“How can we behold the great work of creation and not feel moved His name to praise?”
Stories of God’s faithfulness

In our May issue, we invited brothers to send in their stories about serving in the military as non-combatants. We were overwhelmed with the number of submissions. Thank you for sharing. We know that there may be some reluctance at times to write about oneself, but recounting how the Lord has worked gives Him the glory, not the writer. And reading those accounts encourages us all to greater love and faithfulness to our God.

Due to the large number of articles, we are publishing them over two issues, concluding in September, at which time we’ll announce the next topic for reader participation.

Thanks again to all of you who contributed. Sharing in this venue is a wonderful way to strengthen the brotherhood.

Humbly,

Silver Lining Counseling Elders
Rick Plattner and Tom Stock

To Our Readers

Correspondence
For September issue
(news from July 16-Aug 15)
Due: August 20, 2015

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SILVER LINING August 2015
Contending for the Faith

“Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.”

The first question to consider is what is “faith” as used in the biblical text? A brief definition is provided in, “Now faith is the substance [the confirmation, the title deed] of things hoped for, the evidence [the conviction of their reality] of things not seen.” Faith is perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses.

The Greek word for faith used in the New Testament is “pistis”; a noun meaning firm persuasion, moral conviction, especially reliance upon Christ for salvation. Another word often used is believe and the Greek word is “pisteuō”; a verb meaning to have faith in, upon, or with respect to, a person or thing; to entrust especially one’s spiritual well-being to Christ. Most of the references for faith (noun) or believe (verb) point to our relationship with Christ.

Another question is what is “the faith which was once delivered unto the saints” as also in the passage, “to them that have obtained like precious faith with us…?” And how do these commandments relate to our salvation and/or our Brotherhood? That is, what is meant by the term “like precious faith” or “the faith?” Does it refer to our Brotherhood or is it meant to be deeper than that? While “faith” is never used in Scripture to refer to a church or denomination, believers are exhorted to “continue in the faith,” “contend for the faith,” “stand fast in the faith,” etc. In these instances, Scripture is exhorting the believer to continue to abide in biblical doctrine, to abide in Christ. It is essential for us to understand that “the faith” refers to the doctrines of Christianity of salvation through faith in Christ.

Using the term “like precious faith” to refer to our Brotherhood is not supported in Scripture and can diminish our focus on Christ as the object of our faith. It can elevate our Brotherhood too highly even though it is important and is precious; but not equal with our saving faith in Christ or the Word. It might even lead to an attitude that Jesus warned against in a parable where a Pharisee said, “God, I thank thee that I am not as other men are.”

On the other hand, treating the Brotherhood too lightly can be dangerous too and is also unbiblical. It may encourage individuals to come to Christ but not seek to be committed or spiritually accountable to a church body. They may be attempting to maintain flexibility or autonomy in their spiritual walk. But this comes at the cost of missing the blessings of community—accountability, a covenant relationship with other members, discipline, submission, etc. And there is a particular danger in adopting a pattern of switching churches as a response to personal preference or a focus on one’s felt needs. Our faith in Christ will flourish in community as we labor together in Him.

Consider the comment by a now-departed retired elder in reference to the Bible and our Brotherhood, “I just want to urge you, press on in the same right spirit of Paul and Titus, with a healthy loyalty to the good paths of our precious heritage and an unwavering, unwavering allegiance to the whole counsel of God.”

The next question to consider is what is meant by the exhortation to “earnestly contend for the faith.” When we look at the context of this verse coupled with the account in 1 John 2:18-27 we are exhorted to preserve the pure Gospel as delivered by Christ and counter the advance of false teachers who would distort truth, diminish the value of Christ’s finished work, and even deny Him. It is important to

— Please turn to pg. 66
I greet each one in the precious name of Jesus. He's the reason we're here today, and we trust Him. We trust His provision. We trust the power of His Holy Spirit to guide us today. I don't know your needs. I scarcely know my own, but I know that He knows and He will provide. Let's be prayerful this morning as we share the Word together that God would reveal His truth to us, that He would teach us, and that we would have hearts that are teachable and hearts that are hungry, hungry for the Word, hungry for truth this morning.

We've read some beautiful passages of Scripture this morning. I'd like to go back to the Old Testament reading and spend just a few minutes there. As we think about the law of God, His law is right. Jesus said I didn't come to abolish the law; I came to fulfil it. (St. Matthew 5:17) I didn't come to undo it; I came to complete it. He gave a new law, and He gave a new commandment - one that fulfilled the law, one upon which the law and all the prophets and all the teaching hang. We'll talk about that a little later.

We've read just a few verses here, three of them, but there's a lot in there - a lot about human nature, a lot about the way we do things and the way our heart and our mind thinks and the way we react to different situations and scenarios in life. These are good lessons for us, but embodied in that great commandment are these laws.

"Thou shalt not go up and down as a talebearer among thy people..." (v.16) Why? God gave that law for a reason. There's a reason He doesn't want us to go up and down as talebearers, bearing a tale, telling a story, giving an account, and it's usually not good. Why? Because it's destructive. It hurts people. We don't get the facts right. We don't get the details right, and we find ourselves spreading and propagating untruth. So He says don't do that. Don't go up and down thy people bearing a tale, telling a story, passing out information that isn't helpful, that isn't useful, that doesn't build and edify and lift up the Body. It's a powerful lesson for us because we find ourselves there sometimes, don't we? Did you hear...? That's how they usually start. We can reflect in our lives and realize we have done that. All of us have done that. Usually we'll preface it with something that is righteous - I don't mean to be gossiping, but... He says don't do it.

"…neither shalt thou stand against the blood of thy neighbour: I am the LORD. Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thine heart..." (v.16-17) I'm glad he said it that way because we can say, 'I don't hate my brother', but he said in my heart. You can say what you want to say and think what you want to think, but your heart will expose you to God. He says don't hate your brother even in your heart because that's where it starts, isn't it. That's where hatred starts. I don't know what it is about mankind in interpersonal relationships. We struggle sometimes to get along with certain people. There have been studies made and ideas given on how to relate with other people and personality types and how they vary between us and how we were created uniquely different and these personality types conflict with these personality types. We can see it, can’t we? But he said simply this - don’t hate your brother in your heart. It doesn’t mean you always agree with him, but don’t hate him.

"...thou shalt in any wise rebuke thy neighbour, and not suffer sin upon him. Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people..." (v.17-18) There's another word that the Bible uses, vengeance, and I think it's connected to avenge. We were talking about this at the breakfast table this morning. The Word says, “Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the
I don’t know growing up that I thought that much about that. I don’t even know as a young adult that I thought that much about it that I really understood the depth of what was really there. God says it is Mine. Vengeance belongs to Me, and that means it’s His. If you take it, you have taken what is rightfully God’s and claimed it for your own. That’s serious. That’s hard, but it’s serious. We must not. We must not take vengeance in our heart or in our actions to ourselves because it doesn’t belong to us.

The flesh just screams for justice sometimes, and we want so bad for things to be made right from our perspective. That’s the problem. We only see our perspective, and God says you let me have it. It’s not yours. It’s Mine, and I will take care of it. You see it through muddy waters. You see, as Paul said, through a glass darkly. (1 Corinthians 13:12) You don’t get it. But, He does, and that’s why He says it’s Mine. Don’t bear a grudge. Give that to the Lord. He knows. He saw injustice in a way that most of us will never understand. I’m not sure any of us will ever understand, and not once did He seek to retaliate. Not once did He seek to make known how unjust it was. He committed it to the Father in the garden when He poured His heart out to His Father, and He remembered that the vengeance belonged to His Father.

Here we get the second great commandment that Jesus gave. He only gave two. When they came to Him and asked Him, ‘Master what’s the great commandment?’ He said, ‘Thou shalt love the Lord Thy God with all thy heart, with all thy soul, with all thy mind and thy strength, and the second is like unto it. Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.’ (St. Matthew 22:36-40) It’s a great law. It’s a challenging law, but it’s who Christ was and is and will be.

We turn to St. Mark, and we see this beginning of Mark’s writings about Jesus. We see the prophesy that was prophesied about the one that would come and prepare the way for the Lord. Even before he was born, it was ordained that John the Baptist, the baptizer, would come and he would prepare the way for the Messiah, the King of kings and Lord of lords. I’m not sure John even knew what that meant, but he knew there was one coming after him that was mightier than he was, that was the Messiah, He was the Savior of the world. He did his part.

When I think of John, my heart kind of breaks for him. As you look at what he did and you look at what he went through, and you look at how he struggled and you look at how he ended, and he had it so right. He knew it wasn’t about him. He knew it wasn’t about what he did, and it wasn’t about what he said and it wasn’t about who followed him. He came to prepare the way of the Lord. He came with a mission and a purpose to point others to Christ, and he knew it wasn’t about it. We struggle with that sometimes. I do. I think life is about me, and I’m worried about what’s going on in my life. Ah, John. He had it so right.

I’ll tell you what happened to John. He spoke truth to a king who didn’t appreciate it, and for his troubles, he was thrown into prison. In the prison he was alone. His disciples had gone on and followed Jesus. A couple of them stayed close to him, but here he was. He’s in prison, and he’s hearing news about how Jesus is combing the countryside spreading the good news of salvation and he’s in prison. He gets discouraged, and he gets low. He finds himself so low that he wonders if he even has it right, and the enemy has so tempted and tried him he doesn’t even know for sure if this is really the One. He sends a couple of his disciples to ask Him if He’s really the One. They came and said, ‘Lord, John wants to know if you’re really the Messiah.’ You know what the Lord did for him? He did not eliminate the need for John to have

— Please turn to pg. 68
Softening Hearts through Service

Medical Teams Bring Care Not Locally Available

Ms. Carline, a 35 year old woman, had developed an enlarging thyroid disorder like so many women in Haiti. A number of major problems arise from these over active thyroids. Hormones are at full tilt leading to racing heart rates, palpitations, often infertility and disfiguring neck mass and bulging eyes.

On a sunny Monday morning in February, the head and neck surgical team from Philadelphia met Carline. She and her husband had been yearning for children for years and the persistence of the toxic goiter was an ever present reminder that she may never have a family. Without medication to control the heart during surgery, operations to remove the tumor can result in thyroid storm and often death. Thankfully, the anesthesia providers brought medication to control heart function during the proposed operation.

Tuesday morning the Haitian and American surgeons took Carline to surgery. (Of note: The growth in technical skill and maturity of the Haitian surgeons and nurses was immediately recognized by the American team from the previous year’s surgical mission. Not only are the efforts to-date at Hospital Lumiere transforming the physical structure, but this has transcended to patient care.) Immediately after surgery, Carline’s heart rate and blood pressure came down, the persistent palpitations resolved and she expressed the joy in her heart and fond expectation that Lord willing, she may be able to be a mom someday. She was one of countless people that turn to Hospital Lumiere for help in time of need.

Often we wonder about our light, our salt, and our attitude – am I His witness? Four of the members of this head and neck surgical team had never interacted with our denomination and some had scarcely been to any church. At the conclusion of the trip, each member individually, unsolicited and without reservation brought forward a testimony of seeing His light, and being awestruck at the power of two vastly different worlds coming together with one common purpose in Christ. Some of their jaded views of religion were softened by what they called a genuine Spirit of service amongst our missionaries and the people of Haiti.

How you can help:
• Join a World Relief medical team and experience firsthand, the joy of serving others. See dates at acworldrelief.org.
• Sign up on the health care provider registry to get updates about ACWR medical missions. http://www.acworldrelief.org/health-care-providers/
• Funds are currently being raised for laboratory equipment (‘ELISA analyzer, PT INR monitor, HdbA1C Machine) to provide diagnostic support for other patients like Carline. To donate, send money to World Relief’s Medical Committee or Hospital Lumiere.
• Most importantly, pray for spiritual and physical blessings for the people we serve and the safety of mission trips.

Surgeons on a recent medical team removed this thyroid tumor from Ms. Carline

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

Did you know that the Apostolic Christian Church Endowment Fund is much broader in scope than its name implies? The traditional “endowment” role of investing assets in order to create an ongoing source of income for Church charities is only one of its purposes. This article will focus on other reasons to consider a gift to the Endowment Fund.

Silver Lining readers are well aware of World Relief, Mission Committee, Gateway Woods, and the Home for the Handicapped. Clearly, the members and friends of the Church can give directly to these and other Church charities. In some cases, however, a charitable gift will have greater impact on these charities if given through the Endowment Fund.

The Endowment Fund serves as a resource to facilitate wise stewardship. It enables givers to give more, and charities to receive more. In much the same way that your accountant combs over your tax situation and utilizes available deductions, the Endowment Fund facilitates substantial gifts in a way that fully utilizes the charitable benefits provided by the tax code.

Jesus stated “render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s” – Mark 12:17. We are blessed that the United States continues to incentivize and subsidize charitable giving.

**How it works**

Some assets make better gifts than others. For example, many assets are subject to capital gain or income tax when sold by individuals. Charities, however, are generally exempt from capital gains and income tax. Thus, if you have stock, company interest or real estate that has appreciated, you may give some or all of it to charity; in doing so, you may receive a tax deduction for its fair market value, and avoid recognition of capital gain. The charity sells the asset and receives the full value. The money that would have gone to the government accrues to both the giver and the charity.

**One example**

Suppose farmland to be gifted is appraised at $100,000. If sold, the gain may be taxed at 20-25%, leaving perhaps $85,000. If the land is sold and the proceeds donated, the charity would receive $85,000, and the giver would receive a tax deduction of $85,000. Compare this to gifting the real estate to the Endowment Fund. The giver receives a tax deduction of $100,000, and the Endowment Fund sells the land tax free, receiving $100,000. Now the Endowment Fund, acting upon a recommendation by the giver, can distribute $100,000 to other charities.

Due to recent and significant income tax increases, it is advantageous for high income earners to consider charitable tools to lessen taxes in favor of charity. Charitable Remainder Trusts benefit both givers and charities and are excellent tools for income tax reduction and business/farm succession planning. Annually, up to 30% of an individual’s adjusted gross income can be offset by donating non-cash assets.

This strategy is especially popular with business and real estate owners. Rather than giving cash to charity, business owners can donate a small percentage of their stock/company interest to the Endowment Fund, and receive a tax deduction based on the fair market valuation of the property. The owner (or steward, to

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*Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. – 2 Corinthians 9:7*
Healthy Boundaries

From the Creation, God has established a world where there are boundaries. In Genesis, He told Adam there were limits in the garden (Gen. 2:16-17). Throughout His Word we also see played out the principles of consequences for actions (Gal. 6:7-8) with responsibility for our own choices (Deut. 30:19, Ez. 18:20). As we apply these instructions to our lives, we are encouraged to build and maintain healthy personal boundaries, purposing to keep the “evil” out and let the “good” in. A boundary is a personal “property” line. It marks those things which we are responsible for and separates out those things for which we are not responsible. Boundaries place limits on the claims other people may make on us, our time, and our resources. They help us establish priorities, balance, and sanity in an overcommitted world. Establishing healthy boundaries can help us maintain healthy relationships throughout all aspects of our lives.

Types of Boundaries

Healthy boundaries assist us in knowing when to say yes and when it is appropriate to say no. Imagine a fence with a gate. The gate is there to keep the bad out and let the good in. We control when we open and shut the gate. Unhealthy boundaries can become either too loose or too rigid. When boundaries are too loose, we do not place any limits on our resources and can soon become overwhelmed, trying to satisfy all the claims on ourselves. Visualize chalk lines or lines in the sand. These boundary lines are easily overrun and can lead to compassion fatigue and burnout if we do not maintain a disciplined approach to life and its demands. On the other hand, rigid boundaries such as refusing to give help and share our resources with others or refusing to allow good into and out of our lives are unhealthy. Think of a concrete wall. Rigid boundaries are sometimes a reverse reaction by someone having had loose boundaries for too long. Losing this perspective and balance by ebbing from saying yes to everything to now always saying no is unhealthy.

Boundaries in Action

At times, we may focus so much on being loved and being loving and unselfish, we forget our own limits and limitations. We struggle with the idea of balance. Some of the questions we may ask are: Can I set limits for myself and still be a loving person? What are legitimate boundaries, balancing God’s grace and my own abilities? What if someone is upset or hurt by my boundaries? How do I kindly answer someone who wants my time, love, energy, or money beyond what I am able to give? Why do I feel guilty or afraid when I consider setting boundaries?

These are legitimate questions that require prayerful answers. Godly boundaries, created in conjunction with biblical principles, give us definition and direction in life. A key scriptural passage is Galatians 6:2-5.

Gal. 6:2-5 "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ. 3 For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself. 4 But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. 5 For every man shall bear his own burden.”

In this passage, we see the limits which God’s principles place upon our life. We are to help each other bear their “burdens” while being responsible for carrying our own “burden.” To properly understand this passage, it is important to know the Greek word for “burdens” in verse 2 is referring to heavy weights someone cannot carry alone, like boulders. The Greek word for “burden” in verse 5 however refers to a daily load or knapsack, something each of us should be able to carry ourselves. Thus, we see the principle where we are responsible to help others when they are overwhelmed by circumstances of life yet also
are responsible for ourselves and the daily obligations we face. This is a key principle in helping balance out our boundaries. We can overwhelm ourselves and actually hurt others by continually doing for them what they can be doing for themselves. Wisdom is understanding and applying this balance of boundaries to our lives.

**Circle of Concern and Circle of Influence**

Another way to look at this concept is to think of what is commonly called our Circle of Concern. Picture life as a large circle, composed of all the things that concern us. This is our Circle of Concern. Within this circle, think of a much smaller circle which is our Circle of Influence. This is the area of our Circle of Concern we can actually influence. It can be visually depicted like this diagram.

Most people will spend 90% of their time in the Circle of Concern areas where they have no influence and only 10% of their time in the Circle of Influence. We should be encouraged to spend 90% of our time in the Circle of Influence, and prayerfully commit the other areas to God. This example can help us reflect on how much time and energy we are spending on areas where we truly have no influence.

**Boundary Examples in Scripture**

Christ demonstrated healthy boundaries in His life. In Mark 6:30-32, He encouraged His apostles to “come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while” even though there were many “coming and going” nearby whom they could have taught and served. Christ often demonstrated this principle personally when He would separate Himself for times of prayer with the Father (Mark 6:46). Knowing when it is time for rest is crucial in our lives and in our ministries. Christ Himself said “For ye have the poor with you always, and whencesoever ye will ye may do them good…” in Mark 14:7. There will always be opportunities to do good. We are encouraged to not neglect the service of the poor but also maintain balance in the midst of this service.

The account of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10 illustrates how healthy boundaries can be employed in our lives. The priest and Levite who passed by the injured man were exercising rigid boundaries because of their position and/or a misapplication of God’s Word. Perhaps urgent business and/or the fear of uncleanliness by touching someone wounded and possibly dead kept them from offering love and assistance to one in need. The Samaritan was also going about his day, but he opened the fence gate of his boundaries to offer assistance. When he brought the man to the inn, however, he didn’t stay there. The Good Samaritan exercised his own boundaries and after having done what he could, he went on his way with the promise that any additional expenses would be covered at a later time. He established a boundary. Establishing proper balance in boundaries is not easy, but it is something we should be aware of and prayerfully consider.

**Resistance to Boundaries**

Beginning to identify where new boundaries are needed or enforcing existing ones will probably meet with some kind of resistance. Resistance may come from our own internal fears or insecurities. The first time we say “no” to a task or duty, we may experience guilt if we have been accustomed to usually being compliant and always saying “yes.” Guilt can be a major obstacle in establishing boundaries. When we establish new boundaries, it is essential to remember they may not be accepted well or appreciated by others. We should

— Please turn to pg. 67
Apostolic Christian Home for the Handicapped
www.achh.org

“As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.”
1 Peter 4:10

The residents living at Timber Ridge, Oakwood Estate, Linden Estate and the CILA group homes have been blessed by all of the volunteers who are living out what God commands of us to do in 1 Peter 4:10. Volunteers use the gifts that God has given them by serving our residents in several different ways. Many of our residents enjoy participating in monthly Hymn Sings where our local churches come to Timber Ridge, and sing and fellowship with them. Many residents also enjoy being able to go to Sunday school at a couple of local churches. Volunteers make this possible by providing transportation as well as providing lessons in ways that are easy for them to understand. They have created a wonderful learning environment for our residents that makes them excited to learn more about the Bible. The teachers show our residents that they care, every Sunday, by praying for their personal requests, as well as just listening to what the residents have to say, which makes them feel special and important. Volunteers from different Young Groups and Sunday school classes come to play games or make crafts with our residents throughout the year, which is something that the residents, staff and volunteers all seem to enjoy.

Volunteers serve our residents not just by interacting with them, but by improving and beautifying their homes as well. This spring, volunteers have been serving the residents at Linden Estate by using their talents and gifts to improve their home. These residents now have a beautiful new porch that they can use throughout all four seasons of the year, which they are all very excited about. The volunteers have worked very hard to create a space in which the residents there can interact more with each other and with guests. The residents have enjoyed watching the volunteers transform their old small porch into a new big porch, that they will use often. A couple of the residents have excitedly talked about eating dinner on the new porch with their friends. The volunteers have also been giving the inside of Linden a little makeover by painting the walls in bright homey colors, as well as laying new floors throughout the house.

Volunteers help beautify all of our homes throughout the year by coming and assisting with yard work as well. We are all blessed here at Timber Ridge by all of the volunteers who have used the talents and gifts that God gave them to serve our residents and staff. Thank you for blessing us in all you do!

Gateway Woods Apostolic Christian Children’s Home
Ryan Donaghy - Houseparent

“Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.” Proverbs 3:5

Since returning to house-parenting at Gateway Woods in early 2014, we have clearly seen the hand of God at work! As mentioned in a previous Silver Lining article, I pursued a career move that would take me away from Gateway Woods in late 2013. After walking through many open doors, the last one shut. My wife and I were confused. Through the moving of the Holy Spirit, God made it very clear that we were to serve as houseparents once again. It was easy for us to believe God wanted us to return so we could continue to change lives. Little did we know the lives that seemed to be changed the most were our own.

Having been part of the Gateway family for over ten years, it was our expectation that we would pick up where we had left off nearly four years ago. We would
do our best to show the redemptive love of Christ to a hurting generation. Sure, we understood that it was only by God’s grace that we could be a part of His story in the lives of the children we served. However, it was easy to develop an attitude of confidence and assurance of our own ability as we returned to a position with which we were so familiar.

Needless to say, God allowed many opportunities for us to remember that we indeed needed Him. It seemed that one trial followed the other over the course of a year. We prayed, seeking what God wanted us to learn. In His wonderful love and enduring patience, God was showing where He wanted us to grow. I was initially confused. Until this point, it was my understanding God wanted us to return to houseparenting so we could change the lives of others. Now there are times I wonder who is actually receiving the benefits of living at Gateway Woods, the residents or us? I conclude it is both. In the grand scope, we are more similar to the residents we serve than we are to our model, Jesus. We all long for love and acceptance, only to find that we were often looking in the wrong place. We too, desire to be happy and fulfilled; only to find ourselves longing for more than the world has to offer. I thank God that He has brought us back to this ministry as I am sure His work will continue to bear much fruit in both our lives, and in the lives we serve.

**News:**

- By the time you read this the 2015 Auction will be completed. Thank you so much for all of your incredible support through donating, praying, and volunteering. We will update you on a total as soon as possible. The next annual Auction is planned for August 6, 2016.
- We were sad to bid farewell to our three summer staff at the end of July. We are thankful for the time that Brett Hoerr, Philip Fischer and Brad Gasser shared on our team.
- There are two different career positions available currently at Gateway Woods, including: several openings for Alternate Houseparents and one opening for a Teacher. 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 provide qualified, mature brothers and sisters who will serve Him in a ministry that is ‘Turning Lives Around’.

**Alabama, Athens Apostolic Christian Preschool**

**Kalla Knobloch**

July has been a busy month for the preschool. It’s always sad to see the graduates begin to leave, but we pray God’s guidance over their life. We have been using the Bible verse Luke 12:32. “Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.” We ask you keep the preschool in your prayers as we start our new year in the next few weeks.

The children have been busy working on pirate ships, telescopes, maps, and all things pirate. Ms. Brittanie, our new 2-year-old teacher, has been teaching us some new songs and learning some herself. Our Creator has given us all an amazing gift with our memory. The children have a natural ease when it comes to learning new scripture, songs, and poems.

