As in water, face answereth to face, so the heart of man to man.

Proverbs 27:19
To Our Readers

Be ready always to give an answer

In this issue, you’ll find part two of our feature about how readers’ fathers demonstrated spiritual leadership. Like previous issues, with contributions from you readers, it is inspirational, encouraging, and convicting.

Our next featured topic, to be published in November, is “What spiritual questions have co-workers or classmates asked, and how have you answered them?” Many times we are not as prepared as we should be to tell of the hope that is in us. By sharing together around this topic, we can become better equipped to be effective witnesses in this dark world.

Please send your submissions to editor@acsilverlining.org by September 20.

Humbly,

Silver Lining Counseling Elders
Jeff Grimm and Rick Plattner

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Front cover: Sis. Paula Stoller, Goodfield, IL; sunset over Eureka Lake.
Back cover: Sis. Amy Ekren, Morris, MN; feather grass.
Walking in Broken-Heartedness (Humility Part 2)

“Thus saith the LORD, The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool: where is the house that ye build unto me? and where is the place of my rest? For all those things hath mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith the LORD: but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word.”

Having considered the nature of pride and humility last month, we will now look at how these attitudes of the heart affect our relationship with God and others.

God has made it clear that humility is a condition for serving Him. Both Peter and James—disciples of the Lord—record in no uncertain terms that God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.2 And Paul’s teacher—the great Pharisee, Gamaliel—warned of the grave consequences of fighting against God.3

This key to God’s heart is valued above any sacrifice we can bring to Him. As in the theme verse from Isaiah, we see in David’s beautiful prayer of repentance just how much God values humility above any other offering. “For thou desierest not sacrifice; else would I give it: thou delightest not in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.”4 And again from David, “The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.”5

A literal definition of the words broken-hearted or contrite is to be crushed. In biblical usage, the crushing comes from the burden of sin—our awareness that we have sinned and the crushing realization that sin separates us from God and condemns us eternally.6 As redeemed believers, we rely in faith on the shed blood of Jesus Christ to cleanse us from sin.7 And we heed the words of Paul which remind us of our flesh and the ongoing battle to live free from sin, “For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.”8

Mindful of the great price with which we have been purchased9 and realizing our need for daily grace to overcome, we are convicted to walk humbly before our God.

There are beautiful examples of humility and broken-heartedness in the Bible. David is described as being a man after God’s own heart.10 We know he was not a perfect man. Sadly, he sinned greatly in the affair with Bathsheba, even committing murder to cover his sin. No one—and David least of all—would excuse his sin. But in crying out to God for mercy and pleading for His forgiveness and the renewal “of a right spirit within (him),”11 David brought a sacrifice to God that was acceptable in His sight.

Isaiah the prophet, when given a vision of God and the work He had for him, responded with great humility of heart. “Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.”12 In that vision, a heavenly being symbolically cleanses Isaiah with a hot coal pressed to his lips. In gratitude for deliverance, Isaiah offers himself for any service his Savior might ask, “I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.”13

Likewise, Peter, came to a point of brokenness after denying his Lord. The cock’s crowing reminded him of Jesus’ words, “which said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And he went out, and wept bitterly.”14 Was it of this time that Jesus spoke of Peter being sorely tried in preparation for the work before him? “And the Lord said, Simon,
Monthly Sermon

Sermon by Bro. Brent Walder, Rockville, CT


I greet each of you in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ. As we sang that last hymn, I don’t know if I ever noticed the second verse, but it talks about the Holy Spirit yearning for us each one and desiring to draw us to Him. The song writer in response spoke of how he felt drawn to come close to the Lord and to surrender his heart. (God’s Divine Compassion, Zion’s Harp #74) We trust, Loved Ones, as we open the Word today we might have in our minds that God loves each and every one of us. It’s His desire to send His Holy Spirit to touch us and to draw us that we would surrender unto Him and open ourselves up to His Word, to His love, and to the blessings that He holds out for us. Yet, in that first verse, the song writer talked about how he would sink all thought of himself in that love. He would get rid of the thought of self and just let himself be enveloped in the Spirit of God. So might that be our desire, Loved Ones, to trust that God can speak to us through His Spirit and allow ourselves to be drawn unto Him.

If we think about this church in Philippi, we can gather from this letter that it was a church that was walking in love and in truth. Yet his desire was that they would continue to grow in grace and in the Spirit, they would be like-minded, and that they wouldn’t have strife among them. He warned them again that various things would seek to come in and oppress them. At the end of chapter three, he would entreat them to be a follower of Him.

We think about the contrast of that to the shepherds we read about in the Old Testament times where the shepherds were gone off and desiring their own gain and weren’t speaking the truth anymore. Here the Apostle Paul desired their good, didn’t he? He had the shepherd’s heart of Jesus Christ. He spoke even about our conversation at the end of chapter three. He says “for our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.” (Philippians 3:20) So in that context, Loved Ones, let’s look at chapter four.

It’s a beautiful Scripture, isn’t it, Loved Ones? There are perhaps some verses in here that you may have in your mind that come to easy recall. They’re important verses. We think about Paul when he wrote this, and he had a shepherd’s heart. Yet he had a very good understanding of the human mind, the human emotions, and of the natural struggles we might have to be anxious or discouraged. He gives us teachings that are timeless and are sometimes really hard to put into practice in our life, but they are beautiful and they give us simple instructions. So might we allow, Loved Ones, this morning the Spirit to draw us and to consider what His desire is.

As our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ, the Chief Shepherd, He wants us to live in these things. It was a beautiful hymn that we sang. It was interesting it had that same theme of being entreated by the Shepherd. The third verse read, “Thou Shepherd hast each one entreated to work and do with diligence Thy will.” Yet the verse before that said something different. It asked a question. It’s a question we can all ask our self - “has love’s bright flame died out among us?” (Awake Ye Witnesses, Zion’s Harp #192) If we’re a friend of the truth we might ask that question a little bit differently — has love’s bright flame, the love of Jesus Christ, ever started burning in our hearts?

Yet we know as we have children among us, there’s the flame, isn’t there? There’s that flame of love that they have for Jesus. We’ll see it in the Christmas program in a few weeks where there’s a love for the Lord and Master and a desire to sing those hymns of praise. Yet as a soul gets older, sometimes that flame starts to get extinguished a little bit or maybe...
all the way extinguished and died out. So if you’re here today and you find your heart in that state, the Lord and Master calls. His desire first and above all is that we would surrender unto His call and would give our self over unto His Holy Spirit to work a transformation in our life.

As we read here in Jeremiah, we read the first verse “Woe be unto the pastors that destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! saith the LORD.” If we go back and give this some context of the time this was, if I err not, the time when the Israelites were in captivity. They had been carried away, and we know the things that lead up to that point. It was because there were idols that they were worshipping. They had turned away from the true and the living God. This flame that once burned in Jerusalem was gone out, and the kingdom of Judah was at its weakest. There was barely a flame of love anywhere to be found.

So if we think of our self, if we find our self in that state, that’s what this people who heard this word from Jeremiah were experiencing. They were in a place of discouragement, a place of not knowing if the Lord was going to be with them or not. Yet it was right in the middle of where He says I’m going to gather my remnant. I’m going to provide a wonderful Shepherd far beyond the kings you’ve experienced, is what He would say to them, far beyond what you can comprehend. He says “And I will set up shepherds over them which shall feed them: and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall they be lacking, saith the LORD” (v.4).

We live in such a day and time if we find our self lacking it’s not because there’s not food abundant in the house of the Lord. It’s not because there’s not love amongst us, Loved Ones, and the flame of faith is burning brightly. If we find our self lacking, where do we need to look? It’s right into our own hearts, isn’t it, to see what’s within us that we’re not allowing our self to be drawn by the Holy Spirit of God.

He goes on and he says, “Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth.” (v.5) We think about the Lord and Master. He comes with a message of peace and message of hope, but He also comes to divide, doesn’t He? He comes to divide the sheep from the goats. He comes to execute judgment and justice in the earth. We know the Lord and Master came. He even defined a new form of true righteousness, of righteousness that’s in the heart, righteousness that comes by faith. Perhaps it wasn’t a new of a form of righteousness. We think about Abraham and how it was. He believed God and it was counted unto him as righteousness. Jesus Christ came to fulfill that even further, didn’t He? He says, “this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS” (v.6).

So ask yourself today, Loved Ones, is that your heart? Can you proclaim with integrity and humility that Jesus Christ who came to this earth, who is the resurrected Lord and Master, that He is the Lord my righteousness? Is He your righteousness? There’s only one way for that to take place, and we know it, don’t we? The Lord and Master came and He said, “ye must be born again” (St. John 3:7). John the Baptist came to prepare His way, and he said to repent, have a sorrow for your sin, and turn away from those things (St. Mark 1:4). So if we desire to have the Lord as our righteousness, we have to turn away from the old. We have to die off to our own life and to our own desires of our flesh. We turn unto Him and He becomes our righteousness, doesn’t He? His Holy Spirit becomes reborn and we are born anew out of water and Spirit. It can be hard for us to comprehend that.

We think about Nicodemus. The Lord and Master told him that you have to born again. He said how’s that going to work? Am I going to go

— Please turn to pg. 67
Simone Orphanage

Caribbean Committee

The Simone Orphanage is a short walk from Citi Lumiere, the compound in Les Cayes which is the home base for our HarvestCall ministries in that part of Haiti. Simone Orphanage is home to approximately 30 orphaned young girls. The residents receive an education and instruction in God’s Word. Some former residents now attend college, and some have developed professional skills and are now providing for a family while contributing to society with their God-given talents.

Some years ago a Francesville missionary family in Haiti established a relationship with the Simone Orphanage. Soon after, the Francesville church became involved and was blessed to provide organized work project support to the orphanage. They continue to participate in work teams periodically as the need arises. In 2006, the orphanage received the support of the World Relief organization, and today the Francesville congregation sends work teams and shares costs 50/50 with HarvestCall.

This ministry support model has many positive attributes such as encouraging missionary family support, the local church has a vested and personal involvement, and HarvestCall is able to share the planning, support and work team responsibilities with the local church.

Nurturing God’s children

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the broken-hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,” Luke 4:18

The arch over the gate at Simone Orphanage translated to English reads “Home of the Children of Providence”. Providence is very evident as we continue to observe the daily routines and actions of Gerta and Michaelle, two single Christian women who founded the orphanage.

The orphans’ daily routine includes prayer time twice a day, using “Daily Bread” for their devotions for the older girls and “25 Bible Stories” for the younger girls, both having been translated into Creole. Praising God through song is a norm and when they sing for visitors, the tears flow and all who visit leave inspired. What a blessing!

What is the Servant Fund?

That is a common question that deserves a good answer. While many people have heard of it, there are often more questions than answers, so below are answers to Frequently Asked Questions.

1. What is the Servant Fund?
   The Servant Fund is the primary fund through which brothers and sisters sent as missionaries through HarvestCall are supported financially.

2. Does it support only HarvestCall missionaries?
   Yes, only brothers and sisters sent to a HarvestCall sponsored ministry are supported by the Servant Fund.

3. Do the missionaries get other financial support?
   While brethren are sometimes moved to share a small gift directly with a missionary, the Servant Fund is the only established financial support for the missionaries.

4. How does it actually work?
   Checks are issued each month and deposited into each missionary’s personal bank account. With this income, they live and plan for the future just like anyone else.

5. What if there are not enough funds?
past school year the orphanage began using the ACE (Accelerated Christian Education) Ministries Curriculum. ACE is taught in the English language thus teaching the children English. Spiritual lessons and biblical guidance are an essential part of the ACE curriculum. Teaching the girls social skills is also part of the curriculum. The girls being cared for range from 3 months old to 20 years old. It is a joy to watch the older girls help care for the younger ones.

Work in progress
HarvestCall work teams have been involved in rewiring the orphanage, installing new fans and light fixtures, painting, installing new playground equipment, funding a new kitchen, new roofing, and pouring concrete for an assembly area. A second story with restrooms has been added. Currently a second facility is being built in the area. The two locations will give Gerta and Michaelle the ability to separate the older girls from the younger girls to give each group of girls the opportunity to grow and develop with children their own age. They are share cropping with a farmer on the site and intend to have chickens, goats, and other animals for the girls to take care of.

“My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.” 1 John 3:18
– by Rick Wuethrich

How You Can Help
First of all, pray for the orphans in the Simone Orphanage and the devoted women that care for them.

If you are moved to support the Simone Orphanage financially, donations can be made online at harvestcall.org or checks sent to HarvestCall with “Simone Orphanage” in the memo.

For further information, contact Bro. Rick Wuethrich at rick@wuethrichfarms.com

Then needed funds would be pulled from the general funds account to meet this commitment to our brethren. This would be a serious issue and we trust the Lord to continue to move the brotherhood to support our missionaries.

6. What kind of “wage” do they get?
In general, the Servant Fund provides for a modest living. The goal is to adequately support brethren such that they can live without finances being a hindrance to their outreach.

7. How are the “wage” amounts determined?
There are actually two different components. First, there is a stipend, considered taxable income.

The stipend is set by a committee of brothers and varies based on whether it is supporting a single or a family. Then, there is reimbursement for expenses. This amount varies by location due to the cost of living and covers common living costs incurred as a result of service.

8. Does the Servant Fund currently need support?
Yes, while the funds have always been sufficient, the Servant Fund is currently below the established threshold the committee set for operation.

9. Is the Servant Fund only the responsibility of a church with a missionary?
No. Our missionaries

— Please turn to pg. 9
“My brother, and companion in labor, and fellow soldier…” In a moment of intimate reflection, Paul praises his dear friend Epaphroditus. Paul goes on to explain, “… I should have sorrow upon sorrow,” if I lost him. (Phil. 2:25-28)

Deep male friendships are uncommon today. The covenant relationship of Jonathan and David seems odd and best to be avoided in this relationship-challenged society. Our culture has no lens or metric for wholesome, intimate male relationships. As a consequence, many Christian men have lost sight of male friendships such as those exampled by Elijah and Elisha, Daniel and his companions, and Christ and His disciples. This loss of sight has brought about a lack of biblical male intimacy and consequently has left us in a state of loss to all the advantages those relationships could bring.

Proverbs states “…there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.” (Prov. 18:24) The purpose of this article is to restore this vision for Christian male relationships. This restored vision will focus on both the beauty and the use of male friendship. As a model for illustration, consider Daniel and his friends Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah.

Daniel and his companions were uprooted and stolen away from their home in Jerusalem during the first deportation of the Jews to Babylon amidst the empire sweep of Nebuchadnezzar. They soon found themselves in a foreign land, under foreign leadership and within a foreign culture. Unlike sexual love, which finds its fulfillment in the other person, friendship love is beautifully grounded in a shared “third party” identity. Daniel and his friends were bound no doubt by their common heritage, shared ideals and common faith in God. This beauty gave rise to the wonderful advantage of strength in a pagan land. They were brothers indeed.

When men have a shared third party identity, they can work together toward a shared goal. Daniel and his friends did this in the first chapter of Daniel. When commanded to eat of the King’s table, which defiled their shared Jewish identity, they moved together toward a solution. Appealing to leadership they asked, “Prove thy servants, I beseech thee, ten days; and let them give us pulse to eat, and water to drink.” (Dan. 1:12) Companionship helped these men be assertive and take initiative and not be taken, as others were, in the swift current of complacency. They were companions in labors indeed.

In the second chapter of Daniel, Arioch, the king’s captain, came to Daniel’s door to claim his life. Nebuchadnezzar’s troubling dream could not be recalled nor interpreted by the wise men of the kingdom. Daniel wisely appealed to the counsel of God and leaned on the communion of prayers offered by his friends. “That they would desire mercies of the God of heaven… that Daniel and his fellows should not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.” (Dan. 2:18) Daniel and his comrades found peaceful fellowship in shared communion with whom they shared identity — God. In so doing, friendship facilitated prayer in the face of despair. Within the fellowship of friendship, they bowed to their knees when all others stood.

Furthermore, friends are able to stand when all others bow to their knees. In the third chapter of
relationships embodied in the Trinity: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit from whom and for whom all things were created. Our health is tied to the health of our relationships. Thus, as men in the Lord, let us take initiative together. Let us kneel when others stand and stand when all others kneel; acknowledging one another as brothers, companions in labors, and fellow soldiers of the truth.

Daniel, his friends stood while all the princes, governors, captains, judges, treasurers, counselors, sheriffs and rulers of Babylon knelt. At “the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of music ye [are to] fall down and worship the golden image” was the decree. These three men arguably stood taller and longer in the face of death because they stood together. They were fellow soldiers indeed.

Our strong, “I can do it myself” mentality coupled with our over-sexualized culture has created a low view of male relationships. We either think they are not necessary, or we are afraid of what they mean. Thus, we have sacrificed the beauty of our paths linking up with others who are traveling to the same place (like Christ with His friends on the road to Emmaus). We forego exemplifying the gospel by not seeing that our joint identity is our shared Savior; hence, we are brothers. Relationships help us strive toward common goals and grant us the ability to do together what we could not do alone. We have comradery, companionship and friendship. This beauty gives rise to wonderful use. Laboring together, we stave off complacency by a community of assertiveness and diligence. In prayer we resign our strength corporately and appeal to His. We, like soldiers, engage with the enemy in battle, stronger as we band together.

