I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth.

Genesis 9:13
Thanking our Heavenly Father

Next month, we will be publishing articles submitted by readers about how their fathers have demonstrated spiritual leadership. With June being the month of Father’s Day, it furthermore seems appropriate to widen the scope up to our Eternal Father in this issue. He is righteous, yet compassionate, gracious and merciful.

It is because of His great love for all, that he sent a Savior, Jesus to redeem and sanctify us. When our fathers have experienced the Father’s love and Christ’s transforming power, it makes a wonderful difference in our homes. That’s just one of many reasons to give thanks to God (and your Dad, too).

In Christian love,

Silver Lining Counseling Elders
Jeff Grimm and Rick Plattner

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Front cover: Bro. Eric Virkler, Rockville, CT; from Mt. Rainier looking at the Cascade Mountains in southern Washington.
Back cover: Bro. Kurt Bahler, Remington, IN; Mission Peninsula, grape vines just north of Traverse City, MI.
Walking Cheerfully

“Christian, walk cheerfully thro’ the fierce storm, Dark tho’ the sky with its threat of alarm. Soon will the clouds and the tempest be o’er, Then with the Saviour thou’lt rest ever more.”

The hymn writer’s words to the believer to walk cheerfully are timeless — and especially relevant in the world today with its wide array of storm clouds and new “threats” that appear almost every day. In this time where nothing seems certain, voices are always being raised, and morality is promoted by some as relative; the answer remains Jesus Christ. He alone is the One who never changes. He provides shelter in the time of storm and a place of refuge and peace. We are encouraged to be cheerful each day and to have the faith of Paul who knew God was with him and said, “Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me.” Our reason for a cheerful walk is not based on trust in self, but in a loving Father who knows our “downsitting and uprising,” who protects us in adversity, and promises us grace and peace in this life and eternal life in heaven. As believers who hear the voice of the good Shepherd, we have many reasons to walk cheerfully.

Our ability to walk cheerfully is not of ourselves or our own nature, but arises from what Jesus Christ has done for us. Matthew 9:2 teaches, “and, behold, they brought to him a man sick of the palsy, lying on a bed: and Jesus seeing their faith said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee.” Each of us were once in this lost condition; “for all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God,” and were condemned eternally. But thanks be to God for His unspeakable gift that Jesus shed His blood for the remission of our sins and for the whole world, that all who believe on Him shall not perish but have eternal life. We who were dead in trespasses and sins are now quickened and made alive in Christ. That should give us great cheer!

“Christian, walk cheerfully thro’ the fierce storm, Dark tho’ the sky with its threat of alarm,” is a good reminder to us that believers are to be cheerful in all situations, both in the actual storms of life, as well as times where we perceive that a threat exists. Proverbs 24:19 reminds us, “Fret not thyself because of evil men, neither be thou envious at the wicked.” Our human nature often becomes overly concerned with everything that is happening — but Paul reminds us that we should “be careful (anxious) for nothing.” How is this possible? Jesus told his disciples, “These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.” 1 Cor. 1:13 gives us additional reasons to be cheerful, “There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.” What a wonderful Savior who has walked the way before us, won the victory, and now is willing to help us so that we also can overcome.

The believer is never alone. We see this in a number of accounts, including Mark 6:50, where Jesus told them, “Be of good cheer, it is I; be not afraid.” Jesus’ birth was foretold with the words, “they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.” We are reminded that He is one who “shall neither slumber nor sleep,” but that He knows our “downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off.” What a beautiful promise to know that He knows all of our situations, but also as our high priest, “He is able to succour them that are tempted.” The only thing that gets in the way of all of the promises that He has for us is self and pride. We are reminded that God resists the proud, but in the light of His glory and grace, the things of this world grow strangely dim, and the sweet, still, small voice

— Please turn to pg. 67
Monthly Sermon

Sermon by Bro. Mike Rieker, Peoria, IL

St. Matthew 14 & Acts 12
I appreciate each one that’s offered a prayer on behalf of the Word. I just love reading those stories of this amazing Jesus. Amazing. There are so many things we don’t know; the Bible even says they’re not recorded (St. John 21:25). Just amazing!

In the second verse of this beautiful hymn, the words are amazing. This is what hits home to me — it says, “Lest I offend some other thru the strain…” (An Evening Prayer, Hymns of Zion #177) I think when we’re going to offend is in the strain. For me I can be going three ways at once at work, under the strain, and that’s when a quick answer or wrong answer can come out so quickly. Maybe strain means we’re under pressure or worried or something, and it says lest I offend under the strain. That’s exactly, I think, my weakness and I think a lot of ours. The Lord knows how we’re made and once in a while we have to say we’re sorry.

For our beginning here in Matthew 14. We have Herod here and we would even say incredible evil and incredible goings on. If I have it right, I think Herod-the-Great would have been the first of the Herods and that’s who had all the babies under two years old in Bethlehem killed. Then there was Herod Anitpas who Jesus would have been before, and this one, and Agrippa, and Agrippa the Second. Quite a line of rulers.

Here was a case where Herod said in a weak moment, I’ll give you whatever you want because this dancing pleased him. That was a terrible mistake. It says, “But when Herod’s birthday was kept, the daughter of Herodias danced before them, and pleased Herod. Whereupon he promised with an oath to give her whatsoever she would ask. And she, being before instructed of her mother…” (v.6-8) You can’t imagine somebody saying I want that person’s head. Of course, that’s what happened. They beheaded him which is just amazing. They brought the head in a charger.

“And he sent, and beheaded John in the prison.” (v.10) We might stop for a minute. This is John the Baptist. The special one who was born out of due time, out of season for his mother and father, the special one to usher in Jesus. At a young age, a horrible death! A beheading! I read a saying this week, if I can be so fortunate to repeat it right — On the day of the unveiling of God’s will, everything will seem right. I think God gave me that this week. I kind of needed it at the time. The unveiling of God’s will some day. We read some day in heaven we’ll have it all explained. What about this? What about that? Things we don’t get. Things we don’t understand. Things we never will.

A good example of that is our next reading — James was killed, and Peter was delivered. Why was one killed and the other actually freed? Someday we’ll know, but until then we don’t. We really don’t. We have to trust God. Lord, Thy will be done. Sometimes we take things into our own hands and steer a ship a certain way, and I’ve done that. At the time I actually think I knew it was more my will than waiting to see if it was God’s will. It didn’t work out so well. But on the day of the unveiling of God’s will, it will all seem right. I really believe in that.

Verse 12 — “And his disciples came, and took up the body, and buried it, and went and told Jesus.” A beheaded body. Even sometimes in industrial accidents, some things can happen where there’s a horrible accident or horrible death. Things like that actually do happen. Even in my business with air pressure and split rims and lock rings on wheels, people have had horrible, horrible deaths. There’s less of that all the time because those are beginning to get antiquated and gone, but yet it’s still there. It’s a horrible fear. It would be bad enough if a terrible, terrible accident would cause such a thing, but to think that people in the Mid-East this year have done such a thing, let alone recorded in the Bible.

Verse 13 is maybe the human aspect of Jesus. There’s the God aspect. Totally God and totally man.
“When Jesus heard of it, he departed thence by ship into a desert place apart…” He wanted to go be alone.

His cousin, John the Baptist, that baptized Him, did they grow up together? Did they play together as little boys? There are things we don’t know, but Jesus would have been incredibly sad. He had to try to get away and pray to His Father. Yet, Jesus being Jesus understood why it had to happen and all the ramifications. It’s quite a mixture, like none other. There’s never been any other before or since for a man to be totally man but yet totally God.

So here’s the story then of the many, thousands of people that followed Him to the desert. “When Jesus heard of it, he departed thence by ship into a desert place apart: and when the people had heard thereof, they followed him on foot out of the cities.” Then, precious Jesus. “And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick.” (v.13-14)

His miracles are interesting. Some were out of compassion — a blind person, one with leprosy all over their body, or the blood disease and different things. He knew what they had, and He healed them because He loved them and had compassion. It says it right here, had compassion. We know also some of His miracles were to have people notice this is not normal. Not just any man can do this. Only the Son of God can change water into wine, His first miracle, and lots of other things. It says right before here He had done many miracles, and He was going to get away, get apart. Here the people were hungry out in the desert, and the disciples said they should send them away.

“But Jesus said unto them, They need not depart; give ye them to eat.” (v.16) And here’s the natural side of things, the earthly side — we don’t have that much food! Where we going to get it? If we could, we couldn’t afford it anyway. We don’t have that kind of money. “And they say unto him, We have here but five loaves, and two fishes. He said, Bring them hither to me.” (v.17-18) If we don’t have much money and the collection is for church dues, World Relief, the Home for the Handicapped, any of the charity funds, and we bring a small amount because that’s what we have to give, the Lord blesses it. The $5 bills, the $10 bills, $1 bills, quarters I’ve taken out of the boxes or large checks, if we give maybe what’s big to us and it’s small, in the Lord’s hands it’s all different.

I heard years ago that there’s a classification of miracles called the ‘Miracles of Multiplication.’ That would be like taking five loaves and feeding 15,000 people. It’s like giving money for God’s use, and it explodes. It’s the Miracles of Multiplication in God’s hands. In my hands it doesn’t work, in your hands it doesn’t work, in God’s hands it does. I don’t mean to be giving an advertisement. I’ve said this before about World Relief, and I think in a lot of the things that our church does, it’s amazing how far money goes. This gets donated, that gets donated, materials, labor, machines, all sorts of things are given, done, hours. At that point, the checkbook stays the same, and then what needs to be bought or paid for, checks are written. It is absolutely nothing less than Miracles of Multiplication. Multiply in God’s hands.

It’s even neat to see how Jesus arranged it and everything. “And he commanded the multitude…” — a multitude it was! 15,000 people! That many people wouldn’t fit in the Peoria Civic Center; that seats 10 or 11,000 I think — “And he commanded the multitude to sit down on the grass, and took the five loaves, and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, he blessed, and brake, and gave the loaves to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude.” He was Jesus. He knew what was going to happen. He knew what He was going to do. If he wondered what was going to happen, would he have had all the people sit down in orderly fashion however He had it done? Here’s this basket. He didn’t say, ‘Desperately look for some — Please turn to pg. 68
Ministry Program Updates

Buckets of Blessings

Distribution Committee

It is hard for us to imagine, but in a far off country, such as Haiti, a young man can trade a bucket for $1.50. With that $1.50, he has just made a day’s wages for his family. Or he may choose to keep his bucket to haul things such as food or water. To us it is only an old bucket, perhaps even something to be discarded. To him it is a treasure.

Organizing and Washing Buckets

Brethren and friends in the Rittman, Smithville, Akron, and Mansfield area have the opportunity to help prepare these buckets for their trip overseas. The process begins when a brother picks up the buckets each day from Smith Dairy and takes them to the Rittman HarvestCall Distribution Center. Every afternoon, about seventy buckets arrive at the Center with the sticky remains of ice cream toppings. Several brothers remove the worst of the grime from the buckets with a high-power rinse and start soaking the lids. Inside the Center, another volunteer follows by washing the lids more thoroughly. After that, work nights are scheduled and families complete the final washing, rinsing, and pyramid stacking for drying. Buckets are sorted according to their brand for efficient packing.

Filling the Buckets

During work nights, the buckets may be filled with varying necessities for those in need. Some examples of what might be sent in a single bucket may be: 25 bags of 10-serving soup mix meals, 40 lbs. of shelled corn, or 40 lbs. of wheat, barley or beans. About one million of these soup packet meals are shipped each year.

A family in need in another country may grind corn or wheat into corn meal or flour which then is used for cooking or baking. In 2015, Four thousand buckets of corn were shipped to those who were in need.

Shipping the Buckets

Finally, the buckets are restacked and sent overseas on sea containers to countries such as: Mexico, Nicaragua, Dominican Republic, Honduras, Ivory Coast, Bulgaria, Haiti, Tajikistan, El Salvador, and Liberia. A great advantage of storing food in buckets is that rats cannot penetrate them easily. Also, the buckets are useful for carrying water.

Appreciation for the Labors of Love

Eighteen thousand buckets were used in 2015. We are grateful for the efforts of the many who have labored for this journey of a simple ice cream topping bucket. Special thanks for the blessing you have given to others in need.
Supporting Brothers and Sisters Living Abroad
“How can your home church best support you on the mission field?”

The couple being interviewed paused, considered their answer, and then spoke with conviction. Their answers, along with others, are captured on video and are being posted on the HarvestCall website under “Our Missionaries.” We encourage you to “listen to the heart” of these brothers and sisters serving the Lord in foreign lands. Additional segments will be added regularly.

Spiritual Support
The missionaries consistently listed prayer as their single most desired means of support. The following excerpts provide insight into the deliberateness and creativity some sending churches have exercised. “We have an advocacy group made up of friends and family that support us in prayer.” “As I have been down here, they [my home church] have a prayer list where someone prays for me every week. That is one of the biggest things they could have done for me.” “Mostly, it’s just knowing that they care and that they’re praying. A lot of them are good friends who have come and visited. Having them experience what’s here has been huge.”

Fellowship Support
Being geographically separated produces natural isolation. Such things as cards, care packages, and visits communicate “we love you; we are with you.” “We love mail. A card or letter is a day maker.” “We can’t put our life into words. Come and discover who we are and what our life looks like.” “When people love on our kids that does us wonders. It’s little things like a card or bubbles for our kids.” “Our church has it set up for two different couples connecting with us every month.”

Financial and Physical Support
“Notes and financial gifts communicate a message of heart that we are not forgotten.” A small gift communicates a large message: “We care.”

– by Justin Koch

Families or individuals are welcome and much appreciated to help in any of the above steps of the bucket preparation. If you do not live in the Central Ohio area but are interested in the bucket washing project, perhaps you will find a source of food-grade buckets to start washing in your area. If you are more interested in the bucket washing process or would like to volunteer your help, please contact Bro. Bob Stoller at 330.683.5951 or Bro. Rob Stoller at 330.939.0302 or Bro. Jeran Stoller at 330.464.1453.

– by Mary Beth Stoller

Buckets beings used to water a garden plot in Haiti.
Arguably one of the biggest challenges of living life as a single person is learning how to navigate legitimate emotional and relational needs. While the intensity of the need varies from person to person, God has instilled a desire for connection within each one of us. In Genesis 2:18, God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone,” and in response, He made Adam a helper. Likewise, God has placed different individuals within each of our lives to be our “helpers.”

When emotional needs are not being met, people tend to go in one of two directions: they either seek to find additional support through relationships or they put up barriers, isolating themselves from additional hurt. Singles need to recognize the healthy ways they are dealing with emotional needs, as well as admit the unhealthy ways they are coping. Take inventory of your life. How well am I dealing with my emotional needs? Where are areas of growth needed? If you are struggling in a particular area, are you seeking support? Are you actively pursuing growth in your life or are you stagnate, waiting for circumstances to change?

**Asking for Help**

Gal. 6:2, “Bear ye one another’s burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.”

Each of us has been designed with different gifts and abilities. Whether married or single, we should be aware of our needs and our limitations. For example, individuals who have lost a spouse can find learning to live life again as a single extremely difficult. Perhaps there were responsibilities your spouse tended to you must now figure out how to do on your own. While it can be humbling to ask for assistance, it is essential you do so, not allowing pride to become a stumbling block. Perhaps your greatest need is companionship. While this need may not be met in the same way as it was in marriage, by sharing this need with others, you are demonstrating openness and vulnerability, allowing others to walk beside you during your loss. Remember Ecclesiastes 4:9-10, “Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up.”

When singles don’t have other people to share life with, discouragement and loneliness can set in. Because of this, it is essential singles learn to be proactive, reaching out to others for accountability and support when needed, being willing to admit limitations and accept help from others. Likewise, it is important for the church to do their part in reaching out to those who are alone, showing our single brothers and sisters that they are very loved and valued (1 Cor. 12:26, “And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it…”, Phil. 2:4, “Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others”).

If you are struggling and don’t know who to ask for help, talk to your elder, mentor, a trusted friend, or a family member. They may be able to help or give you some ideas. While your needs may not end up being met in the same capacity as you originally hoped, the Body of Christ will still be willing and able to help.

**Consider the following questions:**

1. Can and will you ask for help if there is a need? If not, what is getting in your way?
2. Who are the helpers God has placed in your life? Are you using them for practical, emotional or relational support? Are there others you are overlooking?
Engaging Relationships when it’s Hard

Prov. 27:17, “Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.”

Younger individuals tend to go through periods of time when friends frequently marry, move, or have children, resulting in great changes to the person’s core group. After a while, a person can tire of trying to build new relationships, as they feel they will be short lived and they don’t want to go through the additional pain of losing yet another close friend to marriage or transition. When a person starts to notice these feelings, it is important to remember that just as we are all called to grow in our relationship with Christ, so also are all earthly relationships intended to evolve and change over time. Even when it’s difficult, we are called to reach out to others, as often God uses those individuals to teach us about Himself.

Without question, God can use marriage as a refining process in a person’s life, but it’s also important to remember this is not His only tool. God refines us through many types of relationships — through exhibiting patience with a difficult coworker, through selflessly caring for aging parents, through setting aside today’s plans to help a friend in need — there are many opportunities for refining if we are open to them.

While God will allow relationships in our life that will challenge us, we should also be intentional about allowing people in who will speak truth. We see this example set before us in 2 Samuel 12, when Nathan confronted David’s sin. In our life, we should be intentional about having “Nathans” who we are open with and who see our daily lives. They are individuals who are willing to call out our behavior for our good.

To consider:

1. Are you allowing God freedom to refine you in your current relationships? Or, do you live in bitterness and frustration for the difficult relationships God has placed in your life, desiring something different?
2. Do the people in your life speak truth to you, calling out sinful or fruitless behavior in your life? Do you listen?

Refining through Christ

In each of the disciples’ lives, God used Jesus to sharpen and strengthen them for the time that was to come. Just as Christ ministered to the disciples here on earth, so do relationships with other believers minister to us today. However, in the end, our most refining relationship should be our relationship with Jesus Christ, taking our cares and concerns to Him and pursuing a deepening relationship with Him that will last. He is the only one who will ever truly see all of our needs and be the all-sufficient remedy we crave. His love is deeper than any earthly relationship and His truth greater than any refining circumstance. Continue to grow in your relationship with Him today.

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

ACCFS continues to develop resources to help singles in their walk with the Lord. These resources can be found on our website at www.accounseling.org/singleness. If you would like more information or have requests/comments, please contact ACCFS at (309) 263-5536 or singleness@accounseling.org.
Congregation Updates

Apostolic Christian Home for the Handicapped
www.achh.org

The Board of Directors and Administrators of the Apostolic Christian Home for the Handicapped (ACHH) would like to thank each and every one of you who came to the Midwest Gospel Sing Fundraiser that was held on April 30 at Five Points in Washington, IL. It is the only annual fundraiser that has been established for the benefit of ACHH. That evening the Schrenk Sisters from Junction, OH; the Heritage Gospel Quartet from Francesville, IN; and a group of Illinois Bible Class students in a choir lead by Bro. David Ringger from Gridley, IL all shared their talents in song and worship. Also, one of the parents of a longtime resident at the Apostolic Christian Timber Ridge facility gave that family’s testimony about their loved one being served by our agency. If you were not able to attend the successful evening and would still like to see the program, the video has been archived on www.midwestgospelsing.net. Also learn more about our agency and how to donate at our website www.achh.org.

ACHH offers positions for individuals who have an interest in human or social services with good management skills and a desire to use them while serving our home in a professional management position. If you have a background in business, medical services, or social services, please contact ACHH Administrative staff to discuss your future and the need our Agency may have for you.

Currently we have important long-term positions for resident management available. These openings include Resident Services Director (RSD) positions at the following ACHH facilities: Timber Ridge (74-bed home), and Oakwood Estate (12-bed group home for wheelchair bound residents).

The primary purpose of an RSD job position is to plan, organize, develop, and direct the overall operation of the particular department in accordance with current applicable Federal, State, and Local standards, guidelines and regulations, and established policies and procedures as directed by the Administrator to assure that the medically-related emotional and social needs of the residents are met/maintained on an individual basis. For more information on these openings and other opportunities, contact Human Resources or Administration at ACHH.

Gateway Woods Apostolic Christian Children’s Home
Lindsey Kieser – Homebased Counseling

I recently met Patty. Patty seemed different than my typical client. For our first meeting, we planned to go out to eat. When Patty got into my car, I was immediately met with the strong smell of cigarette smoke. Patty was overweight, toothless, and dressed in ragged clothes. It was obvious Patty lived in poverty. Patty loves to talk. She talked about her past abuse from her father and her past experiences with alcohol abuse, prison life, and strained family relationships. She talked about her teenage son and his experiences of abuse from his father, drug use, and how he is currently placed in the residential program at Gateway Woods. The cycle of poverty and brokenness seems to be continuing yet again. So, how is Patty different from the typical client? She sees her mistakes. She admits she has made wrong choices. She realizes she does not know everything and needs help learning. She is willing to listen; willing to take correction.

We are prideful people. Sometimes we think it is best to show that we know everything and are stronger because of it. We have it all figured out, or
so we think. But, I have found that trying to figure it out on my own only leads me down a path of disappointment and discontentment in my self-pleasing efforts. Proverbs provides us with multiple verses stating it is foolish to think our ways are right, but wise to listen to instruction (Proverbs 12:15).

“Reprove not a scorner, lest he hate thee: rebuke a wise man, and he will love thee. Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be yet wiser: teach a just man, and he will increase in learning. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.” Proverbs 9:8-10

This passage states that wisdom starts with the fear of the Lord. When we fear the Lord, our eyes are fixed on Him and we seek to know Him. Our perspective changes when we focus on His whole character: His love, His majesty, His justness, His sovereignty, His holiness, and His grace. We realize that He is God and we are His children. Understanding our place and relationship to our Father produces a sense of humility and vulnerability before Him. All of a sudden, our way seems foolish, as one beating at the air. We begin to love instruction and correction from the Word and from others, increasing in knowledge and understanding while growing to know the Lord deeper and more fully.

I work with all types of people and families who live in all types of circumstances. Most of these people are bound by their fleshly desires, living as slaves to sin, and foolishly rambling in their own way. Though Patty has a long way to go, she has stepped outside the crowd by learning to take reproof and advice from others. Patty has moved from unemployment to holding a steady job, and is working on learning how to budget effectively to save up for her own place. She is headed in the right direction in order for her son to return home. It all started with a little bit of humility.

News:

We are excited to announce the hiring of Jon Ringger (Leo, IN) as Communications Coordinator.

Gateway Woods has open positions for Houseparent Couples. For more information please see the notices in 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

Monica Price

As Memorial Day approaches, we think of the men and women that sacrificed their lives in order for us to be free. I see a great correlation between this and the greatest sacrifice of all that was made by Jesus on the cross, so that we might have freedom from sin. Memorial Day is a special time for us here at Athens as we look forward to our program at the Tennessee Fellowship Area.

This month we had Bro. Jeff Gerber (Sis. Carole, Rockville, CT) come minister to us. We had a wonderful time together and are thankful for the effort they made to travel the long distance. We have many special friendships that have been made over the years with those of the Rockville church and appreciate them very much. We also enjoyed visits from two former preschool teachers and their families, as well as other family and friends of the Athens church. We are thankful for all our visitors and we encourage others to visit.

We had a Passover meal this month with our church family. It was interesting to see how the Israelites use this meal to teach their children and remember what God had done for them.

Our prayers are with Sis. Joyce Ray, Bro. Ed Haggenmaker,
We have a wonderful promise that if we suffer with Him, His glory will be revealed in us, and we will no longer be in bondage to corruption, but delivered into glorious liberty. That is mostly future, but we get a taste of it here, if we are paying attention. It also seems suffering “here” makes us long for “there” more fervently, and brings us into closer, sweeter communion with Jesus. That is a taste of the glory. Paul surely knew what he was talking about when he said it can’t compare to what we will experience there.