We would like to thank all the volunteers and local families that have helped out at the preschool over the past month. Sis. Mindy Wettstein (Lacrosse, IN), Sis. Margie Heintz (Champaign, IL), and Sis. Elise and Ashlynn Waldbeser (Peachtree City/Atlanta, GA) have been so kind to give their time and love! The students continue to ask about them. With their help, we have
been getting things in place for fall and working on some projects that never seem to get done. The children are looking forward to a visit from the Champaign, IL volunteers later this month.

We’ve been incredibly blessed by our church family and by our prayer warriors. It seems like this month really affirmed the power of prayer. So thanks to all those who support the preschool financially, by volunteering their time so the teachers can take vacations, and most of all for your prayers on our behalf. Words cannot express how much we appreciate you all.

Remember if you want to volunteer or work at the preschool, please let me know. You can contact me at 309.231.1755 or acpreschool2015@gmail.com. More information about the preschool can be found at www.acpreschool.org or find us on Facebook at Apostolic Christian Preschool Athens AL. You can keep up to date on all things preschool.

**Alabama, Athens**

**Kristy Moore**

Greetings to you all from Alabama! We have had another blessed month down south as we had our VBS weekend with the Atlanta/Peachtree, GA church. It was a weekend filled with encouragement and fellowship. It was also wonderful to see friendships blossom between our children and those who came, as well as learn more about our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. What a blessing we have within our church body. We were also blessed as Bro. Jerry (Sis. Martha) Bauman from Rittman, OH served on the pulpit. Bro. Vince and Sis. Jane Hartzler (Rittman, OH) came down with the Bauman’s, for which we are grateful for willing hearts to come and serve our small church.

We have also had some changes within our small church. Early this spring Bro. Roger and Sis. Becky Roberts and their family were called back to Goodfield, IL. We were so thankful for the years they served down in AL, and all they did as caretakers for the Tennessee Fellowship Hall. We miss y’all dearly, but know you are being used by the Lord in your current location.

On another note, God has led Bro. Bruce and Sis. Lisa Aschliman (Bluffton, IN) to be caretakers of the Tennessee Fellowship Hall. We are thrilled to have another family commune with us and shine their lights for the Lord in our community. We ask for prayers for a smooth transition for them.

God has been so faithful in providing fellowship, and from fellowship, encouragement, for our small Athens church the last few months, whether it be travelers passing through, different events, or new families to stay. Let us remember these words from Hebrews 10:23-25, “Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”

We love you all and send prayers your way.

**Arizona, Phoenix**

**Heather Hinrichson**

**Marge Lindenbaum**

“Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!” Isaiah 5:20

This verse becomes more relevant every day. As our fellow citizens, our leaders, and even our highest court, astounding choose darkness, promote evil and rebuke good. We are reminded that they are destined for woe. God’s wrath and judgment will be poured out upon the world, as it is ruled by Satan, whose influence and works are becoming greater and more evident. Violence is increasing everywhere, and the minds of those who are not interested in truth are clouded and deluded with increasing deception.

Recently, we enjoyed watching the Venus-Jupiter conjunction on some clear nights the past few weeks. As the sky’s third and fourth brightest celestial bodies (sun and moon are first and second) drew together throughout the month of June, and then crossed paths, anyone who was able to look up was able to witness
the splendor of Creation, and
the majesty of the Creator. Even
before the sun was completely
set, the lights were highly visible
and became brighter as night fell.
It was a beautiful sight. As the
world around us becomes darker,
we need to remember we are light
to a seeking world, displaying the
Holy Spirit in our conversation.
Darkness is not a thing in and
of itself. It is the absence of light.
So as we continue to spread the
light of the Gospel, it eliminates
the darkness. Darkness cannot
exist where light is. There is a
time coming when darkness will
rule and it seems clear we are
witnessing that time growing near.
Therefore, we should be about our
Father’s business! A popular song
says light shines out best through
a broken vessel. We need to come
broken before the throne so we
can be healed and filled with that
ture Light. Soon, it seems, there
will be no more desire for Truth
and Light, and men will want to
destroy those who promote those
things. And we who love Truth
and Light will be caught up,
everfore to be with our Lord. So
we who are able, let’s look up, lift
up our heads, for our redemption
certainly is more nigh than it ever
has been! Maranatha!

“And this is the condemnation,
that light is come into the world,
and men loved darkness rather
than light, because their deeds were evil.”
John 3:19

As expected, things have been
quiet here in Phoenix this past
month. Many of our families
are enjoying vacations and a
somewhat quieter lifestyle than
we have in the winter months.
Our weather continues to be
cooler than usual, and we are
enjoying an active monsoon
season (mostly thunderstorms).

We continue to pray for those
who are grieving and several in
our congregation who are battling
disease and every other dart Satan
can throw their way. Our Sis.
Nancy (Knobloch) Baumgartner
was diagnosed with cancer, and
is waiting to learn more about
the nature of battle she will be
engaging. We solicit the prayers of
our brothers and sisters in Christ,
as His power is needed in these
last days and none of us is able to
stand alone.

“For all the promises of God in
him are yea, and in him Amen,
unto the glory of God by us.”
2 Cor. 1:20

Arizona, Tucson
Dean and Jackie Knobloch

Greetings and love from
the Tucson Church. Many
are traveling this summer
and enjoying family time and
experiencing God’s creation. We
pray for God’s mercies and safety
for all.

We are sad to say goodbye to
Bro. Doug and Sis. Young Bauer
and their children, Noah and
Emma. They are moving to the
Phoenix, AZ area for work and will
be attending the Phoenix church.
We want to express a heartfelt
thanks for all the efforts they have
put forth in the past years as they
served willingly in many positions.
They will surely be missed and
we want to extend our prayers
on their behalf for an uneventful
move and many blessings in their
new home and job.

We continue to pray for those
receiving treatment and those
recovering from illness. It is always
comforting to know God is only a
prayer away.

California, Altadena/Los
Angeles
Kali Sauder

Summer out here is marked
by traveling, travelers, and higher
temperatures! As it warms up
inland, many head to the beaches
to find the cool ocean breezes!
There’s something about the
Creator’s waves and sand and
sunshine that lends itself to
making memories and enjoying
one another’s company!

Sweet moments like those,
whether with friends, family, or
church family, spark thankfulness
in our hearts. And it seems our
Father has designed a special
link: moments of appreciation of
some good gift increases our joy!

Meditating, really mulling over
memories that make our hearts
thank God, grows our fruit-of-
Spirit joy!

The Word emphasizes this
connection. 1 Thessalonians 3:9
says, “For what thanks can we
render to God again for you, for
all the joy wherewith we joy for
your sakes before our God”. How
beautiful! Imagine the increase
when we take our thankfulness
a step beyond just our own remembering and share it with someone else!

We remembered with joy the sweet moments of the past Sunday School year at our annual Sunday School picnic held at a local park. Fun, fellowship, and food were the order of the day. We cherish those memories while praying we continue to grow in joy!

As for travelers, we have been blessed and ministered to by Bro. Frank and Sis. Kathy Sauder and family (Roanoke, IL) as they joined us for several weeks of Sunday worship.

California, San Diego

Janelle Brewer

The Lord has been good to us over the past month and blessed us richly!

“And I will make them and the places round about my hill a blessing; and I will cause the shower to come down in his season; there shall be showers of blessing.”

Ezekiel 34:26

First and foremost are the spiritual blessings we received. We were blessed with several visiting ministers to shower these spiritual blessings upon us. Those that shared with us were Bros. Jim Zollinger (Silverton, OR), Justin Moser (Altadena, CA), Jason Dotterer (Forrest, IL), Frank Sauder (Roanoke, IL), and Mark Schmidgall (Oakville-Mediapolis, IA). May God bless these brothers for sharing the Word. We pray that these spiritual showers will bring forth fruit.

Also on our minds is the blessing of rainfall we have received the past couple days. We were in need of it because of how dry it has been here in California. We truly thank God for the earthly rain showers that help bring life to the earth.

We commit the elder brothers to God in prayer who will be meeting in a few short weeks. May God give them wisdom as they consider many different topics.

Colorado, Denver

Naomi Wiegand, Tess Leman

Greetings of love to you!

We rejoice with our Sis. Autumn Hohulin (Bro. Doug & Sis. Sharolyn) on her engagement to Bro. Jake Rokey (Bro. Ben & Sis. Shelley of Goodfield, IL) from Prescott, AZ.! Sis. Autumn has been a traveling nurse over the last year but we have enjoyed having her home for the past couple of months. We pray for God’s peace and direction as the couple embarks on this holy union and all the transition it brings!

“I have decided to follow Jesus; (3x)
No turning back, no turning back.
The world behind me, the cross before me; (3x)
No turning back, no turning back.”

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

Again, we are so happy to share that another soul has chosen to walk the straight and narrow path! Victoria Martin (Bro. Mike & Sis. BethAnn) has decided to follow Jesus. Our prayers and support accompany her! Join us in praising our great God!

With a grateful heart, we say a big thank you to all of our visiting ministers this month. Bro. Dan Beer (Milford, IN), Bro. Ryan Hoerr (Princeville, IL), Bro. Jason Dotterer (Forrest, IL), Bro. Aaron Luthi (Lamont-Gridley, KS), Bro. Doug Brewer (San Diego, CA), and Bro. George Gal (Akron, OH). Thank you for your willingness to serve!

Connecticut, Rockville

Lauren Gottier, Sheila Gerber

We appreciated the preaching of Bros. Lowell Moser (Sis. Karen, Morris, MN) and Brian Waibel (Sis. Wendy, Champaign, IL) as they recently visited in Rockville. May the Lord bless their labors.

Makena Jo was born to Bro. Mark and Sis. Ashley Lanz. She joins brother, Nathan. Grandparents are Bro. Barry and Karen Lanz and Jack and Donna Yurgel. Anya Lyn was born July 5 to Bro. Doug and Sis. Leah Luginbuhl. Big brothers Alex and Mason welcome her home, along with grandparents Bro. Rick and Sis. Sue Luginbuhl and Bro. Bob and Sis. Lynette Goric.

“With the love of God inspired, there is joy for us on earth; May the spirit, we’ve acquired, grant us blessing, peace and mirth.”

Unity, Zion’s Harp # 237

The engagement of Bro. Seth Bahler (Bro. Ronnie and Sis. Bonnie) and Sis. Taylor Welti (Bro. Pete and Sis. Jill) was announced to our congregation. May the Spirit grant them blessing, peace and mirth in their life together.
Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Ruth Kostek (John, dec.) as her sister, Eleanor Toth, passed away and to Cindy Wexelman in the loss of her sister, Audrey. We also remember Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Sis. Cheryl) and his family in our prayers as his brother, Terry Ryan, recently passed away. Bro. Brent Walder (Sis. Naomi) and Sis. Jan Young (Bro. Doug) lost their father, retired Elder Bro. Bob (Sis. Gloria) Walder of Congerville, IL. Bro. Alfred (Sis. Barb) Reutter of Lester, IA passed away. May the Lord comfort these families and grant us each grace to prepare for eternity.

District of Columbia, Washington
Henrietta Meyer

During the month of July, Bro. Greg and Sis. Carla Rassi from Chicago, IL were our caretakers. During the month, various members of their family came to visit. 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.

Our ministers this month were Bro. Jesse Bedolla (Sis. Bonnie, Detroit, MI), Bro. Matthew Rassi (Sis. Bridget, Chicago, IL) and Bro. Greg Rassi (Sis. Carla, Chicago, IL). In addition to Sunday services, Bros. Matt and Greg also held midweek services for those who could attend.

With the warming of the weather, many turn their thoughts to vacations. There are many free attractions in Washington, DC, things for all the family. 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. Myers**
Victor Beer

After hearing of our dear Bro. Mel Baum passing away this week, one very inspiring hymn seems so appropriate.

“Joyfully, joyfully onward I move, Bound for the land of bright spirits above
Angelic choristers sing as I come: Meet me with gladness and welcome me home.”
*Hymns of Zion #239*

Our ministers this month were Bro. David Prevo (Sis. Tara) Bloomington, IL; Bro. Ted Witzig Jr. (Sis. Donna) Morton, IL and Bro. Craig Martin (Sis. Terri) Princeville, IL. We pray that God will bless them for their efforts.

Bro. Mike and Sis. Renee’s grandson, Andrew Mangold, married Elle LeBaube (both from Roanoke) this month. We pray that God will bless their union and that they may grow in faith together throughout their lives. Andrew and Elle will be living in California.

“These things which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do; and the God of peace shall be with you.” Phil. 4:9

The new photo albums are being developed and hopefully they will be available soon. Sis. Rhea Steffen has faithfully been working on the project, which she assures us will be finished in due time.

Our congregation was blessed this last month by Bro. Robert Dotterer (Sis. Laura, Sardis, OH), as he brought us the Word.

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 239-35300508. He will help you gather information on anything from serving in a small church to job opportunities and housing in the area.

**The New Beginnings**

“Beloved let us love one another: for love is of God every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.” 1 John 4:7
When I think about the path God took me on to get me to The New Beginnings, I usually come back to one point in particular. To get me here, God had to uproot me from my hometown where all my family was and where I had a great job. He also took me on a five-year journey through Gateway Woods and eventually poked at my heart enough to get me to move to Florida. Looking back at leaving home and moving to Leo and then leaving our Leo home and moving to Florida, there was one thought that caused me hesitation: “I have no idea how to do what I’m being called to do. How is God going to use someone like me?”

When we left home to be Houseparents, I had no clue how to be a Houseparent. Then we moved to Florida to work at The New Beginnings in the office and I’ve never done that before! How will God use me?

Maybe you feel God calling you somewhere; maybe even here to The New Beginnings and you feel unequipped to do what you’re called to do. Let me share a true story that happened just this week to one of our mentors here at The New Beginnings that might give you some encouragement.

These are her words:

“As I was working in our meditation garden this morning, the little Spanish-speaking lady from across the street came over. She attempted to talk to me and I attempted to understand her without much success. She comes over to our grounds to get a few mangoes and avocados, of which we have in quite abundance. She wants to give back to us so she brings me plants from her garden and I show her how well the plants that she brought last time are doing. She is delighted and she brings me even more! I realize after the encounter that even though we don’t speak the same language, that there has been a connection made. We ended up hugging two or three times and I realized that there was a new spring in my step and I believe I caught a glint of happiness in her. God has created a universal language of love in each of us if we can look past our differences and find our commonalities.”

You see you’re already equipped. To reach out to the mothers here at The New Beginnings and the people around us, it takes two main ingredients: time and love. In the above account, not even a language barrier could stop the connection made by just a few minutes and little love. Think about yourself. Can you, love someone who’s hurting and needs direction? I’m guessing yes. Do you have even a little time to give, maybe just one evening a week? I bet you do. You don’t have to hold a PhD or be vastly experienced in anything to reach out to those around you. So don’t hesitate. See for yourself just how simple it can be.

Florida, Sarasota
Kim Ott

“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” Matthew 6:33

We have so much to rejoice about this month! We were blessed to be able to hear the testimony and witness the baptism of Sis. April Sabo (Jeff). Also, Stephen Roscher (Bro. Bill and Sis. Beth) has turned his heart to the Lord to work out his soul’s salvation. We are so thankful to see God’s grace and power continuing to touch lives!

We offer many thanks to Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL) as he assisted in the baptism and testimony of Sis. April. We were also grateful to have Bro. Gary Sinn (Sis. Paulette, Latty, OH) share God’s Word this month as well. May God bless these brothers for their willing hearts.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with Leo Krstec (Bro. John and Sis. Biserka) as he is recovering from a heart attack. May he feel God’s nearness and experience His grace through this time of healing.

Georgia, Peachtree City/Atlanta

Lexi Knapp, Elise Waldbeser

We are overwhelmed with thankfulness after our first Sunday worshiping upstairs in our newly-finished church! We are so grateful for a beautiful place to worship! We have been so blessed
by all of our volunteers as we have seen their work pay off for a lovely finished product. Also, we are anticipating our Open House and Dedication for our new church which is planned for the weekend of August 22-23!

It was special to celebrate the wedding of Kelly Camp (Chris and Sis. Peggy) to Lewis Brown on July 11! We wish them God’s blessings as they start their life together!

Likewise, we were blessed by ministers Bro. Ted Hirstein (Morton, IL) and Bro. Jerry Bauman (Rittman, OH). Thank you for serving our church!

If anyone is coming to the area, we would love to have you worship with us! Our new address is: 202 Robinson Road, Peachtree City, GA 30269. However, please call ahead! (Tom Waldbeser 770.463.4788 or Richard Aberle 678.364.0507). For photos and additional information, visit our website at www.ptcacchurch.org.

Illinois, Belvidere
Krista Anliker, Shayla Steffen

“Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.” Joshua 1:9

This was the memory verse for children 3 yrs. to 5th grade this summer for VBS. They were taught about children of courage in the Bible including David, Esther and Josiah. We thank ministering Bro. Matt Steffen (Sis. Deanna; Princeville, IL) and Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Sis. Clara; Bloomfield, IA) for being part of our VBS for students in Jr. and Sr. Bible class.

Oliva Koehl, daughter of Bro. Chris and Sis. Shelly, is engaged to Michell Algarate. We are thankful to have them here in Belvidere and wish their small family God’s blessings.

We said farewell to Sis. Joy Hinrichson as she was fellowshiping with us for a short time while she finished up an internship. We enjoyed having her here and also wish her God’s blessings.

Once again we say a thank you to the McCoy’s for hosting the Annual Sunday School picnic. It is a blessing to see the Sunday school children strengthen their relationships and a blessing to others as we enjoy fellowship and singing.

Illinois, Bloomington-Normal
Sarah Maurer, Terri Huber

The Sunday School picnic was a family and fellowship gathering to commemorate the end of the school year. It is always packed with fun activities for the youth and it’s a great opportunity to support and get to know the young families in our church.

“We should never be discouraged, Take it to the Lord in pray’r.
Can we find a friend so faithful, Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev’ry weakness, Take it to the Lord in pray’r.
Are we weak and heavy laden, Cumbered with a load of care? Precious Savior, still our refuge, Take it to the Lord in pray’r.
Do thy friends despise, forsake, thee? Take it to the Lord in pray’r; In His arms He’ll take and shield thee, Thou wilt find a solace there.” Hymns of Zion # 161

The Sunday School picnic was a family and fellowship gathering to commemorate the end of the school year. It is always packed with fun activities for the youth and it’s a great opportunity to support and get to know the young families in our church.

“And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.” Eph. 5:2

Due to construction in Gridley, IL, the Bloomington church was very excited to host the wedding of Bro. Scott Herrmann (Princeville) to Sis. Jenae Lavallier (Gridley, IL) on June 28. The ceremony was a beautiful reminder of the coming Christ’s love for His bride and the blessings God gives His children.

The Bloomington congregation extends a genuine
thank you to Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Sis. Bev) of Detroit, MI and Bros. Cole Meyer (Sis. Beth) of Bluffton, IN, Eric Strassheim (Sis. Jodi) of Indianapolis, IN, and Harvey Kaeb (Sis. Judy) from Gridley, IL, for their messages given over the pulpit this past month. It is a great communion we share in when we can share God’s truth together and share in fellowship.

The passing of Bro. Stan Hodel (Sis. Verna) of Roanoke this past month has brought sadness, however, a hope for a reunion to come. Bro. Stan was a father to Sis. Barb (Bro. Mike) Meece and Bro. Dave (Sis. Maxine) Hodel, and the grandfather of Sis. Molly (Bro. Ben) Knochel and Sis. Kelly Eastman.

Bro. Kevin and Sis. Dixie Knapp are happy to announce the engagement of their son, Dustin, to Trish Serna of Bartlett, IL. The wedding is being planned for October.

Coming in August, Illinois State University, Heartland Community College, and Wesleyan College will be resuming classes. Both new and returning students are welcome to join our services for the day as well as a welcome dinner on August 16 at 4:00.

Illinois, Bradford
Roseann Stahl, Sandi Joos
“Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.” Romans 12:15

This past month we have had both times of rejoicing and times of weeping. During these times we are bound together as a congregation and the body of Christ.

“I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.” Psalm 139:14

Bro. Dennis and Sis. Becky Pyles welcomed a grandson, Wade Denver. His parents are Steve and Shannon Varga, Kitchener, Ontario. He also has a big sister, Sofia.

Another grandson was welcomed by Bro. Keith and Sis. Ida Kellenberger with the arrival of Chance Neal. Chance’s parents are Neil and Flerida Kellenberger.

Bro. Jordan Elsasser also had a grandson born. Will Jordan was welcomed by parents, Matt and Becky Elsasser.

June 27 was the wedding day of Andy Kieser (Bro. Robb and Sis. Kelly) and Megan Bess. We pray for the Lord’s blessing on their marriage.

“Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.” John 14:27

We rejoice in the announcement that Lucas Herrmann (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Lavonne, Princeville, IL) has found peace.

We are thankful to have brothers and sisters to serve in teaching our children. Our new Sunday School teachers are Bro. Chad Joos (Sis. Joanna), Bro. Andrew Klumpp, and Sis. Tracy Kieser (Bro. Matt).

Just as we are thankful for those who teach our young, we are also thankful to have visiting ministers. Bro. Glen Steiner (Sis. Rachel, Winthrop, MN) served us this past month.

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” 2 Timothy 2:15

Even though we weep, we rejoice for retired ministering Bro. Nathan Stoller who was laid to rest. We are appreciative of the many years Bro. Nate served us on our pulpit. Our prayers and love remain with his wife, Sis. Martha, as well as his children: Sis. Vicki Leuthold (Bro. Chuck, Lester, IA), Sis. Teresa Gudeman (Bro. Brad), and Bro. Nathan Stoller (Sis. Sherrill).

“Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;” Ephesians 6:18

Bro. Keith Kellenberger spent several days in the hospital. We are very thankful to have him assembling with us again.

Illinois, Champaign
Sarah Fehr

This month has been filled with the usual summer activities we enjoy as a church. The Sunday School picnic was held on Sunday, June 28.

Our VBS this year was entitled, “I Spy: Godly Character Clues,” and was held July 6-10. The lessons included examples of Biblical character traits such as
kindness, patience, faithfulness, and courage. Bro. Matthew Rassi gave an all-church Bible study on the final evening. God bless all who planned and helped, as well as the students who attended! Food for spiritual thought: “God and man exist for each other and neither is satisfied without the other.” 
A. W. Tozer

Illinois, Chicago
Diana Eisenmann

Greetings from Chicago! In June we held our annual Vacation Bible School. We appreciate the ministering brothers who made the effort to come and share Bible Study topics with us while the children learned about “Building Character Like Christ.” Bro. Tim Wiegand (Sis. Christa, Leo, IN) spoke about Obedience, Bro. Jeremiah Psinas (Morton, IL) on Humility, Bro. Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue, Detroit, MI) on Boldness, and Bro. Kevin Knapp (Sis. Dixie, Bloomington, IL) presented on Caring. Thanks also to the VBS committee and many volunteers for all that you did to make VBS week a success!

We welcome Rick Schmidt from Denver, CO, who has moved to Chicago for work and Sis. Leah Lehman (Wolcott, IN) as she begins her culinary schooling.

We rejoice with Tony Cardenas (Sis. Cristela) and his family as he begins his new life in Christ. We wish him God’s grace and direction throughout his repentance.

Please remember Sis. Lois Metzger (Bro. Boyd) in your prayers through her ongoing battle with cancer.

Illinois, Cissna Park

Janie Waldbeser, Sandy Rudin

“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved”
Acts 4:12

We are thankful to have three more souls turn their backs to the world and come in repentance. Amanda Eisenmann (Bro. Steve & Sis. Cheryl) and Justin & Trevor Kaeb (Bro. Todd & Sis. Val). We pray God can work in their lives and they can experience true conversion through His grace.

We rejoice with Bro. Walter Laubscher (Bro. Walt & Sis. Sylvia) as he gave his testimony and was baptized. We thank Elder Bro. Rick Plattner (Fairbury) for assisting with this endeavor.

Other visiting ministers this month were Bro. Mark Gerber (Bluffton) and Bro. David Obergfel (Peoria). May God bless them.

“The final heartbeat for the Christian is not the mysterious conclusion to a meaningless existence. It is, rather, the grand beginning to a life that will never end.” -James Dobson

Several deaths have affected the lives of loved ones in our congregation. Sis. Martha Walder (Rittman, OH) was the sister-in-law of Bro. Les Walder, Sis. Dorothy Walder, and Sis. Wilma Walder. Also Bro. Bob Walder (Sis. Gloria, Congerville) passed away. He was the brother of Bro. Les Walder, and brother-in-law of Sis. Dorothy Walder and Sis. Wilma Walder. Our Bro. Steve Miller suddenly passed into Eternity. He is survived by two sisters, Cheryl Miller (Manteno, IL) and Mary Lou (Steve) Jaeger (Freeport, FL), his aunt, Sis. Betty Obergfel (Peoria) and several nieces and nephews. We will miss Bro. Steve and his kindness shared with others. We are so thankful he could give his life to the Lord and have that precious hope of eternal life with our Lord and Savior.