If you are a Christian male, consider your male relationships. Ask the following questions of yourself:

• Do I have brothers in the Lord that help me fight against apathy and complacency?
• Do I have companions in labor with whom I work together towards a shared Gospel-centered goal?
• Do I have fellow soldiers with whom I stand together against oppositions to faith?

Paul was not a “lone ranger.” He lived the Christian life well and carried out ministry well because he did relationships well. Such health is not surprising when we see the beauty and use of

ACCFS has several resources to encourage men in their biblical roles and responsibilities. Recommended resources and presentations can be found on our website at www.accounseling.org/men. If you would like more information, please contact ACCFS at (309) 263-5536 or info@accounseling.org.

What is the Servant Fund?

— Continued from pg. 7

serve on behalf of the entire brotherhood so it is appropriate that we all share in their support. In addition, some sending congregations are too small to support a missionary on their own.

10. How many missionaries is the Servant Fund supporting?

A total of 81 people in 32 family units from 22 different congregations depend on regular support from the servant fund.

Our brethren serving as missionaries thank you for your support of the Servant Fund. The needed support of the Servant Fund providing a living wage for 32 families is significant. ($80,000/month) But, as an effort of the entire brotherhood, the responsibility is made lighter with support of brethren each doing their part. Thanks for your support!

— by Kirk Plattner
Congregation Updates

Apostolic Christian Home for the Handicapped
www.achh.org

Our residents enjoy having visitors and participating in hymn singings and other activities where they can interact with others. We encourage you to come and help brighten their days with your presence! If you plan to come in the next couple of months, please do not be discouraged by some major work being done on Veterans Road in front of Timber Ridge. During this time (mid-July through mid-September), it will not be possible to come north on Veterans Road to get to Timber Ridge, Oakwood Estates or Linden Estates. You will need to come through the subdivision across the street from Timber Ridge. The village of Morton has clearly marked the detour. The detour will take you to the Fellowship Hall road. If you are coming to Timber Ridge you will need to cross Veterans Road and go to the Fellowship Hall parking lot. From there you can take a connecting road over to our driveway and parking lot.

Another adventure may be waiting for you there! During this same approximate time, a significant amount of the Timber Ridge parking lot will be replaced, and some new parking spaces will be added. For quite some time, we having been making short term repairs to “get by”, but the time has now come for this investment. For those who have a heart to help in this project, your church representative has information and it is posted on our web site.

We know this will be somewhat inconvenient for our visitors and for our staff. It reminds us that life is imperfect, needs repair at times and requires adjustments. If we trust God, He will guide us even if it means making some changes and adjustments.

Gateway Woods Apostolic Christian Children’s Home
Autumn Gasser – Education Intern, Summer 2016

Even before my internship started, I could tell that God was planning to use this summer to help me grow in my faith and in my appreciation of Him. When I first heard about the Education Internship at Gateway Woods, it sounded like a fantastic opportunity, especially for an aspiring teacher. Applying was easy enough; it was the time after which incurred much faith-building. Although I really wanted the internship, I knew there were no guarantees that I would get it, so I had to sit back and endure the waiting game.

Now, waiting is an especially difficult thing for me to do. Not only does it require a lot of patience but also a lot of faith. Being an excessive planner, I could barely deal with the fact that I didn’t know how I was going to spend my summer. It was one of those moments (that are really good for a person, but he or she doesn’t realize it until after) in which I recognized that I was not in control, and it was driving me crazy. At times, I would imagine how amazing the experience could be and all the things I could learn, and I would think, “how could God not give me this internship?”, as though all of my justifications would somehow talk God into giving it to me. I soon found that all the waiting game had to offer was no peace, no contentment, and no preparation for an answer—positive or negative.

I came to discover that waiting is not meant to be a game at all. It is not a passive activity at which one can win or lose. It is an active time in which one must choose to give up control in exchange for the perfect will of God. I could tell that God wanted me to desire His will above all, and in order to do that, I needed to be able to give up this internship in my heart.

The amazing thing is that through this experience, I could see the consistency of God’s character as I began to recognize the patterns through which He has worked in
my life. I knew that He was asking me to give up this internship in my heart for one of two reasons: I needed to get to the point where I could give it up because I was not supposed to get it, or I needed to be able to give it up because I was supposed to get it and God just wanted to see if I would be willing to make sacrifices for Him. Once I chose to let go of the internship in my heart, I found incredible peace. Then, when I was offered the internship, the joy that I felt was only possible because of the peace God had set in my heart as a foundation—the peace of actively sacrificing, choosing, and waiting.

What has struck me most during my time at Gateway is the incredible maturity it takes for a teen to change his or her life. In order to make a change, one must recognize that something needs to be changed and must humble oneself enough to make that change. While those first steps can be really difficult, the actual process of change can be even harder. Habits are hard to break, especially when they are engrained in the lifestyles of most of the people these kids have observed since childhood. As I’ve watched kids progress through, and graduate from, the program, I’ve asked myself, “could I be strong enough, humble enough, determined enough to do what these kids are doing?”

If there’s one thing I’ve learned this summer it is that we are all called to make sacrifices—be it a desire, a mindset, or a lifestyle. Rather than holding onto the securities of this world, we are called to store up treasures in Heaven and trust that God will provide for us as He does the birds of the air and the flowers of the field; and are we not much more valuable than they?—Matt. 6:19-34

News:

Gateway Woods is excited to announce the hiring of two new houseparent couples. We welcome Alex & Traci Steidinger (Jaydon, Whitney and Stewart) from Fairbury, IL, along with John & Teresa Hartter (Kowen and Elyse) from Bluffton North, IN.

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

Summer is the time to travel, so we’ve had some small gatherings the past couple of months, but we are thankful for some additions to our church as well. Sis. Joyce Martin had moved here from St. Louis, MO with a job transfer. Also Bro. Brandon Edelman, from Forrest, IL, is spending the summer working here in the Athens area. We appreciate having them here and enjoy getting to know them.

Bro. Fred Witzig (Sis. Nancy, Washington, IL) was here this month to share the Word with us. We are thankful that they were willing to be used by God and appreciate the love they have shown us.

On Wednesday evenings this past month, we had services a couple different places. We met together at Bro. Ed Haggenmaker’s house one evening. Also on the fifth Wednesday of June, we held our church service at the Tennessee Fellowship Area, in hopes of gaining local interest from there. We are always glad to meet as a body of believers wherever it may be. We are promised that where two or three are gathered, God is in the midst of them.

We have an apartment especially for the use of those spending the night in this area. We would love to have you stay. If you would like to use our guest house, please call Sis. Rebekah Klaus at (815) 674-5411 for accommodations.
Arizona, Phoenix
Marge Lindenbaum

“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

What is grace? Most of us have been called to answer that question publicly. However, it was when we were relatively young Christians and did not have a full understanding of the concept. We likely don’t have a full understanding yet, nor will we, possibly even after being “there 10,000 years, bright, shining as the sun”. As we experience life with the Holy Spirit and can compare it to life without Him, our understanding of grace must grow. It is certainly undeserved favor, divine assistance, a free gift, and it is so much more than that. It has been defined in conjunction with mercy: mercy is not getting what we deserve, and grace follows, where we are given what we don’t deserve – or ever could. All of these are good descriptions, and serve to provide understanding of this concept that is nearly impossible to grasp until you have experienced it.

A speaker (I am sorry I don’t recall who it was, as I would like to give credit, however, it was some time ago) referenced the account of David and Mephibosheth as a good representation of the concept of grace. For me, this was an excellent reference. There are many elements in this comparison.

In those days, if the reign of a kingdom passed from one family to another, all the descendants of the original family would be put to death, to ensure there would be no challenge to the power of the new ruler or his descendants. Jonathan was the rightful heir to King Saul’s throne, but recognized God’s hand in anointing David to take on that role, and requested David’s confirmation that he would be kind to Jonathan’s family. David loved Jonathan and swore he would show kindness to them.

Mephibosheth was 5 years old when his father, Jonathan, was killed. King Saul was also killed that day, and Mephibosheth’s nurse carried him away “in haste” to protect him. In the process, he fell and injured his legs or feet, rendering him lame for life. Years later, when David took the throne, he learned about Mephibosheth and sent for him. People, including Mephibosheth, may have thought he would be put to death. Instead, he was given all the land and servants that had been Saul’s, and was invited to eat at the king’s table with David. Thus, he was shown the combination of mercy and grace we are also shown when we are brought into God’s family.

Mephibosheth and his family have the perfect opportunity to dine at his table, alongside our King, when what we deserve is only death. The resultant love and loyalty are evidenced later in Mephibosheth’s life.

The summer slowness has finally set in here. There is not much news to report, other than the participation in our monthly local food pantry service and that at the Phoenix Rescue Mission. We were blessed by a visiting minister, Bro. Kevin Wulf (Sis. Anne, Morris, MN) and appreciate so much his willingness to allow the Holy Spirit to use him to serve us.

As many of our members are vacationing in cooler climes, we are enjoying the intimacy of a smaller gathering on Sundays and Wednesday nights, and beginning to look forward to greeting our winter visitors again soon.

“The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.” Rev. 22:21

Arizona, Prescott
Autumn Rokey

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

I haven’t seen a hummingbird in Arizona yet. It just didn’t cross my mind that they called the desert home. And then this morning as I was spending time in the word
on my back patio, I heard a soft rumble. I looked up and there it was, less than a foot in front of me, enjoying the provision from God in the form of my potted lavender plant. It was such a small moment in time, to witness a beautiful creation of God’s, to be thankful for His provisions.

Prescott church has had the joy of seeing God provide for Bro. Richard Manz as his engagement to Sis. Audrey Lanz was announced on July 10. Sis. Audrey is from Rockville, CT. Her parents are Bro. Barry and Karen Lanz. We look forward to welcoming them into our Prescott family!

We are also thankful for ministering Bro. Keith Hinrichsen (Sis. Tammy) and Bro. Brian Katich (Sis. Debbie) from Phoenix coming to support our Sunday services.

Arizona, Tucson
Dean and Jackie Knobloch

Our Summer is moving along and we continue to pray for those who have health issues. We know God is faithful and that is a comfort to all.

We want to congratulate Andrew Knapp (son of Bro. Jay and Sis. Lisa) as he graduates from High School. We wish him success at the University of AZ this fall.

We trust that we can keep our eye on Jesus and His redeeming blood as we witness many sad events across the globe. May God be ever near.

Note:

If you are visiting Tucson and need accommodations, there is a 2 bedroom furnished townhouse available for use. Contact Bro. Dean Knobloch at 309-231-8428.

California, Altadena/Los Angeles
Kali Sauder

“O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is;” Psalm 63:1

As the thirsty ground of our region cries out for water during these dry summer months, it paints a vivid picture of our thirsty souls without the refreshing rivers of Living Water. Thankfully, in Christ we have full access to the life-giving water of the Word and the Spirit. Let us drink deeply!

Recently we have been refreshed by the Word shared with us through the faithful service of Bro. Greg Lehman, Bro. Frank Sauder, and Bro. Craig Stickling, who also shared with us a presentation by the ACCFS about healthy relationships in the church. We always appreciate the summer months and the visitors to our congregation!

California, San Diego
Annaleise Wagenbach

“There failed not ought of any good thing which the Lord had spoken unto the house of Israel: all came to pass” Joshua 21:45.

Our Vacation Bible School theme this year was “Standing on God’s Promises”. It is a great comfort that we can embrace our Father’s words and have complete confidence that each promise will come to pass! Bro. Matt and Sis. Deanna Steffen (Princeville, IL) and Bro. Craig and Sis. Jackie Stickling (Peoria, IL) joined us for our VBS weekend. We cherished the time spent together and are thankful for their willingness to serve our church family.

We are thankful for the establishment of another Christian home as Bro. Denny and Sis. Allison Fulop were married. Several of us were able to attend the wedding. It was a beautiful weekend of fellowship and thanksgiving.

We were blessed by many visitors this month including Bro. Jon and Sis. Christy Zeller (Morton, IL), Bro. Jesse and Sis. Bonnie Bedolla (Detroit, MI), Bro. Harvey and Sis. Jennifer Kuenzi (Silverton, OR), Bro. Merlin and Sis. Marilyn Meyer (Lester, IA), Elder Bro. Marvin and Sis. Nancy Dotterer (Forrest, IL), Elder Bro. Tom and Sis. Jodi Klotzle (Altadena, CA), and Bro. Willis Ehnle (Peoria, IL). Each one of them, by God’s grace, shared from the Word. It encouraged and strengthened our congregation. May God bless each of you!

Colorado, Denver
Naomi Wiegand, Tess Leman

Greetings of love from Colorado!

As the summer is in full swing we have been enjoying the visitors that are drawn to the mountains.
Included in those visitors this month are Bro. Doug Brewer and his wife, Sis. Janelle (San Diego).

Brandon Martin (Bro. Mike and Sis. Bethann) and Sebastian Wiegand (Bro. Charlie and Sis. Naomi) have realized their need for a Savior and have begun their repentance. We ask for prayers of courage and strength for these young men as they die to self and put on righteousness.

We ask for prayers of comfort for Bro. Brian and Sis. Becky Pfeiffer and their family as their niece Brynne Kaufman passed away recently.

As we look around at how chaotic and ungodly our world has become, we need to remember that we do not need to fret and worry. “For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.” 2 Tim. 1:7

Connecticut, Rockville
Sheila Gerber, Lauren Gottier

“But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.” 1 John 1:7

Our church enjoyed the blessing of fellowship over the weekend of July 2-3 due to an Invite-a-Family event hosted by the families of our Bible Class students. Visiting ministers that weekend included: Bro. Don Manz (Sis. Connie, Junction, OH), Bro. Jim Zollinger (Sis. Tresa, Silverton, OR), Bro. Warren Schlatter (Sis. Cindy, Junction, OH), Bro. Josh Zimmerman (Sis. Molly, Forrest, IL), and Bro. Jeff Bahler (Sis. Heidi, Wolcott, IN). As our elder reminded us, fellowship with the brethren is one of the greatest defenses we have against an unbelieving world.

Other visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. John Wiegand (Sis. Jane, Silverton, OR), Bro. Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata, TX), Bro. Bruce Frank (Sis. Bonita, Cissna Park, IL), and Bro. Marvin Hartzler (Sis. Sue, Rittman, OH).

Sis. Aline Ballasy (Bro. Ernie, dec.) has passed from life here on this earth. She is mourned by her children: Diana Roddy (Gabriel, Colorado Springs, CO), Sis. Joanne Lanz (Bro. Sherman), Joel Ballasy (Oral, SD), Kent Ballasy (Oral, SD), Sheila King (Anchorage, AK), Paul Ballasy (Ruthann), and Peter Ballasy (Brenda, Longwood, FL). We want to extend our support, prayers and sympathy to her children, grandchildren and her siblings.

The engagement of Bro. Richard Manz (Prescott, AZ) to Sis. Audrey Lanz (Bro. Barry and Karen) was announced to our congregation. Bro. Richard is the son of Bro. Russell and Sis. Vera Manz of Junction, OH. We wish them the blessings of God.

District of Columbia, Washington
Henrietta Meyer

The month of July brought another returning caretaker family, Bro. Scott and Sis. Dorine Aberle and family of Washington, IL. If you feel led to support one of our small churches, being caretakers here would be a wonderful way to do so. If you are interested and are free to spend 3-4 weeks in the DC area, please contact Sis. Doreen Steffen at dkgsteffen@gmail.com or 302-540-6574.

Our ministers this month were Bro. Jason Dotterer (Sis. Lynn, Forrest, IL), Bro. Randy Beer (Sis. Deb, Milford, IN), Bro. Scott Aberle (Sis. Dorine, Washington, IL) and Bro. Ned Bahler (Sis. Anna, Fairbury, IL). Other visitors this month were from Sardis and Akron, OH and Cissna Park and Fairbury, IL.

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

Florida, Ft. Lauderdale
Renee Mangold

We are always blessed beyond measure with wonderful fellowship and the encouraging Word of God from our visiting ministers. This past month, we had Bro. Ted Hirstein (Sis. Joyce, Morton, IL); Bro. Dan Beer (Sis. Deb, Milford, IN); Bro. David Prevo (Sis. Tara, Bloomington, IL); and Bro. Scott Wegman (Sis. Dawn, Taylor, MO). We pray that Our Lord will bless them for their willingness to travel and serve.
Florida, Ft. Myers
Dustin Hodel

“Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.” 2 Peter 3:13

This summer has been crazy. Between trips and work and kid activities and family things it feels like we are on an eight week roller coaster ride (we rode an actual roller coaster too; I thought the symbolism was nice). With all of these things happening, our normal routine has been thrown into chaos and there was one trip that caused us to miss church in Ft. Myers. We were on vacation with my wife’s family and we held our own Sunday morning service.

Even though we had a church service and were spending time with our family, it still felt like something was missing when not attending our home church. I’m sure you’ve all felt it before. It feels good when you come back and worship with the brothers and sisters you are used to seeing after being gone. I also have a somewhat unique perspective as I grew up in a large church in Roanoke and now attend a small church in Ft. Myers and returning is vastly different. You see in a large church my friends and the people I normally visited with welcomed me back and were glad to see me again. In Ft. Myers when you return there is welcoming from everyone because when you’re gone, everyone notices. It feels good and it really feels like family; to know everyone notices when you’re away. I’ve also been on the other end where we are in church while others are away and it leaves a definitive void. Everyone is vital to the function of the church.