We are told how we can identify the children of God. They are peacemakers. Matt 5:9. In his first epistle, John speaks at length of how to discern who is a child of God. “In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother. For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.” 1 John 3:10-11

“Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.” 1 John 4:13

“By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments.” 1 John 5:2

And this is his commandment, that we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment. And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know...
that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.” 1 John 3:23-24.

Who’s your Daddy?

We have been rather busy here in Phoenix, in spite of things winding down in anticipation of our quietier summer season. We were blessed to be served Communion by our dear Elder Bro Herb Knochel and visiting Elder Bro. Steve Ringger (Sis. Myra, Bluffton North, IN).

A presentation by ACCFS Bro. Arlan Miller and Bro. Matt Kaufman brought us a lot of good information on mentorship. We hope to be able to put it to good use in our congregation.

Bro. Matt Kaufmann (Sis. Rebekah, Bloomington, IL) served us from the pulpit, as well as teaching us about mentorship. Thank you for all your work on our behalf.

We celebrated the milestone of school graduations with the following students:

8th Grade: Alexa Wuethrich, Austin Steul, Cade Knapp, Dylan Witzig, Sierra Thorpe
High School: Erica Emch, Jonah Steffen, Janelle Huette
College: Derek Knochel

We held our annual business meeting on Wednesday, May 11. We rejoice with Jenna Freed, who is at peace with God and desires to be baptized.

We mourn with Sis. Rosalee and Sis. Ellamarie Edelman, as they bid farewell to their sister, Maryann, who passed away in Silverton, OR.

“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen.” 1 Cor. 13:14

Arizona, Prescott

Autumn Rokey

We have been blessed this last month to hear more about the Home for the Handicapped by Elder Bro Ron (Sis. Pam) Messner from Washington. Bro. Steve Frauhiger (Sis. Irene) from Bluffton North also traveled out as a visiting minister.

We are looking forward to ACYF Memorial Day weekend with Sunday School children from California, Arizona and Colorado. Pray that they will have a blessed time getting to know each other and hearing about God.

Arizona, Tucson

Dean and Jackie Knobloch

Our Annual business meeting was held April 30. We were privileged to have Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia) here for the weekend. Newly-voted offices include: Usher, Bro. Don Bauer; Trustee and Sunday School Superintendent, Bro. Tom Koch; Primary Sunday School teacher, Sis. Caroline Kaufman. We wish to thank all who have served in church offices in the past year.

The engagement of Bro. Tom Koch to Sis. Andrea Luthi (San Diego) was announced also that weekend. We rejoice with this couple and wish them God’s goodness and blessings.

Bro. Brad and Sis. Sandy Bauer welcomed grandson, Grayson Bradley Darling on May 2. His parents, Mindy and Brett and big sister Tori, are very thankful for his safe arrival.

We held our semi-annual church cleaning the first weekend of May. The trustees appreciate the willingness to work and thank all who participated.

Note: If you are visiting Tucson and need accommodations, there is a two bedroom townhouse available for use. Please contact Bro. Dean Knobloch (309-231-8428 or djknobloch@gmail.com) for information.

California, San Diego

Annaleise Wagenbach

“I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s Kingdom.” Matt 26:29.

We were blessed greatly in partaking in Communion this month. During our evening together, we each were encouraged to reflect back to the moment we believed, the moment we said “I want to repent”, and the moment our load was lifted. It was then we could finally recognize God’s goodness, and no longer fight against it. Let us all recognize His embrace and unconditional care of us! Elder Bro. John and Sis. Jane Wiegand (Silverton, OR) joined our congregation and we are thankful for their service.

Also joining us this month were Bro. Mike and Sis. Carol Rieker (Peoria, IL). We always enjoy their visits and the love they extend toward us.

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The engagement of Bro. Tom Koch (Tucson, AZ) and Sis. Andrea Luthi has brought much thanksgiving and rejoicing to our church. He is the son of Bro. Dave and Sis. June Koch. She is the daughter of Elder Bro. Jay and Sis. Jane Luthi. Our prayers are with them as they seek out the future and begin establishing a foundation together.

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

This month we gathered as a church and remembered the price that was paid for our sin at Communion. We are thankful Elder Bro. Rick Plattner (Fairbury, IL) was willing to come out to help with the service.

We have several young people graduating this month. Gabe Zarkovacki (Donnie and Amy), Aaron Braun (Richard and Debbie Reynolds), and Sebastian Wiegand (Bro. Charles and Sis. Naomi) all graduated from high school. Nikki Zarkovacki (Bro. Mike and Sis. Rose) graduated from 8th grade. We pray they will all put God first in their lives as they pursue their future goals.

Connecticut, Rockville
Sheila Gerber, Lauren Gottier

“For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord’s death till he be come.” 1 Corinthians 11:26

This past month we were privileged to partake of Holy Communion as a congregation. We appreciated having a number of visiting elders with us for the weekend, as it coincided with the Eastern Regional Elder Meeting. The elders who were with us for Communion and Sunday services include: Retired Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Sis. Roberta, dec., Smithville, OH) and Elder Bros. John Jackson (Sis. Peggy, Bay City, MI), Mark Masters (Sis. Jeannine, Mansfield, OH), Duane Farney (Sis. Karen, Croghan, NY), Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH), and Ken Indermuhle (Sis. Linda, Sardis, OH). We were blessed by the Word and encouraged to strive for a more focused walk with God. We also appreciated having Bro. Brad Gudeman (Sis. Teresa, Bradford, IL) serve on our pulpit this month.

Sis. Deborah Galat (Bro. Dave and Sis. Ellen) will be moving to the Washington, DC area and attending the church there. We want to wish her God’s blessings on her future endeavors.

We extend our prayers and sympathy to Bro. Jay Fehr (Sis. Jay) and his family at the time of the passing of his father, Bro. Gene Fehr (Roanoke, IL). Sis. Martha Schneider (Bro. Leon, dec.) is also remembered in our thoughts as her brother, Bro. Ed Schambach (Elgin, IL), recently passed away.

District of Columbia, Washington
Henrietta Meyer

Our caretakers for May were Bro. Harold and Sis. Sherry Fritz (Francesville, IN). With caretakers here for a month, not only do we get to know them, but also often meet their children and grandchildren. 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 dkgstetten@gmail.com or 302-540-6574.

This month we welcome Sis. Debra Galat from the Rockville, CT, as she has moved here looking for employment.

Our ministers this month were Elder Bro. Brad Eisenmann (Sis. Cindy, Chicago, IL), Bro. Mitch Fehr (Sis. Abbie, Morris, MN), Bro. Brett Lantz (Sis. Renee, Rittman, OH), Bro. Neil Ramseyer (Sis. Sharon, Bay City, MI) and Bro. Dana Indermuhle (Sis. Joy, Sardis, OH). Other visitors this month were from Francesville, IN, Phoenix, AZ, Altadena, CA and Rittman, OH.

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

Florida, Ft. Lauderdale
Renee Mangold

We were thankful to have several visiting ministers this past month. Sharing God’s word
were Bro. Rustin Meister (Sis. Amanda) West Lafayette, IN; Bro. Virgil Kaeb (Sis. Suellen) Sarasota, FL; Bro. Tom Leman Denver, CO; and Bro. Calvin Schneider LaCrosse, IN. We pray that they will be blessed for their efforts.

Sister Vi Gerber went home to be with the Lord on April 23. Sister Vi was an inspiration to us in her spiritual walk, her strong commitment to family and her tenacity of spirit. We will miss her, but praise God that she is in Heaven now and at peace.

We are returning to our summer schedule and will not be meeting on Wednesday nights for church services.

Florida, Ft. Myers
Dustin Hodel

“It is of the Lord’s mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness. The Lord is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him. The Lord is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him. It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the Lord.”

Lamentations 3:22-26

Every year around this time we have a full church reenactment of the children of Israel leaving a bad situation in Egypt and heading toward the Promised Land, while the snowbirds in Ft. Myers are leaving a land of near paradise and heading back to the temperamental climate weathered by our northern brothers and sisters!

Normally when this time of year comes, our church family is reduced to some pretty small numbers. This year is no different, but that outcome is starting to change. You see, even from last year to this year, we have grown in year-round numbers as we’ve had several families move down and join us. Normally I write separate articles for Ft. Myers and The New Beginnings, but this month, the two go hand-in-hand very well!

You see in the past year, The New Beginnings has had two couples move down to help mentor at The New Beginnings. I don’t say that to toot our own horn. I say that to bring glory to God because He has been faithful in bringing people to us!

At the church we are excited to have more year-round members. Sharing the church duties and just having more life in the church is such a blessing. On a personal level, it was very hard to move to Florida and give up the friendships we had in Indiana and Illinois. God has been faithful in providing those to us here. At The New Beginnings, we are excited because while our main goal is to spread the Gospel by reaching out to single mothers. We hope a by-product of that is the growth of the church and again, God has been faithful.

It’s not always easy to be patient and wait, but God is so faithful. He provides what we need when we need it. He is good all the time and all the time He is good!

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

If you are interested in serving at The New Beginnings, please contact Bro. Dustin Hodel at 239-541-4312 or at thenewbeginningsofswfl@yahoo.com.

Florida, Sarasota
Mary & Vera Martin

Our church has a small attendance again and we welcome everyone to join us in the sunshine state. Our visiting ministers that shared their time with us this month were Bro. Bob Dotterer (Sis. Laura, Sardis) and Bro. Bill Masters (Sis. Mary, Ft. Myers). Thank you for serving us.

We are praying for the family of Tim Eisenmann (son of Bro. Dave and Sis. Kay Eisenmann of West Bend) and his sister, Sis. Jean Earley (Bro. Clyde Earley), who became ill and passed away suddenly. May they find comfort that he gave his heart to the Lord before leaving this world behind.
We are thankful that Sis. Pearl Bozzay is recovering from her recent illness and able to join us in worship services again.

We have come to the time when we pause in our busy schedule to honor our fathers. Faithful fathers, who have given us so many reasons to be grateful for the blessings that we enjoy today and hope for our tomorrows. The song in the Hymns of Zion #85 is a wonderful reminder to cherish the great efforts put forth by our fathers and forefathers to keep the faith and the responsibility that we have to carry on with great effort to remain true by living a virtuous life.

FAITH OF OUR FATHERS

“Faith of our fathers! living still
In spite of dungeon, fire and sword,
O how our hearts beat high with joy
Whenever we hear that glorious word!

Our fathers, chained in prisons dark,
Were still in heart and conscience free:
How sweet would be their children’s fate,
If they, like them, could die for thee!

Faith of our fathers! we will love
Both friend and foe in all our strife:
And preach thee, too, as love knows how,
By kindly words and virtuous life:

How faith of our fathers! holy faith!
We will be true to thee till death!”

Georgia, Peachtree City/Atlanta
Lexi Knapp

We are so continually blessed by the great God we serve! His providence and unchanging character in the midst of change are comforting to us and we have had some changes over the past month! Bro. Cody and Sis. Victoria Walburn moved back to Indiana after their six months in Georgia. We thoroughly enjoyed having them here and wish them God’s grace in their transition back. We were blessed to have them here!

Also, Bro. Rich Aberle (Sis. Lanae) announced his retirement from the ministry. We are so thankful for the years on the pulpit he has spent here and are so blessed by his input into our small congregation. As he retires, we wish God’s love on him and Sis. Lanae as they transition into this stage of life.

We also were blessed to have Bro. Jerry Meeks (Sis. Christine, Sabetha, KS) here to minister the Word this past month. We are thankful for his service.

Likewise, Sis. Mary Brewer (Bro. John) spent some time in the hospital for knee surgery. We are thankful that it went well and her recovery is going well. We hope she is back to full strength soon!

If anyone is coming to the area, we would love to have you worship with us! Our address is: 202 Robinson Road, Peachtree City, GA 30269. However, please all ahead! (Tom Waldbeser 770.463.4788 or Matt Knapp 815.674.1498). For photos and additional information, visit our website at www.ptcacchurch.org.

Haiti, Bonne Fin - Hospital Lumiere
David and Janella Zimmerman
Rick and Komari Aberle

“Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.”
1 Cor. 11:24-25

The HarvestCall Missionary family was blessed to have opportunity to share Communion with several visiting brothers and sisters from the United States. Bro. Steve Gutwein and his wife, Sis. Linda (Francesville, IN), visited to serve Communion. Bro. Bob Pflederer and Bro. Jon Zeller (Morton, IL) and Bro. Bob Beebe (South Bend, IN) also shared the Word during our Communion Sunday.

Bro. Adam Luginbuhl (Philadelphia, PA) ministered to our missionary family in April as well. Bro. Adam was here to lead a surgical team that provided medical care to many patients during the week they shared with us here at the hospital. The mission was also blessed by the efforts of a nursing team that worked with the staff and assisted with a cancer screening clinic held here at the hospital.

This past month also brought a conclusion to the terms of short-term missionaries Bro. Kirk Huber (Francesville, IN)
and Sis. Patricia Banwart (West Bend, IA). Their time here was an honor and glory to our Father. Many staff members and patients benefited from their efforts.

This spring has brought significant rains to Bonne Fin. We’ve experienced a rainy season for the first time in a few years. We’re thankful for the ample rains as they have replenished the land and have allowed us to utilize our hydro-electric plant full time.

As Philippians 4:6 instructs us, we again lift up our prayer needs to all who would join us in praying for brothers and sisters who are called to step forward to fill roles in the mission field, both here at Bonne Fin and throughout HarvestCall. We also ask for prayers for the people of Haiti. Over the past month we have heard of several acts of violence, theft and murder in southern Haiti. While we feel safe and know our Lord holds our lives in His hands, we pray for those who both perpetrate the acts of violence as well as their victims. May the Light of Jesus Christ shine through the darkness of evil.

Haiti, Les Cayes
Mike & Susie Walder

May was a month of saying goodbye to so many. As the work team season has ended, Bro. Ed & Sis. Julie Sanders returned to their family in Alto, MI. We were all blessed by their willing attitude, love and support throughout their stay.

The missionary community here had a special farewell service one Wednesday evening for several departing missionaries, including Bro. Lee & Sis. Desma Klopfenstein and family from Bonne Fin. We pray that God will provide for them through their transition period back home to Latty, OH, besides blessing them for their years of service at Hospital Lumiere.

This month we enjoyed a meal at the home of Bro. Lee & Sis. Desma Klopfenstein followed by an English service at Hospital Lumiere. We appreciate their gift of welcome and hospitality.

We also have several special recent visitors to report. The Yordy’s enjoyed the visit of Sis. Mandy’s parents, Bro. Rob and Sis. Gina Luginbuhl (Roanoke, IL); and college students, Bro. Alan Kaeb (Francesville, IN) and Bro. Evan Walder (Smithville, OH), blessed their families with return visits. Haiti is only an hour and a half flight from Miami, but at times it can feel worlds away. We appreciate our visitors!

“As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country.”
Proverbs 25:25

Illinois, Belvidere
Krista Anliker, Shayla Steffen

“In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.”

We are praying for Ralf Etienn (staying with Bro. Art and Sis. Marlene Mueller) who is graduating from college and Thomas Braun (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Pam) who is graduating from high school. As both of them and other graduates choose a path, we pray that they will rely on Him in their decisions.

“And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. Mark 16:15

Thanks to Bros. Matt Kaufman (Bloomington) and Chad Leman (Fairbury) and our Elder Bro. Duane Rocke (Minneapolis) for “teaching” us about spreading the gospel. It was a blessing, admonishment, and encouragement for us all to teach, speak, and model the Gospel message to ourselves, our families and church family, and beyond into the whole world.

“And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick.” Luke 9:2

We pray that God’s healing hand be upon those that have recently had surgery or that were sick. Mitzi Braun (Bro. Karl Braun), Nikki Braun (daughter of Bro. Karl Braun), and Herman Braun all were in the hospital. Sis. Lana Schifferer (Bro. Bill) has been having pains of which they cannot diagnose. We acknowledge that this list may not be all inclusive, so we apologize if we missed anyone. Our prayers are also with you.

“The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ.” 1 Cor. 10:16

Bro. Ted (Sis. Sandy) Steffen from Alto, MI was here along
with our Elder Bro. Duane Rocke from Minneapolis, MN to serve Communion. We appreciate the labors of love from our elders, especially as they labor for the church during this special remembrance of our Savior’s sacrifice.

**Illinois, Bloomington-Normal**  
*Megan Kaeb, Sarah Maurer*

Another month has left us with more memories to look back on and share in. We were reminded again of the sacrifice Christ paid on Calvary through our Communion services. It was a blessed time to reflect as a congregation on the grace Christ extends to each individual through His great act of love for humanity and obedience to God at the cross. We thank Elder Bro. Ted Witzig, Sr. (Morton) for spending the evening with us.

Our appreciation extends to Bro. Randy (Sis. Becky) Gudeman from Francesville and Bro. Marshall (Sis. Jan) Heinold from Washington as they were willing and ready to allow the Spirit to preach God’s word to our church this past month. We hope this willingness to be used by God is blessed as both visiting ministers return to their home churches.

Just this past Sunday, our church was blessed with the marriage of Sis. Larissa Metz (Bro. Brad, Sis. Karen) to Bro. Mark Wuethrich (Bro. Mark, Sis. Lynn of Francesville). It was a cool, but sunny day, that held a spiritual warmth in fond memories as our church was able to share in the gathering of two families for the creation of a new family.

We rejoice with Shelby Koehl, daughter of Bro. Jerry and Sis. Tami Koehl, and Micah Fehr, son of Annie and the late Chuck Fehr of Roanoke as they are engaged to be married. They are planning a fall wedding this year.

Elaina Rose was born to Brian and Aimee Mariani late in April. Proud grandparents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Jeannine Mariani and Dave and Aimee Rohrer of Auburn, CA.

As one life begins, another ends. Mary Flickner, mother of Sis. Jessica (Bro. Darin) Leman passed away unexpectedly this past month. Our thoughts go out to the family and loved ones she leaves behind. We pray they find comfort in the one true Comforter.

The coming of spring begins the countdown to summer break and the graduation of seniors both in high school and in college. Graduating seniors from high school who have participated in Bloomington’s Sunday School program include Rachael Beck (Dewey, Dawn), Bro. Klint Edelman (Bro. Alan, Sis. Wendy), Ruth Ann Haefli (Bro. Eric, Sis. Katrine), Jake Master (Bro. Jeremy, Sis. Amy), Sis. Carle Rabe (Bro. Derek, Sis. Julie), Abraham Schumacher (Bro. Greg, Sis. Shelle), and Bro. Tate Wegman (Bro. Dave, Sis. Karen). We are excited to watch God use each of their lives for His glory and the building of His kingdom.

**Illinois, Bradford**  
*Sandi Joos, Roseann Stahl*

“Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” Matthew 28:20

This past month we have had several graduates who are moving on to the next stage of their life. As they move on, may they look to the Lord for direction and remember the teachings of God’s Word. Our graduates are Keith Ehle (Bro. Steve and Sis. Karen), Bro. Matthew Endress (Elder Bro. Bruce and Sis. Elizabeth), Sis. Jamie Joos (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Jenny), Convert Erin Kieser (Bro. Matt and Sis. Tracy), and Bro. Joel Stahl (Bro. Wendell and the late Sis. Linda).

“Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.” 2 Timothy 4:2

We were thankful this past month to have visiting ministers Bro. Jeremiah Psinas (Morton, IL) and Bro. Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi, Alto, MI) bring the Word to us.

“But verily God hath heard me; he hath attended to the voice of my prayer.” Psalm 66:19

Our prayers have been with Sis. Sharon Bruell, Bro. Paul (Sis. Marilyn) Nenadov, and Bro. Ed (Sis. Verla) Ehnle as they have been hospitalized in the past month. We are thankful that they are all healing and improving.
Greetings from Champaign!

Congratulations to Bro. Brent and Sis. Janelle Young on the birth of their new daughter, Jane. Big brothers, Grey and Brooks, were excited to welcome their new baby sister home!

Our Bible class was busy this month. They hosted an invite that filled our church benches with students from West Lafayette and Taylor. It was a blessed weekend. We thank all who travelled to be a part of it. Then our Bible class served our church lunch on Mother’s Day. Both events took considerable effort on the students’ part. We thank them for their work!

We appreciate our visiting ministers this month. They included Bro. Clark Stoller (Sis. Cindy, Gridley, IL) and Bro. Ted Witzig (Sis. Nancy, Washington, IL). Thank you for coming and serving us!

Although the weather this Spring was colder than we would have preferred, our hearts were still warmed by the presence of the Holy Spirit and fellowship with other believers. Thanks to Bro. Jedd Rocke (Sis. Marsha, Goodfield, IL), Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein (Sis. Linda, Francesville, IN), Elder Bro. Nick Gutwein (Sis. Suzanne, West Lafayette, IN), Bro. Ken Wuethrich (Sis. Lyn, Indianapolis, IN), Bro. Loren Schenk (Sis. Betsy, St. Louis, MO), and Bro. Nathan Rassi (Sis. Michelle, St. Louis, MO) for encouraging us with their ministry this past month.

We were reminded in a topical Bible study that was presented by Bro. Matthew Rassi of the “Freedom in Surrendering” when we yield our lives to Christ.

We contemplated the tremendous price that was paid on Calvary and the great gift we have been given as we celebrated Holy Communion in April. Also in April there was a Women of the Word brunch. Our study topic was prayer. We were blessed to each consider our own prayer lives and how we can be strengthened in that spiritual discipline.

Several from our church participated in the Highland Oaks benefit dinner at the Elgin, IL fellowship hall at the end of April. We enjoyed a delicious meal and song program along with an update on the facility. We are thankful for the opportunity to be involved in this ministry.

In May we said farewell to Bro. Matthew and Sis. Renae Lindberg and their children, Emmett, Audrey, and Sophie. We will miss having them as a part of our Chicago church family, but we wish them well in their time in Georgia, and wherever else the Lord may lead!

We extend thanks to Bro. Ed and Sis. Deb Graf who visited on a Wednesday night to present an update on the Gateway Woods ministry. We appreciate their efforts. It was encouraging to hear how Gateway Woods has expanded and touched so many lives over the years!

Our congregation was particularly uplifted this month as we were able to witness the testimony and baptism of our new sister in Christ, Sis. Marissa Wuethrich. It is always wonderful to hear the story of another soul who has rejected the ways of the world and committed to living for Christ!

As so often seems to happen, great joy was also mixed with great sorrow this month. We grieve with Bro. Brian and Sis. Amber Vercler and their children, Braden and Jesse, in the loss of their unborn child, Jordan Edison Vercler on May 11. Our prayers are with them in this time of loss.

There is always excitement in our baby room at church when a new baby is born. Rejoicing with gladness are Bro. Dan and Sis. Pam Walder with the birth of Emma Rose Walder. Her sisters to show her love are: Joanna, Abigail, Katrina, Heidi, and Elise. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Sharon Eisenmann and Sis. Wilma Walder.

Our Topical Bible Presentation for the month of April was led by our Elder Bro. Tom Stock. His topic was on Pilgrims and Strangers.

“These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were
persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth."

Hebrews 11:13

Bro. Dan Moser (Sis. Anne, Elgin, IL) blessed us with a visit this past month.

“Brethren, sing through all the days Songs of love and hymns of praise. Jesus Christ our joy shall be Here and in eternity.”

Zion’s Harp#132

We were blessed to have the brethren from Forrest, IL join us for our May monthly singing.

There are several in our congregation in need of prayers. Sisters Wilma Walder and Lucille Knapp both have experienced falls and are not able to come to church at this time. Bro. Gerry Farney and Curt Knapp had short hospital stays. Sisters Aldean Kaufmann and Nancy Hauptli had recent surgeries and are confined to a nearby nursing home at this time. Bro. Elmer Kaeb is also in a nearby nursing home for therapy. Sister Marilyn Knapp continues to struggle with ongoing medical problems, too. May we remember these dear ones.

