few hours. But the second need is even more important. Children are in a unique stage where their hearts and minds are like sponges.

We will teach them the truth of God's Word so they can begin to think about God in everything they do. They need to learn discipline and obedience in the fear of the Lord, and they need to be exposed to the gospel so as they grow older the Holy Spirit can lead them to understand Christ's sacrificial death and God's plan of salvation. We also

desire that the children's parents and other people in the community be exposed to Christ through their interaction with the school.

A school with a mission

The mission of Colegio de Las Américas de Ixtlán is to serve God and to offer families an accredited education, biblical values, and English language skills that together will help prepare their children to be useful men and women in the future.

Children will learn obedience to God, respect for authority, for their country, and toward other people. We envision the school as a place where staff and students will learn and practice biblical principles on a daily basis.

God has blessed us with a capable and willing team – Gilberto Ruelas (Director), Sis. Ana Cervantes (Secretary), Lizet Amaro (Teacher), Bro. Regg Beer (English), Sis. Ruth Gerber (Music), and Bro. Matt Gerber (administration, values class).

The school is beginning with first grade only since there is only one teacher, but the plan is to successively add grades each year as we hire more teachers, Lord willing. It seemed wise to begin slowly with a good foundation rather than beginning with all the grades at once.



To date, nine students are enrolled in first grade – five boys and four girls. None of the students come from Christian families, so it truly is an open door for outreach.

The school uses the standard state curriculum, which includes math, Spanish, science, and physical education. Content from the state textbooks can be supplemented or exchanged with materials from a Christian perspective when the subject matter from the textbooks goes against the biblical worldview (for example, creation vs. evolution). In addition, the children have classes in Christian values, English, music, writing, and art.

Dependence on God

We are grateful to the many gifted volunteers who have helped with the construction and set-up of the school, as well as those who have donated money, books, and other educational materials. We have received funding from World Relief Child Sponsorship to help with the startup costs of the school. Since we are trying to keep tuition affordable for families, the school depends on the God-inspired generosity of His people to meet our ongoing expenses.

Current needs

- Above all, prayer. We need God's grace through prayer.
- Children's CD's, DVD's, and books in Spanish that teach Christian values (especially grades 1-3).
- English teachers (1-2 year basis). Should have basic ability to speak & understand Spanish or at least be willing to learn; do not need to be licensed or have ESL training, although that is a plus.

Those interested should contact:

- Bro. Marshall Heinold
marsh070138@prodigy.net.mx
- Bro. Matt Gerber
magerbe@gmail.com



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

The Work in Jamaica

Mankind has spent endless hours studying literature, analyzing written words, and attempting to write great stories. But, it seems that the best that we can compile continues to pale in comparison to the stories God writes everyday through His body. The story of Apostolic Christian World Relief's work in Jamaica is no different.

We are reminded in Isaiah, "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts." It is by grace that we have been able to witness the faithfulness of our God in the work of the Apostolic Christian Church in Jamaica.

If the story were ours, we would probably have started with a brother who had a noble vision or a story of dramatic calling. Instead, God begins the story with some brethren on a trip with their families who were placed in a position to see people with great needs and hearts willing to meet those needs. From that connection, hearts of compassion began supporting needy Jamaicans with material aid in an attempt to help them meet basic needs.

This ministry grew, not just for these families, but also for our entire fellowship. If we wrote the story it may have involved the development of a dynamic ministry for these families, but God wrote the story differently. The story started involving believers from all over the United States who were serving at Material Aid Centers preparing larger shipments of aid for Jamaica.

The development of the story could be traced to the involvement of brethren working together and

servicing needy people with humble deeds of service. As we have also noticed in His stories, the Brotherhood developed relationships that continued to grow deeper as more needs were revealed. These relationships led Apostolic Christian World Relief to a deaf school that needed the construction skills with which our Brethren have been particularly blessed.

This aspect of the story again involves the Brotherhood serving together as well over a thousand people have given a week of their time, a part of their heart, and offered their talents for His Glory on a work team. The Lord not only used work teams to build a school, but also used these experiences to call many into a more compassionate understanding of the needs of people around the world and many friends were called in repentance.

Again, if the story was ours we may have finished with the building of the schools, but the Author continued developing the story by directing the work through the full counsel of the Word. While the story up to this point involved the offering of loving, humble deeds of service to fellow believers and all mankind in the name of Christ, the story was not ours and was not complete.

The Lord placed on the heart of Apostolic Christian World Relief the vision of sending brethren to Jamaica to continue to attempt to fulfill the fullness of our calling in service. The sending of servants to Jamaica would allow for more consistent relationship development and accountability that would continue to maximize the humble deeds of service through the sending of material aid and work teams.

Also, the presence of brethren in Jamaica would provide more opportunity to present to the lost the Gospel message of salvation based on faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ and a true repentance and conversion. The strong relationships of respect built by the Brotherhood over the years through an ongoing witness of service and compassion could now be continued and represented on a consistent basis. It should be no surprise that God's story involves the call of the Brethren to a workmanship that began from relationships and leads to the calling of presenting a Christ-like witness, doing humble deeds of service, and the nurturing/contending for the Faith.

Looking back at the story, we realize that if it was our story it would have remained a narrow representation of the true calling in Christ Jesus. But, the story is His and is not finished. While understanding that the Author can finish the story at any time, Apostolic Christian World Relief is stepping forward into the next part of the story.

The team in Jamaica covets your prayers that they may surrender the work to the Author in allowing Him to finish the story. The work of the Brethren continues in the Material Aid Centers and is delivered to needy communities, hospitals, orphanages, and schools.

The Brethren in Jamaica also continue to offer support to the deaf schools by hosting work teams and providing a presence in Jamaica that allows for accountability, a witness, and the call to Biblical living. May the Lord continue to be the Author of the work of the Brotherhood in Jamaica for His glory.

~ Submitted by Bro. Kirk Plattner

**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
HOME FOR THE
HANDICAPPED**
www.achh.org

When we speak of the residents that live in our homes, it is very important for our readers to understand that they are people with developmental disabilities, not developmentally disabled people. They possess every one of the five senses (vision, hearing, smell, taste & touch) that every human being has and they also have the same needs (survival, love & belonging, power, freedom and pleasure) as you do too. Please meet special people and learn to know them and you'll find they long to be your friends. It is best not to pass a person with developmental disabilities or other special needs without stopping to converse with them. Learn to know their names and their likes and dislikes. You will be blessed by them.

The Morton church was invited to tour the homes just this past Sunday, September 13, and all who took advantage of the opportunity were truly blessed. After the tours Bro. Ron Messner presented information about the agency for about an hour. He filled them in on the many changes in our circumstances: the right-sizing project, the happy residents who have in the recent past moved into different ACHH facilities and the problematic economic situation for those who are needy in the state of IL.

The Apostolic Christian Home for the Handicapped is an agency that now is comprised of 13 facilities. 150 people are served in these homes.

Timber Ridge – 79-bed Intermediate Care Facility for the Developmentally Disabled

Oakwood Estate – 16-bed Inter-

mediate Care Facility for the Developmentally Disabled

Linden Estate – 16-bed Intermediate Care Facility for the Developmentally Disabled

(10) 4 to 6-bed Community Integrated Living Arrangement homes

We encourage you to learn about ACHH and the special ones who live here. Our web site www.achh.org is listed above.

**GATEWAY WOODS
APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
CHILDREN'S HOME**

John Stoller

Gateway Woods is a melting pot of God's children. Each one comes with the gifts and talents that God gave them. We all have the same goals. We desire to serve our Lord Jesus Christ by serving others. When there is a common goal, and we are all busy about God's work, there is little time to focus on differences. We are much more prone to focus on our strengths and appreciate each one for the gifts they brought to Gateway Woods. I asked a couple staff members what it was that allowed us to work in peace and harmony together, even though we all have differences. One of the staff members quickly answered, "Love." We are so blessed to be able to serve together in this ministry. Thanks for your continued support and prayer.

"He that loveth his brother abideth in the light."

1 John 2:10

NEWS:

- Our theme this year is "Confident In His Provision" based off of Philippians 1:6. We are thankful

that in uncertain times, we can trust a God who is still in control. We never have to wonder if He has missed something. We never have to doubt His promises. We are thankful for the way He has provided for this ministry through our faithful supporters. The Gateway Woods Sale was once again a great success. No, it was not what it was the past couple years, but we know God will provide in the coming year.

- We welcome Sis. Emily Gutwein (Francesville, IN) as she completes her internship with us. She will be graduating from Purdue University in December with plans to become a Case Manager for the Foster Care Department. Please pray for Sis. Emily and the Foster Care staff as they are involved in the lives of many foster children and foster parents.

- We also welcome Sis. Laura Gerber (Latty, OH) as our new English teacher. Sis. Laura began work on August 3 at the Gateway Woods School. Please remember to pray for Sis. Laura and all of our teachers as they strive to provide a quality education to at-risk children.

- We are very thankful that God continues to provide us with the right Staff. We currently have two career positions open at Gateway Woods. The first position is for an Alternate Houseparent couple. The second open position is for IL Adoption Manager. Please see the notices 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!

- 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 for our E-Post. Please send a message to mail@gatewaywoods.org.

**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
PRESCHOOL
Athens, Alabama
Sarah Hodel**

The school year is back in full swing! Over the summer we're pretty relaxed with our lessons and it's nice to be back into a routine again. The kids have been keeping busy learning about community helpers and were pretty excited when a fireman came to visit our preschool. It was all a bunch of oohs and aahs over his uniform and thinking about going into a burning building. They were all smiles, too, when it came time to try on the real fireman's hat!

Today was the first day in about six months that the temperature dipped down to 70. A few of the kids were SO cold and they NEEDED their jackets. It makes us smile when we know it's just a matter of perspective. In a few months if it happens to reach 70, jackets will be shed the minute they step outside!

The other day one of our little girls got a hold of some poisonous berries and decided to give them a taste. She was fine and there was no harm done but we were reminded of our need to pray for God's continued protection. We thank you for your prayers as well.

**ALABAMA, ATHENS
Louise Hall**

This month Athens hosted what we hope to be the first of an annual Family Focus weekend. We were blessed to have a number of families come and share the weekend with us. Bro. Craig Stickling (Sis. Jackie, Peoria, IL) was here to share with us on the topic of Marriage and Parenting. It was a very uplifting weekend for everyone who was here and we loved having the fellowship! Thank you to everyone who made the effort to come.

We also want to thank all of our visiting ministers for the month. Coming to share the Word with us were Bros. Todd Stoller (Sis. Pam, Latty, OH), Randy Gudeman (Sis. Becky, Francesville, IN), Wendell Gudeman (Sis. Marcella, Francesville, IN) and Daron Price (Sis. Monica, Milford, IN). We are always grateful for the brothers that are willing to come and be with us for the weekend.

Our prayers are with Sis. Barbara (Bro. David) Coulter as she had surgery and is at home recuperating. Also in the hospital this month was Roslyn Coulter (Bro. David and Sis. Barbara) and Sis. Corrine Thomas. We also think of Bro. Buddy Lynn (Sis. Clarann) who has not been feeling well. We pray the Lord would be with each of them.

**ARIZONA, PHOENIX
Heather Hinrichsen**

Over 100 of the Phoenix congregation traveled to Prescott on August 29 for the First Annual Prescott Picnic. The weather, food and fellowship were a blessing to all who attended. We thank the Prescott church for their labor and

love.

Sis. Kathie Labudde (Bro. Larry) was hospitalized for another chemo treatment. She and the family covet your prayers during this difficult time.

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

Matthew 6:33

The angels in heaven are rejoicing that Phillip Huetter (Bro. Doug and Sis. Jill) has acknowledged his need for a Savior. Our prayers are with him and all our converts as they seek the Lord's direction in their lives.

We were blessed to hear the testimonies of Ruby Barna and Deanne DeVlieger on September 19. On Sunday, September 20, these dear souls stepped into the waters of baptism to make a public statement of their conversion and faith in our risen Lord. We now greet our new sisters in faith and thank the Lord for His continuing gift of mercy.

**ARIZONA, PRESCOTT
Denise Steidinger**

"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope: And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us."

Romans 5:1-5

This Scripture was read and meditated upon by one of the Elder Brothers that came this past month and was such an encouragement to our congregation. We are so thankful for all the visiting ministers that have recently come to share God's Word with us: Bro. Nate Lehman (Sis. Yvonne, Denver), Bro. Curt Kaufman (Sis. Caroline, Tucson), Bro. Herbie Knochel Jr. (Sis. Laurie, Phoenix), Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Sis. Judy, Chicago), Elder Bro. Dave Graf (Sis. Barb, Akron) and Bro. Joe Klotzle (Sis. Sue, Altadena). We were so blessed with many picnics and potlucks when visitors come and fellowship.

An all-AZ Picnic was held Saturday, August 29, in Prescott, with many coming from Phoenix and Tucson. It was a wonderful time of great food, fellowship and singing. We hope to make it an annual event to replace the corn roast that used to take place each fall.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Tom and Sis. Kim Wackerle in the loss of her mother, Mary Vogt (Saginaw, MI) and Bro. Stan and Sis. Norma Schambach in the passing of his brother, Bro. Don Schambach (Sis. Leann, Elgin, IL).

It was with sadness yet joy for a victory won that we said a final farewell to Sis. Eileen Furrer who passed away on September 8. There was a visitation at a funeral home here, and then a visitation, funeral and burial service in Wolcott, IN. We continue to pray for her husband, Bro. Glenn, and the rest of their family.

Note of Thanks:

We would like to thank everyone for their deeds of kindness shown to us during the illness and death of Eileen Furrer. May God bless you

all.

*In Christian Love,
Glenn Furrer & Family*

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp

We are saying farewell to Bro. Tom and Sis. Theresa Katanic and their children, Jackson, Jed and Annie, this month. They are leaving to move to the San Francisco area for employment reasons. We will really miss them even though we haven't spent much time with Bro. Tom, who has been traveling for work. We are so happy God has provided a way for them to be reunited as a family in the midst of this challenging economy. We are thankful for Bro. Tom's job opportunity and we ask the Lord's blessings on them as they make another adjustment in their new surroundings. We know God will be going ahead and preparing the way for them. We hope they visit as often as they can.

We are feeling the cool mornings and evenings and are hopeful cool daytime temperatures are soon to follow.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

Daniel Luthi

It has been quite the month already with our fire season out here in southern California. I am sure most have heard about the big Station fire burning in the mountains above the Los Angeles area. That particular fire was burning in the mountains above our church. At church one Sunday, the air quality from the smoke from the fire was so bad we couldn't see the mountains as we would normally from the church's front steps. As the day passed and by the time church services ended, the air cleared enough

so that we were able see flames burning along the mountainside. We are thankful to report that no homes in the Altadena area were burned. Numerous homes, however, were consumed in nearby communities. Our prayers continue to be with those who did lose their homes, and for the protection of the firefighters whose jobs we often take for granted every day. No matter what comes our way, God is still in control! How thankful we can be for that.

Over Labor Day, our church was blessed to host the biannual ACYF weekend with the Bible classes from San Diego, Phoenix, Tucson, Prescott, and Magdalena, Mexico. The kids seemed to really enjoy getting reacquainted with one another, the beautiful weather that weekend, and the good teaching from the Word. Thankfully the weather and air quality was okay in spite of the previous fires in the area we have had. We appreciate everyone's efforts in making that weekend possible.

Bro. Frank Sauder (Roanoke, IL) ministered to us from the Word recently. May the Lord bless him for his efforts on our behalf.

KITCHENER, ONTARIO CANADA

Johanna Fortenbacher

We appreciated having Bro. Dan Goric (Sis. MaryLou, Rockville) and Bro. Dale Stoller (Sis. Sandra, Forrest) here to preach the Gospel to us.

"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."

Acts 16:15-16

COLORADO, DENVER

Ann Gonglach

It was a blessing to be in the mountains for another Sunday school picnic. Thanks to our teachers who work to make this a day of fun and fellowship.

Many among us have needed prayer: Bro. Chuck and Sis. Naomi Wiegand's daughter, Gabriella, was hospitalized for three weeks; several others have loved ones with serious health problems; and some have lost jobs. It's wonderful that we have a loving Heavenly Father who hears and answers us.

CONNECTICUT ROCKVILLE

Amber Rocke Laura Virkler

Few fruits ripen from the springtime
sunshine;
Not till autumn is abundance shown;
Without waiting we ne'er feel the rapture
Of a precious, bounteous harvest
grown.
Zion's Harp #244

There is already a chill in the air as fall approaches on the east coast. Leaves are beginning to change, and the days are growing shorter. Many visitors have come our way in the past few weeks, and all have enjoyed the fellowship of family and friends. We enjoyed a visit from Elder Bro. Mark Bahr and his wife, Sis. Beverly (Detroit, MI), and Elder Bro. Ben and Sis. Michelle Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA). May God richly reward them for taking the time to gather with us and these Brothers for being used in the preaching of the Word.

Two couples have recently been united in marriage. Our best wishes

go to our friends, Christopher Skinner and Alison DeCarli, as they made vows of faithfulness to one another. Parents are Everett Sr. and Sis. Sherri Skinner, and Tom and Alice DeCarli. Jesse Brennan and Julie Reutter also made an exchange of wedding vows. Parents are Bro. Dean and Sis. Miriam Reutter, and Victor and Desiree Brennan and Kelly and Bryan Potance. We wish these couples much happiness and the blessing of the Lord, and hope they will continue to feel welcome to worship with us.

Several have been under the care of physicians in the past month. Bro. Russell Bahler was recently hospitalized and following some complications, he has lost his sight completely. As mortals, we grieve over this seemingly unfathomable loss, but pray that God, who knows far better than we, will bring peace and much good from such a trial. He and his family will remain in our prayers as he learns to live and thrive with this difficulty. Bro. Ken Schultz (Sis. Lois) also has been ill recently and we pray he can be strengthened as God would see fit. Also, Bro. Steve Moser (Sis. Janis) and Sis. Carolyn Virkler underwent surgery in the last weeks and we are thankful that so far there has been a good recovery.

May we each continue to grow good fruit in our lives, ripened by the trials and tests of this life that at its end, there would be an abundant harvest.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA WASHINGTON

Henrietta Meyer

Our caretakers for the second half of August were Bro. Bob and Sis. Phyllis Wuethrich from Frances-

ville, IN. Caretakers for September are Bro. Glenn and Sis. Christa Moser from Roanoke, IL. Sis. Doreen Steffen reports a good portion of 2010 has already been booked. We still need folks for February and several months next fall. February is still winter, but usually not as cold as the Midwest.

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Ken Hoerr (Sis. Darlene, Peoria, IL), Bro. Mark Ramsier (Sis. Alice, Sardis, OH), Bro. Shawn Metzger (Sis. Sandy, Philadelphia, PA), Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Sis. Michelle, Philadelphia, PA), Elder Bro. Dennis Warner (Sis. Esther, Lester, IA), Bro. Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi, Alto, MI) and Bro. Ken Lawson (Sis. Sharon, Atlanta, GA). Other visitors this month were from Columbus, Latty, Sardis, and Smithville, OH; West Lafayette, and Bluffton, IN; Rockville, CT; Philadelphia, PA; and Eureka, IL.

Our thoughts and prayers are with our convert Ken and Roberta Belsley and Bob Welk who are all shut in with health issues. In a small congregation like ours they are really missed.

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 ser-

vices. 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, FT. LAUDERDALE
Renee Mangold

We are in our "lite" summer days and our numbers are few, yet the Spirit of our Lord remains strong. We would lovingly encourage any who are able to come and visit our little church.

Our prayers for condolence go to DJ and Heather Reed (Mike and Renee Mangold) on the unexpected death of DJ's younger brother, Josh Reed. We pray that God will comfort the grieving family.

FLORIDA
NORTH FORT MYERS
Victor and Dorothy Beer

Would it not be great to claim daily:

Oh, glorious love of Christ my Lord
Divine
That made Him stoop to save a soul
like mine
Through all my days and then in
Heaven above
My song will silence never,
I'll worship Him forever
And praise Him for His glorious love.

We are thankful that this is the spirit of our worship service and fellowship.

The weekend of October 11 will be the time of fellowship at the camp at Lakewood Retreat. We pray it will be a blessed time for all that can attend this place of spiritual refreshment. We thank the Sarasota brethren for their extra efforts to provide this camp for us.

Our current visitors are finding that the weather nowadays is more

comfortable and especially the gulf water is 85 degrees now. Daily rains are still welcome, too. However, the rains force folks to visit one or more of our many malls (5 major malls here). Some might even want to shop for a winter home, apartment, or condo, as prices are much less than they were a year ago.

We are always glad to welcome each and every one that can meet with us at our church, just north of Fort Myers, about 6 miles north of the river on Road 41, in North Fort Myers.

GEORGIA, ATLANTA

We rejoice with Bro. Richard and Sis. Julie Lindberg as they become grandparents again! Little Cara Elizabeth is welcomed home by parents, Bro. Joshua and Sis. Bethany Lindberg (Roanoke). Proud aunts and uncles are Bro. Matthew and Sis. Renae, Bro. Mark and Sis. Laura (Chicago), Jacob, Caleb, Bro. Benjamin, Sis. Lydia, Hannah, Joel and Rachel. Sis. Bethany's parents are Bro. Paul and Sis. Leanne Fischer (Leo). Cara's excited great-grandparents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Jane Schumacher, Bro. Glen and Sis. Christa Moser, Jeanette Lindberg, and Sis. Pat Fischer (all from Roanoke). Although we wish she was closer, we are thrilled that this darling little girl has entered the world!

Bro. Gary Maibach ministered to us this month. Thank you for coming down to bless our church here in Georgia from yours in Smithville, OH.