This experience of feeling the fellowship of a small church gives me a greater desire and appreciation for the day we will all worship together in Heaven. My summer is simply an analogy to our Christian life. We are all, right now, on a long chaotic vacation from home. Sometimes we trick ourselves into thinking we have a “home church”, but truly our home church is Heaven. Someday we’ll all gather up there without interruption, without distraction and have pure, sweet fellowship with one another and I imagine the Father will say, “Welcome home, we’ve missed you so much while you were away.” Whoever is reading this, I long for and anxiously wait for that day that we are united in Heaven in perfect fellowship. We may have never met here below, but on that day we will know each other perfectly and spend eternity worshiping the Mighty God. I can’t hardly wait!

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.

The New Beginnings

One of the major components of The New Beginnings is we are a voluntary program. Single mothers choose to be here and sometimes they choose not to be. This past month one of our youngest mothers decided it was time for her to be on her own. While decisions like this can be disappointing, and this one was, it’s also good to keep a proper perspective.

First of all, the young lady leaving did it on a good note. She was not bitter or angry and said warm goodbyes to everyone. She just simply felt she could do it on her own. I met with her many times in her last week and one of her fears was disappointing us and I was able to explain to her that we saw her time with us as successful on many levels.

It was successful in the fact that while she was with us she had a safe place to live with her daughter. In that time she built healthy relationships with many people who love her and care about her. She also started her college education while at The New Beginnings and she hopes to continue on in her studies.

Most importantly she heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Not just in church and not just a few times. She heard the Gospel nearly every day of her time with us. On top of that she saw it lived out in the lives of the mentors who volunteered their time to be with her and help her when things got rough. She saw it in the church family who welcomed her in and loved her and her little girl. As we say goodbye to her, we do it with the knowledge that she now has the knowledge of what
Jesus did for her and what she must do to be saved.

As we move forward, we ask for your prayers for her and her daughter as well as for us as we look to fill her spot. There is no shortage of women who need what we offer. The exciting part is as a new mom moves in, we know it’s going to be one more person who is exposed to the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

**Florida, Sarasota**

*Mary & Vera Martin*

We are counting our blessings in our summer months, a time when we have sunshine and rain, just as in our lives.

We are rejoicing with Bro. Schuyler Brown, son of Bro. Larry & Sis. DiAnne Brown, as he begins a new step in his life as he announced his engagement to Sis. Melanie Banwart (Ft. Scott, KS). She is the daughter of Bro. Gene & Sis. Linda (Lamar, MO). We pray for the Lord’s guidance as they prepare for their new life together. Our deepest sympathy goes to Jake Ebach and family as they bid farewell to their wife and mother Mary Ellen Ebach, as she takes her place in heaven with our Lord. We will miss Mary Ellen as she was a good support in our church and in our lives.

We want to thank our visiting ministers, Bro. Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue and family, Detroit) and Bro. Fred Witzig (Sis. Nancy, Washington), for sharing their time with us this month.

**Georgia, Peachtree City/Atlanta**

*Lexi Knapp*

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

We rejoice with Abigail West (Bro. Brad and Sis. Stephanie) and Megan Knapp (Bro. Matt and Sis. Dana) at the announcement of them being at peace with God through their faith in Christ. We look forward to their upcoming baptisms and are thankful for the work of Christ in their lives.

Also, we were blessed to have Bro. Jerry Bauman (Sis. Martha, Rittman, OH), Bro. Darren Price (Sis. Monica, Athens, AL), Bro. Mark Klaus (Sis. Rebecca, Athens, AL), and Bro. Fred Witzig (Sis. Nancy, Washington, IL) minister to our congregation. We are thankful for their time and service to our church.

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*

“The earth is the LORD’s, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.” Ps. 24:1.

We are thankful that the Lord is the king of the earth, and that we are His! Because of this, we can say, “We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed;” 2 Cor. 4:8-9. Please continue to pray for us during this time of unrest at the Hospital. We pray that God will work all things together for good through this.

In the midst of this time, we are thankful that the Hospital has been able to function and we have been able to receive help from work teams. Teams this month included a dental team, two orthopedic surgeon teams, and a general medical team.

We also are glad to have longer-term help from two families. The Jeff Fischer family from Ft. Scott, KS, and the Lucas Nussbaum family from Forrest, IL, came for several weeks each. Bro. Jeff Fischer (Ft. Scott, KS) and Bro. Bob Beebe (South Bend, IN) shared the Word with us this month.

We welcome Sis. Patty Banwart (West Bend, IA) back to be with us as a full time missionary, wishing her God’s grace as she steps into her new role here.

**Haiti, Les Cayes**

*Mike & Susie Walder*

Greetings from Les Cayes!

Since it is summertime and many of us are in the States, we decided to take a break from news and instead report an incident of God’s faithfulness that happened here a few months ago.
Right after the church and Communion services we shared at our annual Support Weekend, a miracle happened that deeply encouraged us! Several of us were in the water with the kids at Zanglais Beach when Bro. Les Kaeb was knocked over by a random rogue wave that also claimed his hat and glasses. He didn't think he was going in far enough to get into trouble, but that soon proved to be incorrect! Several of us around him immediately began searching for his glasses in the waves. We were all praying as we searched, but I was also thinking to myself how impossible this was. (I had lost a pair of glasses in the ocean before.)

After about ten minutes of searching, Bro. Les and another missionary chose to have more faith than that. The other missionary said, “God can bring those glasses right to you if He wants. He is able.” Bro. Les agreed and added that they could even bump right into him if God wanted to do it. A few seconds later he felt something hit his leg. He scooped down, held up his glasses, and announced with his big smile, “Here they are!” Does God hear and answer prayer? Join me in trusting God completely with the situation you are facing today. He will bless you for putting your confidence in Him.

“Trust ye in the LORD forever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength.” Isaiah 26:4

Illinois, Belvidere
Krista Anliker, Shayla Steffen

The theme for VBS this year focused on the Fruit of the Spirit. We are thankful for those who invested their time and love to make VBS a blessing for the kids. It is such a joy to see the children excited to learn about Jesus and His instructions.

We thank Bro. Doug Moser (Sis. Dawn) from Morris North for visiting our church and preaching God’s word from the pulpit. We pray that God’s word can continue to be preached without assimilation, that it can be preached that repentance and conversion is necessary and that we can only find true peace through Him.

Both longsuffering and gentleness are a necessary part of being a Sunday school teacher and superintendent. We thank Bro. Sam and Sis. Betty Bachtold for their labors as a Sunday school superintendent the last couple of years. We pray that the goodness and faith Bro. Troy and Sis. Ellie Steffen have felt from above can be shown to the children as they take over the position.

With appreciation I was able to be involved in the VBS for the younger kids. It is amazing that in teaching such a known topic as the Fruit of the Spirit we can still learn and be chastised. So it is with meekness and temperance that these words are penned and may all praise and thankfulness be to God.

Illinois, Bloomington-Normal
Megan Kaeb, Sarah Maurer

Summertime is in full swing and quickly flying by! Already in the middle of summer, we find ourselves enjoying fellowship with each other in outdoor settings and having Sunday School parties to exchange summertime plans.

This summer has been a month of many changes, some joyful and some trying. Throughout all our time though, we learn to lean more firmly on Christ and show the love He has redeemed us by. Kasen Charlie was born to Jeremy and Erica Knapp of Bloomington, making Cooper and Paityn happy older siblings. Bro. Charlie and Sis. Paula of Bloomington and Keith and Bev Kuntz of Wapella, IA are excited grandparents. Also, Bro. Doug and Sis. Kendra Dohman of Gridley welcomed Parker David to their growing family as he makes Keegan an older brother. Bro. Charlie and Sis. Paula Knapp and John and Sis. Judy Dohman of Gridley are happy for the addition as well.
It is with great mourning we comfort the Knapp family as they recently lost a young addition to their family. Ryan and Rachel Knapp from Grand Rapids, MI are mourning the loss of their first born, Everest Dawson. We surround them with spiritual arms of prayer and love. Our church family prays the Great Comforter will pull them close through this time as well as grandparents Bro. Charlie and Sis. Paula Knapp.

Sis. Barb (the late Bro. Dave) Young is happy to announce the engagement of her daughter, Trisha, to Bryce Bowlin, son of Sheila Pollock-Bowlin and Craig Bowlin. They are planning a fall wedding.

Bro. John and Sis. Emily Maurer are also proud to announce the engagement of their daughter Rachel to Steven Immen, son of Chris and Beth Immen of Buffalo Grove. They will be married next June.

Our thanks and appreciation extends to Bro. Eric (Sis. Jody) Strassheim from Indianapolis and Bro. Darren (Sis. Sue) Plattner from Champaign as each shared the gospel message with us this past month. The Plattner family visited as their son, Bro. Caleb Plattner, has been enthusiastically welcomed into the Bloomington congregation since his move to the area.

As the summer slips by, we are reminded how valuable the time God has given each of us.

"Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Philippians 3:13-14

Illinois, Bradford
Sandi Joos, Roseann Stahl

“For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.” Hebrews 6:10

We were privileged to have visiting ministers again this month. They were Bro. Kenny Eisenmann (Sis. Sharon, Cissna Park, IL), Bro. Doug Brewer (Sis. Janelle, San Diego, CA), Bro. Ed Fritz (Sis. Barb, Washington, IL), and Bro. John Steiner (Sis. Carol, Mediapolis, IA). May God bless them for their labor of love.

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

We have joy as Ana and Jessica Joos have begun their repentance. They are the daughters of Bro. Ralph and Sis. Jenny Joos.

We have enjoyed having Amanda Zuercher assemble with us. She is temporarily in our area for an internship.

Each year we look forward to our Sunday School Picnic the last Sunday in June. This year was no exception as we gathered and listened to our Sunday School children sing songs of worship. We also enjoyed good food and fellowship together.

Illinois, Champaign
Dona Fehr

We recently finished our Sunday school year with a fun picnic. The students enjoyed a variety of games which was followed by a delicious potluck meal. Thanks to all who put effort into making it a good time for everyone there!

We will miss Bro. Joe and Sis. Abbie Tabor and their children as Bro. Joe’s work has recently taken them away from the Champaign area. We wish them blessings in their new home, and look forward to the next time we meet! We also said goodbye to Bro. Caleb Plattner, who has moved to the Peoria for employment. We trust he will come back home often to visit his family and home church.

Congratulations to Bro. Phil and Sis. Leah Dreste on their recent marriage! We wish them God’s blessings in their future together.

We enjoyed our invite-a-guest weekend and are thankful for the all the guests who made an effort to join us for our Sunday worship and the following potluck picnic.

We appreciate our visiting ministers this month. They included Bro. Aaron Luthi (Sis. Maria, Lamont, KS), Bro. Alan Schambach (Sis. Sarah, Remington, IN), Bro. Dewayne Dill (Sis. LaRae, Minneapolis, MN), and Bro. Fred Witzig (Sis. Nancy, Washington, IL).

Note of Thanks:

Words cannot express the thanks we wish to offer for the love, prayers, cards, expressions of
support and so much more during and following Charlen’s transition from this earth. May God bless each of you for your thoughtfulness, generosity, and kindness. The Wayne Banwart family.

Illinois, Chicago
Diana Eisenmann

In June the Bible Class had their biennial mission trip. This year we went to the Jamaica Deaf Village. The trip was an incredible blessing to all who went. We had a wonderful week of fellowship with the residents of JDV while working on several projects including painting, road construction, fence building, and cistern work. We are thankful for safety as we traveled and worked for God’s glory.

In July we were blessed to have several visiting ministers. We extend our thanks to Bro. Mark Klaus (Sis. Rebekah, Athens, AL) as well as the following brothers who presented topics for Vacation Bible School: Bro. John Bradle (Sis. Jill, Roanoke, IL), Bro. Doug Brewer (Sis. Janelle, San Diego, CA), and Elder Bro. Greg Lehman (Sis. Mary Beth, Wolcott, IN).

Our theme for Vacation Bible School was “Jesus Sees Us”. We were blessed as ministers presented topical studies for the Bible Class and adults while the Sunday School children learned about Zacchaeus, Nicodemus, and the blind man. On the last day of VBS, we enjoyed a program presented by the Sunday School children. Thanks to all the ministers and the brothers and sisters who worked hard to make VBS a success once again!

We are thankful that Sis. Deanne Plattner (Bro. Dan) has agreed to serve as a Sunday School teacher.

Our prayers are with Sis. Judy Snyder as she recovers from surgery.

Illinois, Cissna Park
Sandy Rudin, Pam Walder

Our congregation has been privileged to host several visiting ministers as a part of VBS week. Bro. Virgil Metzger (Sis. Mary, Chicago, IL) spoke on wisdom. Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Sis. Jane, Bluffton North, IN) spoke on preparing for the end. Bro. Mark Roth (Sis. Tammy, Congerville, IL) spoke on the life of Joseph. Students were blessed by the willingness of each of these brothers to come and speak. We also were blessed by the labors of ministering Bro. Les Kaeb (Sis. Christine, Francesville, IN).

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

Bro. Bruce and Sis. Bonita Frank have once again been blessed by the arrival of another precious granddaughter. Little Andrea Nicole was born to Bro. Randy and Sis. Bonnie Manz of Junction, OH.

We bid farewell to Kelsey Knobloch, who assembled with us for a few years. We will miss her and wish her the Lord’s blessings as she returns to the Lester, IA area.

Our sympathy is extended to those who have recently lost loved ones. Sis. Aldean Kaufmann of our congregation passed away. She leaves behind children: Bro. Sid (Sis. Sandy), Wally (Rhonda), Arlan (Clementine), Wes (Lisa), and Sis. Denise (Bro. Hartzell Kaeb). Also surviving is her sister, Sis. Doris Koehl (Forrest, IL). Sis. Marge Alt also has our sympathy with the passing of her niece, Joyce Cluver (Orval) of Cissna Park.

Elder Bro. Tom and Sis. Karol Stock, along with our congregation rejoice, as their son, Andy, has begun his repentance. We wish him God’s grace and nearness as he takes this important step.

Illinois, Congerville
Erica Steffen

We are thankful for visiting ministers Bro. Brent Walder (Sis. Naomi, Rockville) and Bro. Nathan Walder (Sis. Denise, Cissna Park) who brought us the Word of Life this month! May they be blessed for their efforts of love for our church.

Our Sunday School Picnic was held on June 26. It was a blessing to see the students of all ages enjoy a time of play and fellowship, as was watching them advance in their knowledge and understanding after another year of instruction. We cannot underestimate the tremendous impact this has on our children. How many times have we heard testimony given of the importance of Sunday School, teachers and classmates influencing the faith of a dear soul in being pointed toward Jesus? It warms the heart and refreshes the soul!
The oppressive heat of recent summer days had me thinking this morning after a refreshing (and cooling!) rain in the night and a walk in God’s Word. Our words can sometimes be as oppressive as that heat and humidity that often plagues us here in Central Illinois. I, for one, have a low tolerance for heat and find myself quick to snap off a few harsh words when hot and uncomfortable. How similar these words are to the heat that drives them. They bog another down with a weight they did not deserve. They allow no room for the other to breathe and be refreshed. If our desire is to be Christ-like in our interactions with others, let’s remember how energizing and life-giving our words can be when we follow our Lord’s example!

“O that my ways were directed to keep thy statutes! Then shall I not be ashamed, when I have respect unto all thy commandments.”
Psalm 119:5-6

Note of thanks:
Giving God the glory and praise, we would like to thank each one for their thoughtfulness and the many deeds of kindness shown to our son Brian and his family during his recovery from a farm accident. May God bless each one of you. Bro. Clarence and Sis. LuAnn Zobrist

Illinois, Elgin
Amy Gasser

We thank Bro. Ron Bollier (Sis. Edie, Indianapolis, IN), Bro. Dale Frank (Sis. Christine, Mediapolis, IA), Bro. Brad Gudeman (Sis. Teresa, Bradford, IL), Bro. Philip Schulz (Sis. Kelli, Burlington, IA), and Bro. Mark Zimmerman (Sis. Cheryl, Eureka, IL) for ministering to us this month. Special thanks to Elder Bro. Jeff Grimm (Sis. Ruth, Goodfield, IL), who conducted an all-church topical presentation on Wednesday evening, June 22, on “Five Key Elements That Should Characterize Believers.”

Otto Klein gave his testimony of faith and conversion on Wednesday evening, June 29, and was welcomed into our fellowship. He had been a member of the Nazarean church in Elgin and has been assembling with us since the closing of that church ten years ago.

We extend sympathy to the family of Bro. Gene Moser, who passed away on July 9. His funeral was on July 12. Surviving are his wife, Sis. Libbie Ann; his children: Bro. John Moser, Sis. Sandy (Bro. Glen) Heinold (Lacrosse, IN), Mary Krueger, Sis. Nancy (Bro. Mark) Wewetzer, and Bro. Dan (Sis. Anne) Moser; 15 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; and other family members.

Our prayers have been with Bro. Elvis (Sis. Marilyn) Kellenberger and Sis. Pauli (Bro. Todd) Schambach, who recently had surgery. Sis. Lenora Steffen is currently receiving rehabilitation following a stroke.