Illinois, Congerville

Erica Steffen

We were blessed in the past month by several visiting ministers when our Bible Class invited several other groups of students from around our area. Bros. Dennis Rassi (Sis. Diane, Austin, TX), Matt Steffen (Sis. Deanna, Princeville), Paul Zimmerman (Sis. Loretta, Forrest), and Scott Aberle (Sis. Dorine, Washington, IL) were all willing to be used to benefit our church and our students by the Truth of God’s Word.

“And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.” Colossians 3:17

This month has been exciting for our many High School graduates. God’s blessings and nearness to: Travis Dietrich (Bro. Tim and Sis. Sandy), Alyssa Kieser (Bro. James and Sis. Jennifer), Justin Steffen (Bro. Jay and Sis. Melinda), Bro. Samuel Steiner (Bro. Dave & Sis. Sandy), and Autumn Wieland (Bro. Nate and Sis. Suzanne).

We also have several young adults from our congregation graduate with higher education degrees in nursing and massage therapy, including Sarah Hartman (Bro. Bob and Sis. Lisa), Sis. Wendi Roth (Bro. Jim and Sis. Deb, Silverton, OR), Charlotte Rinkenberger (Jake and Glenna), and Ashley Schrock (Bro. John and Sis. Jackie). May God direct their paths as they move forward into their chosen careers! My apologies to any I may have missed!

The home of Bro. Troy and Sis. Amanda Plattner was blessed by Roman Jacob, their first child, on April 18. Joyful grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Jane Wiegand (Eureka) and Bro. Russ and Sis. Sally Plattner (Washington). We wish them God’s blessings as they begin the journey of parenting their precious new son!

Illinois, Elgin

Amy Gasser

We thank Bro. Rick Kaisner (Sis. Michelle, Chicago, IL) and our Elder Bro. Brad Eisenmann for ministering to us this month.

Congratulations to our high school graduates, including Zach Knobloch (Bro. Brent and Sis. Michelle), Heather Schambach (Bro. Jason and Sis. Karen), Katlin Schambach (Bro. Matt and Sis. Renee), and Lauren Schieler (Bro. Eric and Sis. Nancy). Sis. Angela Steffen (David and Sis. Linda) received her Master’s degree in Speech and Language Pathology from ISU. Lexi Smithberg (Roger and Mary Kay) graduated from the University of Minnesota with a B.A. degree in Biology, Society, and Environment, a B.A. degree in Spanish, and a minor in Public Health. Austin Lodge (Dave and Lori) graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee with a degree in Graphic Design.

We extend sympathy to the family of Bro. Ed Schambach, who passed away on May 5. His funeral was on May 10. Surviving are his wife, Sis. Jenny; his children: Sis. Bev (Bro. Merle) Rocke (Eureka, IL), Cindy Miller, Lindy (Alan) Knochel (Mayer, AZ), Sis. Christine (Bro. Dale) Frank (Oakville-Mediapolis, IA), Ed (Gayle) Schambach (Bothell, WA), Dennis (Bonnie) Schambach, Vicki (Dale) Huberty; 13 grandchildren; and 32 great grandchildren. Also surviving are two sisters, Sis. Martha Schneider
(Rockville, CT) and Sis. Gert Sauder; two brothers, Bro. Bill (Sis. Cora) Schambach and Bro. Ron (Sis. Nancy) Schambach, and many nieces and nephews.

“Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all comfort…” 2 Corinthians 1:3

Bro. Jerry (Sis. Kay) Cargill recently had hip replacement surgery after returning home from Arizona. Bro. Tom (Sis. Kathy) Schifferer underwent shoulder surgery. We are thankful that they are both recovering at home.

We want to welcome Shirley Joos to our community. She recently moved from Peoria, IL to an apartment at Highland Oaks. She is the mother of Sis. Karen (Bro. Roger) Weiss.

**Illinois, Eureka**

*Debra Blunier, Linda Rocke*

We were served this month by Bro. Kent Getz (Sis. Betty, Elgin, IA), Bro. Randy Mogler (Sis. Evie, Washington), Bro. Craig Stickling (Sis. Jackie, Peoria), Elder Bro. Duane Rocke (Sis. Bonnie, Minneapolis, MN), and Bro. Tom Leman (Denver, CO).

Bro. Chance and Sis. Shelly Knapp were thankful to welcome Carter James, born May 3. He is brother to Mia, Eli, and Titus. Grandparents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Lori Knapp and Cathy and Ernie Appleyard and JoEtta (Bruce, dec.) Hinrichsen.

The second Saturday of May was again a heartwarming morning for all who could attend the Ladies Brunch. We offer many thanks to those whose efforts made it possible.

Amid all the blessings of the month came heartaches, as several families had to bid farewell to a parent. Our condolences to Bro. Jack Prather on the death of his wife, Sis. Millie, and to all the family. She was sister-in-law to Bro. Joel Banwart (Sis. Sonia, dec.).

Our sympathy also goes to Doug and Lorijejane Wood on the death of Lori’s mother, Barbara Jean Klobucher, and to Sis. Katie, Matt, Nathan, and Garrett on the loss of their grandmother.

We were also saddened by the death of Retired Elder Bro. Ed (Sis. Lea, dec.) Frank of LaCrosse, IN, the father of Bro. Scott (Sis. Elaine). He was grandfather to Sis. Kate (Bro. Mark) Dotterer. Our sympathy goes to them and to all the family.

Another dear parent and grandparent passed to a better land when Sis. Bev (Bro. Merle) Rocke’s father, Bro. Ed (Sis. Jenny) Schambach of Elgin, IL, died recently. Again, our sincere condolences go to them and their family.

Our high school graduates this year are Tara Edelman (Bro. Keith and Sis. Nadine), Susanna Getz (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Mary), Larae Schumacher (Bro. Dale and Sis. Lavonne), Chase Wiegand (Bro. Andy and Sis. Vickie), and Bro. Kendall Wiegand (Bro. Brian and Sis. Tina). We wish them all God’s blessings and direction as they take the next steps in life.

**Notes of thanks:**

The family of Sis. Frieda Gerber wishes to thank those who remembered her on her 101st birthday. A phrase Mom often used was “God is in control.” On Easter morning, God called her to her Heavenly Home. We wish to thank those who sent cards, memorials, gifts, furnished food, said a prayer, or gave any other act of kindness on behalf of the family. God bless you! Sis. Clara Marie Gerber, Bro. Bill and Sis. Gloria Wuthrich, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

The Prather family would like to thank each one for their thoughtfulness in what was done for them during the passing of their wife, mother, and grandmother, Sis. Millie Prather. We appreciate the many deeds of kindness shown to us at this time. May God bless each of you. Bro. Jack Prather and family.

**Illinois, Fairbury**

*Angela Herr, Janelle Stoller*

We were blessed to have several visiting ministers this past month, including Bro. Dennis Rassi (Austin, TX), Bro. Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL), Bro. James Fehr (Tremont, IL), Bro. Al Schambach (Remington, IN), Bro. Matt Feucht (Roanoke, IL), and Bro. Jeremiah Psinas (Morton, IL). May God bless them for sharing God’s Word.

“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy path.” Proverbs 3:5-6
We extend our sincere congratulations to those who have graduated this spring. Our high school graduates are Abbie Bazzell (Greg and Julie), Grayson Cottrell (Ty and Marda), Kamryn Fehr (Bro. Charles and Sis. Kathy), Landon Fehr (Bro. Anthony and Sis. Lila), Luke Hale (Troy and Sis. Annette), Bro. Caleb Hartman (Bro. Ryan and Sis. Lori), Sis. Martha Moser (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Sara), Renea Steffen (Corey and Sis. Beth), Bro. Toby Steidinger (Bro. Martin and Sis. Trish), Bro. Derek Stoller (Bro. Bryan and Sis. Kara), and Sis. Lori Young (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Bev). Bro. Abram Zehr (Bro. Nelson and Sis. Amy) and Sis. Angela Herr have recently finished their college studies. We rejoice with them at this special time in their lives and pray that each one may seek God’s guidance and direction in each future step.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sonny Montgomery and Sis. Thelma Slagel who have recently spent time in the hospital and with Bro. Philip Hartman (Bro. Ryan and Sis. Lori), Sis. Lollie Young (Bro. Norman), and Bro. Carlos Meiss (Sis. Jane) who are recuperating from surgery. May God’s healing hand be upon each one according to His perfect will.

Illinois, Forrest

Carissa Knapp, Shannon Brown

“There are friendships that we cherish in our daily walk of life with whom we meet and labor in our earthly toil and strife, friends among the aged and youthful, friends that live from us apart friends of higher rank and station find a place within my heart.” Hymns of Zion #91

We were blessed to host ACYF Day on April 17. The visiting Sunday schools were Chicago, Elgin, Belvidere, Princeville, and Goodfield. We are thankful to Bros. Art Mueller (Sis. Marlene, Belvidere, IL), Chris Wuethrich (Sis. Carla, Chicago, IL), and Jeff Wiegand (Sis. Janel, Goodfield, IL) who ministered to the church and Bible Class students. We pray friendships were made that will last a lifetime.

Congratulations to our graduating seniors: Sis. Annette Coffey (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Denise), Bro. Trenton Edelman (Bro. Karl and Sis. Bethany), Dakota Hall (Bro. Don and Barb), Bro. Joseph Kaeb (late Bro. Eldon and late Sis. Stephanie), Bro. Blake Kilgus (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Denise), Sis. Lilah Knapp (Bro. Harlan and Sis. Jean), Noland Kupferschmid (Bro. Todd and Kim), Josie Ricketts (Kevin and Nicole), and Honore Zimmerman (Bro. Mike and Jeanette). May all seek God’s direction as they reach this milestone in their lives.


“There is beauty all around, when there’s love at home; there is joy in every sound, when there’s love at home. Peace and plenty here abide, smiling sweet on every side, time doth softly, sweetly glide, when there’s love at home.” Hymns of Zion #64

This song came to mind when I was thinking about Mother’s Day. How thankful we can be for the love and care of our mothers. May God bless ministering Bros. Nathan Walder (Sis. Denise, Cissna Park, IL) and Brian Waibel (Sis. Wendy, Champaign, IL) who shared God’s Word with us.

We thank the brethren in Cissna Park for a blessed evening of singing and fellowship. What a privilege we have to travel and fellowship together.

We are rejoicing with Jesse Leman (Bro. Ernie and Sis. Carol), Reagan Mueller (Bro. Ron and Sis. Vicki), and Clay Zimmerman (Bro. Kent and Sis. Paulette) as it was announced to the church that they have found peace with God and man and are now desiring baptism.

Our prayers continue for are Bro. Mark Aberle (Sis. Carol), Reagan Mueller (Bro. Ron and Sis. Vicki), and Clay Zimmerman (Bro. Kent and Sis. Paulette) as it was announced to the church that they have found peace with God and man and are now desiring baptism.

Our prayers continue for are Bro. Mark Aberle (Sis. Carol), Reagan Mueller (Bro. Ron and Sis. Vicki), and Clay Zimmerman (Bro. Kent and Sis. Paulette) as it was announced to the church that they have found peace with God and man and are now desiring baptism.

Our prayers continue for are Bro. Mark Aberle (Sis. Carol), Reagan Mueller (Bro. Ron and Sis. Vicki), and Clay Zimmerman (Bro. Kent and Sis. Paulette) as it was announced to the church that they have found peace with God and man and are now desiring baptism.
recovering. We also pray for Sis. Kathy Banwart (Bro. Dan) who was hospitalized, and for Kim Kupferschmid (Bro. Todd) who had knee surgery.

**Illinois, Goodfield**

*Kayla Wiegand, Melissa Rokey*

We rejoice with Bro. Royce & Sis. Sarah Schieler as they were blessed with a baby girl named Ambria Tomina on Friday, April 22. Her siblings are Katelyn, Tyson, and Alea. Her grandparents are Bro. Tom and Sis. Jane Bolliger (Tremont, IL) and Brian and Teresa Schieler. We congratulate Bro. Fritz & Sis. Amy Hinrichsen as they became first-time parents to a baby boy named Rylen Fritz on May 8. Grandparents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Gerri Hinrichsen, and Bro. Gary and Sis. Linda Folkerts (Washington, IL).

We would like to congratulate our graduating seniors this year. They are Carly Hartman (Bro. Jim and Sis. Ree), Sis. Kate Hinrichsen (Bro. Rod and Sis. Lynda), Bro. Jon Hohulin (Bro. Ross and Sis. Heather), Sis. Julia Martin (Jill Martin, Goodfield, IL, and Ken Martin, Morton, IL), Sis. Kaitlyn Rocke (Bro. Jedd and Sis. Marsha), Sydney Swords (Bro. Chris and Sis. Heather) and Jessica Wiegand (Bro. Mike and Sis. Jenise). May the Lord richly bless each of you.

Sis. Millie Knapp (Bro. Wes) is recovering from a recent stroke. Our church family lifts her up in prayer.

We appreciated Bro. Mark Streitmatter (Sis. Sara, Bloomington, IL) being with us for the testimonies of Carly Hartman (Bro. Jim and Sis. Ree) and Wyatt Rocke (Bro. Luke and Sis. Jill).

Bro. Craig Stickling (Sis. Jacki, Peoria, IL) blessed us by leading a Wednesday evening Topical Bible Study to share with us the “Impact of Holiness”.

**Illinois, Gridley**

*Perry Klopfenstein*

The uncertainty and brevity of life was underscored here in our Gridley community this past week. The Mayor of Gridley, although not associated with our church, died suddenly of a massive heart attack. He was 66. In one moment he was walking down the hall of a hospital to visit someone, and the next moment he was gone. This is a vivid lesson for all of us. May we be ready when our summons comes from on High!

It is an especially serious time for our local congregation as we are seeking to find a co-elder. God places leaders over His flock. It is for the welfare of the brethren. May the Lord direct us in this quest – that His will may be accomplished.

As mentioned in last month’s news, three of our elderly loved ones are now residing at Fairview Haven: Bro. Elmer Witzig, and Bro. Bob and Sis. Eileen Griener. We mention this to note that we surely miss the presence of these dear ones during our worship and fellowship, yet we realize physical needs are well served in our church homes. May God be with all of our elderly loved ones, and those who care for them.

Bro. Dennis Hodel had shoulder surgery.

Ministering Bro. Matt Kaufman (Bloomington) was here on Tuesday, May 17 to help Bro. Arlen Miller give a presentation on encouragement and discipleship.

A baby boy was born on May 19 to Bro. John and Sis. Marissa Hill. The baby was named Leonard Roy. Grandparents are Bro. Curtis and Sis. Norma Witzig and Stephanie Hill of Minonk. Leonard’s siblings are Lewis, 5, Walter, 3, and Hannah, 1. Baby Leonard was born at home in an unexpectedly fast arrival. All went well, thanks to a sheriff’s deputy, and other emergency help.

**Illinois, Morton**

*Annette Tanner, Julie Bahr*

Dads, our world is in desperate need of godly fathers! Dads, are you living for the Lord, teaching your children and grandchildren about Christ’s love, His power, His forgiveness and His justice? Remember, someone is looking at your examples and you are the hope for their future. Pray that our children will have a desire to walk hand in hand with a righteous God. It is a fact that our country could always be just one generation away from being totally pagan.

Our Morton Church is truly thankful for those who visit and have the courage to speak to us
from God’s Holy Word! Much appreciation to Bro. Scott Schafer (Sis. Gigi, South Bend), Bro. John Steiner (Sis. Carol, Oakville-Mediapolis), and Bro. Scott Aberle (Sis. Dorine, Washington).

Thank You to Bro. Jeff Neihouser (Sis. Sue) for giving the graduating seniors’ teaching on the topic of “Power Up” with the lesson on “Focus”! Oh Father, let them always trust you completely with their futures so they can enjoy your very best! Our Morton graduating seniors this year are Sis. Carley Baer (Bro. Doug and Sis. Dawn), Clair Kaiser (Bro. Mike and Sis. Joyce), Elizabeth Ploussard (Bro. Dave and Sis. Krista), Sis. Jacey Schick (Bro. Keith and Sis. Janice), Olivia Schrock (Bro. Randy and Sis. Lisa), Madison Stoller (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Stacey), and Bro. Timothy Rassi (Bro. Andrew and Sis. Sandy).

Illinois, Peoria
Crystal Klopfenstein, Bonnie Bach

Our church was blessed with visitors this past month. Bro. Clark Stoller (Sis. Cindy, Gridley, IL), Bro. Ted Witzig, Jr. (Sis. Donna, Morton, IL) and Bro. Harvey Kaeb (Sis. Judy, Gridley, IL) were here for College Weekend and brought forth the message on living for eternity. Also visiting this month was Bro. Rick Kaisner (Sis. Michelle, Chicago, IL). It is a blessing when he returns to his home town and shares the Word!

We extend our sympathy to the family of Bro. Walter Christ of Princeville, IL. May his wife, Sis. Doris, and children feel God’s nearness. His children include Bro. Ron Christ (Sis. Carol) and Bro. Fred (Sis. Tina) from our congregation. He also leaves two dear older sisters, Sis. Frida Christ and Sis. Martha Plattner who reside at Skylines Home.

Also entering eternity was Bro. Grant Rauhaus. We pray for comfort for his wife, Sis. Mabelle; children, Gary Rauhaus and Janet Yang; and siblings, Arthur Rauhaus and Twila Hire.

What a blessing music is in our Christian life! After a delicious dinner, the choir presented a beautiful musical program called “Come to Jesus.” Donations from the evening on April 23 went to several worthy ministries. At our monthly hymn sing, we enjoyed hearing the Prairie Choristers as well as congregational singing. “I will sing the wondrous story of the Christ who died for me!”

On Mother’s Day, we heard reminders of the importance of a godly mother and virtues for all women to emulate. The young group served lunch to everyone.

Let us remember to pray for those enduring hard trials. These include Sis. Virginia Hoerr (Bro. Jim) who had surgery recently and my brother Duane Bach (Barb) who was just diagnosed with a brain tumor less than a year after a major stroke. “Jesus is a Rock in a weary land, a shelter in the time of storm.”

Note of thanks:
On behalf of the Walter Christ Family, we would like to thank everyone for all your love, prayers, and support during this time of our loss. Your kindness and generosity was very overwhelming and much appreciated!

With Love—Frida Christ, Martha Plattner, Fred & Tina, Ron & Carol Christ & Families

Illinois, Princeville
Renee Herrmann, Melinda Christ

We congratulate our graduating high school seniors. They include Claire Berchtold (Bro. David and Sis. Leann), Jesse Feucht (Mark and Sis. Paula), Bro. Daniel Herrmann, (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Renee), David Herrmann, (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Grace), Bro. Ethan Martin, (Bro. Ed and Sis. Gladys), Matthew Stahl, (Bro. Doug and Sis. Ann), and Bro. Ethan Steffen,
May God bless them as they start on new paths in life and grant them guidance and wisdom.

We offer many thanks to the ministers who visited us and brought forth the Word of God. They were Bro. Willis Ehnle (Peoria, IL), Bro. David Obergfel (Sis. Kathleen, Peoria, IL). May God richly bless them.

Another precious boy arrived to the family of Clint and Jessica Martin, Joshua Christian was born on May 8. He is welcomed home by big brother Connor. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Craig and Sis. Terri Martin and Joe and Janine Aimone.

"At Home 'tis well! There shall the pilgrim tarry, When tired and worn by sorrow grief, and strife; In heav'n, when the hard race of earthly life is run, the long-borne load no more he'll carry."
Zion’s Harp #170

We witness seasons of rejoicing and seasons of sorrow as a church. Our dear Bro. Walter Christ completed his earthly race. Our prayers are with his wife, Sis. Doris, and his children: Bro. Fred (Sis. Tina), Bro. Ron (Sis. Carol), Bro. Kurt (Sis. Connie), and Sis. Melinda and their families; and his sisters: Sis. Frida Christ, Sis. Martha Plattner of Peoria, IL and Else (Werner) Arnold of Germany. We also were saddened by the passing of our Bro. Edwin Baurer. Our prayers and sympathies are extended to his wife, Sis. Carol; and his children: Cynthia (Roland) Stuckey, Sis. Renee (Bro. Steve) Schlipf, Jill (Shannon) Stahl, and Phil (Linda) Baurer and their families; and his brother, Bro. Arthur (Sis. Joy). We mourn the loss of our Sis. Eleanor Asal. She is survived by her sister, Carol (Bill) Fairfield; two brothers, George (Bonnie) Asal and Jerry (Joanne) Asal; as well as brother-in-law, Dale Chapman. May God comfort and be near these families.

May God give grace and peace to our loved ones suffering from illness this month. We think of Sis. Marlene Plattner (Bro. Jim) and Bro. Norman Streitmatter (Sis. Joyce). Also our dear Mary Beth Wagenbach (Curt) has had ongoing medical treatments. May each feel a measure of health and strength return as God wills.

Illinois, Roanoke
Barb Schwind, Judy Sauder

On April 20 at our Fellowship Hall, Bro. Rob Parker from Gateway Woods gave an inspiring presentation about his life and ministry. Bro. Rob heads up the new LARC initiative which is an outreach to youths and adults who have left Gateway Woods. Even though Bro. Rob had a very difficult childhood and young adult life, the Lord reached out to him and brought restoration, reconciliation and hope. Bro. Rob encouraged us to be the hands and feet of Jesus, something he experienced while attending the Bluffton, IN church. We thank him for sharing his experiences with us and reminding us that God can take something that is very broken and make something beautiful out of it. To Him be the glory!

The Apostolic Christian Medical Fellowship meeting was held at our Fellowship Hall on April 23. We thank Sis. Lydia and Bro. Rich and Sis. Bev Bertschi and all those who helped in any way and all those who attended who made it a blessed and informative day.

On April 24 Elder Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen, Kansas City, MO) and Bro. Adam Luginbuhl (Sis. Jami, Philadelphia, PA) were our guest ministers for the day.

St. John 3:17 “For God sent not His son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved.”

Bro. Fred Funk (Sis. Diane, Morton, IL) presented a topical Bible study “Jesus Loves Me” on April 27. Bro. Fred reminded us that when we are not lovable or lovely. We are still loved by Jesus because the Bible tells us so. We thank him for his timely and encouraging exhortations.

Our Young Group was kind enough to offer a night of babysitting on April 29 at our Fellowship Hall for any parents who wanted to enjoy a “free” evening. We are so thankful for our Young Group and their many acts of service to our church body!

Bro. Zach and Sis. Penny Maher welcomed a baby girl, Elsie Joelle, into their family on April
22. Her older brother and sister are Oliver and Gwyneth. Her thankful grandparents are Bro. Norm and Sis. Polly Zaugg (West Bend, IA) and Bro. Dan & Sis. Kim Maher. Also, Bro. Bob & Sis. Marilyn Ott welcomed another grandchild, Everett Douglas, born to Dave & Joelle Ott of Dunlap on May 7. We are so thankful for these new arrivals and pray for God’s blessings on these dear families.

2 Chron. 7:14: “If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and forgive their sin, and will heal their land.”

On May 4, the Prairie Choristers and our Youth Choir presented an inspiring evening of songs to commemorate the National Day of Prayer. Bro. Matt Feucht encouraged us to be people of prayer rather than just people who pray. He also referenced noteworthy prayers of Solomon, Daniel, and our Savior. What a privilege to come before our Father’s throne with our concerns for those in trial, for the lost, for our nation and community, and above all to offer Him our thanksgiving, praise and worship.

Bro. Grant (Sis. Mabelle) Rauhaus (Peoria) went to be with the Lord on May 1. He was a brother-in-law to Sis. Lois Pfister and Bro. Marv (Sis. Ila) Pfister.