Bro. Les & Sis. Marilyn Maul have both submitted to surgery this month. Sis. Caroline Gudeman has had some health issues. Also, Shayna Walder (Bro. Nathan & Sis. Denise) spent a few days in the hospital for seizures. We are thankful God has provided strength and healing as only He can. May they feel the prayers of those that love them.

We had our annual Sunday School/Church picnic at the Fellowship Hall instead of the park because of rainy weather. After singing some songs, our younger grade students handed out appreciation flowers, which was exciting for them.

Sis. Marilyn Knapp has moved to Autumn Fields Adult Community Center in Hoopeston, IL. Her new address is 325 E. Orange St., Hoopeston, IL, 60942. We pray for her as she adjusts to her new home.
We are always thrilled to announce the arrival of new babies in our congregation! Thankful for Lincoln Andrew Kaeb are his parents, Bro. Aaron & Sis. Mindy. His grandparents are Elder Bro. Tom & Sis. Karol Stock, and Bro. Hartzell & Sis. Denise Kaeb.

God has again blessed the lives of Bro. Nathan & Sis. Denise Walder with a son, Blake William. He came a little early and had to spend a few days in the hospital, but we are thankful he is home and doing well. Excited siblings are Erica, Kristen, Caleb, Seth, Kara, & Shayna. Grandparents Sis. Velma (late Bro. Steve) Rinkenberger, and Bro. Dennis & Sis. Sharon Walder. Bro. Rod & Sis. Beth Steffen are rejoicing in the birth of a new granddaughter, Ivy Honor Moser, born to Jeff & Gretchen. Excited brothers are Joah, Crew, Oakley, & Madden.

Bro. Eric & Sis. Lou Ann Kaeb are also thankful God has blessed them with another grandson.

Spencer Jayce was born to A.J. & Katrina Nowaczyk. Spencer has a big sister Brielle. May God bless these dear families as they strive to bring their precious children up to know and love Jesus!

Illinois, Congerville
Erica Steffen

“Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;” Ephesians 5:20

Thankfulness is a topic we often focus on around November when we celebrate Thanksgiving with our loved ones. Thanksgiving has come early to the Congerville church, as we have certainly had a lot to be thankful for this month.

We are thankful for the Lord providing peaceful and pure hearts in five of our dear converts who are now preparing for their testimonies and baptisms scheduled for August 8 and 9 and September 19 and 20. These dear souls are Jacob Roth (Bro. Mark and Sis. Tammy), Codee McClure (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Marilyn), Caleb Schrock (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Rachel), Samuel Steiner (Bro. Dave and Sis. Sandy), Nate Zobrist (Bro. Mike and Sis. Susie).

We are also thankful that our dear Retired Elder Bro. Bob Walder is “Safe in the Arms of Jesus,” after his passing on July 9. Although we mourn the loss of one of our churches leaders and their example to us of longsuffering, we rejoice in believing that he fought the good fight of faith. Our prayers are with his beloved wife, Sister Gloria and their family, including our Bro. Brad (Sis. Carla) and their family.

Thankfulness is also one of the best ways to express our joy over the installation of two more ministers for our church. The Lord has moved among us and called out Bro. Jay Steffen (Sis. Melinda) and Bro. Mark Roth (Sis. Tammy) to serve in the pulpit ministry. We hope they continue to feel the prayers of the church as they begin this journey, trusting in the Holy Spirit to provide for their every need. It is a blessing to see the heart of service these brothers have and their willingness to labor for the Lord.

And as always, we continue to be thankful to our visiting ministers who share in the labors of our ministers and are also experienced mentors for our ministers who are new to this calling. Brothers this month include, Ron Paitto (Sis. Lynell, Akron), Mark Zimmerman (Sis. Cheryl, Eureka), Tom Leman (Denver), Bruce Frank (Sis. Bonita, Cicero Park), Les Kaeb (Sis. Christine, Francesville), Ed Fritz (Washington), Ordained Deacon Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata), and Ted Witzig, Jr. (Sis. Donna, Morton).

Illinois, Elgin
Amy Gasser

We appreciated the visiting ministers who came to serve us in the past month. They included Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington, IL); Bros. Ned Bahler (Fairbury, IL), Jesse Bedolla (Detroit, MI), Dale Frank (Oakville-Mediapolis, IA), and Dan Cargill and Stan Schambach (both of Prescott, AZ).

A memorial service for Jim Rager was held at the Elgin church on June 27. He was a resident at Highland Oaks (formerly Apostolic Christian Resthaven), for a few years and has family connections in our congregation. We extend sympathy to his wife, Jane, and her family.

Sis. Kathy Stefan has been in our prayers, as she has been
diagnosed with lung cancer. She was recently hospitalized and is currently at Rosewood Care Center in Elgin.

Bro. Greg and Sis. Heather Schambach welcomed their second daughter, Blakelyn June, on July 18. Addison is her big sister. Her grandparents are Bro. Gary and Sis. Lois Steffen and Bro. Les and Sis. Alison Schambach.

We are thankful to have been spared of major damage from recent storms that have occurred not far from us.

“Come now, ye great, before Jehovah,
Bring honor to His Majesty!
His mighty voice is heard with thunder;
Sink down into the dust and pray!
The mighty God shows forth His power,
The thunders roll in clouds on high;
His lightning flashes on the waters,
And sudden torrents from the sky.”
God’s Power Revealed in the Clouds, Zion’s Harp #67, Verse 1

Illinois, Eureka
Debra Blunier, Linda Rocke

Travel is a blessing, but coming home has a special sweetness. Hearing many greetings given by our members who have visited other congregations while on trips this summer, reminds us of the joyous homecoming we can anticipate in heaven someday. How we long to greet one another there, when our life’s journeys are complete!

Appreciating the ministering brothers who willingly serve us, we thank Bro. Don Manz (Sis.

Connie, Junction, OH), Bro. Dale Frank (Sis. Christine, Oakville-Mediapolis), and Bro. Brad Gudeman (Sis. Teresa, Bradford).

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Clara Huber at the death of her son-in-law, Bro. Bob Walder (Sis. Gloria, Congerville). Also, we offer condolences to the family of Bro. Roy Hangartner (Sis. Norma, dec.). He was brother-in-law to Sis. Elizabeth Blunier (Bro. Sam, dec.) and Bro. Bob and Sis. Charlene Schumacher.

Notes of Thanks:

The family of Sis. Evelyn Gudeman wish to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, and gifts of love. She had a special love for the children in our church family. Many experienced her love in her Sunday School class or visits to her home.

We wish to express our deep appreciation and thanks to everyone for prayers, visits, cards, gifts, and food provided for our family during our loved one’s illness and passing. The Lord has given comfort to us through you, our dear church family and Brethren. May you feel His rich blessings for your labors of love.

In Christian love, The Eli Fisher family: Sis. Helen, Floyd and Janet Frieden, and family

Blessings to each one who made my 70th birthday so memorable! The many cards, gift, luncheon, and dinner were so special. Thank you so much! Sis. Kathy Leman (Bro. Mike)

Illinois, Fairbury
Angela Herr, Janelle Stoller

“Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord…” Psalm 127:3

Shad Landon joined the family circle of Bro. Kyle and Sis. Alicia Steidinger on July 1. Jack, Tate, and Laryn are excited to have another little brother to love. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Anna Schmidgall and Bro. Randy and Sis. Dawn Steidinger.

Our annual Sunday School Picnic was held on June 28 which marks the end of the Sunday School term. We would like to thank Bro. Ryan Hartman (Sis. Lori) and Sis. Sara Steidinger (Bro. Ted) for their years of service in Sunday School. We offer our prayers and support to Bro. Joel Plattner (Sis. Amber) and Sis. Lisa Herr as they begin teaching our youth. May God bless each one of them for their labors of love.

“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.” Jesus Knows Thy Sorrow, Hymns of Zion #74, verse 1

Our hearts were saddened to hear of the death of Natasha Stewart on June 22. We extend our deepest sympathy to her family, including her parents: Bro. Kirby Knapp and Gwen Knapp, and grandparents: Sis. Laura Knapp (Bro. Glenn, dec.) and Bro. Merle Kaisner (Sis. Marge, dec.).
We were also grieved at the loss of Deann Steidinger who passed away unexpectedly on July 18. We pray that God will comfort her loved ones including her husband, Dave, and her children: Debbie Vaughan (Steve), Dayton (Teresa), Bro. Daniel, Darrel (Shannon), Davida Moreland (Tony), Derrick (Joslyn), and Dustin (Cyndi), as well as her many grandchildren. She also leaves behind four sisters: Diane Harris, Donna Masching (Bill), Sis. Darlene Steidinger (Bro. Eldon), and Doris Willis. We also extend our sympathy to Ruth Steidinger (Maurice, dec.) and Bro. Tom Steidinger (Sis. Dianne) in the loss of their sister-in-law.

Bro. Duane Kilgus (Sis. Arlene) has experienced a lengthy stay in the hospital and is now recuperating at a rehabilitation center in Peoria. We continue to lift up Bro. Duane and his family in prayer during this difficult time. Our thoughts and prayers have also been with Sis. Mary Beth Maurer as she recuperates from knee surgery.

We were thankful to have Bro. Zach Anderson (Congerville, IL), Bro. Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN), and Bro. Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL) worship and minister to us this past month. May God richly bless them for preaching God’s Word.

**Note of Thanks:**

We would like to thank everyone for the sympathy cards, phone calls, food, flowers, and, most of all, your prayers after Natasha’s sudden death. We are so thankful for our beloved church family. May God bless every kind deed. The family of Natasha Knapp Stewart

**Illinois, Forrest**

**Carissa Knapp, Shannon Brown**

We are rejoicing with Bro. Ron and Sis. Vicki Mueller as their son, Reagan, begins his repentance. It is such an encouragement to see the Lord working in the lives of souls.

Congratulations on the engagement of our Bro. Trevor Edelman (Bro. Karl & Sis. Bethany) and our Sis. Amanda Zimmerman (Bro. Kent & Sis. Paulette). Also announcing their engagement are our Bro. Pete Zimmerman (Bro. Kent & Sis. Paulette) and Sis. Jolene Wiegand (Bro. Andy & Sis. Vicki) from Eureka. Another blessing to see how God is working in His children’s lives!

Bro. Colin and Sis. Lynelle Steidinger and big sisters, Montana and Makynli, welcome Hadley Grace into their family. Grandparents are Bro. Ray and Sis. Shelly Steidinger and Bro. James and Sis. Brenda Fehr (Tremont, IL). Another precious addition to our church family is Claire Avery, born to Bro. Seth and Sis. Renee Leman. Her siblings are Sophie, Kyson, and Kaden. Grandparents are Bro. Jay and Sis. Brenda Hartman (Congerville, IL) and Kevin and Nita Grimm (Sabetha, Kansas).

“Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward.” Psalm 127:3

Many thanks to the visiting ministers who shared God’s word. They are Bros. Darren Fehr (West Bend, IA), Mark Steiner and Marvin Zollinger (Smithville, OH), Stephen Baner (Gridley, IL), Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL) and Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Lacrosse, IN). May God be your rich rewarder.

Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with our Bro. John Eisenmann (Sis. Bev) as he was back in the hospital again. Krista Leman (Earl) had hip replacement surgery and is home recovering. We pray they both will have a good recovery.

**Illinois, Goodfield**

**Kayla Wiegand, Melissa Rokey**

We rejoice with Marisa Herrmann (Bro. Ross & Sis. Kitty) as she has turned her life over to the Lord in repentance. May she feel God’s nearness and grace. We are so thankful that God is still patient and calling souls to repentance and conversion.

The wedding date for Emily Wiegand and Martin Thompson was July 11. We wish them much joy and blessings on their life together.

We are thankful to announce the engagement of our dear Bro. Jake Rokey to Sis. Autumn Hohulin from Denver. As you know Bro. Jake is the son of Bro. Ben and Sis. Shelly and is currently living in Prescott, AZ. Sis. Autumn is the daughter of Bro. Doug & Sis. Sharolyn Hohulin from Denver. We pray the Lord will bless their union together.
Thanks to all who helped put on the Father-Son camp-out. In spite of the rain, a great time was had by everyone.

June 28 was the end of the year Sunday School picnic at the Fellowship Hall. Again, in spite of the rain, a great time was had by everyone.

We have a lengthy list of loved ones in need of prayers regarding their health. Sis. Sarah Melton had eye surgery to remove fluid from behind her retina. Bro. Roy Wyss (Sis. Shirley) is back home and recovering nicely from heart surgery. Bro. Ed Wiegand (Joanne) had health trouble with kidney stones. Our dear loved one, Mark Friedrich, underwent surgery. Our dear loved one, Mark Friedrich, underwent surgery. Our dear loved one, Mark Friedrich, underwent surgery. Our dear loved one, Mark Friedrich, underwent surgery.


At the present time, we have 12 converts. And we thank God that His voice is still heard. We encourage our ministers to sound the call of repentance. We further encourage our brothers and sisters to walk on faithful pathways as a testimony to the unconverted.

Our church remodeling continues, and as of this writing we are meeting both on Sundays and Wednesday evenings in the church Fellowship Hall. Hopefully, this will be a temporary situation until the remodeling is finished. Much progress has been made.

Bro. Jerry and Sis. Ada Christensen observed their 50th wedding anniversary, having married on July 24, 1965. Thanks be to God for their many years together.

The times are perilous, both nationally and internationally, with much unrest and changing morals. Yet, God promises to be with the faithful. “My grace is sufficient for thee.” 2 Corinthians 12:9. We can read of an important exhortation: “Be watchful, and strengthen the things that remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found your works complete before God.” Revelation 3:2

**Illinois, Morton**

*Annette Tanner, Julie Bahr*

We appreciate and are thankful that Bro. Eric Givens (Sis. Debbie) Princeville, presented our Family Worship Topic “Great Escapes in the Bible”- Samson. PRIDE became Samson’s terrible downfall! So often we struggle with pride of our flesh. I heard one time that the real meaning to describe our “FLESH” is to strike off the ‘H’ and spell the remainder of the word backward, resulting in “SELF” - which could also be our downfall, just like Samson.

Our Morton church family experienced the loss of many loved ones this past month. We extend our love and sympathy to each one!

Sis. Diane Grimm grieved the loss of her dear brother, Dean Grimm.

Sis. Eunice Wuthrich experienced the loss of her brother-in-law, Lowell Wuthrich. Lowell was also an uncle to Bro. Mark Wuthrich (Sis. Cheryl) and Sis. Pam Heinold (Bro. Mike).

Our Sis. Betty Yergler grieved the loss of her dear sister, Florence Noe, Metamora.
Sis. Becky Grimm (Bro. Mark) has our love and sympathy in the passing of her dear father, Bro. Stan Hodel, Roanoke.

Sis. Lynn Roeschley (Bro. Steve) also has our love and sympathy in the passing of her dear mother, Sis. Irene Lehman, Sabetha. Sis. Irene was also a grandmother to Sis. Stephanie Heinold (Bro. Clint) and Sis. Gina Tanner (Bro. Curt).

We wish to extend our sympathy to one of our ACHH residents, Keith Weyeneth in the passing of his mother, Sis. Leona Weyeneth, Roanoke.

Bro. Jan and Sis. Glenda Neukomm were blessed with a new little granddaughter, Josephine Eliza, born to Alex and Brittany Neukomm.


Illinois, Peoria

Pam Fritzenmeier

Our annual Vacation Bible School was held June 15-18. Guest ministers included Bro. Ryan Hoerr (Sis. Joy, Princeville), Bro. Jon Zeller (Sis. Christine, Morton), Bro. Fred Witzig (Sis. Nancy, Washington), and Bro. Jeff Neihouser (Sis. Sue, Morton). Sincere thanks to all who volunteered their time and talents for our youth. The seed has been planted and they will carry special memories of VBS through the years.

Bro. Mark and Sis. Cathy Kieser are thankful and happy grandparents again. Baby Ethan was born May 27 to Bro. Fred and Sis. Jodi Leman, Roanoke. His big sister and brother are Letty and Noah.

We rejoice with Bro. Austin Knobloch, Princeville, and Sis. Jessica Waibel, as they were united in holy marriage June 21. Their parents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Rose Waibel and Bro. Keith and Sis. Lisa Knobloch, Princeville. Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein (Sis. Linda, Francesville) took part in the wedding service. What a very special way to celebrate Father’s Day!

It is a joy to report three new converts. Alex Hoerr (Mike and Lisa), Abram Meister (Bro. Dan and Sis. Susan), and Lisa Jackson have all made known their desire to kneel at the cross and give their lives to Jesus.

The Sunday school picnic was held in the Fellowship Hall June 28. Everyone had to be flexible and stay indoors due to the rain, but all seemed to have a wonderful time with the food, games, and visiting. Many thanks to all the teachers for your time and energy teaching our children.

We wish to welcome Bro. Dave Beutel to Peoria. He is from Rockville, CT, but has been here in IL for college and has just taken a job in Peoria as a veterinarian.


We would also remember in prayer those dealing with health issues: Sis. Kathy (Bro. Dave) Obergfel; Sis. Beth (Bro. Greg) Herman; Aleah Hartter, infant daughter of Bro. Ben and Sis. Heidi; Sis. Bonnie Bach’s brother, Duane (Barb) Bach; Sis. Nanette David; Bro. Harry (Sis. Loretta) Eisenmann; Mary Funk; Rosalie (Bruce) Johnson; Mary See; Sis. Linda Miller; and Andrea (Aaron) Staley.


Illinois, Princeville

Gloria White, Renee Herrmann

It is always a blessing to have visiting ministers. This month has included Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington, IL), Bro. Ned Stoller (Alto, MI), Bro. Fred Funk (Morton, IL) and Bro. John Steiner (Oakville-Mediapolis, IA).

Many of our congregation traveled to Peoria on June 21 for the wedding of Bro. Austin Knobloch and Sis. Jessica Waibel. The parents are Bro. Keith and
Sis. Lisa Knobloch and Bro. Mike and Sis. Rose Waibel. We welcome Jessica to Princeville and hope she feels our love and support.

"Love, of all gifts, is the greatest which the Spirit does bestow.”
Zion's Harp #37.

Bro. Scott Herrmann and Sis. Jenae Lavallier were united in marriage on June 28. Parents are Bro. Dean and Sis. Dawn Herrmann and Bro. Jim and Sis. Jeanette Lavallier of Gridley, IL. We wish to extend a warm welcome to Jenae.

Sunday, July 12 was the wedding day for Sis. Rhea Berchtold (Bro. David and Sis. Leann) and Bro. Adam Pfaffmann (Bro. Max and Sis. Mary) of Washington, IL. May God richly bless these dear couples in the days and years ahead.

Bro. Michael and Sis. Raquel Herrmann are thankful for the safe arrival of a baby girl, Jamie Lynn, on July 10. She was welcomed home by Nicole and Brice. Grandparents are Bro. Allan and Sis. Rose Herrmann and Bro. Alan and Sis. Mary Ann Knobloch.

Bro. Stan and Sis. Margie Schick are thankful for another grandson. Everett was added to the family of Bro. Loren and Sis. Heidi Kaeb of Alto, MI. Bro. Paul and Sis. Marie Sauder are rejoicing with another grandchild, Sienna Mae, born to Benjamin and Anna Kaiser of Saskatchewan, Canada.

We are very thankful to have Bro. Grant and Sis. Hannah Herrmann and family home from Ixtlan, Mexico. May God be their rich rewarder for their labor of love in serving others.

Bro. Tim and Sis. Denise Kieser had a house fire on Friday, July 17. Thanks be to God all were able to exit the house unharmed. Please remember the family in thought, prayer, word and deed.

**Illinois, Roanoke**

*Barb Schwind, Judy Sauder*

Psalm 116:15 “Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.”

We extend our love and sympathy to those who have had loved ones pass away. Bro. Stan (Sis. Verna) Hodel passed away on June 22. He is also survived by daughters: Sis. Barb Meece (Bro. Mike, Bloomington), Sis. Becky Grimm (Bro. Mark, Morton); and sons: Bro. Dave (Sis. Maxine, Bloomington), Bro. John (Sis. Linda), and Bro. Phil (Sis. Lynne); eleven grandchildren and twenty-seven great grandchildren. Bro. Stan loved music and was the originator and director of the Roanoke church choir, “The Prairie Choristers” for many years.

Mary Jane (Dan) Steffen's mother, Doris Stephens of Roanoke, passed away June 25. Sis. Leona Weyeneth (Bro. Melvin, deceased) passed away on July 9. She is survived by two sons, Keith (Morton), and Bro. Merle (Sis. Mary, Peoria) and two grandsons. Bro. Melvin and Sis. Leona were instrumental in founding Woodford County Special Education Association in the 1950s. I enjoyed hearing stories from those early days from Bro. Mel and Sis. Leona.

Nina Rodgers of Manito, mother of Sis Janice Braker (Bro. Kevin) passed away July 16.


We thank the visiting ministers, who so kindly encouraged us: Bro. Matt Kaufman (Bloomington), Bro. Dennis Kaufman (Bloomington), Bro. Dale Zeltwanger (Morris North), Bro. Jon Zeller (Morton), Bro. Steve Baner (Gridley) and Bro. Bill Schick (Magdalena).

Our Sunday School students eagerly anticipate the Sunday School picnic, which was held June 28 at Roanoke Park. We thank all the Sunday School teachers, who so faithfully share Jesus with our young people throughout the year.

We rejoice with Briana Yordy (Bro. Scott and Sis. Mandy), who gave her testimony and was baptized July 11-12. The Yordy family is serving with MEBSH in Haiti.

Eli Durand (Tom and Sis. Marsha) has begun his walk with the Lord.

Our prayers are with Nolan Blunier (Bro. Ray and Sis. Wendy), who left July 13 to serve with the US Army in Germany.

We continue to pray for those with health challenges, Bro. Dennis (Sis. Rita) Schwind, Sawyer Kaufman, and Bro. Gordon (Sis. Karen) Presley.
Bro. Keith and Sis. Hannah Wettstein welcomed a daughter, Lainey Jean, on June 27. Thankful grandparents are Sis. Janet Knepp and Bro. Gary and Sis. Elna Wettstein. We pray for God’s blessings on little Lainey and her family.

Children throughout our nation are returning to school and Sunday school for a new year of classes. We pray for teachers, Sunday School teachers, and parents as they work with the students.

The Builder
“A builder builded a temple,  
He wrought it with grace and skill;  
Pillars and groins and arches  
All fashioned to work his will.  
Men said, as they saw its beauty,  
It shall never know decay.  
Great is thy skill, O Builder!  
Thy fame shall endure for aye.

A teacher builded a temple  
With loving and infinite care,  
Planning each arch with patience,  
Laying each stone with prayer.  
None praised her unceasing efforts,  
none know of her wondrous plan,  
for the temple the teacher builded  
Was unseen by the eyes of man.  
Gone is the builder’s temple,  
Crumbled into the dust.  
Low lies each stately pillar,  
Food for consuming rust.  
But the temple the teacher builded  
Will last while the ages roll,  
For that beautiful unseen temple  
Was a child’s immortal soul.”

-Author unknown

Illinois, Tremont
Teresa Rowell, Janice Sauder

We were privileged to have four visiting ministers here on the same weekend, a weekend filled with blessings and the baptisms of four dear souls. Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Sis. Jeannine, Mansfield, OH), Bro. Matt Steffen (Sis. Deanna, Princeville), Bro. Ryan Hoerr (Sis. Joy, Princeville), and Bro. Barry Dietz (Sis. Rachel, Bradford) preached the Word to us. How thankful we are that there are brothers willing to stand before us Sunday after Sunday and speak God’s truth.

We welcome Sis. Angie Koch (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Cathy), Bro. Logan Sauder (Bro. Jim and Sis. Rachel), Bro. Jacob Rassi (Bro. John and Sis. Heather), Bro. Thad Steiner (Bro. Todd and Sis. Valerie), and Sis. Debbie Sauder (Bro. Dave and Sis. Joanna) into our brotherhood. We are thankful for souls that are still coming to the Lord in repentance and becoming converted.