Two couples have announced their engagement recently.

Congratulations to Miles Kellenberger (Bro. Greg and Sis. Debbie) and Megan Crawford (Dennis and Donna DeBusman of Hawthorn Woods) and Bro. Otto Klein and Sis. Jan Mogler.

Illinois, Eureka
Debra Blunier, Linda Rocke

The Eureka congregation has been busy preparing for the upcoming Brotherhood Conference August 9-12. We look forward to the blessings of having so many from across the nation come to Eureka that week. Already, we are being blest by the opportunity to work together and feel God’s blessings of unity and faith. Most of all, we desire that God may be glorified throughout the week.

We are appreciating the ministering brothers who willingly serve us. We thank Bro. Harvey Kuenzi (Sis. Jennifer, Silverton, OR), Elder Bro. Duane Rocke (Sis. Bonnie, Minneapolis), Bro. Jay Steffen (Sis. Melinda, Congerville), Bro. Kevin Wulf (Sis. Annie, Morris), Elder Bro. Jeff Grimm (Sis. Ruth, Goodfield), and Bro. Randy Mogler (Sis. Evie, Washington).

Bro. Harrison Frank and Sis. Andrea Knobloch, West Bend, IA, have felt led by the Lord to join their lives. They are the children of Bro. Scott and Sis. Elaine Frank and Bro. Jim and Sis. Sandy Knobloch. We wish them many blessings!

Many from Eureka as well as six other congregations

Two couples have announced their engagement recently.

Congratulations to Miles Kellenberger (Bro. Greg and Sis. Debbie) and Megan Crawford (Dennis and Donna DeBusman of Hawthorn Woods) and Bro. Otto Klein and Sis. Jan Mogler.
experienced the joys of a bus trip to Lamar, MO, July 10 and 11, to fellowship with the small congregation there. Christian friendships are truly a blessing. We thank those who organized the weekend, and to Bro. Bill (Sis. Heidi) Wettstein and Bro. Mark (Sis. Tami) Roth, Congerville, who served us on the pulpit there.

We welcome Alayna Grace, born July 13. She is the first child of Bro. Gabe and Sis. Livy Knapp. Grandparents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Lori Knapp, and Bro. Art and Sis. Carol Anliker.

"Precious in the sight of the lord is the death of his saints." Ps. 116:15

As our loved ones walk the final steps, the timing doesn't always seem best to us. But we can trust that God is never early or late, but always present. We sorrow along with the family of Sis. Gladys (Bro. Sam, dec.) Schmidgall, mother of Ron (Chris) Schmidgall, Sis. Janet (Bro. Ron) Harter, Sis. Sue (Bro. Dale) Zimmerman, and Bob Schmidgall, all of Eureka. She was sister-in-law to Bro. Don Gudeman (Sis. Evie, dec), and will also be missed by 11 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Our sympathy is also extended to Bro. Ken (Sis. Sandy) Fehr at the death of his mother, Sis. Mary (Bro. Ernie, dec.) Fehr, as well as to her daughter, Betty Colclasure, Eureka, and son, Bro Steve (Sis. Deb) Fehr, Goodfield. She also leaves 12 grandchildren and 32 great-grandchildren.

A new Medical Equipment Loan Program has begun at the Goodfield Distribution Center. Contact Bro. Ernie Wiegand at 309-224-1919 if you have equipment to donate, or know of those with equipment needs.

**Note of Thanks:**

In the passing of Sis. Gladys Schmidgall, the family would like to thank all those who remembered us with prayers, visits, cards, food, and monetary donations to the Eureka Nursing Home. All was very much appreciated! Mom dearly loved her church family!


**Illinois, Fairbury**

**Angela Herr, Janelle Stoller**

"The Lord our welfare always seeks; He grants His word and grace; He comforts him who sighs and weeps, consoles at every place. Let’s now depart in tranquil joy, and to God’s word hold fast. Should Satan come us to annoy, our prayers will drive him back. Oh, watch ye faithful brothers mine, while in this pilgrim’s dale; the mighty Word of God divine, your compass, will not fail.”

*Farewell Song, Zion’s Harp #143, verses 2-4*

We bid farewell to Bro. Mark and Sis. Tania Bazzell and their seven children, Sis. Dakota, Justus, Cheyanne, Summer, Haley, Javan, and Cole, who are moving to Texas and will be assembling with the brethren in Austin. We will miss them and wish them God’s richest blessings as they adjust to a new home and community.

Bro. Alex and Sis. Traci Steidinger have felt God’s direction to move to Gateway Woods. Our prayers are with them and their children, Jaydon, Whitney, and Stewart, as they begin this work. May God bless their efforts and may they be a blessing to the Leo congregation and Gateway Woods.

We are thankful that Jordan Moser (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Kara) and Olivia Shores (Mark and Penny Hable) have answered God’s call to repentance. Our prayers are with them as they begin their walk with the Lord.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Kathryn Fehr (Bro. Glenn) and Bro. Walt Edelman (Sis. Rosetta) in the loss of their sister, Mary Ann Bolliger (Silverton, OR), who passed away on May 10.

Our annual Sunday School Picnic was held on June 26 which marks the end of the Sunday School term. We would like to thank Bro. Bruce Young (Sis. Bev), Sis. Crystal Miller (Bro. Roger), and Sis. Trish Steidinger (Bro. Martin) for their years of service in our Sunday School and pray that God will bless them for their labors of love. We give our support to Bro. Nic Roth (Sis. Lori), Bro. Wes Steidinger (Sis. Erinn), Sis. LeAnn Kaeb, and Sis. Lisa Edelman who have been called to teach our children in Sunday School.

May God bless Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Lamont-Gridley, KS) and
Bro. Aaron Luthi (Lamont-Gridley, KS) for ministering God’s Word.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with Sis. Roberta Meyer, Bro. Daniel Steidinger, and Dave Steidinger who have recently spent time in the hospital.

**Illinois, Forrest**  
**Carissa Knapp, Shannon Brown**

“Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice.” Philippians 4:4

We are rejoicing with four of our converts who have found peace with God and man. They are Jacob and Chase Leman (Bro. Arlen and Sis. Denise), Ethan Schaffer (Bro. Erik and Sis. Michelle), and Janae Kaeb (Will and Juanita). How encouraging it is to see God working in souls’ lives.

July 9 and 10 was a weekend of rejoicing as we welcomed three new Brothers Jesse Leman (Bro. Ernie and Sis. Carol), Reagan Mueller (Bro. Ron and Sis. Vicki), and Clay Zimmerman (Bro. Kent and Sis. Paulette) into the fold. We thank Elder Bros. Wayne Grimm (Sis. Rose, West Bend, IA) and Rick Plattner (Sis. Mary, Fairbury, IL) for their many labors that weekend. May God bless.

Bros. Marshall Heinold (Sis. Janice, Washington, IL), Chris Kuenzi (Sis. Mary, Silverton, OR) and Mark Klaus (Sis. Rebekah, Athens, AL) also ministered to us this month. We pray God will bless them also.

We are rejoicing as we congratulate Sis. Tami Schmidgall (Bro. John and Sis. Janet) on her engagement to Bro. Doug Schupbach (John and Jill Butikofer, Gridley, IL) from Elgin, IA.

July 17 was the wedding day for Sis. Allison Mueller (Bro. Stan and Sis. Kristen) and Bro. Denny Fulop (Bro. Denes and Sis. Joy, San Diego, CA). We will miss Sis. Allison, but pray she will feel at home in San Diego. We thank ministering Bros. Doug Wagenbach (Sis. Lillian) and Doug Brewer (Sis. Janelle), both from San Diego, CA, for being with us.

Our Sis. Zoë Koehl is spending some time in Magdalena, MX, this summer. We lift her, as well as all our brethren who are serving in foreign lands, up in prayer.

**Illinois, Goodfield**  
**Kayla Wiegand, Melissa Rokey**

We are very thankful to announce that Jacob Wiegand and Brock Wiegand are at peace with God and man and are ready for baptism. Please pray for them and encourage them during this most important time in their life. Jacob is the son of Bro. Mike and Sis. Jenise and Brock is the son of Bro. Greg and Sis. Jenniy.

The Sunday School picnic was June 26 at our new fellowship hall. Everyone enjoyed a potluck and fellowship, as well as games for the kids.

“Blessed hope that in Jesus is given, In our sorrow to cheer and sustain, That soon in the mansion of Heaven, We shall meet with our lov’d ones again.”  
*Gospel Hymns #135*

We held a Fellowship Hall Dedication Service on July 24 at 12:30. The Open House was held after the Dedication Service. Building Committee members were at various stations to explain the new and updated features of the Fellowship Hall. A light snack and drinks was served during the Open House.

We are thankful to announce 50th wedding anniversaries for Bro. Steve & Sis. Mary Wiegand (6/19) and Bro. Dick and Sis. Carla Hohulin (6/18).

Illinois, Gridley

Perry Klopfenstein

Bro. Derrick Stoller is engaged to be married to Sis. Elsie Koch of Tremont. Her parents are Bro. Chuck and Sis. Kathy Koch. He is the son of Bro. Mike and Sis. Peg Stoller.

Bro. Doug Schupbach is engaged to marry Sis. Tammy Schmidgall, Forrest. Her parents are Bro. John and Sis. Jane Schmidgall. He is the son of Jill and John Butikofer.

Bro. Austin Romersberger is engaged to Sis. Jessica Robinson of Bloomington. His parents are Bro. Ron and Sis. Gail Romersberger. She is the daughter of Bro. Mike and Sis. Liz Robinson, Bloomington. An October 2 wedding is planned.

Surely, we offer our very best wishes to these newly-engaged couples. May God lead them further on!

A son, Parker David, was born to Bro. Doug and Sis. Kendra Dohman on June 21. He has a brother, Keegan. Grandparents are John and Sis. Judy Dohman and Bro. Charlie and Sis. Paula Knapp, Bloomington. We rejoice with this couple in their new addition.

Bro. David Prevo was a visiting minister here on July 10.

At our recent business meeting several church offices were filled. Bro. Eric Zehr was installed as a Trustee. New song leaders are Bro. Sean Cornell and Bro. Phillip Romersberger. Bro. Jonny Wellwood will serve on the Sunrise Manor Board.

We welcome Sis. Annette Hale, Fairbury, to our congregation, along with children: Jenna, Luke, and Anna.

Various health issues remain as concerns for several of our brethren. Bro. Orlan Miller continues to take treatments for cancer. We are thankful that the daughter of Bro. Don and Sis. Rosie Gramm, Jill Merkle of Spanish Fort, AL is recovering from brain surgery.

Our encouragements are with the elder brethren, at their annual meetings at Eureka in August. The times are perilous, and the world is changing, so may wise counsel be given in the form of exhortation and admonition to the churches, according to the pattern of the Apostles.

Illinois, Morton

Annette Tanner, Julie Bahr

Our new Morton Church is nearing completion, so our third Legacy Hymn singing was held this evening at our 103 year old church facility. What an awesome evening of praise and worship we experienced! The entire church was filled to overflowing and the melody of hymns filled the sanctuary! Thank you to each one from our many churches, that gave of their time to worship with us in song! The “legacy” of the evening was especially memorable to one couple who attended, as they advised that they had said their wedding vows in Morton church exactly 39 years ago that very day. Bro. James Fehr from Tremont read the passage from Psalm 100. What a perfect fitting passage out of God’s Word, even 103 years later!

We appreciate those who are given an extra measure of grace to stand and share the gospel message. Bro. Fred Funk gave our Wednesday Evening Family Worship topic “Power Up” with the subtopic of “Worship”. Our great and mighty God calls us to ‘Praise and Worship’ for He is worthy of all praise! Other visiting ministers were Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, Lacrosse) and Bro. Loren Schrenk (Sis. Betsy, St. Louis).

We have received a blessing in welcoming Bro. Doug and Sis. Jill Huette and daughter, Janelle, into our Morton Church family. They have moved here from Phoenix.
Our love and sympathy is shared with Bro. Mike Davis (Sis. Ramona) in the passing of his grandfather, Wilson P. White.

**Illinois, Peoria**

*Crystal Klopfenstein, Bonnie Bach*

Summer time is here and with it many activities that bring us together such as picnics, reunions, and weddings. Our annual Sunday School picnic was held at the Fellowship Hall on June 26. Such pleasant memories are made with little friends and these can last a lifetime! Visiting ministers that Sunday were Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Sis. Julie, Oakville-Mediapolis, IA) and Elder Bro. Paul Messner (Sis. Jan, Winthrop, MN).

The Bible Class spent July 2-8 on a mission trip to Magdalena, MX. We are thankful for their safe return and have enjoyed hearing about the blessings they’ve received!

What a wonderful evening of worship and fellowship we enjoyed at the Legacy Hymn Sing held at Morton church! Over 680 voices blended in songs of praise to the Lord, surely a foretaste of the joys in Heaven! In addition to the Morton and Peoria congregations the Fairbury, Bloomington, Congerville, Tremont, and Bradford congregations were invited Sunday evening July 17. We offer many thanks to the Morton loved ones for hosting!

Among those needing prayers for healing are Bro. Jim and Sis. Virginia Hoerr, Sis. Dee Metzger, Sis. Shirley Triplett, Sis. Betty Miller, Bro. Bob Binkele (Sis. Bernetta) and Sis. Debbie Steidinger (Bro. Duane).

**Illinois, Princeville**

*Renee Herrmann, Melinda Christ*

As the annual brotherhood conference is nearing, we uphold in prayer our elders and leaders of our precious denomination. May they feel the Holy Spirit’s guidance and presence in each decision.

“Call and cry, ye watchman boldly. Call aloud the spare them not! Jesus wants a faithful witness; Teachers not confessing Jesus Have stern judgment as their lot. Call and cry, ye watchman, boldly; Call aloud and spare them not.”

*Zion’s Harp #112*

We are thankful to have brothers and sisters to serve with teaching our children. Our new Sunday School teachers are Bro. Ben Herrmann (Sis. Ann), Bro. Ben Martin (Sis. Hannah), Sis. Sarah Stahl, and Sis. Melinda Christ. May they feel the prayers and support of the church as they teach these precious souls.

Our annual Sunday School picnic was held on June 26 at Hickory Grove Park. We were blessed by the children singing their songs and reciting of the verses they have been memorizing all year.

Sis. Cherie White (Bro. Craig) spent several days in the hospital. We pray for her full recovery.

We thank the visiting ministers, who so kindly encouraged us: Bro. Tom Lanz (Sis. Mary, Oakville-Mediapolis, IA) and Bro. Bill Wettstein (Sis. Heidi, Eureka, IL).

Amber Christ was united in marriage on June 25. Parents are Bro. Ron and Sis. Carol Christ of Peoria, IL and Dennis and Petra Robertson. Grandparents are Sis. Doris Christ and the (late Bro. Walter Christ) and Sis. Viola and Bro. Don Messner of Peoria, IL. We wish them God’s richest blessing’s in their marriage.

Brecken Joshua was born on July 8 to first-time parents, Bro. Scott and Sis. Janae Herrmann of Bloomington, IL. His grandparents are Bro. Dean and Sis. Dawn Herrmann and Bro. Jim and Sis. Jeannette Lavallier of Gridley, IL.

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.” *Isaiah 55:8-9*

**Illinois, Roanoke**

*Barb Schwind, Judy Sauder*

We thank Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Tamara, Wolcott, IN) for ministering to our church on June 19.

June 19 was the Bible Class Senior Breakfast, and the Sunday School picnic was June 26. These events are both special times of sharing and fellowship for our young people.

On June 22, Bro. Scott and Sis. Mandy Yordy and their daughters: Sis. Bri, Chloe, and...
Gabby, along with Sis. Leah Bertschi, gave a presentation at the fellowship hall on their work and ministry in Haiti. Bro. Scott and Sis. Mandy serve at Les Cayes with MEBSH. Sis. Leah served as a teacher for missionary children at Hospital Lumiere in Haiti.

On June 30, Bro. Dan and Sis. Donna Schwind welcomed a sweet little granddaughter, Naomi June, born to Josh and Megan Stevens of Eureka. On July 4, Jakoby Jay Sauder was born on his brother Jonah’s birthday. Parents are Bro. Matt and Sis. Hope, and big sister is Aliya. Grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Jan Sauder and Bro. George and Sis. Fern Knapp (Goodfield). On July 5, Sis. Carol Knapp was blessed with a grandson, Henley Cash, born to Brian and Mary Beth Banwart of Eureka. On July 5, Zayn Kent Braker blessed the home of Bro. Jay, Sis. Jackie, Rio, Creed and Nash. Grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Marge Braker and Elder Bro. Kent and Sis. Jan Heimer (Taylor, MO). We wish God’s blessings to these families as they raise these precious children!

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Marie Hohulin in the passing of her sister-in-law, Alice (Dave) Koehl of Washington on July 2. Sis. Barbara Moser passed away on July 7. She is survived by her husband, Bro. Lyle; daughters, Gladys (Tom) Carr of Secor and Susan Garber of Roanoke; sons, Bro. Greg (Sis. Sharlene), and Bro. Todd (Sis. Kathy); a son-in-law, Bro. Rick Gerber; a sister, Alice Nohl; a brother, Bro. Cecil Nohl of Goodfield; twenty grandchildren; and thirteen great-grandchildren. Sis. Barb had many challenges in life, including battling the effects of polio and seeing 3 children pass away, but she maintained her faith and sweet spirit, encouraging us all.