Bro. Eugene Fehr went to his eternal home on May 8. His survivors include his wife, Sis. Margaret; a daughter, Debra (Tate) Greenway of Waldron, AR; three sons: Dennis (Mary) of Houston, TX, Terry (Zanna) of Glendale, AZ and Bro. Jay (Sis. Jay L. of Rockville, CT. Also surviving are two sisters, Sis. Eunice (Bro. Dave) Beutel (Tremont, IL) and Sis. Carol (Bro. Alvin) Beutel (Tremont, IL); ten grandchildren and eleven great grandchildren. Bro. Gene was always loving and kind. He and Sis. Marge had worshiped with us in their later years and have been a blessing to us. May our Lord comfort these dear families in their loss.

Bro. Ed Stoller (Sis. Boni, Denver, CO) was our visiting minister on May 8. It is always a blessing to have Bro. Ed, Sis. Boni, Michael and David back “home” with us. We thank Bro. Ed for serving us on the pulpit.

A Baccalaureate service was held for our graduating seniors on May 15. They are: Rachel Durand, Ryan Fehr, Kate Gastman, Dillon Hodel, Jake Hodel, Max Hodel, Bro. David Leman, Sis. Lydia Luginbuhl, Bro. Ben Mangold, Austin Martin, Ed Moser, Gary Wettstein and Carolyn Whitten. Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman exhorted and encouraged our seniors. Then the Bible Class and a special group sang a few songs. We pray for our Lord’s rich blessings on these dear students as they graduate from high school, further their education, pursue careers, and follow the Lord wherever He would lead them.

Alecia Fehr (Ben & Sis. Kathy) is engaged to be married to Matt Bachman (Doug) of Roanoke. And Joni Zimmerman of Littleton, CO and Nick Riney of Denver, CO are also engaged to be married. Joni’s parents are Raylene & Jerry Getz and Rick and Diana Zimmerman of Peoria. Nick’s parents are Tommy & Sue Riney of Texas. May God bless these dear couples as they take this important step.

We want to lift up Bro. Denny (Sis. Rita) Schwind, Sis. Debbie (Bro. Bruce) Fischer, Sis. Dorothy Sauder and Bro. Russ Leman in prayer that our Lord would bless them with restored health.

Illinois, Tremont
Debbie Aberle, Janice Sauder

We were blessed with many visiting ministers this past month, and want to thank them again for their service. They are: Bro. Nate Wiegand (Sis. Laura, Goodfield, IL), Bro. Matt Steffen (Sis. Deanna, Princeville, IL), Bro. Ned Bahler (Sis. Anna, Fairbury, IL), Bro. Scott Wegman (Sis. Dawn, Taylor, MO), Bro. Mike Grimm (Sis. Amber, Goodfield, IL), and Bro. Barry Dietz (Sis. Rachel, Bradford, IL). God bless each one!

On April 17, our Sunday School Bible Class and teachers welcomed the Cissna Park, IL; Bloomington, IL; and Champaign, IL Bible Class students and their teachers for ACYF Day. We enjoyed their singing over lunchtime, and joining in with them for the afternoon service. Thanks again
for the efforts of many in making this day possible!

“Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.” Proverbs 3:5&6

This scripture was read this past Sunday afternoon, and seems so applicable to all, no matter our age or circumstance in life. Bro. Tom Koch (Tucson, AZ, son of Bro. Dave and Sis. June Koch) and Sis. Andrea Luthi (San Diego, CA, daughter of Elder Bro. Jay and Sis. Jane Luthi, Lamont, KS) have announced their engagement. Bro. Mark and Sis. Renee Kaiser are pleased their son, Lucas and Chelsea Crocker (David and Leslie Crocker, all of Lexington, SC) have announced their engagement. Bro. Mark and Sis. Fern Wagenbach are also anticipating the wedding of their son, Guito and Jenny Rickett (Corey and Brenda Rickett, all of Mackinaw, IL). May these three dear couples continue to trust in the Lord with all their hearts as they prepare for marriage.

We extend our prayers of sympathy to Bro. Mel Kaiser (Sis. Marlene) at the passing of his sister, Sis. Elda Kaiser (Morton, IL); and to Sis. Eunice Beutel (Bro. David) and Sis. Carol Beutel (Bro. Alvin) at the death of their brother, Bro. Gene Fehr (Roanoke, IL). May they continue to find comfort that God certainly directed their loved ones’ paths.

Bro. Tom and Sis. Jane Bolliger are pleased to welcome another little granddaughter, Ambria Tomina. She is the new baby of Bro. Royce and Sis. Sarah Schieler (Goodfield, IL). Her happy siblings are Katelyn, Tyson, and Alea.

We continue to hold Sis. Dort Meister (Bro. Mike) up in prayer, as she experiences the effects of her treatments. May she continue to trust that God is directing her path.

We want to congratulate our high school graduates. They include: Ethan Blunier (Bro. Greg and Sis. Julie), Cameron Ehnle (Bro. Darrel and Sis. Brenda), Sis. Hannah Frank (Bro. Doug and Sis. Cheri), Bro. Jacob Kaiser (Bro. Tim and Sis. Ruth), Andrew Koch (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Cathy), Sis. Tabitha Koch (Bro. Dirk and Sis. Erika), Jesse Plattner (Bro. Chad and Sis. Lauralee), Sis. Laura Sauder (Bro. Jim and Sis. Rachel), Bro. Talon Sauder (Bro. John and Sis. Misty), Mary Schaefner (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Tammy), Naulon Simms (Sis. Inga Lelm), and Lydia Wagenbach (Bro. Ron and Sis. Liz).

“A man’s greatness is not measured by his success or wealth, but by what it takes to discourage him.”
Anonymous

Let us continue to trust the LORD, even with our discouragements, and He will direct our paths and give grace for overcoming!

**Illinois, Washington**

**Kendra Funk, Patricia Knapp**

We rejoice with Bro. Brian and Sis. Alison Sutter as they welcome Ivy Monroe to their family, along with Kennedy and Cash. Thankful grandparents Bro. Jim and Sis. Kris Sutter (Taylor, MO) and Bro. Ron and Sis. Gail Romersberger (Gridley, IL). As our church family grows, we pray for God’s guidance and blessings on these young families.

We also rejoice with grandparents Bro. Russ and Sis. Sally Plattner who welcome their new grandson, Roman Jacob, born to Bro. Troy and Sis. Amanda Plattner (Congerville, IL).

Bro. Gary and Sis. Linda Folkerts welcome a new grandson, Rylen Fritz, born to Sis. Amy and Bro. Fritz Hinrichsen (Goodfield).

As we rejoice with those that rejoice, we also weep with those that weep. Bro. Bob Prather (Sis. Marlene) said their earthly goodbyes to his mother Sis. Millie Prather (Eureka, IL). We pray for them, along with their children: Bro. Dave (Sis. Tara), Bro. Kirk (Sis. Wendy), Clint; and also her sister, Sis. Ruth Kellenberger (Bro. Randy), and hope they feel God’s love and comfort.

Sis. Peg Hoerr (Bro. Doug) also said goodbye to her father, Bro. Gerald Sutter (Taylor, MO). Several of his grandchildren will miss him also: Bro. Seth Hoerr, Sis. Janae Leman (Bro. Trent), and Bro. Nathan Sutter. Our prayers are for comfort and peace in the days ahead.

We were blessed to host ACYF for our high school kids and are thankful Bro. Clark Stoller (Sis. Cindy, Gridley, IL) and Bro. Darren Plattner (Sis. Sue,
Champaign, IL) gave of their time to spend the day with them.

We commit Sis. Kay Monagle to prayer for healing, comfort and strength as she is in the hospital awaiting surgery due to a fall.

We also thank our willing servants that brought forth the gospel, Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Tamera, Wolcott, IN), Bro. Glen Steiner (Sis. Rachel, Winthrop, MN) and Bro. Fred Funk (Sis. Diane, Morton, IL).

Indiana, Bluffton
Suzie Fiechter, Kim Meyer

“For He hath made Him (Jesus) to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.” 2 Cor. 5:21

It seems we have heard much about sin the past month. None of us are exempt. Sin brings separation, sorrow and suffering. Satan tempts us with its pleasure, yet it surely leads to our destruction. Sheep stray one blade of grass at a time, so we stray one choice at a time. Praise God! He has provided the solution in Jesus, who knew no sin, yet became sin for us! What is our response? Do we embrace our deliverance and wholeheartedly serve Him? Or do we try to live with one foot in the world and one foot in the Kingdom? What determines our convictions, the world or the Word? God requires that we take our walk with Him seriously. We need to be intentional about obeying His commands. We need to “call out” sin and stand against satan’s goal to bring carelessness, sin and death into the church. Let’s examine ourselves and recommit to loving and obeying Him alone! Thank you, dear ministering brothers, for preaching truth, even when it may not be popular!

Several of our loved ones have recently experienced health concerns. Arlen and Jeanne Gerber are both in our prayers, as they face continued challenges. We rejoice with Bro. Kyle and Sis. Deonne Gerber as they were able to bring their little Decklin home from the hospital. We will continue to lift up this dear family to our loving Father, as Decklin will face some difficulties in the coming weeks. It’s been wonderful to again worship with our Sisters Renee (Bro. Steve) Reinhard and Mary (Bro. Don) Gerber after their knee replacements. Bro. Mark (Sis. Shelly) Fiechter is facing a painful recovery after an ATV accident.

Bro. Klayton Kershner (Bro. Dan and Sis. Jacki, Bluffton North) and Sis. Taylor Gerber (Bro. Ked and Sis. Joanne) have felt God’s direction to be joined in marriage. We pray that He will continue to guide them as they move through this engagement time.

We rejoice with Bro. Jesse Kaehr (Bro. Jon and Sis. Juli) and Sis. Lindsay Beeks (Bro. John and Sis. Laura, Bluffton North) as they begin their life together. May they exemplify the union of Christ and His church!

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


We extend our love and sympathy to Bro. Ken (Sis. Carolyn) Isch, Sis. Lucile Frauhiger, Sis. Irene Neuenschwander, and Sis. Betty (Bro. Bill) Longenger as their sister, Sis. Vi Gerber, of Ft. Lauderdale passed into the arms of Jesus. Our prayers are with Bro. Claren and Sis. Joyce Gehring as they mourn the death of her brother, Don Granlienard.

Ministering Bro. Doug and Sis. Janelle Brewer (San Diego) visited us during our “Invite-a-Friend” weekend. What a blessing to meet and greet brethren from across the country! Twenty-one greetings were extended that morning as we worshipped our Lord together.

“The Lord bless thee, and keep thee: The Lord make His face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.” Numbers 6:24

Indiana, Bluffton North
Corinne Stettner, Amy Moser

Life is short, death is sure. Sin is the cause, Christ is the cure.

We had Holy Communion this past month. It is always a time of soul searching before Christ and remembrance of the blood He spilled on the cross for each of our lives. What a sobering and yet beautiful reminder. We were blessed to have
Elder Bro. Jeff Streitmatter (Sis. Lynne, Sarasota, FL) assist with the service. We greatly appreciated their time and service.

Our Sis. Bethany Maller had shoulder surgery on May 13 to repair an injury that she sustained this winter. We wish her God’s healing power as she recovers.

May 15 brought the wedding of our Sis. Lindsay Beeks to Bro. Jesse Kaehr (Bluffton). We wish them God’s richest blessings as they begin their married life together.

Bro. Klayton Kershner (Bro. Dan and Sis. Jacki Kershner) was announced to be married to Sis. Taylor Gerber (Bro. Ked and Sis. Joanne) of Bluffton. We pray God’s grace upon them as they prepare for marriage and the start of their new life together.

Indiana, Francesville
Jacki Huber, Mildred Clauss

“Trust in the Lord with all thy heart; and lean not to your own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him and he shall direct your paths”. Prov. 3:5-6

At the conclusion of our Graduation Program Bro. Steve Gutwein challenged our High School Seniors to memorize these verses. Our graduates are Sis. Salome Huber (Bro. Bob & Sis. Joy); Timothy Huber (Bro. Chad and Sis. Pam); Sis. Vanessa Murray (John & Sis. Jessica); Mackenzie Pflederer (Bro. Larry & Sis. Darlene); Bro. Jerod Putt (Bro. Brian & Sis. Tami); Maria Salazar (friend of Bro. Doug and Sis. Margaret Leman); Emilie Shidler (granddaughter of Bro. Wendell and Sis. Karel Anliker); Tanner Wuethrich (Rosa Wuethrich & Brandon Wuethrich); Quentin Young (Steve & April).

We were encouraged and inspired by a recent visit from the Bluffton Choir. Bro. Jeff Leman (Sis. Val, Bluffton North) was our visiting minister. It’s such a blessing to worship together in meditation and in song!!

Other visiting ministers during the past month were Bro. Calvin Schneider (Sis. Jeannie, La Crosse, IN) and Bro. Jeff Neihouser (Sis. Sue, Morton, IL).

On May 1 our own Bro. Chris Huber retired from the pulpit ministry. He and his wife, Sis. Sharon, have faithfully served us for many years and we have been very blessed. Only the Lord can reward him for his dedication; and surely he will continue to labor heartily in the Lord’s vineyard.

Two of our young brothers have recently returned from mission work in “faraway places”. Bro. Jonathan Pelsy (Bro. Roger & Sis. Lily) was in Uganda assisting with agriculture where the main crops are corn and soybeans. Because of the tropical climate they also raise fine pineapple and other fruits. Bro. Kirk Huber (Bro. Gene & Sis. Sherri) spent 7 months in Haiti interning with Dr. (Bro.) Lee Klopfenstein at Hospital Lumiere. His responsibilities included hospital duties and assisting medical teams coming to the area acclimate to the culture. He also feels very blessed to have had this experience!!

We extend our very best wishes to Bro. Mark & Sis. Larissa Wuethrich who were recently married. Their parents are Bro. Mark & Sis. Lynne Wuethrich and Bro. Brad & Sis. Karen Metz of Bloomington, IL.

Our prayers have been with Bro. Randy & Sis. Becky Gudeman at the sudden death of her dear sister, Mary Beth Schwab Flickner. And we know the Lord has been their Strength and Comforter.

Indiana, Indianapolis
Becky Ringer, Nancy Pfeifer

We started off this reporting period with Indy Outreach on April 15 and 16. This church finds projects to do for our young people and their friends from several states which encourage and help individuals and families. Some are referrals from teachers. Others are serving at institutions such as a homeless shelter and the prison. Everyone involved felt they received more than they gave. It really makes you feel good when you know that Jesus’s name is being glorified.

We are again happy and thankful that two of our young people have committed their lives to following Jesus. Chloe Sprunger, daughter of Bro. Joe and Sis. Tara Sprunger, and Drew Klopfenstein, son of Bro. Scott and Sis. Abby Klopfenstein have made that beginning.

“And as they were eating,
Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples…” Matthew 26:26

On May 14 we celebrated Christ's death and resurrection by taking Communion. It seems strange to say “celebrate" when referring to such an awful happening, but aren’t we so happy and thankful to be able to go to the Father knowing that Jesus was our sacrifice. Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) helped Bro. Ken Wuethrich with serving.

Indiana, Lacrosse
Meagan Frank, Julie Rocke

“And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new.” Revelation 21:4,5a

On May 4, just over a month before his 96th birthday, our dear retired Elder Bro. Ed Frank was called to his eternal home. While we rejoice in his spiritual victory, his earthly presence will be greatly missed by our entire congregation, and especially by his children: Bro. Tom (Sis. Carolyn, South Bend, IN), Sis. Shirley, Bro. Bill (Sis. Jo), Sis. Barb (Bro. Bill, Latty, OH), Bro. Curt (Sis. Lyla), Sis. Deb (Bro. Dan, Remington, IN), and Bro. Scott (Sis. Elaine, Eureka, IL); 25 grandchildren; and 70 great-grandchildren. We pray this dear family will feel our Lord’s comforting hand.

Our prayers are also with several loved ones who are facing illness or recovering from surgery. Joan Cambern was recently diagnosed with bone cancer after hip surgery. Ryan Koskovick has been dealing with an illness that doctors are struggling to define.

We have indeed experienced “a time to weep, and a time to laugh;” (Ecc. 3:4) as along with the aforementioned prayers for our friend Ryan’s healing, we also rejoice that he has turned his life to the Lord in repentance!

May 1 marked the day that we welcomed Brett Schneider (Bro. Calvin & Sis. Jeannie) and Jayla Wettstein (Bro. Mark & Sis. Karen Wettstein) as our new brother and sister in the Christ! We pray for each of these dear ones as they begin or continue their walk with the Lord!

We sincerely thank our visiting ministers: Elder Bro. Ted Steffen (Sis. Sandy, Alto, MI), Bro. John Leman, (Sis. Tamara, Wolcott, IN), Bro. Joe Gerst (Sis. Connie, Iowa City, IA), and Bro. Lucas Frank (Sis. Crystal, Detroit, MI), who shared some part in either the baptisms, funeral or Mother’s Day. May God’s grace be with each one!

With the school year drawing to a close, we want to take a moment to recognize our high school graduates. Sis. Jaela Gudeman, Jackie Wettstein and Sis. Jayla Wettstein have completed their coursework as seniors and are looking forward to their graduation and moving on to the next phase of their lives. We extend our heartfelt congratulations and God’s richest blessings to each of them as they seek God’s will in their future endeavors.

Sis. Pearl Nuest celebrated her 100th birthday on May 3. It is hard for some of the younger people to fathom what she and others about her age have witnessed in changes through the years. From horse and buggy days to supersonic jets and vehicles with heated seats and the comforts of your living room, we are amazed at the changes in technology, science and engineering. However, it remains a huge source of comfort to know that our God remains unchanged as ever and that His promises remain true until the end of time, no matter what our age.

Indiana, Leo
Kirby Reutter

Throughout the previous month, I couldn’t help but notice all the “may” verses in the Bible.

“And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye MAY be also.” John 14:3

First, we received the following news of the following victory in Christ: “Sis. Eleanor (Stieglitz) Strahm passed away on Tuesday. She is a sister to Sis. Lavada Stieglitz and an aunt to Bro. Lynn, Bro. Steve, Sis. Beth, and Sis. Marlise Stieglitz.” This announcement was followed by the following words of gratitude: “Dear Leo Church Family: We want to thank you for your thoughtfulness...
during the passing of our sister and aunt. The meal at the funeral home was so appreciated as well as the dinner after the service. The flowers were beautiful and still being enjoyed by family members. We can only rejoice that Aunt Eleanor has reached her eternal reward, yet there is a somberness to see that generations pass one by one. It’s also good to be reminded that only what is done with an eternal purpose really matters. Thanks again for your deeds of kindness to our family. Sincerely, The Eleanor Strahm Family”

“As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye MAY grow thereby.” 1 Peter 2:2

Next, two more babies joined the Leo Flock. One baby notice mentioned the following: “Congratulations to Bro. Eric and Sis. Marissa Bahler on the arrival of their baby boy, Sawyer Woods!” (Eric and Marissa are House Parents at Gateway Woods.) And then another baby notice followed: “Thank you for all the prayers and support! Yesterday Sis. Charla did well through surgery and is recovering. Fiona Evelyn weighed 5 pounds 7 ounces at birth. She is in the NICU, but they are hoping for only 48 hours. We are very grateful for the healing God has brought to this point, and continue to wait and trust for the rest. The deepening of relationship with so many of you is a piece of beauty emerging from the darkness of this season.”

“That ye MAY be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world.” Philippians 2:15

Perhaps my favorite memory from the previous month happened on May 5. Some people called this date Ascension Day while others named it a National Day of Prayer. (In my household, we simply called it Cinco de Mayo.) Regardless of nomenclature, this is the memory that sticks out: A group of Gateway staff members and residents gathered around a large piece of cloth flapping in the breeze. This particular cloth happened to have 13 stripes and 50 stars. But as we bowed our heads in prayer, our spiritual eyes gazed far beyond that spangled banner to the God of ALL nations. What impressed me the most were the profoundly simple petitions of the Gateway residents. Not one of them said: “Dear Lord, please straighten out everyone else in this country.” Rather, each resident—in their own simple way—simply pleaded with their Creator: “Dear Lord, my own life is a mess—so please be merciful to ME!”

Perhaps you have heard that April Showers bring May Flowers. But have you ever heard that May Flowers are supposed to yield the June Prune? Neither have I! May we not be the fig tree that was barren! May we gladly bear the trimming and pruning of the Master! May we bear even more fruit for the Kingdom! May there be a revival in this land! And may it start with us.

Maybe we should keep celebrating May for the rest of the year. Here are some additional “may” verses that were especially convicting to me: “Let your light so shine before men, that they MAY see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house MAY be filled. Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye MAY know how
ye ought to answer every man. Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one MAY edify another. Even as I please all men in all things, not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of many, that they MAY be saved. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ MAY rest upon me.” And finally:

“Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they MAY have right to the tree of life, and MAY enter in through the gates into the city!” Revelation 22:14

Indiana, Milford
Minnie Beer, Pat Mikel

The weather has been from one extreme to the other this spring in Indiana, but it reminds me that Jesus is always the same. “Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever.” Heb. 13:8

Several of our members had health concerns this past month. Sis. Melinda Gramm (Bro. Larry), Sis. MaryAnn Beer (Bro. Carlton Beer) and Sis Judy Longcor (Bro. Bill) needed our prayers to recover from health issues. Bro. John and Carol Hurd have endured many health issues and our prayers continue for them and their daughter, Gina.

Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Remington, IN), Elder Bro. Rick Plattner (Fairbury, IL), Elder Bro. Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN), and Elder Bro. William Schlatter (Junction, OH) met with the members on Saturday, May 14 about our church selecting an elder. Elder Bro. William Schlatter (Sis. Emily) ministered to us again on Sunday. We appreciate the time that these brothers give to serve others.

Indiana, Remington
Jenni Honegger, Marcella Tyler

We want to thank Bro. Doug Harmon (Sis. Lanna, Toledo, OH) and Elder Bro. Lynn Fiechter (Sis. Ronda, Bluffton, IN) for sharing the Word this past month. We appreciate both of you and hope you come again to visit soon.

We also thank Elder Bro. Lynn for assisting our Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus with serving us Holy Communion this month. It was a blessed time of both refreshment of spirit, renewal of faith, and recommitment to our Savior’s broken body and shed blood on the Cross for all who partook. May God bless you for your efforts.

We rejoice with Bro. Nelson Knobloch (Bro. Neil and Sis. June), Austin Schneider (Bro. Greg and Sis. Heidi), convert Rachel Walder (Bro. John and Sis. Lisa), and convert Justin Waibel (Bro. Dean and Sis. Tammy) as they celebrate their graduations from high school this month! We pray that each one will seek the Lord’s direction for their futures and that His loving hand will be upon each of them in this next step of their life’s journey.

We ask you to be prayerful for Betty Vaughan (Joe) as she recovers from surgery. Also please pray for Bro. Ralph Waibel (Sis. Helen) as he continues his recovery from heart surgery in a rehabilitation center.

We are prayerful for the family of retired Elder Bro. Ed Frank (Sis. Lea, deceased, LaCrosse, IN). Bro. Ed was the father of our Sis. Deb Stoller (Bro. Dan) and the grandfather to our Sis. Amanda Scheitlin (Bro. Jeremy), Sis. Lea Nieman (Bro. Dana), Bro. Evan Stoller (Sis. Elizabeth), and Bro. Jesse Stoller (Sis. Maura). We are thankful for the loving and godly example he was to his family and to the church for many years. While we trust that his meeting with his Savior in Heaven is a joyous one for him, we are mindful for the tears and sorrow of those left here below. Please keep them in your prayers.

Indiana, South Bend
Joshua Martinez

“Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.” Isaiah 41:10

We lift up in prayer Bro. Tom and Sis. Carolyn Frank whose father, retired Elder Bro. Ed Frank, was called to his Heavenly home.