We have had many babies born this month. Bro. Jon and Sis. Nichole Zimmerman welcome Mya Marie into their family. Eli is excited to be a big brother. Bro. Todd and Sis. Rita Kilgus are Mya’s grandparents. Bro. James and Sis. Brenda Fehr are grandparents again. Bro. Colin and Sis. Lynelle, Makynli and Montana Steidinger (Fairbury, IL) have Hadley Grace to love and adore. Bro. Pete and Sis. Debbie Aberle have two darling grandsons to love and cherish. Ryan and Courtney, Khloe, Karter, and Kyler Aberle welcome Kamden Jay. Royce, Kirsten and Loren Aberle welcome Liam Jonathan. Happy grandparents Bro. Howard and Sis. Janice Sauder welcome Madison Janice into their family. Madison’s parents and siblings are Mark and Ashley, Reuben, Vienna, and Victoria Sauder (Oneida, WI). Cecelia Louise was born to Jill Wagenbach. Her grandparents are Sis. Lavonne and the late Bro. Si Wagenbach. May these parents teach these little ones to love Jesus.

Mark Zuercher (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Kathy) and Amy Donaldson were united in marriage. We wish them God’s richest blessings as they begin their new life together. Bro. Larry and Sis. Barb Reinbeck’s sister-in-law, Nancy Reinbeck (Princeton, IL), passed away. May God comfort all those who are sorrowing from loss of loved ones.

Illinois, Washington
Kendra Funk, Patricia Knapp

We were blessed with willing servants visiting us this month, Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen, Kansas City, MO), Bro. Gerry Wagenbach (Sis. Bonnie, Mediapolis-Oakville, IA), Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Tamara, Wolcott, IN) and Bro. Steve Baner (Sis. Donna Lou, Gridley, IL).

We rejoice with Bro. Adam Pfaffmann and Sis. Rhea Berchtold (Princeville, IL) as they were united in marriage and became one in the Lord on July
12. Their parents are Bro. Max and Sis. Mary Pfaffmann and Bro. David and Sis. Leann Berchtold. We welcome Sis. Rhea to our Washington congregation.

Our prayers of comfort to Joe Baker (Sis. Karen) in the loss of his mother, Georgine Baker, also Bro. Luke (Sis. Natalie) and Sis. Tara Prather (Bro. Dave). We know will miss their grandma.

We continue to pray for healing, comfort and strength for Sis. Linda Folkerts. Our hearts were warmed to see her assemble with us again.

Bro. Larry and Sis. Marilyn Leman welcomed another granddaughter, Keira Marie, born to Bro. Tim and Sis. Traci Leman from Eureka.

Indiana, Bluffton
Suzie Fiechter, Kim Meyer

Greetings of love from Bluffton! We’ve had a blessed month of trusting, changing and growing with God. Much rain brought us flooding of many fields and some homes. We are so thankful to trust our loving Father who knows our every need and provides the best for us, sometimes in spite of our desires for momentary ease and happiness.

We are rejoicing with the angels in Heaven over those who have come to Jesus in repentance. May He strengthen Leah Agler (Sis. Pam) and Janean Steffen (Bro. Tom and Sis. Lyn)!

Sis. Brooke Fiechter (Bro. Don and Sis. Suzie) was united in marriage to Bro. Doug Harmon (Bro. Doug and Sis. Lanna) of Toledo. We also celebrated the wedding of Bro. Troy Fiechter (Elder Bro. Lynn and Sis. Ronda) and Sis. Alexa Baller (Bro. Todd and Sis. Shelly). Bro. Doug and Sis. Brooke are living in Toledo. Bro. Troy and Sis. Alexa will worship with our brethren in West Lafayette, as Bro. Troy is employed in that area. We miss both of these vibrant young couples and pray that God will richly bless their new homes, and that they will come home to Bluffton often!

We have also said good bye to Bro. Todd, Sis. Teresa and Bro. Trent Earney who have moved to the Wolcott area. Todd is working with World Relief and now they are blessed to be near their children and grandchildren, Bro. Tyler and Sis. Michelle and family. Bro. Bruce and Sis. Lisa Aschliman have accepted the caretaker role at the Tennessee Fellowship Area. They will be worshipping with our Athens brethren. May God be with them!

We’ve been blessed this month to learn more from Bro. Jon and Sis. Amy Gerst about their work in Ethiopia, as well as from Bro. Nathan and Sis. Rachel Mueller, who will soon be “making Jesus famous” in Paupa New Guinea. Also, we were thrilled to have our Bro. Seth Gerber (Magdalena) home for a visit. It’s exciting to be able to pray and partner with them, as well as with our other missionaries, as they do God’s work and make Him known in other cultures!

“God be with you till we meet again;
By His counsels guide, uphold you,
With His sheep securely fold you;
‘Neath His wings protecting hide you,
Daily manna still provide you;
When life’s perils thick confound you,
Put His arms unfolding round you;
Smite death’s threat’ning wave before you,
God be with you till we meet again.” God Be With You,
Hymns of Zion, #216

Our ministering brothers work tirelessly to serve us and we thank them!! Traveling to Bluffton this month were Elder Bro. Art and Sis. Bonnie Ingold of Rittman, Bro. Doug and Sis. Lanna Harmon of Toledo, Bro. Mark and Sis. Alice Ramsier of Sardis, Bro. Doug and Sis. Lillian Wagenbach of San Diego, and Bro. Neal and Sis. Kris Widmer of West Lafayette.


Indiana, Bluffton North
Corinne Stettner, Amy Moser

“Is my life a battleship for His purpose or a cruise ship for my pleasure?”

Our congregation was blessed with two births this month. Bro. Blake and Sis. Taye Fiechter became first-time parents with the arrival of Stowe Priye on

Drew Shively (Bro. Andy and Sis. Cindy) shared his desire to be a member of our Apostolic Christian Church. Drew made a commitment to follow the Lord in 2011, but has sensed the Lord leading him to join our church and enjoy the fellowship, accountability, and prayer support.

In mid-June, Sis. Cindy Geisel (Bro. Stan) fell and broke her knee. She would appreciate prayers of healing as she is supposed to be off of her feet for 8-10 weeks.

Indiana, Francesville

Jacki Huber, Mildred Clauss

“Be Still, My Soul!” In these days of busy, sometimes nonstop activity, finding a place of quietness before God is priceless. We were encouraged to find this place of quietness on one of the nights of VBS. We wish to thank the visiting ministers who shared with us that week. They were Brothers John Reinhard (Sis. Pam, Bluffton, IN), Rick Kaisner (Sis. Michelle, Chicago, IL), Clint Schmidt (Sis. Magdalena, Winthrop, MN) and Harvey Kaeb (Sis. Judy, Gridley, IL).

We have enjoyed having Fernando Santillana of Monterrey, Mexico with us this past school year. Fernando (Fer) stayed with Bro. Les and Sis. Christine Kaeb and family as a part of the Foreign Exchange Student program. Our prayers are with him and his family as he has returned to Mexico. As he returned to Mexico, Bro. Jan and Sis. Val Gutwein and their family have come back to Francesville for an extended visit from Haiti, where they have resided and served for the past years. We are always glad to have them with us!

Kaitlyn and Jacob Podell welcomed a precious little girl, Lanie Ann, into their family on July 11. Parker is Lanie’s “big” brother. Grandparents Bro. Kevin and Sis. Connie Wuerthrich and Doug and Cheryl Podell of Monticello, IN are also excited to have a new granddaughter!

As we rejoice in a new birth, we extend sympathy to Bro. Dale and Sis. Terri Pelsy and their family in the passing of Terri’s sister, Sharon Huber (Ed) of Pine Village, IN. May the Lord comfort them in their loss, even as they rejoice that her earthly suffering is over.

On a recent Wednesday evening, we met at the Fellowship Center with Brothers John Huber (Sis. Bev) and Kirk Plattner (Sis. Keri, West Lafayette, IN) who serve our congregations through the World Relief office in West Lafayette, IN. They shared about the integration of World Relief and the Missions Committee, and how we can support loved ones who are called to serve in the name of Christ.

Saturday, July 18 was the date Josh Zeltwanger (Bro. Dave and Sis. Kelly) was united in marriage to Chelsea Schultz (John and Susie Schultz of Francesville, IN). We wish this dear couple God’s richest blessings in their lives together.

Indiana, Indianapolis

Nancy Pfeifer, Sandy Lichtle

Blessings to you all. We feel blessed that no one has reported major problems caused by the storms and rains and we rejoice each time the sun comes out.

Paul’s missionary journeys were the topic of study for our Vacation Bible School. He was such a good example of the joy we can have by being a Christian. We are so blessed that God provided a man to do His work and to record it for the future generations. Then He protected it so we can study and learn from it. Praise God.

We rejoice with Bro. Morgan and Sis. Kyra Langhofer. Ariana Rose was born on her big sister Chelise’s birthday, June 17. Emerson is their big brother.

Providing blessings from the pulpit on June 21 were Elder Bro. Tom Waldbeser (Sis. Susan, Peachtree City/Atlanta, GA) and Bro. Kevin Knapp (Sis. Dixie, Bloomington, IL). Then on July 12 Bro. Scott Aberle (Washington, IL) was here with his daughter and provided more blessings. Thank you brothers and sisters for your service.
Kaitlyn Gutwein (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Laura) has peace with God and we will look forward to her testimony and baptism.

The Mission Trip to Magdelena, MX in July included not only the Bible Class, but also some families and singles. It is such a blessing to be of service to God.

Indiana, Lacrosse

Meagan Frank, Julie Rocke

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

What a blessed weekend we had July 18 & 19 as we were able to listen to the testimonies and witness the baptism of Sis. Jaela Gudeman and Bro. Kyler Gudeman (Bro. Owen and Sis. Nicole Gudeman). We were encouraged to have two more young people added to the fold and thoroughly enjoyed the many visitors that came to share the weekend with us. We appreciated the services of Elder Bro. John Jackson (Sis. Peggy, Bay City, MI), as well as Bros. Chris Wuethrich (Sis. Carla, Chicago, IL), Lucas Frank (Sis. Crystal, Detroit, MI), and Jon Pratt (Sis. Sharon, Valparaiso, IN).

Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Sis. Cheryl, Rockville, CT) included us in their travel plans one weekend as they headed to Illinois. Bro. Kent Getz (Sis. Betty, Elgin, IA) and his family spent a Wednesday evening with us, sharing the Word. We thank each of them for their willingness to serve the Lord on our behalf.

While we are thankful to report no major illnesses, we will mention that our thoughts are with Jesslyn Gudeman who experienced a bike accident recently and ended up with some stitches on her arm.

We want to extend birthday wishes to Wayne and Rose Moser who turned 90 and 85 respectively this month.

May each be blessed with a renewed sense of thankfulness and devotion to our Lord and Savior, and remember to have an “Attitude of Gratitude.” We thank each of you who has made LaCrosse a part of your travel plans during these busy summer months. Each and every visitor is a blessing, indeed.

Indiana, Leo

Kirby Reutter

“Do the work of an evangelist—make full proof of thy ministry!” 2 Timothy 4:5

Question 1: Did you ever wonder about the variety of ministers who visit Leo, Indiana?

Question 2: Did you ever wonder what goes through a couple’s mind as they consider serving at Gateway Woods?

Question 3: Did you ever wonder where the greatest mission work usually takes place?

Answer 1: This is a recent sampling of visiting ministers: Bro. Dan Cargill (Prescott); Bro. Ron Messner (Washington); Bro. Mark Gerber (Bluffton); Bro. Seth Gerber (Magdelena); Bro. John Jackson (Bay City); Bro. Gary Maibach (Smithville); Bro. Tom Klotzle (Altadena); Bro. Randy Gudeman (Francesville); and Bro. Art Mueller (Belvidere; honorable mention—please see below). Some of these brothers have frequent flyer miles on the Leo pulpit. Some of these brothers graced, traced, and paced the Leo pulpit for the first time in history. But all of these brothers shared one common thread, a passionate peal and plea for the precious gospel!

Answer 2: I recently asked a newly-hired House Parent couple how they felt led to consider coming to serve at Gateway Woods. Sis. Karla Zimmerman (Bro. Jesse) proceeded to email me an 8-page response (single-spaced). I immediately thought to myself: “Oh dear. If I re-print all of this, this time I will get fired for sure.” Therefore, I decided to extract just a few of my favorite excerpts (subheadings added):

Intro: “We are so excited to be a part of the Gateway team and to get this opportunity to work with the kids here, but we are also sad to leave friends and family, and apprehensive as we think about all the changes that will be taking place over the next few months and even years. We know God is
calling us to this ministry and we feel so peaceful about it in Him. We appreciate all the prayers and support and are excited to get our Forrest church involved with the mission at Gateway Woods.”

Flash Back: “It was on Sunday, September 28 that God changed my heart to the idea of Gateway. The person that does the interviews/hiring at Gateway came to Fairbury for a wedding and we were there also. Seeing him brought Gateway to the front of our minds and then both services spoke directly to us. They spoke a lot about holding on too tight to the things of this life and being willing to let go of everything for Christ. Also the minister talked a lot about being willing to get outside our own little bubble and allowing God to use us for His purposes. The minister said he doesn’t want to guilt us into doing services for Christ, but he wants us to just be aware that when God puts an opportunity in front of us, we should be willing to take it and let Him use us in it.”

“Over the next week, we discussed going to Gateway and what that would mean for us in leaving our family and friends and our job and home and everything we know. It was scary to think about all the changes that would take place. On a Friday, Jesse and I took a trip to Bloomington. As we drove, we talked about all the changes, if this really would happen. It was so hard for me to think about him leaving the farm and us leaving everything. Were we really willing to give up our comfortable life to go somewhere unfamiliar if God would ask?”

Fast Forward: “One Wednesday night, Bro. Art Mueller from Belvidere visited Forrest church and had the service. His sermon was about mission work over the years and what the Bible says about it. It pretty much summed up everything we had been discussing, reading, and counseling about—and tied everything into a perfect little package. The key points that stuck out to us were as follows: ‘We need to take up the cross of Christ and not just live the life of ease. Christ calls us to bear our cross for Him. We are commissioned by Jesus to tell others about Salvation. We are also told to “feed” the sheep. We cannot just tell others about Christ, but must also put in time and energy to feed them and help them grow in Christ so they don’t continue living in sin once they believe in God. There are many ways to do mission work and they can all be right. Rather than judging people for their method of mission, we need to just do something. Both can be right and we can learn from each other. To tell others about Salvation and living for Christ, we need to be in unity and be an example in our own lives, marriage, family, and church. Mission work needs to be done in humility. We can’t become prideful, thinking we are better than someone else for the mission work God is doing through us. Without God we can do nothing.’”

Conclusion: “After this sermon, Jesse and I both felt peaceful about Gateway. We know it is God calling and although it seems impossible, we are trusting that He will give us the faith and the grace to make this move and do this work. We are so excited to be a part of Gateway and to work with the kids there. We hope that you can be prayerful for us as we make this transition and that we can feel your love and support. We have been so blessed by all our church family, friends, and family.”

Answer 3: As two former House Parent couples will attest, sometimes the greatest missionary work of all is conducted right around our own kitchen table. We rejoice with Bro. Bruce and Sis. Heather Drayer as well as Bro. Chad and Sis. Kristy Kaeb at the baptisms of their precious Daughters of the King: Kelsey Kaeb and Dayla Drayer.
Indiana, Milford  
**Jodi Beer, Minnie Beer**  
“There is beauty all around,  
When there's love at home;”  
Hymns of Zion p. 64 v. 1

Bro. Travis Wilson (Jack & Carol, Smithville, OH) and Sis. Anne Beer (Bro. Randy and Sis. Deb) were united in marriage on June 28. We wish them many blessings as they start their life together in Smithville, OH. We were blessed with many visitors that day including ministers: Elder Bro. Vic Bauman (Sis. Brenda, Smithville), Bro. Lucas Frank (Sis. Crystal, Detroit), Bro. John Cottrell (Sis. Gloria, Eureka), Bro. Brett Lanz (Sis. Renee, Rittman), Bro. Daren Metz (Sis. Rita, Gridley), Bro. Chris Laukhuf (Sis. Rachel, Latty), Bro. Earl Beery (Sis. Susie, Rittman), Bro. Gary Maibach (Sis. Mary Ann, Smithville), and Bro. Bob Riggenbach (Sis. Lori, Rittman).

On other Sundays, we appreciated having Bro. Todd Sinn (Sis. Janet, Latty), and Bro. Glen Steiner (Sis. Rachel, Winthrop) bring forth God’s Word. God’s blessings to each one!

Bro. Regg and Sis. Bev Beer were blessed with the arrival of Colton Jones. His big brothers are Tucker and Cooper. Grandparents are Bro. Fred and Sis. Pat Beer and Elder Bro. Bill and Sis. Emily Schlatter (Junction, OH). Bro. Dan and Sis. Deb Beer are thankful for another granddaughter. Lois Ann was born to Jason and Jenny Furrer.

An evening of fellowship was enjoyed at our annual Church/Sunday School Picnic.

Indiana, Remington  
**Jenni Honeygar, Marcella Tyler**

We want to thank visiting minister Bro. Ed Fritz from Washington, IL for sharing the Word this month. We always appreciate both his willingness and his wisdom.

Our hospital patients this month were Bro. Greg Schneider (Sis. Heidi) and Sis. Diane Isabell (Bro. Phil). Please remember to be prayerful for them as they seek treatment and healing.

We are very thankful to report that convert Nelson Knobloch (Bro. Neil and Sis. June) has found the peace that only comes from living for and with our Lord Jesus. Lord willing, we plan to have testimonies and baptisms for Nelson as well as Grant Knobloch (Bro. Neil and Sis. June) and Sophie Getz (Bro. Jason and Sis. Sara) on September 19-20. Please keep these precious converts in your prayers and encourage them in any way you can as they continue to seek the Lord and His way.

We recently had our annual Sunday School picnic. It was enjoyed by all who attended. We thank all the outgoing teachers for their labors of love, and we pray for the incoming and continuing teachers that they will feel God’s nearness and leading as they prepare for and teach their weekly lessons. We also thank our students for their open hearts, and we pray they will be receptive to the Lord’s call whenever it comes.

Our hearts are in sympathy for Dale Tyler (Sis. Marcella) as he mourns the death of his mother, Ada Mae Tyler. Please pray for Dale and his family. May the Lord comfort each of them in their grief.

**Note of thanks:**

We wish to thank you for the many thoughts, prayers, and cards you shared with our family during the loss of Dale’s mother. It is times like this that we feel our church family’s continued support.

Thank you and God bless each one of you. Dale and Sis. Marcella Tyler, Kerry (Tamera Clark) and Sis. Krystal

Indiana, South Bend  
**Joshua Martinez**

“And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.” Jer. 29:13  

Our VBS theme this year was “Explorers Daring and Determined.” Our children learned that God wants us to seek Him and know Him like the early explorers, overcoming adversity and danger to cross oceans and discover new lands. May the Lord bless the efforts of parents and grandparents to make our VBS successful.

We thank Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, LaCrosse, IN) and Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Tamara, Wolcott, IN) for their fellowship and service from the pulpit.

“To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty,
dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.” Jude 1:25

**Indiana, Valparaiso**  
*Sherry Meiss*

We have many new changes here at our Valparaiso Church!

We have new church hours starting at 9:45 A.M. We go into the sanctuary to begin singing. Ministers go on the pulpit at 10:00 A.M. Twice a month we have special singing before church. Come early (9:15 AM) on the first and third Sundays of the month. We will meet downstairs in the fellowship hall.

Our cafeteria is different with round tables and chairs, come worship and dine with us. The work crew that gave willingly of their time to do the yard work deserves a Big Thank You! It was hard work removing old shrubs and replacing them with new, the landscaping looks beautiful. Bro. Lyle Zeltwanger surely has a gift.

Things are in full swing and life gets busier this time of year. I would like to share something with you. It’s Sunday morning and I am rushing around to get things done, deciding what time I need to be at church. Finally, I’m in the car and driving the rural route (or as Aunt Carol calls it the curvy way). My mind is still racing to get there on time when a yellow streak caught my eye. Flying just ahead of me is a beautiful bright yellow finch. How odd for it to be keeping up. Then, as fast as it appeared, it flew to a tree and landed on a branch as if to say hello. I did slow down some and took a deep breath. It is funny how my mind went right back to ‘got to get to church’. Then, up ahead I thought I saw, a red-headed woodpecker. Yes it is. He too flew into my view and landed on a branch, turning his head so I could get a good look at his beauty. Wow, this is a pretty drive. All of a sudden, right around the corner, was a doe, just standing in the middle of the road with her back to me. Now, I really slowed down to just a crawl, hoping to get a better look at this creature. She turns and looks at me, then hops into the brush along the road. Is she gone? As I creep up to where she was, I see her standing in the clearing. Not believing my eyes, I lower my window to get a better look. She turns to look at me as well, flipping her ears, snorting her nostrils and stomping her feet. I had to tell her how beautiful she was and to take care and be safe. Just after saying that, she hopped into the next wooded area and was gone. Oh, thank you Lord for showing me your creation and great beauty! I now drive a little slower and take in His love that is all around me. Leap for joy to Jesus. He is all I need, more than silver or gold.

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Convert Daniel Wagenbach (Bro. Michael and Sis. Erica) has

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**Indiana, West Lafayette**  
*Kris Widmer, Libby Wahl*

We’ve been blessed with summer visitors, among them a mixed group of young single professionals, as well as guest ministers! Our thanks and appreciation for sharing the gospel message this month is extended to Bro. Brad (Sis. Karen) Metz of Bloomington, IL and Elder Bro. Herbie (Sis. Laurie) Knochel of Phoenix, AZ.

Bro. Tyler Knochel currently lives and works in the Lafayette area, so it was wonderful to have his parents visit from Phoenix.

We continue to support in prayer our Bro. Sam (Laura) Holliger as he battles cancer. We also think of Bro. Paul and Sis. Wilma Clauss and Sis. Nancy Christopher who have not been able to worship with us for some time.

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**Indiana, Wolcott**  
*Beckie Lehman, Erica Blume*

This past month was an exciting one for our congregation. We have much reason for rejoicing! David Lehman (Bro. Greg and Sis. Mary Beth) has surrendered his life to God in repentance. We are thankful to see the smile on his face and the joy he has found in this new path! We trust that God has designs to use David’s life for His glory!

Continue to pray for Sis. Marguerite Hoerr, Bro. Mike & Sis. Claudia Thomas, for their health and families, plus, those that are ailing and in need. Don’t forget to pray for each other as well.

If you’re in the area of Valparaiso, IN feel free to stop in and visit. We are just south of US 30 on IN 49.

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been announced for peace and is ready to bring his testimony of peace to the congregation. Plans have been made for Larissa Bahler (Bro. Mike and Sis. Jody) to participate in that same weekend, because she has also expressed her peace with God and man.

Daniel has also finished his high school education and we congratulate him on that accomplishment.

We want to again thank Elder Bros. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Remington), Curt Frank (Sis. Lila, Lacrosse), and Lynn Steiglitz (Sis. Leonda, Leo) for serving our church. They and their wives surely sacrifice much personal time and desires to meet our needs!

**Iowa, Bloomfield**

**Teresa Schock**

Time seems to go so fast. Yet, when we are waiting to go on a vacation or at all ill, it can go so slow. Our prayers have been with Bro. Bill Wuthrich (Sis. Gloria) and Sis. Lynn Townsend (Danny) who have both had surgery.

On June 21, Bros. Virgil Metzger (Sis. Mary, Chicago) and Brad Funk (Sis. Laura, Garden Grove) served us from the pulpit. We also had many other visitors who came for Bro. Joel and Sis. Shirley Wuthrich’s 60th Anniversary. They have been such a good example to all of us.

Bringing forth the Word, July 12, was Bro. Kevin Wulf (Sis. Annie, Morris). We appreciate him coming, as our Elder Bro. Doug was gone again. Maybe next time Bro. Doug and Sis. Clara go to Lamar or Garden Grove you could go with them. He is their elder also, and both small congregations enjoy company. Your support is greatly appreciated and you will be the blessed.

We recently had opportunity to help in our community after a tornado. There was a lot of clean-up and meals to prepare. Someone once said, “Do what you can, while you can.”

**Iowa, Burlington**

**Ivy Steiner, Monica Eisenmann**

Many of us enjoyed our Sunday School picnic in June which was held at Perkins Park. The children look forward to it at the end of the school year and are now having a Sunday School vacation for a few weeks before going into their new grades.

We appreciated a visit from our Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville-Mediapolis) this past month.

We are very thankful for another successful surgery for our dear Sis. Tami Banwart. She has been assembling with us again. Her constant cheerfulness is such an example to us!