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE
Doreen Moser
Jenn Johnson

God's Grace is immeasurable;
His mercy inexhaustible;
His peace inexpressible.
— *Our Daily Bread*

We have been able to listen to Conference tapes this month and we truly find that all of the above words apply. Without God's grace, mercy and peace our walk here on earth would be impossible. Thank you to our Elders and ministers who vigilantly preach the Word, pray for us and love us.

Darcy Steffen (Bro. Dean and Sis. Carol) has expressed that she has peace with all man and desires to be baptized. Her baptism along with our friend, Daniel Martin, will be October 10, Lord willing. We look forward to hearing their testimonies and how the Lord granted them that inexpressible peace.

ACYF was this month in Goodfield, IL. As the teachers make an effort to get the older children together for fellowship and teaching, we hope the Lord will keep the door of grace open so someday they too can find God's grace to repent.

God's mercy and grace was with Daniel and Megan Martin as they welcomed Abram Andrew into their home. The joy of a healthy newborn is truly a gift from the Lord. May they trust the Lord to help them raise Abram.

ILLINOIS
BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL
Jacki Masters
Alissa Kieser

With the fall season upon us, we look forward to cool days, crisp nights and beautiful colors as the trees begin to change. As the sum-

mer draws to a close, we look forward to all that is before us in the coming closing months of this year.

We are so thankful to have our college students back with us. We welcome all students and parents of those attending Illinois State University, Wesleyan University and Heartland Community College to visit while living in the Bloomington-Normal area. We enjoyed having all students and their parents with us for the Annual Student Welcome. We were blessed to have several visiting ministers with us on that day. Thank you Elder Bro. Mark and Sis. Bev Bahr (Detroit, MI), Bro. Frank and Sis. Kathy Sauder (Roanoke), and Bro. Dave and Sis. Linda Steffen (Elgin) for your services.

It is always a joyous occasion when two hearts are joined together. We wish God's blessings to Bro. Eric and Sis. Martney Huber as they begin their new life together. Bro. Eric is the son of Bro. Dave and Sis. Debbie Huber (Bloomington) and Sis. Martney is the daughter of Harold and Marilyn Stickling (Peoria).

We were also blessed to witness the testimony and baptism of Amanda Wenger. We wish God's continued peace and blessings on Sis. Amanda as her walk with her Saviour continues. Sis. Amanda is the daughter of Marv and Rita Wenger of Fairbury. We also thank Bro. Curt and Sis. Kathy Rassi (Tremont) for being with us that weekend.

Congratulations to new parents, Bro. Will and Sis. Lexi Nussbaum, at the birth of their daughter, Kayla Ann. The happy grandparents are Bro. Jay and Sis. Ann Nussbaum and Bro. Rick and Sis. Carol Hany, all of Bloomington.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD Philip and Donna Nenadov

"Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer."

Psalms 19:14

Bro. Nate Stoller (Sis. Martha) was hospitalized this past month. We know the Lord is the Great Physician and we are thankful that Bro. Nate is able to fellowship with us again.

Troy Elsasser (Bro. Jordan and Sis. Sharon) was married to Leslie Todd (Joe and Denise Claiborne, Chillicothe, IL) recently. We wish them well in their new walk of life together.

Our visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke), and Bros. Ted Luginbuhl (Sis. Stephanie, Smithville), Bruce Frank (Sis. Bonita, Cissna Park), and Craig Martin (Sis. Terri, Princeville). We wish the Lord blessings on them for their efforts of love.

Reporter's Error: In a very recent issue, I wrote about Blake Leroy Kieser being born to Brad and Rachel Kieser. It should have read Bro. Brad and Sis. Rachel Kieser. Please overlook the weakness of this writer.

God be with you til we meet again.

ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN Jackie Eisenmann

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

Proverbs 22:6

This past month seems to be a month of new beginnings. Most exciting of all, we are welcoming a new baby into our congregation. We are rejoicing with Bro. Joe and Sis. Heidi Gerber as they are enjoying little Owen Joseph, born into this world on August 15. We wish them Godly wisdom as they begin to raise little Owen in the fear of the Lord.

"And all thy children shall be taught of the LORD; and great shall be the peace of thy children."

Isaiah 54:13

Beginning another school year for our children, Sunday school resumed after a break over the summer. Our children always seem excited to get back into their Sunday school classes, learning lessons and enjoying the friendships that are formed there. We are prayerful for our Sunday school teachers and students in this new year. May God richly bless them all, as they learn of His ways together.

As school begins, our congregation always looks forward to welcoming our students back to Champaign-Urbana! Sunday, August 23, was our Student Welcome Picnic. All new and returning students to Parkland college and the University of Illinois, along with their families, were invited to worship with us that day and attend a picnic at an area park after church. It is always exciting to our congregation to meet and greet those who will be in the area for their schooling. We ask that the Lord would bless their studies and their year. Bro. Brad Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) blessed us that day while being used on the pulpit. We thank him for his willingness. All parents, you are welcome

to come and visit us in church anytime!

Along with a new school year, the students always host a picnic on campus at Illini Grove. We enjoyed time with them on the beautiful evening of Wednesday, September 9.

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

II Timothy 2:15

Other blessings of this past month were visiting ministers. Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO), and Bro. Warren Zahner (Rockville, CT) were with us on Sunday, August 16. We want to thank each one of them for coming and being willing to preach the Word of God to us.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO **Julie Eisenmann**

“Blessed are they that mourn for they shall be comforted.”

Our prayers go out to Bro. Greg Rassi (Sis. Carla) as he mourns the death of his father, and Bro. Matthew (Sis. Bridget) Rassi and Rachel (Greg) Carder their grandfather, Bro. Elias Rassi of Morton. Likewise we are praying for, and grieving with Sis. Julie Westfall (Bro. Dave) as she mourns the death of her brother, Scott Brooks, from Rensselaer, IN. It is our prayer that God will wrap His loving arms around these families and give them the comfort only He can give.

Our congregation was blessed with two visiting ministers this month, Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman

(Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO). May God bless them for their willingness to serve.

Much excitement has been felt as we held our annual Sunday school teacher/minister meeting, and began a new year of Sunday school. We pray for Godly wisdom to guide our precious children in the way of the Lord.

We wish the newlyweds, Nathan and Leslie (Masters) Romersberger, God's blessings as they begin their lives together in Bloomington. We are grateful for the years they have blessed us here in Chicago.

Bro. Norman and Sis. Gloria Stahl are rejoicing as they welcome a new granddaughter, Savannah Rose, born to Bro. Craig and Sis. Raelynn Plattner in Nashville, TN.

It is such a blessing to listen to the recordings of our Brotherhood Conference on Wednesday evenings in September. The exhortations have truly touched our spiritual hearts.

On September 13, we celebrated the 50th and 51st wedding anniversaries of Bro. Boyd and Sis. Lois Metzger, and Bro. Paul and Sis. Milli Leman. What a blessing to witness their Godly examples and faithfulness all these years. We pray that God will continue to bless them.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK **Vickie Maul** **Janie Waldbeser**

Our thanks to visiting ministering Bro. Dana Indermuhle (Sardis) who willingly shared God's Holy Word with us on a Wednesday evening.

Our prayers are with Bro. Vernon (Joanne) Clauss as he has recently spent much time in the hos-

pital.

Our Sunday school grades 3rd – 12th hosted their annual Senior Citizen meal. It is always a blessing for the young and old to share and visit together. May we always hold close the bond that ties us together in love.

We extend our sympathy to Sisters Aldean Kaufmann and Doris Koehl (Forrest) on the loss of their brother, Bro. Lester Rocke. Our hearts also go out to Sisters Marilyn and Lucille Knapp and Wes (Judy) Knapp on the loss of their sister, Sis. Arlene Knapp (Princeville). Sis. Dorris Knapp is also grieving the loss of her brother, Russell Williams. We pray that each one will feel God's comfort at this difficult time.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE **Holly Zobrist**

Our congregation has been blessed with five new converts this past month. They include Andrew Hoerr (Bro. Max and Sis. Suzanne), Bryce Wieland (Bro. Nate and Sis. Suzanne), Joshua Knapp (Bro. James and Sis. Lisa), and Daniel and Jessica Uphoff. What a blessing to see the Lord working in the lives of each of these dear souls.

We were blessed to hear the provings and witness the baptisms of Sisters Hannah Dietrich (Bro. John and Sis. Renae) and Marissa Schieber (Bro. Mike and Sis. Mary), and Bro. Jesse Ruegsegger (Bro. Lee and Sis. Alice). It's such a blessing to listen to how God works in the lives of different individuals. We were thankful that Elder Bros. Steve Gutwein (Sis. Linda, Francesville) and Mike Leman (Sis. Deb, Denver) could be with us for that weekend. Other visiting minis-

ters this past month include Bro. Mark Schmidgall (Sis. Lisa, Eureka), Bro. Brad Gudeman (Sis. Teresa, Bradford), Bro. Ron Isch (Sis. Jane, Lamont-Gridley), and Bro. Paul Kilgus (Sis. Carmen, Fairbury).

Harold Schieber (Bro. Mike and Sis. Mary) and Ashley Schmidgall (Bro. Mark and Sis. Lisa, Eureka) were married on September 26. We wish them God's richest blessings in their new life together.

David Steffen (Kent and Sis. Beth) and Erica Kuchenmeister (Eric and Pam) have made the decision to spend the rest of their lives together and are looking forward to a May wedding. May the Lord be near to these couples as they take this step in life.

Bro. James and Sis. Jennifer Kieser are thankful for the safe arrival of their new daughter, Abree Jenna. She is gladly welcomed home by older siblings, Alyssa, Jessi, Morgan, Reilly, and Mason. Thankful grandparents include Bro. Ron and Sis. Jane Isch and Bro. Robert and Sis. Laura Kieser.

Note of Thanks:

We are overwhelmed by all the love, care, and concern that has been shown to us during the illness and death of our dear mother and grandmother. We trust the Lord will bless each of you for the prayers, memorials, phone calls, visits, cards, and food we received. Our thanks and gratitude are inadequate, but may God bless you as only He can do.

The Family of Sis. Pauline Roth

ILLINOIS, ELGIN

**Amy Gasser
Miriam Gasser**

"For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away; but the word of the Lord endureth for ever."

I Peter 1:24-5

There is a sense of loss in the fading of beautiful flowers, whose short span is compared to the brevity of human life. What a comfort that the Word of the Lord endures to guide and strengthen the bereft. For those whose loved ones have died in the Lord, there can be a glorious anticipation of one day being reunited in the clouds...caught up in the air to meet the Lord and be forever with Him.

A number of deaths in our community have impacted many lives. On August 22, Judy Alfors passed away peacefully in Marengo, after a three-year battle with cancer. She was the daughter of Sis. Dorothy Schifferer and the sister of Bro. Bill Schifferer (Sis. Lana) of Belvidere.

Bro. Don Schambach was given a blessed release on September 6, after patiently enduring the many setbacks of diabetes. He is survived by his dear helpmate, Sis. Leann; three children, Sis. Shaena Dietz (Bro. Fred), Bro. Lynwood (Sis. Jamie), and Bro. Brently (Sis. Mollie); six grandchildren; his father, Bro. Albert; and three siblings, Bro. Stan (Sis. Norma), Bro. Les (Sis. Alison), and Sis. Carol. Elder Bro. Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA) conducted Bro. Don's funeral service on September 9.

With family beside her, Carolyn Feucht appeared peaceful as she

took her last breath on September 12. She had struggled with cancer for nearly two years and will be deeply missed by her husband, Charles; three children, Tony (Angie), Jeff (Vicki), and Jenny Abel (Lance); four grandchildren; her mother, Sis. Oleda Menold of Morton; four sisters, and three brothers. Bro. Gary Anliker had the funeral service on September 16.

The grandfather of Jen Cox (Jay) passed away in the Philippines. He had been increasingly sick and was diagnosed with lung cancer.

August 23 was the last Sunday in Elgin for Bro. Bob, Sis. Lynette, and David Buckheister, who moved to Lake Forest, CA, for Bro. Bob's employment. May the Lord watch between them and their loved ones, while they are apart. We thank Bro. Bob for his many years of service as our treasurer.

Micah Bachtold completed his tour of duty in Afghanistan and has returned safely to San Diego. His parents, Bro. Sam and Sis. Betty, would like to thank everyone for the love and support shown to Micah and Dawn during his overseas assignment. God's mercy and protection were an answer to many prayers.

We thank Bro. Mike Rinkemberger (Congerville, IL) for ministering the Word to us on September 6. It is encouraging to have such visitors and to experience the bond of brotherhood throughout our land.

Our Sunday School students and their teachers and parents prepared the annual Pancake Breakfast at the Fellowship Center on September 19. Many memories were made while serving together to raise funds for Sunday School trips.

Ashlyn Dietz, the nine-year-old

daughter of Bro. Fred and Sis. Shaena, recently broke her arm and femur while playing. Encumbered by two casts and equipped with a wheelchair, Ashlyn has many little helpers at church to push her chair around. We pray that God will grant her a speedy and full recovery.

Note of Thanks:

We would like to thank our many loved ones from across the miles for your love and expressions of sympathy. May God richly bless you for your kindness.

The Don Schambach Family

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

**Dee Baer
Jodi Blunier**

Congratulations to Ashley Schmidgall (Bro. Mark and Sis. Lisa) and Harold Schieber (Bro. Mike and Sis. Mary, Congerville) as they exchanged marriage vows.

We have new babies to welcome: Justin Daniel Bradle joins Bro. Dan, Sis. Holly, Jesse, Jordan, Amber, Amanda, and Alayna. Grandparents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Ila Bradle and Bro. Wally and Sis. Diane Feuchtenberger (Morris, MN). Grant Walter Stoller joins Bro. Lowell, Sis. Molly, Isaac and Warren. Grandparents are Bro. Jim and the late Sis. Jane Stoller and Bro. Paul and Sis. Kris Schmidgall. Talon Ray Wettstein joins Bro. Wade, Sis. Hallie and Macy. Grandparents are Bro. Jake and Sis. Mary Wettstein and Bro. Mike and Sis. Mary Schieber (Congerville).

Condolences were shared with Sis. Clara Huber in the death of her brother, Bro. Eli Rassi (Sis. Pearl, Morton) and with Sis. Arletta Martin in the death of her mother, Sis. Clementine Joos (Goodfield).

Prayers for the sick have been offered for Sis. Gerry Leman (Bro. Milton), Sis. Ann Leman, and Sadie Metzger (Bro. Tony and Sis. Lisa).

We have appreciated labors of visiting ministers: Bro. Don Manz (Junction, OH), Bro. Floyd Frieden (Elgin, IA), Bro. Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville), Bro. Tony Manz (Junction, OH), Bro. Ed Knecht (Silverton, OR), Bro. Tom Leman (Denver, CO), and Elder Bros. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA), and Doug Schock (Bloomfield, IA).

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

**Elizabeth Fehr
Anna Schmidgall**

What a blessing it was to hear the testimonies and welcome our new sisters, Jenny (Bro. Clint) Steffen and Brooke Miller (Bro. Roger and Sis. Crystal)! We are grateful to Elder Bros. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Marvin Dotterer (Forrest) who helped with this work.

Other ministering brothers who visited us were: Bros. Kevin Banwart (West Bend, IA); Clark Stoller (Gridley); and Gary Brown (Forrest). May God bless you all.

God has blessed Bro. Mark and Sis. Tania Bazzell with the arrival of little Javin Charles. Javin's siblings, Cody, Dakota, Justus, Cheyanne, Summer and Haley, welcome him home. Loving grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Carol Bazzell and Fred and Helen Voeste of Forrest.

Our sympathy goes out to Bro. Dale Banwart (Sis. Donna) and family in the loss of brother-in-law, Bro. Don Schambach of Elgin. Also special love and prayers to Bro. Don's daughter and son-in-law, Sis. Shaena and Bro. Fred Dietz, who formerly assembled with us in Fairbury. May God comfort you all.

Hospital patients this month were Helen Fehr (William), Bro. Henry Steffen (Sis. Lola) and Sis. Rachael Slagel (Bro. Michael). We are thankful that they are all recovering well.

Note of Thanks:

The family of Sis. Anna Steffen would like to thank each of you for your prayers, gifts and expressions of sympathy during her later years and in her passing. They were appreciated and may the Lord bless each one.

ILLINOIS, FORREST

**Jill Wenger
Lisa Aberle**

We enjoyed many visiting ministers this month. They were: Elder Bro. Duane Farney (Croghan-Naumburg, NY), Elder Bro. Rick Plattner (Fairbury, IL), Bro. Jerry Bauman (Rittman, OH), Bro. John Steiner (Oakville, IA), Bro. John Rowell (Burlington, IA), Bro. Sid Kaufmann (Cissna Park, IL), Bro. Bob Pfloderer (Morton, IL), Bro. Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL), and Bro. Tim Gerber (Mansfield, OH). We thank these brothers for being willing servants for the Lord.

Bro. Andy Rudin and Sis. Jenise Kaeb were united in holy matrimony on August 23. This couple's parents are Maurice and Brenda Kaeb and Bro. Craig and Sis. Trudy Rudin. Also announcing their engagement and approaching marriage are Sis. Heidi Dotterer and Bro. Nathan Bachman. Their parents are Elder Bro. Marvin and Sis. Nancy Dotterer and Bro. Larry and Sis. Donna Bachman. May God's blessings rest upon these two dear couples as they start new Christian homes to honor God.

Our congregation rejoiced the

weekend of September 12-13 as we welcomed Sis. Wendi Kelson (Bro. Paul and Sis. Sherri), Bro. Sean Zimmerman (Bro. Rod and Sis. Micki) and Bro. Thadd Zimmerman (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Stephanie) into the Fold of Jesus Christ. May the sheep of the Fold always be good lights and examples as the young lambs enter in.

We pray for our hospital patients, Bro. Larry Bachman (Sis. Donna) as he is at Mayo Clinic in Minnesota for multiple surgeries and Sis. Lavonne Lanz (Bro. Elmer) as she is receiving long-term care at a Chicago area hospital. Bro. Les Zimmerman (Sis. Louise) and Sis. Marge Kuntz (Bro. Leland) were also hospitalized and are now recovering at Fairview Haven Nursing Home. As each trial, spiritually or physically, comes to various ones in life, may the grace of God be sufficient to cover their deepest needs.

Our loving sympathy goes to Sis. Doris Koehl in the passing of her brother, Bro. Lester Rocke, formerly of Cissna Park, IL, and most recently of Fairview Haven Nursing Home, Fairbury, IL. We can be so thankful that a God-fearing life has been run and the prize is Heaven.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD
Donna Wyss
Rita Bauman

“Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward.”

Psalms 127:3

We rejoice with Bro. Adam and Sis. Maribeth Rocke in the birth of their son, Donovan Michael, on September 7. Donovan is welcomed home by his sister, Fiona, and his grandparents, Mark and Connie

Rocke and Mike and Peggy Moens, Eureka, IL.

We are always thankful for our visiting ministers. Special thanks to Bros. Darren Plattner (Sis. Sue, Champaign, IL), Ed Knecht (Sis. Judy, Silverton, OR) and our counseling Elder Bro. Earl Ringger who were with us this past month. May God continue to work through His servants.

Sis. Betty Wiegand (Bro. Willis) and Bro. Joe Rinkenberger (Sis. Irene) were hospital patients this past month. We pray that God will grant His healing strength as they recover and we look forward to them worshipping with us again soon.

We rejoice with the announcement that Sarah Melton has found peace with God and man. We look forward to hearing her testimony and witnessing her baptism on October 10-11.

“Preserve me, O God: for in thee do I put my trust.”

Psalms 16:1

We are thankful for the faith and repentance in Matt Thornton's life. We wish him much grace and humility to submit to and follow our loving Saviour, all the way to peace and Heaven. Oh how we pray for many more to follow!

When we all get to heaven
 what a day of rejoicing that will be,
 when we all see Jesus
 we'll sing and shout the victory.

Gospel Hymns #792

Several families in our congregation have had to say farewell to loved ones this past month. Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Eileen (Bro. Norm) Musselman, Bro. Glen (Sis. Bev) Joos, and Loren (Elise) Joos as they laid their dear mother,

Sis. Clem, to rest. We extend our love and sympathy to Sis. Audrey (Bro. Steve) Rocke in the passing of her father, Kaywin Hodel of Eureka, IL, and Sis. Marilyn (Bro. Mel) Blunier as her mother, Mary Underwood of Eureka, IL, went to her eternal rest. Our congregation was also saddened to hear of the passing of our friend, Chet (Ethel) Finley. We trust that God will be near and grant comfort to all who grieve over these partings.

We were blessed to host ACYF on September 20 and 27, and enjoyed hearing our young people sing praises to our Heavenly Father. May His Spirit continue to work in their hearts, drawing souls to salvation.

We are thankful to be able to listen to the Conference tapes. May God be glorified in all that we hear.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY
Perry A. Klopfenstein

“One life, 'twill soon be past.

Only what's done for Christ will last.”

—C. T. Studd

Surely the above saying is well known. It has enormous meaning regarding how we as Christian believers lead our lives. On September 29, I attended the funeral of my widowed sister-in-law in Tallahassee, Florida, Ruth Vortman Klopfenstein. As I walked away from the burial site, I thought of that saying. Indeed, when our life is over, “only what's done for Christ will last.”

In a historical sense, John Wesley once wrote, “I judge all things only by the price they shall gain in all eternity.” In our busy and often hectic lives, we are wise to acquire an eternal perspective and a Biblical

understanding.

On August 22, Wendy Stoller was married to Josh Schick in a tent on the farm of Elder Bro. Earl Ringger. She is the daughter of Bro. Lynn and Sis. Elaine Stoller. His parents are Bro. Tom and Sis. Carol Schick. We are happy for them in this second most important step in life, and may they find much happiness together.