Alecia Fehr (Ben and Sis. Kathy) was united in marriage to Matt Bachman (Doug) of Roanoke on July 9. Joni Zimmerman (Raylene and Jerry Getz and Rick and Diana Zimmerman) was married to Nick Riney (Tom and Sue Riney) in Colorado on July 16. Taylor Sauder (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Jodie) is engaged to be married to Mason Shirley (Barb McRoy and Greg Shirley) of Bourbonnais. Sis. Mary Kate Fowler (Mitch Fowler and Sharon Fowler) and Bro. Roberts Mecidor (Bloomington, IL) announced their engagement on July 17. We rejoice with these couples and wish them God’s blessings in their life together.

We pray for Bro. Denny (Sis. Rita) Schwind as he continues to battle cancer.

As you are receiving this issue, children throughout our country will be heading back to school. Armed with a backpack full of new school supplies and excitement for seeing friends and meeting their new teacher it is a wonderful time of year.

For me it is a time of transition. After spending over 30 years in the classroom, teaching students with disabilities, I am retired this year. During my last week of school, I asked the students to write me letters of advice. Most of them told me they would miss me and that they liked school. One third grade boy, who didn’t quite grasp my “retirement” wrote, “Please make sure you substitute one day at the high school. Also be very kind to the other people at the retirement home. I will miss you...” Oh, my! A ministering brother recently shared that we don’t retire from the Lord’s service until He calls us home. In each season of life, we can rejoice that the Lord is with us, and He has meaningful work for us to do for His kingdom!

**Illinois, Tremont**

**Debbie Aberle, Janice Sauder**

“God of unlimited compassion, Thou never ending fount of love! With countless hosts in meek submission We praise Thee now, O Lord above, For grace and patience Thou hast shown Ere this created world was known.”

*Give Thanks unto the Father, Zion’s Harp p. 75, vs. 1*

We have so many reasons to praise God and give thanks. We have the birth of three babies to report. Bro. Bob and Sis. Jenny Koch welcomed Cadence Mae to their family, which also includes Cecily and Emmy. Bro. Roger and Sis. Sally Koch are her Tremont grandparents. Bro. Gary and Sis. Kathy Wagenbach now enjoy Laural Joy’s presence in their home, along with Anna, Betsy, Todd, Lynelle and Justin. Bro.
Ron and Sis. Liz Wagenbach and Bro. Phil and Sis. Diane Koch are her grandparents. Bro. Pete and Sis. Debbie Aberle have a new grandson, Lucas Philip. His parents are Royce and Kirstin Aberle (Mackinaw, IL). Siblings are Loren and Liam. May God bless each home where children are being taught and reared in His ways.

Five dear ones have experienced a rebirth, and each gave testimony to the church of what God accomplished in his/her life. After baptism, we welcomed our new brothers and sister in the Lord: Bro. Aaron Baer, Bro. David (Jenna) Baer, Bro. Micah Koch and Sis. Abigail Koch (Bro. Nelson and Sis. Mary) and Bro. Nathan Sauder (Bro. Dave and Sis. Joanna).

We are thankful for the visiting ministers who shared the pulpit recently. They include: Bro. Dale Moore (Sis. Cheryl, Elgin, IA), Elder Bro. John Laukhuf (Sis. Marcia, Latty, OH), Bro. Warren Schlatter (Sis. Cindy, Junction, OH), and Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH). May God bless them for their labors of love on our behalf!

With sadness we extend sympathy to Bro. Tom and Sis. Jane Bolliger at the stillborn death of their granddaughter, Daisy Mae Slagel (Jason and Debbie, Davenport, IA). May God continue to comfort this dear family as they mourn this loss. We also pray that God will comfort the family of Bob Traylor (Helen, Canton, IL). Bob was the brother-in-law of Bro. Terry and Sis. Christine Koch and Bro. Ron and Sis. Liz Wagenbach.

We continue to pray for our dear sisters who have undergone surgeries: Sis. Dorothy (Bro. Mike) Meister, Sis. Doris (Bro. Bob) Baer, and Sis. Wilma (Bro. Les) Pulfer. May God hear their prayers for healing and His close presence as they cling to Him and His will for their lives.

“Around His footstool bowing As children dear are we, And when our tears are flowing Straight to His heart we flee; And when our tears are flowing Straight to His heart we flee” Living in Faith, Zion’s Harp p. 139, vs.5

Illinois, Washington

Kendra Funk, Patricia Knapp

“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them That believe on his name.” 1 John 1:12

We rejoice with our new Sister in Christ Valerie Knapp (Bro. Benj and Sis. Karen) as we heard her testimony of faith and witnessed her baptism.

We also rejoice with Bro. Aaron and Sis. Kendra Funk as they welcomed a baby girl, Adelaide Rose, into their family along with brother William. Thankful grandparents Bro. Herb and Sis. Lori Leman and Bro. Fred and Sis. Dianne Funk (Morton).

We also rejoice with Bro. Phil Dreste (Bro. Mike and Sis. Kathy) and Sis. Leah Waibel (Bro. Brian and Sis. Wendy) as they were joined as one in the Lord in Champaign, IL.

We offer our prayers and sympathy to Bro. Tim and Sis. Barb Slagel. Their first grandchild was stillborn, Sweet Daisy Mae Slagel is in the arms of Jesus. We also pray for peace and comfort for Jason and Debbie.

We pray also for Bro. Byron and Sis. Mary Schrock as their daughter, Lanae, is battling stage 4 ovarian cancer. We offer prayers of healing and strength for Lanae and her daughter, Laila.

We are thankful our Sis. Kay Monagle is recuperating from her fall and surgeries, and look forward to her worshipping with us in the future.

We also pray for our Bible class as they are at Casa Vida y Esperanza, Magdelena MX on their mission trip.

We ask God’s safe travels and blessings as they serve Him with their hands and hearts.

We thank our visiting ministers for their service to us: Bro. David Eisenmann (Sis. Jackie, Champaign) Bro. Mark Roth (Sis. Tammy, Congerville), Bro. Jeremiah Psinas, Bro. Tim Hohulin (Sis. Cathy, Roanoke).

Indiana, Bluffton

Olivia Moser, Suzie Fiechter

“Lord, thou creator, glorious is Thy kingdom! In all the world we sing of Thy great fame. The hosts of heav’n with all the true and faithful Eternally shall praise Thy holy name. Thou art exalted there in heaven’s splendor,”
And kings and powers shall to Thee surrender.”

God’s Glory Magnified By His Works, Zion’s Harp, #118

Summertime is such a blessing! The wild array of colorful flowers, the diversity of shapes in the clouds, the beauty of sunrises and sunsets, all shout of the awesome power of our great God. That He would take such care to bring us delight with the details of His creation speaks of His great love for us! My prayer in response is great thankfulness and a request for grace that my life will also shout of His glory.

Thank you to Sis. Kim Meyer for her years of writing the Bluffton news for the Silver Lining. It’s been a great blessing to get to know Kim better and work with her. May God richly bless her as she moves on to other areas of service to Him!

I’d like to welcome Sis. Olivia Moser, as she has felt the call to become a reporter. She is such a sweet young sister and I look forward to deepening my relationship with her.

We are so thankful to welcome Sis. Hope Gerber and Sis. Autumn (Andrew) McAfee into the family of God. They are both daughters of Bro. Jeff and Sis. Rhonda Gerber.

Our prayers are with Bro. Lynn and Sis. Jenny Frauhiger as Bro. Lynn has recently been diagnosed with a brain tumor. May God be glorified even in this very difficult time in their lives!

Sis. Maxine Ringger (Bro. Dave) is able to return to worship with us after her surgery. It’s good to see her sweet smile again!

Babies are the ultimate of God’s beautiful creation! Bro. Krent, Sis. Elizabeth, Riley, Zander, Kreed, Cale, Wade, and Skye Frauhiger welcomed Juniper Rose into their family. Grandparents are Bro. Dean and Sis. Holly Frauhiger and Bro. Derryl and Sis. Peggy Aschliman.

Charley Anne Fiechter has arrived to bless the home of Bro. Shane and Sis. Kaitlin. Her grandparents are Bro. Brent and Sis. Rachelle Tonner and Bro. Doug and Sis. Jill Fiechter.

Bro. Tom Lantz (Sis. Mary, Oakville, IA) and Bro. Jeff Wiegand (Sis. Janel, Goodfield, IL) ministered to us this month. Bro. Tom’s daughter, Sis. Alyssa, is engaged to our Bro. Blaine Aschliman, so we hope they will visit often! Bro. Jeff accompanied his grandmother to the Ft. Pickett/Ft. Sam reunion, held here on July 9-10. We are humbled and thankful as we see these dear older brothers come together in a special bond of love because of their service to our country. It was very difficult for them to leave their family and homes, yet God provided deep and lasting ties of friendship. Thank you dear brothers!

“Unwavering Focus” was this year’s theme for the fourth annual World Invite hosted by the Bluffton and Bluffton North churches. The weekend of June 3 was a blessing as brothers and sisters from 37 churches came together for fellowship, service projects, worship, and encouragement. Thank you to all who came.

Our young people came away strengthened and motivated in their walk with Christ.

On June 18 our Brother Mark (Sis. Lori) Steffen suffered a stroke while visiting Japan. They ask for continual prayers for Mark’s speech and motor skills and for safe travels back to the States.

Sis. Nancy Gerber had colon surgery on June 30. Nancy and her family are very thankful for a successful surgery and all would appreciate our prayers as she continues to heal.

We would like to thank Bro. Jeff Wiegand (Sis. Janel, Goodfield, IL) for visiting us on July 10 and sharing God’s word.

Indiana, Bluffton North
Corinne Stettner, Amy Moser

“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 will heal their land.” 2 Chronicles 7:14

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Indiana, Francesville

Jacki Huber, Mildred Clauss

As this issue is being sent, our High School Bible Class, along with some teachers and parents, are on a mission trip to Atlanta, Georgia, to serve and interact with refugees there. We are prayerful that God’s name will be glorified, and that each life involved will be enriched with eternal benefits.

Bro. Evan Kaeb (Bro. Les and Sis. Christine) returned to Francesville a while back, from studying abroad in China. We are thankful to have him home, and pray for the Lord’s continued grace and peace in his life.

Also recently in China for a different reason, were Bro. Chris and Sis. Jennifer Nuest and their family, along with Grandpa and Grandma, Bro. Larry and Sis. Pam Leman, to adopt a precious baby girl, Jaycelin Jade. We are so thankful to have a new little addition to our church family. Brothers and sisters of Jaycelin are Madisyn, Braden, Cameron and Rhylan. Rhylan was also from China, adopted in early 2014. What a blessing to have these precious little ones to love. “Jesus loves the little children”, and so do we. Whether from near or far, “they are precious in His (and our) sight”! Grandparents, Bro. Larry and Sis. Jane Nuest also welcome little Jaycelin as she makes her home in Indiana!

We enjoyed having Bro. Jose and Sis. Cathy Cervantes and some of their family visit from Tecate, Mexico, where Bro. Jose serves as Elder in our sister church. We were encouraged by the inspirational thoughts he shared with us. Cathy’s parents are Bro. Art and Sis. Maxine Novotny.

Bro. Paul and Sis. Dee Hangartner will be moving to the Los Angeles area soon to take advantage of a work opportunity. We will sorely miss them. This has been home for Dee since immigrating from Zimbabwe. At the farewell she asked us to not only pray for them and their adjustment, but also her family as they experience a severe food shortage due to drought and corruption. They are trying to get funds to send a large container of food to be distributed in her family’s locale.

Indiana, Indianapolis

Becky Ringger, Nancy Pfeifer

“I am the Lord: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images.” Isaiah 42:8

This was one of the verses that was emphasized today. All the glory goes to God. So as this blessed Sunday draws to a close, I wonder how much honor I have given to this wonderful “Lord” that created me and all that is around me. This thought came to mind as I was washing the kitchen floor after spilling about a quart of tomato jam from the upper shelf of the frig. Then it had to be washed again because it was still sticky. My sister assured me that this qualified as “an ox in the well” situation. But I didn’t like it. How am I using this day that God has set aside for us to honor Him? Did I use it to refresh myself spiritually as well as physically? Looking back upon that half hour, I now want to thank God for not only having such a full frig in an air-conditioned kitchen with a floor, but also that the jar did not break and that there was still enough in the jar to serve for supper. Those thoughts didn’t come immediately, I’m afraid. Will I ever reach the immediate reaction of thanking God for ALL things?!

“Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.” Ephesians 6:13

As it is every year, our Vacation Bible School was so special and instructive. We pray each child remembers each piece of armor to put on as he/she grows up.

Visiting ministers were Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) on June 19. Bro. Darren Plattner (Sis. Sue, Champaign, IL) presented a study on “A Question of Origins” on July 13.

Bro. Paul and Sis. Dee Hangartner will be moving to the Los Angeles area soon to take advantage of a work opportunity. We will sorely miss them. This has been home for Dee since immigrating from Zimbabwe. At the farewell she asked us to not only pray for them and their adjustment, but also her family as they experience a severe food shortage due to drought and corruption. They are trying to get funds to send a large container of food to be distributed in her family’s locale.
We praise God that Bro. Scott Levy is recovering and able to get around and drive after a serious broken leg due to a work accident last month.

**Indiana, Lacrosse**

*Meagan Frank, Julie Rocke*

"Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another: and the Lord hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon his name." Malachi 3:16

Many prayers were answered as Father’s Day weekend, the much-anticipated Centennial celebration of our LaCrosse church, dawned warm and beautiful. Joyful connections were made on Saturday evening as loved ones, many who had not seen each other in years, gathered for a singing at the church. On Sunday we again listened to the rafters ring with many voices lifted in praise to the Father. Many visiting ministers gave of themselves in one way or another throughout the weekend.

We would like to thank Brothers Tim Bucher (Sis. Julie, Valparaiso, IN), Marshall Heinold (Sis. Jan), Brian Huber (Sis. Jackie, Francesville, IN), John Lehman (Sis. Tamara, Wolcott, IN), Jon Pratt (Sis. Sharon, Valparaiso, IN), Chris Wuethrich (Sis. Carla, Chicago, IL), Dale Zeltwanger (Sis. Rachel, Morris North, MN), Josh Zimmerman (Sis. Molly, Forrest, IL), and any others we apologize for forgetting! After church, many walked to the nearby old church building for a tour, then returned for fellowship, a delicious meal, program, and more memories shared. Many, many efforts went into the weekend and we pray God will bless each one! We also warmly welcome our visitors anytime!

Sis. Carol Troxel (Bro. Ed) recently broke her foot. While we are thankful to have her back in church, we pray for the Lord’s healing so that she may soon be out of her cast and walking again!

It always exciting when a new little one joins our congregation. We rejoice in the safe arrival of Ashlyn Nicole Koskovick! Big sister, Aleiya, and parents, Lindsey Schneider and Ryan Koskovick, are thankful to welcome her home. Ashlyn’s grandparents are Bro. Calvin and Sis. Jeannie Schneider, and Doug and Jackie Koskovick.

We pray for the Lord’s comforting hand on the family of Bro. Glen and Sis. Sandy Heinold, as Sis. Sandy’s father, Bro. Gene Moser (Sis. Libbie Ann, Elgin, IL) went home to the Father. We mourn with them in their loss. We are also thankful that the Lord brings joy as we heard the news that Megan Heinold (Bro. Glen & Sis. Sandy) answered the Lord’s call to repentance! We share in their rejoicing, and pray for Megan as she walks with Him!

**Indiana, Leo**

*Kirby Reutter*

“To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.” Ecclesiastes 3:1

There seems to be one key term that tends to characterize every August in this neck of the Woods: semi-organized chaos. And I’m not even referring to the Gateway Auction! As if that wasn’t enough, August also seems to be the annual Month of Many Transitions.

For starters, four dear couples have taken over as lead House Parents in the following houses: Bro. Paul and Sis. Leanne Fischer (Oak); Bro. Jesse and Sis. Karla Zimmerman (Cypress); Bro. Matt and Sis. Rachael Ringer (Pine); and Bro. Todd and Sis. Kara Strahm (Maple).

And if taking over the Maple House wasn’t enough transition, the Strahm’s reported even more change while on a recent trip to Florida. (This beloved couple seems to have a knack for returning from trips with various creatures—human and otherwise.) This was the first update we received from the Strahm’s while on their trip: “We couldn’t be more thankful to share the addition of Zeb Jean-Dondre to our family! Born in Florida, we anticipate returning in 7-10 days. Praising God!”

Well, the Strahm’s weren’t even back from Florida yet when we received their second update, regarding three more additions: “There are new goats at Gateway! Serenity, Penny, and Bob love to be petted. However, please do not feed them grain of any kind. They have access to as much hay as they want via a feeder in their pen. If you open the gate they will..."
attempt an escape. They are vocal, so enjoy the chatter! Thanks, Strahm’s.” (House Parents are the only people I know who have the wherewithal to run a group home, adopt another child, and manage a goat operation... all from half-way across the country!)