We are so pleased to report that Ed Streeter has begun his repentance. Another blessing for our church! We wish him much grace as he begins his walk with God.

**Iowa, Garden Grove**

**Laura Funk**

Greetings from south central Iowa. I’ve heard several people complain about the abundance of rain the Lord has blest us with. I have to think this is a gift from God. We would also complain if God didn’t send the gift of rain. I am thinking, what if God didn’t send the gift of His Son Jesus? There are many who haven’t opened the gift of Jesus, but what if God hadn’t even sent Jesus?!

Devon Funk (son of Bro. Tony and Sis. Eileen) underwent a surgical procedure. We are thankful he is home and doing “fine”.

Visiting ministers this month include Bro. Klint Beyer (Sabetha, KS), Bro. Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL), and Bro. Ed Strahm (Bern, KS). We are thankful for the messages brought by these brothers. We have several people in our congregation that don’t travel much. They very much appreciate the fellowship of visitors.

**Iowa, Iowa City**

**Diana Butikofer**

We are thankful Bro. Kris, Sis. Dixie, Hadley, Bailey, and Kolter Messner are able to assemble with us again. We pray the Lord will continue to bless Kolter’s health as he matures.

Bro. Brad and Sis. Joyce Eland welcomed another granddaughter as Ben and Wendy Weyrick adopted Katie into their family. She joins big sisters and brother, Hope, Spencer, and Natalie.

Our annual College Student Welcome picnic will be after church Sunday, September 20. If you know of anyone attending...
college in the Iowa City area, please let Sis. Connie Gerst know. She would like students’ contact information as well as an RSVP for the picnic. She can be reached at (319) 310-8684.

**Iowa, Lester**

**Audrey Metzger, Joyce Moser**

“These souls betrothed before Thee stand; Thy blessing we implore; Unite Thou them in heart and hand, and guide them evermore.”

*Hymns of Zion #286*

The marriage of Cody Doorneweerd (Bro. Butch and Sis. Kathy) to Shaylynn Masterson was celebrated on Saturday, June 27. We pray that God will truly bless this young couple as they begin their lives together. We welcome Shay into our church fellowship.

We also rejoice with Bro. Sam Meyer (Bro. Denis & Sis. Jill) and Sis. Nicole Barber (Mike and Sis. Donna) who pledged their love in faith on July 19. We ask God’s blessings on their union and pray He will continue to be the center of their marriage!

We are thankful to share the news that Taryn Knoblock (Bro. Troy and Sis. Donna) has found the grace to seek the Lord in repentance and wants to serve Him. We rejoice with her and pray for God’s continuing grace in her conversion.

Several from the Lester church have been hospitalized, including: Bro. Art (Sis. Kristy) Metzger, Bro. Jim (Sis. Lois) Metzger, Sis. Margene (Bro. David) Peasley, Sis. Shirley (Bro. Dennis) Kellenberger, Bro. Lynn “Butch” (Sis. Kathy) Doorneweerd, and Sis. Gladys Knobloch. Our hope for each one is restored good health and God’s help on their way to recovery.

Two new babies became part of our church family this past month! On July 7, a precious little boy, Jaden Jay, joined Bro. Ethan and Sis. Trixie Metzger’s family. Welcoming him into their hearts are his sisters: Erica, Ellie, and Josie. Grandparents are Bro. Wes & Sis Esther Moser and Bro. Harvey & Sis. Mary Metzger. A baby girl, Jada Mae, joined the family circle of Bro. Merlin and Sis. Marilyn Meyer on July 17. Her loving siblings are: Jessica, Erica, Javen, Nicole, Jorden, and Trissa. Grandparents are Bro. Raymond (Pat) and Sis. Twyla Meyer.

We welcome Sis. Janae Mogler (Bro. Dwight and Sis. Donna) “home” as she has moved back to the Lester area after spending some time with the Winthrop, MN congregation.

Sincere sympathy is extended to Bro. Charles and Sis. Vicki Leuthold and all of their family, as Sis. Vicki’s father, Bro. Nate Stoller (Bradford, IL), left this life on July 5 to claim his eternal reward. We have many fond memories of Bro. Nate ministering to us in years past, when they came to visit family in Lester.

We also extend sincere sympathy to Sis. Barbara Reutter on the loss of her husband, Bro. Alfred, who died on July 11. They lived for several years in Bro. Alfred’s home area of Rockville, CT, before moving to the Lester area in 2007. Family surviving Bro. Alfred from Lester are his mother-in-law, Sis. Donna Metzger; brothers-in-law: Bro. Eugene (Sis. Dolores) Metzger, Bro. Dale (Sis. Christine) Metzger, Bro. William (Sis. Charlotte) Metzger, Bro. Marvin (Sis. Joleen) Metzger, and James (late Sis. Linda) Moser; and sisters-in-law: Sis. Eleanor Popkes and Sis. Margene (Bro. David Peasley, and numerous extended family members.

Our Sunday School is in recess for the summer, but when it reconvenes, we have elected the following new teachers: Sis Connie Knoblock, Sis. Rita Knobloch, Bro. Brad Moser, Bro. Jon Blomgren, and Bro. Kevin Knapp. We so appreciate all of the brothers and sisters who devote their time each Sunday to help our young people understand the beloved Bible stories and teachings.

**Iowa, Oakville-Mediapolis**

**Kelsey Banwart, Tami Lanz**

Our annual Father-Son Campout was held June 19. Bro. Matt Steffen (Princeville, IL) gave an evening message. Men of all ages had a wonderful time.

We held testimonies and baptisms over the weekend of June 27 and 28. We welcome our new brothers and sister into our church family: Bro. Jordan
Wagenbach (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Monti), Sis. Ashley Sharp (Gary and Tammy), and Bro. Shane Eberhardt (Bro. Curt Eberhardt and Jean Eberhardt). We also want to thank our visiting ministers for helping out on this encouraging weekend: Elder Bro. Ted Steffen (Sis. Sandra, Alto, MI), Bro. Brad Funk (Sis. Laura, Garden Grove, IA), and Bro. Michael Wagenbach (Sis. Erica, Wolcott, IN).

Our other visiting ministers for the month were Bro. Matt Steffen (Sis. Deanna, Princeville, IL), Bro. Greg Fehr (Sis. Denise, West Bend, IA), and Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign, IL). We are so blessed to have visiting ministers to share the Gospel message.

**Iowa, West Bend**

**Yvonne Bruellman, Becky Virkler**

“Spirit by whose operation, faith and holiness proceed.”

*Zion’s Harp 175*

May God bless Bro. Jim Butikofer (Sis. Diana, Iowa City, IA) for allowing God to use him in the ministry.

We rejoice with Lonnie and Audrey Hansen on the birth of their daughter, Emma Marie. Bro. Tim Mogler is the thankful grandfather. May God bless the family circle.

Following hospitalization, Connie Zaugg (Bro. Bill) is home recovering from surgery. Bro. Leonard Anliker (Sis. Helen) is home recovering from a medical issue. Special prayers are with Connie, Bro. Leonard, and others dealing with medical concerns.

**Japan, Tokyo**

**Anna Inoue**

June is rainy season here in Japan. The abundance of rainfall reminds us of how God’s Word waters our hearts.

“For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.” Isaiah 55:10-11

Sis. Javon Steffen (Bluffton, IN) has been a blessing to our churches these past few weeks as she has come to Japan for the summer.

We enjoyed a full Sunday on June 28 with the visit of Sis. Rika Allen and her sons (Allentown, PA) as well as Hisato and Rika Inoue (Bloomington, IL). That same day, Bro. Kotarou and several of his friends visited from our Shioda church.

Our ministering Bro. Akito Inoue and Bro. Akihiro Ito spent four days in Mindanao, Philippines. A committee from the Tremont, IL church collaborates with us to help and encourage a group of believers there.

July 12, we welcomed Bart & Marsha Schlosser from Indianapolis, IN. We look forward to our first vacation Bible school in our Tokyo church coming up next week. May we look to the Lord for our refreshment and continue in the Word, knowing that it will accomplish that which pleases Him.

**Kansas, Bern**

**Jill Meyer, Rita Menold**

We are thankful to Bro. Jerry Meeks (Sis. Christy, Sabetha) and Bro. Klint Beyer (Sis. Kara, Sabetha) for their service in the ministry this month. Our prayers are with all those who have the responsibility of bringing forth the
Gospel each Sunday, but we pray that each of our lives would spread the Word wherever we would go!

Our prayers have been with Leonard and Sis. Anna Edelman, who have both been recent hospital patients. We are thankful they are now home and recovering and pray God’s healing hand would continue to be upon them.

The Sunday school picnic was held on June 29. Many thanks to each of our Sunday school teachers who plant the seed of the Word into young hearts!

Kansas, Ft. Scott

Karen Kellenberger

Greetings from Fort Scott, where the rainfall and high temperatures have been plentiful this summer. We trust in God’s provision.

Our recent visiting ministers were Bro. Jeffrey Grimm (Sis. Ruth, Goodfield, IL) and Bro. Edward Sauder (Sis. Bonnie, Roanoke, IL). It is a rich blessing to welcome visiting brethren, and those that accompany them, to our small congregation.

An interesting analogy was brought out in a recent sermon. The true story involved the teenage neighbor boy who wanted to go boating in the river with his buddies, so he “borrowed” a rowboat from the minister’s pond (since the family would be away at church). Acquaintances connected the missing rowboat to the teen boy, who came forth and was very sorry for not asking permission. Had he only asked, the minister would have generously offered his sleek, swift, padded canoe in his garage, instead of the cheap clunky rowboat. Is that not like we, who fail to communicate to God and ask for His rich blessings to make our lives better? Instead, settle for the dregs that we strive to scrape up on our own.

“There’s a fountain free: tis for you and me. Let us haste, O haste to the brink; ’Tis a fount of love, from the Source above, And He bids us all freely drink.”

Gospel Hymns, #770

Kansas, Kiowa

Millicent Frieden, Janice Bahr

Ps. 127:3-5 “Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate.”

Have you ever walked into church and had a child come running over and throw their arms around you and give you a big hug? Have you listened to their prayers and felt the thrill of pure innocence and complete faith in their God? Have you seen them bounce into church with a smile on their faces and a joy to just be there? Children are truly our heritage, and one of our greatest blessings! But what about we adults? The Bible states in Proverbs 22:6 “Train up a child in the way he should go and, when he is old he will not depart from it.” Do we teach them about God by our walk with God? Do we teach them to be honest by being honest? Do we teach them to give by giving? Do we teach them to be thankful by being thankful? Do we teach them to love by being loving? Little eyes, ears, and feet watch, hear and walk where we lead. May we pray for the wisdom and guidance to follow God and lead these precious children to come to know and love our wonderful God.

As our children head back to nursery school, kindergarten, grade school, high school and college, may we ever hold them up in prayer, that God will guide, love, and keep them safe from harm and the wiles on the one who would try to lead them astray and away from God. If God is the center of our home, God will be the center of their world.

After 5 years of drought, God has sent us refreshing rains. We are truly thankful for His bountiful supply. It is so amazing how something can be beyond the possibility of living, and a drop of rain can totally change everything and give it new life. It is sort of like a soul that is lost, and comes to know the love of Jesus. There is new life, new joy, new peace, and a reason to hold on.

Many have been on vacation these last couple of months. We miss each one when they are gone. A number of years ago, we had an older sister, who just really disliked the month of July because
so many of the church family were absent because of vacations. She was glad when it was over and the flock was back home. She has gone to be with her Lord and God now, and we miss her.

Kansas, Lamont-Gridley
Dorene Metzger

Events from the Book of Daniel comprised the topics for our VBS held on June 19. They included Nebuchadnezzar’s image of himself, the fiery furnace, and Daniel’s desire to keep God’s diet commands. We appreciated Wichita students and parents joining us.

Several demonstrations of building the image and the meaning of the materials that built it, a heated “furnace” and the temperatures to mold certain metals to gain a perspective of how hot “7 times hotter” meant, and discussion of various foods gave insight to these events. During the question and answer period of the fiery furnace, discussion was held about standing up for what is right in the face of death in such heat. One young man, about 11 years old, said that, “If someone would tell me that they are going to cut off my head if I didn’t give up God, I’d just think, it will be over quick and then I’ll wake up in heaven.” I don’t have to tell you that tears were in the eyes of the adults at this statement from a babe.

Another compilation of events from Daniel concerned Nebuchadnezzar’s pride and his dream of a tree impresses me greatly. He had the opportunity to change his ways for 1 year, and he did not change. The result of madness and living as an animal, being wet with dew for 7 years DID make a change in him. Nebuchadnezzar was returned to his kingship. The result was praise and honor to and for God. What will it take for each of us to truly praise and honor our Creator and Heavenly Father every moment of our life? I pray each of us will use our “year” of opportunity for praise, honor, and service without such a drastic lesson.

A spring brunch was held for the ladies of our congregation with a “There Are Friendships That We Cherish” theme. This was a blessed time of fellowship.

On July 12, a reception was held for Bro. Michael and Sis. Julie Luthi, who were married in Chicago in May. Joining us for fellowship at church and at the reception were ministering brothers including Elder Bro. Brad (Sis. Cindy, Julie’s parents) Eisenmann of Chicago, IL; Bro. Jeff (Sis. Janice) Bahr and Bro. Matt (Sis. Courtney) Schupbach, both of Kiowa, KS; and Bro. John (Sis. Lori) Baumgartner of Bern, KS. A number of other visitors graced our worship and fellowship on that day as well.

Kansas, Sabetha
Crystal Hartter, Dawn Strahm

We rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep.

The weekend of June 20 & 21 we were privileged to hear the provings and witness the baptism of Bro. Jarod Hartter (Bro. David & Sis. Beth), Sis. Brianna Grimm (Bro. Darin & Sis. Marci), Sis. Rachel Fehr (Bro. Todd & Sis. Cynthia) and Sis. Leah Metzger (Bro. Jared & Sis. Carla). We welcome them into the flock as babes in Christ. Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Sis. Jeannine, Mansfield, OH) was here to help with that work. Also visiting was ministering Bro. Ron Isch (Sis. Jane, Lamont-Gridley, KS). We thank these brothers for ministering God’s Word and pray God’s blessing upon them.

We rejoice with Emily Meeks (Bro. Jerry & Sis. Christy) as she has found peace with God and man and awaits baptism.

We are thankful that Emma Edelman (Darin & Sis. Karen) has felt the need to repent of her sins and become converted. May the Lord grant her grace and mercy to yield to His will.

Sis. Irene Lehman passed from this life into eternity on July 5. We extend our sympathy and prayers to her family members in our congregation which include her daughter, Sis. Charlotte (Bro. Fred) Aberle, and sister-in-law, Sis. Lois Grimm. We will miss Sis. Irene’s sweet smile and cheerful countenance. May God grant comfort to each of their hearts.

July is the month for our annual all-church potluck at Sycamore Springs. We enjoy spending time with our brothers, sisters, friends and children.
We look forward to the General Brotherhood Conference that will be hosted by the Morris, MN congregation. We pray for the elders and ministers.

**Kansas, Wichita**  
*Max and Judy Reimschisel*

Sometimes coming up with ideas can be a bit challenging. So, as the older class Sunday School teacher, I have thought to involve my students in this work. So my question this month for my student was, “What does freedom mean to you?” Here is his reply:

“Freedom ---- Our country was founded on the concept of freedom and the three ideas that make up freedom: life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Equality also shapes our life in the U.S. Every one of us can take control of our own destiny no matter what social class we are or how much money we have. In the United States, we also have religious freedoms we can decide our faith without government intervention. We are blessed daily by the freedoms in America.

We also have freedom in Jesus Christ. Jesus has cleansed us of unrighteousness. Jesus protects us from Satan’s fiery darts. Jesus is our protector and strength. He is our rock and our foundation. He keeps us rooted in Him so that our faith will not slip away. In Christ we have a peace that cannot be surpassed by worldly pleasures.”

The Somerhalder reunion brought many welcome visitors for the Fourth of July weekend: Bro. Ted Witzig, Sr. (Sis. Cindy) and Bro. Ted Witzig, Jr. (Sis. Donna) (both of Morton) were our visiting ministers. Inspiring messages were given to be faithful to God where He has placed you.

**Eph 6:10-13.** “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.”

Also, Bro. Kevin Fehr (Sis. Lonnie) from West Bend, IA shared the Lord’s Word with our congregation. Our Sunday School was also blessed to have their children with them.

We continue to lift up Sis. Rose Reeves as she is undergoing chemotherapy. Sis. Anne Marie Warner has transitioned from her home to an apartment. She continues to gain strength daily. Sis. Judy Reimschisel, now able to bear weight on one foot, is looking forward three weeks to having both feet available to walk.

**Michigan, Alto**  
*Renee Steffen, Shelli Oesch*

“And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;”   
**Ephesians 6:15**

Recently a dear sister shared with me that this verse had come to mean so much to her that she wanted it to be her daily prayer. During VBS this past...
month, the theme was ‘putting on the Whole Armor of God.’ The children weren’t the only ones to learn what ‘putting on that whole armor’ meant. We would like to thank all who were, in any way, a part of making this very special week possible: prayer warriors, teachers, helpers, planners, cleaning crew, builders, mothers, fathers, grandparents, and the visiting Brothers Les Kaeb (Sis. Christine) from Francesville and Tim Wiegand (Sis. Christa) from Leo who served in teaching Wednesday night and Saturday night. What a privilege to listen; what a blessing to be taught.

Other visiting ministers this past month include: Bro. Tim (Sis. Christa) Wiegand (who stayed over for Sunday), Bro. Craig (Sis. Jackie) Stickling from Peoria, and Bro. Bill Waibel (Sis. Carol) from Bay City. The Holy Spirit spoke powerfully through each one and caused us to sit up and listen closely. Clearly, the Truth is still being preached. Thank you dear brothers for your willingness to be used as the voice through which the Holy Spirit could speak.

Sunday morning before the week of VBS, Sis. Peggi Vasbinder was injured in a fall and prayers ascended on her behalf for a speedy recovery.

As this is Alto’s time for many visitors from miles around, we anticipate, with excitement, to find out how many churches are represented each Sunday. Our visitors from the furthest distance would be our very missed and precious Bro. Jon, Sis. Amy, Jada and Adia Gerst from Ethiopia. One Tuesday evening they shared what their life is like, what they are doing, and what the needs are of the Awi people with whom they have been living, serving and teaching the gospel of Truth for two years.

Two tender new babes were born this past month. This brings a buoyant joy to everyone’s heart. Everett Peter was welcomed into Bro. Loren and Sis. Heidi Kaeb’s family. Big brother Milo now has some competition. Bro. Jake and Sis. Meika Gerst, along with Charlie, Leo and Olive, finally found out they were getting a new baby brother, Oskar Lee.

Allison Oesch (granddaughter to Bro. Fred and Sis. Donna Oesch) was married to Eric Van Sledright. May God go with them, and always be the center of their home and life together.

I would like to apologize for any misunderstanding I may have caused with a phrase I used a few months back. To clarify, ‘dunked in the bathtub’ was a direct quote from a child.

Thought to ponder: “Life is too short if heaven is not your end goal, eternity is too long, if you don’t reach it!” -IbG~res

Michigan, Bay City
Sarah Knochel
June 22-26 was Vacation Bible School for Bay City. This year’s theme was Destination Heaven: Navigating through Life with God’s Plan of Salvation (GPS). We were blessed to have Bro. Tim Lehman (Sis. Amber, Taylor, MO) spend Wednesday evening with our congregation. His topic was Preparation for the Journey. On Friday evening, Bro. Chris Laukhuf (Sis. Rachel, Latty, OH) presented Discerning Our Navigator’s Voice. So many from our congregation take time out of their week to help teach, serve lunch and help with class projects. In the end, it is a great blessing to all.

We also appreciated a visit from Bro. Ron Palitto (Sis. Lynelle, Akron, OH) on a recent Sunday. We appreciate the effort they made to preach the Word to our congregation!

We rejoice with Bro. Merle and Sis. Elaine Wieland as they celebrated 60 years of marriage on July 17. We pray that God will continue to bless this couple for the encouragement and pillar they are to our congregation!

Michigan, Detroit
Manuela Denes
The little ice cream shop I pass daily on my bike rides not only dishes out delicious treats. There’s always an inspirational message posted just outside the door for all to read. This week, anyone that passes by is reminded that “life isn’t always perfect but, it does have perfect moments!” Here in Detroit we’ve been blessed with a number of perfect moments.

“For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.” Galatians 3:27

It’s always such a blessing
to gather together to hear the testimony, then witness baptism, of a loved one. We welcomed our new Sis. Katie Lanski with much love and joy. Our prayers are with her and her family, parents Sis. Melinda and Todd Lanski and her sister, Meredith, along with all her extended family as she begins her walk in Christ. Prayers are for her to experience many perfect moments with the Lord. We also welcomed Bro. Brad Strahm (Sis. Michelle) here that weekend. We were blessed with his assistance with the testimony/baptism and his ministry of grace and truth.

We shared a warm evening of fellowship, good food and beautiful singing at the 27th Annual Choir Benefit for the Woodhaven Retirement Community! So much hard work goes into this day and much thanks goes to all who practised and shared many beautiful songs, prepared and served the meal, offered donations and drove to share the night with us. May God bless you all! A big thank you goes out to Bro. Matt Oesch from Alto, MI for coming and preaching to and for the residents of Woodhaven this month. Congratulations to Bro. Mitch Ault on his engagement to Sis. April Schar of Rittman, OH. Many blessings to you both during this special time in your lives!

A special welcome goes out to Sis. Sierra Steffen of Bluffton, IN. She’ll be part of our Detroit church family this summer as she is doing a summer internship in the Detroit area.

“Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.” Matt. 5:4

It is always such a difficult thing to have to say goodbye to a loved one. How wonderful it is to know that we can lean on our Lord to comfort us in our loss. We bid farewell to our dear Sis. Eloise Bahr. I am personally grateful for the example set for me and younger generations by our older brethren. She leaves behind her sons, Bro. Mark (Sis. Bev) and Bro. Phil (Sis. Dawn) Bahr; grandchildren: Bro. Scott (Sis. Jamie) Bahr, Sis. Michelle (Bro. Aaron) Stoller and Brandon Bahr, Sis. Alisa (Bro. Keith) Beyer, Amy (Ken Beyer) and Sis. Amber (Bro. Ryan) Prevo; and her great-grandchildren: Nicole, Marcus, Sophie, Cole, Ava, Kate, Olivia, Auburn, Braden, Brecken, Addy, and Brynne. We are thankful to Elder Bro. John Lehman of Bern, KS and Bro. Roger Aberle of Sabetha, KS for officiating the funeral. Wonderful words of life and the love of God comforted and inspired us all.

We were also saddened to hear about the passing of our dear Kim Smith’s mother, Sandy Novotnik, after having battled cancer for a short time. Our prayers are with Kim and her husband, Ray, and their children: Amanda, Brandon, Devin, Kaitlyn, and Aaryn. Even though we know that the suffering and pain of a loved one ends with death, it is a challenge for those of us who are left behind to come to grips with our loss.

“Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.” 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

“Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you...Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.” John 14:27

Minneapolis, Minnesota
Brenda Messner, Betty Lindwall

We were blessed with four visiting ministers on one day. We are thankful to Bros. Bill (Sis. Joan) Schick, Magdalena, Mexico; Jim (Sis. Diana) Butikofer, Iowa City, IA; Doug (Sis. Dawn) Moser, Morris North, MN; and Darren (Sis. Nora) Fehr, West Bend, IA for their willingness to share God’s Word. Along with our faithful home brothers, Bro. Myron (Sis. Beth dec.) Knobloch of Lester, IA also brought God’s Word to us this month.

Our prayers for healing are with our dear Sis. Arletta Bragg, who underwent surgery and is continuing with treatment. We also are praying for Abby Neilsen’s mom, Donna, as she undergoes treatment. May they both feel our prayers and God’s nearness.

Sis. Betty Lindwall has returned from a medical mission trip to Haiti and was truly blessed by the experience.

We wish Micah Mogler (Bro. Kent and Sis. Mary) and Jenny Owen God’s blessings as they
were joined in marriage on June 28. May God bless this union and keep them close to Him, His Word, and each other.

We rejoice with Ben and Chelsey Swinton; siblings, Riley and Brysen; and grandparents, Bro. Doug and Sis. Sue Messner, with the birth of Kylar Marie on July 5. May God bless this beautiful family and keep them in His loving care.