On September 20, Sis. Leah Stoller became the wife of Bro. McLane Steidinger of Fairbury. She is the daughter of Bro. Clark and Sis. Cindy Stoller. His parents are Bro. Ted and Sis. Sara Steidinger, Fairbury. May God be with this couple in their marriage.

Visiting ministers here for this occasion were Bro. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI), Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN), and Bro. Dale Stoller (Fairbury).

Bro. Josh Stoller was married to Sis. Julie Kaeb (Tremont, IL). She is the daughter of Bro. Dave and Sis. Barb Kaeb, Tremont. His parents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Mary Stoller of our Gridley congregation. May God's blessings be manifold for this couple in the years ahead.

Bro. David Prevo was announced to be married to Sis. Tara Hohulin (North Ft. Myers, FL). His parents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Barb Prevo, and she is the daughter of ministering Bro. Mike and Sis. Faye Hohulin (North Ft. Myers, FL).

On September 27, the wedding engagement of Bro. Christopher Stoller to Sis. Kelsey Zehr was announced. Her parents are Bro. David and Sis. Vicki Zehr. He is the son of Bro. Roger and Sis. Mary Stoller, all of Gridley. Lord willing, their wedding is set for January 17, 2009.

On August 28, a son was born to Bro. Alan and Sis. Teresa Miller. He was named William Alan. His sib-

lings are Amelia, 6, and Adam, 4. Grandparents are Bro. Orlan and Sis. Carol Miller, Gridley; and Dan and Susie Boian, Chenoa. A great-grandparent is Genevieve Boian, Meadows.

On September 12, twins were born to Bro. Phillip and Sis. Becky Romersberger. They were named Cooper Leman and Braxton Steger. Baby Braxton contracted spinal meningitis, but by October 1 was recovering, thanks to God. Siblings are Payton, 4, and Pierson, 2. Grandparents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Donna Ringger and Bro. Larry and Sis. Ardean Stoller, and the late Bro. Rob Romersberger. Great-grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Lucille Romersberger, Bro. Bob and Sis. Eileen Greiner, and Bro. Fred and Sis. Mary Ringger, all of Gridley.

We are pleased to report that Bro. Larry Kiefer is recovering from a serious head injury, and was able to attend Wednesday evening services on September 30. God is to be thanked for this wonderful healing of an injury which seemed dire in the beginning.

Bro. Steve Ringger was hospitalized for the insertion of a heart pacemaker, and is back home doing well.

Bro. Barry Ehresman had surgery and is at home recovering. Sis. Jane Gramm also had surgery and is in the recovery phase.

We offer our sympathies to Bro. Steve and Sis. Donna Ringger for the loss of her brother-in-law, Mr. Ron Ervin, formerly of Gridley, who passed away from cancer. We also extend sympathy to Sisters Mary Witzig and Twyla Schlipf over the death of their sister, Carolyn Feucht, of Elgin, IL.

Sis. Betty Klopfenstein and Sis. Marge Meiss have both moved into

the Meadows Mennonite Nursing Home. Sis. Betty had lived in Bloomington-Normal, and Sis. Marge in Gridley.

Sis. Maggie Schrenk is again serving on Mercy Ship in Africa, her second term of service.

ILLINOIS, MORTON Annette Tanner Julie Bahr

Family Worship Night was led by Elder Bro. Ted Witzig, Sr. (Sis. Cindy). The subject title "My Journey to Christ and In Christ" shared events and transitions in Bro. Ted's life, which brought him where he is today. Bro. Ted conveyed a thankful heart, and we appreciated him sharing with us.

Visiting ministers who visited Morton were: Bro. Ron Allenbach (Kiowa, KS), Bro. Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL), Bro. Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL), Bro. Lenny Meyer (Chicago, IL), Bro. Dennis Rassi (Austin, TX), Bro. Tom Waldbeser (Atlanta, GA), Bro. Scott Wegman (Taylor, MO) and Bro. Glen Funk (Wichita, KS).

On September 9, baby boy Rylan Jacob was born to Kip and Carli Taufer. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Dana and Sis. Kris Taufer for their first grandchild.

Our deepest sympathy we share with those who have lost loved ones. Bro. Eli Rassi went to be with the Lord on September 1. Bro. Eli is survived by his wife, Sis. Pearl Rassi; two sons, Bro. Gary (Sis. Debbie) and Bro. Greg (Sis. Carla); also two brothers, Bro. Sol (Sis. Sharilyn) and Bob Rassi; and two sisters, Sis. Clara Huber and Leah Warren.

Our love and sympathy to Bro. Chris Knapp who lost his sister, Sis. Clementine Joos of Goodfield; and also to Bro. Roy Bahr who lost his sister, Sis. Wilma Farney of

Sabetha/ Kansas City.

On September 12, Sis. Oleda Menold's daughter, Carolyn Feucht (Charles, Elgin), passed away. Bro. John Feucht is her surviving father-in-law and Sis. Beth Feucht her surviving sister.

Sis. Elma Heiniger passed away on September 19. Sis. Elma was one of triplet sisters. Surviving sisters are Elda Heiniger, Morton, and Elsa Bocka of San Bernardino, CA.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA **Pam Fritzenmeier**

Bro. Carle and Sis. Debby Hoerr have been blessed with two new grandchildren. A daughter, Piper Q, was born July 28 to Bro. Brent and Sis. Abby (Hoerr) Schmidgall (Goodfield). On July 30, Bro. Trent and Sis. Kary (Hoerr) Scholl and big sisters, Tea and Kenzie, welcomed Maclin Wayne into their family. Buff and Linda Robinson from Princeville are also his grandparents. Bro. Spark and Sis. Rhonda Meister have a new granddaughter, Renee Lynn, born August 22 to Jay and Tara (Meister) Brenner. Her big sister is Myah and her other grandparents, John and Cheryl Brenner, are happy to have them in Pennsylvania.

Sunday, August 23, was the wedding of Bro. Eric Huber (Bro. Dave and Sis. Debbie Huber, Bloomington) and Sis. Martney Stickling, (Harold and Marilyn). We thank the visiting ministers who shared in their day: Bro. Steve Stieglitz (Sis. Jane, Leo, IN), Bro. Kevin Knapp (Sis. Dixie) and Bro. Dennis Kaufmann (Sis. Bonnie), both from Bloomington. Two weeks later, on September 6, Bro. David Sceggel (Bro. Mark and Sis. Judy) and Sis. Stephanie Regier (Bro. Dana and

Sis. Martha Kay, Princeville), were married in Princeville. We praise God that two new households have been established to serve Him.

Bro. Brad Metz (Sis. Karen, Bloomington) spent a recent Wednesday night with us. May God bless you for your ministry.

We are thankful to report a new convert, Joshua Ginzel, son of Bro. Geoff and Sis. Angie.

Several in our congregation are suffering from various health problems. Please pray for Sis. Maria Graham, Bro. Bob (Sis. Betty) Miller, and Bro. Harry (Sis. Loretta) Eisenmann. We also request prayers for Bro. Jordan Schroeder and family, as he seeks treatment for Ewing's sarcoma. He is the brother of two members of our congregation, Bro. Jesse (Sis. Jill) Schroeder and Sis. Lindsey (Bro. Jason) Getz.

Please be mindful and prayerful also for our missionaries, Bro. Tim and Sis. Joan Reinhard and family, serving in Haiti; and Bro. Jonathan Aupperle, serving in Magdalena.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE **Linda Joos** **Connie Christ**

"Thus united, And in concord, Let us walk the path of life." (Zion's Harp #237). On September 6, our Sis. Stephanie Regier (Bro. Dana and Sis. Martha Kay) and Bro. David Sceggel (Bro. Mark and Sis. Judy) from Peoria became one in the Lord. We pray God's blessings and nearness as they walk life's pathway together with the Lord.

We are thankful for our visiting ministers this month which included Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN), Elder Bro. Paul Messner (Winthrop, MN), Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN) and

Bro. Bill Schick (Magdalena, MX).

New babies have blessed several of our families. Bro. Phil and Sis. Barb Ehnle are thankful for the safe arrival of their new little grandson, Ashton Conner, born on August 24 to their daughter, Ashley. Elder Bro. Jim and Sis. Marlene Plattner welcome a precious granddaughter, Johanna Ruth, born on August 28 to Bro. Chad and Sis. Laura Lee Plattner (Tremont, IL). Excited siblings include Jesse, Javan, Jared, Jolene, Jubilee and Jonas. Sis. Shirley Kieser and Bro. Al and Sis. Vicki Hartzler are thankful to welcome a new grandson, Seth David, born to Bro. David and Sis. Jodi Kieser (Leo, IN) on September 7. His loving siblings include Zachary, Hayli, Luke and Kaitlyn.

We welcome Trishanna Josephs from the deaf school in Jamaica. She is attending Illinois Central College and living with Bro. Roger and Sis. Darlene Herrmann and family.

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE **Jamie Hodel** **Judy Sauder**

Acts 10:48: "And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord." We welcome Sis. Rachel Hodel (Bro. Curt and Sis. Jenell) and Bro. Tim Schwind (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Rita) into the body of Christ. We were able to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of these two dear souls the weekend of August 29-30.

We also rejoice with Jason Moser (Bro. Greg and Sis. Shar) and Craig Byrd (Bro. Steve and Sis. Coleen) as they have turned their back on the world and have begun seeking the Lord in repentance. We pray each of these souls can feel the nearness of God as they continue serving Him.

We were blessed to have visiting

ministers share the Word with us this month. On August 23, Bro. Jon Zeller (Morton) was with us. Then on August 29, Elder Bro. Earl Ringger was with us for testimonies. We were thankful to have Bro. Lynn Fiechter (Bluffton) and Bro. Mark Wettstein (LaCrosse) with us on Wednesday evening, September 2.

We welcome Sis. Janine Schambach, who has recently moved into our congregation. Janine's parents are Bro. Tom and Sis. Connie Schambach of Elgin. We also welcome Sis. Pat Fischer, who had been living in Leo, IN, into our area. We pray both of these dear sisters can feel welcomed as they begin worshipping with us.

Psalm 127:4-5: "As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of thy youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed..." Grayson Stephen was born August 22 to Ben and Sara Martin. Grayson's older brother is Landon. Grandparents are Al and Kathy Diehl of Groveland and Bro. Glen and Sis. Carol Martin. Bro. Josh and Sis. Bethany Lindberg became parents for the first time on August 27 with the birth of Cara Elizabeth. Grandparents are Bro. Paul and Sis. LeAnn Fischer (Leo) and Bro. Rich and Sis. Julie Lindberg (Atlanta). Evan Robert was born on September 7 to Bryan and Jamie Reifsteck. Evan is welcomed home by older brother Connor. Grandparents are Jim and Julie Tibbs and Bob and Debbie Reifsteck. Marc and Stephanie Rieke also became first-time parents on September 11 with the birth of Sophia Mae. Grandparents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Shirley Leman and Dean and Julie Rieke (Jackson, MI).

Our prayers are with Sis. Helen

Fehr in the passing of her brother, Norman Funk, of Roanoke on August 16.

"The righteous cry, and the Lord heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles." (Psalm 34:17). Our congregation continues to lift up those with infirmities of the flesh. We continue to lift up Bro. Jordan (Sis. Katelyn) Schroeder (Washington) and Bro. Dennis Martin (Portland).

Note of Thanks:

The Apostolic Christian Home of Roanoke wishes to thank all those who helped with our recent Nursing Home re-roofing project. We were so thankful for the brethren and friends from over 21 of our churches who made the effort to come and help us with this project. We also thank the National World Relief Committee for so willingly accepting this project, which allowed the use of the work trailers and their communication system. Many in our community were so impressed with the sacrifice our brethren and friends were willing to make to help others. Truly Matthew 5:19 was displayed in the days of this project. "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

We are so thankful for the provision of our Lord also in providing for the safety of all the workers, and for some of the finest Illinois summer weather anyone could ask for when replacing a roof. May all who helped or prayed for this work be richly blessed and encouraged.

In appreciation from The Congregation of the Roanoke Apostolic Christian Church, the Board of Directors of the Apostolic Christian Home, the Administrator, staff, and

residents

ILLINOIS, TREMONT **Teresa Rowell** **Janice Sauder**

Many visitors joined us for testimonies, baptisms and a wedding in this past month. We want to thank our visiting ministers again and wish them God's blessings: Elder Bro. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL), Bro. Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL), Bro. Paul Kilgus (Fairbury, IL), Bro. Kerwin Edelman (Athens, AL), Bro. Jeff Thames (Washington, IL), Bro. Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington-Normal, IL), Bro. Virgil Kaeb (Sarasota, FL), and Bro. Clark Stoller and Bro. Darren Metz (Gridley, IL).

"Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;"

Eccles. 12:1

We rejoice with Sis. Katie Koch (Bro. Dan and Sis. Julie) and Sis. Lynelle Fehr (Bro. James and Sis. Brenda) and welcome them into the family of God, after their testimonies and baptisms on August 22-23. How wonderful to come to the Lord in their youth.

We wish our two newly engaged couples the Lord's further blessings as they plan for their lives together. First is Sis. Debbie Bolliger (Bro. Tom and Sis. Jane) and Bro. Jason Slagel (Bro. Tim and Sis. Barb) of Washington, IL; and then Bro. Marvin Frank and Sis. Donna Yergler of Cissna Park, IL.

September 13 was a beautiful wedding day as Sis. Julie Kaeb (Bro. Dave and Sis. Barb) joined heart and

hand with Bro. Josh Stoller (Bro. Roger and Sis. Mary) of Gridley, IL. We wish them God's best for their married life.

We want to express our sympathy to the family of Bro. Glenn Stuber, as he has passed from this life to his eternal reward. He is survived by his wife, Sis. Dorothy; one son, Bro. Todd (Sis. Beth) of Tremont; one daughter, Peggy (Walter) Mueller of Mansfield, OH; eight grandchildren; thirteen great-grandchildren; and one sister from our congregation, Sis. Nola Koch.

We also extend sympathy to Bro. Marshall and Sis. Phyllis Holmes and Bro. Karl and Sis. Velda Glueck at the loss of their little granddaughter, Jalayne Holmes. She is survived by her parents, Jim and Karol Holmes; three brothers, Grant, Brock and Moise; and two sisters, Jamee and Jade, of Groveland; and many aunts, uncles and cousins in our congregation. We will continue to pray that, with the passing of time, God works healing in their hearts and lives.

It is always a pleasure to report new babies, and this month we have three! Nora Katherine joined the family of Bro. Greg and Sis. Mary Beutel. Big brother, Max, and grandparents, Bro. Dean and Sis. Karen Beutel and Bro. Curt and Sis. Kathy Rassi, helped to welcome her home. Bro. Rob and Sis. Marcia Dennis welcome a son, Jesse Edward, to their family. Siblings, Leah, Joshua, and Hannah, along with grandparents, Bro. Fred and Sis. Jeannette Beutel and Nancy Birkmeier, are helping take care of Jesse. Welcoming another daughter, Johanna Ruth, are Bro. Chad and Sis. Lauralee Plattner. Johanna's big brothers and sisters are Jesse, Javan, Jared, Jolene, Ju-

bilee, and Jonas. Paternal grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Marlene Plattner of Princeville, IL. God bless these new little ones.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON
Linda Folkerts
Nancy Leman

All the way my Savior leads me
 what have I to ask beside?
 Can I doubt His tender mercy,
 who through life has been my guide?
 Heavenly peace, divinest comfort,
 here by faith in Him to dwell!
 For I know, whate'er befall me,
 Jesus doeth all things well;
 For I know, whate'er befall me,
 Jesus doeth all things well.
 — *Hymns of Zion #21*

Bro. Jordan and Sis. Katelyn Schroeder recently traveled to Mexico for an alternative treatment for his cancer. It is with much thankfulness and praise to God that we convey the good news that his cancer is subsiding and he is now in remission. In the wake of a bleak prognosis, this miracle is evidence of what the power of prayer can achieve when we put it all in God's hands! We are also praying for Bro. Ed Teubel as he recovers from back surgery. May he also feel God's healing touch.

God has blessed our congregation with another little "miracle". Bro. Chris and Sis. Jill Hartter welcomed Eli Benjamin into their family on September 2. Siblings Ethan, Emily and Eric are excited, too. Happy grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Marie Wagenbach (Washington) and Bro. Neil and Sis. Evelyn Hartter (Bern, KS).

God has also worked a miracle in the hearts of Bro. Jason Slagel and Sis. Debbie Bolliger (Tremont). Their engagement was announced

on September 6, and we rejoice with them and their parents, Bro. Tim and Sis. Barb Slagel and Bro. Tom and Sis. Jane Bolliger (Tremont).

Our visiting ministers this past month have been Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Ruth Ann, Wolcott) and Bro. Greg Lehman (Sis. Mary Beth, Wolcott) on September 6, and Elder Bro. Mark Streitmatter (Sis. Sara, Bloomington) on September 17 for our monthly topical Bible study. We thank these brothers for their willingness to serve and share God's Word with us.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON
Grace Gerber
Stefanie Kipfer

"He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty."

Psalms 91:1

In the end of August and beginning of September, Bluffton has been praying for several families that are battling cancer and other physical ailments. Bro. Mark Moser (Sis. Wanda), Sis. Sandy Ringger (Bro. Kendall), Sis. Jan Sutter (Bro. Bob), and Bro. Jameson Ringger (Sis. Sheena) are all currently facing cancer and it's aftereffects. Also, Sis. Lucinda Steffen (Bro. Ralph) fell and broke her hip. We pray that those who are physically suffering can abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

Sis. Alice Steffen (Bro. Russell, dec.) went to be with the Lord on Sunday, September 13. Our thoughts and prayers go with her children, grandchild, and siblings as they grieve her passing.

Leaving home and the familiar can also be disconcerting so we are lifting up Sis. Cassie Bertsch (Bro.

Mike and Sis. Carmen) as she has made the decision to teach at the Athens, AL, preschool. We also continue to pray for Bro. Kevin and Sis. Erika Kipfer as they prepare for their mission field overseas. Even though they are not going to dwell in Bluffton any longer, we pray that they can remain in the secret place of the most High.

We had two couples make new beginnings this month. Bro. Travis Fiechter (Bro. Doug and Sis. Jill) committed his life to Sis. Alyssa Tonner (Bro. Brian and Sis. Joy) on August 29. Bro. Cory Aschliman (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Beth) announced his engagement to Sis. Holly Fiechter (Bro. Don and Sis. Suzie). We rejoice with these couples as they begin their new adventures.

Adoption is such a marvelous picture of God's love for us, and we had two couples who adopted sweet babies into their families. Bro. Ked and Sis. Joanne Gerber adopted little Kyler Marshal. Kyler was also welcomed by sisters, Taylor, Cordin, and Aubrey. Their Bluffton grandparents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Cheryl Gerber. Also adopting this month was Bro. Michael and Sis. Jane Reinhard who welcomed Phineas Mateo. His little brother, Deacon, and grandparents, Bro. John and Sis. Pam Reinhard, were also excited.

Bro. Zach and Sis. Miriam Geisel brought home their bundle of joy, Mary Joann. Mary's older siblings are Leah, Ruth, and Daniel. The happy grandparents are Bro. Stan and Sis. Cindy Geisel (Bluffton North) and Bro. Barry and Sis. Imogene Isch.

For all the changes in life, may we always dwell and abide in God.

**INDIANA
BLUFFTON NORTH
Sherry Pfister
Jessie Longenberger**

Rejoice in the Lord Jesus Christ!

Tony Pfister has felt the need for a Saviour and has started his repentance. His parents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Sherry Pfister. May God bless Tony and his family with peace and joy.

We thank the ministering brothers who came to share God's Word with us. They were Bro. Allen Stoller (Sis. Susan, Bluffton), Bro. Ben Manz (Sis. Carolyn, Junction, OH), and Bro. Dean Steffen (Sis. Carol, Belvidere, IL). May God richly reward these brothers for their labors among the flock.

If Jesus Came to Your House

If Jesus came to your house
to spend a day or two.
If He came unexpectedly
I wonder what you'd do?

Oh, I know you'd give your nicest
room
to such an honored guest
and all the food you'd serve Him
would be the very best.

And you would keep assuring Him,
you're glad to have Him there;
that serving Him in your home
was joy beyond compare.

But when you saw Him coming,
would you meet Him at the door,
showing Him He's the one
you seek to worship and adore?

Or would you have to change your
clothes
before you let Him in,
and hide some magazines
and put the Bibles where they'd been?

Would you turn off the radio
and hope He hadn't heard
and wish you hadn't uttered
that last loud nasty word?

Would you hide your worldly music
and put some hymn books out?
Could you let Jesus walk right in
or would you rush about?

And I wonder if the Savior
spent a day or two with you,
would you go right on doing
the things you always do?

Would you go right on saying
the things you always say?
Would life for you continue
as it does from day to day?

Would the family conversation
keep at its usual pace?
And would you find it hard each meal
to say a table grace?

Would you sing the songs you always
sung
and read the books you've read?
And let the Savior know the things
on which your mind and spirit fed?

Would you take Jesus with you
everywhere you'd planned to go?
Or would you maybe change your
plans
for just a day or so?

Would you be glad to have Him
stay forever, on and on?
Or would you sigh with great relief
when He at last was gone?

Would you be glad to have Him
meet your very closest friends?
Or would you hope they'd stay away
until His visit ends?

It might be interesting to know
the things that you would do
if Jesus came to your house
to spend a day or two.

—author unknown

**INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE
Mildred Clauss
Jacki Huber**

"I have no greater joy than to
hear that my children walk in
truth."

