Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honor, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen. Revelation 7:12
“In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.” 1 Thessalonians 5:18

One hundred fifty-one years ago, while civil war raged in the United States, President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a national day of Thanksgiving:

“The year that is drawing towards its close, has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added… It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently, and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and one voice by the whole American people. I do, therefore, invite my fellow-citizens… to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next as a Day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens.” (Excerpts) - Abraham Lincoln - October 3, 1863

The world around us may still be filled with strife and tumult, yet Lincoln’s words aptly remind us that we, as fellow-citizens in God’s kingdom, ought to “in every thing give thanks” to our God.

Bro. Tom Stock, along with Bro. Rick Plattner, counseling elders.

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Christ’s Commands to the Church

Key verse: “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world” (Matthew 28:19-20).

When we love someone deeply, we want to do all we can to help them make good decisions and to avoid Satan’s pitfalls. As parents, we try to teach our children to do God’s will, we try to be good examples for them, and we give them clear, direct instructions either to do or not do certain things. We cannot always shield them from consequences for inappropriate behaviors. There are valuable lessons to learn from the consequences of mistakes. However, if a child faces a life-threatening or very dangerous situation, most parents would choose to take their place if it were possible. We want to help those we love.

Jesus loves us so much that He wants all of us to have a safe haven. He wants us to be a part of His Church, His body (Eph. 1:23), His bride: “And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of Heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband” (Rev. 21:2). He loves us so much that He did all that was necessary to provide a way of escape from Satan’s snares. Jesus did not spare us from all of the consequences of sin (Luke 6:17-27), but He did take our place when we were condemned to die for our sins. Having done all of this for us, Jesus certainly wants us to follow the path He left for us so we do not fall prey to Satan’s evil temptations and be eternally separated from God.

In His intercessory prayer (John 17), Jesus prayed that His disciples would know God, that they would have God’s Word, He kept them in God’s name, He made so they could be sanctified, and gave them the truth. In addition to praying for His disciples, He also included each of us in His prayer. “Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word” (John 17:20). Jesus prayed for you and me!

The commands that He gave us are clear and direct. His instructions are especially powerful because He not only taught us what we must do to please God, but He lived a perfect life, giving us an example to follow. These commands are as relevant today as they were nearly 2000 years ago.

Jesus told His disciples that He was going away, but He added, “I will come again and receive you unto myself” (John14:3). Jesus is coming again to claim His bride. He wants His bride to be ready, so He gave us a clear path to follow as we prepare for His return.

Our lives must reflect humble discipleship and obedience to His messages, which He summarized in two commandments. “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment, And the second is like unto it, thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets” (Matthew 22: 37-40).

Keeping these two commandments requires us to repent (Luke. 13:3 & 5), to become converted (Mt. 18:3), to be born again (John 3:3 &5), and to faithfully “abide in the vine” (John 15:4). To help us abide in the vine, the Bible identifies a number of attributes that should be apparent to those who observe our lives.

If we take the whole counsel of the Bible, it appears that humility stands out above most other attributes as a required possession, if we want to please God. There are many examples in the Bible of individuals who were useful to God as long as they were humble, but when they became proud they were...
Greetings, Dear Brothers and Sisters and Friends of the Truth. Brother Gerry mentioned that as he came to church he sensed the joy amongst many that he met, and the verse came to my mind “This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.” (Psalm 118:24) Then there’s another verse that says that we should give thanks always in all things (Ephesians 5:20, 1 Thessalonians 5:18). So today we’ve come together to give God thanks and to worship God and to thank God for the blessings.

We think many years ago of the pilgrims. We think of Thanksgiving, we think of turkey, and all those things, and we think of how they paused for a few minutes to give thanks to God. They’d had a hard life. They’d had a difficult time. Even though for many of us this past year has been difficult, we’ve had difficulties, we’ve lost loved ones, we’ve had sickness, we’ve had all kinds of difficulty, yet when we look back and we count our blessings, don’t we have reason to come together and to thank God? To thank God most of all that He has made a way possible for us that after this life we can have a hope of a better life to come.

This Thanksgiving morning, we’ve come to set aside a time of thanks, and it’s our custom and our tradition that we always just open the Word and trust that God will provide. Brothers have told me, I’ve asked and inquired, is it proper, is it ok if we seek out a chapter and read it. I’ve been assured for a special occasion - you know we have a wedding, we read Scripture that pertains to a wedding; if we have a funeral, we read Scripture that pertains to that.

So this morning as we’ve come together, I think of 2 Samuel in chapter 22. I’d like to read a few verses there. It’s a writing of David, and we know David was a man that had difficulties in life. You know, there should never be one of us that think that this life is going to be perfect, that this life is going to be simply a path of roses. I think of our fathers of faith. I think as we can read there in Hebrews in chapter 11 of the men of faith. We think of Joseph and all those things that he endured and all those men of faith. They had difficulty in life, but yet they trusted in God. What we have to do this morning, Loved Ones, is just simply look to God.

Can we give thanks this morning that yet today we have the day of grace? The door of grace is yet open. There are souls still turning to the Lord in repentance and seeking Him. May we, Loved Ones, never forget who is our Rock, who we can depend on, who will not change. I visited with a brother this morning before we came to church, and I’ve been coming to Sabetha for 46 or 47 years. This is almost home. You know, in that time, a lot of things have changed. The roads that we drive on have changed. There are brothers that don’t sit here that used to sit here; they’ve gone on. A lot of things have changed, but this Word hasn’t changed. God will not change, and that’s where our promise is at. It’s our Rock. It won’t change.

As we came this morning, Brother Gerry mentioned that everyone he met seemed to have a joy in their heart. We should have a joy in our heart. We should have a countenance that radiates the love of God, a countenance that the world sees that we have a joy in our heart, that we have a peace in our heart, and that we have a reason to thank God.

Today being Thanksgiving Day, if you’re like me, you look forward to it. We’ve been invited or we’re hosting and we look forward to sitting down to a Thanksgiving feast. We look forward to it. I hope this morning that as we’ve each one come together in God’s house around the Word, that we’ve had that
same hunger, that same thirst, that same desire, that same craving for the Word as we’ve come together that our spiritual appetite can be filled, that we can be satisfied. Then as we would leave the doors of this building that we can go on our way rejoicing and thanking God and praising God as we sang in the hymn for His untold blessings.

We’re just here for a few short days. It says man that is born of woman is a tale that is told (Psalm 90:9). We’re just here a short time, and then we’re gone. So, while we’re here today and while we have the opportunity, let’s thank God with all our heart. Those of us who have been redeemed, those of us who have been called to be His children, let’s thank God that He called us, that looked down on us in His mercy, that He saw us in our wretched estate, and He understood. He understood the condition of our heart, and He called unto us. He beckoned unto us, and He’s still beckoning today to come and follow Him.

Just as I mentioned that we’re going to someone’s home today, we have the faith to believe that as we sit down to the table that there will be something there, and it will be good, it will be nutritious, it will be something that will satisfy our outward man. As we stand before you, Loved Ones, we don’t know what God is going to serve us, but we have the same faith to believe that it will be good, that it will be good for us spiritually, that our inner and spiritual man can be sustained which is much more important than this outward man that is going to perish.

We know that David had his difficulties in life. We know that David was a man that was after the heart of God, but we know that God saw the error of his way. He repented, and he came before God seeking forgiveness from God. As we read here, he says “…The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer;” (v.2) Loved Ones, who else can we look to in this life that’s a rock that won’t change, that’s the same yesterday, today, and forever?

He says “I will call on the LORD, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies. When the waves of death compassed me, the floods of ungodly men made me afraid; The sorrows of hell compassed me about; the snares of death prevented me; In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried to my God: and he did hear my voice out of his temple, and my cry did enter into his ears.” (v.4-7) Don’t we remember, Loved Ones, in our distress when we cried to God, and He heard our prayer? In our distress, do you remember when you were lost, when you found there was no hope, when you found yourself wallowing in the mire, when you found yourself without God, when you felt the condemnation that if you would pass from this life into eternity that there would be no hope? Do you thank God when you cried unto Him that He heard your prayer, that He was there to answer, that He was there willing to forgive, and not only to forgive our past life of sin but to forget it, to put it behind?

Don’t we have trouble with our human nature? Someone can say I’m sorry, and we can say within our mind or tell them I forgive you. But, do we really forgive? Do we really forgive someone, Loved Ones, when they come to us and ask us to forgive them? Are we willing to forget it, to put it behind, or do we carry it with us every day? That takes away the joy from our peace that we have with God. God wants us to have peace, not only with Him, but it says as much as it lieth possible within you with all men (Romans 12:18). We know it can’t be that we can be at peace with everyone. It simply won’t be. We live in a world where we have an enemy. We have one that wants to destroy us.

We remember back of all the trials and tests that we’ve gone through, and I don’t want to discourage any of our young people, our young brothers and

— Please turn to pg. 56
To Give to Him That Needeth

Ephesians 4:28 . . . “let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.”

God has not only blessed America with abundance, but has also blessed us with opportunities to share with others through a multitude of World Relief endeavors. The six Distribution Centers, serving under the National World Relief, strive to fulfill the mission statement of “offering loving, humble deeds of service to fellow believers and all mankind in the name of Christ.” Items are distributed to alleviate needs at the local, national, and international level. The projects are too numerous and varied to list in one short article, so this article will focus on items produced or packed at various centers, collected at the Bluffton Center, and then shipped to Haiti.

Items Shipped to Haiti from Bluffton
As World Relief involvement in Haiti has increased, so has the need for supplies. Currently, between eight and eleven sea containers have been shipped each year from the Bluffton Distribution Center. Construction supplies, kits (health, school, and layette), meat, soup, soap, medical supplies, personal supplies for our missionaries, and fabric for Haitian linens are some examples of items being shipped.

Soup and Soap Produced
Most of the Distribution Centers have project work nights in which volunteers form bags of soup by combining dry ingredients, such as rice, bullion, and dried vegetables. The bags of soup are then packed into buckets. Brethren from Wolcott and West Bend produce and package soap. Wolcott also grinds soap which is used as detergent. Both of these products are distributed to local food pantries, but are also sent to the Bluffton Distribution Center for shipment to Haiti.

Soup fills empty dinner bowls
Our brethren who live in Haiti meet people who are hungry on a daily basis. The bags of soup are much appreciated and when a bucketful has been distributed, the bucket is a prized possession also. Often, our brethren serving in Haiti witness needs right at their door step. A listening ear, a prayer, and a bag of soup is healing balm to many who have experienced difficulties in life.

Near Les Cayes, there is an elderly lady who makes her living braiding straw rugs, which is a difficult, tedious, and time-consuming project. She has learned to know some of our missionaries in Haiti and appreciates the opportunity to stop by about twice a month to pick up sticks from the yard for firewood, possibly sell a rug, and take home a bag of soup. Another thin, middle-aged lady has lost her husband and has four children to raise. She openly confesses her faith in God and how she trusts that He knows her needs, even when her food supply is exhausted. She is so thankful when God provides a bag of soup to take home to feed her family.

Medical and Construction Supplies
Medical supplies that are donated or purchased are collected at the Bluffton Distribution Center for Hospital Lumiere in Bonne Fin. Items include

— Please turn to pg. 61
“A Hospital for the Soul”

It was a blessing to stop at the church in Brsadin, Croatia, during an information-gathering trip for the European Committee of World Relief. While partaking of lunch and having sweet fellowship with some of the brethren, they related their appreciation for the financial assistance they received to renovate the Brsadin church.

Prior to the renovation, the building had dirt floors, a leaky roof and leaky walls. The church is now repaired, and it is a tremendous blessing for them to be able to attend services in a fixed up building. They had tears in their eyes as they expressed their thanksgiving. One of the brothers called the church the “Hospital for the Soul.”

In thinking about each of these experiences, it is thought provoking to try to empathize with the feelings of those dear brethren. What causes this great joy? Is it the years they experienced during two world wars and then communist leadership where they were not able to gather together? Great numbers of them perished or were dispersed from their homelands. Is it simple thankfulness for a faith in God’s goodness and His ability to provide for their needs when they cannot completely provide for themselves? Regardless of the reason, there is great joy for these brethren in having a place to worship.

Some of us have had the opportunity to see firsthand this joy and receive the deep appreciation. However, you make it happen as you share the Lord’s provision. Your financial support to the Mission Committee European Church Building Fund allows this building assistance to be possible. There continue to be needs to replace and renovate aging worship facilities for Nazarean congregations in various countries in Eastern Europe. In addition to providing financial support, please pray that Nazarean believers can continue to reflect the light of salvation to their world where economic and political turmoil have become commonplace.

– Submitted by Bill Eisenmann, on behalf of the European Committee
Basic Conflict Resolution Skills

As we have seen in our previous articles, our communication has the potential to be a great blessing to others but can also be a source of discord and disunity. James’ description of our tongue as a fire (James 3:6) is very accurate. In this article, we will look at some principles which can give guidance in the area of conflict. Though we never like to think about it and try to avoid it, conflict does surface in our relationships. It is critical we learn to properly respond to this conflict. Scripture tells us, “If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men” (Rom. 12:18). We will look at seven principles of conflict resolution and a few other key components of this topic.

Principles of Conflict Resolution

A. Conflict will happen.
Occasional conflict in relationships is inevitable. However, how people handle conflict (submitting to the flesh or the Spirit) determines whether it harms the relationship or helps it to grow. John 16:33, “These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.”

B. Active listening.
Active listening is a key skill in understanding each other and dealing with conflict. Proverbs 18:13, “He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is folly and shame unto him.” James 1:19, “Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath.”

C. Guard the tongue.
Avoid speaking quickly and angrily. Criticism, sarcasm, and put-downs are hurtful to relationships. Proverbs 15:1, “A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.” Proverbs 29:11, “A fool uttereth all his mind: but a wise man keepeth it in till afterwards.” Ephesians 4:29, “Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.”

D. Speak the truth in a loving manner.
Working through conflict successfully takes honest and truthful communication done in a loving manner. Remember to examine motives. Would we be able to receive it, if someone came to us in this manner? Love is a very considerate awareness of the other person. Ephesians 4:15, “But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ.” Ephesians 4:25, “Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.”

E. Resolve anger.
Deal with anger and hurt proactively. Don’t deny it, “stuff” it, or let it turn to bitterness. This is especially important in close relationships such as family or marriage relationships. Ephesians 4:26-27, “Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: Neither give place to the devil.” Hebrews 12:15, “Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;”

F. Forgiveness is essential.
The ongoing practice of seeking forgiveness and being forgiving is essential to healthy, Christ-centered relationships. Ephesians 4:32, “And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.”
1 Peter 3:8-9, “Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous: Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing; but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing.”

G. Disagreements will happen.
Accept that it is impossible to agree on everything. Forbearance [patient restraint] is an act of love.

Colossians 3:12-15, “Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.”

A Few Other Thoughts

A. Is conflict always bad?
Does having no conflict automatically mean having a better relationship? No! Conflict isn’t automatically good or bad. Rather, how it is handled makes the difference. Healthy conflict generates “light,” while unhealthy conflict simply generates “heat.” Interestingly, having no conflict in a relationship may actually be an indicator that the individuals are avoiding issues that need to be discussed. Ideally, seek to have the least amount of conflict possible in relationships, realizing that when it does occur, we can find ways to work through it for our betterment.

B. Avoid the extremes.
1. People who are “conflict avoidant” in relationships will do just about anything to avoid an argument. While this may be a good quality in many situations, those who avoid conflict may also avoid bringing up important spiritual, emotional, and relationship issues. Those who are “conflictual/argumentative” in relationships may tend to provoke arguments from time to time. While we will always know where these individuals stand on an issue, they may speak words harshly and put others down.
2. Jesus provided us with a perfect example for dealing with conflict. Sometimes He was silent or said few words (see Matthew 27:11-14; John 8:3-11), while other times He spoke quite firmly and directly (see Matthew 23). Jesus always spoke to the heart of the matter and always focused on the other person’s eternal good (see Matthew 10:17-22). He did not avoid conflict due to fear of man; however, He also did not seek to be argumentative (see Matthew 15:1-12). Thus, no right answer exists for every situation. We should match our response to the needs of the situation.
3. Where does each of us fall on the continuum below? Note that individuals who tend to be “conflict avoidant” will need to practice speaking in a firm and direct manner, whereas individuals who are more “conflictual/argumentative” will need to practice holding their tongue.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conflict</th>
<th>Speaking the Truth in Love</th>
<th>Conflictual/Argumentative</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Avoidant</td>
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C. When conflict occurs, we should be careful how and when we talk to each other . . . and seek to understand the other side.

Use the model provided in James 1:19-20 where it says, “Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.” Think through each step and principle:
1. Swift to hear
2. Slow to speak
3. Slow to wrath

Also, it is vital to realize there are essentially two layers to most conversations:

― Please turn to pg. 61
Congregation Updates

Apostolic Christian Home for the Handicapped
www.achh.org

The big event for the month at Timber Ridge had to be our Motor Activity Training Program day on October 4. This is a Special Olympics event that our Assistant Activity Director began coordinating about a year ago. Every resident was able to participate since it took place in our building. Our staff had to be trained by people from Special Olympics in order to hold this event. And then there were volunteers! Just like any Special Olympics event, we had the honor of police officers from the city, county and state come, in uniform, to present awards! It was also a privilege to have the Knights of Columbus color guard here for the occasion. Our very own Naomi H., one of our newest residents, opened the activities by singing “The Star-Spangled Banner”. Chelly F., another new resident, led the Special Olympics oath and started the games. We were also very thankful to have many young people from some of our area churches (Congerville, Tremont and Eureka) help with getting people from one activity to another, and to help with the games. Family members also came to offer assistance and enjoy watching their loved one participate in the activities such as wheelchair racing, slalom wheelchairs, bocce ball, catch and bowling. There were also many sensory activities set up, such as walking on or riding wheelchairs across bubble wrap and switches to activate lights and sounds. Every participant got stickers for participating in different events. Each one was awarded a Special Olympics gold medal. It was a great day enjoyed by all!

Many residents from Linden Estate and the CILA homes had the privilege of being invited to a bonfire on October 7. It’s a special event looked forward to every year, that the residents know they don’t want to miss! Special thanks from the residents and staff to the family that does so much to host this!

It has been a treat to have so many days of beautiful weather this autumn. This has been a blessing appreciated by both residents and staff. We praise God for His goodness to us and trust in His perfect plan for our lives and for the lives of those we love and care for!

Gateway Woods Apostolic Christian Children’s Home
Charla Leman - Counselor

I praise God that He gives me the opportunity to witness other’s lives, and to see His ability to answer prayer and provide healing from sinful circumstances. When working in counseling with young girls who have been abused, I witness the heartache and damage that occurs when one person sins against another. God has been teaching me so much about redemption and how He can redeem circumstances that I myself would see as hopeless. Much of the counseling I do at Gateway Woods is focused on helping adolescents deal with traumatic experiences. The type of therapy I use is Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy. This helps the girls understand how what has happened to them affects their thoughts and actions and helps them be able to develop healthy ways to cope. We discuss exactly what it was that happened. Almost like how a soldier would do a memoir and discuss in detail his experiences in battle, research proves that it is beneficial for those who have been abused to be able to discuss what happened. Bringing it to the light and discussing it over and over to correct thinking errors and address self-blame and to dull the pain of the discussion. The more they discuss the experience, the less control and pain it holds over them.

I am praising God for the healing He has brought to one of
the girls I have recently worked with. This is a little bit of the testimony of a 13-year-old girl who was abused from the age of 8-12 years old by her previous foster parent.

“God has helped me by sending me to Gateway because He knew that I needed the help because I was doing a whole bunch of bad drugs and being violent to my parents. He also knew that I needed to talk about my problems rather than holding it all in and exploding on everybody. When I came to Gateway, I learned that I needed to talk about my problems instead of holding them in. And I have come closer to God now. I go to church every Sunday. I praise Him and thank Him for helping me out. I really needed the counseling here and Gateway was a good place to come to because it is just a really good place. I am glad that I came here because they taught me more about God and Jesus and helped me work out my problems. And they helped my family too. My parents now listen better to me and are more patient with me instead of what they were before. And I am really thankful for that. And I just want to thank Gateway for all their help.”

Her parents expressed in our last family counseling session together how thankful they were that their daughter was taken to church and taught about Jesus throughout her placement here at Gateway.

News:

There are three different career positions available currently at Gateway Woods, including several of great need: several openings for Alternate Houseparents, one opening for a counselor, and one opening for a Home-Based & Adoption Case Worker. For more information please see the notices in the back of this issue or visit the Career Opportunities page on our website at www.gatewaywoods.org/careers. We trust that God will continue to provide qualified, mature brothers and sisters who will serve Him in a ministry that is ‘Turning Lives Around’. Perhaps this includes you!

We were sad to bid farewell to several wonderful team members in October. Bro. Roger Gasser, one of our masters-level counselors, has decided to leave Gateway and begin a position with Apostolic Christian Counseling and Family Services. Also, Bro. Keith & Sis. Alisa Beyer and their family will be leaving houseparenting to begin the process of moving to Casa Vida & Esperanza in Magdalena, Mexico. We are sad to say goodbye to these brothers and sisters, but are thankful for the years they gave to Gateway Woods. We wish them the best in their future endeavors.