Bro. Randy Lehman (Bro. John & Sis. Tammy) from Wolcott, IN has moved to Rochester. Heidi Wettstein (Bro. Jon & Sis. Rita) has moved here from Bloomfield, IA. We are thankful for these new attendees and pray that they feel welcome.

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

Ministering Bros. Scott Schaefer (Sis. Gigi, South Bend, IN), Dan Moser (Sis. Anne, Elgin, IL) and Todd Stoller (Sis. Pam, Latty, OH) visited us. We are thankful for their efforts in sharing God’s Word.

We pray for those who have been hospitalized and are suffering from physical afflictions: Bro. Chris Moser (Sis. Marion), Bro. Dennis Schmidgall (Sis. Ruby) and Bryan (Lisa) Tolifson.

We share in the joy of a new baby boy, Jed Clarence, with Bro. Kurt and Sis. Savannah Wulf. Welcoming him home are brothers: Emmitt, Lane, Reid, Nolan, Todd, Chad, and Quinn. Grandparents are Bro. Tim and Sis. Gwen Gramm, and Bro. Dennis and Sis. Judy Wulf.

> “Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward.” Ps. 127:3

**Minnesota, Morris North**  
**Lois Schmidgall, Wanda Gramm**

Greetings from Morris North!

As the world grows darker, let’s let our little light shine brighter! I just want to share an encouragement from the hymn “He Giveth More Grace”, in our Gospel Hymn book.

> “He giveth more grace when the burdens grow greater; He sendeth more strength when the labors increase.
To added affliction He addeth His mercy; To multiplied trials, Hi multiplied peace.
When we have exhausted our store of endurance, When our strength has failed ere the day is half done, When we reach the end of our hoarded resources, Our Father’s full giving is only begun.
His love has no limit; His grace has no measure; His pow’r has no boundary known unto men. For out of His infinite riches in Jesus, He giveth, and giveth, and giveth again!”

We were blessed to have Bro. Myron Knobloch (Lester, IA) visit us. We appreciate our visitors and our home brothers, who give of themselves to share The Good News. May you feel our love and God’s richest blessings.

Our hospital patients were Bro. Harold Gramm, Bro. Mike Howell, and Taylor Zeltwanger. May you feel the healing power of our great God.

The brotherhood conference is nearing. We just pray that God’s love and Spirit will be felt as they gather together.

We extend a warm welcome to anyone who is in our area to come and worship with us!

**Minnesota, Winthrop**  
**Lindsay Schmidt, Becky Braulick**

> “And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.” Matthew 26:26-28

We received Communion this month and would like to thank Elder Bro. Lynn (Sis. Leonda) Stieglitz from Leo, IN for assisting. Bro. Lynn also had the Sunday morning service. Our other visiting ministers this past month were Bro. Jim Butikofer (Sis. Diane, Iowa City, IA), Bro. Kevin Fehr (Sis. Lonnie, West Bend, IA), and Bro. Dallas Massner (Sis. Christy, Burlington, IA). We thank each of them for their willingness to serve and bring forth God’s Word.

> “That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.” Matthew 5:45

In June we celebrated Father’s
Day. We thank our earthly fathers for setting examples for us. We are also blessed and thankful to have a Heavenly Father who loves and cares for us.

“So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth: but God that giveth the increase.” 1 Corinthians 3:7

Sunday School is over for the summer and we thank Sis. Joleen Elder (Bro. John) and Bro. David Messner (Sis. Bethany) for their years of service to our Sunday school children. We pray for Sis. Ginny Stoll (Bro. Ed) and Bro. Michael Messner (Sis. Rachel) as they begin their terms. May they feel our support and God’s hand guiding them.

“We took sweet counsel together, and walked unto the house of God in company.” Psalm 55:14

Our church gathered for a farewell singing for Sis. Janae Mogler. Sis. Janae is moving back home to Lester, IA. We wish her God’s blessing as she moves forward in her chosen career field. We want to welcome Sis. Dixie Messner (Burlington, IA) who will be attending church here while she is caring for her mom, Sis. Georgia. We pray that she will feel welcomed and loved. It is so good have Sis. Georgia home from the hospital and we pray for her continued recovery.

“He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler.” Psalm 91:4

Our prayers are with Bro. Kenneth Messner (Margaret) as he recovers from his chemo treatments, Eldwin Schmidt (Lois) as he is still battling illness and a hospital stay and Bro. Darrel Schmidt (Darlene) as he recovers from surgery. We pray God’s healing hands to be on each of them.

“And I am sure that, when I come unto you, I shall come in the fulness of the blessing of the gospel of Christ.” Romans 15:29

We are always thankful for visitors and want to extend an invitation to all to come and fellowship with us!

Note of Thanks:

I am very thankful for so many remembrances and cards that I received on my 90th Birthday. I feel a deep love towards our church family and to our God. In Christian Love, Sis. Bernadine Messner

Missouri, Kansas City

Joan Fehr

We enjoyed having visitors. We miss those of our church that are travelling. We feel blessed by our visitors and the fellowship and support they bring. We are especially thankful for Elder Brother Bruce Endress (and his wife, Elizabeth, and their family) who served us on the pulpit on July 5. May the Lord bless them and His Word as it went forth so clearly. We need to be mindful of our freedom to worship and to pray for our leaders. May we take advantage of the times we can come together to worship God, hear His Word and encourage one another.

As a family of God, we are to worship and obey Him, sing together (Col. 3:16), and strengthen one another (Luke 22:32). We were recently reminded that a family circle is a family in good and hard times. We need to be there and watch out for one another, cultivate our relationships and help one another. Similarly, that is what we as a family of God do. We love unconditionally, even when we feel mistreated, and we exhort and rebuke, even pulling one another “out of the fire.”

Our church shared an all-church potluck at the Kellenberger home on July 12. It was a hot summer eve. The monthly church service project was held Saturday, July 18, at Lois Trayford’s home.

Missouri, Lamar

Venetta Banwart

Our visiting ministers this month were: Elder Bro. Douglas Schock of Bloomfield, IA (Sis. Clara), Bro. Randy Gudeman of Francesville, IN (Sis. Becky), Bro. Glen Steiner of Winthrop, MN (Sis. Rachel), Bro. Dale Moore of Elgin, IA (Sis. Cheryl), Bro. Mike Grimm of Goodfield, IL (Sis. Amber), Bro. Bill Wettstein of Eureka, IL (Sis. Heidi), and Bro. Brad Funk of Garden Grove, IA (Sis. Laura). May God richly bless each for being willing servants to feed us from God’s Holy Word. We would like to thank each of those that came with the ministers to fellowship with us, what a blessing it is for us to have a full church.
Continue to pray for Bro. Leonard Braker (Sis. Bonnie) as he was released from the hospital, but is still requiring IV meds at home. He is unable to assemble with us in church as of yet.

Missouri, St. Louis
Kary Mangers

This past month Bro. Morris Braker was in the hospital. We are thankful that he is out and pray he continues to recover.

We were thankful for each of the visiting ministers, their wives, and in many cases their families who joined us this past month to share God’s faithfulness through His Word. They were Bro. Dave and Sis. Vicki Zehr (Gridley), Bro. Mark and Sis. Karen Wettstein (Lacrosse), Bro. Greg and Sis. Denise Fehr (West Bend), and Bro. Scott and Sis. Dawn Wegman (Taylor). In addition, we had a group from Rittman come to fellowship with us. We appreciate each person who served the Lord by coming to be with us.

Missouri, Taylor
Marcia Sutter

On 7/6/15, our dear Sis. Loida Hodel (Henry, deceased) won the victory and passed peacefully from this life into her eternal home. Even at 94 years old she lived a life of service to her God, her dear family, her church family and the community. Her children include: Nancy (Keith) Oberlander of La Canada, CA; Bro. Rondell (Sis. Donna) Hodel of Normal, IL; Sis. Elaine (Bro. Donald) Hoerr of Taylor, MO; Anne (John) Dossey of Tucson, AZ; Sis. Cheryl (Bro. Michael, dec.) Stratton of Taylor, MO; Rebecca (Jim) Hilst of Tucson, AZ; and Kevin (Robin) Hodel of Dorr, MI. She also had 17 grandchildren, 31 great-grandchildren, and 3 great-great-grandchildren. We rejoice with Sis. Loida, but will miss her terribly. Our deepest sympathy to her family.

We are asking for prayers for the following who have been hospitalized this month: Bro. Arnie (Sis. Marge) Gerst, Sis. Marjorie (Bro. Gerald) Sutter, and Tom (Dana) Pearn who is Sis. Charlene (Bro. Richard, dec.) grandson-in-law.

On 6/21/15, Elder Bro. John (Sis. Connie) Lehman from Bern, KS was here visiting family and had the morning service.


Vacation Bible School started 6/29/15. The theme was “A Journey thru Proverbs”. There were 91 children enrolled 2 years old through 8th grade. Thanks to all that helped make this program a memorable time for the kids.

On 7/5/15, Bro. Tom and Sis. Jane Bolliger from Tremont, IL was here visiting their daughter and son-in-law and had the morning service. A special thanks to all the ministers who came to give of themselves to teach us God’s precepts and to remind us that Jesus died for our sins giving us life eternal, if we take advantage of His salvation. We also thank our Taylor elder and ministers for their willingness to bring God’s precious Word to us week after week.

Flooding has again caused us to pause in our busy lives and join together to help those in need by sandbagging, making meals, assisting neighbors and praying. Many blessings were realized even though there was loss and changes in our neighbors’ lives.

New York, Croghan/Naumburg
Hope Graves

Our thanks extend to ministering Bro. Ron Palitto, from Akron, OH, who was here for our invite weekend on May 24.

On May 28, we had the spring burial for our Sis. Anna Mellnitz, with a meal for the family after.

The weekend of May 13-14 we enjoyed having visitors with us for a potluck and singing Saturday evening. Elder Bro. Ben and Sis. Michelle Wiegand, Philadelphia, PA, joined us also. We appreciate Bro. Ben’s willingness to serve us on the pulpit as well as with Holy Communion.

We again extend our thanks to the Rockville, CT brethren.
who provided us with Sunday lunch and Bro. John and Sis. Joyce Schambach who made our Sunday dinner.

“Ye children of the Lord, rejoice in true and holy union. That ye are called to sup with Him, in such divine communion.”

Zion’s Harp #128, vs.6

Ohio, Akron
Carla Miller

We are thankful for our visiting minister this month, Bro. Bob Riggenbach (Sis. Lorie, Rittman, OH).

We rejoice with Annaliese Graf (Bro. Eric and Sis. Erika) as she was announced as having peace with God and is awaiting baptism.

Ryan Mitchel Gasser, Jr. joined the family of Bro. Ryan and Sis. Coleen, Lela and Mila on July 15. Grandparents are Bro. Fred and Sis. Mary Gasser (Rittman, OH) and Bro. Andy and Sis. Vera Demrovsky.

Our sympathy and prayers are extended to Sis. Jeni Henico (Bro. Adam) in the passing of her grandfather, Bro. Irwin Klotzle (Sis. Jane, Rittman, OH) and to Bro. Daniel Pamer (Sis. Rachel), Sis. Beth Pamer, Bro. Matthew Pamer, Sis. Rebecca Stoller (Bro. Matthew), and Lydia Pamer in the passing of their grandmother, Sis. Martha Walder (Rittman, OH).

Ohio, Columbus
Julie Grimm

We would like to thank our visiting ministers this month: Bro. Jerry Isch (Sis. Bonnie, Philadelphia, PA), Bro. Nathan Walder (Sis. Denise, Cissna Park, IL), Bro. Dana Nieman (Sis. Lea, Remington, IN), Bro. Mark Steiner (Sis. Sue, Smithville, OH), and Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Sis. Jeannine, Mansfield, OH). May God richly bless them for feeding us through his Holy Word.

June 19 and 20 were planned for our church reroofing project. Thank you to the many who volunteered their time to help accomplish this work. Hard work resulted in the two-day project being completed in one. What a blessing since most of the following day planned for work was filled with heavy rain! The basement of the church, which is our Sunday School area, was also repainted at this time. Thank you to our brothers who organized the project and sisters who organized the meals for this event. It brought back many memories to 20 years ago when our church house was taken from a residential home to a church by the loving labors of dear brethren. Those of you who labored so hard are not forgotten. Our place of worship has served our congregation well and we have been blessed over the years.

“I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord.” Psalm 122:1

Ohio, Junction
Elizabeth Manz

“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ” Romans 5:1

We are thankful to hear that Sierra McCullough (Bro. Jim and Sis. Julie) has found this wonderful peace and we look forward to her baptism in the near future.

We are thankful that Bro. Matt Manz (Sis. Deanna, Toledo, OH.) and Bro. Bill Masters (Sis. Mary, Fort Myers, FL.) came and shared the Word this month. May God bless them for their labors.

I failed to mention in the previous issue that Eleanor Gerber lost her son-in-law, Richard Wiker (Nora) in April. If you wish to send a card, Nora’s address is 7728 Cranley Rd. Powell, TN 37849.

Ohio, Latty
Carmen Stoller, Mindy Stoller

“God bless America, Land that I love, Stand beside her and guide her Thru the night with a light from above”

God Bless America, Irving Berlin

As we celebrated our country’s Independence Day this past month, it was a good reminder for the need for prayers that our country would be blessed by our Creator!

Heartfelt thanks to those who ministered to us this past month, including Bro. Kent Getz (Sis. Betty, Elgin, IA), Bro. Dale Zeltwanger (Sis. Rachel, Morris North, MN), Bro. Ryan Shoch (Sis. Melanie, Bloomfield, IA), Bro. Dale Wulf (Sis. Becky, Lester, IA) and Bro. Dan Stoller (Sis. Deb, Remington, IN). We are thankful God rewards those who follow Him in whatever ministry
He calls us!

Our hearts go out to the family of Bro. Eli Fisher (Sis. Helen, Eureka, IL). He passed away June 26 and was the brother to our Sis. Ede Stoller. May the family be comforted by the hope we find in God’s Word!

Ohio, Mansfield

Elizabeth Walter

We are thankful that Bro. Wilbur Gerber (Sis. Millie) and Sis. Sue Beer (Bro. Joel) are recovering from recent surgery. We pray for continued healing in their lives, as well as for our Sis. Miriam Bird, who is struggling to regain her strength after a time of extended illness.

May Bro. Matt Feucht (Sis. Jennifer, Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi, Alto, MI) be blessed for preaching to us. We greatly appreciate their efforts to come and visit!

July brought several special events for our congregation. First, we had our Sunday School picnic, where students and teachers enjoyed class activities, and then everyone was invited to join in a potluck and singing. The following weekend, we were blessed to host Ohio-Michigan Youth Day for the 7th-12th grade students. Thank you to all who were able to join us and also to each one who worked to make the day possible. We pray that the messages brought forth will sink deep into the hearts of our youth.

Ohio, Rittman

Julie Steiner, Maria Beery

“God is so good, God is so good, God is so good, He’s so good to me.” Children’s Harp #10

Is God good? From childhood on up, we are trained to think this. And then life happens, things change, trials arise. We wonder – is God working in those around me? Does He hear my prayers? And then it happens – He answers prayers, seeks the lost, and satisfies our heart. God is so good, to each of us, as well as five young people in our church, who have found a need for repentance. As the Apostle Paul writes, “knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance”. Romans 2:4. They are Garret Ball (Brian & Myra), Katie Havanchak (Bro. Stan & Sis. Karen Beery), Anne Beery (Bro. Aaron & Sis. Lynne), Anna Tieche (Greg & Sis. Peggy), and Jeriah Riggenbach (Bro. Bob & Sis. Lorie).

God has been good to four more souls, going into the waters of baptism, and arising to the new life. We pray this will solidify the conversion God has wrought in the lives of Sis. Sarah Hartzler (Bro. Sam & Sis. Gail), Sis. Emily Hartzler (Bro. Wayne & Sis. Camille), Sis. Tresa Hartzler (Bro. Dan & Sis. Jennifer), and Sis. Tori Hartzler (Bro. Marvin & Sis. Sue).

“He cares for me, He cares for me, He cares for me, He’s so good to me.” (Verse 2)

He always cares for me, and then we face times of pain and goodbye. Caring families have said their final farewell to many this past month. Bro. Dave Emch, 83, passed away, after a period of declining health. He is fondly remembered by his wife, Sis. Eileen; children: Craig & Gail Emch, Sis. Carol & Bro. Don Powell, Sis. Bev & Bro. Jeff Hartzler, Bro. Dana Emch, and Sis. Mary & Bro. Jon Hartzler; and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.


Four days later, our dear Sis. Martha Walder, 91, was called home, very unexpectedly. Sis. Martha leaves behind her daughters: Sis. Sharon Rupp, Sis. Mim & Bro. Joe Stoller, Sis. Lois & Bro. Virgil Gasser, Sis. Joanne & Bro. Rob Stoller, Arliss & Steve Pamer, and Sis. Donna & Bro. Neil Gasser; many grandchildren; 65 great-grandchildren; her brother, Bro. Andy Maibach; and sister-in-law, Sis. Delores Maibach. We also think of our Sis. Delores Maibach, after the passing of her younger brother, retired Elder Bro. Bob Walder (Congerville, IL). The passing of each of these hurts, and we pray for healing and strength.
to those left behind. Each of these three leaves a legacy faith, sown like seeds in their family’s lives, ready to bring fruit, in His time. Pain can feel like rain coming down, so we pray that God’s nearness can feel like sunshine, for the tomorrow’s ahead.

“He loves me so, He loves me so, He loves me so, He’s so good to me.” *Children’s Harp* #10, vs 4

Healing prayers go out to Bro. Ron Gasser (Sis. Hope), Bro. Jeff Ryan (Sis. Kathy), and Sis. Jill Dotterer (Bro. Rick & Sis. Dawn), who have been through times of illness, and healing.

It is also a miracle of health and God’s goodness, each time a new baby joins us. Bro. Andrew & Sis. Esther Raifsnider welcome daughter Brooke Nicole. Their family includes sons: Brandon, Adam, & Isaac; and daughter Bethany. Thankful grandma’s are Sis. Sharon Rupp and Sis. Diana Raifsnider. A new granddaughter joined the family of Bro. Steve & Sis. Mary Lynn Stoller. Baby Gracyn Elyce Steiner was born to first-time parents, Titus & Kiersten Steiner. Welcoming a new grandson are Bro. Fred & Sis. Mary Gasser. Ryan Mitchel Gasser, Jr., was born to parents Bro. Ryan & Sis. Coleen Gasser (Akron). Also, Bro. Joe & Sis. Mim Stoller welcome a new granddaughter, Kherington Jo Stoller, born to parents, Bro. Keith & Sis. Autumn Stoller (Smithville). This is a precious gift, made by God, loved by God, and given by God.

“God answers prayer, God answers prayer, God answers prayer, He’s so good to me.”

*Children’s Harp* #10

How many prayers are offered, begging for direction in life? We find this especially as a soul reflects on God’s leading about a marriage proposal. God has answered prayer for our Bro. Mitch Ault (Bro. Dave & Sis. Kathy) and our Sis. April Schar (Bro. Nathan & Sis. Linda) for their betrothal. The road ahead is full of decisions, efforts, and prayers for this dear couple. Yet, we are thankful to confide in the Lord, knowing that God answers prayer.

And yet, for all our blessings, our lives get so busy, so stressed. We thank God, for giving us a church that we can come together, hear the Word, and reason together. We trust God to provide hungry hearts, the pure Word, and brothers to bring it forth, in sincerity. We thank Elder Bro. Vic Bauman (Smithville), Bro. Randy Gasser (Detroit), Bro. John Grimm (Columbus), Bro. Marvin Zollinger (Smithville), and Bro. Fred Domka (Mansfield), who shared in the work on Sundays, as well as Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis), Elder Bro. Duane Farney (Croghan-Namburg), Bro. Mark Ramsier (Sardis), and Bro. Brent Walder (Rockville) and who served us during the funerals. Bro. Curt Kauffman (Tuscon, AZ) spent a Wednesday night with us. As we see God’s goodness to us, it inspires us, to “do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.” Galatians 6:10

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

**Ohio, Sardis**

**Faith Beard, Joy Indermuhle**

“Faith of our Fathers! Living still, in spite of dungeon, fire and sword. O how our hearts beat high with joy, whene’er we hear that glorious word! Faith of our fathers, holy faith! We will be true to thee till death!” *Faith of Our Fathers, Hymns of Zion* #85

We were thankful to meet in our old New Martinsville, WV church, June 28, to remember the faith our fathers had in God as they settled in a new land, enduring many hardships along the way. Despite the cold, rainy weather, we received a blessing as our voices lifted together in song and rang throughout the church’s wooden interior and across the rolling hills. Joining us for the weekend was Bros. Greg (Sis. Carla) and Matthew (Sis. Bridget) Rassi (Chicago, IL). We appreciate their service to us for the weekend. Many brothers, sisters and converts from the single group joined us as well. We were thankful to have them be a part of the weekend blessing.

Sis. Doris (Bro. Denny) Miller underwent surgery in June. We lift her to God in prayer as she has experienced some complications and continues to heal. Also, Bro. Milan (Sis. Cheryl) Indermuhle recently had a work-related accident requiring medical attention. We are thankful God
spared him and that he is healing.

Scott (Laurin) Riley’s grandma passed away and our prayers are with his family during this time of loss. Sympathy is extended to the family of Bro. Irwin (Sis. Jane) Klotzle (Rittman, OH). Bro. Irv was born in Monroe County, moved to the Rittman area as a young boy and supported the Sardis church in many ways over the years. May God be their comforter.

Also serving us from the pulpit this month was Bro. Sam (Sis. Linda) Schlatter (Junction, OH). We thank them for making us a part of their visit to southeast Ohio.

Ohio, Smithville
Sara Crist, Kara Stoller

We joyfully report the wedding of Bro. Travis Wilson (Jack & Carol) and Sis. Anne Beer (Bro. Randy & Sis. Debra, Milford, IN). The June 28 ceremony took place in Milford. The new couple is presently making their home in the Smithville area.

We extend a warm welcome to Bro. Jim Laukhuf, who formerly resided in Phoenix and has been worshipping with our congregation for a few months.

Our sincere sympathies are offered to Sis. Pat Steiner (Bro. Rich) and Bro. Bob Klotzle (Sis. Shirley) upon the June 28 death of their father, Bro. Irwin Klotzle (Sis. Jane, Rittman, OH)

Sis. Delphine Nieman (late Bro. Charles) and Matt Beery (Bro. Gaylord and Sis. Cheryl) were recently hospitalized. We are so thankful to know a God who regards our physical afflictions and hears our prayers for comfort and healing.

Thank you to Bro. Tim Ramsier (Sis. Joni, Rittman OH) for the heartfelt message and challenge during your recent visit. May each of us be renewed with delight and trust in God’s commandments. May our eyes be fixed on our Savior Jesus Christ.

Ohio, Toledo
Deanna Manz, Jenny Manz

We enjoy countless blessings in our precious denomination. Marriage by faith is one of those blessings. Many from our congregation were privileged to travel to Bluffton to witness the wedding vows of Bro. Doug Harmon, Jr. (Bro. Doug & Sis. Lanna) and Sis. Brooke Fiechter (Bro. Don & Sis. Suzie, Bluffton). We pray for God’s blessings in their life together, and warmly welcome Sis. Brooke to Toledo!

It has been a rainy summer in Toledo. We were thankful that the rain held off on a recent Sunday so we could enjoy our Sunday School Picnic at the park. It was a perfect day to be outside, and a blessing to fellowship with our church family. We thank Bro. Warren Schlatter (Sis. Cindy, Junction) for preaching the inspired Word, and then joining us for the picnic.

Ontario, Kitchener
Johanna Fortenbacher

Bro. Wayne and Sis. Alison Saddler have been going through a very difficult time and are on our prayer lists. Alison’s niece, Alice, needs a liver transplant. After many tests and biopsies Alison is the closest match. Thankfully, she is recovering from a thyroid operation and is looking to get a liver biopsy soon. We wish her much of God’s mercy and love for her and Wayne.

We are so excited about a baby being born on July 2 to Steve and Shannon Varga and their daughter Sofia. Baby Wade and his mother are doing well, thank God. Wade’s grandparents are Joseph and Rosalia Varga, Ontario and Bro. Dennis & Sis. Becky Pyles, Bradford, IL.

We’re very blessed with visiting ministers. They are Bros. Bob & Rhonda Knochel, Bay City; Arlen & Denise Leman, Forrest; Bruce & Bonita Frank, Cissna Park; and Chris & Rachel Laukhaf from Latty. Bless you ministers and everyone that came with.