III John 4

This surely is the blessing that every God-fearing parent delights in! Four young souls have been announced for peace with God and they desire to give testimony to the church and be baptized which is planned for October 3-4. They are Jonathon Pelsy (Bro. Roger and Sis. Lily); Keelin Isch and Katie Isch (Bro. Burt and Sis. Karlene) and Alisha Gutwein (Bro. Jan and Sis. Val).

Bro. John Baumgartner (Sis. Tammy, Bluffton North) was our visiting minister on August 23 and we are grateful to the Lord for his inspiring message.

Sis. Minerva Wuethrich who celebrated her 100th birthday in May died on September 2 at Parkview Haven. Sis. Minerva was devoted to her Lord and was blessed with a full life. She is survived by four sisters: Sis. Marie Heinold (Bluffton, IN), Bernice Houk (Peoria, IL), Sis. Nancy Klopfenstein (Leo, IN), and Marjorie (Fred) Hess (Valparaiso, IN); a brother, Bro. Leon (Francesville); and many nieces and nephews.

Sis. Betty (Walters) Huber passed away on September 7 at Pulaski Memorial Hospital in Winamac. She had been in declining health, but she continually looked to the Lord whom she had served for many years trusting that He would provide daily grace and courage. Her husband, Bro. Bill Huber, passed away in 1999. She is survived by her three children: Brent William (Julia, Fishers, IN), Brenda Huber (Normal, IL), Bro. Robert Louis (Sis. Joy, Imuris, Mexico); a brother, Larry Walters (Texas); and a sister, Joyce Kupferschmidt (South Bend). Also surviving are five grandsons and three granddaughters. We pray the Lord will

comfort and encourage the hearts of her family.

Sis. Diane Vogt has returned home from Derhadun, India, where she spent three weeks with her son and family, Bro. Lon and Sis. Sarah Vogt, who were recently blessed with a baby boy, Jaece Andres. The family also includes a daughter, Aesha. We wish God's blessings on the family and we thank Him for safe travel for Sis. Diane.

Roy and Angie Reese were blessed with a baby girl, Aliveah Pearl, on August 19. We pray the Lord will bless them and their children and draw their hearts ever closer to Him.

Our congregation has been listening to the Conference tapes for the past several Wednesday evenings. We pray for our ministers as they search the Scriptures for direction in decisions that must be made in this present day.

**INDIANA
INDIANAPOLIS
Sandy Lichtle
Gail Bradford**

Big brother Bailey and parents, Billy and Tia Fairchild, welcomed a baby girl, Una Jane, born September 15. We rejoice with them as they bring this child into the world, blessed with a firm foundation of family faith.

We continue to pray for the recovery of Sis. Betty Baltic (Bro. Dan) who was severely injured in an automobile accident. Daughter, Sis. Katrina Baltic, was also injured, but did not require hospitalization. The Baltic family worshiped in Indianapolis for several years and although they now attend the Columbus, OH, church, the Indiana bonds are strong.

Our dear friend, Leah Baum-

gartner (Bro. Greg and Sis. Missy), has expressed a desire to repent and be baptized. During this time of reflection and preparation, it will be our privilege to encourage and uplift her.

We appreciate the ministering services of Bro. Kevin Knapp (Sis. Dixie, Bloomington, IL) recently. We also appreciate the many greetings from our churches across the land, especially during the summer as loved ones traveled here and there.

We gathered together on a recent Sunday evening for a traditional "singing" after a potluck meal. This is an opportunity for the adults to sing the "old time" songs of faith and praise that have been favorites since childhood, and a time when the young people can sing their own beloved hymns. There is no 'generation gap' at a singing!

"Praise ye the Lord. I will praise the Lord with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, and in the congregation."

Psalm 111:1

**INDIANA, LACROSSE
Bethany Johnson
Julie Rocke**

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

*Hymns of Zion #188
(Psalm 133:1)*

Our prayers for the annual Brotherhood Conference held in Tremont, IL, were answered, as brethren from far and near came together to listen to the topics presented. Many thanks to the Tremont congregation for all of

their work in preparing and serving those who attended. We have the opportunity now to hear those words in our own church as we gather to listen to the tapes of the Conference.

Sunday school classes resumed this month after taking the month of August off. We welcome Bro. Owen Gudeman and Sis. Margene Peasley as our new teachers. May God bless them as they serve Him in this capacity.

We wish to congratulate Chris Frank (Bro. Curt and Sis. Lyla) and Amy Koch (Rick and Lisa Holliday, Ken and Cathie Koch) on their recent engagement. We also wish to extend our heartfelt sympathy to them and their family on the passing away of Amy's stepfather, Rick Holliday, who recently lost his long-term battle with cancer.

Sis. Dorothy Stewart was recently hospitalized. We are thankful that she is able to assemble with us again.

We rejoice that Rachel Feller (Bro. Joe and Sis. Jackie) has seen her need of a Saviour and has answered the call to repentance. We pray that God will stay ever near her to lead and guide her.

Many thanks to ministering Bros. Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi, Alto, MI), John Lehman (Sis. RuthAnn, Wolcott, IN) and Chris Wuethrich (Sis. Carla, St. Louis, MO) for their service on our behalf. May God richly bless them and their families.

It is with sadness that we said good-bye to Jeremy Johnson who has been attending with us for about one year. He has taken work down south and has relocated back to Alabama. We already miss his presence in our little congregation.

We also said farewell to Bro. Joe, Sis. Jackie, Bro. Ross, Hannah and

Rachel Feller as they have chosen to follow God's leading to support the Valparaiso, IN, congregation. We miss them, but pray that God will bless their service to Him in a new location. We are thankful that they are still close to us and look forward to them coming "home" to visit us often.

As we lose some, we gain some. We are excited that Bro. Rudy and Sis. Rosario Gonzales-Troxel and little Nathan are moving back for a time from Mexico. We look forward to worshipping with them again and having their fellowship until God leads them elsewhere.

INDIANA, LEO
Elizabeth Schrenk
Abigail Schrenk

"For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show himself strong in the behalf of those whose heart is perfect toward him."

II Chronicles 16:9a

The closer we get to know the Lord, the clearer we see how true His promises really are. Our God shows Himself to be faithful and strong every time. We have no reason to fear.

For our small congregation, the past few weeks have been quite eventful.

Bro. Darren and Sis. Britni Eisenmann became first-time parents on August 20. Talise Joy is safe and sound at home with her parents. On August 28, Brayla Thompson from Oak House, gave birth to a beautiful baby boy, Deontae Jaquel. On September 7, Bro. Dave and Sis. Jodi Kieser added a new son into their family. Zach, Haley, Luke, and

Kaitlyn gladly welcomed their new brother, Seth David, into their home. Lastly, Bro. Steve and Sis. Linda Schrenk are now the happy parents of Amos Wondiye and Esther Messelech. The twins arrived home from Ethiopia on September 14. Congratulations to each of these families and we wish God's blessings as they try to nurture their children in the Lord.

During the past month, we were blessed to have Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Sis. Pam, Washington), as well as Bro. Alan Schambach (Sis. Sarah, Remington), and Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North) minister the Word of God to us. We want to thank each one for sharing with us.

INDIANA, MILFORD
Pam Beer
Carol Hurd

The Milford congregation wishes to thank Bro. Nile Bucher (Sis. Phyllis, Bluffton North) for sharing God's Word with us on August 23.

Bro. Carlton Beer (Sis. Mary Ann) is experiencing God's healing hand after heart surgery. We pray that God continues to bless him in his recovery.

May God bless the marriage of Ben Schlipf (Bro. Rich and Sis. Kathy) and Sarah Marty. We pray for traveling mercies as work has taken them to New Zealand.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Ruth Beer and family in the passing of their husband and father, Bro. Don Beer. After a long illness, God took him to his heavenly reward.

The Milford Church had the privilege of hosting the 2009 ACYF Junior High School age. We especially enjoyed their singing for us. May God bless the many Brothers and Sisters who worked to make this

weekend possible.

Wishing God's blessings to Bro. Glenn and Sis. Kate Price who recently celebrated their 68th wedding anniversary.

We are keeping Sis. Pat Beer (Bro. Fred) and Sis. Karen Pamer (Bro. Matt) in our prayers as they deal with health issues.

INDIANA, REMINGTON

**Jenni Honegger
Marcella Tyler**

We were very privileged to host the 2009 Men's Sing here in Remington and wish to thank everyone who participated in this wonderful event. It was such a blessing to sit in a very full church on the following Sunday and hear the many voices united in praise for our Lord! Forty churches were represented on Saturday and over 25 greetings were given on Sunday. We look forward to hearing the finished product on the Christmas Joy CD as soon as it's available.

We have also enjoyed listening to the tapes of the recent Elder Conference on Wednesday nights along with the Wolcott congregation. We are indeed blessed to have such faithful brothers as our shepherds, looking out for us and watching for our souls. It is such a comfort to me that they strive always to use the whole counsel of God in their admonitions and encouraging advice. We pray it may always be so!

We are thankful for the many visiting ministers and their wives who gave of their time and energy for our spiritual nourishment this month. We enjoyed the fellowship of Elder Bro. Jim Plattner (Sis. Marlene, Princeville, IL), Bro. Brian Waibel (Sis. Wendy, Champaign, IL), Bro. Ed Fritz (Sis. Sally, Washington, IL), Bro. Gary Anliker (Sis. Edith,

Elgin, IL), Bro. Edwin Strahm (Sis. Ramona, Bern, KS), Bro. Dewayne Dill (Sis. LaRae, Minneapolis, MN), Bro. Paul Gasser (Sis. Joyce, Akron, OH), and Bro. James Knapp (Sis. Lisa, Congerville, IL).

We also ask for your prayers for our Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna). We are thankful he is with us again on the pulpit after his recent back surgery, and we pray that God will continue to grant him healing and strength in his recovery.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

Joshua Martinez

We are keeping Sis. Pauline Laidig in our thoughts and prayers. Her daughter, Juanita, reports that her 98-year-old mother is getting weaker, stays in bed constantly, sleeps much and eats little. Sis. Pauline is a long-time faithful servant of our great and mighty God, "in whose hand is the soul of every living thing, and the breath of all mankind." (Job 12:10)

We thank our outgoing Sunday School teachers, Sis. Lavilla Langhofer (Bro. Marty) and Sis. Gigi Schafer (Bro. Scott), for their labors of love. We encourage Sis. Becky Langhofer (Bro. Brad) and Sis. Tricia Lester (Bro. Ed) who will replace them, as they teach the Word of Life to our precious children.

Our visiting ministers this month were Bro. Wayne Leman (Sis. Julie, Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi, Alto, MI). We thank them and their families for their willingness to be used in the Lord's service.

God be with you 'til we meet again!

INDIANA, VALPARAISO

Marguerite Hoerr

Our congregation has been graced with the following visitors this month: Bro. Bob and Sis. Mary Bradle and their daughter, Sis. Susan (Roanoke, IL), Bro. Ben and Sis. Miriam Metz (Francesville), and Bro. Glen and Sis. Krista Moser (Roanoke, IL). Bro. Glen and Sis. Krista were on their way to the Washington, D. C. church to be caretakers for a month.

The Memorandum tapes of the Brotherhood Conference have been played during the Wednesday night services. Since Bob and I don't feel we should drive for evening services, we can always listen to them because Bro. Ed Lester kindly cuts a CD for us and we absorb them in the quiet of our home. It's not the same as hearing it along with our brothers and sisters, but we marvel at technology that makes it affordable to us in this way.

Our dear friend, Judy Kotzer, has been unable to be with us in worship recently and we're missing her and hoping that she'll soon be back with us. She and Dave are such integral parts of our congregation and we think they know how much they are loved by all of us.

This week I was having lunch downstairs at the library with two of my co-workers when a familiar looking couple came down the steps and said hello. It was Bro. Ron and Sis. Brenda Clark from the Remington congregation. They were vacationing in New Buffalo, remembered that I worked at the library part time and they decided to look me up. I see so many people during the day that I had to look at them for a moment to realize I last saw them in our Valpo church, not in the library! I marvel at the love that prompts a

meeting like this. They were able to give me an update on Brenda's brother, our Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus, who recently had back surgery. I was pleased to know he's received some help for the pain he's had. Their visit gave me a happy day.

Our friend Millie Williams worshipped with us for many years and could always be found helping with clean up after our noon lunch. Due to health problems with her husband Bill, and heart surgery that Millie had; their daughters moved them to California to be near them. Millie called this week that Bill died and she wanted her church to know about it. She was a dear friend to us and we are thinking of her and her family with sympathy and love. Millie, if you're reading this, please know that you are missed and that you are in our hearts and thoughts and prayers.

We're looking ahead to October 4, when ministering Bro. Herb Knochel (Sis. Laurie) and their family will be with us on our Harvest Day program and dinner. Each year this dinner is prepared for everyone and our visitors by the men in our church. It's always been a true joy to attend and share fellowship with visitors who come to enjoy the Harvest Dinner along with us.

Recently I came across a scripture that my Mom used, when she was asked to speak to a group of Christian women. She loved the book of James and this is the reference: James 3 verses 17 & 18: "But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace." When we divided her things, we

found the talk she outlined. I always felt that my Mom was wise, but when I came across this, I knew for sure where her wisdom came from.

Remember, if you're in our area; we're just 2 3/4 miles South of U.S. 30 on State Rd. 49. You will find a warm welcome in our Valpo church.

**INDIANA
WEST LAFAYETTE
Hollie Meister
Darlene Walder**

We were very excited this month to have our ground breaking ceremony for our new church building. The Lord provided a beautiful day for us to remember and we now look forward to watching the changes over the next several months.

It is an exciting time of year for our Sunday School students as some have moved into new classes and have new classmates and teachers. We would like to welcome our new teachers: Bros. Russ Walder and Ryan Meister, and Sisters Darlene Walder, Kim Furrer, Alivia Gutwein, and Kelli Pritts. We would like to thank Bros. Stu Gutwein, Brad Widmer, Grant Gudeman, and Sisters Suzanne Schieler and Mara Leman who have just finished teaching.

We were grateful this month to have the following visiting ministers: Bros. Les Kaeb (Francesville, IN), Greg Lehman (Wolcott, IN), and Troy Leyse (Bluffton, IN). We would like to thank them for coming to share God's message with our congregation.

**INDIANA, WOLCOTT
Lynell Blume
Donita Edelman**

On August 22, we enjoyed God's beautiful creation at our annual

Turkey Run State Park outing and picnic. It was a fun day of hiking, enjoying nature, and interacting with one another for children and adults alike.

We rejoice with Michelle Furrer (Bro. Troy and Sis. Lisa) as she has received the peace of God in her heart. We look forward to her testimony of faith and baptism the week-end of September 26-27.

Funeral services were held here in Wolcott for Sis. Eileen Furrer (Bro. Glenn, Prescott, AZ) on September 12, after she passed away in Prescott, AZ. Bro. Glenn and Sis. Eileen lived here several years after their marriage. It was her wish that her son-in-law, Bro. Jerry Isch (Sis. Linda, Philadelphia, PA), conduct the funeral service. Many verses were read in the touching service about the hope of eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ. Sis. Eileen will be remembered for her meek and humble spirit. Other visiting brothers assisting with the funeral services were Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Sis. Sandra, Morris, MN) and Bro. Doug Harmon (Sis. Lanna, Toledo, OH). We wish to extend our love and sympathy to Bro. Glenn and their children, Bro. Tom Furrer (Sis. Jill, Morris, MN), Sis. Linda Isch (Bro. Jerry, Philadelphia, PA), and daughter-in-law, Sis. Rowena Furrer (the late Jim Furrer, Prescott, AZ). Our prayers are also with her sister and brothers-in-law from our congregation, June Lehman (Bro. Harold), Bro. Don Furrer (Sis. Rita) and Bro. Irv Furrer (Sis. Shirley) of our congregation. May each one feel the Lord's comfort and His nearness at this time of loss.

What a blessing it is when we can meet and greet others of like mind and faith! Our invite-a-guest week-

end was held September 12-13, and we were blessed with many visitors. Bro. Brian Huber (Sis. Jacki, Francesville, IN) ministered to us from God's Holy Word. Also sharing God's Word with us this past month was Bro. Rustin Meister (Sis. Amanda, West Lafayette, IN). We certainly thank these brothers for lending themselves in the Lord's service.

Our Junior High Sunday School class spent Sunday, September 20, in Milford, IN, learning more about God's love and His teachings. We wish to thank the Milford congregation for hosting this day, and we pray that our youth will desire to learn more about God, and also to live in the ways of the Lord.

IOWA, BLOOMFIELD

Christy Wiegand

We are thankful to welcome two new babies into our congregation. Matt and Tara Gordon welcomed their new little girl, Ireland Grace, into this world on August 24. Alan and Bethany Wettstein are the joyful parents of Olivia Sue, born on August 28. Big sister Emmy helped welcome baby Olivia home. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Jake and Sis. Mary Wettstein (Eureka) and Bro. Art and Sis. Pam Wiegand (Goodfield). Congratulations to both couples and we wish you God's blessings as your families grow.

"Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts."

Hebrews 3:7-8

We are rejoicing with Jacki Wettstein (Bro. Jon and Sis. Rita) as she has heard that voice and has answered the call of repentance.

We appreciate the efforts of min-

istering Bro. Brad Funk (Sis. Laura, Garden Grove) for sharing the Word with us on Sunday, August 30.

We welcome three college students. Darcy Price (Milford, IN), Kendra Schlatter (Bay City, MI), and Sis. Emily Bahler (Wolcott, IN) are all attending our local community college. We hope they all feel at home here in Bloomfield.

We have been enjoying listening to the topics from the general Conference. We thank the Elders for the time and effort they spent on our behalf.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Karla Gerst

Dixie Messner

It is hard to believe that fall is upon us but as the Lord said: "There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest." (John 4:35)

Now the field is ripe for harvest;
Let us then all garner in;
For if we should stand here idle,
Who would bring the sheaves of grain?

Hasten gladly to the labor.
Consecrate to God your heart.
Say this day unto your Saviour,
"Lord, I'll gladly do my part."

Hymns of Zion #46

We are thankful Sis. Tami Banwart (Bro. Leo) is recovering at home after her recent surgery.

IOWA, ELGIN

Maria Rocke

Molly Hanson (Albert and Trudy) and Jesse Johnson (William and Brenda, Gillette, WY) were united in marriage on August 22 in Gillette, WY. We wish them God's blessings and look forward to their

visits back to Elgin.

Emily Kate Getz was born September 4 to Bro. Kent and Sis. Betty. Emily's siblings are Tierra, Oren, Bahlor, Levi, Silas and Joel. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Al and Sis. LaVerne Butikofer and Bro. Allan and Sis. Nathalia Getz (Eureka, IL).

Our annual Invite-a-Guest weekend took place this past month. It was a blessed weekend of fellowship. Bro. Gary Anliker (Sis. Edith, Elgin, IL), Elder Bro. Ron Schambach (Sis. Nancy, Elgin, IL) and Bro. Bill Dotterer (Sis. Sharon, Lamar, MO) were here to share the Word with us. We thank them for their labors.

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE

Rhoda Plattner

We wish to express our sincere appreciation for the many visitors that we have enjoyed recently here in our congregation. Assisting Bro. Brad Funk on the pulpit have been Bro. Dean Messner (Sis. Wanda, Winthrop, MN) and Bro. Kent Mogler (Sis. Mary, Minneapolis, MN). Blessing us with delivery of the Word during Labor Day weekend were Elder Bros. Lawrence Luthi (Sis. Becky, Lamar, MO) and Bruce Endress (Sis. Elizabeth, Bradford, IL).

Our church family was vividly reminded recently of God's goodness and His marvelous plan for our lives when Bro. Clint Moser was involved in a serious accident. Bro. Clint spent a few days in the hospital and several at home recovering and we rejoice that he has rapidly recovered from some minor injuries.

**IOWA, LESTER
Polly Metzger
Gloria Moser**

“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above”

James 1:17

Two families have been blessed with the precious gift of new little babies. Bro. Jeff and Sis. Amber Leuthold and Landon welcomed a girl, Kendra Lee, into their family on August 30. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Harvey and Sis. Mary Metzger and Bro. Chuck and Sis. Vicki Leuthold.

Kate Ellyn was born on September 2 to Bro. Eric and Sis. Joy Kupferschmid. Levi and Drew are excited big brothers. Bro. Pat and Sis. Twyla Meyer and Bro. Richard and Sis. Maribeth Kupferschmid (Eureka, IL) are the happy grandparents.

Taryn Besonen (Brant and Samantha) and Bro. Eugene Nester (Sis. Shirley) have spent time in the hospital. May God provide healing and relief to all who are suffering physical afflictions.

On August 29, Mike Ter Wee (Jerry and Mary) and Tina DeSchepper were united in marriage. Mark Mogler (Bro. Rodney and Sis. Lois) and Laura Kaniewski were married on September 4. May both of these couples enjoy many blessings.

The betrothal of Bro. Chet Mogler (Bro. Brian and Sis. Bev) and Sis. Cassie Metzger (Bro. Tom and Sis. Deb) was announced on September 20. May God bless them as they make plans for their life together.

Our visiting ministers have been Bro. Mark Schmidgall (Oakville, IA) Bro. Kent Mogler (Minneapolis,

MN) and Bro. Rex Frieden (Lamar, MO). May God bless them for their willingness to preach the gospel.

It may be in the valley where countless dangers hide;

It may be in the sunshine that I, in peace, abide.

But this one thing I know—It may be dark or fair,

If Jesus is with me, I'll go anywhere.

Tabernacles #36

We bid farewell to Bro. Duane and Sis. Ann Wulf and children, Cassidy, Axel, Zachariah, Garret and Marshall, as they have felt God's direction to relocate to Magdalena, Mexico. May God be near them as they labor at the orphanage there.

Be still, my soul; The Lord is on thy side:

Bear patiently the cross of grief and pain;

Leave to thy God to order and provide.