We also continue to pray for those who are recovering from recent health issues: Sis. Lavilla (Bro. Marty) Langhofer, Sis. Jill (Bro. Don) Lehman and Sis. Tricia (Bro. Ed) Lester. These dear sisters have experienced (respectively), a broken leg, a knee replacement and inner ear surgery.

May God bless Bro. Bob (Sis. Sue) Beebe who is safely home from Haiti and Bro. Jason Isch
who is travelling in Belize.

We also appreciate our Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla) who served our Communion service with us.

We also thank all who participated in our recent “Men’s Work Day,” which involved landscaping work followed by a hearty meal. Special thanks go to Bro. Josh (Sis. Janelle) Steffen for organizing this work day and all who lent tools, equipment and strong backs.

We bid farewell to Bro. Morgan and Sis. Kyra Langhofer and family, who returned to their Indianapolis home after spending a month with our church family.

“And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:7

Indiana, Valparaiso
Sherry Meiss

Our special thanks goes out to our Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Remington, IN) and Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL) for listening to God’s call to come and deliver a heartfelt message for our Communion service. This is such a meaningful blessing that reunites us with our Lord and family in Christ. It strikes me deeply in my soul with the reminder of all that Jesus did for our sins.

Another one of the messages delivered from the pulpit this past month that put life into view for me was this analogy. When we’re driving down the road on a foggy day and you can only see a short distance up ahead of you, you try to navigate your vehicle by looking for the lines on the road watching ever so closely to stay on the right track. Maybe you start talking to yourself and defiantly grip the steering wheel a little tighter, so tight that your knuckles turn white. The same is true in our life with Christ. We can only see a little way ahead of us. That’s where having faith in Him, trusting in Him, watching for Him, talking to Him and gripping God the steering wheel to lead us in the direction He has planned for our lives following Him.

A personal invitation was extended to me to attend the testimony of Jayla Wettstein, daughter of Bro. Mark and Sis. Karen of LaCrosse, IN. It was also Bret Schneider’s testimony, son of Bro. Kurt and Sis. Jeannie of LaCrosse, IN. Words cannot exclaim the pouring out of joy felt for these two young souls. Seeing and listening to a daughter, sitting up front with her mother, professing her love for Christ and a son, with his father, speaking with assurance for his choice of what kind of man he wants to be by following God. This just totally renews all of us that were in attendance that God IS GREAT! Sis. Jayla and her family hold a very special part of my heart. How blessed we all are to have them in our lives. Though they will be relocating to Lamar, MO, they will be sorely missed in the physical, but spiritually our souls are bound by Christ’s everlasting love. Our Lamar, MO church will be so richly blessed with this family, who are such willing servants to answer God’s call. May the family continue to be blessed as well in this new journey of their lives, walking in accordance to God’s plan.

We are so very thankful of God’s healing hand with Bro. Ken Bucher, that his blood can continue to flow freely. Also, Sis. Dawn Ailes’ surgery put her heart back into rhythm. Please continue to pray for healing, comfort and for one another as well.

If you ever find yourself in our area, please come and worship with us. We’re just south of US 30 on Hwy 49.

Indiana, West Lafayette
Kris Widmer, Libby Wahl

It’s summer: sunshine, flowers and fishing poles. It’s summer: a reprieve for most of our college students and summer break, crowd relief for our twin cities as we face numerous road and bridge repair projects.

Wieland, Treas. and Sis. Abby Frauhiger, Sec. Thank you, Bro. Kole Meyer (Sis. Amy, Bluffton), for pulpit service at our last midweek, spring semester service.

We extend a warm welcome to a previous Purdue graduate, Jake Bowerman, who has located back to this area from Chicago with a job change. On the flip side, Sis. Daveanna Schieler moved in mid-April to Minneapolis, MN. for a six month internship in Music Therapy.

Grandparents Bro. Duane and Sis. Suzanne Schieler and Steve and Lynette Schneider of West Lafayette are quite excited about Jacob Vincent, first born of Curt & Ariel Schieler of Waltham, MA, arriving on April 27.

PYG students for years assisted Sis. Nancy Christopher bringing her to church and including her in special events. As Sis. Nancy’s health is now limiting her travel, visits and cards are encouraged at Rosewalk Nursing, 1903 Union St., Rm. #139, Lafayette, IN. 47904.

Much sympathy and prayers are extended to Bro. Nick & Sis. Suzanne Gutwein and Bro. Jon and Sis. Wendy Schwab on the passing of their dearly-loved sister, Mary (Schwab) Flickner of Frankfort, KY.

Approximately 100 women experienced joy and encouragement at our annual Ladies’ Retreat on May 14. Guest speakers from ACCFS provided sound counsel - some of which follows.

Ruth, wherever you go in life, unpack your bags- physically and mentally- and plant your trees. Too many people never live in the now because they assume the time is too short to settle in. -C. Frame.

We can overfocus on what has not happened and miss what is happening. When life doesn’t appear fair, sometimes the only choice we have is to change our attitude about a situation. Without the Holy Spirit active in our lives, we are blank gift cards.

The Lord bless you all in abundance this summer.

Indiana, Wolcott

Beckie Lehman, Erica Blume

We were blessed this past month to share Communion as a congregation. Bros. Lynn Fiechter (Bluffton, IN, Sis. Ronda) and Dan Kilgus (Remington, IN, Sis. Jenna) shared the service with us. We are thankful for their willing service. Also sharing the Word this month were Bros. Frank Sauder (Roanoke, IL, Sis. Kathy) and Doug Harmon (Toledo, OH, Sis. Lanna). God bless each one for their time spent teaching and giving of themselves.

Congratulations to Michael and Sis. Melissa Blanding on the birth of their granddaughter, Ellen Tressa, born to their daughter Michaela and Ryan Byrd. We wish many blessings to the new parents as they nurture this new life.

We welcome Sis. Janelle Hofstetter as she has relocated to Wolcott and is worshipping with us. We want to extend a warm hand of love as she becomes a part of our congregation.

We are holding up Donna Kyburz (Ron) in prayer as she was diagnosed with cancer recently. We pray for God’s peace and His healing hand to be on her.

We rejoice with Caleb Furrer (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Pam) as he has shared a testimony of peace and a desire for baptism. It is always uplifting as a church to witness the victory of baptism.

Our church grieves with Bro. Vernon and Sis. Arlene Schwab in the sudden death of their daughter, Mary Beth Flickner (Charlie). We pray for each one of Mary Beth’s family during this time. God knows our sorrows and is the only true Comforter.

Iowa, Bloomfield

Teresa Schock

May God bless Bro. Brad Funk (Sis. Laura, Garden Grove, IA) for ministering to us on Mother’s Day. We are thankful for their visit.

Sometimes I wonder why Father’s Day wasn’t called Dad’s Day. I like the saying from Simply Said, “Anyone can be a Father, but it takes someone special to be a Dad.”

We have two high school graduates, Natalie Joos (Bro. Gene and Sis. Lana) and Josh Teubel (Bro. Paul and Sis. Charlotte).

It seems that about every Sunday we have heard about making choices. Recently, I was listening to the song, There is a Calm (Gospel Hymns p. 383). It ends with these words, “the awful
choice of life and death is given—
Which wilt thou choose? Which wilt
thou choose?”

**Iowa, Burlington**
*Ivy Steiner, Elaine Eisenmann*

At Burlington we have been very blessed by two new births. Brother Ed (Marj) Streeter gave a testimony of being born again and was baptized. We appreciated our Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall coming down for the evening. I think we all went home blessed and thankful for God’s salvation plan. Bro. Philip and Sis. Kelli Schulz along with Quinn, Connor, Tristan, and Brandon are rejoicing to have a baby girl, Krista Karen, born into their family. It has been cute to see them all with a girl after four boys. Babies are such a blessing and encouragement. Our whole church is enjoying her.

Our prayers go with our high school graduates: Savannah Banwart, Brady Eisenmann, Lydia Eisenmann, and Bro. Daniel Steiner as they pursue new opportunities.

“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him and he shall direct thy paths.” Proverbs 3:5&6

**Iowa, Garden Grove**
*Laura Funk*

Our sincere thanks goes out to the visiting ministers who were with us this past month: Bro. Brandon Emch (Kansas City, MO), Bro. Merlin Meyer (Lester, IA), and Bro. Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA). We appreciate the time and effort these brothers and their families commit to serving the small churches.

Graduating from college is Jaelah Funk and graduating from high school is Joel Funk. Both are children of Bro. Brad and Sis. Laura Funk. At the Baccalaureate service, the students were reminded that God has a plan for their life and they should follow God’s plan, not their own plan. At another service we attended, the first two points the speaker gave were forgive and apologize. This advice was given to graduates, but shouldn’t we all follow this advice? We pray for all graduates as they step out into the world. My thoughts turned to the following hymn. The writer refers to a boy, Brad and I sing this song for both our children.

“Kneel down by the side of your mother my boy,
You have only a moment I know,
But stay till I give you this parting advice,
It is all that I have to bestow.
You leave us to seek your employment my boy,
By the world you have yet to be tried,
But in the temptations and trials you meet,
May your heart to the Savior confide.
I gave you to God in your cradle my boy,
And I’ve taught you the best that I knew,
And as long as His mercies permit me to live,
I shall never cease praying for you.
You will find in your satchel, a Bible, my boy,
It’s the book of all others the best,
It will help you to live and prepare you to die,
And will lead to the gates of the blest.
Hold fast to the right, Where ever your footsteps may roam,
O forsake not the way of salvation my boy,
That you learned from your mother at home.”

-Author Unknown

**Iowa, Unknown**

On April 18, Bro. Joe and Sis. Connie Gerst were blessed with another granddaughter, Onita Marie Troxel. Her parents and siblings are Bro. Joel and Sis. Amy, Titus, and Rhoda (LaCrosse, IN). We trust the Lord to grant Onita’s
parents grace and wisdom as they raise their children.

We appreciate Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Sis. Julie, Mediapolis, IA) assisting Bro. Joe Gerst in presenting the Memorandum on April 23. We are thankful for Elder Bro. Ron Messner’s (Sis. Pam, Washington, IL) help in serving us Holy Communion on May 14 and to have Bro. Ed Fritz (Sis. Barb, Washington, IL) also visit that weekend. We appreciate the love demonstrated by the visits of these couples and the service of each brother from the pulpit both Saturday and Sunday.

Iowa, Lester

Audrey Metzger, Joyce Moser

What a blessing it is for the body of Christ when souls are added to the fold. Stuart and Karin Moser became our brother and sister the weekend of April 23-24. We want to thank our Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Sis. Clara, Bloomfield, IA) for his labors and sharing the Word.

Other ministering brethren this month were Bro. Darin Massner (Sis. Twila, West Bend, IA) and Bro. Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha, KS). May they be blessed for their efforts.

Our sympathy goes out to two family circles, as they both lost their mothers. Tina Moser passed away on April 24. Our love and sympathy is extended to her children: Judy (Leo) Weber of Tea, SD, Sis. Audrey (Bro. Mark) Metzger and Sis. Polly (Bro. Rodney) Metzger; daughter-in-law, Kathy Moser and sister-in-law, Sis. Donna Metzger; 18 grandchildren and 24 great-grandchildren. May the Lord comfort and strengthen this dear family. Sis. Helen Knobloch passed from this life on May 5. She is survived by her husband, Bro. Willy, and son, Dietrich (Lex) of Lennox, SD, daughter, Sis. Rita, along with two grandchildren, one great-grandchild and a sister-in-law, Sis. Vera Knobloch. We pray each one can feel the Lord’s nearness as they go through this time of sorrow. Ministering Bro. Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata, TX) and Bro. Kent Mogler (Sis. Mary, Minneapolis, MN) were here to conduct the funeral. May the Lord bless them for their labors.

We want to extend our best wishes to Traci Knoblock (Bro. Troy and Sis. Donna), Sis. Taryn Knoblock (Bro. Troy and Sis. Donna), Sis. Tyra Knoblock, (Bro. Travis and Sis. Kathy), Sis. Heather Moser (Bro. Brad and Sis. Glory) and Szilvi Nador, (McTier and Deanne Millington). Our college graduates are Joshua Metzger (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Dawn), Bro. Chad Knoblock (Bro. Troy and Sis. Donna), Sis. Nikki Meyer (Bro. Sam), Sis. LaChelle Metzger (Bro. Tyler), Bro. Reagan Meyer (Brad and Trinda), Drew Mogler and Kendra Mogler (Bro. Dwight and Sis. Donna), Katie Popkes, (Bro. Greg and Sis. Lori) and Kelsey Knoblock (Bro. Lynn and Sis. Joni).

As Father’s Day approaches, we are so thankful for our fathers and the love and help they so willingly share, just as our heavenly Father shares His love and help when we humbly seek Him.

Iowa, Oakville-Mediapolis

Kelsey Banwart, Tami Lanz

We had three little boys born this past month. We rejoice with their families and pray that they
will feel God’s nearness as they raise their children to know the plan of salvation.


Tyler and Amanda Gray welcomed Triston Rhett on May 10. Triston’s grandparents are Bro. Sean and Sis. Val Gray. Great-grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Carol Steiner.


Our prayers are with those who have lost loved ones recently. Sis. Abby Lindeen’s (Bro. Steve) grandma, Tina Moser (Lester, IA), passed away. We also extend our sympathy to Sis. Edith Kellenberger’s husband, Ernest, passed away. Adolph Knobloch (Jean) bid farewell to his sister Sis. Paulina Knobloch and sister-in-law Sis. Helen Knobloch both from Lester. Bro. Dave and Sis. Kay Eisenmann lost a son, Tim Eisenmann, from Bradenton, FL. Sis. Gail Massner (Bro. Dennis) is Tim’s sister. May God’s nearness be felt by each one.

Sis. Irene Rick and Sis. Leslie Leman (Bro. Dale) spent time in the hospital.

Our 2016 high school graduates are: Austin Lanz (Bro. Monte and Sis. Kelly), Sis. Brittney Lanz (Bro. Tom and Sis. Mary), Ross Lanz (Bro. Keith and Sis. Tonya), Jonathan Massner (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Lois), Rose Schmidgall (Bro. Aaron and Sis. Luann), and Sis. Torri Stoller (Bro. Dave and Sis. Stefanie). Our college graduates are: Brayden Lanz (Bro. Monte and Sis. Mary), Keegan Lanz (Bro. Robby and Sis. Kris), Sis. Molly Lanz (Bro. Keith and Sis. Tonya), and Bro. Jared Schmidgall (Bro. Aaron and Sis. Luann). We pray that each graduate will trust God with their future.

“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.” Proverbs 3:5-6

Iowa, West Bend

Becky Virkler, Jenny Banwart

We extend our sympathy to those who have lost loved ones. Sis. Edith Kellenberger’s husband, Ernest, passed away. Adolph Knobloch (Jean) bid farewell to his sister Sis. Paulina Knobloch and sister-in-law Sis. Helen Knobloch both from Lester. Bro. Dave and Sis. Kay Eisenmann lost a son, Tim Eisenmann, from Bradenton, FL. Sis. Gail Massner (Bro. Dennis) is Tim’s sister. May God’s nearness be felt by each one.

Sis. Irene Rick and Sis. Leslie Leman (Bro. Dale) spent time in the hospital.

Stella Mae joined the family of Bro. Carl & Sis. Sara Gerber, Noah, Claire, Ellie & Austin. Grandparents are Bro. Dave & Sis. Diane Gerber and Bro. Dennis & Sis. Gail Massner.

Even though there were no visiting ministers this month, we appreciate the many labors of our home ministers.

If faith can see every step of the way, it is not faith.

Japan, Tokyo

Anna Inoue, Marie Inoue

Another blessed month has passed. We are very thankful for God’s provisions for our fellowship in Him. On May 1 we walked the road to Calvary as we partook of the cup and bread to remember the suffering of our Lord and Savior. “...I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God.” (Luke 22:16) May we be faithful servants every day for our dear Lord.

Many visitors joined us that same Sunday. After lunch, we gathered in a circle with an iphone in the middle and sang hymns for our Sis. Yoshiko Sakuta who is homebound. We again blended our voices around the table following our evening meal. Loved ones from Shioda church joined us. The beautiful singing was surely a taste of heaven with several languages of Korean, English, and Japanese represented.

We thank the following visitors for making our day special: Elder Bro. Mark and Sis. Bev Bahr (Detroit, MI), Ministering Bro. Barry and Sis. Rachel Dietz with Levi and Elizabeth (Bradford, IL), Bro. Hisato and Sis. Rika Inoue (Bloomington, IL), and Sis. Vicki Ramseyer (Bay City, MI).

Kansas, Bern

Tiffany Menold, Jill Meyer

“For Thou art my hope, O Lord God: Thou art my trust from my youth.” Psalm 71:5

Spring has ushered in a new set of graduates and we wish them
God’s blessings in their futures!
High school graduates are: Sis. Haylie Meyer (Bro. Richard and Sis. Joni), Bro. Benton Rokey (Bro. Dwight and Sis. Anita), Bro. Travis Rokey (Bro. Todd and Sis. Sheila) and Caleb Strahm (Bro. Ed and Sis. Ramona). College graduates are Bro. Jordan (Sis. Leah) Rokey and Sis. Malerie Strahm (Bro. Mike and Sis. Diane). Our prayers are with each one, as they trust in the Lord to direct their paths.

“And so, farewell to you, beloved brother, as now we part and say our fond ‘farewell’!
Should we again be meeting one another, then may we find that in you still doth dwell the love of Christ,
That first and dearest treasure,
that always fills our hearts with grateful pleasure.”
Zion’s Harp #114, verse 4

Kansas, Ft. Scott
Karen Kellenberger
Greetings of love from Fort Scott!

On April 30, Elder Bro. Douglas Schock (Sis. Clara, Bloomfield, IA) and Elder Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen, Kansas City, MO) served our congregation Holy Communion.

Our other visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern, KS), Elder Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen, Kansas City, Mo), and Bro. Nate Lehman (Sis. Yvonne, Denver, CO). We heartily thank them for serving us.

“Higher than the highest heavens,
Deeper than the deepest sea,
Lord, Thy love at last has conquered,
None of self and all of Thee.”
Gospel Hymns #149

Kansas, Kiowa
Janice Bahr, Millie Frieden

“Jesus in the night of His betrayal, when His covenant He did endow, when His blood, in love and grace eternal, for transgression and for sin did flow, He established for His church a token, that His covenant might never be broken, this His holy Sacrament and feast, for His own, from sin and death released.” vs 9. “There is life and there is peace and gladness, there contentment, grace, and mercy flow; there the light of Jesus scatters sadness, shining with a soft and blessed glow. O, who would not joy in this salvation, yearn to dwell within that habitation where the light of life shines full and free, giving men new life and liberty!” Zions Harp #26 vs 1.

Elder Bro. Timothy Funk (Sis. Debra, Peoria, IL) and Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern, KS) shared a very special weekend with us recently to remember the Life and Death of our Lord Jesus, as He died for us on that cruel cross. We did not take His life. He gave it for the entire world. He loves us so very much and wants to spend eternity with all who will believe and serve our risen Savior. We appreciate our elder brothers and their wives for giving of their time to travel and share the weekend with us.

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

Our children are truly our inspiration and joy. When they walk into Church on Sunday, they just make us smile. We continually pray for them as they grow to adulthood. In May, Allyson Stewart (Bro. Kelly and Sis. Jenny) graduated from high school and plans to go on to college in the fall. Gabe Stewart (Bro. Kelly and Sis. Jenny) and Stanley Klippenstein (Bro. Adolf and Sis. Elma) will graduate and attend high school in the fall. We have watched each of them grow from babies or young children to young adults. The time has gone too quickly, but we are grateful that they have been such a big part of our lives. Pray that God will direct their steps as they make future decisions, and more importantly, that He will be the center of their lives as they travel on in life.

God has blessed our community with lovely rains. Everything is so green and lush: the grass, the leaves on the trees,
the wheat. But soon that wheat will turn golden, and harvest will be here for our area. It never ceases to thrill me when I read the Scriptures and see the comparison of our lives to wheat. We are born, we live, grow, then we die and, if faithful, look forward to eternal life in Jesus. The small wheat seed lives, grows and then dies to live again in a new crop for another harvest. May we all be ready for the harvest when our Lord comes to take us home, as the combine takes the wheat. May we be the fruit that is taken not the chaff, which will be cast out. May we watch and pray, and ever be ready for His coming.

We extend our love and sympathy to the family of Floyd Domnick, Jr. lovingly known to all of us as Junior, who fell asleep in the arms of his Lord and Savior this past month. Junior, his wife Vonda and family lived and worked in Kiowa for many years before moving to Texas. They worshiped with our congregation during those years. He wished to come home for his funeral, so we celebrated his life in the Kiowa Apostolic Church. May God be a comfort to his family and friends who will greatly miss him.

Kansas, Lamont-Gridley

Dorene Metzger

Colton Isch, 8 yr. old son of Bro. Justin & Sis. Liz, broke his elbow in three places while playing basketball with his brother. The break required surgery with pins and a cast.

Layke & Sage Edelman, sons of Bro. Victor & Sis. Hope, had a narrow escape from a vehicle accident. We are so thankful for God’s protection of these three young men in our Sunday School. Our youth are our future church and we would nourish and cherish each one with love and prayers.

Bro. John Rowell (Sis. Nelda, Tremont, IL) spent a weekend with us. We enjoyed his manner of teaching us the Word.

We partook of Holy Communion on April 9. Bro. Cory Metzger (Wichita, KS) assisted our Bro. Jay Luthi in serving the Bread of Christ’s Body & the Wine of his Blood to us. Isaiah 53 was the basis for our exhortation. Verses 2 & 3 stood out to me.

“He hath no form nor comeliness, and when we shall see him there is no beauty that we should desire him. He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.”

Usually we are attracted to nice-looking people, but Christ’s attraction that drew people to Him was His kindness, love, caring and healing nature. He would read the minds of His accusers as well as those who loved and appreciated Him. He was the Son of God and we esteemed Him not, until we came to the realization of our soul’s deep need for healing. He is still in the business of healing spiritually and physically. Let Him work within all of us.

A Mother’s Love

“A Mother’s Love is something that no one can explain,
It is made of deep devotion and of sacrifice and pain.
It is endless and unselfish and enduring come what may
For nothing can destroy it or take that love away......
It is patient and forgiving when all others are forsaking,
And it never fails or falters even though the heart is breaking...
It believes beyond believing when the world around condemns,
And it glows with all the beauty of the rarest, brightest gems...
It is far beyond defining, it defies all explanation,
And it still remains a secret like the mysteries of creation...

- Helen Steiner Rice

Sis. Alex & Bro. Kurt Kraft are the parents of Bryn Joan, born on April 11. The glow of motherhood shows on Sis. Alex’s face as the birth of Bryn brings excitement to siblings Nyla & Trace. Grandparents are Bro. Doug & Sis. Judy Kraft and Bro. Ron & Sis. Timna Lanz of Mediapolis-Oakville, IA.

May we often think of the daily sacrifices our mothers for each of us, indeed a wonderful blessing of our loving Heavenly Father.

Bro. Glen (Sis. Lorean) Anliker was a hospital patient.

Eight students from Kansas State University visited our
congregation one weekend. They painted and did light carpentry work at Shiloh House. Shiloh House is a safe environment for single mothers and their children. Supper and singing were held on Saturday evening and we enjoyed their presence on Sunday.

Another weekend we enjoyed a Mystery Bus group. Over 50 guests from Bradford and Princeville, IL were our surprise guests. Supper and singing were held again on Saturday evening. Ministering brothers, Bro. Tyler Joos (Sis. Tonya, Bradford, IL) and Bro. Ryan Hoerr (Sis. Joy, Princeville, IL) occupied our pulpit.