We had a wonderful turnout for our Sunday School picnic and a beautiful time was had by all. It reminded me of the comment one of our French exchange students told me. He was surprised and happy to see how everybody at our church interacted with each other, the young and old.

Oregon, Portland
Louisa Gallup

If summer travels bring you to the North West, we hope you consider visiting us. We would enjoy the fellowship! We
are thankful as always, for our local visitors and song leader and minister support from Silverton, OR. These included Elder Bro. John (Sis. Jane) Wiegand and Bros. Harvey (Sis. Jennifer) Kuenzi, Ron (Sis. Liz) Jones and Don (Sis. Linda) Sinn. May God bless you all for your willingness to serve.

Oregon, Silverton
Kelsey Walder, Ann Kuenzi

Visiting ministers we have been blessed to have are: Bro. Mike Leman (Sis. Lisa) from Portland, Bro. David Hartter (Sis. Beth) from Sabetha, KS, Bro. Phillip Schulz (Sis. Kelli) from Burlington, IA and Bro. Curt Walter (Sis. Elizabeth) from Mansfield, OH.

We welcome a new married couple to our church. June 21, Jonathan Sinn (Bro. Dean and Sis. Heidi) and Michelle Kilgus (Bro. Kent and Terri) were united in marriage. We wish them loads of joy and God’s blessings.

We have several people needing our prayers. Sis. Becky Von Flue (Bro. Dan) had another surgery. She is currently at Benedictine Care Center, receiving antibiotic therapy. Cynthia Glass broke her foot, the same leg that was broken last November, under similar circumstances. Sis. Jo Kuenzi (Bro. Jason) broke her hand.

Nathanael Jones (Bro. Ron and Sis. Liz) expresses that he is at peace with God and man. Nathanael welcomes prayers, encouragement and counsel.

Bro. Josh and Sis. Tresa, Ethan, Trevor, Brett, and Adelyn Hansen, are excited to welcome a new baby named Elyse Carolyn, in their family. She was born July 5. Grandparents are Bro. Loren and Sis. Marlene Dettwyler, and Bro. Tim and Carol Hansen.

Enjoying being grandparents again are Bro. Mark and Sis. Elsie Sinn. Their daughter Sis. Abigail and Bro. Joel Steiner (Oakville, IA) have a new little daughter Lacey.

We are sad to see Sis. Jenna Wiegand (Bro. John and Sis. Jane) move to Rockville, CT. We wish her the very best and know she will be an asset to their congregation.

Pennsylvania, Philadelphia
Laura Isch

“Offer the lively, the cheerful and beautiful flower,
Offer with gladness and willingness thy youthful power.
To Christ thy friend, Who thy soul e’er will defend,
Safe in His heavenly bower.”
Tarry Not! Zions Harp #168

It is very encouraging to see the young people of the church active in the fellowship! We appreciated many visitors for our single group July Fourth weekend. May God bless each one who made the effort to come for a time of fellowship and encouragement.

Hunter Metzger (Bro. Shawn and Sis. Sandy) is engaged to be married to Brittany Ringler. We wish God’s blessings upon this couple as they plan to spend their lives together.

Tennessee, Nashville
Buck & Taunia Henry

In the times that we live in, what a blessing to be reminded that, “The Lord is my helper,” (1 Sam. 17:47). We heard last Sunday of how David said, “The Lord that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, He will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine,” (verse 37). That same afternoon in Sunday School, the scheduled lesson of Daniel being delivered out of the Den of Lions echoed the same message: We serve a God of Deliverance! How thankful we can be that God can deliver us out of any trial or tribulation that may come our way!...And as King Darius testified after Daniel’s deliverance: “He is the living God, and stedfast for ever, and His kingdom that which shall not be destroyed, and His dominion shall be even unto the end. He delivereth and rescueth, and He worketh signs and wonders in heaven and in earth...” (Dan. 6:26, 27).

We are so thankful for the ministering brothers who traveled to serve us: Bro. Craig (Sis. Terri Martin, Princeville), Bro. Kim (Sis. Vonette Sutter, Taylor), Elder Bro. John Laukhuff from Latty, Bro. Rick (Sis. Michelle Kaisner, Chicago), Bro. Byron (Sis. Carol Stoller, Gridley), and Bro. Tony (Sis. Denise Manz, Junction). We have also enjoyed the
fellowship of visitors from Forrest, Gridley, Latty, and Junction.

Our young group was blessed with the invitation to Philadelphia where some were able to travel and share in fellowship on Independence Day weekend.

If you are traveling to or through the Nashville area, please plan to worship with us. Often we gather on Saturday evenings for fellowship, and all are heartily welcome. Please contact us to confirm the schedule. Also, we typically meet on Wednesday evenings at 7:15 p.m. for call-in services and would welcome any midweek visitors. Contacts: Bro. Don Sauder 615-373-8928 don.sauder@juno.com or Bro. Buck Henry 615-920-9584 buck@forhisglorypublishing.com.

The Nashville Guesthouse is available for free accommodations to all those traveling through. Please contact Bro. Buck for reservations.

Texas, Dallas-Ft. 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.

Texas, McAllen

Kristi Plattner

We thank Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Sis. Nancy, Forrest, IL) and Bro. Chuck Kellenberger (Sis. Debbie, Elgin, IL) who preached God’s Word this month. The following churches are scheduled for services: Kansas City, MO (7/26), Peoria, IL (8/9), West Bend, IA (9/6), Lester, IA (9/13).

We welcome anyone coming to South Texas and ask that you inform us of your plans so that we can prepare for meals and fellowship. Occasionally there is a schedule change, so if you plan to be with us on Sunday, please verify the date by calling the Plattner’s at 956-607-8329 or you may access www.acmission.org and view the updated minister rotation schedule.

Sunday services are held at 10:30 and 12:30 at the Holiday Inn Express, 2121 South 10th St. Take the 10th Street Exit off I-83 and go ½ blocks south. Please see the ministers’ directory for local contact information.

Vermont, Clarendon

Nathan and Miriam Reutter

With no other news to share we wish to invite all to our little church. 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:

- Midweek services (contact local brethren)
- Sunday AM service: 10:10 AM
- Sunday PM service: 12:15 PM
- Sunday school is held during the morning service.
Jesus said, “I came not to destroy men’s lives, but to save them.” The history of the human race has been a sad commentary. Countless men, women, and children have died in wars and fighting. If only people could follow the words and example of Christ.

My father, Earl Steffen, grew up in Elgin, IL with 10 siblings. His parents were members of the Apostolic Christian Church in that town. He no doubt was taught in church and at the family table of the Bible. Because of the large family and the economic times, he had to begin work at the watch factory after 10th grade and bring a large portion of his paycheck home to help provide for the family.

As a young man, he was drafted into the Marine Corps during the Korean Conflict. Interestingly, he was yet unconverted but decided to enter as a noncombatant. I remember that as a boy, I loved to listen to him tell stories about his time at boot camp and Barstow, California. Probably the most impressive one was when he was brought before the company commander as they tried to break his position concerning non-resistance. They asked him several questions, one such as a hypothetical situation — If someone came into his home and began to abuse his wife and children, would he use a gun on the perpetrators. He denied that he would, such an impression and example to us, not just talk, but actions.

He became married to my mother Kay, and they began to raise a family. In due time, she turned to the Lord, and when someone asked him about his soul, he said, “It’s not for me.” Sometimes, he would drop Mom off at church and then go to the golf course. But God in His mercy, struck him down with an illness, which he thought was leukemia. And at age 27, he was brought to repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. He was an example of love and contentment, as well as having a gentle spirit. I am blessed to have had him for a dad.

Submitted by
Bro. Dean Steffen, Belvidere, IL

This is not my story, it was told to me by my coworker who was the participant in this article. Homer Reineck From Bluffton, IN. was in the Pacific in WWII as a medic.

There were two men in his unit (tall, rough and outspoken about carrying weapons!) One night there was a fire fight in “no man’s land” where they asked for volunteers because they would not order anyone to go out under those circumstances. The big guys did not volunteer. Homer said he would go.

The big guys told Homer to take their .45’s. But Homer told them, “If what I have won’t save me those guns won’t either.” Homer made it back, and from that time on, those men never once questioned his belief in his God. They helped him with duty and became good friends.

It was around that time that Dale Aeschliman, also from Bluffton, lost his life in a fire fight.

I worked with Homer for several years. He married, moved to Toledo, Ohio, and became a minister at the Toledo church. I might add that his faith never wavered!

Submitted by
Bro. Dick Clark, Bluffton, IN
This is an example of a letter elders would write to verify an inductee’s noncombatant convictions.

Elgin, IL | Dec – 20 – 1951

To whom it may concern:
This is to certify that Earl Steffen and his parents are well known to me. He comes of a good Christian family and from childhood has attended our Sunday School and church known as The Apostolic Christian Church. Our faith is based entirely upon the teachings of the Holy Scripture, in which we are taught by our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, Thou shall not kill.

You will find Earl Steffen is sincere and truthful in his confession and willing to perform whatever duties are placed before him in a noncombatant capacity. We are thankful that our government has made provision for those who posses a religious faith and follow the dictation of their conscience to obey the commandments of Christ – not to destroy the life which God has given to man. That such may not be compelled to kill but to serve in a noncombatant capacity.

Yours very truly,
William A. Stettner
Minister of the Gospel
Apostolic Christian Church

Surely I am thankful that our country provides a way for us noncombatants to serve our nation. When in the military, I belonged to a sister church that did not practice attending any other church’s services. Spending most of my time at Ft. Sam, I learned to appreciate the fellowship and good example of the Apostolic Christian brothers. Many years later these memories don’t remember anything negative from my fellow soldiers when they found that I didn’t have weapons training. It seems like all of them accepted my stance with even a little bit of respect.

A very lasting benefit of my service in the Army as a noncombatant was the fellowship at Ft. Sam Houston with others of our faith throughout the land. Thanks be to God for the provision to serve without bearing arms or suffering severe persecution for choosing not to take arms to harm another individual. I hope and pray that this blessing can continue in our nation.

Submitted by
Bro. John Schaffer, Forrest, IL

I was unconverted when I was drafted into the Army in June of 1969. This was during the era of the Vietnam War. From early childhood I was taught to not take the life of another human being, even under circumstances of war. So I knew that if I served in the military it would be in a noncombatant status.

When serving in the Army I don’t recall that I was ever pressured to change or was ridiculed for my stance. In my permanent duty position I worked with eight to ten other troops who didn’t know that I was a noncombatant until it was time for periodical weapons qualification. I don’t remember anything negative from my fellow soldiers when they found that I didn’t have weapons training. It seems like all of them accepted my stance with even a little bit of respect.

A very lasting benefit of my service in the Army as a noncombatant was the fellowship at Ft. Sam Houston with others of our faith throughout the land. Thanks be to God for the provision to serve without bearing arms or suffering severe persecution for choosing not to take arms to harm another individual. I hope and pray that this blessing can continue in our nation.

Submitted by
Bro. Ron Mueller Forrest, IL
I know my submission really doesn’t fit your criteria, but felt convicted to do so anyway.

How God brought combatants through the war/military experience is just as important when those experiences lead directly to a conversion.

Here is how God brought me through those years, and led me directly to Him. By the way, I do not have an Apostolic Christian background. I went on active duty with the US Navy in 1966. In August of that year I was in Vietnam on the first of three deployments over the next four years. September 1969 I was scheduled to go to Vietnam on my fourth deployment while aboard the USS New Jersey. At that time, President Nixon cut the defense budget. The New Jersey was to be decommissioned. We went to Bremerton, Washington instead. Because of the decommissioning I received an early out in Dec 1969. I went to Los Angeles, and the following week I got a job in the computer industry. It was the only week that this company ever advertised in the classified ads. If it wasn’t for the previous points, I would have missed this ad and never gotten that job. That job led me to Florida on business one year later. While there, I met a sister from Ohio. It was her faith, testimony and chaste conduct that led directly to my conversion.

This story is not a matter of coincidence or happenstance as some might say. It was God’s direct leading in my life to bring me to the point that I could fall on my knees and recognize my need for a loving Savior, Christ Jesus, and repent. God did this even in my unbelief, and after all the things that happened in Vietnam. I had much to seek forgiveness for in my repentance, but, the following verse let me know that God forgives, and grants a peace that passes all understanding. “For great is thy mercy toward me: and thou hast delivered my soul from the lowest hell” (Psalm 86:13).

I know a number of Brothers that went to prison for their faith when they would not bear arms. Although my father-in-law went to be with the Lord before I knew him, he was included in that group. These Brothers were all from Eastern European countries, and came to the United States, in part, to escape that life for them and their families. I hope these stories get told, too, as they tend to fade over the years.

Submitted by
Bro. Larry Labudde, Phoenix, AZ
It has been 45 years now since I was discharged from the US Army. God has been good to me and I don’t feel I am affected with war trauma. When coming home, my thought was, if I did not talk about it, it would go away. Today some of those memories are in my mind more than ever. In June 1968 I was a 19-year-old, unconverted man being drafted into the Army. It was my parents’ request that I go in as a noncombatant, but the real conviction was not really there.

As a young child growing up I was blessed with parents, who took me to church, and Sunday school teachers that taught me the truth of God’s Word. I knew the Bible stories, but I missed the point on how sovereign God is. I thought everything was happening by chance, coincidence, good luck, bad luck, etc. Looking back, in my unconverted state, I know God was protecting me, but he was also showing me things that would mold and shape me for the rest of my life.

Getting drafted was “bad luck.” After basic training and medical training at Fort Sam Houston, Texas we were given orders as to where we were being sent from there. I remember standing in formation with our company as our orders were being called out. A lot of the orders were in the Pacific. (Guam, Okinawa, Philippines). When my name came up, it was APO San Francisco. I had no idea what that meant. The platoon sergeant said that’s the “war zone.” More “bad luck.”

After a 30-day leave I and 2 others from our area, Bro. Ron Koehl and Dan Kaeb (who became my brother-in-law), reported to San Francisco and flew to Vietnam. The next couple of weeks we went through more processing, training and orders. Standing in another formation my name was called out for the 101st Airborne Division. I wasn’t sure if this was “bad luck” or a mistake. These guys were supposed to be the tough ones who jumped out of planes with parachutes on their back. I soon found out that a lot of the other guys in the unit were not paratroopers either. We went through a week of excruciating training before being sent up North in the area of Hue. Through it all, I ended up with a weapon on me when we went up North. I won’t elaborate on this anymore.

Our job as a medical battalion was to treat anyone that needed medical attention. Some were combat casualties, sick or injured. We had a ward that we kept patients in for a few days but the more severe cases were sent to hospitals. The “dust off ships” coming in and out of our Co. was a pretty routine thing, but when we saw a “gun ship” (same helicopter only it didn’t have the red cross and it had a machine gun mounted at the door) we knew it was bringing in bodies. It was our job to unload them and take them to the morgue. These were American GI’s who had told their family’s goodbye a few months ago.

In spite of all this the war was in a little bit of a lull. I got over there in November 1968 and a good part of the next 6 months was monsoon season. It rained a lot and it was hard for the infantry to stay in the field for long periods of time. They were doing a lot preparation to make a big move through the A-Shaw Valley. In the middle of June I was told one day to be ready to leave in the morning. We were to set up an aid station in the field. I don’t know why they called on Co. C and I don’t know why I was one of 6 medics out of about 50 in the company that was called on. Arrogance goes along with being unconverted and I was feeling somewhat proud to be part of the team. Besides the medics, this group was made up of a doctor, radio operator, mechanic
(to keep a generator running for light and a blood cooler) and a platoon Sergeant. We had training for this at Fort Sam and we had some experience back at the base camp but what happened out there in the next few days was far beyond anyone’s expectations. At one point we had up to 60 men lying outside the aid tent on stretchers, many with arms and legs blown off. We put tourniquets on them and started an I.V. A lot of times they had lost so much blood we wouldn’t start an I.V. without doing a “cut down” (cutting into a vein and then threading a catheter into the vein). When we got the I.V. started we wrapped our blood pressure cup around the plastic unit of blood and pumped it up to push the blood into him as fast as possible. We were trying to save the life of the man we were working on but we were also trying to get the next man in as fast as possible. We had four med-evacs rotating flights from the field to our aid station to one of several hospitals. It was about a 2-3 minute flight from this one particular hill to us and another 20-40 minutes to one of the hospitals. A lot of these men would have never made the flight to the hospital without our aid.

At one point I was working on a man with another medic. He was in pain and we were trying to get some information as to what was going on out there. He blurted out something like, “I think we’re going to call it Hamburger Hill.” I’m not sure if he brought that name in with him or if he just came up with it lying there on that stretcher. We had news media hanging out at our aid station and I always felt it was from there that this news went worldwide. Richard Nixon was put into office 6 months earlier with a promise to stop the war and it had escalated to a high. Many American started to turn against the war at this point.

The hill was taken but it was at a cost of American men. Things settled down at the aid station. Jim and his crew (two pilots, a crew chief, and a medic) were at our station on standby. We were relaxing. We were physically and mentally exhausted. I wouldn’t say Jim and I were best friends but we had something in common. We had come into the country the same time and we’re counting our days to go home. Our radio operator received a call that someone needed evacuated. The dust off crew got up trudged out to their chopper. The rest of us continued to relax. Our radioman continued to man the radio. (His call sign was “Charlie Medic” the dust off ship was “dust off 91”) A few minutes went by when the radio operator got our attention immediately by announcing “I’ve lost contact with our med-evac. He was working with the dials on the radio hoping maybe something wasn’t working right. With his Eastern accent and the radio lingo they use he calls “dust off niner one, dust off niner one, this is charlie medic, can you read me”. There was no response. He continued adjusting the frequency. He was kind of feeling responsible for something he had no control of. He called again and maybe the 3rd time, I don’t remember, but within a short time a call came in from one of the infantry units saying, we saw your medevac go down in flames. Jim, the crew chief, and one of the pilots went down with it. The other pilot survived. I’m not sure if he was thrown or jumped. He was found crawling away from the wreckage with a severed leg. We thought we were going to dispatch another medevac to get him, but the officer of that unit said “We have a tourniquet on him and an I.V. started, he is resting, we’re dug in for the night and we’re not giving up our position. Come out at day break and pick him up and we’ll move on.” So while the pilot laid out in the jungle all night with a severed leg, Jim and the other two on the crew went on to their reward.

I have no idea if any of these men were ready to meet the Savior. I know I missed a good opportunity to talk with people of God’s saving Grace. In spite of myself, God has been good to me. I married a wonderful wife, Paula, who was helpful to me in finding Christ’s salvation and repenting for my sins. I have children and grandchildren who are serving the Lord. I love the brotherhood. My advice to young people would be to turn to the Lord in your youth. It was very unnecessary to go through this not serving the Lord.

Submitted by
Bro. Charlie Knapp
Bloomington-Normal, IL
The News & Notices section of The Silver Lining provides a way for qualifying non-profit entities to make the brotherhood aware of church-related events, opportunities, needs, and services that would be of special interest to Apostolic Christian Church of America members and regular attendees. Email us at editor@acsilverlining.org for a copy of our advertising policy, which specifies who may advertise, sizes, file formats and deadlines.

News & Notices

Teaching Position Available - Gateway Woods

Gateway Woods has an opening for a teacher at Gateway Woods School. Gateway Woods School is a fully accredited educational facility serving 5th-12th grade students who have difficulty in public school. Qualifications include a Bachelor’s Degree in Education and/or an active teacher’s license, preferably in Social Studies or Science. Special Education Certification and previous teaching experience is especially useful, but not required. If you hold these qualifications and have a heart for children, please ask the Lord if this is the position He has in mind for you. For more information please contact one of the brothers listed below.

Adam McAfee  
Director of Education  
PO Box 125,  
Leo, IN 46765  
888.443.4283  
Adam.McAfee@gatewaywoods.org

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

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

LISTEN TO SERMONS
from **over 25** Apostolic Christian congregations (and counting)
on your smartphone, tablet or computer

on the new **AC** sermon system
**CENTRAL**
also includes current and past issues of *The Silver Lining*

On your mobile device
- Download AC Central app from Google Play or Apple’s App store

On your computer
- Go to accentral.apostolicchristian.org or visit a specific congregation’s website

If your church is considering making its sermons available online through AC Central, visit apostolicchristian.org/sermons to learn more or sign up.
Openings at Cite Lumiere, Les Cayes, Haiti

Mechanic, Construction Department Assistant

The AC World Relief Caribbean Committee is seeking to fill several missionary positions based at the Cite Lumiere compound in Les Cayes, Haiti. The specific job description may vary depending on the applicant’s interests and skills. Help is specifically needed in the following areas:

Equipment mechanic
An equipment mechanic is needed in the Construction Department in Haiti to maintain the vehicles, generators, and construction equipment at Cite Lumiere and Bonne Finn, Haiti and order, purchase, and maintain inventory of parts to support the World Relief programs in southern Haiti. This position would also involve training and mentoring a Haitian assistant to provide future mechanical maintenance. The equipment mechanic would reside in the Cite Lumiere compound in Les Cayes and report to the ACWR Construction Operations Facilitator. The applicant should be experienced in mechanical maintenance.

Construction Dept. Assistant
An assistant is needed in the Construction Department at Cite Lumiere as the work has expanded for the program and related ministries. This applicant could be a single brother or couple. Skills that would be valuable in the ministry include:
- Carpentry
- Mechanical experience
- Basic computer knowledge
- Ability to work with all types of people and personalities

All applicants must be a member in good standing of the Apostolic Christian Church, willing to learn Creole and relocate to Haiti for a minimum of 3 years, and have a heart to serve the Haitian people.

If you feel led to serve or have questions, contact:
Bro. Jon Zeller
309-208-0639
Jczeller1972@gmail.com

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:

Apostolic Christian Church Bible Distribution
651 E. Peoria Street
Goodfield, IL 61742
Phone: 309-965-2141
bibledistribution@acpublications.org

Opportunity to Serve with ACWR in the USA

The USA Committee of World Relief is seeking willing servant hearts for leadership roles in their Disaster Rebuilding Ministry. These projects typically run from January through March with some additional time required on either end. A minimum commitment of 3 to 4 weeks is desired with longer terms also available. The ability and willingness to work in cooperation with other leadership positions is paramount. Open communication and team effort is critical.

A stipend is offered to those serving in these positions. A complete job description is available for each position.

No decision has been made on the location of the 2016 project.

Please prayerfully consider if the Lord is calling you to serve in this ministry. For additional information, please contact

Bro. Les Schambach - USA Committee Administrator: usa@acwr.org  630-247-5271.

Leadership positions available are…

• **Project Coordinator:**
  Construction knowledge required. Oversee the entire ministry-project assuring all aspects are covered and the project runs smoothly and in a God-honoring manner. Through open communication with all supporting team members, strive to maintain a working relationship that reflects brotherly love and esteem. Responsible for the Spiritual aspects of the ministry.

• **Construction Coordinator:**
  Construction Experience Required. One or more positions depending on the scope of the project. Responsible for the construction phase, securing materials, instructing and assigning volunteers to appropriate jobs and supervising their work.

• **Accommodations Coordinator:**
  Head Cook - Plan and prepare all meals; breakfast, sack lunch and dinner. Purchase all food, drink and related paper products. Clean and maintain dormitory housing.
Apostolic Christian Men’s Hymn Sing
Washington, IL
August 29 & 30, 2015

Lord willing, the Washington congregation will be hosting the 2015 Apostolic Christian Men’s Hymn Sing. We are looking forward to a blessed weekend of singing and fellowship. We have been blessed with a rich heritage of hymn singing, and our goal for the weekend is to glorify God through song as well as record a CD that will be uplifting for many in the future.

The website www.acmensing.com has been updated, and will be the main source of information about the Men’s Sing and will also be used as the preferred method for sending out further communications. From the website, you are able to register, get directions, see the schedule of activities, view the music, and much more. Please bookmark this site, create an account, and register for the Men’s Sing.

If you plan to attend, please register by July 1, 2015 so we can accurately prepare for meals and accommodations. Please also spread this communication to any other brothers interested. It would also be helpful if there was a designated brother from each church who could keep us updated on the number of brothers attending from your church. If you are unable to access the internet, you may write or call:

Matt Wyss
216 W. Robinson St.
Goodfield, IL 61742
Phone: 309-397-5919
Email: mattwyss@yahoo.com

50-Year Commemoration of Fairbury Apostolic Christian Church
August 29 & 30, 2015

If you have previously attended the Fairbury Church, you are cordially invited to attend a commemoration in recognition of 50 years since our current church building was erected and dedicated.