In every change He faithful will remain.

In the past month our congregation has experienced many changes. After years of service, our Elder Bro. Dennis Warner has retired from the Eldership and Ministry. Bro. Dennis was given the duties of a minister in 1971 and was ordained as an Elder on September 17, 1989. We sincerely thank him and his wife, Sis. Esther, for their many years of patient laboring and the numerous sacrifices made on our behalf. We trust that God will reward Bro. Dennis and Sis. Esther with peace and strength.

We pray also that the Lord will give Godly discernment, inspire and encourage Bro. Rod Bajema and his wife, Sis. Twyla, as the mantle of leadership has been passed on to him. This took place on the weekend

of September 19-20. Elder brothers here to assist in the ordination exhortation and ordination service were: Elder Bros. Art Nohl (Morris, MN), Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA), Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA), Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN) and Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL). Other Elder brothers here for this weekend were: Doug Schock (Bloomfield, IA), Lawrence Luthi (Lamar, MO), Gerry Hertzell (Sabetha, KS), Ben Walder (Congerville, IL), Paul Messner (Winthrop, MN), Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT) and Duane Rocke (Minneapolis, MN).

“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever.”

I Peter 4:11

This chapter was read in Bro. Dennis Warner's final sermon to the congregation. May it be an encouragement to him as well as Bro. Rod and all our ministers that the truth can be preached and God's name can be glorified.

The signs and sounds of the Autumn season are around us. The fields are turning ripe for the harvest and the trees are starting to change color. May we all be watchful for Christ's return and that great Harvest day when God's people will be gathered in.

Note of Thanks:

I would like to thank each one that took time to send me a card to celebrate my 90th birthday. It was wonderful to hear from each one. May God richly bless you all.

Sis. Irene Knobloch

IOWA, OAKVILLE

Sharla Wiegand

On August 16, Sis. Janella Gerst and Bro. David Zimmerman made wedding vows before a cloud of witnesses. Their parents are Bro. Charles and Sis. Charlene Gerst and Bro. Paul and Sis. Loretta Zimmerman (Forrest, IL). We will miss Sis. Janella, but she will be a great asset to the Forrest congregation.

Visiting ministers who came for the wedding included Bros. Greg Stoller, Gary Brown and Paul Zimmerman (Forrest, IL), Elder Bro. Ben Walder (Congerville, IL), Bro. Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL) and Bro. Joe Gerst (Iowa City, IA).

We are thankful when a ministering brother comes 'home' to visit. Bro. Michael Wagenbach (Wolcott, IN) preached the Word on September 6.

As part of invite-a-guest weekend, we were privileged to have visiting ministers: Bro. Ken Eisenmann (Cissna Park, IL), Bro. Ken Schneider (Remington, IN), Bro. Larry Bahr (Kiowa, KS) and Bro. Paul Zimmerman (Forrest, IL). Many visitors came from near and far and we enjoyed meeting them all.

Three precious babies were born this month. On August 29, Noah Allen was welcomed into the family of Bro. Dan and Sis. Amanda Frank, Isaac and Kayla. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Tina Frank and Steve and Barb Mark.

Macy Lynae made first-time parents of Bro. Clinton and Sis. Kyrstin Wagenbach on August 30. Macy's grandparents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Bonnie Wagenbach, Jr. and Bro. Kevin and Sis. Denise Kilgus (For-

rest, IL).

Also born on August 30, Felicity Rose joined the family of Bro. Terry and Sis. Jaclyn Goodpaster and Gideon. Thankful for her safe arrival are grandparents, Bro. Dave and Sis. Sandy Schaer and Sylvia Chamberlin of Warren, IN.

Last but not least of all the news this month is the engagement announcement of Bro. Travis Frank and Sis. Kenna Kellenberger. Their parents are Bro. Curt and Sis. Kathy Frank and Bro. Brad and Sis. Teresa Kellenberger (Sabetha, KS). May the Lord direct them in the days ahead.

IOWA, WEST BEND

Janet Fehr Sue Schneider

We are happy to report the engagement of Bro. Wes Banwart to Sis. Kary Bradle from the Eureka congregation. Their parents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Marlene Banwart and Bro. Roger and Sis. Ila Bradle.

Trudy Grimm and Jake Eaton from St. Marys, IA, were united in marriage on September 12. Parents of the couple are Margaret and Eli Grimm, Jr. and John and Nancy Eaton. We wish Trudy and Jake God's rich blessings.

Four new babies have brightened the hearts and lives of several families in our congregation. On September 1, Bro. Jeff and Sis. LaRae Montag welcomed their first son, Easton Joseph, into their home. Little Easton has four eager sisters to help with his care: Karissa, Jenna, Kiersten and Morgan, and two sets of grandparents, Bro. Ken and Sis. Marlene Banwart and Ed and Luan Montag.

Bro. Josh and Sis. Lainey Banwart were first-time parents with the birth of their son, Thad

James, born on September 4. Thad's happy grandparents are Brad and Julie Banwart, and Bro. Scott and Sis. Elaine Frank (Eureka, IL).

A little daughter, Lillian Dawn, was born to Bro. Dallas and Sis. Christy Massner on September 6. She is welcomed home by two siblings, Caleb and Sophie. Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gail Massner and Bro. Curt and Sis. Kathy Frank (Oakville, IA) are Lillian's grandparents.

Bro. Mark and Sis. Deb Bruellman have a new grandson, Nolan Burke. Little Nolan's parents are Brian and Jill Henderson from St. James, MN. He has one sister, Briley. What a blessing these little souls are to all of us. May God keep each of them forever close to Him.

There were four hospital patients we need to mention this month. A change was in store for Miriam Frieden as she spent some time in the hospital, then moved from Ankeny, IA, into the West Bend Care Center. Also, Sis. Gail (Bro. Dennis) Massner, Carson Wirtz (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Trela) and Dave (Lynn) Petersen all needed medical attention, and we are thankful they are doing well again.

Bro. Don (Sis. Leann) Schambach from Elgin, IL, passed away. He is the brother-in-law of Bro. Ken and Sis. Marlene Banwart and Bro. Eldon and Sis. Karen Banwart. Our prayers are with their families at the time of this loss.

On August 30, we were privileged to have Bro. Phil Schulz (Sis. Kelli, Burlington, IA) with us as well as Bro. Ron Isch (Sis. Jane, Lamont-Gridley, KS) on September 13. We appreciated their willingness to share the Word of Life with us; we pray for God's blessings in their lives.

Jesus is all the world to me, My life,
 my joy, my all;
 He is my strength from day to day,
 Without Him I would fall.
 When I am sad, to Him I go, No other
 one can cheer me so;
 When I am sad He makes me glad,
 He's my Friend.

Jesus is all the world to me, My
 Friend in trials sore;
 I go to Him for blessings, and He gives
 them o'er and o'er
 He sends the sunshine and the rain,
 He sends the harvest's golden
 grain;
 Sunshine and rain, harvest of grain,
 He's my Friend.

Jesus is all the world to me, and true
 to Him I'll be;
 Oh, how could I this Friend deny,
 When He's so true to me?
 Following Him I know I'm right, He
 watches o'er me day and night;
 Following Him, by day and night, He's
 my Friend.

Jesus is all the world to me, I want no
 better friend;
 I trust Him now, I'll trust Him when
 Life's fleeting days shall end.
 Beautiful life with such a Friend;
 Beautiful life that has no end;
 Eternal life, eternal joy, He's my
 Friend.
 —*Gospel Hymns #804*

Jesus is a true Friend through all
 the seasons of our lives. How blessed
 we are!

JAPAN, TOKYO **Jana Klaus**

In early September, the Tokyo congregation enjoyed a visit from Bro. Akihiro (who also ministered) and Sis. Carrie and the Kinsinger family (all from Shioda) as the Klaus family spent the day in Shioda. Sis. Carrie's baby is due soon, so it may be a while until they make it to Tokyo again.

Personally speaking, it is with joy and humbleness that we announce our two daughters, Sarah and Hannah Klaus, have expressed being at peace with the Lord and are desiring baptism. The date has been set for the weekend of November 14-15. We ask for many prayers for a blessed weekend and upon their Christian walk.

KANSAS, BERN **Sheri Edelman** **Jill Meyer**

We are pleased to welcome Sis. Emily Bahler to our congregation on weekends. She is attending school during the week in Iowa and plans to spend weekends here with her extended family.

Peter Strahm (Bro. Kyle and Sis. Peggy) has begun his repentance! We are so thankful for each and every soul that can humble themselves and give their lives to the Lord!

Jeffery Edelman (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Linda) has found peace with God and man. We plan to hear his testimony the weekend of October 31. May the Lord continue to lead him!

Bro. Ted Witzig (Morton, IL) was here for a Bible study on "Relationships in the body of Christ". We thank him for his presentation Saturday evening and again for ministering to us on Sunday. Bro. Brent (Sis. Beth) Kellenberger and Bro. Brandon (Sis. Maria) Emch, both of the Kansas City, MO, congregation, were here this month and shared God's Holy Word with us as well. Thank you for being willing servants to us!

Labor Day weekend we enjoyed a large group of singles in our congregation! What a blessing to meet so many brothers and sisters from dif-

ferent congregations and hear the melodious voices blend in harmony!

Note of Thanks:

I would just like to thank you all for your prayers, cards, gifts, love and compassion shown to me since my surgery and during this time of recovery. May God richly bless you all for your kindness and support.

Bill Berg

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT **Martin Hohulin Sr.**

On August 9 we were blessed by the ministry of Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City). He was in town visiting family. He and Bro. Rick Kellenberger of Fort Scott are both doctors. I am sure the two brothers had much to talk about over the weekend.

On September 6, Bro. Bob and Sis. Betty Lemons hosted an all church picnic at their home on Fort Scott Lake. A few of us arrived early and were treated to a boat ride on the lake. It was a special event for me and my wife as it brought back memories of when our late son, Bill, drove his boat on the same lake over 40 years ago.

Sis. Anna Lou Aberle spent time in the hospital and in her home for a few Sundays afterward. It was good to see her in church again on September 13. When someone is absent, they are certainly missed by everyone.

Also on September 13, we hosted the annual Kansas City-Fort Scott Picnic. It was held in our beautiful Gunn Park which has been the site of many church events for decades. It was well attended by members, friends, and children from Fort Scott and Kansas City. A day of near perfect weather added to the bless-

ings of the day.

KANSAS, KIOWA

Jenny Stewart

Our hospital patient this month was Sis. Tillie Diel. May God keep her in the palm of His hand.

Our prayers are with Sis. Marie Tucker who was also in the hospital this month. She is home and recovering nicely.

The Kisling family lost another loved one with the passing of Annabelle Kisling (Bro. Frank's widow). May the family find comfort through God's grace and comfort.

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

John 14:27

KANSAS, SABETHA

Rebekah Beyer Carrie Grimm

Visitors have been present every Sunday over this past month. Also, the young group invited guests over Labor day weekend. Recent visiting ministers were Bro. Dale Banwart (Sis. Melissa, Congerville, IL), Bro. Beirne Messner (Sis. Joyce, Morris, MN), Bro. Don Sinn (Sis. Linda, Silvertown, OR) and Bro. Dale Zeltwanger (Sis. Rachel, Morris, MN).

Bro. Doug Strahm (Lamar, MO) is engaged to marry Sis. Amanda Schmidgall (Lamar, MO) on September 27. Their parents are Bro. Curt and Sis. Ellen Strahm and Bro. Larry and Sis. Marcy Schmidgall (Lamar, MO). On August 30, the engagement of Sis. Kenna Kellenberger to Bro. Travis Frank

(Oakville, IA) was announced. They are planning a November 8 wedding. Parents of the couple are Bro. Brad and Sis. Teresa Kellenberger and Bro. Curt and Sis. Kathy Frank (Oakville, IA). May the Lord be ever near these two couples and guide them as they join hand and heart.

Bro. Chad DeSmet (Lester, IA) is now attending our congregation as employment has led him to this area. We extend a hearty welcome!

We have been fervent in prayer for our Sis. Kathy Kellenberger (Bro. Art) as she has been hospitalized since August 29 and has been in critical care much of that time. Prayers are also being said for her sister, Sis. Carol Kaufman (Bro. Keith), and in-laws, Bro. Gene and Sis. Marian Kellenberger, and many other local family members as they continue to encourage and support Bro. Art. Our prayers are also extended to others in our church community who have experienced illness or have medical concerns. God "holds the key to all unknown" and that is something we are so grateful for!

With great anticipation, the Sunday school students have resumed classes as of September 13.

On September 13 we enjoyed a potluck and singing at our fellowship hall, followed by a presentation on World Relief work being done in Haiti. Sis. Sheila Moser is home on a two month furlough from Les Cayes, Haiti. We are prayerful for her and the efforts of others working and living away from home. May God always be near her and keep her in His care.

KANSAS, WICHITA

Emma Miller

Bro. Dale and Sis. Christy Frank

(Oakville, IA) worshipped with us the last weekend of August. Their cousins from Lamar, MO, came to join them and to have a small family reunion. We appreciated the extra voices during the song sessions. Elder Bro. Jay Luthi's family also spent the day worshipping and blending voices with us. We are grateful for Bro. Jay and Bro. Dale's ministry.

This past Sunday, Bro. Fred Funk was our guest minister. He and Sis. Dianne from Morton, IL, were in Wichita in spite of the problems with their flight schedules. Do we really appreciate enough the effort the ministering brothers put forth for our benefit?

Since we no longer use what was our old basement kitchen, the room has been sort of a catch all. New carpet has improved its use for Kids Club which meets on Wednesday nights.

Many of us have had a bout with flu-like symptoms and are following instructions for sanitary person-to-person contact.

May we take comfort in this thought: "If God brings you to it, He will bring you through it."

MEXICO, IXTLAN

Matt Gerber

"Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of

them that hate me; And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments. Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.”

Exodus 20:3-7

Meet Sis. Kike Angelito Villalba (from Barra Vieja):

“I was a catechizer (person who gives systematic religious instruction to children) for many years in my former church. I was always present in church and the first one there. But my sister Pauli had become a Christian, and she insisted that I needed to read the Bible for myself. When I started to read the Bible, I realized that the version of the Bible that I had been given and the Reina Valera (version used by our Spanish-speaking Apostolic Christian churches) said the same thing. I also realized I hadn’t been teaching what the Bible actually says. I had been teaching false human traditions. For example, I had been taught, and taught others, that the first three commandments were: 1) Love God above all things; 2) Don’t take God’s name in vain; and 3) Sanctify the festivals. When I read the Bible my eyes were opened that this third commandment wasn’t true. It was based on idolatry!” (In Mexico the religious festivals, called fiestas, are usually in honor to a saint, the Virgin Mary or other so-called virgins, and often involve drinking, dancing, the worship of images, and licentious practices).

“But God had to get my attention through what happened to our teenage son, Ricardo. He was diagnosed with cancer and had to have one of his legs amputated. It was during

this time that my heart was broken and opened. I decided not to go any more to my former church and distanced myself from it. I no longer went to recite prayers when someone died. (The traditional practice in Mexico is to recite prayers for the soul of the person who died, in the belief that this can keep the person from going Purgatory and help them get into heaven). But the priest began to come looking for me to ask me why I had left. He tried to convince me not to leave the church. He even offered to help me with my son’s medical expenses if I would return to his church. This was a direct temptation from Satan. However, in that very moment, Bro. Marshall, Bro. Todd and Sis. Pauli showed up at my house to also offer to help us with Ricardo. They hadn’t known that the priest was there or what was going on. But God sent them just in time.”

“Something that was very impressive for me was reading the Gospel of John for the first time. I had a Bible for so many years, but I had never made time to read it.”

Nearly four years ago, Sis. Kike came to believe in the shed blood of Jesus for her salvation. In faith, she expressed her desire to repent and confessed her sins. As God gave her ability, she made restitution and asked forgiveness. In July of 2009, she gave testimony of her converted life, testifying of her peace with God and man, and was baptized. Many others have seen the testimony of her transformed life and are astounded at the change – amazed that the woman so devoted to her former religion would become a “Hallelujah”! (*A term used derogatively in Mexico to refer to Christians.*)

MEXICO, MAGDALENA Kali Zobrist

“Bendito el SeZor; cada día nos colma de beneficios El Dios de nuestra salvación. Dios, nuestro Dios ha de salvarnos, Y de Jehová el SeZor es el librar de la muerte.”

Salmo 68:19-20

“Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation. He that is our God is the God of salvation; and unto God the Lord belong the issues from death.”

Psalms 68:19-20

God’s goodness has been manifested to the Magdalena church in great ways. We rejoiced with Sis. Rosa as she shared her testimony with the church and was baptized, joining the brotherhood. Elder Bro. Mike Leman and Sis. Deb (Denver) we able to join us for the glorious weekend. We also enjoyed the blessing of Holy Communion and remembered the sacrifice of the God of our salvation.

“When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.”

St. John 19:30

Bro. Randy and Sis. Cindy Schmidgall (Goodfield) and Bro. Ross Herrmann (Goodfield) came for a week to add doors to the church building. We have been using the new church building for almost 6 months but are thankful to have doors completed before our cooler weather begins. We enjoyed the fellowship and also the fruits of their

hard work.

At Casa Vida y Esperanza, the campus school is up and running. The children are enjoying learning and the teachers are thankful to have excited students. Thank you for your prayers.

MICHIGAN, ALTO

**Rose Watson
Terri Huber**

Our news and prayer this month centers around illness and encouragements. Sis. Linda Koehl underwent surgery and is making a slow recovery. Please remember her in your prayers. Sis. Loretta Steffen (Bro. Aaron) also had surgery and is trying not to overdue it as she progresses. We ask for prayers on her behalf, as well. It has come to our attention that Carl Steffen (Sue) has been diagnosed with cancer. Coming so soon after his surgeries and recovery from a serious car accident, this is very discouraging. We pray for God to give the doctors wisdom and the patients encouragement and peace and healing. Please also remember Sis. Jane Grawberg with both prayers and visits at the home in Lowell.

The spaghetti dinner benefit and "slave auction" to raise money for a Sunday School and Family trip was a great success. Thanks to all who participated—the cooks, the auctioneer, the "slaves" and of course, the buyers!

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

**Sarah Knochel
Janelle Ramseyer**

Greetings of love in our Saviour's name!

We rejoice with Bro. Rod and Sis. Evelyn Wieland as another granddaughter was added to their family

circle. Ella Joy was welcomed home by Lorne and Bev Dyar and big brother, Landon.

The engagement of Bro. Josh Steffen (Bro. Derrell and Sis. Sue) and Sis. Janelle Bauman (Bro. Steve and Sis. Connie, Smithville, OH) was announced recently. Bro. Josh's "roots" are here in Bay City and we rejoice with this dear couple!

We trust that the Lord's healing powers will be with Lori (Bill) Bateson and Sis. Marcie (Stacy) Cowan. May they both have the strength and peace to know that despite how dark the way looks, God is in control and cares for our every need.

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Kim Wackerle (Bro. Tom, Prescott, AZ) as her mother, Mary Vogt, passed away recently. Bro. Tom and Sis. Kim are originally from Bay City and most of their family still resides here.

We are so thankful that there are Brothers and Sisters who are willing to teach our young children the Truth of God in Sunday School. Our new Sunday School teachers are Bro. Jim (Sis. Kay) Knochel, Bro. Kurt Munsel, and Sis. Carol (Bro. Dale) Wieland.

August 29 was our annual Sunday School picnic. We also were blessed to have the Covenant Chamber Choir visit Bay City that weekend and we are thankful they were able to share their talents with us.

We appreciate the efforts of Bro. Gary Maibach (Sis. MaryAnn, Smithville, OH) as he spent a Sunday with our congregation recently.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

**Manuela Denes
Kay Rauhe**

September is such a busy time for

many of us. Our children are back in school and are busy learning new things, making new friends and working hard at their lessons. We are prayerful for Sis. Kristi Baran (Craig and Sis. Pat) and Brooke Knochel (Bro. Dana and Sis. Beth) as they continue their studies away from home. While this may be a time of anxiety, we should remember and take to heart that the Lord has everything under control: "For thou art my rock and my fortress; therefore for thy name's sake lead me, and guide me." Psalm 31:3

A blessed time for our students to make new friends is Michigan Youth Day. We appreciate the Alto congregation for hosting this. It is a time for nurturing wholesome fellowship and sound spiritual foundation.

We mourned with Bro. Jesse Bedolla (Sis. Bonnie) at the passing of his father, Jesse Bedolla Sr. May the Lord grant their family, especially Bro. Jesse's mother, Theresa, peace during this difficult time. May they be comforted by their memories and in the compassion and comfort that is found in prayer and in reading the Word.

We all rejoiced with Bro. Brian and Sis. Cherise Blume as they welcomed little Ellyana into their home. It was a long journey from Ethiopia where Ellyana was born. Big brothers BJ and Zach will certainly enjoy their little sister! Ellyana's grandparents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Lynell Blume (Wolcott, IN) and Bro. John and Sis. Cheryl Knobloch (Morton, IL). May God's grace and peace be with their family.

"Is any among you afflicted? let him pray."

James 5:13

Our prayers go out to those who have been ill or unable to worship with us. In our thoughts and prayers is Bro. Hartzell Kaisner (Sis. Mary) who will be undergoing back surgery. Dorothy Leman's sister, Gladys Haefli, will also be undergoing surgery. Sis. Lorene Maibach (Bro. Ben) is experiencing serious health issues and we pray for the comfort and peace that can only come from God. Sis. Kathryn Losiewicz is also in our prayers as she will no longer be able to worship with us physically. Let us remember her and anyone who may need to hear a word from us, whether it be a phone call or a card.