Gateway Woods Illinois Adoption Program is open for business and seeking to serve our brothers and sisters in Illinois. Visit GatewayWoodsIL.org or contact Sis. Luci Koch at 309.266.0767 or Luci.Koch@gatewaywoodsil.org.

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 and our Facebook page at facebook.com/gatewaywoods often for updates, and make sure that you are on our mailing list. If you would like be added to our mailing list, please contact us at 888.443.4283 or send an email to ross.feller@gatewaywoods.org. Finally, if you would like to receive a monthly email detailing how the work at Gateway Woods is bringing help and healing to those in need, please consider joining our Restoring Hope email list. You can do so at our website or by emailing ross.feller@gatewaywoods.org.

Apostolic Christian Preschool Athens, AL

Susan Koch

Our themes for October were transportation, fall and the color orange. We also studied the letters E through H. This month has finally started to feel like
fall with the weather changing. Unfortunately, this means many of the students get sick or have to deal with their allergies more. It is fun though to see the excitement of the children when they bring their coats to school for the first time.

My class has been learning some new silly songs. Their favorite one is “Five Little Speckled Frogs.” Our favorite animal video was for the letter F. We watched some fish videos and one showed great white sharks breaching while chasing a seal decoy. The kids thought it was hilarious and were trying to imitate the sharks by jumping and chomping their teeth.

Ms. Louise’s class has been practicing recognizing the letters of the alphabet during their calendar time. They also created a fire safety book during week F and talked about how to be safe during a fire and to listen to their parents and the firemen. We all went on a “fieldtrip” and found all the preschool smoke detectors and checked their batteries. So just imagine about 20 kids huddled together under the smoke detector with their hands covering their ears waiting to hear the squeal of the smoke detector. When it finally rang out, they would scream and jump around. I love organized chaos!

Ms. Kalla’s class has been decorating their classroom with spooky creatures and fall colored leaves. If you visit, there will be a few cobwebs and spiders hanging around so don’t be alarmed. For week G, they have also been discussing different types of measurement and measuring how much they will grow throughout the year.

Remember if you want to volunteer at the preschool, please let me know. You can contact me at 309.202.4897 or susankoch2@yahoo.com. More information about the preschool can be found at www.acpreschool.org.

**Arizona, Tucson**

*Dean and Jackie Knobloch*

We have been blessed this past month with visits from our Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia) and Bro. Bill Schick (Sis. Joan) from Magdalena. We are grateful they are willing to speak the Word of God on our behalf.

The Tucson Sunday School picnic was held Sunday, October 12. We wish to thank Bro. Doug and Sis. Young Bauer for their efforts and organization.

We are glad Bro. Norm and Sis. Jan Rechkemmer have become permanent residents of Tucson. We welcome them to our small, but faithful church family.

The next few months will bring back our winter visitors. We encourage all who wish to gather with us on Sunday and Wednesday evening.

We continue to pray for all who are undergoing medical issues and hardships. We know God sees it all and is there, if we only call on Him in our hours of need.

**Arizona, Phoenix**

*Heather Hinrichsen*

We thank Bro. Don Manz (Junction, OH) for visiting and bringing us the Word of God.

Bro. Floyd Banwart, a long-time resident of Phoenix, passed away in Fort Scott, KS. A visitation and burial service were held in Phoenix on October 3. Our love and prayers are with Bro. Bob and Sis. Betty Lemons, Marcia Banks, Steve Lemons and all the family.

The weekend of October 4 and 5 we heard the testimony and witnessed the baptism of Bro. Casey Katich (Bro. Brian and Sis. Debbie). Those of us with young children appreciate the
public declaration of Bro. Casey’s desire to follow Christ and His command to be baptized.

We say farewell to Bro. Tyler Knochel as he has accepted an employment position in Indiana.

California, San Diego
Janelle Brewer
As we move into the Thanksgiving season, it causes us to reflect on the many blessings we receive from our Heavenly Father. Our prayer is that we could have a thankful attitude always.

“And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.” Col 3:15

We were blessed to have visiting ministers this month to share the Word with us. Bro. Mark Steffen (Sis. Stacy, Phoenix, AZ) and Bro. Mike Grimm (Sis. Amber, Goodfield, IL) blessed us with their God-given talents. We pray that God will continue to be with them as they do His work.

It was a blessing to have Invite-a-Guest this past month. It was encouraging to have visitors from near and far! We are part of a special brotherhood that we can meet people we’ve never met before and feel the bond of Christ.

“Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.” Luke 15:10

We rejoice with Sophia Dotterer (Bro. Clint and Sis. Rebecca) as she has answered God’s call to repentance. Our prayers are with her as she begins life anew in Christ Jesus.

Altadena and San Diego had a picnic together on October 12. It is always neat to be able to spend time with our closest neighboring church!

Bro. Doug Brewer (Sis. Janelle) recently experienced loss as his grandmother, Sis. Marge Fehr (Peoria, IL), passed away. May God provide comfort during this time of loss.

Canada, Kitchener, Ontario
Johanna Fortenbacher
“O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!” Romans 11:33

This month we had many visiting ministers. They are Bro. Steve & Sis. Myra Ringger from Bluffton North, Bro. Wayne & Sis. Camille Hartzler from Rittman, Bro. Matt & Sis. Deanna Steffen from Princeville and Bro. Howard Plattner from Alto. Thank you for coming and God bless you all! As well, we were blessed to have Elder Bros. Mark Bahr from Detroit, Curt Frank from Lacrosse and Andy Stoller from Smithville for a midweek service.

Colorado, Denver
Tess Leman, Naomi Wiegand
Greetings of love from Colorado!

We were so thankful to have Bro. Jeff Bahr (Sis. Janice) from Kiowa, KS share the Word with us. Through the Scripture and examples from the farm life, we were reminded how safe and secure we are when with our Heavenly Daddy. Even when faced with great difficulty, we can rest assured that our Heavenly Father will see us through. Isn’t it wonderful to know that He will provide?

“Though troubles assail
And dangers affright,
Though friends should all fail
And foes all unite.
Yet one thing secures us
Whatever betide,
This promise assures us:
The Lord will provide!”

The Lord Will Provide, Zion’s Harp #86, verse 1

Connecticut, Rockville
Lauren Gottier, Sheila Gerber
“My Lord, an off’ring do I bring;
my heart I give to Thee. I gladly give this heart of mine, which thou dost ask of me.”
Zion’s Harp #163

On September 27-28, our congregation had the privilege of hearing the testimonies and witnessing the baptisms of four dear souls: Sis. Joanna Schneider (Bro. Dave & Sis. Kim), Sis. Jay Lemire (Mike & Jan), and Bro. Ben (Bro. Wally & Sis. Judy) & Sis. Christie (Sis. Jody Spielman) Carlson. May the Lord continue to be with them as they walk in His ways. We appreciated the labors of Elder Bro. John Laukhuf (Sis. Marcia, Latty, OH) throughout the weekend.

There were many families
touched by the loss of a loved one in this past month. Margaret Ryan, mother of our Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Sis. Cheryl) passed away on September 17 with many of her loving family by her side. Our sympathies are also extended to Sis. Roberta Foote (Bro. Paul) in the passing of her brother; Sis. Geri O’Brien in the passing of her uncle; and Emory Fellows (Claire, Clarendon, VT) in the passing of his brother. May we all remember to keep these families in our thoughts and prayers.

“Grant to Thy servants grace and might, and wisdom, working virtues bright, that in this time, good seeds they sow, from which external fruits may grow.”

Zion’s Harp #188

We are always thankful to have visiting ministers come and share God’s Word with our congregation. Bro. Todd Graf (Akron, OH), Elder Bro. Brad Eisenman (Sis. Cindy, Chicago, IL) and Bro. Joe Klotzle (Sis. Sue, Altadena, CA) were each used in the Lord’s vineyard this past month.

Two couples became first-time parents this month. Precious Owen Kenneth was born to Bro. Kevin & Sis. Lauren Gottier on September 22. Grandparents are Guy & Sis. Beth Gottier and Bro. Bob & Sis. Lynette Goric. Jace Myron Avery was born to Sara & Jon Avery on October 5. Grandparents are Pam & Gary Trinque (Bro. Clarence & Sis. Martha Mangold – dec.) We wish both of these couples God’s blessings and nearness as they raise their baby boys.

A dear couple was joined in heart and hand on October 5 as Bruce Hoffman (Bro. Mark & Sis. Luella, Clarendon, VT) was married to Stephanie Sneath (Dennis & Sandra, Altoona, PA). We wish them God’s blessings as they begin their life together.

District of Columbia, Washington

Henrietta Meyer

Our caretakers for September were Bro. Ray and Sis. Jeanne Haerr from Ft. Myers, FL. If you feel led to support one of our small churches, being caretakers here would be a wonderful way to do so. If you are interested and are free to spend 3-4 weeks in the DC area, please contact Sis. Doreen Steffen at dkgsteffen@gmail.com or 302-540-6574.

We were saddened to hear Roberta Belsley has passed away. She and her husband Ken were among those who first met when Bro. Ed Aeschleman began holding services in the Washington, DC area. We extend our prayers and sympathy to Ken and their children: Kendal & Elaine Belsley, Roseann & Richard Donnally, and Cheryl and John Analone; along with four grandchildren.

Earlier this month we learned of the passing of Sis. Catherine Klopfenstein from Gridley. She and Bro. Ralph were in the area for five years when our congregation was being firmly established. We extend our sympathy to her family and also our thanks for sharing their parents with us for those five years.

Our ministers this month were Bro. Chad Huber (Sis. Pam, Francesville, IN), Bro. Don Manz (Sis. Connie, Junction, OH), Elder Bro. Brad Eisenmann (Sis. Cindy, Chicago, IL), Bro. Ron Schambach (Sis. Nancy, Elgin, IL). Our other visitors this month were from Mansfield and Akron, OH. Thanks to all who have included us in your vacation plans.

If you are planning to visit Washington, D.C. area, please contact Bro. Joe and Sis. Holly Bohart at jbohart@gmail.com or Sis. Henrietta Meyer at 703-904-8301 for assistance and to let us know how many to expect for Sunday services.

Florida, Ft. Lauderdale

Renee Mangold

We were grateful to have two visiting ministers this past month. Joining us for fellowship and sharing God’s word were Bro. Fred Witzig (Sis Nancy, Washington, IL) and Bro. Ron Koehl (Sis. Carol, Sarasota, FL. We appreciate the rotation of ministers that continue to attend our small congregation and pray that they and their families will be blessed.

Our prayers for strength and recovery go out to Sis. Vi Gerber. Sis Vi is currently in the hospital and continues to improve after a recent fall.
Let us rejoice in this:
“I know that my redeemer lives,
And ever prays for me;
A token of His love He gives,
A pledge of liberty.
Jesus, I hang upon Thy word;
I steadfastly believe
Thou wilt return and claim me,
Lord, And to Thyself receive.”

Hymns of Zion #253 vs.1&4

If you are considering a move to the Naples/Fort Myers area and would like to talk to someone about it, please call Bro. Marvin Steffen at 239-353-0508. He will help you gather information on anything from serving in a small church to job opportunities and housing in the area.

Our church has been richly blessed by these visiting brothers that brought us the Word: Our Elder Bro. Jeff Streitmatter III (Sis. Lynne, Sarasota, FL), Bro. Matt Koehl (Sis. Emily, of Sarasota, FL) and Bro. Jon Zeller (Sis. Christine, Morton, IL).

Our sincerest sympathy goes out to Sis. Becky Knapp as our dear Bro. Dave Knapp was taken home to be with the Lord. He was always so willing and able to be of help in every activity of our church. We pray Sis. Becky will find peace and divine help as she works out her future, whatever she does.

The New Beginnings

Matthew Chapter 20 speaks of a landowner who hires workers in his vineyard. In the eleventh hour he found some people standing around and he asked, “Why are you standing idle?” They replied, “Because no one has hired us.” The question we must ask ourselves in light of this parable is: Could these people be the representation of the people that we have not reached out to by telling them about the precious pearl that we have found in the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ? Are we hiding our lights under a bushel? Oh Heavenly Father, be it not so!

At the New Beginnings, we are experiencing the hand of God opening up opportunities to share the blessed light of the Gospel. We welcome another young lady to our New Beginnings family. Julia is attending Florida Southwestern University and is adjusting nicely to our own campus routine. She has an almost one-year-old little girl.

Also, we are happy to introduce to you our newest mentor, who moved here from Sardis, OH. Lisa Indermuhle has already become a wonderful blessing to this ministry and to our church family.

As we think about the children from our community who have been coming to our Sunday School on a regular basis, we are heartened to realize that the seeds that are being planted in these tender hearts have the potential of reaping a great harvest to God’s glory in the future. The love they witness and God’s truths will not return to Him void.

The New Beginnings outreach is being brought to another area of our country by the obedience of a single soul. We have a contact in the area of Ohio who has agreed to mentor a single mother with four young boys. We see how the obedience of one person can be multiplied by God’s blessings to impact souls for eternity. We are beginning to learn the deep meaning of Matthew 16:25 where Jesus pointed out to His disciples, “whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for Me will find it.” When we give up our selfish desires for Jesus’ sake, we are blessed beyond compare. It doesn’t make any sense in the human way of thinking, but in God’s kingdom it makes perfect sense.

The Lord anoints us to bring the Good News to the poor, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives, and release from darkness for the prisoners. He desires to rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated (generation sin). All who see them will acknowledge that they are a people the Lord has blessed.

Our mission is to provide a God-honoring resource to single mothers and their children, both physically and spiritually, in a way that demonstrates Christ’s sacrificial love. If you feel a calling to help with a ministry such as this, please contact Dustin or Mandy at (239) 541-4312 or Bill at (309) 824-3981.

A Plea from New Beginnings

“How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him
of whom they have not heard?
And how shall they hear without
a preacher? And how shall they
preach, except they be sent? As it is
written, how beautiful are the feet
of them that preach the gospel of
peace, and bring glad tidings of good
things!” Romans 10:14-15

We at the Ft. Myers church
and The New Beginnings are
looking for some beautiful feet;
looking for people willing to come
down to us and help spread the
Good News in Southwest Florida.
At the church the year-round
group is pretty small, for example
last Sunday for the morning
service we had 6 brothers in the
sanctuary...counting the two
ministers on the pulpit. Also, last
Sunday we had man walk into
our church to see what it’s all
about. We were able to bring him
in, have him listen to the Gospel
message and then sit and eat with
him and answer his questions.
This showed us that there are
hungry and thirsty people in
our area and we need laborers to
come and help find them! Look at
your current church. Is it a large
church? Do you even feel a bit lost
in the shuffle of your large church,
maybe even a bit complacent? I've
been there. Five years ago, my wife
and I packed up our family and
moved away from our big church
to Gateway Woods. Now we've
made an even bigger move from
our Leo congregation to Ft Myers.
It's been the hardest thing I've ever
done, but I can testify that I no
longer feel that complacency and I
feel purposeful in my life. It takes
action though, it takes a step of
faith. But, there is work to be done
here, and we can use you.

At The New Beginnings,
we are also looking to grow. We
currently have 3 single moms
on board with their children.
We see the need to bring more
in, but we are short on laborers.
You may be telling yourself, “I
could never do something like
that.” I would ask if you have
the capacity to love and build
a relationship. If so, then you
qualify. The young mothers here
are in need of people in their life
to love them, to mentor their steps
in life and to teach them about
Jesus. Sometimes we sit and have
one-on-one conversations about
specific issues, but the bulk of the
work is done in group settings,
like meal times and sitting outside
enjoying to beautiful Florida
weather and having conversations
about our great God, how our day
went and life in general. Think
back to the mealtimes you shared
with your family. Think of the
opportunity you would have to
share those moments with young
ladies who have never shared such
a time with anyone. Again, there
is work to be done here, but we
need willing laborers. The passage
above from Romans speaks of the
beautiful feet of the people that
go and preach. Are you going and
preaching, or are you complacent?
We ask that you prayerfully
consider coming and serving with
us in Florida. Remember the feet
are beautiful, if only they'll go.

Florida, Sarasota
Kim Ott

“And God shall wipe away all
tears from their eyes; and there shall
be no more death, neither sorrow,
nor crying, neither shall there be any
more pain: for the former things are
passed away.” Revelation 21:4

Our hearts were saddened
to hear of the passing away
of our dear Sis. Betty Siladie,
but we rejoice that she was able
to victoriously finish her journey
on this earth and is now singing
with the angels in heaven. Our
thoughts and prayers are with
her husband, Bro. George, their
children Bro. Mike (Sis. Jeanette),
Deborah, and Mark, and their
grandchildren.

We are also keeping in our
prayers, Sis. Elda Martin and
Mary Ellen Ebach (J.C.) as they
have recently been hospitalized.
May God grant His healing
strength as He wills.

We were thankful to have
Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Sis.
Kathy, Roanoke, IL) share in
the special services with our Elder
Bro. Jeff Streitmatter for our fall
communion and the reading
of the Memorandum. We also
want to thank Bro. Fred Funk
(Sis. Diane, Morton, IL) for
sharing God's word with us. May
God add his blessings to the
lives of these dear brothers and
their families.

Georgia, Atlanta
Elise Waldbeser

Our love and prayers are with
Bro. Chuck and Sis. Marie Kieser
and as they both have had health concerns this fall. Most of all, we have just missed seeing them! Sis. Brenda Stoller has also recently had some health concerns. We are praying that their recovery will continue to go well and that God’s strength can continue to produce a beautiful testimony of joy within them each through this season of their lives!

Our hearts go out to the Bro. John Brewer and Sis. Michelle Brewer as they mourn the death of their grandmother, Sis. Marge Fehr (Peoria). Standing near the grave has a heart-breaking, yet beautiful way of opening our eyes to the nearness and reality of eternity. May our hearts be ever drawn toward heaven, praising Jesus for the hope of eternity He has given us!

We were so thankful to have Bro. Doug Brewer and his wife, Sis. Janelle, from San Diego here to minister to us this month! It is always such a joy to have them visit. We were so blessed to have Bro. Ted Hirstein (Morton) ministering from the pulpit on Georgia soil for a Sunday this autumn. Such fond memories fill our hearts from the time that he and his dear family lived here in the south. In addition, we want to gratefully thank Bro. Ron Kipfer (Sis. Linda: Bluffton) and Bro. Tim Drayer (Sis. Gwen; Bluffton North) for ministering to us in the midst of their vacations! Thank you for serving us through the pulpit during your time in Georgia!

Our church is in the midst of potentially re-locating. We would love to have you come worship with us, but please call ahead (770.463.4788 or 678.416.6586 or 678.364.0507) to verify the location of our meeting!

**Illinois, Belvidere**

*Doreen Moser, Shayla Steffen*

“A time to be born, and a time to die;”

Bro. Chis and Sis. Shelly Koehl are thankful for the safe arrival of grandson, Xavi Alexander Algarate. We pray that this little miracle can be raised in the nurture and admonition of God.

“a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted;”

We were very thankful to Bro. Dewayne Dill and his wife, Sis. LaRae (Minneapolis, MN), Bro. Mark and Sis. Karen Wettstein (LaCrosse, IN) and Bro. Gary and Sis. Edie Anliker (Elgin, IL) for bringing forth the word. We pray that seeds were planted in those souls who have not yet turned to Him.

“a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up”

We once again thank Gary and Sis. Doreen Moser for hosting the annual Harvest Party where we were able to build each other up as we counted our blessings.

“a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, a time to cast away; a time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;”

The conference recordings were played at the Belvidere church. We were able to sit in silence as we listen to the Elders speak on what the Bible tells us.

“a time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.”

**Ecclesiastes 3:2/8**

**Illinois, Bloomington-Normal**

*Sarah Maurer, Terri Huber*

Many families are thankful for the safe arrival of new little ones. Nathan and Leslie Romersberger joyfully welcomed Penelope Laine in June. Big brother Eli and grandparents Bro. Bill and Sis. Mary Masters are excited, too. Also welcoming their second child are Bro. Tim and Sis. Emily Schmidgall. Lola is a big sister to Beau Timothy. Bro. Randy and Sis. Marj Schmidgall are the proud local grandparents. Bro. Aaron, Sis. Bekah, Titus and Anna Plattner from Alto, MI, were blessed with Jude Robert as a new addition to their family. Local grandparents are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Bonnie Kaufmann.

James and Sis. Marlene Steidinger are excited to announce the engagement of their son Isaac to Brittany Tjarks (Jody and Tina Tjarks of Strawn, IL). An August 2015 wedding is planned.

Several in our congregation have lost loved ones. Our prayers are with Sis. Judy (Bro. Dave) Knobloch, whose mother, Sis.
Kathryn Klopfenstein of Gridley, IL, passed away. Kathryn was the beloved grandmother of Sis. Shelley (Bro. Sam) Steffen. Ross Vogel who is the brother of Sis. Ellen Vogel was taken from this life and we share in Ellen’s sorrow.

Daniel Kaeb of Bloomington passed away on October 7, and our sympathy is expressed to his siblings: Bro. Dave, Bro. Bill, Sis. Paula Knapp and Sis. Bev Virgil.

We are thankful for our denomination’s heritage of travel and fellowship. Visiting ministers have included Bro. Jeff Fischer (Sis. Gloria, Fort Scott, KS), Bro. Mike Hohulin (Sis. Faye, Fort Lauderdale, FL) and Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Tamara, Wolcott, IN). We cannot express our appreciation often enough for all of the ministers’ willingness to serve and preach the Word.