And if that wasn’t enough transition for Gateway, five dear individuals have recently joined the residential team. Here goes the first announcement we received: “Gateway Woods would like to welcome Sis. Lydia Meeks from Sabetha, KS. She will be working in Maple as an assistant House Parent.” And then came another one: “I am excited to announce that Bro. Alex and Sis. Traci Steidinger from Fairbury plan to join the staff as House Parents. They have three children: Jaydon (10), Whitney (9), and Stewart (7).” And then we received yet another announcement: “I am excited to announce that Bro. John and Sis. Teresa Hartter will be joining the House Parent team. John grew up in Sabetha and Teresa grew up in Cissna Park, but they currently live in Bluffton. They have two children (ages 4 and 1).”

In addition to the massive influx of House Parents, there was also a minor exodus this month. After fulfilling their tour of duty, Bro. Jason and Sis. Joy Huber were called back to civilian life. Here’s an example of a recent Farewell Address: “Dear Gateway Team: Grandma Jan Beer [she’s everyone’s grandma at Gateway] told us very early in our journey at Gateway, ‘The truth is, we need these kids more than they need us.’ We have found that to be true, over and over again. We are so grateful for the opportunity to be on mission with God while we had the privilege to do family ministry, first at Oak House, and then across the tracks, as they say, at Pine House. As clearly as we felt led by the Lord to come to Gateway, we now feel directed to end our House Parent journey. Rest assured, Gateway and all it encompasses will forever be in our hearts for the rest of our lives. We look forward to continuing to serve Gateway as the Lord directs, and always in prayer. God has provided a job back in healthcare for Jason and we are thrilled that we can remain in this fantastic Leo community. Please pray for us in the days ahead with Pine House’s transitions as we continue to intercede for all of you. We love you all like family! Our love, the Hubers (Jason, Joy, Jayla, Jacki).”

Even the Gateway fleet experienced transition this past month! This was one memo indicating which vehicle to avoid: “I wanted to send a brief update on the Ford Fusion in our fleet. The Ford Fusion was in an altercation with a raccoon last week that messed up the front grill and knocked out the temperature sensor (air doesn’t work because it thinks it is –40 degrees outside). It’s still drivable but will be out of commission for a few days.”

Thankfully, the new (i.e., new to us) Chevy Malibu came to the rescue, and the Gateway fleet is now back in operation!

And finally, in preparing for the upcoming state audit—yet another source of semi-organized chaos—our beloved Administrative Assistant forwarded the following memo summarizing the sheer amount of legwork involved in this process: “We will be submitting 359 background check requests to 39 agencies in 15 states for 53 employees.” (Can you say bureaucracy?) But at a deeper level, I had to wonder: How is our spiritual audit going? Will we all pass the background checks? Or are we always looking for a way out (like the Strahm’s goats)? Or are we tangling with the Enemy (like the Ford Fusion)? Or much rather, are we heeding the call and bearing fruit... all the way from the Great Plains of Kansas to the sandy sunny beaches of Florida to the “Fair Berry” of central Illinois?

Epilogue: At VBS this summer, over 100 helium balloons were launched to show how the gospel is often sent to closed nations like North Korea. Sis. Jane Stieglitz included a summary of this project as well as her contact information on each balloon. On Saturday she received her first text: “We just found your balloon in our cornfield. We are located just outside of Burkettsville, Ohio which is about 79 miles southeast of here. Keep up the good work and God bless!”
Indiana, Milford

Minnie Beer, Pat Mikel

Summer brings visitors to the lakes in our area and we reap the benefit of fellowship with those who worship with us. Among those were visiting ministers, Bro. Kole Meyer (Sis Amy, Bluffton, IN) and Bro. Ryan Bertsch (Sis. Jessica, Bluffton North, IN). We appreciate their sharing of the word.

We are encouraged that another young person has turned his life over to the Lord. Kevin Schlipf (Bro. Rich and Sis. Kathy) has made that step and we pray for him as he heads back to Purdue this fall.

It was announced that our four converts: Sara Lehman (Bro. Dean & Sis. Mary), Nikola Gramm, (Bro. Larry & Sis. Melinda), Aaron and Amy Beer (Bro. Randy & Sis. Deb) have found peace with God and man. We look forward to adding them to our congregation.

Our prayers go to Bro. John and Sis. Emily Frauhiger as his father, Bro. Lynn Frauhiger, had surgery on a brain tumor and the future is uncertain. Thoughts and prayers also go to Bro. Jeff Beer (Sis. Heidi) as he is dealing with health issues.

“Hear me when I call, O God of my righteousness: thou hast enlarged me when I was in distress; have mercy upon me, and hear my prayer.” Psalm 4:1

Indiana, Remington

Jenni Honegger, Marcella Tyler

We offer many thanks to our many visiting ministers this month: Bro. Ron Palitto (Sis. Lynell, Akron, OH), Bro. Jerry Bauman (Sis. Martha, Rittman, OH), Bro. Don Manz (Sis. Connie, Junction, OH), Elder Bro. Greg Lehman (Sis. Mary Beth, Wolcott, IN), and Bro. Michael Wagenbach (Sis. Erica, Wolcott, IN). We enjoyed your presence with us for worship and wish you God’s blessings for your labors among us.

We ask for your prayers for Bro. Dan Stoller (Sis. Deb) and Sis. Diane Isabell (Bro. Phil) who were both hospital patients this month. May the Lord grant them health and healing in each of their recoveries.

Father’s Day was June 19 and was also the joyous wedding day of our Sis. Erika Schneider (Bro. Greg and Sis. Heidi) to Bro. Jared Bauman (Sis. Nancy, Rittman, OH)! We are excited for Bro. Jared and Sis. Erika and hope that they will continue to feel the love and prayers of the Remington church as they make their new home and their new life together as one.

We are also excited for Sis. Alisia Kilgus (Elder Bro. Dan and Sis. Jenna) as she announces her engagement to Bro. Kent Schlatter of Toledo, OH (Bro. Bill and Sis. Emily, Junction, OH)! We are thankful that the Lord has been faithful once again to bring a young man and woman together through His will and in His love.

Convert Rachel Walder is spending several weeks this summer at Casa Vida y Esperanza in Magdalena, MX as a volunteer. Please be prayerful for Rachel that her time there will be fruitful, for both her and for the children and adults at the children’s home.

Indiana, South Bend

Joshua Martinez

“Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.” Luke 8:11

We sow seeds so that, with the Lord’s help, we may reap bountifully. We are happy to have Bro. Bob and Sis. Sue Beebe safely home from a recent 6-day trip to Hospital Lumiere in Haiti.

Our children had an enjoyable and uplifting Vacation Bible School. May the Lord bless all those who shared, served and taught.

We thank our outgoing Sunday School teacher, Sis. Bethany Kupferschmid, and pray for incoming teachers, Bro. Garrett Kupferschmid and Bro. Craig Langhofer.

We pray that our loved ones who are suffering may dwell in the shelter of the Most High and abide in the shadow of the Almighty. We are thankful that Chris Gramm is recovering from successful open-heart surgery. We continue to pray for Sis. Ernestine Meister who is slowly improving from recent health issues.

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

Indiana, West Lafayette

Kris Widmer, Libby Wahl

Nature: God’s second Bible. While on the treadmill this
morning, I traveled to Costa Rica and heard the narrator say, “this is one of the most beautiful and diverse places to experience nature, God’s second Bible”. No doubt some of you have soothed your feet in the white sand there. I have been dwelling on that thought today - God’s second Bible. While there is wonder and excitement to be had in man’s creations, the noise and commotion of cities, sports arenas, theme parks and such can leave one’s spirit a bit drained. This is perhaps a lovely reminder that a part of God himself, revealed in His ‘... and it was good’, was meant to rejuvenate us in His sublime, untouched spaces.

Sis. Jan Furrer is rejoicing and thankful for prayers on her behalf for a successful knee replacement. Thank you, Bro. Tim Wiegand (Sis. Christa, Leo), for ministering freely for the sake of the Gospel.

Indiana, Wolcott

Beckie Lehman, Erica Blume

We were blessed this past month with several visiting ministers. Our thanks go to Bro. Dana Nieman (Sis. Leah, Remington), Bro. Dewayne Dill (Sis. LaRae, Minneapolis, MN), and Bro. Brian Waibel (Sis. Wendy, Champaign, IL). May God richly bless each of these brothers for sharing the Word and worshipping with us.

We enjoyed a Sunday afternoon picnic with our Sunday School children this past month. Our annual picnic at the park was attended by many of the children and their families. Song books and Bibles were presented to those students who were advancing to a different Sunday School class at the change of the school year.

We are thankful that Amber Bahler (Bro. Mike and Sis. Jody) has expressed that she is at peace with God and desires baptism. We look forward to a weekend of testimonies and baptisms in August for Amber and her sister Leandra.

Our prayers have been with Sis. Frances Bahler as she was hospitalized for a time this past month. May God bring her comfort and healing according to His will.

Iowa, Bloomfield

Teresa Schock

Many of us from Bloomfield attended the wedding of Bro. Derek Wettstein (Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Carol) and Sis. Carly Wagenbach (Bro. Colin and Sis. Barb, Mediapolis, IA) We heard that we should not think of what we can GET out of a relationship, but rather, what we can GIVE to a relationship.

There are always people who need our prayers. Sis. Gloria Wuthrich (Bro. Bill) had back surgery. Bro. Daryl Wiegand (Sis. Christy) broke his back and is in a body brace. Also, Sis. Carol Wettstein (Bro. Lloyd) was home several Sundays with great back pain. We are thankful they are all back in church.

School will soon be in session again and all parents, no doubt, are concerned about who their children’s friends are. For we know that they (and all of us) become like who we are around.

Iowa, Burlington

Ivy Steiner, Elaine Eisenmann

We thank Bro. Dale Frank (Mediapolis) for visiting our congregation and ministering to us. Several from our congregation were blessed to attend the Morton legacy singing recently and thank the Morton congregation for hosting it. Both the fellowship and singing were a blessing. Our prayers often ascend for several in our congregation who have had medical procedures. We especially think of and miss Sister Margaret Applegarth who has not been able to attend our fellowship for some time.

“God is our refuge and our strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be cast into the midst of the sea; Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof. Selah.”

Psalm 46:1-3

Iowa, Elgin

Maria Rocke

“In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths” Proverbs 3:6

We were thankful to hear of the engagement of Bro. Doug Schupbach (John & Jill Butikofer, Gridley, IL) to Sis. Tammy
Schmidgall (Bro. John & Sis. Janet, Forrest, IL). We’re looking forward to welcoming Sis. Tammy to Elgin. May God guide them in their decisions and preparations as they look forward to their marriage.

Laboring along with our home ministers this month was visiting Bro. John Steiner (Sis. Carol, Oakville-Mediapolis, IA) and Bro. Mark Roth (Sis. Tammy, Congerville, IL). We are thankful for their willingness to come be with us. God bless them.

Iowa, Garden Grove
Laura Funk

We want to thank our visiting ministers: Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS) and Bro. Tyler Joos (Bradford, IL). We enjoyed fellowship with several visitors that accompanied these brothers. May God bless each of you!

Several Sunday School students enjoyed traveling to Lester, IA and Bloomfield, IA. Thank you for hosting these gatherings and inviting our Sunday School students. I am enjoying many relationships I made while on these Sunday School gatherings.

As I am writing this, there are many preparations being carried out for the Brotherhood Conference. We pray God’s guidance in all areas of this gathering.

God Knows Best
“Our Father knows what's best for us,
So why should we complain;
We always want the sunshine,
But He knows there must be rain.

We love the sound of laughter
And the merriment of cheer
But our hearts would lose their tenderness
If we never shed a tear.
Our Father tests us often
With suffering and with sorrow,
He tests us, not to punish us,
But to help us meet tomorrow.
For growing trees are strengthened
When they withstand the storm,
And the sharp cut of the chisel
Gives the marble grace and form.
God never hurts us needlessly,
And He never wastes our pain,
For every loss He sends to us
Is followed by rich gain.
And when we count the blessings
That God has so freely sent,
We will find no cause for murmuring
And no time to lament.
For our Father loves His children,
And to Him all things are plain,
So He never sends us pleasure
When the soul's deep need is pain.
So whenever we are troubled,
And when everything goes wrong.
It is just God working in us
To make our spirits strong.
And every individual,
As well as every nation,
Will find that in adversity
There is always compensation,
For men as well as nations
Must take lessons in the school
That teaches by experience
That the plain old Golden Rule
Is still the best to live by,
For its sheer simplicity
Insures a peaceful universe
Where every man is free.”
-Helen Steiner Rice

Iowa, Iowa City
Diana Butikofer

“Come, ye children, hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the Lord.” Psalm 34:11

Bro. Tim Gerst (Sis. Melisa) was elected to teach Sunday School along with re-elected teachers Bro. Brad Eland (Sis. Joyce), Sis. Ruth Gerst, and Sis. Renae Snodgrass for the coming year. We are thankful for their service and pray God will guide and bless them.

We appreciate Elder Bro. Greg Lehman’s (Sis. Mary Beth, Wolcott, IN) visit this month and trust the Lord will bless Bro. Greg’s willingness to be used by the Spirit.

Our annual College Student Welcome Picnic will be Sunday, September 18 following the afternoon church service. All students attending college in the Iowa City area are invited to join us for church and the picnic. Please contact Sis. Connie Gerst at (319) 310-8684 to RSVP for the picnic and to provide contact information. We look forward to meeting the students and their families!

Iowa, Lester
Audrey Metzger, Joyce Moser

“All to Him committing, Wait on the Lord. Help for you is promised in His precious Word. Be not dismayed, Thou art not alone... In every trial, your cry He'll heed; God will e'er defend you in every need!” Wait on the Lord, Hymns of Zion #Page 69.

Several from our congregation have been hospitalized this
past month, including Sis.
Marie Knobloch (Bro. Ezra),
Leah Doorneweerd, Sis. Kathy
Doorneweerd (Bro. Lynn), Tessa
Moser and Kendon Knoblock
(Bro. Marti and Sis. Martha). We
pray each one can be restored to
good health and for God’s help
and strength as they recover.
Lester hosted a Metzger
reunion the weekend of July
2-3. There were several visiting
ministers that came. Bro. Virgil
Metzger (Sis. Mary, Chicago, IL),
Bro. Randy Mogler (Sis. Evie,
Washington, IL), and Bro. Randy
Kellenberger (Sis. Karen, Kansas
City, MO) so willingly shared the
pulpit and brought forth God’s
Word in truth and power.
The marriage of Eric Metzger
(Bro. Rodney and Sis. Polly) to
Abby Berenschot was on June 25.
We pray that God will bless this
young couple as they begin their
lives together.
Ministering Bro. Ted Witzig,
Jr. (Sis. Donna, Morton, IL) and
Bro. Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi, Alto,
MI) were with us on Sunday, July
10. We want to thank them for
their labors in sharing the Word.
Bro. Ted also gave a presentation
to the church on Technology
and the wise use of it on Sunday
evening. It was very timely and we
were presented with wise counsel.
Our Sunday School is in
recess for the summer, but when it
reconvenes soon, we have elected
the following new teachers: Bro.
Mark Leuthold, Bro. Marti
Knoblock, Bro. Jeff Popkes, Bro.
Ethan Metzger, Sis. Amanda
Gerber, Sis. Carla Feucht, and
Sis. Sara Knobloch. Bro. Stan
Knobloch will be the new
Superintendent. We appreciate
all of the brothers and sisters who
devote their time each Sunday to
help our young people understand
the beloved Bible stories and
teachings. May God richly bless
each one.
As we ponder the events that are
taking place in the world about
us, may we lean even more on the
Solid Rock of our Lord and Savior
and His promise that He will
carry us through it all.
“Let a clear and hopeful view be
given, Unto me into Thy blissful
heaven, When on earth no rest
from toil I find. In this vale of
anguish and affliction Give me
constant peace and pure affection,
And a trusting, heaven-gladdened
mind.” Follow Me!
Zion’s Harp #90, Verse 5.

Iowa, Oakville-Mediapolis
Kelsey Banwart, Tami Lanz
We rejoice with Bro. Derek
and Sis. Carly Wettstein as they
were united in marriage on June
19. Their parents are Bro. Colin
and Sis. Barb Wagenbach and Bro.
Lloyd and Sis. Carol Wettstein
(Bloomfield, IA). We wish them
God’s blessings as they start a new
chapter in their lives and make
their home in Bloomfield.
On July 15 little Tobin
Edward Schulz entered the world,
welcomed by Bro. Mitch and
Sis. Renee Schulz and his excited
siblings Treyton, Larae, and Kale.
Tobin’s grandparents are Roger
and June Schulz and Bro. Keith
and Sis. Tonya Lanz.
We thank our many visiting
ministers who came and preached
God’s word: Bro. Ryan Schock
(Sis. Melanie, Bloomfield, IA),
Bro. Mark Roth (Sis. Tammy,
Congerville, IL), Bro. John
Cottrell (Sis. Gloria, Eureka, IL),
Bro. Seth Hartter (Sis. Brenda,
Burlington, IA), Bro. Brad Funk
(Sis. Laura, Garden Grove, IA),
Bro. Mark Zimmerman (Sis.
Cheryl, Eureka, IL), Bro. Aaron
Frank (Sis. Sharla, Elgin, IA), Bro.
Phil Schulz (Sis. Kelli, Burlington,
IA), Bro. Chris Kuenzi (Sis.
Mary, Silverton, OR), Bro. Dallas
Massner (Sis. Christy, Burlington,
IA), Elder Bro. Ted Steffen (Sis.
Sandra, Alto, MI), Bro. Matt
Steffen (Sis. Deanna, Princeville,
IL), and Bro. Greg Fehr (Sis.
Denise, West Bend, IA).