It was a happy time for the Barton family as Bro. Jim and Sis. Vi celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary! What a truly wonderful occasion for their family and friends. May the Lord continue to bless their marriage.

Prayers go out to Sis. Trudy and Bill Schmidt as their son, Matt, relocates to California for employment. He will surely be missed but we wish him much success and blessings from God on his new career. Bro. Dan and Sis. Tami Coughlin have made the move to Mexico and we pray for God's guiding hand in their hearts to serve there and learn the Spanish language.

Finally, a thank you goes out to Bro. Bill Waibel (Sis. Carol) for coming from Bay City, MI, to minister to the residents at our Woodhaven home. It was an especially informative night for everyone as Bro. Bill provided scriptural application related to his knowledge of the bee-keeping business. We really are so blessed with many talents in our church and it is wonderful to be able to share those God-given talents

with others. We look forward to seeing them again!

**MINNESOTA
MINNEAPOLIS
Mary Mogler**

Beautiful sunny skies and warm weather was the perfect backdrop for our annual fall Sunday School activity. Adults and children alike enjoyed the apple picking, corn maze and time at the park. It was a blessed day of fellowship as we enjoyed God's creation and savored one of the last remaining summer-like days.

Our dear Sis. Viola Aupperle celebrated her 90th birthday enjoying the presence of numerous family members and friends who gathered together for the occasion. Sis. Vi is truly a godly example to all of us as she faithfully serves the Lord day by day.

After being a special part of our congregation for so many years, we were sad to say good-bye to Bro. Sam and Sis. Ruth Moser and their boys, Ethan and Wyatt. We trust God's plan for them and pray His continued peace and blessing on their move to Illinois. We look forward to their many visits back to Minnesota!

We welcome Courtney Gramm from Morris as she begins her college career at the University of Minnesota.

**MINNESOTA, MORRIS
Susie Wulf
Sheila Reuter**

We were thankful for the many visiting ministers this month. Sharing God's Word were Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzell, Bro. David Hartter, Bro. Jim Koehl, Bro. Pat Zaugg, Bro. James Knapp, Bro. Mark Steiner

and Bro. John Hartman. May the Lord be their rich Rewarder.

We were blessed with three new converts: Ashley Fehr (Bro. Gary and Sis. Sandy), Tara Fehr (Bro. Randy and Sis. Lorie) and Matthew Wulf (Bro. Stanley and Sis. Pam). May they feel God's grace and the prayers of the brethren as they seek the Lord in a true and humble repentance.

The engagement of Bro. Levi Koehl (Bro. Roy and Sis. Jenell) to Sis. Anna Schmidgall (Bro. Paul and Sis. Shawn) was announced. May God bless them as they become one in the Lord.

We are thankful for Bryan Tolifson, husband of Lisa Schmidgall (Bro. Neil and Sis. Linda Schmidgall), that God has been merciful and answered many prayers in the last few months. Also hospitalized this month were Sis. Barbara Schmidgall, Bro. David Nohl and Sis. Josie Esterling. May God's healing hand be upon them in the days to come.

**MINNESOTA, WINTHROP
Julie Schmidt
Lindsay Schmidt**

Let us then be so united as Thou with the Father art,
That not one of Thy weak members here on earth shall stand apart.
From the flames of Thy own burning may our light partake its glow;
And that we are Thy disciples all the world may surely know.
Zion's Harp #33 vs. 10

Our congregation has begun listening to the recordings from the recent Brotherhood Conference. We pray fervently for our Elders who labor on our behalf and sound the warning cry. We are also thankful for the opportunity to hear the Word

and pray that each of us could apply these teachings to our hearts.

Our prayers go out to our surgery patients, Tom Miller (Maggie), Sis. Verna Bruns (Marvin) and Libby Bartels (Jay and Sis. Amy), who have dealt with physical afflictions. We trust God will be with and provide for them.

MISSOURI, LAMAR
Dana Kellenberger
Rebecca Dotterer

We were blessed this month to have the proving and baptism of a dear soul, Jessica Luthi (Bro. Calvin and Sis. Jodi). We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Morris, MN) here to help with the occasion and share the Word of God with us. We were also thankful to have Bro. Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN).

We rejoice with Bro. Doug Strahm (Bro. Curt and Sis. Ellen, Sabetha, KS) and Sis. Amanda Schmidgall (Bro. Larry and Sis. Marcy) as their engagement was announced. May they feel God's continued direction in their lives as they look forward to a life together serving Him.

Our prayers are with Sis. Bonnie Braker (Bro. Leonard) as she spent some time in the hospital last month.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS
Meagan Wuethrich

It is our continual prayer that the Lord will add to our small gathering, and we are so thankful to announce that He has. We heartily welcome Bro. Doug and Sis. Kary Mangers, along with their two precious children, Lexy and Brayden. They have already been an immense blessing to our church family and we hope they will soon feel at home.

Speaking of adding to our congregation, Sis. Michelle Rassi was briefly hospitalized this past month, and while we are thankful she is doing well, we continue to pray for an uneventful next few months for her and Bro. Nathan as they await the arrival of a special new addition to their family in February.

As always, our sincere thanks goes out to our visiting ministers for letting the Lord use them on our behalf: Bro. Greg Stieglitz (Sis. Lisa, Indianapolis, IN) and Bro. Tim Hohulin (Sis. Cathy, Roanoke, IL).

MISSOURI, TAYLOR
Kathy Eberhardt

In a recent sermon, we were reminded of all the technology that is available at our disposal. We have GPS systems that help us navigate from one location to another, but there is no device that can count every hair on our head and whether we grow one or lose one. Our God, on the other hand, is the One who knows that intimately.

Our congregation has had many visiting ministers for different occasions during the recent month. Thanks for all the miles traveled to be God's messengers. They were Bro. Art Mueller (Sis. Marlene, Belvidere, IL), Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Sis. Clara, Bloomfield, IA), Bro. Jeff Fischer (Sis. Gloria, Fort Scott, KS), Bro. Virgil Kaeb (Sis. Suellen, Sarasota, FL), Bro. Dwight Stoller (Sis. Lori, Latty, OH), Elder Bro. John Laukhau (Sis. Marcia, Latty, OH), Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL), Elder Bro. Tim Funk (Sis. Deb, Peoria, IL), and Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern, KS).

On September 13, we were thankful that a minister was chosen

from our congregation. Bro. Tim Lehman (Sis. Amber) and his children, Cade and Tess, have our prayers as he serves our congregation.

Our church has been working together to remodel our fellowship center. May we always work peacefully and enjoy sweet fellowship with our church family.

May God's healing hand be extended to Bro. Chad Massner (Sis. Lisa), Bro. Jim Sutter (Sis. Kris), and Bro. Keith Pflum (Sis. Tami).

NEW YORK
CROGHAN-NAUMBURG
Hope Graves

We have finished listening to the Conference tapes this month. This has been a blessing to us and our thanks is extended to the Elders for their many labors for their many labors of love on our behalf.

It was special to have ministering Bro. Michael Wagenbach and his family (Wolcott, IN) with us on the weekend of September 20. We thank him for preaching the Word to us on Sunday.

Fall is now upon us and we can see the changes occurring in the trees. This is always a beautiful time of year here and a wonderful reminder of God's presence all around us.

OHIO, AKRON
Mara Henico
Rachel Pamer

We are thankful that ministering Bros. John Steiner (Sis. Carol, Oakville) and Tim Ramsier (Sis. Joni, Rittman) were able to be with us and serve us. May God richly bless them.

We welcome college students, Mike Schlatter (Elder Bro. Bill and

Sis. Emily, Junction) and Sis. Krista Gasser (Bro. Roger and Sis. Sue, Junction), and hope they will feel "at home" with us during their stay here. We were thankful that Sis. Michelle Steidl (Bro. Don and Sis. Nan) was able to be back with us for a while after earning her nursing degree, and our prayers are with her as she has accepted a job near the La-Crosse congregation, and will be assembling with them.

We were thankful to hear that little Peter August Boronka, grandson to Bro. Andy and Sis. Vera Demrovsky, arrived safely.

Our prayers are with Bro. Brian Demrovsky (Bro. Andy and Sis. Vera) and Sis. Katrina Baltic (Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty) as they prepare for their wedding and marriage. May God bless them.

We've enjoyed listening to the recordings of the recent Brotherhood Conference, and have been challenged in our walk of faith. May we continue to wend our way as the Lord provides.

OHIO, COLUMBUS Julie Grimm

Visiting ministers this past month have included: Bro. Don Manz (Junction, OH), Bro. Jesse Bedolla (Detroit, MI), and Bro. Don Steidl (Akron, OH). We are thankful God provides His Word in truth for us yet today. May He bless the labors of these dear brothers and their families for willingly serving us.

Our annual College Welcome Day was held on September 20. We welcome the students who will be attending schools of higher education in the Columbus area. These students have been a tremendous blessing to our small congregation over the years and we hope that each one

feels a warm welcome to assemble with us.

Sis. Betty Baltic (Bro. Dan) and Sis. Katrina Baltic were in a serious car accident on September 6, as they traveled to church. We are thankful to the Lord that Sis. Katrina was protected from harm; but Sis. Betty has been hospitalized since and undergone several orthopedic surgeries. Our prayers support her and her family through this time of trial. Although we do not always understand the suffering and pain we may face in this life, we know that "To everything there is a purpose...". May the Lord provide healing and strength according to His will.

We express our heartfelt sympathy to Bro. Josh, Sis. Jenna, Aubrey, and Julianna Boliantz in the recent loss of Sis. Jenna's grandfather. May God comfort and fill each need.

OHIO, JUNCTION Vicki Boroff

Be silent, be silent, A whisper is heard;

Be silent, and listen, O treasure each word!

Tread softly, tread softly, The Master is here;

Tread softly, tread softly, He bids us draw near.

Hymns of Zion #137

Surely we treasure our time spent together with loved ones in church. During the last few weeks, we've been listening to the Conference tapes. There is so much to learn if we only listen.

We failed to mention that Cheryl Manz (Bro. Don and Sis. Connie) married Nathan Ametewee recently. We wish them God's many blessings in their marriage.

OHIO, LATTY Amanda Wenninger Carmen Eisenmann

"O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: for his mercy endureth forever."

Psalm 136:1

This verse came to mind when I sat down to write this article. As I looked more closely at chapter 136, I realized that each of the twenty-six verses ends with the phrase, "for his mercy endureth forever." What a great reminder to us that, in any situation in our day and time, God's mercy still endures forever.

Our congregation is rejoicing with three families who have had children be born to them or their loved ones. Bro. Bill and Sis. Carol Eisenmann are eager to be first-time grandparents to Talise Joy, born on August 20. She is the firstborn daughter of Bro. Darren and Sis. Britni Eisenmann of Leo, IN. Bro. Randy and Sis. Becky Gudeman (Francesville, IN) are her other grandparents. Bro. Dave and Sis. Deb Wenninger welcomed another grandson on August 30. Todd and Shanna Wenninger of Muncie, IN, became first-time parents of John Kalen. Finally, on September 9, Aubrie Jo was born to Bro. Trent and Sis. Jodi Stoller. Abbie, Kyle and Addison welcome her at home. Aubrie's grandparents are Bro. Craig and Sis. Ruth Stoller and Bro. Dave and Sis. Kathy Manz (Junction, OH).

Bro. Dick Whitman (Sis. Eileen) was our hospital and surgery patient this past month. He is doing well and back in church. May God continue to heal him as He sees fit.

Shannon Schlatter (Gus and Sis. Leann) was married to David

LaGory on September 5. May they look to God to guide their union in the days to come.

OHIO, MANSFIELD

Esther Baumann

Following God's leading, Bro. Jeff and Sis. Julie Webel and their children, Hallie, Leanna, Dominic, and Victoria, are moving to Kansas City, MO. We will sincerely miss them. We look forward to their return visits and pray for God's continued guidance in their lives.

Precious little Naomi Kate was born on August 22 to Bro. Mark and Sis. Julie Rufener. Also welcoming her home are big sisters, Esther and Charity; and grandparents, Bro. Ron and Sis. Kay Rufener and Bro. Clarence and Sis. LuAnn Zobrist (Congerville, IL).

Our sincere sympathy and prayers are offered on behalf of Sis. Dorothy Durkin on the death of her daughter, Gloria Fidler (Bob).

We thank Sis. Julie Webel (Bro. Jeff) and Sis. Lilly Baumann (Bro. Mike) for their tireless service on our Local World Relief Committee. Elected to replace them are Sis. Marci Pfeiffer (Bro. John) and Sis. Elizabeth Boliantz (Bro. Eric).

Continue to pray for those of our loved ones who were recently hospitalized: Isaac Foss (Rick and Sis. Susan), Sis. Christine Dotterer, Bud Sauder, and Sis. Luci Baumann (Bro. Dave).

Our Single Group recently hosted the Annual All Ohio Weekend inviting all of the Ohio Single Groups. The following weekend they hosted the Eureka, IL, and Rockville, CT, Single Groups. We thank all who traveled to join us for these blessed weekends.

OHIO, RITTMAN

Heidi Rufener

Laurie Beery

The angels in Heaven are rejoicing over souls that are turning to the Lord in repentance. Greg Gasser (Bro. Jim and Sis. Janice), Tiffany Gasser (Brant), Matt Stoller (Bro. Ken and Sis. Lori) and Brad Hartzler (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Bev) have recently begun their walk with the Lord.

Thoughts and prayers have been with Sis. Ellen Daw, Sis. Ruth Beery and Sis. Lil Maibach (Bro. Andy) as they have recently spent time in the hospital.

Ryan, Jill and Scarlett Butler welcomed Willow Grayee into their family on August 26. Grandparents are Bro. Art and Sis. Bonnie Ingold. Bro. Stan and Sis. Karen Beery are thankful for a new little granddaughter. Maycie Abigail was born to Jordan and Abby Avery on September 3. On September 7, Katrina Lyn was born to Bro. Garth and Sis. Hannah Maibach (Sardis, OH). Big brother is Colby and grandparents are Bro. Walt and Sis. Lynda Beery.

Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN) and Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) were here to assist our Elder Bro. Merle Hartzler in the provings and baptisms of four dear souls on September 12-13. We welcome Sis. Rachel Stoller (Bro. Greg and Sis. Joy), Sis. Lois Steiner (Bro. Matt and Sis. Gail), Sis. Maria Beery (Bro. Earl and Sis. Susie) and Sis. Greta Beery (Bro. Earl and Sis. Susie) into the fold as our new sisters.

Also ministering to us recently were Bro. Todd Stoller (Latty, OH), Bro. Bob Dotterer (Sardis, OH), Bro. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI), Bro. Gary Sinn (Latty, OH) and Bro. Mark Steiner (Smithville, OH). We

are thankful for each one that is willing to share God's Word with us.

OHIO, SARDIS

Faith Beard

Children of the Heav'nly Father
Safely in His bosom gather;
Nestling bird nor stars in heaven
Such a refuge e'er was given.

Neither life nor death shall ever
From the Lord His children sever;
Unto them His grace He showeth,
And their sorrows all He knoweth.

Gospel Hymns #57, vs. 1, 3

This past Labor Day, September 7, brought about the birth of Katrina Lyn, daughter of Bro. Garth and Sis. Hannah Maibach and little sister to Colby. Grandparents are Bro. Walt and Sis. Lynda Beery (Rittman, OH) and Bro. Bruce and Sis. Lois Maibach (Smithville, OH). We wish them God's grace to raise their children by His teachings.

Those from our congregation who have seen some time in the hospital are Sis. Cyndi Figel (Bro. Andy), Katrina Maibach (Bro. Garth and Sis. Hannah) and Olivia Beard (Bro. Seth and Sis. Faith). We are thankful for the blessing of healing for all from the Great Physician.

We were thankful to hear the Word spoken to us by Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Sis. Roberta, Smithville, OH). We pray that with each step up to the pulpit that our ministers can leave behind their own personal trials and weaknesses (which we certainly all have!) to speak as inspired by the Holy Spirit.

Shall I to please the blinded throng
withhold Thy Word so truthful?
Or thus to soothe the ears of men
of their reproach be mindful,
To gain earth's gilded joys, or flee

the cross endured, my Lord, by Thee?
Zion's Harp, #113, vs. 4

OHIO, SMITHVILLE

**Ruth Gasser
Lydia Stoller**

Ring the bells of heaven,
There is joy today,
For a soul returning from the wild!
See! The Father meets him out upon
the way,
Welcoming His weary wandering
child.

Tabernacle Hymns #202, vs. 1

As always, we are so very thankful to hear of more souls who have answered God's call to repentance. We, too, welcome the weary wandering children: Nelson Stoller (Bro. Scott and Sis. Charlene) and Claudia Fetzer (Bro. Andy and Sis. Elizabeth). We pray that God would grant them the much needed grace as they in humility strive to follow Him!

There are quite a few families in our area who have welcomed sweet little bundles into this world. Bro. Steve and Sis. Jollene Hofacre recently became grandparents twice over; Collin Patrick was born on July 24 to Shawn and Jennifer Frazier. He joins big sister, Bethany. Also, Bob and Stephanie Sax, along with their children, Sarah, Hadassah and Zipporah, welcome Reuben Denyamin, born on August 26. Carter David was born on August 10 to Jeff and Michelle Beery. Big brother, Grady, and grandparents, Bro. Gaylord and Sis. Cheryl Beery, are also happy for his arrival. Paul and Jeannine Marty were blessed with a precious little girl, Emily Grace, on August 11. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Dean and Sis. Martha Lou Marty. Little Clae Stanley arrived safely on

August 31, to Bro. Garth and Sis. Sheila Gucker and Max, Brett and Brooke. His grandparents are Bro. Stan and Sis. Gloria Hartzler. Katrina Lyn has brought joy to the home of Bro. Garth and Sis. Hannah Maibach (Sardis, OH) with her arrival on September 7. She joins her big brother, Colby, who will no doubt enjoy a playmate ... in a year or so! Rejoicing grandparents are Bro. Bruce and Sis. Lois Maibach and Bro. Walt and Sis. Lynda Beery (Rittman, OH).

Each of us is at a different stage of life, and as one may welcome the arrival of a little baby, another welcomes a prospective son-in-law. Such is the case with Bro. Steve and Sis. Connie Bauman, as their daughter, Sis. Janelle, was recently engaged to Bro. Josh Steffen (Bro. Derrell and Sis. Sue, Bay City, MI). May God bless them as they plan their future together.

Sis. Connie Maletich (Bro. Dave) had to spend some time in the hospital for surgery and recovery. Thankful for God's healing hand, she is home again.

Last month we reported young Taylor Gasser's tragic death. We did want to note the ministering brothers who served at his funeral: Bros. Ron Koehl (Sis. Carol, Sarasota) and Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue, Detroit, MI). Truly, it is a sober reminder for each of us; "...For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a time, and then vanisheth away." (James 4:14)

OHIO, TOLEDO

**Teresa Rywalski
Rebecca Beard**

Once again God has provided willing servants to feed His flock. Joining our ministers on the pulpit were Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis.

Emily, Junction, OH), Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Sis. Jeannine, Mansfield, OH), and Bro. Dwight Stoller (Sis. Lori, Latty, OH).

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

What a blessed weekend when we gathered together to hear the testimony and witness the baptism of Sis. Missy Benware (Mark). We welcome her into the fold. Sharing the weekend with us were Missy's father, Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH), her brother, Bro. Warren Schlatter (Sis. Cindy, Junction, OH), and Bro. Ben Manz (Junction, OH).

OREGON, PORTLAND

Renee Angstrom

Our visiting ministers this month from Silverton were Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Betty), Bro. Ed Knecht (Sis. Judie) and Bro. Christopher Kuenzi (Sis. Mary). We were blessed and encouraged by the beautiful messages that were spoken. We appreciate their support and bring forth the Word.

Hospitalized this month was Sis. Kathy Fehr (Bro. Wayne). Our prayers are with her as she is recuperating at home. We look forward to when Kathy is able to worship with us again. Our prayers are with Bro. Dennis Martin (Sis. Lori) as he has had surgery recently. We pray for his continued healing.

Our prayers follow Bro. Allen and Sis. Jennifer Knecht as they are now attending the Silverton congre-

gation. We will miss their family very much.

OREGON, SILVERTON

**Deb Roth
Kris Luthi**

“...Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.”

St. Mark 8:34

We rejoice to make known the testimony of faith and the baptism of Bro. Dan VonFlue (Sis. Becky) on August 23. May Bro. Dan feel the Spirit's leading as he takes up his cross. Elder Bro. Peter Petrovic (San Diego, CA) willingly assisted our own Elder Bro. Art Metz in this work. We are so thankful for the Holy Spirit's presence and the blessings it brought to the church. We pray the Lord will grant grace and wisdom to each of our dear Elder Brothers as they sound forth the trumpet.

Thankful parents, Scott and Bethany Zollinger, welcomed home baby girl Hannah Shirley on August 29. She is also warmly welcomed by big brother, Ethan, and sister, Megan. Grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Shirley Zollinger and Bro. Wayne and Sis. Linda Edelman (Bern, KS). The next day, Rick and Laura Dietrich were blessed with their first child, Emmet John. His joyful grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Joan Dietrich and Dan and Tanya Herberger. Also born on the 30th was little Serena Anne to Bro. Rick and Sis. Ruth Metzger. Her older siblings are Lee, Trisha and Wyatt. Serena's grandparents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Chris Metzger (Lester, IA) and Bro. Myron and Sis. Diane Kuenzi. After patiently enduring many weeks of bedrest, Bro.

James and Sis. Tanya Schneider were blessed with a little girl, who they named Ellie Caroline. Big brother, Clayton, will be her playmate. Bro. Jim and Sis. Sandra Schneider (Forrest, IL) and Bro. Bob and Sis. Linda Kuenzi are happy to have baby Ellie to love.

“And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together...”