Illinois, Bradford
Roseann Stahl, Sandi Joos

We wish to thank visiting ministers Bro. Bruce Frank (Sis. Bonita, Cissna Park, IL), Bro. Craig Martin (Sis. Terri, Princeville, IL), Bro. John Hartman (Sis. Rosemary, Fairbury, IL), and Bro. Paul Kilgus (Sis. Carmen, Fairbury, IL) for bringing the Word to us this past month.

“Haste, while yet His grace is offered; Waste no time in worldly thought; Now begin your pilgrim journey, Cleansed from every stain and spot.”
Zion’s Harp #52

Accepting the grace that is offered to begin his pilgrim journey is John Joos (Sis. Rebecca Joos and the late Bro. Robert Joos). As John seeks the Lord in repentance, we lift him up in prayer.

Illinois, Champaign
Sarah Eisenmann

Greetings from Champaign-Urbana!

We are thankful that Corey and Michelle Rudin have made the all-important decision to walk with the Lord. We rejoice and pray for this dear couple as they take this step.

The annual all-church wiener roast and hayrack ride hosted by Bro. Dennie and Sis. Cheryl Mangers was held on October 10-11. Friday evening is traditionally for the young group, and Saturday evening is for the rest of the church. Anyone who was a regular attendee of Champaign church in the past is also encouraged to attend Saturday evening. It was a beautiful weekend for the event. We appreciated the many visiting “alumni” of Champaign church who returned for all or part of the weekend.

We have been blessed with several visiting ministers this month, including Bro. Gary Endress (Sis. Evelyn; Bradford, IL), Bro. Harvey Kaeb (Sis. Judy; Gridley, IL), and Elder Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Sis. Nancy; Forrest, IL). Thank you for all you do to support our various congregations.

Illinois, Chicago
Diana Eisenmann

We extend our thanks to our visiting ministers this past month: Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Sis. Leonda, Leo, IN) and Elder Bro. Herb Knochel (Sis. Laurie, Phoenix, AZ). Bro. Herb was with us to help with Holy Communion.

In September, the Chicago young group hosted an invite-a-friend weekend. The theme was “Adopted,” and we had a presentation on the spiritual parallels of earthly adoptions. The young group enjoyed a wonderful time of fellowship while participating in a service project for a local Christian adoption agency as well as assembling World Relief soup kits.

In October, the Sunday School presented their fall program, and we shared a meal and special time of fellowship as we traditionally do on the Sunday of communion weekend. Also in October, we were blessed to have a topical Bible study on the “Mideast Conflict” presented by Bro. Ken Rinkenberger (Sis. Devon, Morton, IL). We are thankful to welcome Sis. Tiera Wiegand as our sister in Christ. She shared her testimony and was baptized in Silverton, OR, her previous home.

We offer prayers and condolences to Staci Barrett and her family in the loss of her grandmother, Sis. Catherine Klopfenstein from Gridley, IL.

Please remember Sis. Christine Eckel’s daughter, Janet, in your prayers as she continues her
chemotherapy treatments.

**Illinois, Cissna Park**  
*Sandy Rudin, Janie Waldbeser*

We were blessed recently to have three visiting ministers. Those visiting were Bro. Dana Nieman (Sis. Lea, Remington, IN), Bro. Brad Gudeman (Sis. Teresa, Bradford, IL), and Bro. Paul Kilgus (Sis. Carmen, Fairbury, IL). May these brothers be blessed for their labors of love on our behalf.

It is good to see Sis. Joyce Stock in church again after recent knee surgery. Sis. Mary Ann Mann was able to come to church for a few Sundays, but is now more confined to her home. We pray for her that her pain can be bearable. It is always nice to see Bro. Lynn Knapp at church. He resides at an area nursing home.

We reported in the August Silver Lining that Corey Rudin and Michelle Leman were recently married. Our church is rejoicing that Corey and Michelle have found a need to come to the Lord in repentance. We pray for them as they begin their walk with the Savior.

We are so thankful that there are those that are called to serve in missions far from home. We want to remember our Sis. Belinda Frank who is serving in Magdalena, Mexico.

Our farmers are busy with harvest and we are thankful to report that the Lord of the Vineyard has provided bountifully for us this year.

It is always special when our church can host a Bible Class from another congregation. We recently hosted the Bradford Bible Class. Bro. Brad Gudeman was able to accompany these young people.

Our remodeling project in our church is coming together nicely. We are looking forward to the time when we can be in our church again. It has been a blessing to work together on this project.

**Illinois, Congerville**  
*Erica Steffen*

“…and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!” Romans 10:14-15

We have been blessed, as always, by the willing ministers whose feet have found their way into our church this month. We are always so encouraged by the words they bring and their presence alone lifts the spirits! This month, they include Bros: Dale Stoller (Sis. Sandra, Fairbury), Ed Fritz (Washington), Mike Grimm (Sis. Amber, Goodfield), Arlen Lehman (Sis. Denise, Forrest), Greg Fehr (Sis. Denise, West Bend, IA), Darin Fehr (Sis. Nora, West Bend, IA), Kent Getz (Sis. Betty, Elgin, IA), Michael Wagenbach (Sis. Erica, Wolcott, IN), John Rassi (Sis. Heather, Tremont), Randall Gasser (Sis. Sue, Detroit), Mark Rufener (Sis. Julie, Mansfield, OH), and Ned Bahler (Sis. Anna, Fairbury).

“Greetings to our faithful brethren, Heart and voice we do employ; Wishing them the Father’s nearness, Tho’ their lot be woe or joy. There’s a blessing in the greeting, Given in the Savior’s name.” Zion’s Harp, #255, v. 3

This month we hosted our Fall Invite-a-Guest and were blessed with an abundance of visitors from all over the country! It was a beautiful day of fellowship and encouraging one another to “Hold the Fort!” For myself, having not grown up in this beautiful fellowship, it is always such a heartwarming experience to see people from all walks of life gather together to share a common faith and love for one another. May we never take our precious faith or the love of our brotherhood for granted.

**Illinois, Elgin**  
*Amy Gasser*

We thank ministering Bro. Ron Bollier (Indianapolis, IN) and Bro. Wayne Hartzler (Rittman, OH) for visiting us this month. We were blessed through their labors.

We extend sympathy to Joanna (Matt) Herzig in the passing of her brother, Vince Colella of Bloomingdale. Ethel Petersen, the aunt of Bro. Bob (Sis. DeAnne) Cox, passed away on October 15.

There have been several hospital patients this month. Bro. Dave (Gloria) Rinkenberger recently underwent open-heart surgery. Sis. Jenny (Bro. Ed) Schambach received a pacemaker. Sis. Lyla Schock (the late Bro.
Richard) was hospitalized briefly following a fall. We are thankful that all are recovering at home.


“Praise ye the Lord. Praise God in his sanctuary: praise him in the firmament of his power. Praise him for his mighty acts; praise him according to his excellent greatness. Praise him with the sound of the trumpet: praise him with the psaltery and harp. Praise him with the timbrel and dance: praise him with stringed instruments and organs. Praise him upon the loud cymbals: praise him upon the high sounding cymbals. Let every thing that hath breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord.” Psalm 150

Illinois, Eureka
Debra Blunier, Linda Rocke

We are thankful for visiting ministers this month who came to share God’s word with us. These include Bro. Matt Steffen (Sis. Deanna, Princeville), Bro. Loren Schrenk (Sis. Betsy, St. Louis), Bro. Arlen Leman (Sis. Denise, Fairbury), and Bro. Dennis Rassi (Sis. Diane, Austin.)

Bro. Jack Prather was hospitalized, but is now recovering at home, for which we are thankful.

Our neighboring church in Roanoke invited us to a family hymn sing. We enjoyed sharing an evening of song and fellowship.

We certainly wish to extend our sympathy to Bro. Joel Banwart (Sis. Sonia) in the loss of three of his family members this past month. Two of his brothers-in-law: Bro. Dwayne Schmidt (Sis. Lucille, West Bend) and Bro. Peter Weber (Peoria); and one brother, Bro. Floyd Banwart (Fort Scott) have gone on to their eternal reward. May the families feel God’s comfort and strength in this difficult time.

Note of thanks:
We wish to thank all who have shown their love and support to us in the loss of our loved one. We appreciated your prayers, cards, visits, and many other deeds of kindness. May God richly bless you for your thoughtfulness. The family of Bro. Lester Martin

Illinois, Fairbury
Angela Herr, Janelle Stoller

“This new being now arises, Having died with Christ before; What in Adam’s fall bad perished Christ the Saviour did restore. Dearest child, we bid thee welcome In our blessed brotherhood; From the wild tree thou art grafted On this holy tree and root.” The New Birth From

The weekend of September 27 and 28 we were blessed to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of our new Sisters Jamie Steidinger (Bro. Martin and Sis. Trish) and Lauren Fehr (Bro. Darren and Sis. Kendra) and Bro. Kent Kilgus (Teri, Silverton, OR). It was such a blessing to hear how God has worked in their lives and we are thankful. Bro. Kent could come “home” so his parents, Bro. Duane and Sis. Arlene, and many other family members were able to attend. We appreciate Elder Bro. John Wiegand traveling the many miles to assist in this work, as well as Elder Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL) for being with us on Saturday evening.

We are also thankful to welcome Sis. Julie Rufener (Bro. John and Sis. Janice) from Smithville, OH to our church family. She has accepted a nursing position at Fairview Haven and will be worshipping with us. We pray she will soon feel at home here in Fairbury.

The engagement of Sis. Elisa Kaeb (Will and Juanita) and Bro. Matt Zehr (Bro. Dave and Sis. Vicki, Gridley, IL) was announced on October 12. We wish them God’s blessings through their engagement and upcoming marriage.

Our prayers are with Troy Fehr (Bro. Randall and Sis. Janis) as he begins his repentance. What an encouragement to hear another soul giving his life to the Lord.

We extend our sympathy.
to Bro. Nick Kaeb in the loss of his brother, Daniel Kaeb (Bloomington, IL), who passed away on October 7.

"Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come."
Matthew 24:42

We were reminded of the uncertainty of life when we heard of the sudden passing of Joan Gaston on October 15. Joan’s surviving brothers are Melvin (Inge) Stoller (Cincinnati, OH), Bro. Rich (Sis. Karen) Stoller and Bro. Dale (Sis. Sandra) Stoller. She is also survived by a sister-in-law, Maxine Stoller (Ft. Myers, FL). May God comfort this family and may we all take this reminder to live faithfully each day.

May God strengthen Bro. Dick Wiegand (Sis. Betty), William Fehr (Helen), Cherie Kaisner (Robert), and Bro. Randall Fehr (Sis. Janis) who were hospital or surgical patients.

We thank Bros. James Fehr (Tremont, IL), Tony Manz (Junction, OH), Paul Zimmerman (Forrest, IL), Dennis Rassi (Austin, TX), Dale Frank (Oakville-Mediapolis, IA), and Ed Fritz (Washington, IL) for visiting and ministering God’s word to us.

Illinois, Forrest
Karla Zimmerman, Molly Zimmerman

As we were driving the other day, I was in awe at how the trees have changed colors. It reminds us that there has to be a change in our lives for there to be a new beginning. We are so thankful that Ethan Schaffer (Bro. Erik & Sis. Michelle) has answered the call to repentance. May he continue to feel the love and prayers as he makes that wonderful change in his life.

We were so blessed to listen to the testimonies and witness the baptisms of two more souls, Bro. Luke Dotterer (Bro. Jason & Sis. Lynn) and Bro. Stanton Mueller (Bro. Stan & Sis. Kristen). Our prayers continue for these brothers as they continue to show what our Lord has done for them.

We are so thankful for our home ministers who bring forth the Word each week, and it is always a blessing when we have visiting ministers that come and share the Word, too. This month we were blessed to have Elder Brothers Steve Sauder (Tremont, IL) and Rick Plattner (Fairbury, IL). Also with us were Bro. Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL), Bro. Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL), and Bro. Matt Feucht (Roanoke, IL). May they be richly blessed for their labors.

Our Bro. Alan Gerber (Sis. Marcia), who suffered a major heart attack last year, has been on the heart transplant list for some time. On October 16, he received the call that a donor heart was available. They immediately left for Chicago where the surgery took place. At this writing, the heart is functioning well and he is making progress. We praise and thank God for this wonderful gift and pray for Bro. Alan’s continued good recovery, all according to His will.

We also pray for the family of the donor, whose passing made this transplant possible.

“The Sunday School is our delight. We love it more and more; ‘Tis here we learn to do the right And live forever more. We hear the truth, so pure and clear, Of Jesus’ love so sweet and dear; There we are taught to lift our eyes to Him who lives on high. Sing ye all in one accord; Sound forth the praises of the Lord, Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna to the Lamb of God.”

Hymns of Zion #73

Our Sunday School Bible Class had a wonderful opportunity to host Fall ACYF Day. What an uplifting day it was for us as a church to see the students come together and to listen to them sing as a group. We pray that each of them felt our prayers, and that they can build that unique friendship that is so dear in our church.

Bro. Bryan Aberle (Sis. Lisa) and Bro. Brad Brown (Sis. Shannon) have been asked to take the responsibility to teach in Sunday School. May they feel the prayers as they teach our children.

Bro. Troy and Sis. April Slagel and big brother, Tristan, welcome little Cole William into their family. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Lynn and Sis. Kathy Slagel of our congregation and Will and Juanita Kaeb.

Our prayers have been with Sis. Eleanor Honegger (Bro. Wayne) and Bro. Duane Schneider, as they have had surgery and been in the hospital. Sis. Gladys Koehl also spent some time in the hospital.
We are thankful that our Lord’s healing hand has been upon all of them. Our Sis. Virginia Blunier who resides at the Eureka Apostolic Christian Home, was in the hospital and is now back at the Home. May she feel God’s nearness and care.

We said farewell to our Bro. David, Sis. Janelle, and Orrin Zimmerman. They have accepted a four-year full-time position at Hospital Lumiere in Haiti. They will be missed by all, and we pray that they will be richly blessed as they follow the Lord’s direction. May they continue to feel our prayers as they are far from home. We believe there will be lonely times, and, as we were reminded as a church, we should be mindful to stay in touch.

Illinois, Goodfield
Kayla Wiegand, Melissa Rokey

We are thankful the work groups from Haiti and Mexico made it home safely. Thanks to all of you for your efforts to help prepare Bro. Kurt and Sis. Joan Plattner’s home at Hospital Lumiere.

Bro. Randy and Sis. Cindy Schmidgall also wanted to thank everyone for the help and the donations for the orphanage trusses in Mexico. Many donated their time as well by coordinating the project, preparing the trusses for construction, transporting to Mexico, and constructing them on-site. The children will now have building in which to receive education and care for many years to come, Lord willing.

While thinking of those who are serving away from our congregation, we lift up Sis. Erin Davis who is serving in Jamaica and Bro. Erik and Sis. Carrie Wiegand and their family who are in Africa. May God be ever near them and keep them safe while they are about spreading His Word and help to those in need.

Sis. Christie Wiegand has moved back to our Goodfield congregation from Leo, IN. We are thankful to have her back home and worshipping with us.

There have been several in our congregation who have been hospitalized this past month: Bro. Ben Tanner, Sis. Wanda Edwards, and Sis. Marian Wiegand. May God’s healing hand be upon them as they recover.

“I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.” Luke 15:7

We are also thankful for Elder Bro. Earl Ringer (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL), Bro. Frank Sauder (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL), and Bro. Don Manz (Sis. Connie, Junction, OH) as they also lent of their time and brought forth God’s Word.

Note of Thanks:
Thanks to everyone who helped with Dave Knapp’s funeral. Sis. Becky and family really appreciate it and love you all very much.
Illinois, Gridley

**Perry Klopfenstein**

Bro. Matt Zehr was engaged to be married to Sis. Elissa Kaeb, Fairbury. Her parents are William and Juanita Kaeb of the Fairbury-Forrest area. He is the son of Ministering Bro. Dave and Sis. Vicki Zehr. We offer our best wishes to this couple. They are planning a late February wedding.

Sis. LeaAnn Ringger was married to Bro. Galen Huette, Tremont, on August 17. Her parents are the late Bro. Stan and Sis. Colleen Ringger, Gridley. He is the son of Bro. David and Sis. Susan Huette, Tremont. May God be with this young couple in their wedded life.

We offer our sympathies to Bro. Dave and Sis. Gloria Wettstein over the passing of her brother, Daniel L. Kaeb, 65, Bloomington, IL.

Tyler Gramm broke his kneecap and was scheduled for surgery. He had broken his other kneecap in the past. God be with him, and for those who care for him at the Morton Home for the Handicapped.

We had visiting ministers on Sunday, October 18. Bros. Chuck Kellenberger, Elgin, and Nathan Wiegand, Goodfield. May God reward them for their labors.

Sis. Catherine Klopfenstein, 87, passed away, peacefully in her sleep, on October 2. She had resided at the Meadows Home since late August. She is survived by seven children: four sons, Bro. Cleve (Peoria), and Martin (Bloomington), Stanley (El Paso), and David Klopfenstein (Pittsfield); and three daughters, Gloria Volk (Normal), Sis. Judy Knobloch (Bloomington), and Sis. Kathy Hohulin (Roanoke); 16 grandchildren; and 29 great-grandchildren. Also surviving is a brother, Jerry Slagell, Flanagan. Sis. Catherine is best remembered for her cheerful spirit and inviting smile.

Illinois, Morton

**Annette Tanner, Julie Bahr**

Our Obedience and our Works are our expressions to show our Faith in Christ Jesus! Generous Grace and forgiveness however; was given to and expressed by, two new souls: Bro. Trevor Cantrall and Sis. Julia Martin. Their testimonies of how God gave them Mercy, were shared with us the weekend of September 27 & 28. Bro. Trevor (son of Tom Cantrall and Kim Fonner) is also the grandson of our Bro. Ken and Sis. Jackie Babin. Bro. Ken has been experiencing declining health and was given the privilege to experience pure joy as he witnessed his grandson receive this “Boundless Mercy!” Sis. Julia is the daughter of our Bro. Ken Martin (Morton) and Sis. Jill Martin (Goodfield).


Our church has experienced the sorrow and loss of loved ones this month.

Our deepest sympathy is shared with Trevor and Dani Barth in the loss of their tiny little precious newborn baby girl, Isabelle “Belle” Marie Barth. Baby Belle is the granddaughter of our Bro. Bob and Sis. Jeannie Barth and also is the first-born niece to Aunt Stephanie Barth.

Love and sympathy also is extended to the family of our Bro. Harry Kaiser who passed from this life October 11. Bro. Harry is survived by his wife, Sis. LaVerne, and several children: Edward (Barb), Bro. Allen (Sis. Brenda), Ben (Dedra), Sis. Marcia, Mary (Dan) Farney, and Mindy (Brian) Stewart. Bro. Lester (Sis. Irene) Kaiser and Sis. Edith (Bro. Martin) Hohulin are his two siblings.

Sadness was experienced by our dear Sis. Doris and Bill Michel in the loss of their daughter-in-law, Beth (Billy) Michel. We pray for God’s presence to fill the wounds and voids of those who ache for these loved ones.

Our appreciation deepens for those who lend of themselves to minister the Good News to us. Our thanks goes to Bro. Daron Price (Sis. Monica, Athens, AL), Bro. John Rassi (Sis. Heather, Tremont) Elder Bro. Jeff Grimm (Sis. Ruth, Goodfield), and Bro. Jedd Rocke (Sis. Marsha, Goodfield) who gave us our Family Worship Topic of “Cultivating...
Obedience” while “Walking the Halls”!

Father help us to show thankful obedience and express our deep love for you, especially now as we are approaching another Thanksgiving Season.

**Illinois, Peoria**

*Pam Fritzenmeier*

We were blessed to have several visiting ministers this month. They include Bro. Ed Sauder (Sis. Bonnie, Roanoke) on September 17, Bro. Bill Schick (Sis. Joan, Magdalena) on September 21, Bro. Ron Kipfer (Sis. Linda, Bluffton) on October 5, and Bro. Ted Witzig, Jr. (Sis. Donna, Morton) on October 8. Bro. Ron served at the Peoria County Jail in the morning, along with a men’s singing group who sang a couple songs for us, after church. May God bless each one for their service for the Lord.

Bro. Cleve (Sis Kathleen) Klopfenstein’s mother, Sis. Catherine Klopfenstein, passed away October 2. Bro. Peter Weber (the late Sis. Mabel) passed away October 4. On October 16, Sis. Marge Fehr (the late Bro. Wade) passed away, just before her 90th birthday (October 20). She was the mother of Sis. Kathy Brewer, Sis. Nanette David, Michael (Tina) Fehr, and Wade Fehr. Our sympathy and prayers are extended to these families.

Sis. Karen Dunbar, Bro. Mike (Sis. Carol) Rieker, Bro. Dan (Sis. Susan) Meister, and Bro. Joe Martin all had surgery recently.

Bro. Jozsef (Sis. Tina) Davidovics was injured in a hunting accident. Please continue to pray also for Sis. Megan Kieser (re recuperating from breaking both legs), Sis. Mazie Thomas, Bro. Jeff (Sis. Melissa) Waibel, Andrea (Aaron) Staley, Mary See, Sis. Linda Miller, Sis. Dee Metzger, Rosalie (Bruce) Johnson, Mary Funk, Bro. Harry (Sis. Loretta) Eisenmann, Sis. Nanette David and Kevin Schick.