Saturday, 6:30 P.M. at FAIRBURY FELLOWSHIP HALL
Singing and Historical Presentation

Sunday, 10:00 A.M. at FAIRBURY APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH
Worship services 10:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.
Light meal served immediately following afternoon service

PLEASE REPLY BY JULY 15 if you plan to attend the Saturday program, come to worship with us on Sunday, stay for the meal, and/or need overnight accommodations.
Contact: Duane and Arlene Kilgus: timberline44@frontier.com, (815) 692-2589 or (815) 848-2589
### Mexico Work Teams

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<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Year 2015</th>
<th>Coordinator</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Juarez Medical</td>
<td>Sep 9 - Sep 15</td>
<td>Cheryl Herman <a href="mailto:cherrmann@frontier.com">cherrmann@frontier.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magdalena Construction</td>
<td>Jan 9 - Jan 16</td>
<td>Bruce Frank 217-375-4346 <a href="mailto:bfrank@ksconvoyers.com">bfrank@ksconvoyers.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magdalena Construction</td>
<td>Feb 6 - 13</td>
<td>Troy Lanz 217-202-9059 <a href="mailto:troy@tlanzin.com">troy@tlanzin.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magdalena Construction</td>
<td>Feb 13 - 20</td>
<td>Jon Baner 309-532-9435 <a href="mailto:jon.baner@gmail.com">jon.baner@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magdalena Construction</td>
<td>Mar 5 - 12</td>
<td>Gabe Meiss ISU 309-222-7819 <a href="mailto:gabe.meiss@gmail.com">gabe.meiss@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magdalena Construction</td>
<td>Mar 19 - 26</td>
<td>Dean Sinn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magdalena Construction</td>
<td>Mar 26 - Apr 2</td>
<td>Greg Moser Roanoke Jr/Sr Sunday School 309-923-5791 <a href="mailto:gmoser@frontier.com">gmoser@frontier.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magdalena Construction</td>
<td>Apr 2 - 9</td>
<td>Joe Beer Leo Bible Class 503-873-4122 <a href="mailto:jbeer@gmail.com">jbeer@gmail.com</a> 260-466-5461</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magdalena Construction</td>
<td>Jun 11 - 18</td>
<td>Jeff Stoller Morton Bible Class 309-202-6468 <a href="mailto:djeff@stollerdds.com">djeff@stollerdds.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magdalena Construction</td>
<td>Jun 18 - 25</td>
<td>Jim Rieker Peoria Bible Class 309-231-7400 <a href="mailto:jrieeker@sboglobal.net">jrieeker@sboglobal.net</a></td>
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### Haiti Medical Work Teams

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<td>Inventory Team</td>
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### Haiti Awareness Tours

If you’d like to see the ministry of Hospital Lumière and other Haiti projects in person, but do not have the time or desire to participate in a week-long work team, please consider our new Awareness Tours. These are quick trips that give interested parties the opportunity to meet our missionary families, learn more about the hospital, see the completed renovations and work in process, and visit some of the other World Relief projects in southern Haiti. These trips are scheduled, as needed, based upon demand, currently the next trip is scheduled for Mar. 4-9, 2016.

To learn more, contact: Rich Bertschi at 309.467.2351 or lemagm@mtco.com or Rick Wuehrich at 219.863.4163 or rick@wuehrichfarms.com
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Water Aid</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:schaefs2@gmail.com">schaefs2@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Les Cayes</td>
<td>Nov 13-20</td>
<td>Andy Getz</td>
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<tr>
<td>Haiti Trade Schools</td>
<td></td>
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### Haiti Work Teams - Les Cayes

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### Haiti Volunteers Are Needed

#### Medical Teams

Physicians, surgeons, anesthesiologists, pharmacists, laboratory techs, radiology techs, ultrasound techs, occupational and physical therapists, nurses and other specialists who are willing to assist with general medical and surgical care are invited to participate on weeklong medical teams. See the current schedule (including dates for 2016).

#### Construction Teams

Electricians, cabinet makers, plumbers and carpenters are needed to continue the renovations. The work is great. This is an excellent opportunity to help in the work and become more familiar with the culture and Hospital Lumiere campus. See the current schedule.

#### Church Ministers

The work at Hospital Lumiere is more than material and the needs are more than physical. The Hospital staff and the team workers understand the true objective is that all may come to know and glorify God through a born again life, a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and living in obedience to the Bible. Apostolic Christian Church ministers are needed to assist in this role as they accompany medical and construction teams to Hospital Lumiere. Team ministers coordinate daily devotions and provide spiritual support for the team members, hospital staff, patients and their families. For more information contact Rich Bertschi at 309-467-2351 or lemangm@mtco.com.
Medical Director Needed at Hospital Lumiere

If you are a licensed physician with a God-inspired desire to provide medical care and leadership in an under-served part of Haiti, this may be the opportunity of a lifetime.

The Need
A licensed physician is needed to replace our Medical Director, Dr. Lee Klopfenstein, when his term is completed in 2016.

To fill this full-time position, one must have a U.S. medical license, be Board-Certified in some aspect of medicine or surgery, be a Believer in Jesus Christ, have experience in leadership and management, be capable of learning the Creole language, and be willing to reside with your family on the Hospital Lumiere campus for up to five years. The position involves leading a team of excellent Haitian physicians and surgeons, and oversight of the nursing, laboratory, radiology and pharmacy departments of this 120-bed full-service hospital and out-patient facility.

For more information contact:
Robert Beebe
Executive Director
robert.beebe1@gmail.com
574-276-6748

Patient Care Manager Needed at Hospital Lumiere

Hospital Lumiere is seeking a qualified person to be assigned as Patient Care Manager of the hospital in Bonne Fin, Haiti. This is full-time position.

Description
The duties of Patient Care Manager include planning, supervising & training employees and coordinating & implementing programs of nursing care for all hospital patients.

Requirements
Applicants should hold an RN degree and have at least 3 years of nursing experience, some management capability, be able to learn the Creole language, be a member of the Apostolic Christian Church and be willing to relocate to Haiti for a term of up to 5 years.

For more information contact:
Robert Beebe
Executive Director
robert.beebe1@gmail.com
574-276-6748

www.acworldrelief.org
Medical Department Intern Opportunity in Haiti

Hospital Lumiere, Bonne Fin, Haiti is presently seeking an energetic, self-motivated, responsible Believer to fill the position of Medical Department Intern.

**Position Description**
This six-month position is involved in helping the Medical Director with staff scheduling, answering or relaying inquiries from each medical department (Nursing, Pharmacy, Radiology, Laboratory), ensuring all inventory and supply reports are transmitted and filed, and assisting the Administration with other assigned tasks and responsibilities. The hospital will provide a translator, lodging, food and living expenses. No medical training is required, but is helpful. If you are seeking an exciting opportunity to serve God and others, have a servant’s heart, appreciate new horizons and challenges and have six months to devote to furthering the Lord’s work in Haiti, please contact us for a complete job description and details of the internship.

For more information contact:
Robert Beebe
Executive Director
robert.beebe1@gmail.com
574-276-6748

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
World Relief
www.acworldrelief.org

Surgeon and Medical Physician Needed at Hospital Lumiere

*Hospital Lumiere in Bonne Fin, Haiti, a medical ministry operated by World Relief, is seeking the following:*

**Surgeon**
A surgeon is needed immediately to provide professional and Christian oversight and management of the Surgery Department of Hospital Lumiere, and actively be involved in surgical cases in their specialty. The surgeon can be boarded in general, urologic, orthopedic or other surgical field.

**Medical Physician**
A medical physician with family practice, pediatrics, emergency, or other medical subspecialty experience is needed immediately to enhance the diagnostic and treatment capability of our Medical Department, provide education and mentoring of our Haitian medical providers, encourage patient-focused care and maintain our mission of quality care with Christian love.

Both of these positions are full-time, but can be adapted to accommodate a physician who is willing to reside on the campus part-time or for several weeks at a time.

Please prayerfully consider whether God is calling you to serve in Haiti.

For more information contact:
Robert Beebe
Executive Director
robert.beebe1@gmail.com
574-276-6748

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
World Relief
www.acworldrelief.org
Items Needed for Hospital Lumiere Benefit Auction

This annual fund-raising auction is a critical part of Hospital Lumiere’s support, and your donated items are what make it possible.

The auction is November 13, but we are collecting items now. Please consider donating one of the following:

- Toys
- Gift Baskets
- Electronics
- Tools
- Gift Certificates
- Recreational Equipment
- Vacation Packages
- Dinners

To Learn More
acworldrelief.org/annual-benefit-auction

To Donate
Rich Bertschi
309/467-2351
hospitallumiere@acwr.org

This annual fund-raising auction is a critical part of Hospital Lumiere’s support, and your donated items are what make it possible.

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 _______________________
- Spouse _______________________
- Address _______________________
- City ____________St ___ Zip _____
- Home Ph ______________________
- Cell Ph ______________________
- Email _________________________

Please check preference:

- Haiti
- Guatemala
- Mexico
- Jamaica
- Zambia
- Wherever needed

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

And all thy children shall be taught of the Lord; and great shall be the peace of thy children. Isaiah 54:13
Volunteer Caretakers Needed – Washington, D.C.

The Washington, DC church caretaker program is entering its eighth year. It has been such a blessing for our visiting caretakers as well as our local members and friends. We are taking reservations for 2016. Our church home is located in Silver Spring, MD, and meets both church and residential needs.

The fellowship that caretakers provide is vital to our small congregation and visiting ministers. Caretakers can be couples, singles or families who would enjoy spending time near the Nation’s Capitol and other points of interest on the East Coast. Caretakers would perform routine household and yard maintenance chores, and should plan to stay at least three Sundays.

Families with children are urged to give this opportunity prayerful consideration. We have three children (pre-teen and teen), who would welcome other children in their Sunday School class.

For more information, please contact:
Barry and Doreen Steffen
Phone: 302-540-6574
Email: dkgsteffen@gmail.com.

Teacher Needed – Athens Preschool

There is currently a teaching position available at the Apostolic Christian Preschool in Athens, AL. We are looking for a preschool teacher who is willing to start in June of 2015. This is a wonderful opportunity to support one of our smaller congregations.

This is a paid position with medical benefits. Church housing is available. Applicants must be at least 19 years old and be a member of the Apostolic Christian Church. Basic computer skills are necessary.

If you have questions contact Sis. Kalla Knobloch at (309) 231-1755.
You may also e-mail your resume to acpreschool2015@gmail.com.
Thank you for your prayerful consideration!

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P.O. Box 154, Forrest, IL 61741
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Continuing Articles

Contending for the Faith
—Continued from pg. 3

contend for “what we believe” not just to focus on “how we project” that belief. Jude and John give the call for all Christians to contend for truth—for the whole and pure Gospel of Jesus Christ, and to be rooted in the Word.

From that point the manifestation of what we believe should be a natural progression as we practice our faith or belief. Our faith may begin as the size of a mustard seed but that seed is meant to grow into the mustard tree. Consider the sequence, “And beside this, giving all diligence, add (exercise) to your faith virtue … knowledge … temperance … patience … godliness … brotherly kindness … charity.” It seems that Peter is encouraging us to grow our faith. The terms “earnestly” and “giving all diligence” suggest maximum effort or strenuous effort is to be expended as we “add to” (or grow) our faith.

Paul states that we are to “work out [our] own salvation with fear and trembling.” From the account in John 15:5 and Gal 2:20 (and numerous others) it is apparent the “work” is not done through our own efforts or strength but only through God’s empowerment. “For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure.”

We often get confused on what is God’s part and what is our part. It appears significant that Paul uses the terminology to “work out” not “work for” our salvation. This seems to suggest we are to allow that which God imputed in us (true saving faith) to work its way out to be seen of men that “they may glorify God” and “draw all men unto Me.” As we “work out” or exercise our faith we help preserve “true faith,” the biblical faith of our fathers. Our faithful example will reveal the validity of our faith, be a reflection of Christ to others, help advance His kingdom, and bring God glory.

Paul gives further direction when he says “Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended, but this one thing I do … I press toward the mark for the prize.” Paul is not fearful of his position in Christ but rather stating he has work to be done as he pursues the goal of conformity with the image of Christ. That should be our focus as well as we earnestly contend for the faith; that we may also be conformed into His image. Any focus other than the pursuit of Christ-likeness can and often does lead to a spiritual leanness centered on pride, the deception of self-righteousness and/or doctrinal error. Without a Christ-centered focus empowered by the Holy Spirit we may lose the inner vitality of our first love as did the Ephesian church.

What motivated Paul in his pursuit of Christ-likeness; as he faithfully contended for the faith? He answers that question by writing, “For the love of Christ constraineth [compels] us …” Paul was driven to seek God with all his heart by the “agape” love planted in his heart. We also should seek that motivating factor (love of God) – He is worthy of our best!

(Footnotes)
1 Jude 1:3
2 Heb. 11:1
3 Jude 1:3b
4 2 Pet. 1:1
5 John 15:4-5
6 Luke 18:11
7 Heb. 10:23-25; 2 Cor. 6:1
8 Jude 3
9 Luke 13:19
10 2 Peter 1:5-7
11 Phil. 2:12
12 Phil. 2:13
13 Matt. 5:16
14 John 12:32
15 Phil. 3:13-14
16 Rom. 10:1-4
17 Rev. 2:2-4
18 2 Cor. 5:14
19 2 Cor. 5:17
20 Matt. 22:36-40
Boundaries...
— Continued from pg. 9

be prepared for this resistance as well. We cannot control others and how they act towards us, but we can control how we respond to them. In Ephesians 4:15, we are reminded to speak the truth in love. There may be times when gentle firmness will be required to maintain the boundaries. It is wise to be assertive without being aggressive or offensive. Yielding to demands in order to avoid conflict allows our boundaries to erode and affects ourselves and our relationships.

Personal Application
So how do we apply the concept of having boundaries? We need to prayerfully examine our lives and establish what is important to ourselves, our families, and our relationship with God. We need to first set biblical priorities for our own activities and activities involving others and then adjust our personal behaviors and our behavior toward others to support the priorities we have established. For instance, if it is important for us to have uninterrupted dinner together as a family, we need to take the phone off the hook or shut off the cell phone. We may need to guard a certain number of free nights a week as ‘family or personal time’ where other activities might need to be respectfully declined. If our calendars are already full with high priority activities and a new task or responsibility comes our way, we may need to politely decline.

Boundaries allow us to take control of the areas of our lives we can control. Having boundaries means being firm in our convictions and priorities. It also means respecting those same items in the lives of others. It does not limit the amount of love and prayer we can share with others, but it does limit and prioritize how we will spend our time and other such limited resources. We need to prayerfully find the right balance of boundaries where we can serve in a healthy manner, thus glorifying God in all of our relationships.

Several thoughts referenced in this article are adapted from Boundaries, Cloud & Townsend, 1992.

Relationships affect every facet of our lives and maintaining God-honoring relationships can be a challenge. ACCFS has developed numerous resources to assist individuals and the church family in the areas of boundaries, communication, conflict/forgiveness, and other aspects of healthy relationships. These resources can be found on our website at www.accounseling.org/relationships. If you would like more information, please contact ACCFS at (309)263-5536 or info@accounseling.org.
faith. He said, ‘You go tell John what you see. The blind can see, the deaf can hear, the dead are raised, to the poor the Gospel is preached. You go tell John that.’ (St. Luke 18:22)

You see, John still needed faith, and I believe he was encouraged. John said these words, and he had it right and you and I need to get it right too. He said, ‘He must increase, and I must decrease.’ (St. John 3:30) That’s the story of our lives. That’s the story of the walk of a Christian who is truly surrendered to Jesus Christ. He must increase, and I must decrease. That’s the walk. That’s the life. That’s the hope and the joy that we find in Him. As He increases and we decrease, we become more like Him. We show more of Him to the world.

Jesus said of John, when you went out in the wilderness, what’d you go out to see? Someone dressed in fine clothes? That’s not John. He said among them that are born of women, there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist. However, he that is least in the kingdom is greater than he. (St. Luke 7:24-28)

He preached saying, “There cometh one mightier than I after me, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to stoop down and unloose.” (v.7) He had humility. He understood who Jesus was. He knew he wasn’t worthy to baptize the King of kings, and yet Jesus said, ‘John, let it be. Suffer it to be so. We must fulfill all righteousness.’ He said, “I indeed have baptized you with water: but he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost.” (v.8)

“And it came to pass in those days, that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized of John in Jordan. And straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him: And there came a voice from heaven, saying, Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” (v.9-11) We see the presence of the Trinity. In this very act, we hear the voice of God. In the beginning God said…and we hear His voice again. In the beginning the Spirit was upon the face of the waters…and we see the Spirit again. And God said let us make man in our image…and the Son was there again.

“And immediately the Spirit driveth him into the wilderness. And he was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted of Satan; and was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered unto him.” (v.12-13) Do you ever wonder why the Spirit drove Him to the wilderness for the purpose of being tempted by the devil? Ever wonder why? Do you ever wonder what that temptation looked like? We read the storybooks, and we see the little red guy with a fork trying to tempt Jesus. I don’t believe that’s what it looked like because the Word tells us He was in all points tempted like we are and yet without sin.

How are you and I tempted? It’s not with a little red guy with a fork. It’s in our minds. He brings these thoughts to our mind that aren’t truth, that are lies and deception, and we have to discern them. I believe it was the same with Jesus. He was forty days without food, and He had the enemy bring a thought to Him. Understand this is some of my perception, if you will, of what this means. This is how I understand it. I can be corrected. In my mind I think it was just a thought - I’m hungry, and here’s stones; I could turn them into bread if I’m the Son of God. But where did that thought come from? What was the origin of that thought? It was the enemy seeking to plant doubt, seeking to have Jesus prove Himself. When you and I need to prove ourselves, something’s wrong because our focus has turned from Him to us.

Jesus immediately discerned it. He recognized it. He said, ‘It is written, thou shalt not live by bread alone but by every word of God.’ (St. Luke 4:4) He was in
fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.” (v.14-15) Today that same message, repent and believe the gospel, troubles the world over because it’s the same message. It’s an old message, and yet to every heart that is separated from God, it’s a new message of hope and salvation and peace and joy because He lives! If you don’t know Jesus as your Savior and your Lord, I entreat you - come and taste and see. He is good! Come to the foot of the cross. Why would you carry the burden you carry when He has said, ‘I’ll take it from you, and I’ll put a yoke upon you that’s easy and a burden that’s light.’ Learn of me Jesus said. (St. Matthew 11:28-30) And so we do.

May our hearts be stirred as we think about the goodness of God and the love that He has showered upon us! “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” (St. John 3:16)

Maximizing Charitable Impact

— Continued from pg. 7 be biblically accurate) pays 30% less in taxes for up to six years, and the giver has made a gift that may provide an income stream for charity and/or a lump sum when a sale occurs. Typically the charity receives non-voting stock.

The Endowment Fund desires to effectively serve the Church. Please pray for the Holy Spirit to direct this work, and contact us with questions regarding charitable gift planning.

“Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account.” – Philippians 4:17. Please take a moment to ponder what that means. May your gifts on earth be generous and with cheer, and your account in heaven full.

Apostolic Christian Endowment Fund
10699 Steiner Road
Rittman, OH 44270
330-749-5117 Phone
acendowment@gmail.com
Over the years, young men who were members and non-members of the church have served in the armed forces in noncombatant roles. They have been willing, unarmed, to even go into combat and serve as medics and in other nonviolent tasks. It is interesting to note that the number of Apostolic Christian members and non-members who served in the military during World War II totaled more than 1200 men. Today, with all-volunteer armed forces, the matter of military service is not as pertinent. However, becoming aware of how those from the past have served is helpful. This month’s column devotes space to this noble service. It is a two-part series that tells about a brother in faith losing his life in battle.

Service to our Nation
From Marching To Zion, we learn that several young men serving as noncombatants were injured in battle. It is believed that only one man who was a member of the church was killed during battle. He was Bro. Dale Aeschleman, son of Elder Sam Aeschleman of Bluffton, IN, who lost his life in late February, 1945, on the island of Luzon in the Philippine Islands. An account of his experience exists and is historically noteworthy. It was written a former boyhood friend from Bluffton, IN named Homer Reineck. He later became a minister at Toledo, OH. He was service on Luzon at the same time and writes about the series of events associated with the death of Dale Aeschleman.

A Time of Sadness
“In late January, 1945, the 38th Infantry Division was scheduled to make a beachhead assault in the Mariveles Province on the west coast of the island of Luzon in the Philippine Islands. Among those to go ashore that day were S/Sgt. Dale Aeschleman, S/Sgt. Sam Schladenhaufen, Sgt. Everett Geisel, and myself, S/Sgt. Homer Reineck, all from the Bluffton church.

It was welcome news when we heard that the Japanese were not going to make a stand at the beach, and we all went into the L. S. T.’s and on the shore with thankful hearts that the usual beachhead battle did not have to be fought. Instead, we were met by jubilant people of the island who were thankful to see the forces of liberation.

Since there was no opposition, all the soldiers moved toward our objectives as quickly as possible. In the confusion, our ambulance company apparently got a little ahead of the infantry and stopped along the road to let the foot soldiers catch up. It was there I saw Dale march by, and it was the last time I saw him alive. He gave me a wave of his hand, and disappeared out of sight around the shoulder of a hill.

Our objective was a road which ran across the base of the Bataan Peninsula. On the evening of the third day, we met the first enemy opposition. It was in the foothills of the mountains which make up the backbone of Bataan. Since it was late in the day, everyone dug in quickly for the night. The Japanese began to harass the American soldiers with mortar and small arms fire.

At just about dark, someone called out for a medic. Dale started to respond but was advised by his comrades to not go out so late. He did go out anyway and gave the man first-aid and made him comfortable for the night.”

--To be continued--

-by Perry Klopfenstein

Next Issue: The death of Dale Aeschleman
The Light of Hope

Love Seeketh Not Her Own

In the love chapter, 1 Corinthians 13, verse 5, we find the teaching that charity, or love, seeketh not her own. This is a thought-provoking teaching and I would like to examine other Scriptures which have a similar meaning.

Charity may be defined as love in action and so the King James Version of the Bible uses the word, charity.

The love which is spoken about in this chapter is not something which we have produced, but it is the love of God which should be demonstrated in our lives, if we have repented and been converted to the Lord Jesus Christ. After conversion, we should not be self-seeking or insist on our own way. The Japanese translation reads that love does not seek its own profit or benefit. The exception might be in the case where you are operating a company. If you don't have a profit, you can't continue to operate and your employees wind up without a job. Therefore, seeking not our own means that we should make sure that our customers get their money's worth and that they are not cheated in any way. We should not try to get a profit at other people’s expense.

A phrase that is used a lot in life is “I want.” If by the use of this phrase we are trying to fulfill our own selfish lusts or desires, it is not good. We have a tendency to always want more. This is not to be the case with true Christians as indicated by the teaching, “Godliness with contentment is great gain.” 1 Timothy 6:6.

The Golden Rule teaches us not to seek our own. It is found in Matthew 7:12 and Luke 6:31. The latter reads as follows: “And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise.” In daily life it is remembered as “Do unto others as ye would that they do unto you.” No one wants to be taken advantage of. We all want to be loved and respected, and love and respect are free. We could have a wonderful life with wonderful relationships, if we were all willing to follow the Scriptures in regard to how we treat each other, and how we feel toward each other.

We are taught in Philippians 2:3, “Let each esteem other better than themselves.” It takes humility to emphasize the good points in others and not their weak points. In this way we can esteem others better than ourselves, not that we consider ourselves to be no good, but we tend to prefer others, we give them our love and our prayerful blessings.

In Luke, Chapter 10, Christ tells the parable of the Good Samaritan. This also teaches us not to seek our own profit or benefit. If the Good Samaritan would have gone on by the wounded traveler, he probably could have taken care of his own business and made a profit. However, when he saw someone in need, he forgot self and went to the aid of someone in need. We may find it difficult to do that, to seek not our own, but that is what the Bible teaches.

Christ taught us to “Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven.” Matthew 6:20. What we do for self and to build up our own recognition by the world, is not laying up treasures in heaven. To be very humble and devoted to helping others in the name of Christ, this is what lays up treasures in heaven. We are taught in 2 Cor. 5:10 that “We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body.” There will be a judgment as to how we have spent our time and used our talents.

Jesus said, “For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.” John 6:38. May we do likewise. Love seeketh not her own.

-by Willis Ehnle
“From whom are these wonders?
O give Him the glory!
Our voice in honor to Him raise.”

The Heavens Are Praising,
Hymns of Zion #49, vs. 4