Hebrews 10:24-25

Our congregation was blessed with a large number of visiting single brothers and sisters from across the land on Labor Day weekend. It was an encouragement and blessing for all of us. We are so thankful for the freedoms we still have in this land to travel and visit our brethren.

Trying to walk in the steps of the Saviour,

Trying to follow our Saviour and King;

Shaping our lives by His blessed example,

Happy, how happy, the songs that we bring.

Gospel Hymns #185

- Stepping in the Light

We want to welcome Clara Matthiessen to our area from Berlin, Germany. She is a high school exchange student in the home of Bro. Dean and Sis. Heidi Sinn. We hope she can feel comfortable among us and that her time in America can be a blessing to her. Jonothan Sinn (Bro. Dean and Sis. Heidi) has left us for a term of exchange study at Illinois State University. We miss him with us but leave him in our Father's love and care and look forward to his return.

We appreciated having ministering Bro. Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy,

Portland, OR) and Bro. Tim Zimmerman (Sis. Barb, Lamont-Gridley, KS) visit here recently and to bring forth the true Word of God.

Angels rejoice and so do we as Abigail Sinn's peace was announced on September 13. We are grateful that she has been given a peaceful heart and that God continues to call and convert.

PENNSYLVANIA PHILADELPHIA

Christ showed a special love for children as they surrounded Him and clamored to hear Him speak. Our children are our future church. The time that they spend together now lays the foundation for the Christian fellowship that will be with them through their entire life. This was the motivation for our Sunday school picnic which was held this month. In our small church in Philadelphia, the picnic includes our whole congregation - a blessed time to share our love for each other. We trust that each child will remember this time and have a yearning to someday be part of the brotherhood.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE Mike and Monica Fritz

We rejoice with Bro. Craig and Sis. Raelynn Plattner who, on August 24, welcomed Savannah Rose into their family and their hearts. She is greatly loved by her sisters, Anissa, Emily, and Moriah, and brothers, Jonathan, Zachary, and Elijah. Her grandparents are Bro. Eldon and Sis. Waneta Plattner (Bern, KS) and Bro. Norm and Sis. Gloria Stahl (Chicago, IL).

The Lord has provided for us richly through His Word brought by our visiting ministering brothers: Bros. Todd Graf (Sis. Lydia; Akron,

OH), Lenny Meyer (Sis. Charlotte; Chicago, IL), Wayne Wiegand (Sis. Rosemary; Goodfield, IL), Greg Braker (Sis. Wendy; Lamar, MO), Gary Endress (Sis. Ev; Bradford, IL), and Gary Brown (Sis. Jane; Forrest, IL). We were also blessed to have the support of retired Bros. Lloyd Kraft (Sis. Nadine; Lamont-Gridley, KS) and Charles Marti (Sis. Alice; Lamar, MO). We have likewise been greatly encouraged by the fellowship of brethren and friends visiting from Bradford, Chicago, Congerville, Eureka, Forrest, Goodfield, and Washington, IL; Bern and Lamont-Gridley, KS; Lamar, MO; and Akron and Junction, 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: Wolcott, IN (10/18); Rockville, CT (10/25); Latty, OH (11/1); Bloomington-Normal, IL (11/8); Bloomfield, IA (11/15); Bay City, MI (11/22); and Indianapolis, IN (11/29). 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 at 7:15 p.m. and would welcome any midweek visitors. Contacts 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

Many of you are finishing up your garden and farm work for the end of the year; while we are just starting

to put in our fall and winter crops like beets, lettuce, onions, cabbage, broccoli, etc. Harvest is coming and we all want to be spiritually fruitful no matter what time of year it is. "That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;" (Col. 1:10)

We appreciate our visiting ministers who encouraged us: Bros. Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue, Detroit), Darren Plattner (Sis. Sue, Champaign), Dwayne Dill, (Sis. LaRae, Minneapolis), Beirne Messner (Sis. Joyce, Morris), and Leland Platter (Zapata). Other visitors were from Bluffton North. Thanks for coming!

The following is the minister schedule for November: (1) Chicago, (8) Latty, (15) Oakville, (22) Fairbury, and (29) Kansas City. 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 (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

We are thankful for our recent visiting ministering brothers who have so willingly brought us God's Living Word. They were as follows: Bros. Steve Frauhiger (Sis. Irene, Bluffton North, IN), Randy Mogler (Sis. Evie, Washington, IL), Brad Strahm (Sis. Michelle, Bern, KS), and Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata, TX). We have also enjoyed the fellowship of brethren from Bluffton North, IN, and Morton, IL.

The following churches are scheduled for services: (Oct. 11, Gridley, IL); (Oct. 18, Detroit, MI); (Oct. 25, Chicago, IL); (Nov. 1, Bluffton, IN); and (Nov. 22, West Bend, IA).

We are looking forward to meeting our winter visitors one by one as they make their long journey South. May God be with each one as they leave their families and friends and travel the many miles to Texas.

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

“Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord; and the fruit of the womb is his reward.”

Psalms 127:3

Bro. Mark and Sis. Luella Hoffman were thankful for the safe arrival of their newest little grandchild, Tucker Michael. Bro. John and Sis. Erin Hoffman (Rockville, CT) are Tucker's parents. We're thankful for this dear family and pray that God will grant the much needed wisdom and strength to raise up their children in the love and admonition of the Lord.

This past month we have had many visitors and fellowship. We want to thank all those who have come to worship with us. It is always so encouraging to feel the same Spirit amongst our brethren across many miles. Bro. Tom Bahler (Sis. LaNae, Rockville, CT), Elder Bro. Paul Messner (Sis. Jan, Winthrop, MN), and Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Sis. Cheryl, Rockville, CT) brought us the Living Word this past month. Many thanks were expressed for the willing brothers and their dear wives to come and serve the very least of us here in Vermont. May God be their rich rewarder.

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

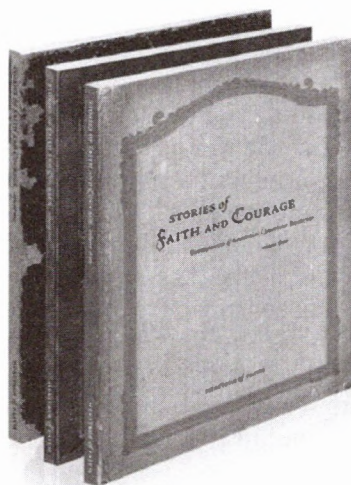
Sunday Afternoon Service 12:15 PM

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 asreutter@gmail.com. Inventory is available upon request. This is a wonderful opportunity to support those of the household of faith (Galatians 6:10).

COMING SOON!

Audio copies of
Stories of Faith and Courage
Volumes 1, 2, and 3



Due to numerous requests from old and young alike, Stories of Faith and Courage will soon be available in an audio version. The Heritage Center Foundation is producing a set of CD's which will include all the stories from the three volumes. Each story will have its own track(s) so it can easily be found.

Clearly narrated by Apostolic Christian brothers who are closely connected with the accounts, the stories come alive and engage the listener. They are read in sequence with occasional music clips for easy listening.

The set will be available from Heritage Press at curricularesources@juno.com (phone 309-249-6281), or from melttheheart.com. Watch future issues of "The Silver Lining" for the release date (*projected to be December 2009*) and for the price of the CD set.

Official Apostolic Christian Church Website

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

www.apostolicchristian.org

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lamb in this room and every seeking soul who has an interest in truth, has come at least to some degree, to that frame of mind where we are willing and hungry students of the Word of God, recognizing how needful it is for us. Hopefully we can spend a little time on these beautiful instructions about every day life and how the ways of the Lord will help our lives.

When we speak of harmony, how can it ever occur without humility? I really appreciate this subheading that puts these two terms together here. Makes me think of the chapter in Ephesians. The latter part of chapter five is directed towards marriage. But before that discourse begins, there is a verse that is a key element of the marriage relationship. But it is not directed in his application to any specific relationship. It simply says, submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God (v.21). That is one of those essential elements of harmony, isn't it, dear ones? Name your relationship. Everyone of us has a book full of them. If there is going to be harmony, if we are going to get along, there is going to have to be a submitting one to another. Submitting to what? Submitting how? What are the conditions, the basis, the foundation? In the fear of God. The fear of God brings us to His Word and it gives us the principles, doesn't it? But in order for there to be any degree of harmony, strengthening of a relationship...

I love that verse in Proverbs. "Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend." Proverbs 27:17. There are many beautiful descriptions like this in the Word of God. How relationships can be, not only harmonious, but strengthening and edifying and can honor God. So it is an important thing, isn't it?

Paul says here, "Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind." Philippians 2:2. Sounds a little bit like a doting parent to me. We've all had parents. Many of us are parents. How important is it that children get along! How much of a

blessing is it when there is love in a family circle! It doesn't matter how old the children are. Little wonder the Apostle Paul would say to these Philippian believers, whom he loved and he had nurtured, and he was continuing to nurture them, fulfill ye my joy.

We could go on and spend the rest of the time here on what it really means to be likeminded. Certainly having the same love is a very key explanation of how we can be likeminded. Putting Christ first and learning about how to love from Him and His example. The fact that, as we find in the next section here, He didn't worry about self. He didn't worry about His reputation. Here again was this purity of His love and His disciplining of others. He didn't have mixed motives.

We are an open book before God. But certainly not to each other, many times. In order for us to have the kind of like mindedness, willing submitting to one another, we could do all sorts of wonderful things when it comes to applying these teachings. If it wasn't based on pure motives, if it didn't have the foundation of wanting to do this because we love the Lord and we want to follow His example, it wouldn't have any real fruit, would it?

It is a little like that introduction to the beautiful love chapter. It is pretty deflating when you are told you could be the best speaker in the world and you could have faith to remove mountains and you could give all your goods to feed the poor. What else does it say? All of us try to do those things. Then it says, without charity it is worthless. So we always need to come back to that, don't we, dear ones. As we think about what real unity is, about like mindedness, being of one accord, one mind and so forth, as I contribute to this, as you contribute to this important goal, because, again, it pleases God. Is that number one for us, to please God? He wants a family of believers that get along with each other. That edify each other. That are not biting and devouring each other so the mission of the church can go forward.

Satan is trying to interfere, isn't he? He is trying to hinder all that. But do we see the big picture? Are we willing to give and to make some extra effort in an area that is important to our brother and sister that is not important to me? Are we willing to do those things that require some bending? Or are we absolutely sure that we are right and everyone else needs to fall into that particular standard or pattern? It wouldn't be following the example of Christ, would it?

It is summed up here, a few thoughts, "Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory..." So if we have to try to convince others of what is right in an argumentative way, that's strife, isn't it? It is not going to work. If we take personal satisfaction by winning an argument, by persuading someone else with the best logic, isn't that vain glory? Paul says, no, none of that. It won't work. "...but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves." v.3. What a standard.

"Look not every man on his own things..." v.4. Don't be self oriented, self willed, self exalting, uplifting self. What can you do to encourage someone else, to help lighten somebody else's load? So I guess that is the summary, isn't it, of harmony and humility and what the Lord is asking for each of us to do better in, in whatever relationship it is that might come to mind in our life. Again, why? I hope we are right there with Jesus, that we want to please our heavenly Father.

If the Philippian church could help make Paul experience joy in his life, how much more our Lord and Savior Jesus? The one who bore those terrible pains and suffering and shame on our behalf. When we do the opposite, when we fail in these things and we are selfish and insist on our own way and elevate ourselves and all these kinds of things, that grieves His heart.

Now the example of Jesus, "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:" v.5. The mind of Christ, dear ones! Think of that. To have the mind of Christ. We read already in the Old Testament, some of these prophecies of the time yet to

come that they were looking forward to, a time when God told His people, there is going to be a new covenant. I am going to write my word in man's heart. He will be given a new heart, that he can follow in the path that I have planned, even from the beginning, for man. (Jeremiah 31:31-33) Dear ones, we are in that age, aren't we? The new covenant. That we can put on the mind of Christ. This isn't an empty prayer, really. It is a miraculous thing. That is not something that man could ever achieve if he spent his whole lifetime studying and memorizing the Word of God. It is the miracle of conversion, isn't it, to be able to put on the mind of Christ.

That is why, because that cannot be understood until it happens, that there is often such difficulty for the unbeliever to take that step of giving himself wholly into the Lord's hands. That phrase that I suppose I have used many times, to not wait until we fully understand to believe, but to believe so that we might understand. What a contrast there is in that. If we are waiting until we can figure out how it is that I can really think like Christ, that I can willingly serve others, give myself to others and not worry about my reputation and all those kinds of things, it will never come. It will never come by human analysis, will it? It is through that miracle of conversion that we are given the mind of Christ.

Then as we go on in our life for the Lord, we need to continually be reminded. Be renewed in the Spirit of your mind, it says in one place (Ephesians 4:23). Put on the new man, that we keep being re-energized in that relationship with the Lord. We certainly heard a lot about that this weekend, nurturing that relationship with the Lord. That is why we are here together again this afternoon, isn't it? Faith comes by hearing, hearing by the Word of God (Romans 10:17).

We heard this morning about these things that happen in our lives; bad things to good people. Many things we can't understand, things that seem out of our control sometimes that are so very difficult for us.

Brother Steve said we have to rest our case on faith. We cannot explain all these things. Nor can we manage them. It has to come back to faith, doesn't it? So we are here to have our faith strengthened today, aren't we? I trust that we could all, before the sun sets tonight, be able to state that unequivocally. My faith has been strengthened by the Word of God and His love this weekend. Without faith we can't please Him (Hebrews 11:6). So there we go again.

Want to please God? It is going to have to be resting in Him, trusting in Him, putting our faith in Him. Not fearing. Not fleeing. God with us, we need not fear. He is in control. He loves us. He sees the sparrow fall. He knows what any one of you might be worrying about right now. And if you are, stop it. Turn it over to Him. You don't need to worry. Let His mind be in you. Christ. Willing to do whatever the Father asked and there He had peace. And we are the beneficiaries of this, dear ones. What He did, His willingness to submit! Think of it! What He did for us!

Doesn't that stir up within us a powerful love for Him? Because of His love for us, we're able to love Him. Didn't worry about His reputation. He became submissive to death, obedient to the death, even the death of the cross. Now He is exalted by God above all. At His name, every knee should bow. That will happen some day. Just imagine what that will be to witness, dear ones! You and I want to be in the place on that day where we willingly bow to Him. There are those that are going to be forced to bow to Him. Think what that will be. Forced by this power that proves, without a shadow of a doubt, that I am not in control. We want to learn that lesson here in life, don't we? Give it over to the Lord, bow to Him willingly, joyfully. I believe that we can relate to that. That is our heart's desire.

Then this last portion we read together here, some very specific instruction about our life, our spiritual walk with the Lord. Appreciate so much the way the Apostle Paul addressed the church many times. "Wherefore, my beloved..."

Philippians 2:12. Peter said in one place, beloved pilgrims and strangers (I Peter 2:11). We can learn so much sometimes from just these words of how we are addressed. But here, "...as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only..." He is commending them. They are not just men pleasers. I think that would go back to what we said about not doing something with charity. You can do the right thing for the wrong reason. What good is it? If it is as a man pleaser, no value really. So whether he was present or absent, they were desirous to be obedient because they believed that he was preaching the truth.

Now here is this phrase, "...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling." Philippians 2:12. One of those verses that man unfortunately sometimes, I believe, would misinterpret and maybe twist around to indicate that we as believers then have a lifetime of continuing to work to try to insure that we are really saved. If we fall into that pattern of thinking, we will have lost much of our joy and our peace. Because we will never come to that point where we feel that we have worked enough or done enough or abstained from enough to really be acceptable. Now that is a real risk, isn't it, to fall into that pattern of thinking. It is one of those deceptions that Satan really tries to use on a sincere believer. The Galatians fell into that trap, didn't they? We have the warning. It is very relevant to us today, as much as it was in the time of the Galatians.

It says with fear and trembling. That might cause us to think that our hope is really thin. We would be very, very skeptical about that. We heard this morning, the reference to Hebrews where it says, our hope is like an anchor, steadfast and sure (6:19)! That is what the Word of God is saying. Sometimes people put over emphasis on a particular verse like, scarcely the righteous will be saved. And again this verse right here. That we have to work it out. We have to somehow earn it.

Now we are not going to discount

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any warning or any teaching in the Word of God, are we dear ones? Absolutely not. But we are going to take the whole counsel of God. That is how we learn the application of these teachings. The whole counsel of God is we will never, ever earn salvation by any works of our own. Nor will we be able to accomplish the sanctification of the inner man by enough self denial. You know the history of people who have taken some of these things to the extreme. Over emphasizing things. Have spent their life hidden away maybe in an enclave. Just trying and trying and trying to get pure enough and perfect enough. That is not what it says. That is not what it means.

Working out our salvation, beloved ones, is allowing this miracle of the transformation of the inner man. Remember we talked about that earlier. The putting on of the mind of Christ. Not something you do by analysis. Not something that happens when you finally understand it enough and then you can believe it. No, it is when we have come in humble faith, like Peter when he came off the ship. When God really had his attention. We heard about the master fisherman this morning and all those inner thoughts. I appreciated that so much. What he actually went through there as Jesus was teaching him how to fish. Peter! The expert fisherman! But after that whole experience, he came off the ship. He almost sank. Here was a ship full of fish. He said, I am nothing! I am a sinful man! I am ready to learn. (St. Luke 5:4-9)

So this miracle of conversion that occurs by the power of God is not to remain hidden. It is to be worked out in every aspect of your life and mine. Every relationship. That is what it means, working out our salvation. How can it be done? It goes right on to say it is God that worketh in you. Again it is not by becoming expert enough that we know just the right thing to say when we have an opportunity to witness. Oh, we should try and we should learn and we need to do our part. But never depend on that! It always has to come back to

grace and God working in us.

You see how these two verses are tied together? The church is told, work out your salvation. Express it. Let it be known. Spread the gospel of Jesus. Don't hide it. Don't look only at self and the benefits that we have been given. But share them. Care about others. Be willing to give of yourselves to help meet the needs of others and all of these things, where we can work out and exemplify. The very next verse, by God working in us (Philippians 2:13)!

I hope we all take this thought home with us. To me it is so very, very basic. This verse that says it is God working in us both to will and to do. Isn't that complete? What is missing there? If you are like me, sometimes you are not all that motivated. I might know exactly what the right thing is to do. I need to go visit somebody or give them a call or write something or whatever it is. I am going to do it. I am going to chug my way through it. But it is going to make all the difference in the world if I just get on my knees and I ask the Lord to help motivate me to do this for the right reason. He says right here, He will give us the will.

Do you ever lack in that? I can't imagine that you don't. I can't imagine that there are not those times in your life when you know the right thing to do and you have so many distractions. You are out of energy or just maybe lazy, I don't know. Whatever it is. This verse says, God will give us the will. He will - pardon me - fire us up! Give us a passion, that it won't be a drudgery. But it can be a joy.

Then, the wherewithal. He says to will and to do. What else do we need? Give us motivation, then give us the resources. The will and to do. What a merciful, loving God. Let's praise Him, honor Him. Let's join forces, dear ones, in encouraging each other. Yes, to work out our salvation. Not work to earn it. Of course not. But let it really come forth, in our lives individually and as a church!

I believe we heard this weekend that we really should appreciate our denomination. That doesn't mean to

elevate it unreasonably. To say that it is better than anyone else's. God created it, didn't He? He caused this to come together. We know the history. He has given us something, whatever we call it, a heritage, a fellowship, support group. Biblical name is church. But He wants this to be a church like a city, set on a hill, doesn't He?

Do we want to please Him by our church being what He wants it to be, without any misconceptions, no self exaltation, pride, any of those kinds of things? But also no putting down or diminishing it's importance. After all, it is Christ's bride. That is the position of the church, the overall church in the New Testament plan. Christ's bride. He loves that bride and He is looking forward to a wedding supper and for us to be joined with Him in all eternity. So it has a very high place. But right now what He wants is for the church to be a very, very faithful servant for Him and witness for Him here upon this earth. The light of the world, the salt of the earth. As individuals and as a body of believers. So with God's grace working in us, we believe we can all do better than that.

Then again, a caution here. "Do all things without murmurings and disputings:" v. 14. Why? "That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation..." That is why Peter said strangers and foreigners. "...among whom ye shine as lights in the world; Holding forth the word of life..." There it is again. Spreading this gospel of truth. "...that I may rejoice in the day of Christ..." That is Paul again saying that he can have joy. How much more important that Christ would have joy, that we please Him. "...that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain." v. 15,16. Then he says, whatever is asked of me, if I am offered up by my service for the Lord, so be it. My joy is something that you can also have. (v.17,18) May God help us to share in that joy.

Child Placement Manager Opening

As Gateway Woods expands our Christian Adoption Services into Illinois, we are in need of an IL Child Placement Manager. Applicants for this job must:



1. Be a member in good standing of the Apostolic Christian Church with approval of his/her local elder.
2. Have at least a Master's Degree in Social Work from an accredited school and three years work experience in social work administration OR a Master's Degree in a human services field from an accredited school and five years of work experience in human services administration.
3. Have a dedicated interest, love and sensitivity for youth and families.
4. Possess good motivational, organizational, teaching and communications skills.
5. Have ability to establish positive working and interpersonal relationships and use a team approach.
6. Have treatment philosophy compatible with the mission of Gateway Woods - Apostolic Christian Children's Home.
7. Have commitment to ongoing personal and professional growth.