Iowa, West Bend
Becky Virkler, Jenny Banwart
We welcome another little
boy to our congregation, Landon
Mark Knobloch joined the family
of Bro. Jordan & Sis. Erica and
Jaden on June 21. Thankful
grandparents are Bro. Jim & Sis.
Sandy Knobloch and Bro. Mark &
Sis. Janet Fehr.
We were blessed to have many
visiting ministers this month.
May God bless Bro. Justin Moser
(Sis. Robin, Altadena, CA), Bro.
Nathan Walder (Sis. Denise,
Cisna Park, IL), Bro. Dan Moser
(Sis. Anne, Elgin, IL), Elder Bro.
Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL),
Bro. Justin Isch (Sis. Liz, Lamont-
We rejoice with Sis. Andrea Knobloch (Bro. Jim & Sis. Sandy) and Bro. Harrison Frank (Bro. Scott & Sis. Elaine) from Eureka, IL as they have felt God’s leading to become married. May God be with them as they prepare for their wedding in September.

Sis. Melissa Zaugg (Bro. Dave) and Sis. Kathy Metzger (Bro. Leland) have spent time in the hospital. We pray for God’s healing in their lives.

Many families enjoy taking a break for vacation in the summer. May we always be mindful to be a light in a dark world wherever we go.

Japan, Shioda
Carrie Ito

Our church is so small and we don’t have much news, so it seems I do a yearly update--sorry! As far as visiting ministers, we have enjoyed our twice a year visits from Elder Bro. Mark and Sis. Bev Bahr. We partook of Communion during their visit last fall--always a bonding experience for our small gathering. We also are enjoying monthly visits from one of the ministers from Tokyo church. As always, we appreciate very much Bro. Willis Ehnle’s adding onto our Sunday morning service most Sundays by Internet from America! This spring we had a visit from Bro. Ron and Sis. Edie Bollier from Indianapolis. This was the first of four trial sessions over two years for bringing ministers from America for a minister rotation. We look forward to seeing the Lord use this program to encourage our churches and to raise awareness of the needs of the Japan churches.

We grieve the passing of Sis. Lois Ehnle and extend our sympathy to Bro. Willis. The legacy they left here in Japan is amazing. We were blessed to have many people come to church for the memorial service that we had for Sis. Lois. It has renewed some ties between some former kindergarten students/mothers and the church people. Please pray that the gospel seeds that were planted again during that service will be watered and bring forth fruit to the Lord!

We continue to enjoy many foreign students visiting our church through Bro. Kotaro. Some are Christian, but some have never been to a church before. We have mostly Chinese students, but also some Korean students too..Li, Cho, Kim.... Their youth and vitality is a blessing and the gospel seeds are being planted and watered in their young hearts!

Japan, Tokyo
Anna Inoue, Marie Inoue

The end of July is here, and schools have dismissed for 6 weeks of summer vacation. This coming week, July 25-29 is our VBS. We look forward to a blessed week. Those attending our Bible school will be our Sunday School children and their friends and others we have tried to invite. The SS children come twice or more each month as part of an English program at the church. The mothers bring them, several of them attend the SS class, and a few attend the church service. Once in a while several eat lunch with us with their children. Most of their friends have had little or no knowledge of the Bible. We hope we can clearly communicate the Truth from the gospel, and they will be encouraged to continue to gather with us more often.

Sisters Abbie Greutman, Leo, and Ella Stettner, Bluffton North, have arrived a week ahead to assist Sis. Javon Steffen in preparing lessons, crafts, songs, and several games for the daily sessions. They also could do a bit of sightseeing in the afternoons. We deeply appreciate their efforts, time, and talents as we work together in the vineyard of the Lord. Our local brethren also assist as interpreters, getting supplies and many other needs required. Last year we had 23 students who could attend, and this year we hope to have about 30 who can come at least one day. May God be glorified as we lift up His name and make it known among many needy souls.

This month we were pleased to have Bro. Akihiro Ito (Sis. Carrie) and their boys minister to us on a Sunday. Living with them for 6 weeks was Sis. Dakota Bazzell of Fairbury who is spending time here in Japan with Youth for Understanding, learning the culture and ways of this country. We enjoyed her presence and
hearing of her experiences as she observed in schools, a factory, riding trains, and points of interest. She soon will return home to Bastrop, Texas, where her family has recently relocated. We are thankful they could answer the call as Abraham did to go to a new area to assist in one of our smaller churches. Not all of us can go there. May we give them our love, support, and prayers as they adjust to a new area in the service of the Lord.

We think of our Bro. Mark Steffen who is soon able to be dismissed from the hospital and return home to the States. His family has stood close by him and worked through many details for his return. According to His will, may the Lord guide their path and give them His rich grace and courage as they serve Him so faithfully.

Kansas, Bern
Tiffany Menold, Jill Meyer

Our first father/son campout was held June 24-25 and was enjoyed by all. We thank Bro. Ryan Bertsch (Sis. Jessica, Bluffton North, IN) for being with us that weekend.

The weekend of July 2-3, Bro. Fred Witzig (Sis. Nancy, Washington, IL) gave an informative presentation on the early church and we appreciate his willingness to serve on our behalf.

Also serving us in the ministry this month were Bros. Tim Lehman (Sis. Amber, Taylor, MO), Wayne Hartzler (Sis. Camille, Rittman, OH), Chris Kuenzi (Sis. Mary, Silverton, OR) and Jerry Meeks (Sis. Christy, Sabetha, KS). May our prayers ever be with those who bring forth the Gospel message.

Summer brings the annual Sunday School picnic, which was held on July 17. As we end another term, we thank the teachers for their many efforts and pray for all those who have been given that responsibility.

Russell Eugene was born June 18 to Scott and Lydia Anson. He is joyfully welcomed by his siblings: Paul, Marcus, Phillip, William, Sarah, Maggie and Clara. Grandparents are Susan Anson and Michael and Donna Ulmer. May God bless them as they raise their family!

Many thoughts and prayers have been with Sis. Miriam Strahm (Clayton), as she underwent surgery and is now recovering.

“...But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:19

May we be thankful for God’s rich provision and care for each one of us!

Kansas, Ft. Scott
Karen Kellenberger

“Kindly heaven smiles above, When there’s love at home; All the earth is filled with love, When there’s love at home. Sweeter sings the brooklet by, Brighter beams the azure sky; O there’s One who smiles on high, When there’s love at home.”

Hymns of Zion #64

It was happily announced that our Sis. Melanie Banwart and Bro. Schuyler Brown are engaged to be married. The joyful parents are Bro. Gene and Sis. Linda Banwart (Lamar, MO) and Bro. Larry and Sis. DiAnne Brown (Sarasota, FL).

Kansas, Kiowa
Janice Bahr, Millie Frieden

“The Sunday School is our delight. We love it more and more; ‘Tis here we learn to do the right and live forever more. We hear the truth, so pure and clear, Of Jesus’ love so sweet and dear, There we are taught to lift our eyes to Him who lives on high. We thank you loving teachers too, For all your love and care, You teach us of the heav’nly home, How we may enter there. And when we leave our father’s house, And journey thru this world of strife, Oh may your loving counsel then, show us the path of life. Sing ye all in one accord; Sound forth the praises of the Lord, Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna to the Lamb of God.”

Hymns of Zion #73 vs. 1-2-chorus

The Kiowa Sunday school recently held Vacation Bible School. The Wichita Sunday School joined us for a full Saturday. We had around 30 young people to share the Word of God, singing, crafts, and a wiener roast and river fun at the end of the day. It was a blessing for everyone, especially to be able to share such special fellowship with one another.

Kanarado was also this past month. Kiowa was invited to share
in the weekend with girls from Colorado, Kansas, etc. The girls and sponsors share a weekend of fellowship, Bible study, and meet others from the different Apostolic Churches to enjoy a weekend together. Nancy Klippenstein (Bro. Adolf and Sis. Elma) was the only one able to go this time, due to very busy schedules, but had a wonderful weekend.

Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern, KS) shared a Sunday with us recently. We are always so blessed for the special Gospel teachings he brings to us as well as the Fellowship we share. May God bless them for taking the time to travel so far to be in our midst.

Sis. Mildred Frieden celebrated her 90th birthday this past month, and had a host of family to share in this special occasion with memories of the special person she has been to so many through the years. May God grant her His blessing for her faithfulness to Him and so many others as she continues to walk with Him till such time as He takes her home.

Kansas, Lamont-Gridley

Dorene Metzger

A church bridal shower was held for Sis. Andrea Luthi (San Diego) and Bro. Tom Koch (Tuscon, AZ).

A work day was held at church for exterior upkeep which afforded another time of fellowship.

In my morning devotions recently, James 1:12 was the theme verse: “Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.”

What good do trials do for an individual when you endure spiritual, mental, or physical struggles? Can you think of ways that trials have been a “good medicine” for you?

I have been struggling with physical healing issues for several months and went back to see the surgeon. Upon being called into the exam room, the nurse listened and considered the unhealed wound. She said things looked like they were healing slowly and then she said, “Think about Matt. 6:26 ‘Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns: yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?’ and how about Matt. 6:28-29 ‘And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.’”

I felt some rebuke for my impatience. Then the Dr. came in; assured me things were indeed coming along. As she took my hands, she said, “I am human, I’m a surgeon, and I do my best, BUT God is in charge and He is the Healer.”

Now I really felt rebuked for my fears and struggles to believe healing would come! I’m so thankful that others can come along side of a struggling believer and give hope and encouragement from my heavenly Father and His Word. But these words gave me courage to grab hold of the knot in the rope of belief and trust, and to lean upon Him and to work on trusting Him more fully.

The end of my learning if Philippians 1:6 “Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.”

Kansas, Sabetha

Crystal Hartter, Brenda Nenadov

We express our sympathy to Sis. Sue Meyer for the passing of her sister, Joan Nussbaum from Bloomington, IL. Our prayers are with her during this time of sadness.

We remember our elders and ministers in prayer as the general conference will be held. May they feel the Holy Spirit’s presence and yield to God’s will. We thank everyone who helped with the planning and everything to make things go smoothly.

Thanks to the outgoing Sunday School teachers for all their labors of love for our children! Our prayers and support
go out to the new teachers as they begin their terms.

May the Lord protect our children as school and college classes resume after summer break.

**Kansas, Wichita**

*Bethany Johnson*

Greetings from Wichita! It is nice and hot here this time of the year! We are enjoying staying in the air conditioning or cooling off at the pool! Many have taken trips over the last month or so and enjoyed their vacations. It is always fun to go, but is good to be back home too. We are glad that God provided them all with traveling mercies!

Summer is busy and we appreciate those that have made the effort to come and visit us and bring us God’s word. We have had Bro. Aaron (Sis. Maria) Luthi and Bro. Ron (Sis. Jane) Isch, both of Lamont, KS, as well as Bro. Greg (Sis. Denise) Fehr from West Bend, IA. It was nice to spend time with each of these families.

Bro. Rick and Sis. Kamari Aberle of Haiti were here and gave an interesting talk about their mission in Haiti. We pray for them and their family and the other families as they do God’s work there.

We have been blessed with Sis. Mariah Strahm here this summer from Bern, KS. She is doing an internship in Wichita and has been a very active part of our church while she is here! She was engaged after she got here to Bro. Will Eisenbise from Sabetha, KS. We rejoice with them on their engagement and look forward to their wedding day!

If anyone would like to travel to this area, please let us know ahead of time so that we can enjoy an evening or a weekend of fellowship with you! We love to have visitors and would welcome all that come!

**Mexico, Ixtlán**

*Ruth Gerber*

“He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.” Psalm 126:6

Farmers surely go through heights and depths of emotion as they labor and look forward to harvest. What a fitting metaphor for the work of sharing God’s Word. That is the ultimate purpose of the private school started in Ixtlan in 2009. Colegio de las Américas had its second graduating class this year and it was thrilling to hear about 100 non-church children in grades 1-6 close the graduation service with the song “Los que con lagrimas sembraron” (“They that sow with tears”). One of the lines says, “Their sheaves on their shoulder, and a song in their throat –The seeds were not lost, they brought the blessing of fruit!” May it be so here!

It has once again been a blessing to have Bro. Marshall and Sis. Jan Heinold (Washington, IL) visiting. Bro. Marshall shared on Sunday from John 15 and reminded us of the love that would lay down one’s life for a brother. As someone said, it was meaningful because we believe he would actually do it for one of us. May we all grow toward that measure of love.

We extend our condolences to Sis. Estela Salceda on the passing of her sister, Guadalupe Salceda (Tijuana, Baja California), also to Sis. Adriana de Cervantes on the passing of her father, Jesus Manuel Flores (San Luis Potosi).

Bro. Alfredo and Magdalena Torres are happy for their new grandson Diego (born to their son Nacho and Rosy on July 5). We pray that the seed can continue to be sown in the generations to come.

**Michigan, Alto**

*Renee Steffen, Heidi Kaeb*

This last month here in Alto has been filled with so much emotion that it is difficult to know where to start or how to express the extreme highs and lows. Our hearts have been taken on the journey of the very joyous occasion of rebirth, the tender feelings of loving and welcoming a new baby, and the mixed emotions of saying farewell to our oldest beloved brother in Alto.

I received a message early this past month announcing that Bro. Matt and Shelli Oesch became parents to their fourth child. Along with this message were two photos that touched me to tears. Three older siblings, Judah, Kirsi, and Fritz, who are known for their exuberant energy, were
so tenderly loving on their new baby brother Truman Ford. This brought to mind how gentle and tenderly our Heavenly Father loves us. May this child-like love be an example to us of how we ought to love one another.

“What a day that will be, when my Jesus I shall see, and I look upon His face, the One who saved me by His grace; When He takes me by the hand, and leads me to the promise land, what a day, glorious day, that will be.”

At 100 years old, our beloved Bro. Lloyd Blough (Sis. Ella) was released from this earthly life to go home to meet his Lord and Savior. Bro. Lloyd with his quiet and gentle, but strong faith, will certainly be missed by all who knew and loved him. But we also rejoice with him as he enters eternity where joy never ends.

“He said his last prayer. He walked his last mile. He felt his last pain. He had his last trial. Now he is singing. No more tears, strife or sorrow. He sees Jesus face to face!” -ibG.res

Oh did the angels rejoice this past weekend, along with all of Alto church and many visitors, as we listened to the testimony and observed the baptism of our new Bro. Spencer Plattner (Bro. Howard and Sis. Kristen). The humble, honest, and open testimony of Bro. Spencer brought intense emotions to all who listened. Tears of joy, reality of grace, expressions of meek humility, and exhortation of the heart, brought a special bond of love to all who were blessed to listen through the child-like faith of a new born babe in Christ. We were also blessed to have Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern, KS) here this weekend to share the Word of Truth and help in this joyous occasion of welcoming a new soul into the body of Christ.

Our prayers have been with many this past month: those who were hospitalized, Sis. Jane Grawburg and Bro. Casey Banks’ mother (Sis. Nancy Banks, Columbus, OH), and others struggling with sadness, sorrow, trials, and tests of life.

Our prayers go with Bro. Curt and Sis. Luanne Kaeb as they plan to spend the next three months in Texas and other southern states helping to build, rebuild, repair, and encourage those who’ve experienced disasters in recent years.

Our prayers also go with Bro. Ed and Sis. Julie Sanders as they plan to spend the next four months in Haiti helping with construction teams. It is always with mixed emotions that we say farewell. We pray God will go with them, protect and guide them, but also be near their families back at home.

Note of thanks:
I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the church and friends for the prayers said for me and my wife during my recent sojourn of six weeks in the hospital and rehab. Thank you for taking the time to visit me and for the cards, especially fellow believers.

May the Lord bless all of you. I’m convinced that the healing hand of our merciful Father, because of your prayers, I am able to walk again.

I am humbled and happy and grateful beyond my ability to express my feelings. May the love of God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit continue to dwell in you.

Thank you,
Bro. Wes and Sis. Sue

Michigan, Bay City
Sarah Knochel
Our Vacation Bible School was held June 20-24. This year’s theme was ‘My Sheep Know My Voice’. On Wednesday evening, Bro. Ryan Hoerr (Sis. Joy, Princeville, IL) presented Discerning the Voice of God. On Friday, Bro. Fred Witzig (Sis. Nancy, Washington, IL) topic was And They Follow Me, where he presented characteristics of discipleship. We were blessed to have nearly 100 students, mostly from our local community for our day time program.

On June 25-26, several single groups from Michigan, Indiana, and Ohio spent the weekend in Bay City. It was a blessing to have them in Bay City. We are also thankful Bro. Fred stayed the weekend and ministered unto us.

We bade Bro. Joe and Sis Dorethy Ramseyer a fond farewell as they have relocated to Livonia and will be worshipping with
our Detroit congregation. We definitely miss their presence in our congregation, but know that they are blessed to live closer to their family.

In just a few short weeks, our young people will be returning back to school. Our prayers are that they would be kept safe, both spiritually and physically, in the year ahead.