FIRST FRUITS was the topic of the day, both morning and afternoon services. As I give my FIRST FRUITS (money-time-attention to God and His worship) do I remember from where I came by God’s grace and give abundantly and willingly? In Acts 18:24-28, we heard that Aquilla and Priscilla came along side of Apollos (who was preaching the baptism of John the Baptist) and instructed him more fully into the life of Christ and His mission here on earth. Do we come along side of each other to encourage and strengthen each other in the Word? Our aim should not be critical, but to encourage and enlighten by and through the Word.

Our congregation was excited to hear of the engagement of Sis. Andrea Luthi of San Diego, CA to Bro. Tom Koch of Tucson, AZ. They are planning a September 25 wedding here in Andrea’s home church. Their parents are Elder Bro. Jay and Sis. Jane Luthi and Bro. Dave and Sis. June Koch of Tremont, IL. May they feel God’s continued guidance as they plan for their life together.

Mother’s Day’s sermons were full of examples of motherhood from the Bible: Hannah, Ruth, Proverbs 31 mother examples, Bathsheba, Elizabeth, and Mary (the mother of Jesus). These were examples of godly mothers whose lives had a great effect on their families as well as nations. The Sunday School students waited on the lunch tables and several of the brothers did the dishes. The day was a loving example of the church working together in harmony, both young and the older. How blessed we are!

Sympathy is extended to Bro. Albert and Sis. Mara Jean Edelman in the passing of his oldest sister, Mary Ann Bollinger (Roland, deceased) of Silverton, OR. Sweet is the thought of meeting on yonder shore, never to part again.

Graduates are Layke Edelman (Bro. Victor & Sis. Hope) from high school. Aleah Hines (Tony & Sis. Dora), Hannah Luthi (Elder Bro. Jay & Sis. Jane), and Sage Edelman (Bro. Victor & Sis. Hope), all from 8th Grade. Our prayer is for them to recognize Jesus as their Lord, knowing He knows each step ahead of them and to let Him guide their decisions in life.

Kansas, Sabetha
Crystal Harter, Brenda Nenadov
We thank Elder Bro. Paul Messner (Sis. Jan, Winthrop, MN) for assisting Elder Bro. Gerry with Holy Communion on April 30. What a blessed time to remember the sacrifice our Savior gave for us.

“And ye, the Church’s members, truly Are folded in my heart’s embrace! In Christ ye are my brethren duly; We share salvation through His grace. We drink one cup; we break one bread; One Saviour suffered in our stead.” The Lord’s Supper, Zion’s Harp #25

Our hospital patients this past month were Bro. Don Plattner and Sis. Florence Meyer. We uplift them in prayer that they may have healing and strength.

We are thankful that Megan Grimm (Bro. Darin & Sis. Marci) and Tessa Strahm (Bro. Lynn & Sis. Sally) have been granted peace and look forward to baptism.

We bid farewell to Sis. Lydia Meeks as she has taken a position at Gateway Woods. We wish her God’s blessings and nearness as she makes this transition.

May we remember our earthly fathers as Father’s Day approaches. We thank them for their earthly training and preserving the faith. May we continue to strive onward and forward as we await the coming of our Heavenly Father.

Wichita, Kansas
Bethany Johnson
Greetings of love from Wichita! We have started our stormy season, but have also enjoyed many
beautiful spring days already! I love seeing all of the beautiful colors that God has made and seeing everything coming back to life after the winter!

We had a nice Good Friday service and then on Easter morning we enjoyed a yummy breakfast together. The children then portrayed Christ's death in the Easter program. They did a great job and work so well together!

The Sunday before Mother's Day, we had an evening of fellowship and a nice dinner to celebrate all of the women in the church. It was a beautiful time together. The young girls did a wonderful job singing songs for everyone! We saw many people that we don’t get to see very often and it is always good to be together.

Our church is blessed with many visiting ministers now that we only have only one minister. We appreciate each and every one that comes to share God’s word and be a blessing to our little congregation. Thank you to Bro. Dan and Sis. Ann Moser from Elgin, IL and Bro. Fred and Sis. Diane Funk from Morton, IL for your willingness and your time spent with us!

We grew by adding a sweet little girl to our flock! Little Emmy Leanne Schweizer was born on May 13 to Stephanie and Nate Schweizer. Owen, Lilly and Cora are the happy siblings. Her grandparents are Bro. Jonathon and Sis. Ruthie Long. Welcome to our church family Emmy!

If anyone wants to include a stop to Wichita in their summer travels, please do so! We love to have company and to get together for supper and an evening. We would be glad to have you! Just let us know if you want to get together!

Mexico, Ixtlán
Ruth Gerber

“That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.” John 3:6

We were happy to celebrate the work of the Spirit in Martha Solorio’s life this past weekend. Elder Bro. Mike Leman (Sis. Deb, Denver) was with us for her baptism and shared from John 3. He shared many thoughts that put the well-known verse 16 into context for us. We reflected on whether we see Jesus as a teacher or as Lord (in control of all aspects of our lives). We also considered the natural conception and birth process as an example of the spiritual — when God’s Spirit united with our spirit creates new life, and eventually we come to the point of travail where nothing can hold back the birth; i.e. where nothing (not work, not relationships…nothing) is more important than peace with God.

The explanation of “whosoever believeth in Him,” was another focal point as there are so many who claim to “believe”, but in works deny a true faith. We are thankful for all that was shared, for an opportunity to celebrate Communion together and for another sister that has been added to the church.

Sis. Elsa Sibaja has finished her degree in education with honors. We pray God will continue to use her in her ministry to many children.

We’re looking forward to Vacation Bible School in a few months, but realize we are going to have fewer teachers and helpers this year with all the traveling, work/school shifts, babies to take care of, etc. If you or anyone you know would be interested in helping please contact us. VBS will be the week of July 25-29.

Michigan, Alto
Renee Steffen, Heidi Kaeb

“He sees your tears and hears them when they fall...”

Tears of joy flowed as it was announced that a dear couple, Daven and Leanne Winens, heeded the call from our merciful and loving Father and with humility made their hearts’ desire known. Their great aunt, Sis. Sue Daniels said, “So many prayers finally answered!” Oh what rejoicing there was, not only with the angels in heaven, but also throughout our small congregation. Many years ago I was blessed, with the opportunity to be Leanne’s first Sunday school teacher. When one of ‘your children’ seeks the Lord in repentance, there is this emotion that bursts inside of you that can hardly be explained.

As Mother’s Day approached, the children were getting excited
to make something for mommy, husbands were rushing to find a gift for their wives, and all were remembering someone special who loved, cared for and nurtured them as babes. And here in Alto there were tears of sorrow and grief flowing as a beloved mother, Penny Couch, was laid to rest. Penny’s mother, Sis. Louise Desotell; husband, James; sons: Desmond, Damon and Dominick; sister, Pam (Jeff); along with extended family and friends all mourn the loss of this mother. We petition our heavenly Father to comfort their hearts and wipe each tear that falls, for truly He is the only One who understands!

“I witnessed a moment out of time that which I’ll not soon forget. It continues to haunt my heart to tears, of pain, love, and ‘not ready yet’. Not ready – to let go of her. Not ready – to say goodbye. Not ready – for this emptiness. Not ready – for this grief and cry. As her casket slowly passed near him, his wife whom he adored so much, running his finger from end to end, reaching for ‘one last touch’. One last touch – of her tender love. One last touch – of embrace. One last touch – for a moment in time. One last touch – of her face.”

And then there were tears of welcoming home and saying farewell. We are thrilled to welcome Sis. Abigail Steffen back home and pray she continues to know God’s guidance in her life.

Bro. Ed and Sis. Julie Sanders made it home safely from Haiti and we are so thankful to have them with us again after being gone for four months. Bro. Spencer Plattner graduated from college and took a position in Beaumont, Texas. Although this was an exciting adventure for Bro. Spencer, it hit quite hard when that moment of driving away from home became reality. We love you Spencer and pray the Lord will watch over you and grant you His traveling mercies each time you sit in the cockpit.

“Tears are a language God understands.”

Our prayers ascend heavenward for those who have had surgery: Sis. Michele Blough, Sis. LaBeth Dunham, Bro. Otto Schlatter and Sis. Pat Schlatter; as well as those going through treatment and those struggling with the cares and trials of life. May God’s healing touch bring you strength, courage and endurance to fight against the deception of helplessness.

Elder Bro. Greg Lehman (Sis. Mary Beth, Wolcott, IN) came to celebrate his daughter’s (Sis. Maria McCormick) graduation, but we all were blessed by his visit as he ministered to us the Truth of the Living Word. Thank you Bro. Greg for your willing, servant heart.

Michigan, Bay City
Sarah Knochel
We have many from our congregation who are suffering from infirmities of the flesh. We pray God’s healing presence will be with each one. Our prayers are with Lori Bateson, Don Grew, Sis. Barb Knochel, Sis. Connie Pashak (Bro. Dean), Bro. Mike Ruegsegger (Sis. Nancy), Sis. Cheryl Schmidt (Mike), and Sis. Char Wieland (Bro. Brian).

Our hearts were saddened at the sudden passing of Ned Waibel. Our prayers are with his aunts and many cousins from our congregation. We also want to lift up his wife, Jeanette, during this time of grief.

We also want to remember Sis. Ileean Wackerle in the loss of her brother, Harold Rowden.

Elder Bro. John Wiegand (Sis. Jane, Silverton, OR) traveled to Bay City to assist with the reading of the Memorandum. We are thankful for traveling mercies and for the ministering on our behalf.

“O God, my heart is fixed; I will sing and give praise, even with my glory.
I will praise thee, O Lord, among the people: and I will sing praises onto thee among the nations.
Be thou exalted, O God, above the heavens and thy glory above all the earth;” Psalm 108:1,3,5

The Covenant Chamber Choir blessed us with song on the weekend of May 21-22. It was a blessed weekend of fellowship for our congregation.

Michigan, Detroit
Manuela Denes
This time of year, I spend a lot of time at our local nurseries
and garden centers. I’m always excited when I see a new flower variety. My garden, to say the least, could use some more room! Interestingly enough, the Lord opened up a new door for me and I accepted a position at my favorite nursery and garden center, Anna’s Flowers. Anna has rows upon rows of hanging baskets, containers, tropical plants—you name it. As I started to write this article their slogan “Growing the Gardener in You” popped into my mind and got me thinking on how I can “grow the believer in me”. Daily prayer, reading God’s Word, putting my trust and faith in God, these all work toward growing a strong believer and are things I can greatly improve on! “But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever. Amen.” 2 Peter 3:18

I trust that my life can exhibit growth in the same way my garden does!

We spent a blessed weekend sharing in the testimony and witnessing of the baptism of our new sister in faith, Sis. Haley Knochel (Bro. Dana and Sis. Beth). We have all loved watching this young lady grow over the years into a beautiful example of Christ. May the Lord continue to guide her in her life.

Our deepest sympathy and prayers go out to Bro. Lucas Frank (Sis. Crystal) at the passing of his grandfather Bro. Ed Frank from Lacrosse, IN.

We were so grateful to have Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Sis. Jane, Bluffton North, IN) come for a visit to share God’s Word on a Sunday not too long ago. Bro. Neil Ramseyer (Sis. Sharon, Bay City, MI) was at Woodhaven this month. We certainly are blessed when we have ministers and their families visiting us and encourage you to come back!

Our continuing prayers and thoughts are with Mark Wieland (Joy) as he continues to receive radiation treatments.

“Please be our guest for a weekend of glorifying and praising God on the occasion of the 28th Annual Livonia Apostolic Christian Benefit Dinner and Choir Program to support the ministry of the Woodhaven Retirement Community”.

The program, as always, will be held at our Livonia, MI church on Saturday July 16. Dinner will be served at 5 p.m. and the choir program will start at 7 p.m. And of course, we’d love to have you all worship with us on Sunday. We hope to see you!

**Minnesota, Minneapolis**

*Brenda Messner, Betty Lindwall*

We are prayerful for our graduates as they reach another milestone and pray they will seek God’s will as they open a new chapter of their lives. Our college graduates are Sis. Claire Dill (Bro. Dewayne and Sis. LaRae), Bailey Kent (Jay and Lisa), Sis. Leah Knobloch (Bro. Darryl and Sis. Deb, Bradford), and Abby Nielsen (Donna). Our high school graduates are Jacob Bentz (Craig and Sis. Sandy), Alex Kent (Jay and Lisa), and Allison Rocke (Bro. Duane and Sis. Bonnie).

We are thankful for Abby Nielsen’s time here in Minneapolis and the friendships that have been made. We bid her Godspeed as she is moving west for an internship in Oklahoma, followed by her marriage in September to Josh Knobloch (Sis. Leah’s brother), and settling in Denver. We will miss her sweet smile and caring ways.

May God richly bless Bro. Brian Waibel (Sis. Wendy, Champaign) for coming to share God’s inspired Word with us.

**Minnesota, Morris**

*Ashley Knobloch, Heidi Pfaffmann*

“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.” James 1:17

We welcome precious baby Kortlen Drew, firstborn of Bro. Drew & Sis. Lanna Schmidgall. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Rob & Sis. Kathryn Schmidgall and Bro. Dean & Sis. Linda Meyer (Lester, IA).

We rejoice with Sis. Kendra Schmidgall (Bro. Rob & Sis. Kathryn) and Bro. Jordan Sinn (Bro. Dean & Sis. Heidi) of Silverton, OR as they announced their engagement. May God guide and bless them as they prepare to become one in the Lord.

As we celebrate Mother’s Day, let us give thanks to the Lord for those who love and care for us.

“Thy father and thy mother shall be glad, and she that bare thee shall rejoice.” Proverbs 23:25
Minnesota, Morris North
Lois Schmidgall, Amanda Feuchtenberger, Wanda Gramm

“Turn your eyes upon Jesus….
Look full in HIS wonderful face…
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim… In the light of HIS glory and grace.” Isn’t this so true? God’s presence and favor is what matters most.

We appreciate and thank Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Sis. Pam, Washington, IL), Bro. John Baumgartner (Sis. Lori, Bern, KS), Bro. Mitch Fehr (Sis. Abbie, Morris Country) for visiting and sharing God’s word with us this past month.

We welcome Ryan Greiner from the Peoria congregation to Morris North this summer as he has a summer internship in the area.


We offer special thanks to Elder Bro. Ron Messner and Bro. Caleb Beyer from ACCFS for sharing God’s directions with us in the “Foundations for a Loving Marriage” seminar. Very meaningful wisdom was given from the word of God’s plan for us in the marriage union.

Thank you Trustees for serving lunch on Mother’s Day and also to the Sunday School children who made the flower centerpieces as gifts to our mothers.

“Favor is deceitful and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised.”
Proverbs 31:30.

With the summer months approaching, we wish to extend a warm invitation to come worship with us at Morris North. Come and enjoy some of God’s beauty in the “Land of 10,000 Lakes”.

Minnesota, Winthrop
Lindsay Schmidt, Becky Braulick

“And I who naught but wrath did merit, Shall now in grace with God abide!
He reconciled my wayward spirit, Through His own blood, and gave me light.
From whence came this? What is it for? Unbounded mercy, nothing more.”
Zion’s Harp #220 vs. 2

We remembered the Lord’s suffering and death as we shared Communion on April 16. Elder Bro. John Laukhuf (Sis. Marcia, Latty, OH) spent the weekend with us and labored on our behalf for the Communion service and Sunday services. We thank him and his wife for all their efforts. We also want to thank visiting minister Bro. Kevin Wulf (Sis. Annie, Morris, MN) who brought forth the Word on May 1. We appreciate the time they spent with us.

“As we celebrate Mother’s Day we remember our mothers and all that they do for us in our physical and spiritual needs. May God bless each mother for selflessly giving of themselves!

“In sorrow and pain thy trust do retain in Jesus the merciful Savior. When burdened with care, when thou wouldst despair, then call on thy loving Redeemer. He’ll lighten the load, and level the road and bear thee on hands of compassion.”
Zion’s Harp #46 vs. 1-3

Sis. Bernadine Messner was recently hospitalized. She is doing better and has been able to go home. May God continue to heal all those that are fighting sickness and disease.

Our prayers and sympathies are with Sis. Dorothy Jacobson and family on the death of her son-in-law, Tim Karsnia (daughter Delphine’s husband). We pray they feel Thy loving arms around them at this sad time.

Missouri, Kansas City
Julie Webel

This past month we have had many visitors and are grateful for all the support for our small congregation. Special thanks to Bro. Clint Beyer (Sis. Kara, Sabetha, KS) for leading our Friday night Bible Study and pizza supper. He spoke to us about having a vision for our life and knowing what that is. We feel blessed and thankful for his efforts and labor of love.

With spring here and
summer approaching, graduation time is here again. Congratulations to our high school graduate, Keegan Donahue, who will be attending Kansas State University this fall. Also congratulations to Austin Fehr who is graduating from The University of Kansas. May God richly bless them in their future plans.

Missouri, Lamar
Venetta Banwart

Our visiting ministers this month were Bro. Bob Dotterer (Sardis, OH), Bro. Mark Wettstein (LaCrosse, IN), Bro. Ryan Hoerr (Sis. Joy, Princeville, IL), Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Sis. Clara, Bloomfield, IA), Bro. Howard Plattner (Alto, MI), Bro. Dean Messner (Sis. Wanda, Winthrop, MN). May each feel God’s rich blessing for coming and feeding us from His holy word.

As we just finished celebrating Mother’s Day, there are many things we need to thank them for, especially for teaching us the ways of God.

Missouri, St. Louis
Sarah Fehr

We had a full weekend at the end of April with our annual Business Meeting, Communion, and the reading of the Memorandum. Communion is always a blessing. We were thankful for the service of our Elder Bro. Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan, Taylor, MO) and Elder Bro. Earl Ringer (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL) in that sacrament. Also, many thanks to the brothers and sisters from Taylor, MO, who came that weekend to lend a hand with babysitting, serving lunch, and teaching Sunday School so that our members were freed up to participate in all of the activities with minimal stress. It is much appreciated!

We are also thankful to other visiting ministers this month including Bro. Mark Wettstein (Sis. Karen, Lacrosse, IN), and Bro. Curt Rassi (Sis. Kathy, Tremont, IL).

Missouri, Taylor
Kathy Eberhardt

On April 16, 2016, a pillar in our Taylor Apostolic Christian Church died. Bro. Gerald Sutter (age 87) served as a minister for 44 years. Bro. Gerald’s greatest joys were found in his faith and family, seeing them often, and praying for them by name every day. He left behind his wife, Sis. Marjorie; his children: Sis. Marcia Sutter, Bro. Steve (Sis. Deb), Bro. Danny (Sis. Tina), Bro. Rich E. (Sis. Kay), Tim (Carla), and Sis. Peggy (Doug) Hoerr. He had 19 grandchildren and 27 great-grandchildren. Also surviving are his sister, Joyce Pohl, and foster brother, Bob (Marilyn) Frieden; sisters-in-law, Sis. Lois (Bro. James) and Sis. Charlene (Bro. Dick). He was preceded in death by his parents (Bro. Eli & Sis. Elizabeth Sutter), son Eli Fredrick, brothers Edward, Bro. James, and Bro. Richard “Dick,” and a sister, Sis. Naomi Heimer Moser.

Funeral services for Bro. Gerald on Friday, April 22, were conducted by our local ministers. Bro. Kim Sutter read the obituary. Elder Bro. Kent Heimer had the main service. And Bro. Tim Lehman concluded the service. Bro. Gerald’s cousin, Bro. Nathan Steffen, had the prayer at the cemetery.

Bro. Kevin Knapp (Sis. Dixie, Bloomington, IL) shared a Bible Study titled “Taste of Home”—sharing life experiences how God has guided each step of the way. Thank you, Bro. Kevin, for making the trip on a Wednesday evening to visit us in Taylor.

We wish our high school graduates God’s blessings as they head to a new journey in their life. May they all take Jesus with them. Our high school graduates are Sis. Jennifer Hoerr (Bro. Brent & Sis. Charlotte), Blake Massner (Bro. Chad & Sis. Lisa), Sis. Rachel Reinbeck (Bro. Adam & Sis. Katie), Junior Smith (Sis. Shelly Hoerr), Cooper Sutter (Bro. Roger & Sis. Dianne), Bro. Philip Wegman (Bro. Scott & Sis. Dawn), and Sis. Shelby Young (Bro. Tom & Sis. Jolene). Bro. Scott Wegman presented the graduation Bible Study prior to the graduate reception on Wednesday evening, May 18, 2016.

Our convert David Hoerr (Bro. Brent & Sis. Charlotte) has peace with God and is awaiting baptism.

Many in our congregation are dealing with serious health issues. Let us continue to offer special prayers for them.
And let us remember to pray for each other (we all need God’s grace and mercy!), our church leadership and our government.

New York, Croghan/Naumburg

Hope Graves

We had our annual church cleaning on April 18 and are thankful for each one that was able to come and help with this work.

We continue to pray for Bro. Lowell Virkler and Emily Virkler and those who have health needs and medical decisions to make in the near future. Recently hospitalized are Sis. Bernice Hirschey, Sis. Rachel Snyder and Gayle Hirschey, who is recovering from shoulder surgery.

Our thanks extend out to the Rockville brethren that came and served our lunch on Sunday, May 22. This has been such a blessing!

After hearing of the passing of one of our loved ones from Rockville, CT today, we are reminded of the hope we have to meet again someday. What a treasure that will be!

“All when at last these ties are riven, we’re called to go on high. Oh, how sweet to meet in heaven, friends forever, you and I.”

Hymns of Zion #91 vs.4

Ohio, Columbus

Nancy Banks

Our high school graduates this year are Justin Palitto (Bro. Bryon and Sis. Lisa) and Sis. Trina Miller (Bro. Joe and Sis. Carla).

Ohio, Akron

Carla Miller

We are thankful for our visiting minister this month, Bro. Tom Leman (Denver, CO).


Our thoughts and prayers are with Daisy Holtzapple as she has spent time in the hospital.

Sympathy and prayers are extended to Sis. Kathy Bako (Bro. Sandor) in the passing of her sister, Erzsebet Hargas (Gyula-dec., Hungary).

Our high school graduates this year are Justin Palitto (Bro. Bryon and Sis. Lisa) and Sis. Trina Miller (Bro. Joe and Sis. Carla).

Ohio, Junction

Elizabeth Manz

“All the way my Savior leads me, what have I to ask beside? Can I doubt His tender mercy who through life has been my guide?”

Hymns of Zion # 21

Our prayers are extended to the family of Sis. Kathryn Emch (the late Bro. Harold) as she went home to heaven on May 4. She has 4 children: Dianne (Les) Zunkel, Jim (Carmina) Emch, John (Bev) Emch, and Elaine Emch. She was a woman with a strong faith and was confident of her Savior and Guide. We will miss her.

We have been blessed this month with some new additions to our church. Bro. Greg and Sis. Christina Gasser welcomed Silas John into their family on May 10. Silas has three sisters: Aubrey, Tecca and Layla. His thankful grandparents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Sue Gasser and Bro. Don and Sis. Nan Steidl (Akron, OH).

On May 11, Edison Andrew was born to Bro. Andy and Sis. Laura Manz. His grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Connie Manz and Bro. Nelson and Sis. Amy Zehr (Fairbury, IL). Bro Ken and Sis. Gwen Manz are thankful for the safe arrival of another granddaughter, Charity Mae, born to Chad and Cindy Indermuhle (Seville, OH).

We have had several visitors over the past month and are always thankful for each one who
worships with us. We also had three visiting ministers: Bro. Dana Nieman (Sis. Lea, Remington, IN), Bro. Jason Dotterer (Sis. Lynn, Forrest, IL) and Bro. Josh Zimmerman (Sis. Molly, Forrest, IL). We pray God will bless them for their willingness to serve us.