Fede and Keyla, along with Bro. Jason Grassi, Bro. Zach and Sis. Daniela Knobloch, and Bro. Jonathan and Sis. Bere Aupperle from CVE in Magdalena desire our prayers also.

Congratulations to Second Lieutenant Ashley Christ (Bro. Ron and Sis. Carol) graduating from the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, CO on Wednesday, May 28, 2014. She was commissioned as an officer of the United States Air Force on Tuesday, May 27, 2014. Ashley looks forward to her military service through further study in the field of English Literature at Kansas State University in Manhattan, KS, the field of force support at Vandenberg Air Force Base in Lompoc, CA, and the opportunity to return to the Air Force Academy as a future professor in English Literature.

**Note of Thanks:**

We are so thankful for all the prayers of everyone. We are in awe and humbled as we even now keep hearing of so many praying for Ali and our family. We know it was all the prayers of so many that carried us through this journey, and we could not have done it by ourselves. Ali is doing very well. All her follow-up labs are good, showing no signs of her body rejecting her new kidney or the disease (C3GN) that attacked her kidneys returning. Ali is back in high school starting her junior year, and doing well. Our hearts are full with thankfulness, but bittersweet, always thinking of and praying for the donor’s family, a 17-year-old boy. They gave the gift of hope and life to Ali. There is no greater gift in this life, except for the gift of salvation from our Savior. Chris and Sis. Marsha Stickling and family

**Note of Thanks:**

A special thank you to all who attended my celebration at the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, July 20. I thank you all for the treasure of your friendship, the kindness of your words, Smiles that brighten my day, The gifts that warmed my heart, Your friendship across the miles. And I wish for you and yours joy, peace, health, success and blessings.

“I thank my God upon every remembrance of you.” Philippians 1:3

Bro. Ron and Sis. Carol Christ

**Illinois, Princeville**

*Gloria White, Renee Herrmann*

We were blessed this month by the ministry of Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein (Sis. Linda, Francesville, IN) and Bro. Craig Stickling
(Sis. Jackie, Peoria, IL). May God provide eternal rewards for their willingness to proclaim the Gospel.

Our hospital patients this month are Harvey Stahl and Cleve Hoerr (son of Bro. Ryan and Sis. Joy). We are thankful that God continues to provide His healing powers.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Stan and Sis. Margie Schick and her brother, David Weber (Peoria, IL), at the passing of their father, Bro. Peter Weber (Peoria, IL). We are thankful for our “God of all comfort” (2 Cor. 1:3) who promises to meet all our needs.

September 21 was the wedding day of Bro. Cody Blunier (Bro. Darin and Sis. Keri) and Sis. Maria Steidinger of Fairbury, IL (Bro. Keith and Sis. Kristine). We also witnessed the marriage vows of our Sis. Alisha Knobloch (Bro. Keith and Sis. Lisa) and Bro. Brice Knapp of Washington, IL (Bro. Benj and Sis. Karen) on October 12. We wish them God’s guidance as they establish homes to His glory.

Knowing that much preparation had gone into these weddings, I was reminded of another wedding that the Bible tells us is coming. It might be very soon. Are we preparing for this coming heavenly wedding with the enthusiasm and diligence with which we prepare for our earthly weddings? The Bridegroom will come for His bride!

**Illinois, Roanoke**  
*Barb Schwind, Judy Sauder*

Bro. Daniel & Sis. Larissa Stoller welcomed Taelyn Charlie into their hearts and home on September 22. Her thankful grandparents are Bro. James & Sis. Brenda Fehr (Tremont) and Bro. Brent & Sis. Kay Stoller (Congerville).

Then on October 6, Henry Daniel was born to Bro. Daniel & Sis. Wendi Leman. Grandparents Bro. Max & Sis. Mary Pfaffman (Washington) and Bro. Dennis & Sis. Karen Leman are also thrilled with Henry’s arrival. We rejoice with these dear families and pray for God’s blessings upon them!

_Psalm 96:4: “For the Lord is great, and greatly to be praised.”_  

On September 24, Bro. Craig Stickling (Peoria) presented a topical Bible Study, “God is Awesome”. We thank him for his inspiring presentation. On September 28, we were privileged to have Bro. Dave Obergfel (Peoria) and Bro. Jeff Leman (Bluffton North) served us on the pulpit. Then on October 5, Bro. Greg Lehman (Wolcott) was our guest minister. May God continue to bless and provide for these brothers in their ministries.

Sis. Catherine Klopfenstein (Gridley) went to be with the Lord on October 2. She was the mother of Sis. Cathy (Bro. Tim) Hohulin.

Rudy (Edna) Wacker of East Peoria passed away on October 17. He was the father of Jim (Sis. Cheryl) Wacker. May the Lord comfort these dear families in the loss of their loved ones.

_Psalm 149:1 “…Sing unto the Lord a new song, and his praise in the congregation of saints.”_

Our Family Hymn Sing was held on October 5. There were a number of visitors from Eureka, Washington and Peoria in attendance. It was a blessed evening of worshiping our Lord in song.

_Romans 10:10 “For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”_

We rejoice with and are so thankful for Adam & Jackie Knepp who are seeking the Lord in repentance. It’s so encouraging to see God’s faithfulness in calling souls unto Himself.

Bro. Bob & Sis. Mary Bradle celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on October 18. Bro. Bob & Sis. Mary have been examples of servanthood to our church and community. We ask for God’s continued blessing upon them at this special time and throughout the coming years.

_James 5:16 “…and pray for one another, that ye may be healed.”_

We continue to pray for Bro. Dennis (Sis. Rita) Schwind, Bro. Fred (Sis. Cherri) Janssen, Sis. Marge (Bro. Russ) Plattner, Sis. Clara Fischer, Sally Achterberg and her son, Jake, Sis. Virginia Blunier, and John Tiraboschi, who are dealing with health issues, for our Lord’s healing, strength and nearness.
Illinois, Tremont

Teresa Rowell, Janice Sauder

Visiting ministers are so appreciated when they visit. We have had several this month and wish to thank each one for their willingness to preach God’s Word. They are Bro. Gary Maibach (Sis. Mary Ann, Smithville, OH), Bro. Ryan Schock (Sis. Melanie, Bloomfield, IA), Bro. Glen Steiner (Sis. Rachel, Winthrop MN), Bro. Duane Metzger (Sis. Ruth, West Bend, IA), Bro. Jon Pratt (Sis. Sharon, Valparaiso, IN), Bro. Justin Koch (Sis. Marcia, Washington, IL), and Bro. Brian Waibel (Sis. Wendy, Champaign).

Babies are born every day, and some are special to us. Bro. James and Sis. Brenda Fehr are grandparents again to Taelyn Charlie Stoller. Bro. Daniel and Sis. Larissa Stoller (Roanoke) welcome her home. Bro. Joe and Sis. Marcella Steiner welcome little David Mahlon into their family. Bro. Mike and Sis. Ivy Steiner (Burlington) are his loving parents. And Bro. Dean and Sis. Karen Beutel are grandparents to Samuel Elijah, first son of Josh and Sheila Graber. We pray God’s leading in these parents’ lives as they raise these little ones for Him.

Bro. William Beutel and Sis. Brittany Koch felt the Lord’s leading to become one in Holy Matrimony. We celebrated with them on September 21. May God be the Unseen Guide in their marriage, and may He bless them richly as they build their lives together.

And as some are joined together, others are parted from one another. Sis. Jane Kauffmann has said an earthly goodbye to her brother Dan Kaeb. The Huette family mourns the loss of their family member, Bro. Harry Kaiser (Morton). May God comfort all those whose lives have been changed forever by death. We pray for a happy reunion on that Golden Shore.

Bro. Ken Babin (Sis. Jackie) and Bro. Si Wagenbach III (Sis. Lori) have had illnesses. We pray for healing and comfort to each one.

Illinois, Washington

Marlene Prather, Jodi Fehr

Our prayer is that God blesses our home ministers and those who traveled to be with us this month including Bro. Todd Sinn (Sis. Janet) of Latty and Bro. Marshall Heinold (Sis. Jan) of Ixlan, Mexico.

Trusting God led their lives together, Bro. Brice Knapp and Sis. Alisha Knobloch were united in holy matrimony on October 12. Their parents are Bro. Benj and Sis. Karen Knapp and Bro. Keith and Sis. Lisa Knobloch of Princeville. We warmly welcome Sis. Alisha to Washington.

We lift Sis. Betty Klaus up in prayer as she is experiencing some health concerns.

We rejoice with Bro. Max and Sis. Mary Pfaffmann as they welcome a precious new grandson into their family. Henry Daniel was born to Bro. Daniel and Sis. Wendi Leman of Roanoke on October 6.

Indiana, Bluffton

Suzie Fiechter, Kim Meyer

What do we do with our murmurings? Do we blab them to others hoping for support, or do we battle them with the promises in God’s Word? Sometimes it amazes me how simple, and yet all encompassing, God’s promises are to us. Everything in our lives is so complex and intertwined and so when I read God’s promises, I think, “That’s it. That’s it?”

“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.” Romans 10:9

We rejoice with two new converts who no longer wonder ‘when’, but have confessed with their mouths and believe in their hearts: Drew Gerber (Bro. Chad & Sis. Jami) and Whitney Kaehr (Bro. Brent & Sis. Allison).

“He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.” John 14:21

“That if thou shalt keep thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.” Romans 10:9

We find ourselves or
loved ones in the hospital, it can be exhausting. Knowing God is the ultimate physician, we bring our petitions and pleas before His throne. However, there are times we get His peace instead of answers and cures. When this happens, are we content with this or do we murmur? I am not always okay with that. But I do know the times when I have been okay with just the peace of God that passes all understanding, I ask myself, “Why do you seek anything more than this?” We pray for Jeremy Valentine who is now back at home and Bro. Les Schwartz (Sis. Sally) who just suffered a stroke.

“In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.” John 14:2

Sis. Phyllis Dotterer (Bro. Paul-dec.) has been ushered into her mansion above. Her family: Sis. Kathy (Bro. Gordy) Gerber, Sis. Susan (Bro. Doug) Dailey, Sis. Sally Dotterer, and Jeff (Lynn) Dotterer, along with the grandchildren and great-grandchildren will be in our prayers. “And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever.” John 14:16

How thankful I am for comfort of the Holy Spirit as I often feel ‘comfortless’ to those grieving the loss of a loved one. “If ye loved me, ye would rejoice, because I said, I go unto the Father: for my Father is greater than I.” John 14:28b

Amidst the pain of saying goodbye, may Sis. Phyllis’ family only imagine what she is now beholding in the presence of God.

“A threefold cord is not quickly broken.” Ecc. 4:12b

We rejoice with Bro. David Aschliman (Bro. Skip & Sis. Connie) and Sis. Victoria Wolfe (Bro. Kent & Sis. Viola) as they were united as one with God in marriage. May they joy in the journey of drawing closer together as they become more Christ-like and not murmur about each other’s flaws like society would love to hear.

“But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever.” 2 Peter 3:18

Indiana, Bluffton North
Corinne Stettner, Amy Moser

Gold is tried by fire, but mankind is tried by gold.

A Christian’s love for God can be measured by how much they love their money.

Jesus said in Matthew 6:24, “Ye cannot serve God and mammon.”


Our Bro. Charles and Sis. Marilyn Gerber reached a milestone on July 19, as they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. We are so grateful for the godly example of commitment they have been to all of us.

We want to thank our church in Indianapolis for hosting our 7th and 8th graders at the Junior High ACYF on Sunday, September 14. This opportunity to make lifelong friendships is such a blessing.

The Hands of Praise team with CCCD (Caribbean Christian Center for the Deaf) performed on Friday, October 10 at Kingdom Academy. This inspiring group of young adults blessed us with an evening of worship, as they used sign language as their avenue of praise.

On October 12, we held our annual Sunday School nomination meeting and dinner. We are thankful for those who are willing to serve our students and trust the Spirit’s direction as candidates are presented and chosen over the coming weeks.

Sis. Jamie Longenberger underwent surgery at Dupont Hospital, where she spent one night. We are thankful she is recovering well.

Indiana, Francesville
Jacki Huber, Mildred Clauss

“To know God is at once the easiest and most difficult thing in the world. It is easy because the knowledge is not won by hard mental toil, but is something freely given…it is difficult because there are conditions to be met and the obstinate nature of fallen man does not take kindly to them”

-A. W. Tozer

Three young people from our congregation have had this experience. It was interesting to listen to the testimonies of how
the Lord led them through their repentance journey. Courtney Isch (Bro. Burt & Sis. Karlene); Andria Johns (Bro. Earl & Sis. Stephanie); and Mark Gutwein (Bro. Jan & Sis. Val) have all testified of how the Lord brought conviction to their heart and led them to salvation through faith in the shed-blood of Jesus Christ. They were baptized on September 28. We pray each heart will continue to be submissive to the teachings of the Word.

Recently, our Bible Class sponsored a Pancake & Sausage Breakfast to help cover the expense of mission trips. At the same time, used clothing was collected which the class later took to Pacific Garden Mission in Chicago. This is a learning experience for our Sunday School Students and we ask the Lord to bless the teachers for their efforts.

Sis. Leah Kaeb, daughter of Bro. Les & Sis. Christine, has returned to Les Cayes, Haiti where she will be assisting with the mission work there.

David Ward has passed away and we express sympathy to his siblings in our congregation: Bro. Dale Ward (Sis. Ann); Bro Roger (Sis. Sandi); Sis. Barb Wuethrich and Sis. Nola Wuethrich.

Bro. Jim Denton continues to be in therapy at White Oak in Monticello. Sis. Nola Wuethrich is recovering from shoulder surgery at her home. We pray the Lord will provide healing and restore health for our loved ones.

We thank Bro. Chris Wuethrich (Sis. Carla) from Chicago for their recent visit and for his encouraging message.

Note of Thanks:

Thank you so much for remembering me in prayer, with cards & flowers as I spent two months at Parkview Haven doing therapy. It all contributed to the healing process of my broken hip.

Sis. Donna Wuethrich

Indiana, Indianapolis
Gail Bradford, Sandy Lichtle

We were gratified and encouraged by more than 150 young people from Indiana and surrounding states who joined us for fall “Indy Outreach.” Service projects took them to an urban mission, a food bank, a nursing home, a prison and to individual homes to lend a hand (or two), along with a fall festival for neighborhood children. The deeds themselves were a powerful way to share the gospel, inspired by Isaiah 30:21, “And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.” Bro. Gary Ringer (Gridley, IL) and Bro. Clint and Sis. Alesa Bahler (Indianapolis, IN) shared testimonies of their own Christian walks and the blessings of obeying God’s direction.

We rejoice that Bro. Nick and Sis. Kristen Hoerr welcomed their first child, daughter Ava Grace. Happy grandparents are Bro. Mark (Sis. Carolyn-dec. Hoerr, Eureka, IL, and Bro. Mike and Sis. Shari Fiechter, Bluffton, IN.

Another set of happy grandparents are Bro. Glen and Sis. Nancy Pfeifer (Indianapolis, IN), whose son, Bart and daughter-in-law, Molly Pfeifer (Denver, CO), welcomed son Cal Andrew, their second child and new brother to young Brynne.

On a very cold fall weekend, several of us spent shared time at an Indiana campground, sustained by the warmth of campfires, comfort food and fellowship. The children didn’t notice the inclement weather!

We surround Bro. Jonathan Magnin and Sis. Katherine Whitler with love as they announce their engagement. We trust they feel the support of the brethren and of the Lord as they make this commitment and look forward to a joyful time of preparation.

We appreciated many visiting ministers this month: Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign, IL), Elder Bro. Tom Waldbeser (Sis. Susan, Atlanta, GA), Bro. Bob Beebe (Sis. Sue, South Bend, IN), Bro. Stephen Baner (Sis. Donnalou, Gridley, IL), Bro. Neal Widmer (Sis. Kristine, West Lafayette, IN).

With the desire to communicate among our local church, and to provide information to visitors, we have created a website at http://indyacchurch.org. The home page presents information about our leadership, history and what we believe, and the church calendar.
of events. The website includes a summary of the mission/vision: Up Reach (worship to magnify and inspire), In Reach (create community, engage gifts, equip for life and spiritual growth, and Out Reach (spread the gospel). Please visit us there, or better yet, in person!

Indiana, Lacrosse
Meagan Frank

Fall has officially arrived with beautiful leaves changing colors, cooler temperatures and the beginning of harvest. While harvest is late and rather slow with the rain we have gotten, we are thankful that the Lord has once again provided a crop.

We rejoice with Jaela Gudeman (Bro. Owen and Sis. Nicole) as she has made that ever-important decision to repent for sin and begin a new life in Christ. What joy there is when we hear of new lambs added to the flock.

Our congregation also rejoices with two new babies this month. Bro. Glen and Sis. Sandy Heinold are thankful for the safe arrival of Andrew Jett Heinold. He is welcomed home to Wisconsin by his loving parents, Mark and Katie, and bigger sisters, Libby and Lucy. Little Brayden Dean entered the loving hearts and open arms of Bro. Dean and Sis. Alyssa Nelson. He is their first-born and is also welcomed by his loving grandparents, Bro. Lee and Sis. Paula Nuest (Latty, OH) and Larry and Lorrie Nelson of Cedar Lake, IN.

We bid Sis. Mary Ann Feller a fond farewell as she leaves for a month or two in Florida before the holidays. We look forward to seeing her again when she comes back this way. We also miss seeing Sis. Mindy Wettstein’s smiling face around as she departed to attend college in Michigan. We are thankful for the weekends that she comes back to visit and wish her God’s blessings in this new phase in her life.

We wish each of you a safe and blessed harvest season as we all prepare for that great and final harvest of the Lord.

Indiana, Leo
Kirby Reutter

The heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing. Nation rises against nation. All around us there is war and rumors of war. Within this very land there is pestilence and earthquakes in diverse places. There are even struggles within the Household of Faith.

When I ponder all of these things, I have never read in my Bible that the response of God’s people should be to fret, fear, gripe, complain—or bicker with each other. Rather, this is what I read in my Bible: “In every thing give thanks. / The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want. / Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. / In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.”

Since my natural bent is to be critical and cynical (which is both worldly and carnal), this month I decided instead to be grateful and thankful (which seems to be the more scriptural / spiritual antidote). I’m sure your list will be far better and longer than mine, but here are just a few things that I am thankful for this month (I will try to keep this limited to 10 brief points):

1. I am thankful for the following visiting ministers: Bro. Greg Stieglitz (Indianapolis); Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton); Elder Bro. Jim Plattner (Princeville); Bro. Matthew Rassi (Chicago); Bro. Brent Kellenberger (Kansas City); Elder Bro. John Jackson (Bay City); Bro. Matt Knapp (Atlanta); Bro. Ryan Hoer (Princeville); Bro. Nate Wiegand (Goodfield); Bro. Randy Gudeman (Francesville); Bro. Dan Pfister (Bluffton) and Bro. Bill Waibel (Bay City).


Brosman, and Kristi Baran. (By the way, in case you are tempted to think that long lists of names are an inappropriate use of text, please refer to First Chronicles, Chapters 1 through 9).


5. I am thankful for the following administrative delegators: Sis. Emily Fischer, Sis. Heather Beer, Sis. Danielle Sauder, and Sis. Nichole Suvar.

6. I am thankful for my local Leo church family. I am thankful for my national and international denomination. I am thankful to be part of the boundless and ageless body of Christ.

7. I am thankful to belong to a denomination which (I believe) sincerely seeks to understand—and apply—the inspired, inerrant, infallible, inexorable Word of God. I am also thankful to belong to a denomination that is humble enough to acknowledge that we’re not quite there yet: We have not yet attained the image of our Savior; there is yet work to be done within the Walls of Zion.

8. I am thankful for many life experiences which have leveled me, humbled me, and instructed me.

9. I am thankful for my beautiful Spanish-speaking wife, who was transplanted multiple times from her natural flowerpot in Ixtlan, Mexico—but is now re-flourishing in the Mid-West. Once when I was in desperate need of counsel—this was one of those seasons in life in which I was being leveled, humbled, and instructed—a very wise and beloved elder Brother gave me this timeless advice: “Kirby, it’s as simple as this: Happy wife, happy life.” (He was right, as it turns out).

10. I am thankful for three rambunctious boys that keep me on my toes, on my knees—and sometimes in the ER. My wife keeps insisting that these genes do not come from her side of the family. I can almost hear my mother saying in the background: “Kirby, it’s payback time.” And right next to her, I can hear my father saying: “The apple doesn’t fall far from the tree!”

That’s just my list. What is yours? I would love to read it! Please forward to kirby.reutter@gatewaywoods.org.

PS. One of my dear co-workers, Sis. Charla Leman, just sent the following email to all Gateway staff members. The subject line reads: “Thankfulness Expressed.” (It was almost as if Sis. Charla knew about this article before I did!) And this is what Charla wrote in her message: “I had a father in family counseling today tell me that he was incredibly thankful that Gateway Woods took his daughter to church and taught her Christian values while she was here.”

Despite “fears within and fightings without,” the gospel of a saving faith in Jesus Christ is yet being proclaimed in our times and from our pulpits. And for that, do we even dare to NOT be thankful? When I was younger, my dear father used to tell us: “Kids, stop your belly-aching!” Sometimes I wonder if our Heavenly Father has the same thought about His children.