This position offers a competitive salary and generous benefits. For further information and a job description, please contact:

Bro. Jeff Schumacher
Administrator
PO Box 151
Leo, IN 46765
1-888-443-4283 (GATE)
jeff.schumacher@gatewaywoods.org

Bro. Lynn Stieglitz
Counseling Elder
15417 Doty Rd.
New Haven, IN 46774
260-657-1033
lynnstieglitz@lightningnet.net

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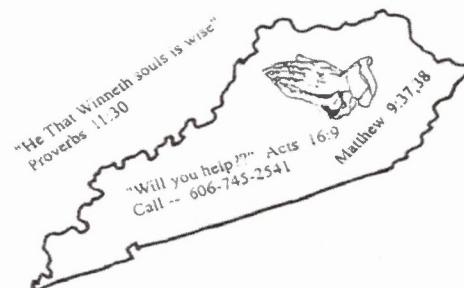
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Ed Graf
Residential Program Director
PO Box 151
Leo, IN 46765
1-888-443-4283
ed.graf@gatewaywoods.org

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

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Managing Stress

Since stress in our lives cannot be avoided, it is necessary to learn how to manage it. We recently discussed how to deal with changes in life and many of those changes bring with them some amount of stress. God's Word repeatedly advises us to give our cares to Him but we often have difficulty doing that.

Stress is briefly defined as mental or physical tension or pressure. All of us have some level of stress in our lives which is very normal and helps us to feel energized and challenged while promoting health and growth. In fact, not enough stress leaves us feeling bored and unfulfilled. We also all have short intervals of increased stress which is normal. Beginning a new job, having a baby, and many other situations in life require extra time and effort which increases stress temporarily. The problems with excessive stress begin when our daily tasks, duties, and challenges become overwhelming causing stress levels to increase regularly. The negative fallout from continual high stress is manifested in every area of our lives; spiritually, physically, emotionally, and in our relationships with others. Failure to properly manage stress can eventually lead to serious health issues as well as compassion fatigue and burnout.

There are a number of good reference materials available that give instruction on how to reduce the stress in our lives. Much has to do with how we allow the actions of others to influence us and how well we are maintaining boundaries in our own lives. Are we able to say "no" to more work or to an unhealthy request? We sometimes forget that our first duty is to serve God and to maintain a right relationship with Him. Often the stress we feel comes from our lack of knowing who we are and the limits of our time, skills and abilities. Occasionally, our pride gets in the way and we begrudgingly accept more tasks in our already busy day because we don't want others to know we have limitations. By accepting more tasks, we may also be doing someone else's work and thereby are enabling him to shirk his responsibilities. Certainly, we can assist others in their labors as long as they realize that they still retain the responsibility for completion.

Galatians 6:2-5 "Bear ye one another's

burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ. ³For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself.

⁴But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. ⁵For every man shall bear his own burden."

The Bible makes it clear that we are to recognize what our personal responsibilities are and to own them. But, it also is very clear that we are not to do our neighbor, co-worker, or spouse's job for them. That only enables them in failing to hold up their end and increases our stress. Instead of helping them to see that they are falling down in keeping up their responsibilities, we often become angry that our job now also includes theirs which serves to increase our stress as well. This cycle can continue to escalate to the point where we are doing all of someone else's work and they suffer no consequences from their lack of service or accountability because we have covered for them.

We know that God is sovereign and knows our every need in peaceful times as well as in times of stress. Where we often fail is in giving everything over to Him and resting in Him. Instead, we sometimes let our minds wander and begin to think all sorts of negative thoughts and outlandish imaginations not based on fact, which only serve to compound the stress we are experiencing.

Since the number seven is often used in the Bible to indicate completeness, we might look at seven basic principles in God's Word that apply to stress and how to reduce it.

First, we are called to **love God's Word** and therein to find peace and a barrier to offense.

Psalms 119:165 "Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them."

Then we find that if we can **keep our mind firmly fixed upon the Lord**, He will keep us in peace.

Isaiah 26:3 "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee."

Next, we see that it is necessary to **know and obey God's Word** to find peace in

abundance. On the opposite side, however, it is implied that failure to do so results in turmoil.

Isaiah 48:18 "O that thou hadst hearkened to my commandments! then had thy peace been as a river, and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea:"

We are also instructed to **not be overly burdened with the cares of life** but bring them to Christ Who cares for us and will provide us with everything we need.

Matthew 6:31-34 "Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? ³²(For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. ³³But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. ³⁴Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof."

Jesus tells us to **come to Him with our heavy burdens** and He will yoke us to Himself and give us rest.

Matthew 11:28-30 "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

The Lord specifically asks us to **not worry so much** but to give all to Him in prayer and His peace will keep us.

Philippians 4:6-7 "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. ⁷And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

Then, finally, we are reminded to **cast all our burdens upon Him**. Why? Because He cares for us and has our best interest at heart.

1 Peter 5:7 "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you."

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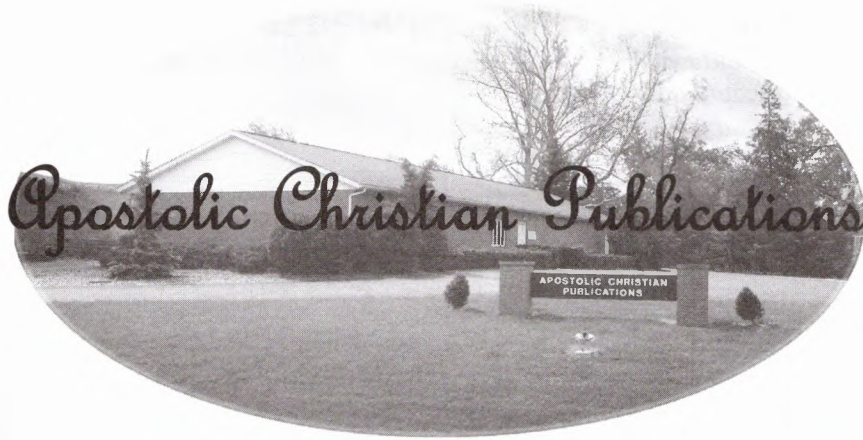
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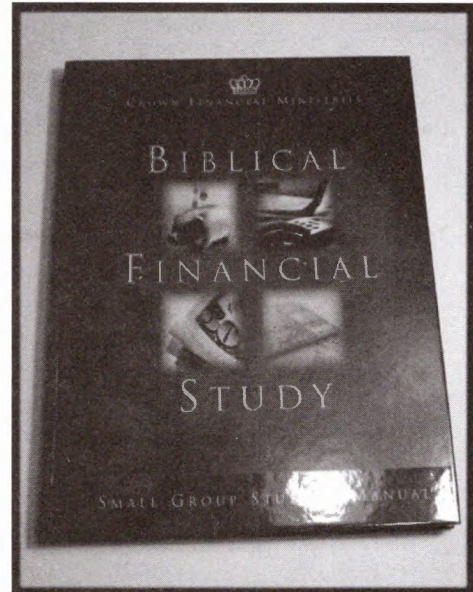
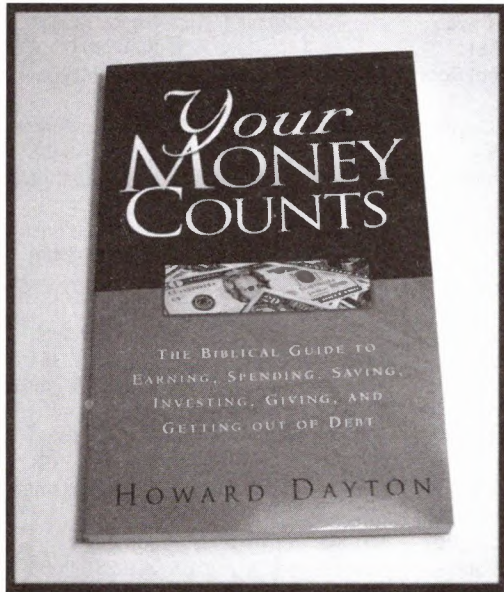
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CARIBBEAN BOARD PROJECTS - 2009/2010

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 October 12th, 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 rick@wuethrichfarms.com	4	Les Cayes MEBSH School Roof	Feb 22-Mar 1	Randy Kieser 309-695-6340 kieser84@geckcoct.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 rick@wuethrichfarms.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 rick@wuethrichfarms.com	12
Haiti Palm Grove Construction	Jan 15-23	John Aberle 785-459-2423 jraberle@hotmail.com	12	Les Cayes MEBSH School Roof	Mar 19-26	Rich Bertschi 309-467-2351 lemangm@mtco.com	12
Les Cayes AWA Water Aid	Jan 22-29	Troy Stuber 309-925-2603 troystuber@verizon.net	4	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 5	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 rick@wuethrichfarms.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 October 12th, 2009 -www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-caribbean/

Project	Year 2010	Coordinator	Capacity				
Kingston School CCCD	Jan 2-9	Roger Stoller 309-747-3228 rstoller@gridcom.net	40	Kingston School CCCD	Mar 20-27	Roger Stoller 309-747-3228 rstoller@gridcom.net	40
Jamaica Deaf Villg CCCD	Feb 27 - Mar 6	Brian Huber 219-253-8304 bwhuber@urhere.net	40	Kingston School CCCD	Jun 5-12	Dean Thomas 309-243-2216 dathomas@mtco.com	Peoria Bible Class Only
Jamaica Deaf Villg CCCD	Mar 13-20	Brian Schwind 309-258-8355 guitar4glory@gmail.com	40	Jamaica Deaf Villg CCCD	Jun 11-19	Ted Hirstein 309-266-8769 hirstein@mtco.com	40

MEXICO

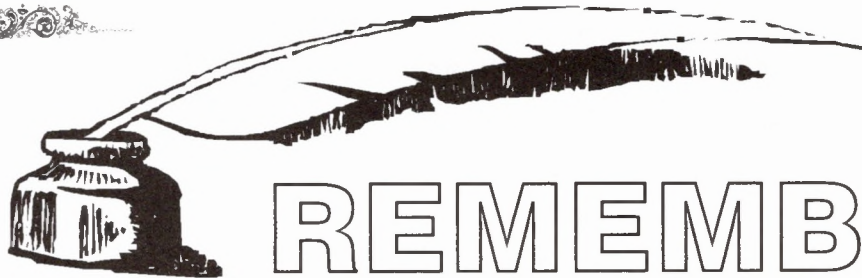
*If anyone is interested in leading a team to Mexico, contact Bro. Mike Fiechter at 260-597-7330 or mfiechter@onlyinternet.net
Data updated from the Apostolic Christian World Relief web site as of October 12th, 2009 -www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-mexico/*

Location	Year 2009	Coordinator					
Juarez Medical	Sep 16-23	Cheryl Herrmann cherrmann@verizon.net		Magdalena Construction	Mar 13-20	Sam Kaufman/Purdue Purdue University 260-494-8733 sjkaufma@purdue.edu	
Zacatecas, MX Medical	Oct 14-21	Cheryl Herrmann cherrmann@verizon.net		Reynosa Construction	Mar 20-27	Tristan Herrmann/U of I University of Illinois 309-712-6902 tristanherrmann@gmail.com	
Magdalena Construction	Nov 21-28	Rod Schmidt 303-774-7913 rschmidt@Acosta.com		Magdalena Construction	Mar 20-27	Linc Rinkenberger Bluffton Senior Class 260-565-4155 rinkfamily@adamswells.com	
Location	Year 2010	Coordinator					
Magdalena Construction	Jan 2-9	Denver Rassi 815-867-2196 drassi2@gmail.com		Agua Prieta Construction	Mar 20-27	Aaron Beery 330-927-6926 beeryaaron@embarqmail.com	
Magdalena Construction	Jan 9-16	John Teubel 815-657-8721 jteubel@maxwire.net		Magdalena Construction	Mar 27 - Apr 3	Curt Hodel Roanoke Bible Class 309-923-8091 cjhodel@juno.com	
Magdalena Construction	Jan 16-23	Steve Kaeb 217-379-4707 kaebbs@illicom.net		Magdalena Construction	Jun 5-12	Stan Schick Princeville Sunday School 309-243-9281 schickfam@juno.com	
Agua Prieta Construction	Mar 6-13	Kevin Gerber 260-565-3313 kevgerber@yahoo.com		Magdalena Construction	Jun 19-26	Benj Knapp Washington Sunday School 309-467-5274 benjknapp@homewayhomes.com	
Magdalena Construction	Mar 6-13	Adam Adrian/ISU Illinois State University 573-231-6433 adam_adrian@hotmail.com		Magdalena Construction	Jul 17-24	Blake Stahl 630-740-7461 bcstahl@aol.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



REMEMBERING

Our Spiritual Heritage

This is the beginning of a two-part series of an article of our church in Akron, Ohio, that appeared in an Akron newspaper earlier in this century. It depicts the seriousness with which the church's faith and beliefs were practiced as recognized by reporter William Egan. It very likely appeared after 1922 since the article refers to Elder Ernest Graf. His tenure as Elder began on May 22, 1922.

Akron, Ohio Newspaper Article

Tiny West Hill Flock Really Upholds Its Doctrine; Daily Life Is Drama of Practical Brotherly Love.

*Sincere And Quiet Members Of
Little Church Preach Sermon Of
Kindness*

—By William Eagan

A drama of brotherly love is enacted daily by the members of a tiny West Hill church.

The drama isn't demonstrative, but it reflects generations of sincere and quiet and patient rehearsals.

So great is the love of these church members for their fellow men that they refuse to vote; because to cast a vote for one man you are voting against another.

They refuse to quarrel, for a quarrel is breaking a commandment.

And they refuse to carry fire-arms even in time of war; for to carry arms, they say, is breaking a commandment.

But brotherly love is not the only precept of the Apostolic Christian church, 545-7 Noble Avenue.

Its fundamental doctrine lies in the words of Christ. "My kingdom is not of this earth."

The congregation of the church believes its reward awaits it after death. Meanwhile, it endeavors to exemplify the teachings of the Twelve Apostles.

Because of their disbelief in the value of material things, members of the church ask little from the world.

They do not smoke, wear jewelry or fine clothes.

They eat and drink with moderation, for gluttony and overindulgence are not tolerated.

The women do not paint their faces. Their clothes are modern, but reserved.

Motion pictures never flicker for their benefit. Actors and actresses never have heard their applause.

The congregation is not forbidden by church law to read books, periodicals or newspapers. But members seldom read them, they say, for they speak of material

things.

But the Bible is read with consummate interest.

Members of the church do not like to exploit themselves. They do not like to be quoted in the newspapers and they refuse to allow their pictures to be taken.

Elder Ernest Graf is pastor of the church. He is assisted by three other persons, all laboring men.

The services of the church are Calvinistically simple. They are held on two days each week, Sunday and Thursday.

On Sundays members gather at the church at 9.30 a.m. for Sunday School. This is followed at 10.30 a.m. by regular services. Following the sermon, the people gather in the basement for a community dinner, then they return upstairs for an afternoon service. There is only one gathering on Thursday nights.

Sermons, hymn singing and prayer are the three major features of the service. The sermons are never prepared. They are made extemporaneously from the pulpit after the Bible has been opened at random to a key passage. Only at funerals is the Bible opened to a premeditated place.

Compiled by Perry Klopfenstein

Next Issue:

This article continued

The Light Of Hope

“For The Long Haul”

Retired Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

This article might also be titled, “The Thrill of the Moment”, or “Consider the Consequences”. If we make decisions based on the thrill of the moment, or without considering the consequences of our actions or decisions, we may well be headed for deep trouble.

When we repent and become a follower of the Lord Jesus Christ, it is a life-long commitment. It is not good to be in earnest when we begin our walk with Christ and later become careless and not so devoted. In the parable of the sower as recorded in Matthew 13, some seed fell by the way-side and was devoured by the birds. Some fell upon stony places and some fell among thorns. I think that seed devoured by the birds indicates people who hear the Word but never repent. The seed that fell upon stony places and among thorns, indicates, I believe, people who repented and turned to the Lord but who didn't go into it for the long haul, or they weren't committed to stay with Christ no matter what. This is very unfortunate, to say the least.

It is also important that we realize that marriage is for a lifetime, not just for a couple of weeks on a honeymoon. Short-sightedness is disastrous when it comes to deciding on who you

should marry. It is for the long haul. I believe that God would have us to marry someone with whom we have many things in common, first and foremost, a strong faith in Jesus Christ. If you decide to marry someone based on the fact that you are greatly attracted to that person, please know that that attraction may wear off unless there are things you like to do together, and that you can be interested in some of the same things. Deep love comes with time after living many years together and after going through the ups and downs of life together. A young couple should have not only love for each other, but a strong faith and belief, that everything considered, it is God's will to marry because it is what will bring God the most glory.

Ephesians 5 and I Peter 3 tell us how married people should be toward each other, but these scriptures do not teach us whom God would have us to marry. When we seek guidance as to whom we should marry, it is good to remember that it is for the long haul, not the thrill of the moment.

How the casino boats and other gambling establishments can stay in business is beyond me. To go to these places is a waste of time and they are established to take your money, even

if you don't have any to spare. It becomes an addiction and addictions are always dangerous unless you are addicted to the Lord Jesus Christ. In gambling, those who win have taken money which doesn't belong to them, possibly from others who desperately needed the money to feed and clothe their families. Gambling is a lose, lose, situation. The word gambling is not mentioned in the Bible but honesty is, in Philippians 4:8. “Whatsoever things are honest Think on these things.” Let's be mature and practice good judgment based on the Bible.

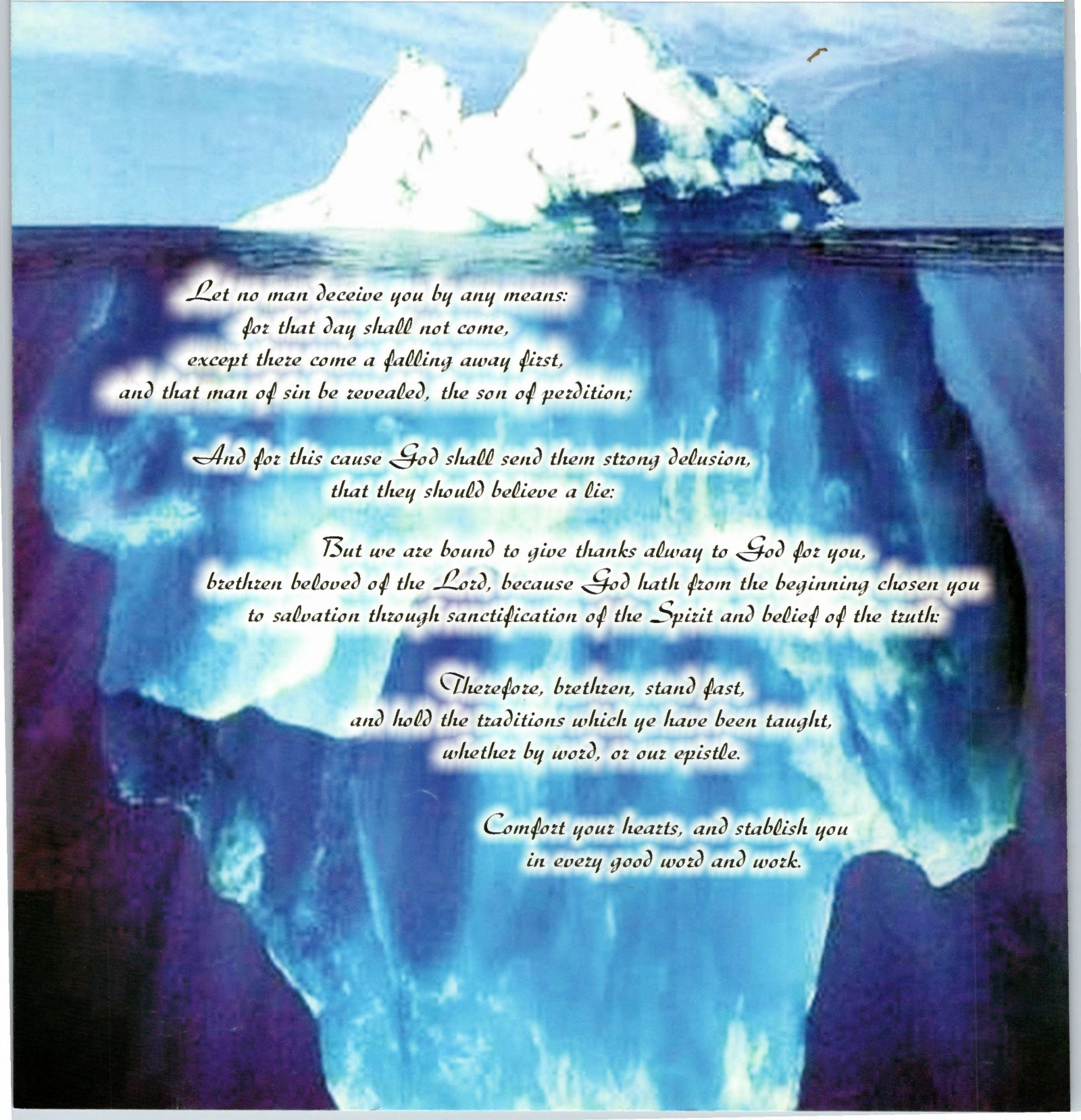
I recently taught “that if any would not work, neither should he eat,” II Thessalonians 3:10, and was reminded that many people do terrible things because they cannot find respectable employment. I have never been in such a situation without a support group, so I cannot speak with authority on the problem, but, as for me, I would try to live on bread and water and a few thrown away vegetables, or if necessary, die of starvation, rather than to do something which I know is very wrong in God's sight. After all, we are in this for the long haul, and the long haul is for eternity.

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*Let no man deceive you by any means:
for that day shall not come,
except there come a falling away first,
and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;*

*And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion,
that they should believe a lie:*

*But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you,
brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you
to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:*

*Therefore, brethren, stand fast,
and hold the traditions which ye have been taught,
whether by word, or our epistle.*

*Comfort your hearts, and stablish you
in every good word and work.*