Ohio, Latty
Carmen Stoller, Mindy Stoller

It was a blessing to host Invite-A-Guest weekend this past month! We enjoyed the visitors and anyone else who joined us throughout the month. We want to thank Bro. Ned Bahler (Sis. Anna, Fairbury, IL), Bro. Dale Wulf (Sis. Becky, Lester, IA), Bro. Earl Beery (Sis. Suzanne, Rittman, OH), and Bro. Dan Stoller (Sis. Deb, Remington, IN) for opening the Word with us this month. May we always be thirsty for the Word of God!

We have experienced several more deaths this month. We rejoice with those who could go on to their eternal reward, where there is no pain or suffering. Our Sis. Carolyn Baird died March 28. Bill Steffen (Marian) lost his mother on April 11 in Phoenix, AZ. Sis. Aldean Price passed away on April 20. She will be sadly missed by her family, including daughter, Sis. Janel (Bro. Eli) Schlatter. Sis. Barb Stoller (Bro. Bill) lost her father, Bro. Ed Frank (LaCrosse, IN), on May 4. Our hearts go out to the families who are grieving. We continue to lift them up in prayer. What a day it will truly be when we will be reunited in heaven!

We want to remember Corbin Linder (Jim and Sis. Jane) as he was hospitalized this month. May God bless him with healing!

Ohio, Mansfield
Elizabeth Walter

Earthly goodbyes are always difficult, but the Heavenly reward waiting for God’s children gives us peace as we say goodbye to our loved ones. We think of Sis. Seida Hill (Bro. Chip) and her family in the loss of her mother, Karolina Hoffmann. Our sympathy also goes out to Bro. Wilbur Gerber (Sis. Millie) and his family in the loss of his sister-in-law, Eileen Gerber.

We are thankful for the health and recovery of our Sis. Esther Baumann who recently had surgery.

High School graduation is an exciting milestone for our Sunday School students. We pray for God’s blessing and guidance in the lives of Matthew Dawson (Bro. Ed and Sis. Judy) and Wade Beer (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Tammy). We wish them the very best as they embark on a new journey. May they never forget the love of God and the seed of truth that has been planted in their hearts.

Ohio, Rittman
Julie Steiner, Maria Beery

What time is it? In our local church’s community, there are many events, people, and situations referenced. Should a smaller church feel their work is less important? Should believers in a larger church feel “lost in the shuffle”? 1 Corinthians 12:12 reads “For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.” We need to recognize the importance of each one of us, as a significant contribution to the body. The work of God, which many situations will be touched on in this article, is so vitally important. It is NOT time to question if our contribution is effective. It IS time to make our contribution, right there, where God has placed us, the roles in which we find ourselves. Because He has put us in the body, as it pleased Him, not as it pleased us.

Do you remember the time you were baptized? How important that stage was, and how critical the attitudes and commitment, as we surrendered to God! We thank God for the testimony, the conversion, and the baptism of Sis. Anna Tieche & Sis. Rachel (Caleb) Middleton (both daughters of Greg & Sis. Peggy Tieche), Bro. Kody Gasser (Bro. Dan & Sis. Diane), Bro. Garrett Ball (Brian & Myra), Sis. Kya Hartzler (Bro. Marvin & Sis. Sue), Sis. Bailey Stoller (Bro. Tony & Sis. Cherrie), Sis. Abbey Hartzler (Bro. Wayne & Sis. Camille), and Sis. Elizabeth Ramsier (Bro. Joe & Sis. Kendra).

How important are strong marriages? This time is crucial, and we pray for God to grant
wisdom to two young couples in our church. Aaron Schar (Bro. Rowen & Sis. Judy) took Abigail Winkler (Keith & Regina) to be his helpmate. Also, our Bro. Andrew Graf (Bro. Eric & Sis. Erika) was married to Sis. Rachel Stoller (Bro. Greg & Sis. Joy).

Shayleen Hartzler (Fred & Mindy) has chosen God, answering His call to repentance. God cares so much for this time in a soul’s life, that He promised not to cast out all who come in Christ’s name.

We pray for wisdom on parents, the work of raising children is so very important. This time has come for several families. Bro. Jeff & Sis. Naomi Miller welcome twin girls, Carmen Rose and Noelle Sharon, on May 11. This will bring many changes to their family, and we are all thankful for these two girls, along with Grandma Sis. Sharon Rupp, and little siblings Alaina & Jaron. Bro. Chad & Sis. Katie Beery and siblings Cayden & Ava welcomed Larkyn Hope on May 17. Grandparents Bro. Walt & Sis. Lynda Beery, and Bro. Tim & Sis. Joni Ramsier thank God specifically for Larkyn’s safe arrival. Bro. Doug & Sis. Dianna Bauman welcome granddaughter Sophie Rosalin Grimm to parents, Anthony & Amber Grimm, and big brother Clark, on March 14. Also, Sis. Dianna Raifsnider welcomes granddaughter, Olivia Ann Bauman (Bro. Aaron & Sis. Becky, Lauren, Sierra, and Claire) on April 20.

And then comes the end. May we each be ready when this time comes. Sis. Clara Jenkins, 93, passed away on April 22. Mourning her loss are children: Bro. Tom (Sis. Deb) Jenkins, Todd (Sherri) Jenkins, Sue (Dave) Plahuta, Sandi Jenkins-Flynn, Shelly (Gary) Whitt, and Sharon (Jim) Monahan. We thank God for the time He gave us with mothers and fathers who have gone before.

Hurtling from injury or health decline, our prayers go out to Sis. Margaret Calame and to Grant Holcomb (Rich and Michele). Whether recovery comes soon, or not at all, may we hold His hand through this time.

Knowing it takes time to travel, so often we are blessed by the visit of brothers or sisters from churches across the land. We thank God for each one, and mention specifically those ministering brothers who shared in the work here: Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH), Elder Bro. Vic Bauman (Smithville, OH), Elder Bro. Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA), Bro. Marvin Zollinger & Bro. Mark Steiner (Smithville, OH), Bro. Dana Indermuhle (Sardis, OH), Bro. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI), Bro. Gary Sinn (Latty, OH), Bro. Nathan Rassi (St. Louis, MO), Bro. Matt Feucht (Roanoke, IL), Bro. Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH), and Bro. Doug Harmon (Toledo, OH).

Ohio, Sardis
Faith Beard, Joy Indermuhle
It was a blessing to remember our mothers and grandmothers on May 8 and thank them for all they have done for us. Each year our Sunday school students and Single Group serve lunch to the congregation. We thank them again for their efforts on our behalf. We enjoyed a delicious lunch.

“But mine eyes are unto thee, O God the Lord: in thee is my trust; leave not my soul destitute.”
Psalm 141:8

Sis. Paula Figel (Bro. John) was recently hospitalized for a few days. She is home again, but is unable to be at church, although she is making some improvement. We pray that, as the Lord wills, she will soon be feeling better and able to attend church again.

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

We rejoice with Bro. Gary and Sis. Terry Zollinger as they welcomed a new granddaughter, Fiona Evelyn, on May 15. She is the newborn daughter of Bro. Brad and Sis. Charla Leman (Leo, IN) and little sister to Solomon. Sis. Charla spent many weeks on bed rest as they awaited Fiona’s arrival. We are thankful both she and the baby are doing well.

We recently attended some school banquets in which prayers were offered at the beginning and end of the events. We are thankful to live in a community in which Jesus is acknowledged and invited to be a part of
June 2016    SILVER LINING

the gathering. His death and resurrection is recognized with thankfulness and His blessing is asked on the parting as the prayers are offered in Jesus’ name. As the world grows darker, these small blessings take on greater meaning in our lives and encourage us that the true Light still shines.

Ohio, Smithville

Kara Stoller, Millie Stoller

Congratulations to Bro. Aaron and Sis. Becky Bauman on the April 20 arrival of daughter, Olivia Ann. She joins sisters: Lauren, Sierra and Claire, and is happily welcomed by grandparents Bro. Vic and Sis. Brenda Bauman and Sis. Diana Raifsnider (late Bro. Doug, Rittman, OH).

We are so thankful that Christian Steiner (Bro. Kurt and Robin) has found the “one pearl of great price,” the gift of salvation (Matt 13:46). If we were asked to sell all that we had, this great treasure would be more than worthy of our sacrifice. We rejoice with Christian over his repentance and his entering into a right relationship with the Creator.

Recently hospitalized were Dick Lanz (Amber) and Sis. Dorothy Ramsier (Bro. Jim). Again we turn our hearts and prayers to heaven as we seek healing and comfort for those we love.

Thank you to visiting ministers: Bro. Bob Riggenbach (Sis. Lorie, Rittman, OH), Bro. Tim Ramsier (Sis. Joni, Rittman, OH), Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH) and Bro. Tom Leman (Denver, CO). There is joy in worshipping together, standing united when the object of our devotion is singularly Jesus Christ. “Worthy is the Lamb that was slain…” Rev. 5:12

Ohio, Toledo

Deanna Manz, Whitney Masters

We receive such a blessing when our church is full with visitors! Recently we had our Invite-a-Friend weekend, and are grateful for all those who made the effort to come spend the weekend with us. Among our visitors was Bro. Regg Beer (Sis. Bev, Milford, IN). We thank him for willingly serving us from the pulpit!

Another blessing we have come to enjoy was our 3rd Annual Women’s Appreciation Supper, given by the men and boys of the church. The women were served a delicious dinner, followed by a singing and time of fellowship. It was a wonderful evening for all!

Oregon, Portland

Louisa Gallup

Congratulations to our High School graduate, Sis. Nelia Leman (Bro. Mike & Sis. Lisa). We wish this dear sister the Lord’s guidance and direction as she makes decisions about the next step in her life.

We appreciated Bro. Virgil and Sis. Mary Metzger and their son, Bro. Darin, traveling to Portland from Chicago, IL. Bro. Virgil shared the Word with us, for which we are thankful.

Other ministers blessing our small congregation with their support this past month were: Bro. Ron Jones (Sis. Liz), Bro. Chris Kuenzi (Sis. Mary) and Bro. Don Sinn (Sis. Linda), all from Silverton, OR.

Oregon, Silverton

Kelsey Walder, Ann Kuenzi

The weekend of April 16 and 17 we were privileged to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of Sis. Jodi Roth (Bro. Jim and Sis. Deb) and Bro. Jake Johnson (Damon and Alex). Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL) was here to help Bro. John Wiegand. We also were thankful to have Bro. Mark Roth (Sis. Tammy, Congerville, IL) minister to us this same weekend.

Also visiting our pulpit Wednesday April 20, was Bro. Virgil Metzger (Sis. Mary, Chicago, IL). Another Wednesday, Bro. Mike Leman (Sis. Lisa, Portland, OR) ministered to us. We appreciate their coming to fellowship with us.

Saturday, April 23, the congregation enjoyed a local HarvestCall presentation. The needs are great, and we were all given plenty of areas in which we can help.

We are happy to hear of the engagement of Bro. Jordan Sinn (Bro. Dean and Sis. Heidi) to Sis. Kendra Schmidgall (Bro. Robert and Sis. Kathryn, Morris, MN). We look forward to getting to know you Sis. Kendra, and welcome you to our Silverton congregation.

Graduation potluck was held
It is always a privilege to gather together in worship. We are so thankful for our visiting ministers who so willingly give of themselves to serve and strengthen the Church by sharing God’s Word. Our recent visitors have included Bros. Arlen Leman (Sis. Denise, Forrest) and Virgil Kaeb (Sis. Suellen, Sarasota). We have also found strength in the fellowship of visitors from Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio, as well as some local visitors.

If you are traveling to or through the Nashville area, please plan to worship with us. We also meet on the first and third Wednesday evenings of the month for call-in services. Please contact us ahead of time to confirm our schedule. Contacts are Bro. Don & Sis. Faye Sauder, 615.373.8928; Bro. Jeff & Sis. Cynde Stoller, 309.530.5760, cyndelynnstoller@gmail.com; or Bro. Mike & Sis. Monica Fritz, 615.866.5543, fritzmb.family@gmail.com.

Texas, Austin
Candy Meiss

Sending our Love and Greetings from Austin!

I am thankful for the desire to approach each day with a desire to find Jesus. Do you feel His presence and look for the “treasures” that He has in store for you? I find that some of the treasures are trials and others are blessings.

The song “Count Your Blessings” comes to mind. “Count your blessings name them one by one. Count your many blessings see what

Pennsylvania, Philadelphia
Laura Isch

“He shall feed His flock like a shepherd. He shall gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.”
Isaiah 40:11

This verse encourages us that no matter what is happening in our lives, Christ is there to lead, guide, and comfort. We praise Him for being ever near as we face the many joys and challenges of this life.

What a blessing to greet a new brother in Christ! We were thankful to witness the testimony and baptism of Bro. Anthony Martin this month. May God continue to provide grace as he moves forward in his spiritual walk. Elder Bro. Duane Farney and his wife, Sis. Karen, (Croghan-Namburg) joined us for the baptism weekend. We appreciate Bro. Duane sharing the Word of Life.

We were also blessed with a new convert this month! Our church family rejoices that Danielle Lanz (Bro. John and Sis. Kay) has chosen to begin her walk of repentance. We wish her much grace and love as she learns to depend on the grace of God.

Our prayers are with Pela Naffin (Dave) as she spent some time in the hospital this month. May God give His healing power and comforting presence.

Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to those who have had loss in their families. It is often hard to understand God’s plans, but we have faith that He can provide and comfort during the most difficult of times. We lift up in prayer Ed and Connie Baer in the passing of their son, Keith (Catie). We are also prayerful for the family of Bro. Bob and Sis. Rika Allen with the passing of Bro. Bob’s father, Robert Allen, Sr.

Tennessee, Nashville
Mike Fritz

We want to congratulate our recent college graduates, Sis. Mahlia Fritz and Bro. Ezra Fritz (Bro. Mike & Sis. Monica), and pray the Lord will continue to guide their lives.

May 15 for the following graduates: Braden Sinn (Bro. Mark and Sis. Elsie), Bro. Nathanael Jones (Bro. Ron and Sis. Liz), Carson Zollinger (Bro. Jim and Sis. Tresa), Adrienne (Bro. Kurt and Sis. Koreen) and Sis. Nelia Leman (Bro. Mike and Sis. Lisa, Portland, OR). We rejoice with them, and wish them the Lord’s guidance in their futures.

We appreciate having Bro. Jim Zollinger (Sis. Tresa) back on the pulpit, after an injury that kept him home for a month. Also injured and spending time in a “boot” is Lori Walter (Bro. Chad and Sis. Megan), due to a broken leg.

Our annual church cleanup was held recently. We appreciate having a nice clean facility and grounds. We are thankful for our trustees and their wives, as they do a lot of hidden work that goes unnoticed.
We appreciate the many hours of volunteer work done by HarvestCall volunteers at our church. It was hard to see our winter visitors leave, but we are so thankful for their prayers for our church and our Stoney Point outreach. We continue to feel God's direction as we make improvements with our Sunday School.

Recently we were blessed to have Communion on April 23 which was shared by Deacons, Bro. Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata, TX) and Bro. Frank Sauder (Roanoke, IL). We also were blessed to have the following ministers this past month: Bro. Chuck Kellenberger (Sis. Debbie, Elgin, IL), Bro. Stan Schambach (Sis. Norma, Prescott, AZ), and Bro Mark Steiner (Sis. Sue, Smithville, OH). We are thankful for families that are planning to move to Austin this year and ask for your prayers as they look for homes and jobs in the area.

We are so thankful for our visitors and encourage everyone passing through to stop and worship with us! We appreciate your continued prayers for our outreach to the Stoney Point families, especially the 20-30 children who worship with us each Sunday. They are precious in His sight and we have such a love for each of them.

“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. Then shall you call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart. And I will be found of you, saith the Lord…” Jeremiah 29:11-14.

Texas, Dallas-Ft. Worth
Heather Steiner

Services are generally being held the second Sunday of each month at the Holiday Inn Express, 4450 W. John Carpenter Freeway, Irving, TX. There are several singles and couples who gather and enjoy visitors. Please call ahead to verify. Bros. Wayne Banwart (217-493-2383), Leland Plattner (956-265-0351), or Dennis Rassi (512-321-2345).

Texas, McAllen
Kristi Plattner

Our visiting ministers this past month were Bro. Scott Wegman (Sis. Dawn, Taylor, MO) and Bro. Paul Zimmerman (Sis. Loretta, Forrest, IL). May God bless them for their willingness to preach the Word.

We welcome anyone coming to South Texas. If interested in housing on South Padre Island or in McAllen while visiting the McAllen area, please contact us for further details.

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.harvestcall.org and view the updated minister rotation schedule.

Sunday services are held at 10:30 and 12:30 at the Smart iStay Hotel, 1921 South 10th St. Please note that the name of the hotel is no longer Holiday Inn Express.

Take the 10th Street Exit off I-83 and go ½ blocks south. Please see the ministers’ directory for local contact information.

Texas, Zapata
Mary Plattner

We have been frequently attending services in either Austin or McAllen since our winter residents are gone for the Summer. We don’t always have Sunday services in Zapata during the summer months. Summer visitors are most welcome, but we recommend that anyone coming to South Texas for a weekend, please call us ahead of coming.

Vermont, Clarendon
Nathan Reutter

In a recent conversation at church, there was a discussion of the various words we use for sin, such as transgression, iniquity, etc. The question was raised as to whether the terms are synonymous or if they have subtle differences in meaning.

For the past few years I have pondered the meaning of other words used in Scripture, these in relation to the work of Jesus on the cross of Calvary. Words such as salvation, redemption, atonement, propitiation, justification, sanctification, etc. have meaning, but what exactly do these words mean? Since there are so many it seems unlikely that they are
synonymous. When I looked them up, this is what I found.

Salvation: preservation or deliverance from harm, ruin, or loss.

Redemption: gaining possession of something in exchange for payment, or clearing a debt.

Atonement: reconciliation, unity.

Propitiation: pacify or placate someone by acceding to their demands.

Justification: showing something to be right or reasonable.

Sanctification: to set apart for special use or purpose.

To put these into a Christian context then is to say that when we are delivered from sin and its consequences we experience salvation. We are redeemed by the blood of Jesus, that is we have gained salvation in exchange for the payment of His shed blood, and because of salvation our sin debt has been cleared. Once salvation and redemption are a part of our life, then an atonement (reconciliation) and propitiation occurs between God and man. We placate the anger of God because of our sin by believing in the work of Jesus on the cross. This faith justifies us before God: setting ourselves under the dominion of God is the only reasonable thing we can do. Thereafter God sanctifies us, that is sets us apart for His special purpose and use.

Visiting ministers this past month included Bro. Dan Goric (Sis. MaryLou, Rockville, CT), Bro. Jeff Gerber (Sis. Carole, Rockville, CT), Bro. Warren Zahner (Sis. Bonnie, Rockville, CT), and Bro. Adam Luginbuhl (Philadelphia, PA). Bro. Adam brought two of his boys and two other young boys from the Philadelphia congregation. The boys in our church enjoyed the new friends they made.

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God laid upon my back a grievous load, A heavy cross to bear along the road.

I staggered on, and lo! one weary day, An angry lion sprang across my way.

I prayed to God, and swift at His command The cross became a weapon in my hand.

It slew my raging enemy, and then Became a cross upon my back again.

I reached a desert. O’er the burning track I persevered, the cross upon my back.

No shade was there, and in the cruel sun I sank at last, and thought my days were done.

But lo! the Lord works many a blest surprise — The cross became a tree before my eyes!

I slept; I woke, to feel the strength of ten. I found the cross upon my back again.

And thus through all my days from then to this, The cross, my burden, has become my bliss.

Nor ever shall I lay the burden down, For God someday will make the cross a crown!

-- Amos R. Wells
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

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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
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Gateway Woods is Looking for:

The very first item auctioned at the very first auction for Gateway Woods in 1977. It was a full-sized mint green quilt with the ACCH (Apostolic Christian Children’s Home) motto and logo embroidered on a white center. The motto was, “A Work of Faith, A Labor of Love.” The logo was a picture of a boy and girl. See below:

If you know where this quilt is located, please contact Gateway Woods, 260-627-0220 or (preferred) schaferib@gmail.com.

WHY do we want to know? We are in the process of writing a book on the 40 years of history for Gateway Woods. It would be interesting to trace that first item for its story to tell.

We are also on the lookout for other stories to tell. Has Gateway Woods made a difference in your life? In what year and how were you connected to GW? Staff? Resident? Board Member? Volunteer? Visitor? Other? Include your phone number and/or email in case we have questions. We will try to include your story, but understand that space is limited.

Kindergarten Teacher Needed – Light House Academy

Light House Academy in Peoria, IL, is looking to hire a kindergarten teacher for the coming school year. The position may be part-time (M/W/F) or full-time (with additional duties on T/Th). Candidates should be born-again believers, with teaching certification a plus, but not a requirement.

Please contact Perry Kieser (Princeville – 309.238.0300 or rsi.perry@gmail.com) for more information.

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Sunday Service:
(by request only)
10:00 AM and 12:30 PM
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

For church services schedule please visit
www.acmission.org/minister-rotation
Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel...

Is God calling you and your family to live, love and serve together for His Kingdom? Serve as a family to show God’s grace and love to vulnerable and hurting youth. It’s challenging, tough, gritty work with kids from some of America’s most difficult neighborhoods. Lives will be changed, you will be challenged, your family will be blessed.

We currently have **two opportunities for married couples**. While the position offers competitive wages and benefits, that’s not the reason people answer the call. If you think it’s possible this could be your calling, please pray. Then contact Brother Clint Plattner for more information. It may work out, or it may not, but it doesn’t hurt to take a first step.

Clint Plattner  
Residential Program Manager  
clint.plattner@gatewaywoods.org  
888-443-4283
Sunday School Teacher Needed in Austin, TX

Resulting from the fruitful efforts of outreach in the Austin, Texas area, the church has been blessed to have many young people come to Sunday worship. The congregation is therefore seeking assistance in their children’s ministry for a Sunday School teacher(s).

Couples, families and singles are encouraged to pray about this wonderful opportunity to sow the seeds of the gospel in young hearts and become part of the growing Austin Apostolic Christian Church family. This call for Sunday School teachers has gone out previously. While there has been favorable response to the call, more assistance is desired to fulfill the needs.

If you are interested, send an e-mail to CEC@harvestcall.org. Ministering Bro. Matthew Rassi will direct your request as appropriate.

Resident Services Director Needed - Apostolic Christian Home for the Handicapped

After nearly 60 years of combined service, the Apostolic Christian Home for the Handicapped will have two Resident Services Directors retiring in the coming months from separate branches of the agency. The role of the Resident Services Director is to oversee the programs and procedures related to the emotional and social needs of residents as well as to direct and supervise staff in those duties. While a background in serving people with disabilities would be helpful, it is much more critical that the person embody the key character traits of an effective Resident Services Director. These include being spiritually well grounded and committed to the Christian values of the agency, an ability to advocate and enable growth in our residents, and being an effective communicator, supervisor, and mentor. Prior management experience is preferred, but not required. The person must also meet the educational requirements to be a Qualified Intellectual Disability Professional. This would include, but is not limited to, those with a 4-year degree in education, social work, or other human service field or a 2-year degree in nursing.

We ask anyone with an interest in these roles to contact the Home by August 31. You may contact us at 309-266-9781 or jpsinas@achh.org. We appreciate your support and prayers as we make this important transition.