Indiana, Milford
Jodi Beer, Minnie Beer

Thanks to Bro. Lee and Sis. Sandy Beer for hosting a minister appreciation supper for Bro. Nelson Beer and Bro. Daron Price. Bro. Nelson (Sis. Minnie) has retired from the ministry. We appreciate the many years of service to our church. We said farewell to Bro. Daron & Sis. Monica and their children: Alayna, Haley, Joshua, and Aubrey as they relocated to Athens, AL. We will miss them so much, but know that the Athens congregation will greatly appreciate them. God bless both brothers, and their families for laboring on our behalf week after week.

Our sympathy goes to Martin & Lorene Stookey in the passing of Martin’s brother, John Stookey.

Our prayers are with Bro. Walt Steffen in the passing of his dear wife, Sis. Dorothy Steffen. Their children are Bro. Dick (Sis. Gwen) Steffen, Pat (Wade) Stoller, Sis. Shirley Stoller (Latty), Tim (Marla) Steffen, Marlene Bokholdt, Kristi (Niles) Miller,
and Caralee Steffen. She was also a sister to Bro. Ray Haab (Sis. Paula) of our congregation.

Bro. Bob and Sis. Barb Beer are thankful for a new granddaughter. Brooklyn Joy Bertsch was born to Bro. Brad and Sis. Sonya (Bluffton, IN).

We appreciated having visiting minister Bro. Dan Moser (Sis. Anne, Elgin, IL) this month.

Indiana, Remington
Jenni Honeygger, Marcella Tyler

The fields around here are busy, busy, busy with combines and trucks and wagons and semis working seemingly nonstop around the clock to bring the harvest in before it’s too late. Jesus told His disciples in John 4:35, “Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.” If we are working diligently to reap an earthly harvest, how much more we must be willing to work diligently to reap God’s spiritual harvest before it’s too late! Let’s also remember to pray for the physical safety and health of our farmers during this hectic season.

We were blessed with many visiting ministers this month: Bro. Jason Dotterer (Sis. Lynn) from Forrest, Bro. Marshall Heinold (Sis. Jan) from Ixtlan, Bro. Todd Stoller (Sis. Pam) from Latty, and Bro. Bill Wettstein (Sis. Heidi) from Eureka. May God bless each one for his effort and service.

Our hearts go out in sympathy to Sis. Tammy Clauss (Bro. Rex) for the unexpected death of her brother, Jeff Weist of Elkhart, IN. We pray for God to comfort the family and to draw each one closer to Him through this tragedy.

Indiana, South Bend
Joshua Martinez

“O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever.” 1 Chron. 16:34

We are thankful to have Chip & Kasha Iacob safely back from their mission trip to Romania.

On October 4 and 5, we joyfully witnessed the testimony and baptism of our new sister in Christ. We wish Sis. Kelcie Lehman (Bro. Don and Sis. Jill) God’s continued peace and grace. We thank Elder Bros. Art Ingold (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman, OH) and Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, LaCrosse, IN) for sharing the special weekend with us.

We also thank Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Remington, IN) for his service from the pulpit this month.

“And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body, and be ye thankful.” Colossians 3:15

Indiana, Valparaiso
Marguerite Hoerr, Sherry Meiss

We have many meaningful occasions in our little Valpo church, but one that always touches our thankful hearts is our Harvest Sunday. It’s a beautiful time of year with the leaves signaling the change of seasons. The vibrancy of their colors reminds us that harvest time is here, and we have reason for another year of hearts full of thanks.

Bro. Les Kaeb (Christine) of the Francesville church, was with us for this day and enriched our hearts with the Word. We celebrated Harvest Sunday with a program that included young and old and the beautiful songs that were sung and the readings gave deeper meaning to what bounty the Lord has given us. Bro. Les topped the program with his inspirational words. One of the songs sung during the program, “The Master calls for Reapers”, was a vivid reminder of the role we should play in reaping the harvest of the Word given to us. We always have a harvest dinner at the close of the program and this added more dimension to the day.

Our dear friend, Judy Kotzer went to be with the Lord, after an extended illness. We prayed for her recovery, but God deemed that she would recover in Heaven with Him. Our hearts go out to her husband, Dave, whom we dearly love. We ask that he will be given comfort as he goes on without her. We will miss her and will do our best to show our love to Dave. We think of him as being stalwart, but we know stalwart folks still need God’s help and love from friends on a daily basis.

We had a picnic dinner in the park honoring Bro. Garry and Sis. Lois Bucher for their years of service to the Valpo church. It gave us a united opportunity to let them how they are loved and appreciated. We want to take
this opportunity to express our appreciation for the two newly-elected ministers, Bros. Tim Bucher (Sis. Julie) and Jon Pratt (Sis. Sharon) and to our Bro. Mike Thomas (Sis. Claudia) as they continue the ministry to the Valpo church. They will have prayers of support from the same people who had prayers of support for Bro. Garry & Sis. Lois.

In our October news we want to report a mistake. It was Bro. Cal Schneider who ministered to us.

Our daughter, Becky Pelath, is hospitalized again as she experienced seizures. She had returned to work full time after her stroke, but needs the Lord to help her through another testing. We’ll welcome your prayers in her behalf.

Blessings and greetings go out to all of you from our congregation in Valpo. May God watch over each of you. If you are in our area we would welcome a visit.

Indiana, West Lafayette
Kris Widmer, Libby Wahl

We are awash in resplendent fall colors and enjoying it immensely. Stepping aside from the city scramble, taking a few deep breaths and fixing our gaze on Creation is a respite to the soul.

Our Homecoming Weekend was also a balm for the soul as we fellowshipped with a small, but lively group of post-Lafayette residents. Our local college students hosted the fall semester, college hymn sing on a Friday night with a Saturday morning breakfast and Bible study following. They do not seem to lack for items on their calendars.

We warmly welcome Bro. Tyler Knochel who has moved from Phoenix to Lafayette for employment in our area.

We extend sympathy, prayers and fond memories to our Bro. Vernon Furrer (Sis. Jan) in the loss of his sister, Sis. Dorothy Stoller of Latty, OH, and to our Sis. Nettie Haab in the loss of her sister, Sis. Dorothy Steffen of Milford, IN.

Thank you Bro. Ron Kiper (Sis. Linda, Bluffton) and Bro. Bob Beebe (Sis. Sue, South Bend) for making the Thursday evening drive to minister and give support to our college youth. What a resounding song service last night as we gathered for worship!

This is a great day for expressing ourselves and one hears much about the dangers of repression. It might do us well to remember it is not the steam expressed in the whistle, but the steam repressed in the cylinders that drives the engine. -V. Havner

Indiana, Wolcott
Michelle Earney, Beckie Lehman

We give thanks to the Lord for his many blessings as we see the fields being cleared during harvest and the beautiful colors shine out from the trees.

We are thankful for the ministers who visited in the last month and shared the Word with us. Blessings to Bro. Neal Widmer (Sis. Kris) from West Lafayette, IN and Bro. DeWayne Dill (Sis LaRae) from Minneapolis, MN.

Our prayers go out to the family of Sis. Dorothy Stoller (Bro. Wayne) from Latty, OH. Sis. Dorothy passed into eternity, leaving behind loving family including her brothers, Bro. Irvin (Sis. Shirley) and Bro. Don (Sis. Rita) from our Wolcott congregation.

We rejoice with Bro. Jeff and Sis. Heidi on the marriage of their daughter Emily to Jake Tesch. Our prayers go with them as they begin their life together.

Iowa, Bloomfield
Teresa Schock

A brother here frequently gives off the hymn “Envy”, Hymns of Zion #44. It was mentioned one Sunday that some are blessed with riches, some are blessed who have not. And, we need to have godliness with contentment.

We are so thankful God is still calling souls and that Chad and Melicia Wuthrich have heeded the call. May God grant them the grace to overcome sin and Satan. As the waters have been stirred, we pray that more hearts would be called.

We pray for God’s blessings to the brothers who traveled here and brought forth the Word: Bro. Tim Gerber (Sis. Wendy, Mansfield) and Bro. Brad Funk (Sis. Laura, Garden Grove).

Sunday, October 12, was our annual potluck/singing with
Garden Grove. We have been meeting them for this potluck for the past 18 years and it has always been a blessing.

“I will bless the Lord at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth.” Psalm 34:1.

Iowa, Burlington
Ivy Steiner, Monica Eisenmann
Lovely, almost perfect, fall days have been a blessing to our area. Our congregation enjoyed the annual church wiener roast in September. It is a highlight for young and old alike. We were blessed to have Bro. Darrin Massner (West Bend, IA), Bro. Erik Givens (Princeville, IL), and Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington, IL) minister to us. We thank them and all those who have visited our congregation recently! We enjoy having company!

“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights...” James 1:17


Iowa, Elgin
Maria Rocke
We enjoyed the blessings of fellowship the weekend of September 27 & 28, when we had our all-church Invite-a-Guest weekend. As a custom at noon each Sunday, our Sunday school sings as the congregation walks from the assembly room to the lunch tables. A young student selected Blest Be the Tie; one we normally sing as a farewell hymn.

“Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love; The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.”
Hymns of Zion #156

Though our weekend hadn’t yet come to a close, the words of the hymn were so fitting for the blessings we had shared together. Among us that weekend were three visiting ministers: Bro. John Steiner (Sis. Carol, Oakville-Mediapolis, IA), Bro. Dale Frank (Sis. Tina, Oakville-Mediapolis, IA) and Bro. Larry Bahr (Sis. Julie, Fort Scott, KS).

Also visiting us on a Wednesday evening was Bro. John and Sis. Nelda Rowell (Tremont, IL). We are thankful Bro. John was willing to serve us from the pulpit. We trust God will bless all those who ministered to us through the Holy Spirit.

Iowa, Iowa City
Diana Butikofer
It was a blessing to hear the testimony and witness the baptism of Brother Joshua Snodgrass (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Becky) recently. We are thankful to have him as our new brother in Christ.

Our recent visitors have included Elder Bro. Jon and Sis. Julie Schmidgall, Bro. Mark and Sis. Sally Schmidgall (all of Oakville-Mediapolis, IA) and Bro. John and Sis. Nelda Rowell (Tremont, IL). We trust the Lord will bless these brothers for their service.

Our prayers are with Bro. Roger and Sis. Rhonda Reker’s family following the death of Roger’s mother, Dorothy Reker.
Iowa, Lester
Audrey Metzger, Joyce Moser

With the harvest season in full swing here in our area, may we take time to stop and count the blessings that the Lord has so graciously bestowed upon us. May we also ponder the “harvest season” of our souls and take time to think on heavenly things, realizing we need to “lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, . . . for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” Matthew 6:20-21.

Our congregation rejoices with Reagen Meyer and his family, Bro. Brad and Sis. Trinda, as he has taken that most important step in life and started on the pathway of repentance and conversion. May the Lord grant him grace in richest measure to stand against Satan, the crafty foe.

We are always so thankful to hear of a dear convert who has come to the point of peace in their life. It was made known to us that Caleb Moser (Bro. Wes and Sis. Esther) has found that peace. May he hold fast to the right as he looks forward now to baptism.

“At Home ‘tis well! With God in close relation, the soul forgets the sorrow it has borne, with pains o’ercome on that bright, golden morn, rejoices in our God’s sublime salvation.”
Zions Harp, #170

Our dear Sis. Marge Mogler passed into eternity on October 6 after a courageous and uncomplaining battle with cancer. Her presence with surely be missed in our Lester church. She was a stedfast example to all of us, especially to the single brothers and sisters. From our congregation, she is survived by two brothers, Bro. Phil (Sis. Donna) Mogler and Bro. Howard (Sis. Lillian) Mogler; two sisters, Sis. Leona Moser and Sis. Florence Knoblock; and one brother-in-law, Bro. Frank Moser, along with many nieces, nephews and extended family.

Our sympathy is extended to Glen and Char Alderson on the passing of his mother, Leona Alderson.

May the Lord comfort all those who are going through the valley of sorrow.

“Jesus knows thy sorrow, knows thine every care; knows thy deep contrition, hears thy feeblest prayers; Do not fear to trust Him, tell Him all thy grief, cast on Him thy burden, He will bring relief.”
Hymns of Zion, #74.

Bro. Chet and Sis. Cassie Mogler were blessed with a precious baby girl, Daphne Joy, on October 7. She is welcomed home by her siblings: Brecken, Lily and Poppy. Happy grandparents are Bro. Brian and Sis. Bev Mogler and Bro. Tom and Sis. Deb Metzger.

Spending time in the hospital this past month were Bro. Willy (Sis. Helen) Knobloch and Sis. Beth (Bro. Myron) Knobloch. There are several in our congregation who have serious health challenges and we pray the Lord can sustain each one and grant courage along the way.

We appreciate Bro. Kevin Wulf (Morris, MN) laboring in the ministry on our behalf. We seem to take it for granted that each time they stand, we will be fed from the Living Word. May we remember our ministers and elders in fervent prayer, realizing they rely so much on the prayers of the congregation.

We rejoice with Sis. Whitney Metzger (Bro. Blair and Sis. Julie) and Bro. Aaron Masters of Toledo, OH (Elder Bro. Mark and Sis. Jeannine, Mansfield, OH) as they announced their engagement. We also want to congratulate Cody Doorneweerd (Bro. Lynn and Sis. Kathy) and Shaylyn Masterson on their recent engagement. May the Lord bless these two couples as they make plans to become united in marriage.

Iowa, Oakville-Mediapolis
Sharla Wiegand

“Seeds of goodness we are sowing
In the hearts of man today.
Bless it, Lord, that it may prosper,
And bear fruit for harvest day.”
The Golden Harvest
Hymns of Zion #46

We are thankful for our faithful ministers who willingly preach the Word from Sunday to Sunday. We were blessed to have several visiting ministers this past month. They were Bro. Aaron Frank (Elgin, IA), Bro. Dallas Massner (Burlington, IA) and Bro. Michael Wagenbach (Wolcott).
Iowa, West Bend
Yvonne Bruellman, Becky Virkler

“Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.” Psalm 29:2

Worshiping with us this month was ministering Bro. Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha, KS).

Sis. Joyce Banwart and Sis. Lucille Schmidt said goodbye to their brother, Bro. Floyd Banwart (Ft Scott, KS, formerly Phoenix, AZ), and brother-in-law, Bro. Peter Weber (Peoria, IL).

Anna Banwart’s (Wes and Kary), eight-month-old grandchild of Bro. Ken and Sis. Marlene Banwart, struggle for life has ended. May her example of bearing life’s burdens be an encouragement to those she has left behind.

Kurt Metzger and Lou Ford were united in Holy Matrimony September 20. May they feel the Lord’s presence as they establish a home together.

Welcoming a new little one into their home are Bro. Andy & Sis. Betsy Bruellman. Little Faith Aven will bring much joy to her parents and grandparents, Bro. Chuck and Sis. Beth Mogler and Bro. Larry and Sis. Teresa Bruellman (Ft. Myers, FL).

Hospital patients this month were Bro. Tim Mogler, Ralph Bormann (Melanie) and Sis. Verda Bruellman. We pray for God’s healing hand.

Our 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th grade Sunday school classes and teachers traveled to Winthrop, MN October 11 and 12 for a Youth Fellowship Weekend. We are thankful for this opportunity and the blessings of spending time together.

Tokyo, Japan
Marie Inoue

The rice crop for this year is mostly harvested, and the new rice has appeared in the supermarkets. Everyone likes the taste of the new rice, and we are thankful to the Lord for a bountiful crop.

Our Sis. Hiroko Utsuki had a short hospital stay that included some surgery. She got along well and appreciated many prayers on her behalf. We are also praying for Sis. Grace Klaus’ mother, Sis. Betty Klaus, who is ill in the states. May the Lord provide for those caring for her, also.

The Shioda church hosted our fall fellowship meeting on October 12 and 13. We had a late Sunday afternoon meeting and spent the night in the mountains not too far from Shioda church. We were reminded of God’s great love for all of us and mankind everywhere by Bro. Kotarou Furuya. Lots of nice fellowship, singing, and hot springs were also enjoyed. Typhoon #18 was approaching so our meeting was shortened on Monday. We were thankful all arrived home safely.

Bro. Akihiro Ito (Sis. Carrie) came to Tokyo to minister to our church while we visited the Shioda church. It is always a blessing to visit their assembly of brethren and friends.

Some of us could also visit the Kinsinger family, (Bro. John and Sis. Wanda and three children) who were returning from a visit to North Viet Nam. Sis. Wanda’s mother, Sis. Janna Lou Baer, accompanied them on their journey. We enjoyed a blessed visit with them as they spent several days in the Shioda church.

Kansas, Bern
Jill Meyer, Rita Menold

We appreciate Bro. Klint Beyer (Sis. Kara, Sabetha) and Bro. Don Sinn (Sis. Linda, Silverton, OR) for worshipping with us and sharing God’s Word.

We rejoice with Travis Rokey (Bro. Todd and Sis. Sheila), as he has found the peace that passeth all understanding. We look forward to hearing how God has worked in his life in the near future.

Believing through faith that God has brought their lives together, Bro. Marcus Baumgartner (Bro. John and Sis. Lori) and Sis. Amanda Rokey (Bro. Dwight and Sis. Anita) announced their engagement October 5. We know there is much anticipation that goes into planning for a wedding, but we pray that they will look to God as they plan for a lifetime together serving Him.

Sis. Pearl Miller spent time in the hospital after some health complications. We are thankful she is back home and recovering.

On October 5, we enjoyed a beautiful evening for our annual fall church weiner roast and potluck. It is such a blessing to spend time together with our church family!
We recently were visiting another church, and were reminded that God has set aside one out of seven days to remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy, but we are really expected to serve Him seven out of the seven days. I found this convicting, as it is so easy to get caught up in our work and daily routines, that we forget about serving God on a daily basis.

**Kansas, Ft. Scott**

*Karen Kellenberger*

As we look forward to Thanksgiving season, we have hearts overflowing with gratitude for God’s rich gifts, most notably the gift of His Son. The following quote, regarding thanksgiving, ties in with the Biblical admonition to “train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” Proverbs 22:6

“How wonderful it would be if we could help our children and grandchildren learn thanksgiving at an early age. Thanksgiving opens the doors. It changes a child’s personality. A child is negative, resentful – or thankful. Thankful children want to give, they radiate happiness, they draw people.”  

-Sir John Templeton.


We rejoice over the news of the engagement of Sis. Adrienne Bahr (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Maria) and Bro. Ryan Kellenberger (Bro. Rick and Sis. Karen). May God bless them as they make plans for their future wedding and marriage.

Recently we resumed our usual Wednesday evening services, having finished listening to the General Brotherhood Conference CD’s for several midweek services.

**Kansas, Kiowa**

*Janice Bahr, Jenny Stewart*

We thank Thee each morning for a new born day  
Where we may work the fields of new mown hay.  
We thank Thee for the sunshine and the air that we breathe  
Oh Lord, we thank Thee,  
Thank Thee for the rivers that run all day  
Thank Thee for the little birds that sing along the way.  
Thank Thee for the trees and the deep blue sea,  
Oh Lord, we thank Thee.  
Oh, yes we thank Thee, Lord, for every flower that blooms,  
Birds that sing, fish that swim, and the light of the moon.  
We thank Thee every day as we kneel and pray.

That we were born with eyes to see these things.  
Thank Thee for the fields where the clover is grown,  
Thank Thee for the pastures where cattle may roam,  
Thank Thee for Thy Love so pure and free.  
Oh Lord, We thank Thee.

This beautiful song by Jim Reeves, is a perfect Thanksgiving reminder of all the gifts we are given each day of our lives. No matter what problems we encounter as we walk through this life, if we just look around us, God gives us a reason to be thankful about something. We are such a blessed people, and I hope and pray that we never forget to Whom we owe our thanks.

We were privileged to have Bro. Joe and Sis. Sue Klotzle, Altadena, CA, share a weekend with us this past month. We appreciate the effort they made to travel to our small congregation and lend themselves to bring us the Gospel in all its Truth. May God Bless all who give of themselves to complete this labor of love.

We have a number of loved ones who have been unable to worship with us due to illness. We lift them up in prayer, that the God of all healing will touch them and walk with them each and every day.

**Kansas, Lamont-Gridley**

*Dorene Metzger*

Bro. Jeff (Sis. Gloria) Fisher, Ft. Scott, KS served our
congregation on September 21, 2014 when both of our ministers were gone. He read about King Hezekiah’s prayer for longer life. Bro. Jeff told us snippets of history about Hezekiah’s water aqueducts and other building projects. He also told of a museum his family visited to see remains of what is believed to be Noah’s ark. The measurements taken during those remains add another layer of credence to our Holy Bible. Why is it that mankind requires proof of what God’s Word says? These discoveries by man are another affirmation of the truth of God’s Word that we can use to thwart the Devil’s tactic of causing doubt in the minds of mankind. These truths add to the inherent understanding that our God is a mighty, all-knowing, Supreme Being. His Word, the Holy Bible, is accurate and true.

On September 27 & 28, we held our Fall Invite-a-Guest weekend. Our guests included ministering Bro. Bill (Sis. Mary) Masters, Ft. Myers, Fl.; Bro. Nathan (Sis. Denise) Walder, of Cissna Park, IL; and Bro. Glen (Sis. Sally) Funk, Wichita, KS. Isn’t it amazing that the scarlet blood of Christ can wash a repentant sinner, making his sinful life to become white as snow?

Bro. Bill Masters also gave a snapshot of the mission he and his wife have in Ft. Myers, The New Beginnings. They work with single mothers to get them up to speed so they can provide for themselves and their child. We need to count our blessings when we look at the concerns and stresses that many have in their lives. Yes, we can pray, but our hands and hearts can be the hands of Christ in a lonely, difficult world that some live in day after day. Are we willing to share our time, talents, and funds to make life more joyful for others?

Our annual fall Sunday School Picnic was held at the home of Bro. Ron and Sis. Jane Isch. Lovely weather and warm fellowship with our children made for a wonderful time together. All who were present had a vivid presentation of “Working Faith” as the children (and adults) were guided thru a maze of obstacles - both seeing the course as well as being blindfolded and guided by someone else. What a reminder that “Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen”. (Hebrews 11:1) That chapter in Hebrews gives us excellent insight into the faith of many who have gone before us. May we be encouraged to keep our eyes on the eternal hope and reward so we are faithful in this earthly fight.

Kansas, Sabetha
Crystal Hartter, Dawn Strahm

We were encouraged through the Word by Bros. Ron Isch (Sis. Jane, Lamont-Gridley, KS) and Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata, TX) this past month.

Bro. Steven and Sis. Kelly Edelman welcomed Lexi Kay into their home and hearts on October 5. Lexi’s siblings are Maddie, Ethan, Annie, Alphia, Emily, Maggie and Mitch. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Ilene Hartter and Eugene and Judy Edelman. Bro. John and Sis. Cornelia Aberle are also rejoicing over the safe arrival of their twin grandboys, Alton and William, sons of Myra and Jared Hartter.

We rejoice with the angels in heaven as Mark and Kari Hertzel (Elder Bro. Gerry and Sis. Ellen Hertzel and Bro. Steve and Sis. Kay Meyer) were baptized on October 19. Elder Bros. Doug Schock (Sis. Clara, Bloomfield, IA) and Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, LaCrosse, IN) as well as ministering Bros. Don Sinn (Sis. Linda, Silverton, OR) and Kevin Banwart (Sis. Sandy, West Bend, IA) were all present.

Opal Steiner (Reuban) passed away on September 18 at the age of 102. Her son, Robert, and his wife, Kathy, and their family are kept in prayer and have our sympathy.

Bro. Wayne Grimm (Sis. Carrie) and Sis. Ruth Hertzel were hospital patients this past month. Wonderful are the healing mercies of God.

Trevor Young (Roger and Janice) and Erin Wiltz were united in marriage on October 12. We wish this young couple the blessings of God.

With Thanksgiving approaching, let us remember to offer our praise and thanks to the One who has redeemed us. “By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.” Hebrews 13:15
Kansas, Wichita
Max and Judy Reimschisel

Relief from the Summer heat has brought us beautiful fall days! Sister Emma Miller has moved to assisted living in El Dorado. She made the comment that it is not like home, but she is thankful for those who care for her. Her new address is Emma Miller, 1650 E. 12th. El Dorado, KS. 67042

We ask her what her favorite song was. She said that she had been reading in her Zion’s Harp, #86, The Lord Will Provide.

“Though troubles assail And dangers of affright, Though friends should all fail And foes all unite, Yet one thing secures us Whatever betide, This promise assures us: “The Lord will provide!”

We enjoyed the annual fall Sunday school picnic at Bro. Jeff and Sis. Debbie Frieden’s. Being a small church, young and old get to enjoy this time of fellowship and singing. Please don’t forget all the good food! They live on a farm in the Flint Hills of Kansas, this was quite a treat for all the city folks.

Students were challenged at the Sunday school fellowship, “Take a Stand”. In Sunday school a student made the remark, “What about polytheism, ‘many gods?’” When asked, “Where did you hear about that?” The answer was, “At school.” Then asked, What do you believe?” She said, “I believe the Bible!”

“Standing by a purpose true. Heeding God’s command, Honor of them, the faithful few! All hail to Daniel’s band!

Dare to be a Daniel, Dare to stand alone! Dare to have a purpose firm! Dare to make it known.”

Children’s Harp. #79

We are thankful to have Elder Bro. Jay Luthi, his wife Jane and family, to minister God’s word to us.

When a mother goes home, our hearts are always saddened. We extend our love and prayers to Bro. Jerry and Sis. Pauline Carnahan; his sister, Vicki Kadesh; and family. Jerry’s mother, Bernice (Buzz) Carnahan was 88, of Pauling, OH. Thanks was expressed for the prayer and comforting words of Bro. Ben Manz of Junction, OH.

Mexico, Ixtlán
Ruth Gerber

“Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.” Rom. 15:13

We are thankful for the hope of eternal life that we all share in Christ. And, as we think of our children and youth, we pray for a future generation of faithful believers that will be even more effective in sharing the gospel. We thank God for all those that have faithfully taught Sunday School and are especially excited to now have brothers taking responsibility for teaching the oldest class.

Brothers Grant Herrmann and Javier Torres will be working with our adolescents, Sisters Elsa Sibaja and Teresa Cervantes will teach the middle class, and Sisters Lourdes de Sibaja and Carmen García will be with the youngest children. We pray God’s blessing on their labors of love.

We want to extend our sympathy to Sis. Virginia (Kike) Angelito of our small church in Barra Vieja on the passing of her niece, Liliana. Her death touches all of the believers there, as they are a close-knit extended family. Liliana passed away on September 30 and left a husband and two young daughters. We pray God will comfort the family and continue his work in the hearts of many.

Michigan, Alto
Renee Steffen, Shelli Oesch

As a congregation, we offer our prayers and condolences to Sis. Laura Kaeb (Knobloch) with the passing of her uncle Bro. Perry Mogler. The family has also requested prayers for Laura’s mom, Sis. Beth Knobloch, as she continues treatment for a brain tumor.

We were blessed with two new babies in Alto last month. Jasper Cyrus Zaagman was born to Ron and Michelle Zaagman, grandparents Ed and Sis. Joy Zaagman. Hazel Kay was born to Jeremy and Amanda Frost, grandparents Bro. Jim and Sis. Julie Blough.

Our prayers are with Sis. Pat Schlatter as she has undergone surgery in the past month.

We extend a warm welcome Sis. Mindy Wettstein from
Lacrosse. She is attending school in Muskegon for Physical Therapy Assistance.

**Michigan, Bay City**  
*Sarah Knochel*

Bro. Gary Maibach (Sis. Maryann, Smithville, OH) spent a recent Wednesday evening with our congregation. It is such a joy to have visitors for our Sunday and mid-week services.

We want to lift up in prayer Bro. Alan Schlatter (Vicki) as he was recently selected for a term in Sunday School. We pray that God will bless Bro. Alan for his willingness to serve and that the Spirit would guide and direct the message for the students.

As we look forward to a time of thanksgiving, may we take a moment to reflect on all the blessings God has given us.

> "All people that on earth do dwell,  
> Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;  
> Him serve with mirth, His praise forth tell,  
> Come ye before Him and rejoice.  
> O enter then His gates with praise,  
> Approach with joy His courts unto:  
> Praise, laud, and bless His name always,  
> For it is seemly so to do.  
> For why? The Lord our God is good,  
> His mercy is for ever sure;  
> His truth at all times firmly stood,  
> And shall from age to age endure.”  
> *Gospel Hymns #1, vs 1,3,4*

**Michigan, Detroit**  
*Manuela Denes*

“I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify Him with thanksgiving.” *Psalm 69:30*

In Canada, we celebrate Thanksgiving on the second Monday of October. Many of us, because of connections in the United States, get a second opportunity. In both countries, it is a day that is set aside to share time with family and friends and think about the things we are thankful for. A church that I often drive past posted this quote on their message board: “Thanksgiving, after all, is a word of action”. Yes, Thanksgiving is a time to celebrate harvest and the many blessings that God has given to us. We take the time to give thanks, not only to friends and loved ones, but especially to our Lord in heaven!

It was a blessed weekend for a number of our congregation as they travelled to Rittman, OH to witness the testimony and baptism of our new brother in Christ, Mitch Ault. We are all so happy to have him here in Detroit while he continues his studies.

We’re thankful that Stephanie Rauhe (daughter of Bro. Jason and Sis. Carrie) is recovering from foot surgery. I had a nice chat with her as she explained her foot splint to me. No cast for her! The human body never ceases to amaze and remind me of how awesome God is.

Our prayers go out to Kim Smith as she undergoes surgery. Thoughts are with her husband Ray and their children Amanda, Brandon, Devin, Kaitlyn and Aaryn.

> “Heal me, O Lord, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved: for thou art my praise.”  
> *Jeremiah 17:14*

A special “thank you” goes out to all who came to help with the clothing drive for God’s Storehouse of Detroit. Yet another opportunity to practice thanksgiving!

**Minnesota, Minneapolis**  
*Brenda Messner, Betty Rassi Lindwall*

Our visiting minister this month was Bro. Art Mueller (Sis. Marlene) from Belvidere. We are so thankful for his willingness to come and serve our church.

We wish Sis. Debbie Sauder (and dog Mya) God’s blessings as they moved back to Sarasota, FL. We enjoyed having her here worshipping with us for a short time while she worked at St. Cloud Veteran’s Hospital.

Please keep Fede Figueroa Martinez in your prayers as he goes through challenges with his rehabilitation. We always look forward to Fede coming to worship with us.

**Minnesota, Morris**  
*Amy Ekren, Heidi Pfaffmann*

We’re thankful that our Elder Bro. Rod Bajema (Sis. Sue, Lester, IA) visited us this month.

Several in our congregation...
have been hospitalized with health issues: Bryan Tolifson (Lisa), Sis. Maxine Koehl, Sis. Dianne Kellenberger, Bro. Tony Ascheman (Sis. Peggy), and Fede. We think also of our elderly ones who struggle with health and strength from time to time. We are thankful for God’s healing hand and trust His Will can be done in each of our lives.

“There’s no disappointment in heaven, No weariness, sorrow or pain; No hearts that are bleeding and broken, No song with a minor refrain. The clouds of our earthly horizon Will never appear in the sky, For all will be sunshine and gladness, With never a sob nor a sigh. I’m bound for that beautiful city My Lord has prepared for His own; Where all the redeemed of all ages Sing “Glory!” around the white throne; Sometimes I grow homesick for heaven, And the glories I there shall behold: What a joy that will be when my Savior I see, In that beautiful city of gold!”

No Disappointment in Heaven, Tabernacle Hymns #20 vs. 1

Minnesota, Morris North
Lois Schmidgall, Wanda Gramm
Jude 1:21 “Keep yourselves in the love of GOD, looking for the mercy of our LORD JESUS CHRIST unto eternal life.”

Visiting and sharing God’s Holy Word this past month were Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH); Elder Bro. Paul Messner (Sis. Jan, Winthrop, MN); Elder Bro. Earl Ringer (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL); Elder Bro. Ron Messner, (Washington, IL); Bro. Duane Metzger (Sis. Ruth, West Bend, IA); Bro. Greg Fehr (Sis. Denise, West Bend, IA); Bro. Jim Koehl (Sis. Hilde, Morris, MN); Bro. Kevin Wulf, (Sis. Annie, Morris, MN); and Bro. Tom Lehman (Denver, CO). We appreciate and thank you all for shepherding us.

The weekend of October 4 & 5 was the dedication weekend of our new church building. Saturday evening, Elder Bro. Earl Ringer presented a topical presentation with a singing that followed and the Dedication Service was held on Sunday. As we dedicate our church to God, we are building a spiritual ark…a ship of faith…an ark that will be for eternity.

Congratulations to Tonia & Don Judkins on the birth of Hunter Matthew. May God bless this family.

A great evening of fellowship and singing was at the annual rib feed supper held at Bro. Adam and Sis. Christy Zeltwanger’s and was appreciated by all.

The Bible Class hosted an invite-a-church weekend which included the Bible Classes from the churches of Lester, Winthrop, and Morris. The Morris North Single Group hosted a fellowship weekend with the theme verse being 1 Timothy 6:12. “Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.” We value and appreciate our youth and pray our Heavenly Father will guide and bless them in their daily decisions.

We warmly welcome those who would like to visit us at Morris North. Our church address is 418 Birch Ave., Morris. Phone 320-585-6848.

We are the Lord’s currency to spend our life for His reward.

Minnesota, Winthrop
Lindsay Schmidt, Julie Schmidt
“Children come the grain to gather,
While the morning sun doth shine;
And ere long, beloved brethren,
It will be your harvest time.”

Hymns of Zion #46 vs. 2

It is harvest time in our community and we can look around and see the farmers working in their fields. This is the season that the farmers are able to see the fruits of their labors. Many times we associate harvest with death or when Christ comes again. Since we never know when either of these will happen, let us continually be laboring so that our fields are full of fruits and our harvest is plentiful.

“There are friendships that we cherish
In our daily walk of life
Friends with whom we meet and labor
In our earthly toil and strife,
Friends among the aged and youthful,
Friends that live from us apart
Friends of higher rank and station
Find a place within my heart.”
As a small church, every visitor is a special blessing. This month we’ve been privileged to host several events including our annual Pork Chop Supper, as well as 5-8 grade students and their teachers from West Bend, IA. We pray that Christian friendships were made or strengthened and that all feel welcome to visit us again. Our Bible Class traveled to Morris North as well and we wish to thank them for hosting us.

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

Missouri, Kansas City

Brittany Fehr

We bid farewell to Bro. Bruce Banwart, who is relocating to West Bend, IA. We will miss having him as a part of our congregation and trust his addition will be a blessing to the church at West Bend.

We have enjoyed the company of Sis. Verda Bruellman (the late Bro. Don, West Bend, IA), who has worshipped with us several times over the past several weeks. She is in town for surgery and a period of recovery. We are blessed to have her with us. We are thankful for a number of other visitors during the past month, also.

We continue to remember Sis. Marty Rokey (the late Bro. Garry), our convert Ron Trayford (Lois), and Sis. Carol Wales in prayer as they have dealt with health issues during the last few months.

A correction is due to the article published for our congregation last month. Bro. Brandon and Sis. Maria Emch welcomed a son, Jonas Robert; his middle name was reported incorrectly last month, for which I apologize.

Missouri, Lamar

Venetta Banwart

Our visiting ministers this month were: Elder Bro. Doug Schock, Bloomfield, IA (Sis. Clara); Elder Bro. Victor Bauman, Smithville, OH (Sis. Barbra); Bro. Tom Leman, Denver, CO; Bro. Brad Funk, Garden Grove, IA (Sis. Laura); and Bro. Brace Wieland, Leo, IN (Sis. Brenda). May God richly bless each for being willing to come and feed us from God’s Holy Word, that we may grow and increase in faith that we may one day be able to hear “…Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.” (Matthew 25:21)

Missouri, St. Louis

Kary Mangers

This month we were blessed to have Bro. Brad and Sis. Karen Metz (Bloomington), Bro. Gerald and Sis. Bonnie Wagenbach (Oakville-Mediapolis), Bro. Brad and Sis. Michelle Strahm (Bern), and Bro. Curt and Sis. Kathy Rassi (Tremont) come to share God’s Word and fellowship with us. We appreciate the love, support, and effort given to us by these visiting ministers and their wives.

Missouri, Taylor

Marcia Sutter

God has answered our prayers for both Bro. Vernon (Sis. Judy) Huber and Sis. Ruthie (Bro. Louis) Hoerr are able to be out and about.

On 10/1/14, Bro. Frank (Sis. Kathy) Sauder came to do our monthly Wednesday night Bible Study which was given on “Family Relationships”. The Taylor Church offers special thanks from for his willingness to come and remind us how important family relations are.

The Taylor Sunday School
had their fall cookout on 9/28/14 at HIS Ranch. The children and teachers enjoyed the evening. What a wonderful way to establish lasting relationships.

Our sympathy is extended to Matt Morris and his family for the death of his grandfather, Roger Geers. Mr. Geers was well known by many at the Taylor Church as he lived at the Haerr Air Field at Taylor before he became ill and moved to the Illinois Veterans Home in Quincy, IL.

We also extend our sympathy to Bro. Paul and Sis. Kathy Haab on the death of his sister, Sis. Dot Steffen from Milford, IN.

Our church is blessed with new converts: Trevin and Shalise Steidinger, son and daughter of Bro. Rick and Sis. Kim Steidinger; Katie Grimm, daughter of Bro. Don and Sis. Tricia Grimm; Mallory Pfum, daughter of Bro. Keith and Sis. Tami Pfum; Brenden Massner, son of Bro. Chad and Sis. Lisa Massner; and Heidi Reinbeck, daughter of Bro. Adam and Sis. Katie Reinbeck.

Several of our converts have been announced for testimonies and baptisms on November 8/9. They are Courtney Massner, daughter of Bro. Chad and Sis. Lisa Massner; Travis Haerr, son of Bro. Shon and Sis. Peggy Haerr; and Phillip Wegman, son of Bro. Scott and Sis. Dawn Wegman.

On October 2-3, we had our annual Taylor Invite Weekend. On Saturday, the young folks went to various work projects and worked very hard. On Sunday, they sang three songs after the morning service. Bro. Jeff (Sis. Gloria) Fischer from Fort Scott, KS brought his sons to the Taylor Invite and also had the morning service. Thanks to all who participated and worked hard to plan and prepare for the weekend.

Bro. Gerald and Sis. Marjorie Sutter recently celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on September 11. The Taylor church family including their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren wish to thank God for allowing them to be here as an example and for their love for each other and all of us.

New York, Croghan-Naumburg

Hope Graves

We thank Elder Bro. Brad and Sis. Cindy Eisenmann, Chicago, IL, for coming to share the Word with us on September 28. A potluck dinner and singing were shared together that evening. That weekend, we bid farewell to our Ministering Bro. Jacob and Sis. Brooke Kuntz and their children: Levi, Lucas, Aaron, Angelise, Katelyn, Karissa and Jesse. They will be sorely missed, but know they have followed God’s direction to make their home back with family in Forrest, IL. May the Lord bless them for their years with us here and in the coming years ahead.

On October 12, we were thankful to have visitors and share a potluck and singing together Sunday evening. We thank Bro. Dennis Virkler for sharing with us about the Counseling and Family Services that are available through our church.

We were again blessed to have a few couples travel from Rockville, CT to share our lunch with us on October 19. The Lord has provided us with another beautiful fall which makes for a very scenic drive!

Ohio, Akron

Carla Miller

We are thankful for the privilege of welcoming Bro. Andrew Graf and Sis. Adeline Graf (Bro. Eric and Sis. Erika) and Bro. Michael Schlatter (Elder Bro. Bill and Sis. Emily, Junction, OH) into our brotherhood. Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH) willingly served us the weekend of their testimonies and baptisms. We are thankful for the ministers who also served us that weekend: Bro. Regg Beer (Sis. Bev, Milford, IN), Bro. Marshall Heinold (Sis. Jan, Ixtlán, Mexico), Bro. Matt Manz (Sis. Deanna, Toledo, OH), Bro. Tim Ramsier (Sis. Joni, Rittman, OH), Bro. Warren Schlatter (Sis. Cindy, Junction, OH), and Bro. Zoltan Vegvari (Pecs, Hungary).

With thankfulness, we share that Annaliese Graf (Bro. Eric and Sis. Erika) and Carmen Graf (Bro. Todd and Sis. Lydia) have turned to the Lord in repentance.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Elsa Yovichin in the passing of her sister, Katie Zimmer.

Our thoughts and prayers are
with Helen Reljin (Zarko) as she was recently hospitalized.

The engagement of Bro. Michael Andras (John and Angie) and Sis. Meredith Klotzle (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Jane, Rittman, OH) was recently announced.

Ohio, Columbus

Tim McMillan

July through October 2014

We began the period reading from Proverbs Ch. 13. Verse 1 reads “A wise son heareth his father’s instruction: but a scorner heareth not rebuke.” The Father’s Word is given to us for instruction. The whole word is to be listened to, not just the parts that we find to be favorable. May we all be hearers of the word as well as doers!

Visiting ministers this quarter were: Bros. Mark Gerber (Barb) Bluffton, IN; Matt Manz (Deanna) Toledo, OH; Lucas Frank (Crystal) Detroit, MI; Warren Schlatter (Cindy) Junction, OH; Ben Wiegand (Michelle) Philadelphia, PA; Curt Walter (Elizabeth) Mansfield, OH; Brian Huber (Jacki) Francesville, IN; Barry Dietz (Rachel) Bradford, IL; Marvin Zollinger (Pamela) Smithville, OH; Earl Beery (Suzanne) Rittman, OH; and Dana Indermuhle (Joy) Sardis, OH. Truly we are grateful that so many give of their time to help us in our small congregation!

We have much to celebrate as the Lord has called to repentance Ward Buster and Julia Grimm. The strength of our prayers is with these people as surely Satan will work to keep them from the flock. May they remember the Lord will keep them from temptation if they rely on Him only.

Josiah Grimm has been announced with peace and we look forward to his testimony and baptism the weekend of November 15/16. Angels will rejoice!

It is the time of year that college students return for another year of studies. We are blessed to be able to provide a place for them to have a day of rest, as well as a place for them to remember home. Their presence is a joy to us as well. We also had a family member leave the area for college. Josiah Grimm will be in Duluth, MN for his studies. Please pray for him as he is far from home and without a local church.