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).
Sunday, June 19, 2016
119 Vermont St., LaCrosse, IN 46348

Saturday Evening
6:30 PM  Singing & Fellowship at the Church

Sunday Centennial Activities

10:15 AM  Church Service
12:15 PM  Song & Church Service Dedicated to the Centennial
2:00 PM  Walking tour of old church, Memorabilia Display Area, Children’s Activities, Visiting & Fellowship
3:30 PM  Meal & Program

For more information: e-mail LaCrosseACchurch@gmail.com
If you are unable to attend, but would still like to receive a Centennial Memory Book, please go to the online RSVP and give us your information.
We will gladly mail one to you.
www.rsvp.LaCrosseACchurch.org

2016
APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH SERVICES
Clyde Park, Montana

Saturday June 25th
Clyde Park Community Center
3:00 to 5:00 pm Registration and Fellowship
5:00 Evening Meal
Hymn Singing in Evening

For further information or to provide a count of those planning to attend by June 10th 2016, please contact one of the following Bros.
From Lester
Wes Moser 712-478-4622  wesmoser58@gmail.com
or 712-395-2025
Eugene Metzger 712-472-2187  gdmetzger@hickorytech.net
Bob Metzger 712-478-4647  bobcmet@alliancecom.net
or 612-963-0089

From Silverton
Greg Wackerle 803-873-7463  gregwackerle@msn.com

Sunday June 26th
Clyde Park Community Center
Church Services
10:15 am and 12:30 pm

Accommodations available in or near Livingston, MT
Comfort Inn (406-222-4400) will have a block of rooms available under Apostolic Christian or Bob Metzger

There are a number of campgrounds and rental homes in the area.

It is helpful if those attending can bring their own; Bibles, Zion’s Harps, and Hymn’s of Zion
Free will donations serve to cover meal costs and facility expenses
A day tour of the area will be organized for those interested on Friday June 24th
Adapted Bible Studies offered by the Apostolic Christian Church

God’s Comfort [1606]
This comforting and inspiring Bible study from InterVarsity Press has been adapted with permission by Apostolic Christian Counseling and Family Services. Topics included in this study: When Your World Falls Apart, The God of All Comfort, Praying our Pain, Waiting for our Lord, The Power of Weakness, Wounds that Heal, The Suffering God, The Death of Death, and The Shattered Silence. Price: $8.50

Available Topics
• Faith: Depending on God [1601] Price: $8.50
• Forgiveness: Making Peace with the Past [1602] Price: $8.50
• Four Great Loves [1603] Price: $8.50
• Friendship [1604] Price: $8.50
• Fruit of the Spirit [1605] Price: $8.50
• God’s Comfort [1606] Price: $8.50
• Grief [1607] Price: $8.50
• Hope [1608] Price: $8.50
• Images of God [1609] Price: $8.50
• Integrity [1610] Price: $8.50
• James [1611] Price: $10.00
• Prayer [1612] Price: $8.50
• Sermon on the Mount [1613] Price: $8.50
• Joshua [1614] Price: $10.00
• Parenting [1615] Price: $8.50
• John [1616] Price: $10.00
• Philippians [1617] Price: $10.00

Now Available at Apostolic Christian Publications

John [1616]
This instructive Bible study from the NavPress Life Change series has been adapted with permission by ACCFS. The study consists of 22 lessons and can be done individually, in small groups, and congregationally. Topics included in this study: Introducing John’s Gospel (Overview), The Word, Testimony, The Ministry Begins, Born of the Spirit, Living Water, Opposition Begins, The Bread of Life, Who Is Jesus?, The Light of the World, Sin and Judgment, The Good Shepherd, Lazarus Raised, The Hour Comes, Love and Betrayal, Parting Words: 1, Parting Words: 2, The Lord’s Prayer, Condemned, Crucified, Resurrection, Epilogue and Review. Price: $10.00

For additional information and ordering visit www.acpublications.org
Phone: 309-965-2611 Email: office@acpublications.org

Apostolic Christian Publications
651 East Peoria St., Goodfield, IL 61742
Store Hours: Monday - Friday
8:30am - 11:30am (Central Time)
We encourage anyone considering participating on a work team project to visit the HarvestCall website. Here you can review much content concerning: upcoming projects, schedules, guidelines, waiver forms, travel and insurance information. For more information visit www.harvestcall.org/work-teams
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:

Phone: 309-467-2351
Email: hospitallumiere@harvestcall.org

Renters still needed for St. Louis Home near Church

Within the St. Louis congregation, they are still praying that God will lead a family, couple or single(s) to relocate to the area and become part of their church family. A newly renovated, 3-bedroom home, that is located across the parking lot from the church, is available to rent immediately.

Expressing Interest
Anyone who is interested is encouraged to contact Ministering Bro. Loren Schrenk at 314.994.1944 or seeclear@swbell.net.

Haiti Medical Work Teams

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Year 2016</th>
<th>Coordinator</th>
<th>Capacity</th>
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<tr>
<td>Bonne Finn, Haiti</td>
<td>Jul 9 - 16</td>
<td>Lydia Bertschi</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hospital Lumiere</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Lydia Bertschi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bonne Finn, Haiti</td>
<td>Dec 3 - 10</td>
<td>Lydia Bertschi</td>
<td>8</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:lydiabertschi@yahoo.com">lydiabertschi@yahoo.com</a></td>
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Haiti, Bonne Fin
Work Teams

The Hospital Lumiere renovation program continues to restore and improve the facility to an environment that honors God and provides an atmosphere that contributes to the wellbeing of the hospital staff, our patients and their families.

Hospital Lumiere has an ongoing need for maintenance and/or construction teams and especially for skilled electricians. Rather than listing predetermined dates and asking people to fit into them, if a team, or individual, is interested in coming, they should contact the Facilities Director Bro. David Zimmerman to discuss possible dates and available projects.

Contact: David Zimmerman
Phone: 011-509-344-62800
Email: dlzimm4@hotmail.com

Haiti Awareness Tours

If you’d like to see the ministry of Hospital Lumiere 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 HarvestCall projects in southern Haiti. These trips are scheduled, as needed, based upon demand, currently the next two are scheduled for September 24-28, 2016.

To learn more, contact:
Rich Bertschi at 309.467.2351 or hospitallumiere@harvestcall.org or Rick Wuethrich at 219.863.4163 or rick@wuethrichfarms.com
Those in the child sponsorship program have several things in common. They are very poor, they desire to learn, and they have an undying soul.

The goal of this program is to provide an education so these children can learn life skills to enable them to become more productive adults. In addition, its purpose is to present a spiritual opportunity to be exposed to the gospel message and eventually be called to serve our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

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

Isaiah 54:13

To Sponsor a Child or School

Fill out this form and send to the office. You’ll be assigned a student or school and sent further information. Learn more about child sponsorship, including costs, at: harvestcall.org/child-sponsorship

Name _________________________

☐ Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Miss

Spouse _________________________

Address _______________________

City ____________St ___ Zip _____

Home Ph _______________________

Cell Ph _______________________

Email _________________________

Please check preference:

☐ Haiti Student ☐ Jamaica

☐ Haiti School ☐ Guatemala

☐ Mexico ☐ Zambia

☐ Wherever needed

If possible, I prefer:

☐ Boy – Age ________

☐ Girl – Age ________

☐ No Preference

Send to:

HarvestCall Child Sponsorship
PO Box 36
Morton, IL 61550

Phone: 309-266-6080
Fax: 309-266-5281

Email: childsponsorship@harvestcall.org

Interested in receiving a printed sermon?

To order, contact: Printed Sermons
P.O. Box 154, Forrest, IL 61741
(815) 848-5113 • printedsermons@gmail.com
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

Teacher Opportunity
Hospital Lumiere, Haiti

Hospital Lumiere, Bonne Fin, Haiti is presently seeking a teacher for missionary children. This position involves full-time teaching in the multi-level classroom setting of the Bonne Fin Missionary School on the Hospital Lumiere compound. The missionary role is expected to start during the summer of 2016. This is a full time missionary position with a service term of one school year. There is opportunity to extend the term of service.

Qualifications include being a member in good standing of the Apostolic Christian Church, a minimum of a Bachelor’s Degree, preferably in the field of Education or Child Development, ability to communicate effectively with students, parents and visitors to the school, a nurturing and caring attitude toward children, and a heart and desire to serve others through service to Jesus Christ.

**For additional details for this exciting and worthy position contact**
Robert Beebe. Email: robert.beebe1@gmail.com, or Phone: 574-276-6748
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

Surgeon and Medical Physician Needed at Hospital Lumiere

Hospital Lumiere in Bonne Fin, Haiti, a medical ministry operated by HarvestCall, 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.

For more information contact:
Robert Beebe
Executive Director
robert.beebe1@gmail.com
574-276-6748
Openings at Cite Lumiere, Les Cayes, Haiti

Mechanic, Construction Department Assistant

The HarvestCall 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 HarvestCall 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 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

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

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**Used Bible, Bible Story Book, and Song Book Distribution**

Used Bibles, Bible Story Books, Hymns of Zion, Zion’s Harp, Gospel Hymns, and Tabernacle Hymns are needed.  
**AC Publications is now the collection center for your donated books.**  
651 E. Peoria St, Goodfield, IL 61742
Jesus the True Vine [1501]
This Bible Study focuses on John 15:1-8 and is intended for a general audience. It may be used for self-study or with a group. The desired outcome is a deeper understanding of the union of Christ and His church. Price: $4.50

Communication in Marriage [1502]
This is a Bible Study that is designed specifically for use by engaged or married couples. It is divided into seven segments each of which could be used for a unique study period. The purpose is to understand the scriptural directives and Biblical principles of effective communication that contribute significantly to a successful marriage. Price: $4.50

Who Is Jesus [1503]
This Bible Study is for general use and is designed to encourage self-study by each participant as well as discussion within a group. The desired outcome is a deeper understanding of the character and mission of the Lord Jesus Christ, the impact of His life on each of us, and how we can exemplify Him in our walk of life. Price: $4.50

The Second Greatest Commandment [1504]
This Bible study seeks to illuminate our understanding of Bible teachings about interpersonal relationships. Price: $4.50

The Hand of God in the Life of Joseph [1505]
The story of Joseph is perhaps one of the best known and loved stories in the Old Testament. Herein we catch glimpses of God’s will and purpose exemplified in the life of Joseph. We see the hand of God in the life of Joseph, which demonstrates how God’s goodness is active in the lives of his people. Price: $4.50

Church Establishment [1507] Price: $4.50
Just before Jesus Christ ascended to heaven He gave final instructions to His disciples. Primary to the mission was: “...Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.” (Mark 16:15)

This Study is designed to examine ways in which to use your talents to assist in fulfilling this commandment by participating in the establishment of New Testament Christian churches. You will be challenged to examine your role in supporting the Church to fulfill this commission.

Study Content
- Fulfilling Christ’s Great Commission
- Building on the True Foundation
- Bringing Glory to God
- Avoiding Misguided Ambitions
- Interaction with Churches
- Listening and Submitting to the Holy Spirit
- Persecution
- Financial & Spiritual Support
- Maintaining Fellowship with Believers
- Support Missionary Work
- Called to Service

For additional information and ordering visit www.acpublications.org
Apostolic Christian Publications - 651 East Peoria St., Goodfield, IL 61742
Walking Cheerfully

— Continued from pg. 3

of the Holy Spirit guides us into all truth.

Others are watching as we face the battles of life. In Old Testament times, there were “watchers on the wall” waiting to hear of the battle. We read in 2 Sam. 18:27, “the watchman said...the running of the foremost is like the running of Ahimaaz the son of Zadok. And the king said, He is a good man, and cometh with good tidings.” How does our walk appear to the world? Are we a cheerful giver of our time and talents or do we keep these “possessions” for ourselves? Is our speech full of grace, seasoned with salt, or is it indistinguishable from the noises of the world? Do we look for opportunities to do good for others or do we hold back because of fear? Do we have a godly contentment in all things, no matter the situation, whether we are “abased or abound?”

Are we thankful in all things, knowing this is God’s will for us? We have a profound choice to make every day as we interact, knowingly and unknowingly, with many different people — at home, at work, and on vacation. The world observes our lives, whether the focus is on ourselves or rather if we are dead to self and alive in Christ, showing the world Jesus, the only source of good cheer. May our cheerful walk be our testimony wherever we are, as Paul was encouraged, “be of good cheer, Paul: for as thou hast testified of me in Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness also at Rome.” May we cheerfully share with all people the promises of hope and cheer that are found in Jesus Christ, our Savior, Redeemer and Lord!

(Footnotes)

1 Hymns of Zion, #198
2 Acts 27:25
3 Psalm 139:1
4 Luke 21:18
5 John 14:27
6 Rom. 3:23
7 2 Cor. 9:15
8 John 3:16
9 Eph. 2:1
10 Phil. 4:6
11 John 16:33
12 Matt. 1:23
13 Psalm 121:4
14 Psalm 139:2.
15 Heb. 2:18
16 “Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus,” Helen H. Lemmel
17 Phil. 4:12
18 Acts 23:11

Haggai 2:6-9

For thus saith the LORD of hosts; Yet once, it is a little while, and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land;

And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the LORD of hosts.

The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the LORD of hosts.

The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the LORD of hosts: and in this place will I give peace, saith the LORD of hosts.
more baskets!’ He had this basket, He knew what was in there, and He knew He was going to feed everybody. Again, it’s because He was Jesus. He knew what was going to happen, and it did.

Don’t you wonder how it went? Five loaves. Did a loaf feed a thousand people? Two thousand? Did the loaves ever run out to where one loaf was gone and He picks up the second one and 3, 4, and 5 and then the fish and just kept handing them out? I’ve thought of this many times. Can’t you picture the little boy whose lunch that was? That morning or the day before the mother probably fixed the little boy a basket, and maybe five loaves and two fishes were for the whole family, mom, dad, and a couple kids. It says the little boy had that. He was hanging on to it. That was lunch or supper, and he gave it up. That’s the first miracle there. Does it make sense that a little 8 year old or 10 year old would give up his basket? He did. I’m guessing that little boy watched that basket. They took his food! That’d be like taking a candy bar from a kid nowadays.

He watched that basket, and that basket went from the disciples and they brought it to Jesus. Can’t you just see him watching Jesus open that basket and start handing out the food? That little boy and the parents knew that there were five loaves of bread in there and two fishes. It was going to be for their family, let’s say. That little boy would have watched. There never was another basket, and it just kept coming. That was his. Talk about multiplication. All those fragments got picked up, and it says in verse 20, “And they did all eat, and were filled: and they took up of the fragments that remained twelve baskets full.”

Do you think that changed that little boy’s life? His parents knew too what was in there. Makes you wonder if the masses saw it happen. Thousands of people maybe way back there, here comes the food, but in the meantime Jesus was just working off of that little basket and it just kept coming in the hands of Jesus. “And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone.” (v.23) In St. John it talks about Jesus’ intercessory prayer, and so we can kind of see what Jesus prayed. He gave us the model prayer — the Lord’s prayer. That was recorded, but do you ever wonder what Jesus talked about to God? He was God in the form of man but yet the Son of God. God’s in heaven and here’s God in the flesh, His only begotten Son. Jesus felt the need to go apart and pray and pour His heart out to His Father, and they were both deity. It’s just amazing!

“But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves: for the wind was contrary. And in the fourth watch of the night...” — might have been about three in the morning — “…Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea.” (v.24-25) He didn’t need a boat. I don’t know that there was a boat around. If there was a boat, would He have gotten in and started rowing? When we think about it, it made more sense to take off and go, and I suppose He could’ve in an instant been there, just from the land, across the sea, and in the boat with them. But, He chose to do what He did, maybe for the disciples’ sake. He allowed them to see Him coming. Can you imagine their fear? Here comes this sight, this vision, but they could tell it was Jesus. He spoke and He answered them that it was Him, and here He comes.

They had just seen Him giving food to 15 or 20,000 people out of one basket. In some ways it would make sense if you can do that you can walk on water, but yet they were afraid. They were astonished, and I believe you and I would be too. You can’t ever get used to the miracles of Jesus. It just keeps coming, and it keeps coming for us. He’s amazing! He has lots in His hands, in His capacity.
told them the story. This Herod was something else. He had killed John the Baptist. He had killed James (v.2). Here when he found Peter was gone, he killed sixteen guards. Four quaternion (v.4). Four times four is sixteen. Killed them all because Peter was gone (v.19).

“And upon a set day Herod, arrayed in royal apparel, sat upon his throne, and made an oration unto them. And the people gave a shout, saying, It is the voice of a god, and not of a man.” (v.21-22) Don’t you wonder if it’s the same angel in verse 23 that was in the jail? He might have been a busy angel, maybe never even got back up to heaven. Maybe it was a different angel.

“And immediately the angel of the Lord smote him…” (v.23) Oh he’s a god! Isn’t he amazing! Isn’t he wonderful? “And immediately the angel of the Lord smote him, because he gave not God the glory: and he was eaten of worms, and gave up the ghost. But the word of God grew and multiplied.” (v.23-24) Quite a life for Herod. Quite an end for the families of those soldiers who were killed in one quick swoop. Sixteen of them. For the families of Peter, for John the Baptist when they came at him with an ax to cut off his head, it would sure look like somebody else was winning, but that’s where we come back to God’s will. It will all seem right, and God is amazing!

It’s man’s mind that limits that Jesus can only do this much or this is too much for Jesus. This one here is more than He can do, and that’s wrong. We need to pray. Pray and pray and pray and see what He’ll do! What will Jesus do? When will He do it? How long’s it going to take? Sometimes we don’t like the answer. Sometimes it doesn’t make sense. Sometimes we say why and really wonder why. Just how can it be? That’s what I say if we sit at the feet of Jesus and He tells us why and His will gets opened up, we’re taught that it’s going to make sense because Jesus makes no mistakes. We see about this much; Jesus sees everything. We’ll realize it all makes sense.

A lot has been said about Peter. Peter being brave, Peter walking on the water, he looks around, starts to sink. Verse 31 — “And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him…” Thanks be to God. I think in our own way, in a lot of lives, there’s been some really tough things come to people. You sit there tonight and think about such and such. It’s really tough; it’s very, very hard, and Jesus is bringing you through. It may sometimes seem like it’s the equivalent of walking on water because it doesn’t make sense that we can endure it, that we can go through it. The fact that you are or I am is about equivalent to walking on water. It really is. I think a lot of you out there tonight could be doing the equivalent of walking on water because of Jesus.

Then we get scared and start to sink. We might drown, and He catches us. Has He caught you a few times and pulled you back up? I bet so. This is an amazing miracle. 2,000 years of talking about it, amazed by it, but I really believe that it applies to you and me today. How good Jesus is!

Turning to Acts. It’s about Peter in prison and that angel came. Do you believe in angels? I know I do. I believe in them. They’re messengers of God. God’s still active. He’s working, and there are things you and I don’t see. Allow for that! Let it be because it is. That falls in the category if you can’t get your brain around it and can’t understand it, then it must not be true, and that’s not right. There are powers of the dark that we don’t see. There are powers of the light. There are angels, and we just stay close to God. We purposely don’t flirt with some of this stuff because it really is beyond us.

Peter went out to the house there, knocked at the door, and they recognized his voice. They were so dumbfounded that they said it’s Peter out there and didn’t open the door. It’s a story that we’re so familiar with. Verse 16 — “But Peter continued knocking: and when they had opened the door, and saw him, they were astonished.” And he
Bro. George Lambert, who was instated into the ministry at the Wichita, KS, congregation in 1952, has provided many interesting details of that congregation from his early life. He was helpful in providing information for the book, Marching To Zion, and also for the Silver Lining. Some of his recollections were included in the September, 1974 issue, and they follow below.

Early Days
The early life of Bro. George Lambert was spent in the Burlington, OK area where he attended the Apostolic Christian Church with the rest of his family. He had been born on February 9, 1906 to Bro. Alfred and Sis. Bertha Lambert. In his first eight years he had also lived in Portland, OR and Linwood, MI. The family finally settled in Wichita.

Bro. George recalls that their day to day needs were very meager, but his mother somehow managed to find enough to eat and enough clothes for the children. His parents were devout in serving the Lord, and were very strict (with their children), demanding discipline. His father prayed and read at every meal, and for years Bro. George remembered the explanations his father provided concerning the Scriptures.

Sitting In Church
The Silver Lining, in the September, 1974 issue, included this paragraph: “His father and brothers, with himself sat on the front bench of the church on the north side of the pulpit, where the congregation could all see them; and his father’s ever watchful eyes on them to insured there was no talking, sleeping, or foolishness going on. They endured the ‘trial of sitting still with 100 and better temperature, with stiff starched shirts and the hot, steaming celluloid collar without a tie’! The only thing he (George) could think of was when he would climb on the Studebaker wagon pulled by two horses, and start for home. What a relief to remove that steaming collar as soon as possible.”

Father’s Death
His father passed away in June of 1924, and his passing instigated a wonderful reaction by his three sons. The believers were gathered together on a Sunday evening and his father was reading the Bible to everyone there. His text was Matthew 24:1-15. The Silver Lining gives the account, “When he reached the 15th verse and said ‘DANIEL,’ he suddenly faltered, and began falling from his chair. We brothers caught him and gently laid him on a bed, and he soon went to sleep (his death). We feel that it was only by God’s love that we brothers were present that night. It was then that our dear Lord entered our hearts, and we began repenting. The boys had not attended the meetings held at the Schrock home in Wichita until that night.”

Taken Up
The article also states that the three boys gave their testimony at the little country church at Burlington. “Elder Bro. Kurz, at the consent of the church, brought all three of us brothers in at once for our testimony.”

His only regret is that he did not attend the meetings before his father passed away, as he now realizes that it would have brought so much joy to him if he had. He is now looking forward to that great reunion in heaven, after the trials of this life are over.

Final Thought
The Silver Lining reporter for the September, 1974 issue, added one comment about Bro. George Lambert: “I’ve known him for a long time, and as I often associate people I know and love with a verse, saying, or song, I associate Bro. George with the old gospel hymn which says it all – ‘I Love To Tell The Story.’ This is truly Bro. George’s theme song.”

-By Perry Klopfenstein
Joy in Our Work/Mission

“There is nothing better for a man, than that he should eat and drink, and that he should make his soul enjoy good in his labour. This also I saw, that it was from the hand of God.” Eccl. 2:24

While our gratefulness for food and drink may come quite naturally, there is a task for us in this verse: we ought to make ourselves enjoy good in our labor.

“Make” is defined “to cause to happen”, which would indicate that effort is required to obey this instruction. Do we enjoy our work? Adam and Eve were given the responsibility of dressing and keeping the Garden before sin corrupted the world. Yet, after the Fall, God clearly stated work would not be easy, “cursed is the ground for thy sake… In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread” (Gen. 3:17-19). This indicates work is necessary and will not be automatically pleasurable. Experience teaches us work can be arduous so that it is understandable why “work” in French is “travail”, a word we use when referring to a difficult, even painful, task.

However, even though not all labor is, in and of itself, enjoyable, Scripture advises us to make ourselves rejoice in what we get to do. “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them” Eph. 2:10. Again, Ecclesiastes 3:12 agrees, “I know that there is no good in them, but for a man to rejoice, and to do good in his life” and verse 13 further states our labor is a gift, a gift of God; and, in the very next verse (14), the Holy Spirit lets us know that while God has instructed us to work and to have joy therein, He has it covered: “I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be forever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him”.

Rejoice, do good, (not to earn salvation and not because there is good in our fleshly man) because we have been thereunto created anew by redemption in Christ Jesus and it is our opportunity to honor and share our gratefulness for God’s goodness in His provision of salvation through His Son, our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ.

Delving further in the New Testament: Col. 3:22-24 “Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God: And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.” All Christians are called to be Christ-like and are, therefore, all servants, “For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many” Matt. 20:28 & Mark 10:45. These passages in Colossians instruct us to be obedient in all things and to serve with an undivided heart whether or not observed. We are to give our best efforts in everything, not to impress men but to glorify God.

What a privilege, what a blessing, to give our all in Christ’s service as we (by His grace) serve others to His glory.

-by Lee Klopfenstein, Bonne Finn, Haiti
I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

John 15:5