Technology is a blessing when used for good. We are able to gather to listen to the conference recordings. As ways to record and transmit recordings speeds ahead, it is sometimes difficult to keep up. Thankfully a brother was able to convert the recordings for us to hear. As always the Lord provides!

Please forgive me if I have missed any news. Let me know so it can be updated.

“I gave my life for thee, my precious blood I shed. That thou might’st ransomed be and quickened from the dead. I gave, I gave my life for thee what hast thou giv’n for me?” Hymns of Zion #115 Vs. 1

Ohio, Latty

Carmen Stoller, Mindy Stoller

Greetings of love in our Savior’s name! We were blessed this month to partake of Holy Communion. Elder Bro. Vic Bauman (Sis. Brenda, Smithville, OH) was with us for this sacred occasion and we thank him for his labor of love to us. Other visiting ministers this month included Bro. Dan Stoller (Sis. Deb, Remington, IN), Bro. Doug Harmon (Sis.
Lanna, Toledo, OH), and Bro. Curt Rassi (Sis. Kathy, Tremont, IL). May God bless these dear brothers for ministering to us.

We were thankful to hear that our convert Autumn Nuest (Bro. Lee and Sis. Paula) has felt the wonderful peace of God! We look forward to the time when she can share her testimony and be baptized and we’ll be prayerful for her.

Sis. Dorothy Stoller (Bro. Wayne) has gone home to her eternal reward. She will be missed, but we are so thankful for the wonderful example she was to all of us. Our prayers are with her husband, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

We are also prayerful for Sis. Shirley Stoller as her mother, Sis. Dorothy Steffen (Milford, IN), has passed away. Sis. Dorothy is also a sister to Sis. Irma Stoller and Sis. Ann Sinn (Bro. Ray). May this family also feel our prayers during this time and may the Holy Spirit be the Great Comforter.

Ohio, Mansfield
Elizabeth Walter

We were privileged to host an Invite-a-Friend Weekend this month. It was an uplifting time of fellowship and worship. Thank you to all those who participated, and to those who travelled to be with us! We pray for an extra blessing on the visiting ministers who willingly served over the pulpit: Bro. David Hartter (Sis. Beth, Sabetha, KS), Bro. Ron Palitto (Sis. Lynell, Akron, OH), Bro. Tim Ramsier (Sis. Jonell, Rittman, OH), and Bro. Warren Schlatter (Sis. Cindy, Junction, OH).

Our hearts go out to those who have recently suffered from surgery or illness: Bro. Ken Sauder (Sis. Sue), Bro. Al Beer (Sis. Janet), Sis. Connie Boliantz (Bro. Doug), and Destiny Foss (Rick and Sis. Susan).

We pray for those who are grieving the loss of loved ones. We remember the Ramsier family, especially Bro. Wally, in the losses of his granddaughter, Tracy Enderle (Jason), and his brother, Bro. Harlen Ramsier. Our sympathy goes out to Sis. Kate Oesch, whose daughter, Heidi Fugate (Chip), passed away. May God’s comforting Spirit be with each one.

We appreciated the visit and services of Bro. Brent Kellenberger (Sis. Beth, Kansas City, MO) and Bro. Matt Manz (Sis. Deanna, Toledo, OH). May God richly reward their willingness to serve.

“Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.” Psalm 51:11

Although we all need the Lord’s help, there are many in our congregation this month who especially need the Lord’s nearness and comfort. In the hospital this month were Bro. Vince Hartzler (Sis. Jane), Sis. Carol Powell (Bro. Don), Sis. Jean Bauman, Sis. Betty Baltic (Bro. Dan), Sis. Joyce Stoller (Bro. Fred), and Sis. Elverna Zollinger.

Ohio, Rittman
Anna Bauman, Julie Steiner

“Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.” Psalm 51:10

We often think of these verses during times of converts and baptisms. We are thankful to have such blessings in Rittman lately with two new converts: Jolene Hilty (Bro. Roscoe and Sis. Wanda Hilty) and Julia Klotzle (Bro. John and Sis. Cheri). May the Lord be with them as He creates in them a “clean heart” and a “right spirit.”

We also are thankful that six souls have been baptized in Rittman this past month: Kaitlin Klotsle (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Jane), Mark Hilty (Bro. Roscoe and Sis. Wanda Hilty), Mitch Ault (Bro. David and Sis. Kathy Ault), Heidi Ramsier (Bro. Tim and Sis. Joni), Joanna Gasser (Bro. Jim and Sis. Janice), Brad Gasser (Bro. Michael and Sis. Kristen). May the Lord bless these new brothers and sisters.

“Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.” Psalm 51:11

Our thoughts and prayers are also with the family of Bro. Jack Maibach (Sis. Delores) who passed away this month. Children are Jeff (Elsie) and Roger (Cinda). Also needing prayers is the family of Bro. Harlen Ramsier who also passed away recently. His children are Diane Miller (Rex), Rita Steiner (Steve), Kay Cox (Gary), and Dana Ramsier (Sharon).

“Restore unto me the joy of thy
salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.” Psalm 51:12

It surely is a time of joy for the families in our congregation who have welcomed little ones. Jeffrey and Sis. Rachel Snyder are thankful for firstborn Hayden Jame, who was born September 27. His grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Sharon Rupp and Jamie and Jody Snyder. On October 1, Malaya Nicole was born to Bro. Dean and Sis. Brienna Stoller. Older brother is Breton. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Mim Stoller and Bro. Brian and Sis. Beverly Indermuhle. Taryn Faith was born to Bro. Javan and Sis. Josie Stoller on October 4. Older siblings are Adelynn and Weston. Grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Janice Rufener (Smithville, OH) and Bro. Eric and Sis. Melanie Stoller. Derek Samuel was born to Bro. Sam and Sis. Gail Hartzler on October 9. Thankful older siblings are Sarah, Heidi, Julia, Kelsey, Levi, and Logan. Grandparents are Merle and Bonnie Hartzler and Bro. Virgil and Sis. Lois Gasser.

Another reason to rejoice this month is the engagement of Sis. Meredith Klotzle to Bro. Michael Andras from Akron, OH. Sis. Meredith’s parents are Bro. Wayne and Sis. Jane Klotzle. May the Lord be with this couple as they prepare for their upcoming wedding and marriage.

“O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise.” Psalm 51:15

Visiting ministers this month were Elder Bros. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH), Vic Bauman (Smithville, OH); and Bros. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI), Bob Dotterer (Sardis, OH), Barry Dietz (Bradford, IL), Bill brake (Sardis, OH), Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL), and Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH). May the Lord bless them for their willingness to serve our congregation.

Ohio, Sardis
Faith Beard

The Sardis Church recently served a local family by conducting a funeral for a lady whose husband had church family background. Carolyn Straub, 67, passed away after suffering with cancer for several months. Surviving to mourn her loss are her husband, Roger, and son, Bob. Roger’s grandmother was Sis. Mary Gasser Reusser. Sympathy is also extended to the cousins.

“I embrace, O Lord, thy servants, joined to them in love so fervent, Asking, Lord, that from Thy face They receive a thousand blessings; In Thy ways, Thy strength possessing, Lead them in Thy light and grace.”
Zion’s Harp, #189, vs. 4

We were thankful to have visiting ministers preach the Word from our pulpit this month. Joining us for our annual Fall Gathering and the following Sunday were Bro. Bob and Sis. Lorie Riggenbach (Rittman, OH). We appreciated their efforts to be with us that weekend, and certainly also to all those who traveled to enjoy the beautiful fall weather with us for the day.

The following weekend we were once again blessed to have Bro. Adam Uhler (Sis. Ann, Smithville, OH) lead us in our Sunday worship service. May God grant these brothers and their families “a thousand blessings in His ways” for their willingness to serve Him. And may we all embrace within our hearts this willingness to serve Him as He may ask.

Ohio, Smithville
Sara Crist, Kara Stoller

We rejoice with Bro. John and Sis. Janice Rufener on the arrival of a precious granddaughter, Taryn Faith born on October 4 to Bro. Javan and Sis. Josie Stoller (Rittman, OH). Taryn is welcomed home by older siblings, Adelynn and Weston.

Hospitalized this month were Bro. George Schuster (Sis. Carol) and Sis. Inez Ramsier (Bro. Bob). Our prayers are with you both for a speedy recovery as God wills.

We offer our heartfelt sympathy and prayers to Bro. Bob Ramsier (Sis. Inez) and Bro. Jim Ramsier (Sis. Dorothy) upon the loss of their brother, Bro. Harlen Ramsier (the late Sis. Vivian, Rittman OH) on October 12.

“He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from off all faces;” Isaiah 25:8a

We are grateful to Bro. Lucas Frank (Sis. Crystal, Detroit, MI)
for visiting us this past month and ministering to our church. We are grateful for the Truth you proclaimed in Jesus’ name.

Ohio, Toledo
Deanna Manz, Jenny Manz

“To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted” Eccl. 3:1,2

Our congregation has reason to rejoice and mourn this month.

We welcome Mike Whittaker as he begins his repentance. We trust the Lord will grant him much grace in his new walk of life. It is wonderful to be reminded that the call is still going forth and being answered.

We also welcomed a new baby to our congregation on September 29. Bro. Dave and Sis. Jenny and Kylie Manz are thankful Jack Douglas has safely arrived. Grateful grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Kathy Manz (Junction, OH) and Sis. Diana Raftsnider (Rittman, OH).

On September 27, we gathered as a church to recognize Bro. Walt and Sis. Sharon Rager’s service in the ministry with a singing and evening fellowship. We thank them for their countless sacrifices on behalf of the church and trust the Lord will bless them richly for their efforts over the many years.

We grieve with our Sis. Janet Stoller (Bro. Gale) as she said an earthly goodbye to her sister, Sis. Dorothy Stoller (Bro. Wayne, Latty, OH). We pray the Lord will comfort her in the coming days and months ahead.

Sis. Connie Sancraint (Dave) had surgery on her hand. We pray for a swift recovery.

Visiting us this month in the ministry were Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Sis. Jeannine, Mansfield, OH), Bro. Gary Maibach (Sis. Mary Ann, Smithville, OH), Bro. Bill Masters (Sis. Mary, Ft. Myers, FL) and Bro. Lucas Frank (Sis. Crystal, Detroit, MI). We wish to sincerely thank them for sharing the Word across our pulpit, and trust the Lord will bless them for their efforts.

Oregon, Silverton
Kelsey Walder, Ann Kuenzi

We are rejoicing that three souls have turned their lives over to the Lord. They are Mathis Kuenzi (Bro. Troy and Sis. Sherri), Alyssia Kuenzi (Martin and Kathy), and Nathanael Jones (Bro. Ron and Sis. Liz).

Sis. Becky (Bro. Dan) Von Fluc had hip surgery, in hopes of healing an ongoing infection. Sis. Becky hasn’t been able to walk for a long time, and we hope and pray that this ability will be restored as well. Also having hip surgery, was Sis. Jan Gudeman (Bro. Dick), while residing in Illinois. We hope and pray all goes well with her recovery.

On September 25, Bro. Aaron and Sis. Stacie Kuenzi added to their household a precious little daughter named Makenna Kay. Makaila and Carson are delighted to have a new playmate. Grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Barb Kuenzi, and Tim and Barb Zimmerman.

September 27, we enjoyed listening to Kent Kilgus’s (Teri) testimony via the phone system. His testimony and baptism were in Fairbury, IL where his family could share in his joy. We are thankful to greet him as a brother in Christ.

On October 4, we were blessed to enjoy communion with our Lord and each other. Elder Bro. John Jackson and his wife, Sis. Peggy, from Bay City, MI were here to assist our Elder Bro. John.

Our sympathy goes to Violet
Kuenzi (dec. Bro. Cliff) in the loss of her brother Paul Stadeli. Our prayers are with her and the family.

October 11 was the birthdate for Sophia Mae Kuenzi. Excited new parents are Bro. Ryan and Sis. Kara Kuenzi. Sophia’s grandparents are Bro. Terry and Sis. Ann Kuenzi, and Brian and Teresa Schieler.

October 11 & 12, we rejoiced to hear and see Tiera Wiegand’s (Bro. John and Sis. Jane) testimony and baptism. Here to assist our Elder Bro. John, was Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Sis. Michelle) from Philadelphia, PA.

We had one other visiting minister this month and that was Bro. Mike Leman (Sis. Lisa) from Portland. We always appreciate our visiting ministers.

Austin Kraft (Bro. Richard and Sis. Marianne) suffered a punctured lung and several broken ribs from a dozer accident. He will be in the hospital for a few days, and we pray for a speedy recovery for him.

We rejoice with Jonathan Sinn (Bro. Dean and Sis. Heidi) and Michelle Kilgus (Bro. Kent and Teri), as they have announced their engagement to be married. We will look forward to having another new couple in our church.

Pennsylvania, Philadelphia
Laura Isch
Fall has been a busy time for the Philadelphia church! We appreciated many visitors, including ministering Bros. Jerry Bauman (Rittman, OH), and Nile Bucher (Bluffton North, IN). We appreciate these brothers being willing to share the Word with us.

We also enjoyed the Sunday School picnic for our young people on September 14. The Sunday School students are such a blessing. We appreciate each student and all the efforts the teachers put into Sunday School.

Philadelphia is very blessed to report a convert this month! We wish Anthony Martin much grace as he begins his spiritual journey and welcome him to our church.

Sympathy is expressed to Sis. Kay Lanz and her family with the loss of her mother, Sis. Marjorie Schneider. May God be near and bless the family during this time of loss.

Tennessee, Nashville
Mike and Monica Fritz
We are thankful that most of the Nashville church was privileged to travel to Gridley, IL to hear the provings and witness the baptisms of our new Bro. Jeremiah and Sis. Faith Stoller (Bro. Jeff & Sis. Cynde). Their family has recently moved to Nashville, so they were baptized in their former home church. We wish them much grace as they continue to seek God’s will in the lives.

And now there is more rejoicing as four more young ladies in Nashville have answered God’s call to give their lives to Him and seek Him in repentance. These include Samaria Henry (Bro. Buck & Sis. Taunia), Patience Stoller (Bro. Jeff & Sis. Cynde), and Mieke and Selena Fritz (Bro. Mike & Sis. Monica).

We a thankful for the faithful efforts of our recent visiting ministers: Bros. Nathan Steffen (Sis. Susan, Alto), John Cottrell (Sis. Gloria, Eureka), Doug Brewer (Sis. Janelle, San Diego), and Matt Knapp (Sis. Dana, Atlanta), and retired Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern). We have also appreciated the fellowship of brethren and friends visiting from Atlanta, GA; Belvidere, Cissna Park, Eureka, and Fairbury, IL; Bluffton and Indianapolis, IN; Alto, MI; and Smithville, OH.

If you are traveling to or through the Nashville area, please plan to worship with us. Please contact us ahead of time to confirm our schedule. Contact Bro. Mike & Sis. Monica Fritz, 615-866-5543, fritzmb.family@gmail.com; or Bro. Buck & Sis. Taunia Henry, 615-920-9584.

Texas, Austin
Candy Meiss
Sending our Love and Greetings from Austin!

We are so thankful for our visitors and encourage everyone passing through to stop and worship with us!

We have been strengthened in recent weeks by God’s Word shared with us by our recent visiting ministers: Elder Bro. Gerry Hertz (Sis. Ellen,
Sabetha), Bros. Ron Palitto (Sis. Lynell, Akron) and Scott Wegman (Sis. Dawn, Taylor).

Ministers scheduled: 10/19: Bro. Tim Roecker (Peoria); 10/26: Bro. Ned Stoller (Alto); and 11/9 Champaign.

Please refer to the minister’s directory for directions and contacts.

**Texas, Dallas-Fort Worth**

Services are generally being held the second Sunday of each month at the Holiday Inn Express, 4450 W John Carpenter Freeway, Irving TX. Please call ahead to verify. Leland and Mary Plattner 956-265-0351 or Dennis & Diane Rassi 512-321-2345.

**Zapata, Texas**

_Mary Plattner_

We are thankful our winter residents are returning. Fall is a welcome season for us as we resume our fellowship with them.

In the past, Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Joyce Nohl, and Erica, have come to Zapata when services weren’t scheduled at McAllen, but due to recent medical issues, Bro. Lloyd has not been able to travel. The Nohl family needs our prayers during this trying time.

We will have our usual Thanksgiving Day services at church followed by a Thanksgiving dinner. As we reflect on our past year, we have so much for which to be thankful.

Anyone coming to South Texas this fall or winter is most welcome to worship with us.

Wednesday evening services will begin in December.

**Vermont, Clarendon**

_Nathan and Miriam Reutter_

Christian greetings from Vermont! God’s paintbrush stroked striking colors this year amongst the leaves of the trees in our neighborhood. The fellowship of believers who came to witness the beauty also refreshed our spirit. They came from Altadena, CA, Phoenix, AZ, Congerville, IL, and Rockville, CT. It was as invigorating to see the unity of the brethren from such disparate areas as it was to see God’s handiwork in the leaves.

Visiting ministers this month included Bro. Joe and Sis. Sue Klotzle from Altadena, CA and Bro. Warren and Sis. Bonnie Zahner from Rockville, CT. From both of these brothers we heard the truth, and we are assured the truth shall set us free.

We heard the truth in the Conference presentations, too. They are now complete and we are tasked with putting to use in our lives the teachings we heard. Since the teachings are too numerous for us to keep together in our minds, we trust the Holy Spirit to bring to remembrance what is most needful for us personally. May we all, then, be open to the leading of the Spirit.

Following in the vein of perceiving the unction of the Holy Spirit, we encourage those who feel an urging to support small churches within our denomination to do so. It has been stated that small churches need to be of a certain minimal size (to have a critical mass) before it can begin functioning effectively as a witness to the community wherein it worships. We do not feel that we are yet at this critical mass, and that this lack hinders our ability to connect with the community to draw them to an active participation with Christ. Will you help us bridge this gap?

You are welcome to worship and fellowship with us anytime. Contact Bro. Nathan and Sis. Miriam Reutter at 802-447-2426 or nmrbenn6@gmail.com to let us know when you are planning to be 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 held during the morning service.

_To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted.” Eccl. 3:1,2_
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<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Reference</th>
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<tr>
<td>Disobedience</td>
<td>Deut. 1:45</td>
<td>And ye returned and wept before the LORD; but the LORD would not hearken to your voice, nor give ear unto you.</td>
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<td>1 Sam 14:37</td>
<td>And Saul asked counsel of God; Shall I go down after the Philistines? Wilt thou deliver them into the hand of Israel? But he answered him not that day.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1 Sam 28:7</td>
<td>Then said Saul unto his servants, Seek me a woman that hath a familiar spirit, that I may go to her, and inquire of her. And his servants said to him, Behold, there is a woman that hath a familiar spirit at Endor.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Secret Sin</td>
<td>Psalm 66:18</td>
<td>If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indifference</td>
<td>Proverbs 1:28</td>
<td>Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Neglect of Mercy</td>
<td>Proverbs 21:13</td>
<td>Whoso stoppeth his ears at the cry of the poor, he also shall cry himself, but shall not be heard.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Despising the Law</td>
<td>Proverbs 28:9</td>
<td>He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blood-guiltiness</td>
<td>Isaiah 1:15</td>
<td>And when ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you: yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear: your hands are full of blood.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Iniquity</td>
<td>Isaiah 59:2</td>
<td>But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Micah 3:4</td>
<td>Then shall they cry unto the LORD, but he will not hear them: he will even hide his face from them at that time, as they have behaved themselves ill in their doings.</td>
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<td>Stubbornness</td>
<td>Zechariah 7:13</td>
<td>Therefore it is come to pass, that as he cried, and they would not hear; so they cried, and I would not hear, saith the LORD of hosts:</td>
</tr>
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<td>Instability</td>
<td>James 1:6, 7</td>
<td>But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-indulgence</td>
<td>James 4:3</td>
<td>Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
New website now up for the Apostolic Christian Church of America

Our denominational website, at www.apostolicchristian.org, was recently revamped and includes much more content, such as links to all congregation websites, photos and maps for each congregation location, past issues of The Silver Lining, a Visitors Guide and other resources.

We pray that this new site can be an encouragement for our brethren and a light for those in the world who are seeking truth.

Please take a look, and if you have any suggestions for additional improvements, send them using the Contact Us form.

Humbly submitted,
Elder Communications Committee:

Conflict Resolution Resources

ACCFS offers several resources on conflict resolution. One such resource, Self-Examination Questions: When Experiencing Relationship Conflict, looks at questions to ask oneself to help determine the nature or root of relational conflict. It is available, along with other resources, on our website at www.accounseling.org/conflict.
Alternate Houseparent Needed - Gateway Woods

Houseparenting at Gateway Woods offers an opportunity for a couple, directed of the Lord, to come to work in a full-time on going ministry at Gateway Woods. Due to a change in staff, we have a need for an Alternate Houseparent couple. This position offers competitive wages and generous benefits and a close relationship with brothers and sisters whose hearts and lives are dedicated to a common mission with an eternal reward. If you feel the call to explore this possibility, please call one of the brothers listed below.

Clint Plattner
Residential Program Manager
PO Box 125
Leo, IN 46765
888.443.4283
clint.plattner@gatewaywoods.org

Lynn Stieglitz
Counseling Elder
15417 Doty Rd.
New Haven, IN 46774
Cell: 260.466.6712
lynnstieg@gmail.com

Christian Guesthouse and Worship Services in Rochester, MN

Accommodations for Mayo Clinic outpatients and families:
Three bedrooms with private baths, laundry, kitchen and family room area.

Sunday Service: (held monthly at guesthouse residence) 10:00 AM and 12:30 PM
For schedule, see: www.acmission.org/minister-rotation
For information and reservations, contact caretakers:
Bro. Mark and Sis. Sandy Stork
4733 Birdie Lane NW
Rochester, MN 55901
(507) 288-0072

Mid-week Service: (held on 3rd Wednesday in Rochester area)
For information, contact:
Bro. Jim and Sis. Deb Tilbury
(507) 281-2875

Interested in receiving a printed sermon?
To order, contact:
Printed Sermons
P.O. Box 154, Forrest, IL 61741
(815) 848-5113 • printedsermons@gmail.com

Used Bible, Bible Story Book, and Song Book Distribution
Used Bibles, Bible Story Books, Hymns of Zion, Zion's Harp, Gospel Hymns, and Tabernacle Hymns are needed. AC Publications is now the collection center for your donated books.
651 E. Peoria St, Goodfield, IL 61742
# Home-Based & Adoption Case Worker Needed – Gateway Woods

Gateway Woods has a need for a full-time Home-Based & Adoption Case Worker. This position provides the opportunity to work partially with adoptive families and partially with hurting children and families in our Home-Based Program. Requires a Bachelors Degree in Social Work or a related field, experience working with children and families preferred.

Please prayerfully consider this opportunity to make a real difference in the lives of children and families. Contact one of the brothers below for more information concerning this position.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jeff Waibel</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jeff.waibel@gatewaywoods.org">jeff.waibel@gatewaywoods.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lynn Stieglitz</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lynnstieg@gmail.com">lynnstieg@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Director of Clinical</td>
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<tr>
<td>Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>PO Box 125</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leo, IN 46765</td>
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<tr>
<td>888.443.4283</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

# Counselor Needed - Gateway Woods

Gateway Woods has a need for a full-time Counselor. This position provides the opportunity to work directly with struggling children and families in need of help and guidance. Requires a Master’s Degree in social work, psychology, or counseling from an accredited college or university.

Please prayerfully consider this opportunity to make a real difference in the lives of children. Contact one of the brothers below for more information concerning this position.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jeff Waibel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lynn Stieglitz</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lynnstieg@gmail.com">lynnstieg@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Director of Clinical</td>
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<td>Services</td>
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# Light from the Word

*Now available by downloadable PDF from the Apostolic Christian Publication website:*  
www.acpublications.org

After entering the website, click on the item located at the left hand frame entitled, “Light from the Word Reprints”. The entire set of editorials are available in a complete download (*June 1987 to current*).
Bible Distribution: Sharing His Word in Love

Declare his glory among the heathen, his wonders among all people. Psalm 96:3

Together we can provide Bibles for seeking people. This may be someone you attend school with, someone you work with, or someone God has shown you at a gas station. Bibles and approved Bible story Books are available. Carrying a New Testament to distribute can help you remember what our real task is. To order, contact:

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651 E. Peoria Street
Goodfield, IL 61742
Phone: 309-965-2141
bibledistribution@acpublications.org

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Child Sponsorships

Those in the child sponsorship program have several things in common. They are very poor, desire to learn and they have an undying soul.

The goal of this program is to provide an education to help these children learn life skills to improve their standard of living, and also to provide spiritual training to address the true need...the need for a knowledge of and a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

And all thy children shall be taught of the Lord; and great shall be the peace of thy children. Isaiah 54:13

To sponsor a child

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

Name _________________________
										
									
									
									
									
									
									
									
									
									
									
									
									
									
									
									
									
									
									
									
									
									
									
									
									
									
									
									
									
								
							
						
					
				
			
		
	

If possible I would prefer:

☐ Boy – Age ________
☐ Girl – Age ________
☐ No Preference

Cost: $30.00/month
For details: www.acworldrelief.org

Send to:
ACWR Child Sponsorship
PO Box 36
Morton, IL 61550
Phone: 309-266-6080
Fax: 309-266-5281
E-mail: childsponsorship@acwr.org

If possible I would prefer:

☐ Boy – Age ________
☐ Girl – Age ________
☐ No Preference

Cost: $30.00/month
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Phone: 309-266-6080
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E-mail: childsponsorship@acwr.org
### Haiti Medical Work Teams

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<th>Project</th>
<th>Year 2014</th>
<th>Coordinator</th>
<th>Capacity</th>
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<td>Bonne Finn, Haiti</td>
<td>Oct 11-18</td>
<td>Lydia Bertschi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hospital Lumiere</td>
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<td>Dental Team</td>
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### Project Year 2015

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### Hospital Lumiere Awareness Tours

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### Haiti Lifeline Work Teams

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<td><a href="mailto:nbahler@gmail.com">nbahler@gmail.com</a></td>
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### Haiti Work Teams - Les Cayes

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### Mexico Work Teams

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### Jamaica Work Teams

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<td>Mark Lindberg</td>
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If you are interested in sponsoring a work team to Jamaica contact Loren Dettwyler at lundettwyler@gmail.com
sisters, but life won’t be a path of roses. Life won’t be easy. Life will be difficult, but we sing in a hymn that we’re going to be proven who true or untrue is going to be (*Be True*, Zion’s Harp #172).

Dear Ones, as we read in the New Testament, and I don’t want to take away from what we’ve read already, but we read that we should fall upon the rock and be broken (St. Matthew 21:44). That rock is the same rock that we read about here this morning - the God of my rock. We should fall on that Rock and become broken in true repentance, to be sorry for sin, to be truly sorry, to be broken and empty, an empty vessel, and then we can be shaped and molded according to how the Master would like us to be. Are we willing to be of that pliable clay we often speak of, to be shaped and molded and made after the Master’s image, to be someone that is willing to submit to God’s will and not our own selfish will, not our own selfish way? We sing in a hymn some of self and none of Thee, and then it finally gets to the end and says all of Thee and none of self (*None of Self and all of Thee*, Gospel Hymns #149). That’s where we have to be, Loved Ones.

I heard this statement made recently - we can have a positive attitude or we can have a negative attitude. That’s going to affect how we think. We can think of ourselves or we can think of others. We can have a little selfish thought of ourselves, or we can think of some poor soul that’s struggling and be a help to them. We can be a blessing not only to them but to us likewise. So in this time of Thanksgiving, let’s thank God that He has placed us where we are, that He has called us, that He has chosen us to be His children.

He says “Now we beseech you, brethren…” He says listen up. I earnestly contend with you “…by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.” (v.1-2) Dear Ones, he says don’t be shaken in your mind. Don’t be shaken. Are we standing on the Rock, the One that is a firm foundation, or we walking on sinking sand? It said be not soon shaken in mind or be troubled. Are we troubled? We’re troubled from time to time.

He said “…neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.” We don’t know when the Lord is coming again, but we know that He’s coming again. It was prophesied many years ago. It was taught in the Word. It is written. It’s recorded for us that we can read it, and I hope every day we read it. Many, many years ago, our brothers have strongly encouraged us when you read the Bible, read the King James Version Bible. That might seem like a small thing. You might say well I don’t understand it. Dear Ones, the Lord will reveal by His Spirit, through His Spirit, that we can understand what we need to understand.

You know, I go back to the time when I repented. I didn’t understand anything, but I knew according to the Word as I heard the Word ministered over the pulpits, that I was lost unless I would repent, become converted, and become a child of God. I knew that much, and through His Spirit, little by little, God revealed through His Word a clear picture that we can understand that we’re to walk a different walk. We’re to talk a different talk, and we’re to not do the things that we once loved. We were to do the things we once did not love to do, and that’s to serve God.

We were born with a carnal nature. We were born with a sinful nature, and those are the things that we enjoyed - the pleasures of sin for a season. So, Dear Ones, as we come together today and consider this Word, it says “Let
to thank God that He blessed me with good health for today. I don’t know about tomorrow, but every day life is a gift of God. It’s a wonderful gift. It’s a gift that we really don’t deserve. God has been so good to us in so many ways. In this community again, you’ve been blessed with a bountiful harvest. That’s the earthly things. God’s been good. We weren’t as blessed as you were here, but we were blessed. We were blessed with a lot more than we were blessed with last year, and it makes us thankful. It makes us appreciative. Sometimes we can have it too good. Sometimes we can almost think that God owes me a path of roses. God owes me a life without difficulties. God owes me everything. Loved Ones, God doesn’t owe us anything, but we owe God everything. We owe God our all. We should give Him our whole heart. I would encourage anyone here, from young to old, to be willing to give God your whole heart. Think of others. Don’t think of yourself. Lend a helping hand where you can. I know many of you do. I could do better. “For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the
I didn’t write the Scripture, but we can read it. There’s Nicodemus who came to the Lord by night, and the Lord said you must be born again (St. John 3:1-7). He didn’t say when you get an opportunity or when you get a chance, but He said you must be born again.

Dear friends, that Word is just as applicable this morning in November of 2013 as it was when it was written. You must be born again. I can assure you from the bottom of my heart that even in life with its difficulties, there is a gift awaiting for anyone who has not stooped there to drink of that fountain of living water. There is a free gift for all of mankind.

How’s it that it seems like there are so few in the world that stop and pause and consider this gift that’s available to mankind? Free gift of God - a hope of eternal life. But then we’re taught in the Word that even though God has given His Son to die on that cross and that He arose again, there is still work for us to do.

“Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceitfulness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.” (v.9-10) We’re taught in the Word, it’s written in the Scriptures, and I often say it’s a consolation to me our permanent home. Let’s not think that we’re going to be here forever. When you get a little older, you thank God that you won’t be here forever, but you have that hope of a better life. You see a better home when we read the Scripture and consider what God has prepared for those who will love Him and serve Him.

So we can be obedient children to serve God, or we can be disobedient children and choose that we’re going to serve the prince of the power of the air. God has given us that opportunity to make choices. So while we have a sound mind and while we can make the choice, let’s choose - was it Joshua who said choose who you may, but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord (Joshua 24:15). That’s who we want to serve - the Author and the Finisher of our faith, the One that created us, the One that breathed life, that breathed breath into us, and the One that’s going to take our breath from us.

“Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceitfulness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.” (v.9-10) We’re taught in the Word, it’s written in the Scriptures, and I often say it’s a consolation to me
salvation in fear and in trembling.

I read that chapter many times, but last Sunday it brought to my attention that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. Be careful. Maintain good works. Maintain a good attitude. Maintain a good lifestyle. Maintain what the world can see and behold that you are a godly, righteous person. We’re saints and not by our own doing but by God sending His Son and calling us and through a true repentance and a conversion.

That is a key word - to be completely converted, to be changed, to have new desires. We are called to maintain that. It’s not just a onetime situation and then we go on our way. We’re told in Titus chapter 3 that those which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. It is a teaching that was applicable then. It’s a teaching that is applicable today. By the grace of God we’re able to do that. We tried it before. I tried it before. I’m sure you did too. We didn’t have it in us, but when God changed our heart, when God changed our mind, when God changed our desires, we looked at life in a whole different spectrum.

“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:” (v.13) Do we believe the Word? Do we believe that God sent His Son to die and that He arose? It seems like an impossibility, doesn’t it? How did the world come about? In science today, they teach the theory of evolution and a big explosion and things were in a mess and it all came together and it’s perfect. Dear Ones, we almost have to be foolish to believe that, don’t we? We read in the Word and we consider “In the beginning God…” (Genesis 1:1) God is the God of the universe. God is the God of heaven and earth.

Last week we had the opportunity to be in Illinois. I saw with my eyes the devastation there in Washington. When you think of all that - men had worked and labored for years and years and years to build those homes and those buildings and all those things, and in just a few minutes, the Lord tore it all down. I thought of that in a spiritual context. We can work, we can toil, we can labor for the Lord to build spiritually. It seems like for me I’m not a very good builder in a physical sense, but when it comes to tearing something down, I can do it in just a little bit. It takes effort, Loved Ones, to build and maintain. Are we willing to put forth the effort while we have the breath of life to build? Are we going to be a builder or are we going to be a destroyer?

May God give us the grace everyday as we arise from our beds and fall on our mortal knees that we can thank God for the breath of life, that we can thank Him for the health and the strength that we have, that we can thank Him for two eyes, two ears, two feet, two hands. Not everyone is blessed that way. We can thank Him that we can see, that we can hear, that we can walk. We have so many blessings, Loved Ones. Let’s stop, let’s pause a few moments, and let’s just count them and name them one by one, and I believe it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.

“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world.”
Matthew 28:19-20
Christ’s Commands to the Church

— Continued from pg. 3

no longer useful to the Lord. (See the September, 2014 editorial).

Jesus also commands us to have a servant attitude. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came, not to be served, but to serve. Greatness before God comes from serving, not from being served. “For whether is greater, he that setteth at meat, or he that serveth? Is not he that setteth at meat? but I am among you as he that serveth” (Luke 22:27). Jesus was willing to stoop down in front of His disciples and wash their feet! The Son of God was not ashamed to perform the humblest deed so we could have an example of what it means to serve.

Christ’s bride is to be meek: “Take my yoke upon you and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart; and ye shall find rest unto your souls” (Mt. 11:29). Meekness is mildness of temper, gentleness, easily entreated, given to forbearance even when we have been wronged, submissive to divine will, not proud or self-sufficient, and not apt to complain about divine dispensations. Nicodemus went to Jesus by night and asked for clarity of His mission. Jesus took the time to kindly, clearly explain what Nicodemus needed to understand. The impact that this had on Nicodemus may not have been immediately apparent, but he later went to the foot of the cross and helped prepare Christ’s body for burial (John 19:39-42).

Jesus also asked that His bride be filled with righteousness. “For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven” (Mt. 5:20). Jesus is our justification, enabling God to declare and treat us as righteous because Christ bore our sin on the cross. We are justified by believing, by faith in that redemptive gift. By His grace and the indwelling Holy Spirit we abide in Him and bear fruit of righteousness, and rejoice in hope which is an anchor of the soul. Therefore we are called to be holy, pure, submissive to what God wants for our lives, and to avoid entanglement in those things of the world that would pollute our lives. (Ro 5:1-2; Gal 5:22-25)

Perhaps most importantly of all, the bride of Christ is to be filled with love. God showed us perfect love. “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16). This was further emphasized in a beautiful discourse by Paul on how we can put that love into action as he explained the importance of charity in the life of a child of God. (I Cor. 13).

Christ’s commands to the Church are intended to bring us together as one in Christ. “And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them” (John 17:10). “…that they may be one; even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one:” (John 17:22-23).

If we love Jesus and keep His commandments, we can be united with His bride for all eternity.
...To Him that Needs

Basic Conflict Resolution Skills

— Continued from pg. 9

1. Event – the topic at hand.
2. Issue – the “under-the-surface” feelings, meanings, and goals.
Many conflicts are never solved because the parties are actually arguing about different hidden issues. Healthy, helpful communication occurs when discussion is on the same issue. Always seek to understand the other party and purpose to communicate on the same issue. This will go a long way in resolving conflict.

We will finish this article with a repeat of the verse we quoted at the beginning. “If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men” (Rom. 12:18). Our opportunity and responsibility lies in striving for this peaceful living with all men. Godly, healthy communication is difficult, but God’s grace is sufficient. May we strive to reach the standard He places before us, and may the words of our mouth be acceptable in His sight (Ps. 19:14).

Remembering

— Continued from pg. 62

the meal, Hencsey talked to them about his great spiritual experience. A new dawn, the rise of a new sun, the coming of a new faith, and happiness radiated from his mouth, his eyes, and his entire being. Hencsey’s testimony roused admiration, attention and sympathy from this nobleman (Kovacs). Kovacs sincerely pondered his remarks.

Next Issue: More on Kovac’s conversion.
-By Perry Klopfenstein

Psalm 69:30 I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify him with thanksgiving.

Psalm 116:17 I will offer to thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and will call upon the name of the LORD.

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We continue the series of articles on the origin and development of our Faith in the nation of Hungary. Louis Hencsey has been baptized and the author Karoly Eotvos now titles a chapter in his book, The Nazarenes, as “Missionary Work Begins.” It is an inspiring account of how devoted and humble brothers began to preach and gain souls.

Early Days in Hungary
For a period of time, Louis Hencsey was gone from Budapest. He had a great desire to go home and see his father and mother. Even while at home he did not cease to be active in church work. He began correspondence with Joseph Bella and guided him in the new faith and day by day confirmed him in his soul.

Bella showed high respect toward Hencsey. As his most devoted friend, he accompanied him wherever he went in Hungary or abroad. He was present at his deathbed and witnessed his last breath—and was given his encouragement.

While Hencsey was visiting at home, his preaching drew souls to the new faith. The new members were Joseph Kovacs and his wife, Anne Pap Novak, who lived in Nemes, a village near Keszthely, in the neighborhood of Boldogasszony. The Kovacs lived here with many other members of the lesser nobility. He was a nobleman and a small holder of property. He did some farming and also had some vineyards.

Conversion of Joseph Kovacs and his wife
(Editor’s note: this is a long and deeply-moving account, and will be explained in two issues)
Kovacs was an educated man. He could not speak German, but could write, read, and speak Latin. His correspondence with Froehlich was all in Latin. Some of the letters written to him by Froehlich in Zurich and Strasbourg (in Latin) came into my (author Eotvos) hands.

Before his conversion, Kovacs was a man of vehement and choleric temperament. Little things could arouse his temper. He gave vent to these outbursts which often led to blows. On account of his inappropriate conduct, he was often summoned to appear in court. On one of these occasions, he was jailed for several months.

And, behold, here comes a miracle—this man who was educated, of hot temperament, and of noble origin was won over to the new faith and a renouncement of a worldly life by a poor, uneducated journeyman. Never did Hencsey gain a greater victory.

Here is how the story (of his conversion) goes: A young fox had stumbled into Kovac’s cellar through a ventilation hole. He tamed the fox and had his wife sell it in the market. “I could sell the fox only at a low price. My husband wanted to get one florin for it, but I could only get ten farthings. Now I dare not tell him the truth. I think I’ll simply tell him I got one florin for it.” (Note: on returning home from the market, she ran into Louis Hencsey and told him of her plan to lie to her husband. She had never met Bro. Hencsey previously). Hencsey looked at the woman with an earnest face and reproached her and said, “Dear woman, in our Lord Jesus, you must not do that...to tell a lie is a sin. It is not right for a wife to behave like this.”

Hencsey Introduced to Joseph Kovacs by His Wife
(Note: Mrs. Kovacs brings Louis Hencsey home to meet her husband, and he gives a testimony of his faith to this couple)
They (Joseph Kovacs and his wife) asked him (Hencsey) to stay for lunch. At the table and after
Show Your Faith

In James 2:18 we find these words, “Shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.” My dictionary informs us that “shew” is the old form of the word “show” and that it is pronounced the same as “show.”

James challenges us to show our faith by our works. How are we going to do that? We must look to God’s Word for the answer to that question.

Jesus said, as recorded in Luke 12:8, “Also I say unto you, Whosoever shall confess me before men, him shall the Son of man also confess before the angels of God.” It is important that we confess Christ; that we tell others that we believe on Him.

Paul said, in Romans 10:9, “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thy heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.” Here also, to confess the Lord Jesus with our mouth, is very important, and it shows our faith that He is the Son of God, our Savior.

Returning to the idea of showing our faith by what we do, Jesus said in Matthew 7:21, “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.” We should do the Father’s will and that means that everything we do should be in accordance with what the Bible tells us to do or not to do. Certainly we should not do anything we know is contrary to what God teaches us in the New Testament.

In the story of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10, Jesus ends His discourse with these words in verse 37, “Go and do thou likewise.” We are to show our faith by being kind, loving and helpful. We are to give of ourselves freely, without thought of recompense.

Surely we can also show our faith by our attitude. The Bible says, 1 Peter 5:5-6, “God resisteth the proud but giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God.” This is something God tells us to do and it shows our faith.

There is also the matter of showing our faith by our appearance. In 1 Peter 3:3, 4, Peter tells wives, “Whose adorning let it not be the outward adorning of plating the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; but let it be the hidden man of the heart.” It is clear that the Holy Spirit led Peter to write these words so that we might know that it is important to show our faith by avoiding an outward adorning.

We can also show our faith by being submissive. It is written in James 4:7, “Submit yourselves therefore to God.” Ephesians 5:21 reads, “Submitting yourselves to one another in the fear of God.” If we want to show our faith, we should have a submissive attitude to God and to our brothers and sisters in Christ. Anything we can do or not do, in order to have better unity, which is not against the teachings of the New Testament, we should jump at the opportunity to comply. Our own desires are out of the picture because we are dead with Christ. Romans 6:8 reads, “Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him.”

Another way we can show our faith is by having patience. The Bible says in Hebrews 10:36, “For ye have need of patience.” If we lose patience with others, it may give the impression that we think we are better than they.

Romans 12:1 tells us that we should present our bodies a living sacrifice. This is very helpful in showing our faith. We should be fully surrendered to Christ.

Whatever it takes, showing our faith should take top priority in our life for Christ.

-By Willis Ehnle
Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier. 2 Timothy 2:3-4