Michigan, Detroit
Manuela Denes

O Healing River

“O healing river, send down your waters upon this land. This land is parching, this land is burning, no seed is growing in the hard and barren ground. O healing river, send waters down. From parched ashes let new life awaken, let freedom flourish, let new hope arise. Oh healing river send down your waters from out of the skies.”

A truly timely message for the times we’re living in. How blessed are we to have the healing waters and to know that despite how bad things get in our world, “new life” will awaken, “new hope” will arise! This message came to a full congregation this past Saturday evening conveyed to us through the beautiful harmonies of our choir. We’re grateful to all who came and shared in a wonderful evening of dinner, fellowship and song to support the mission and ministry to the seniors at Woodhaven, Woodpointe, and Woodhaven at Bay City. Blessings to all who planned, prepared, practiced, and traveled to make this a very special weekend.

Thanks to Bro. Tom Troxel (Sis. LuAnn, LaCrosse, IN) and Bro. Richard Aberle (Sis. LaNae, Peach Tree City, GA) who stayed overnight to share the Word with us on Sunday.

We send a special thank you to Elder Bro. Ted Steffen and his wife, Sis. Sandy, for coming to Woodhaven this past month to minister to our residents. We appreciate the time given to travel from Alto, MI during the week to be with us!

Bro. Phil and Sis. Dawn Bahr are thankful for God’s guiding hand in the May 25 engagement of their son, Brandon (Bloomington-Normal, IL) to Samantha Bledsoe (Morton, IL). They are looking forward to a November 19 wedding.

We bid a fond farewell to our Sis. Katie Lanski (Sis. Melinda and Todd) who will be moving to Philadelphia, PA for a three-year Master’s program in Architecture. We look forward to many visits!

We’re so excited that our Detroit church family is growing! A big welcome to Bro. Joe and Sis. Dort Ramseyer, formerly from Bay City, MI. Bro. Brent Fiechter from Bluffton will be with us for three years as he starts a medical residency at the Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit. His parents are Bro. Doug and Sis. Jill Fiechter. And finally, we welcome Bro. Nate and Sis. Ann Smith, formerly from Kansas City, MO. Bro. Nate has accepted employment here in Livonia, MI. May they all be happy and blessed in their new homes!

We were sorry to hear of the passing of Sis. Krista Wieland’s (Bro. Andy) grandmother, Sis. Ede Stoller, from Latty, OH. May they be comforted with warm memories and the assurance that she is now in the arms of our Lord and Savior.

“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.” John 10:27-28

Minnesota, Minneapolis
Betty Lindwall, Brenda Messner

We were blessed to have Bro. Damon Knobloch (Sis. Stephanie, Morris North) and Bro. Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi, Alto) here to share the word with our congregation.

The end of the Sunday School year was celebrated with an “All-Church Advance” that was held in Wisconsin at Wilderness Retreat Center. Young and old alike attended to give God praise and honor. The theme verse was, “I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 3:14. Topical discussions included: The Traveler on his Journey, The Athlete Runs the Race, and The Soldier Readies for Battle. Many activities like canoeing, fishing, hiking, and campfire/singing were enjoyed.

Our prayers for strength and healing continue for Sis. Betty Lindwall as she courageously
moves forward in her journey. Also, our prayers go out to Tammy Bergstrom (Cory, and children Anna and Cole) for healing of this precious mother and wife.

**Minnesota, Morris**

*Ashley Knobloch, Heidi Pfaffmann*

We were blessed with many visiting ministers this month: Elder Bro. Art Ingold (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman, OH), Bro. Scott Schafer (Sis. Gigi, South Bend, IN), Bro. Dan Moser (Sis. Anne, Elgin, IL), and Bro. Doug Brewer (Sis. Janelle, San Diego, CA). We are thankful for their willingness to share God’s word.

Our hearts rejoiced as two dear souls started repenting! Jim and Peg Wellendorf have begun on this pathway. We wish them God’s grace as they follow him.

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

*Luke 15:10*

Our congregation was strengthened and encouraged to hear the testimony and witness the baptism of Sis. Leah Steiner (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Jill Steiner). We welcome her into the fold as a new sister in Christ. May the Lord bless the ministering brothers who were with us for the weekend: Elder Bro. Rod Bajema (Sis. Sue, Lester, IA), Elder Bro. Brad Eisenmann (Sis. Cindy, Chicago, IL), Bro. Dale Zeltwanger (Sis. Rachel, Morris North, MN), and Bro. Glen Steiner (Sis. Rachel, Winthrop, MN).

We are thankful for our convert, Callie Koehl (Bro. Eric and Sis. Kim Koehl), who is at peace with God and man. We pray for God’s continued guidance.

Our love and prayers are with Halle Grimm (Bro. Lyle and Sis. Amanda Grimm) as she recovers from being hospitalized.

**Minnesota, Morris North**

*Lois Schmidgall, Amanda Feuchtenberger, Wanda Gramm*

“Awake, Thou soul’s first inspiration, Let watchmen stand before the temple door! With constant zeal and firm devotion. Against the enemy they do implore. Their pealing calls throughout the world resound; Salvation, Lord in thee alone is found.” *Zion’s Harp #111*

Greetings from Morris North! As I write this month I am thoughtful for the coming harvest, prayerful and sympathizing for my loving cousin’s family. Michele Serbus passed away suddenly due to illness on July 12 at the age of 27. She will always be remembered with a willing heart and gracious smile.

“Then saith [Jesus] unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest,”

*Matthew 9:37-38*

We are all called to be laborers. Are we willing and joyful laborers? Are you ready for the harvest?

Summer time has blessed us with many visitors. Each is such a huge blessing in a small church.

We appreciated those who have labored in the Word this past month. Visiting ministers include Bro. Doug Brewer (Sis. Janelle, San Diego, CA), Bro. Kevin Wulf (Morris, MN), Bro. Eric Givens (Sis. Debbie, Princeville, IL), Bro. Arlen Leman (Sis. Denise, Forrest, IL), and Bro. Dennis Kauffman (Sis. Bonnie, Bloomington, IL).

“How sweet are thy words unto my taste! Yea, Sweeter than honey to my mouth!” *Psalm 119:103*

We were reminded of the grace our Lord Jesus Christ, that He was rich, and became poor for our sake. Have we traded our earthly poverty for eternal riches through Him? May God’s infallible Word prepare us with wise and discerning directions, as we navigate through this world.

On July 17 our church family was invited to Bro. Doug and Sis. Dawn Moser’s for a hamburger fry and singing at “The Barn”. It was a beautiful evening! We were grateful Bro. Arlen, Sis. Denise and their family could join us in fellowship and sing praises unto our Lord.

Our thoughts and prayers for Sis. Mabel Zeltwanger (Bro. John) as she is recovering from hip surgery. May God give her the strength she needs to carry on.

Our Harvest Supper date has been set for October 29, 2016. We invite anyone to join us for this event.

**Minnesota, Winthrop**

*Lindsay Schmidt, Becky Braulick*

“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.” *Psalm 119:105*
It was a blessing this past month to have had many visitors. We enjoyed having Elder Bro. Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan, Taylor, MO) and Bro. Neal Widmer (Sis. Kristine, West Lafayette, IN) here to share God’s Word. We want to thank them for their efforts and invite them to come back.

“Anywhere with Jesus I can safely go; Anywhere He leads me in this world below; Anywhere without Him dearest joys would fade; Anywhere with Jesus I am no afraid. Anywhere! Anywhere! Fear I can not know; Anywhere with Jesus I can safely go.” Hymns of Zion #179

We had a farewell singing for Sis. Victoria Stoll (Bro. Ed and Sis. Ginny). She is moving to St. Louis, MO. We will truly miss her, but pray that God will be with her and continue to bless her.

“The Lord will give strength unto his people; the Lord will bless his people with peace.” Psalm 29:11

We send our condolences to Sis. Bernadine Messner in the death of her brother-in-law Ivan Alsleben (her sister Dorothy’s husband).

Hospital patients this month were Bro. Ernie Dapper (Sis. Marcelle) and Rich Messner. We pray God’s continued healing upon them.

Missouri, Kansas City

Julie Webel

June 20-24 was our Vacation Bible School. The theme was “Running the Race”. We are so thankful to God that the children are eager to come and learn about the Bible with such enthusiasm. May we have the same zeal as we study the Word of God and apply it to our lives every day. We ended the week with a pizza supper and guest speaker, Bro. John Baumgartner (Sis. Lori, Bern, KS). We thank them for their support and labor of love.

We send special thanks to Elder Bro. Brad Strahm (Sis. Michelle, Bern, KS) who shared the Word of God with us on two occasions this past month. May God richly bless you for your efforts of love to our congregation.

Special prayers go out to Sis. Eileen Braker as she receives further and more intense treatment for plasma cell cancer. We ask God to give her strength and courage during this difficult time. Please keep her in your prayers.

We recently have had several from our Kansas City church who have accepted job transfers to new locations. Sis. Krystal Tyler will be leaving us and moving to upper New York. Bro. Nate and Sis. Ann Smith will be moving to Detroit, MI. We are sad to see them leave us, but pray for God’s richest blessings in this new chapter in their lives.

Missouri, Lamar

Venetta Banwart

As fathers were celebrated, we have much we can thank not only our earthly fathers, but also our heavenly Father also.

We have enjoyed a bountiful wheat harvest this summer. We thank the Lord for all blessings. It truly is a most wonderful land we live in, with rain and sunshine, seasons of growth and maturity.

We would like to thank all of our visiting ministers and their families and other visitors for making the effort to come and worship with us here in Lamar. It is a blessing to see each one and have that special bond of brotherhood and friendship. Our ministers were: Bro. Tom Schambach (Sis. Connie, Elgin, IL), Bro. Brian Huber (Sis. Jacki, Francesville, IN), Bro. Frank Sauder (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL), Bro. Bill Wettstein (Sis. Heidi, Eureka, IL), Bro. Mark Roth (Sis. Tammy, Congerville, IL). May God bless each one for feeding us from God’s Holy Word.

Our hospital patient this month was Sis. Linda Banwart (Bro. Gene). May God grant his healing hand and continue to strengthen her.

Missouri, St. Louis

Sarah Fehr

We are thankful for our visiting ministers this month: Bro. Kim Sutter (Sis. Vonette, Taylor, MO), Bro. Chris Wuehrlich (Sis. Carla, Chicago, IL) and Bro. Erik Givens (Sis. Debbie, Princeville, IL). Also we thank the visitors who have come through. We would appreciate it if you could notify us of your attendance so that we can plan for lunch numbers. Please call or e-mail Sis. Betsy Schrenk at 314-994-1944 or bschrenk@swbell.net.
We enjoyed a less-hectic Sunday on June 26, when Taylor brothers and sisters accompanied Bro. Kim and took care of serving lunch and Sunday school. We appreciate your service!

We were challenged recently to “turn a life upside-down” by sharing the truth of the Gospel. Sometimes this happens dramatically and obviously, and other times it is a longer process necessitating perseverance and consistency. May we each be willing to be used by God in our own corner of the world!

Missouri, Taylor

*Kathy Eberhardt*

Elder Bro. Kent Heimer presented a Bible Study on Gideon (Judges 6-7) on June 15 and continued on June 22, 2016. He encouraged us to fill the gap and do our part as God directs us.

The theme of the July topical Bible Study series is “Under Construction.” The first segment, New Construction, was presented by Bro. Jerry Wagenbach (Oakville-Mediapolis) on Wednesday evening, June 29. The second segment on preventive maintenance and upkeep was presented by Bro. Nathan Rassi (St. Louis) on July 6. The third segment on Additions was presented by Bro. Dan Pfister (Bluffton North) on July 13. Because of Vacation Bible School July 18-22, the fourth lesson on Restorations is scheduled for July 27.

New York, Croghan/Naumburg

*Hope Graves*

We appreciated having ministering Bro. Ron Palitto and Sis. Lynell with us from Akron, OH on June 26. That weekend we also had several other families join us from Ohio and CT. We were able to share a meal and singing together at Cape Vincent. We were thankful for the beautiful weekend of fellowship the Lord provided for us. July 10 we enjoyed having Elder Bro. Dave Graf and Sis. Barb, Akron, OH, share the Word with us. On Wednesday evening, July 13, we had ministering Bro. Curt Rassi and Sis. Kathy with us from Tremont, IL. The next Sunday, July 17, we enjoyed having Ordained Deacon, Bro. Leland Plattner and Sis. Mary here from Zapata, TX. We extend our thanks to these brothers for their labors sharing God’s Word.

We are thankful to have brethren from Rockville, CT that traveled here to serve us lunch on June 26. May the Lord bless them for their service and deeds of kindness to our congregation.

We pray for continued guidance to our graduates this year, Jonathon Hirschey, Meghan Panowicz and John Dawson VI.

Our prayers continue with Bro. Lowell Virkler, who is now recovering from his fourth surgery in the past three weeks, and Sis. Rachel Snyder who is again hospitalized.

Ohio, Columbus

*Nancy Banks*

Our church was blessed with many visiting ministers this month: Bro. Ryan Schock (Sis. Melanie, Bloomfield, IA), Bro. Wayne Hartzler (Sis. Camille, Rittman, OH), Bro. Tim Ramsier (Sis. Joni, Rittman, OH), Bro. Marvin Zollinger (Sis. Pam, Smithville, OH), Bro. Joel Troxel (Sis. Amy, LaCrosse, IN), and Bro. Dana Nieman (Sis. Lea, Remington, IN).

With gratefulness we share that Heidi Gal (Bro. George and Sis. Tina) has turned to the Lord in repentance.

We rejoice with Lindsay Gal (Bro. Roger and Sis. Judy) as she has been announced as having peace with God and is awaiting baptism.

David Laubli (Bro. Gaius and Sis. Ilona) and Mitzy Ayala (Mauricio and Leticia) were united in marriage on July 2.

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

Sympathy and prayers are extended to Sis. Veronica Craiu (Bro. Virgil) and Bro. Victor Botosan (Sis. Tammy) in the passing of their father, Milan Botosan.

Ohio, Akron

*Carla Miller*

We are thankful for the many visiting ministers this month: Bro. Ryan Schock (Sis. Melanie, Bloomfield, IA), Bro. Wayne Hartzler (Sis. Camille, Rittman, OH), Bro. Tim Ramsier (Sis. Joni, Rittman, OH), Bro. Marvin Zollinger (Sis. Pam, Smithville, OH), Bro. Joel Troxel (Sis. Amy, LaCrosse, IN), and Bro. Dana Nieman (Sis. Lea, Remington, IN).

With gratefulness we share that Heidi Gal (Bro. George and Sis. Tina) has turned to the Lord in repentance.

We rejoice with Lindsay Gal (Bro. Roger and Sis. Judy) as she has been announced as having peace with God and is awaiting baptism.

David Laubli (Bro. Gaius and Sis. Ilona) and Mitzy Ayala (Mauricio and Leticia) were united in marriage on July 2.

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

Sympathy and prayers are extended to Sis. Veronica Craiu (Bro. Virgil) and Bro. Victor Botosan (Sis. Tammy) in the passing of their father, Milan Botosan.
Bro. Scott Schambach (Sis. Hope, Elgin, IN) and Bro. Brian Huber (Sis. Sharon, Francesville, IN) have visited us this month. We thank God for each and every one. We also have a belated welcome to Logan Koch (Washington, IL) who is in Columbus for an internship this summer. We rejoice with Logan and trust God will be with him during his repentance.

Ohio, Junction
Elizabeth Manz

As the summer has turned hot and rain is precious, we are reminded of the parable about laboring through the heat of the day. We can take much courage that the reward is promised if we keep pressing on.

We also take courage when we see God leading souls to become one in Him. This month, Bro. Kent Schlatter (Elder Bro. Bill and Sis. Emily) of Toledo, OH was engaged to Sis. Alisia Kilgus (Elder Bro. Dan and Sis. Jenna, Remington, IN). The engagement of Bro. Richard Manz (Prescott, AZ) (son of Bro. Russell and Sis. Vera) and Sis. Audrey Lanz (Bro. Barry and Karen, Rockville, CT) was also made known. Both of these brothers grew up in our congregation and have since moved away. We wish each of them God’s nearness and blessing as they go forward together.

We are thankful to add another little baby girl to our congregation! Bro. Randy and Sis. Bonnie Manz were blessed with the safe arrival of Andrea Nicole. Andrea’s three older sisters are Megan, Leah and Kendra. Her grandparents are Bro. Russell and Sis. Vera Manz and Bro. Bruce and Sis. Bonita Frank (Cissna Park, IL).

Rob (Barb) Brink’s mother, Mary Lee Brink, passed away on June 21. We pray God’s nearness for them in this difficult time.

It is a joy to meet brethren from far and near as we can travel and also receive visitors at our home church. Bro. Dan Koch (Sis. Julie, Tremont, IL) was with us this month and served us in the Word. We are thankful for their visit and service.

Ohio, Latty
Carmen Stoller, Mindy Stoller

We were thankful for two special weekend events this month. Our annual Sunday School picnic was held at the Fellowship Hall, where students enjoyed games and activities with their classes. A potluck and singing for everyone followed. Thank you to each one for your efforts. It was a beautiful evening!

It was also a blessing to host the 44th Annual Youth Fellowship Day for 7th-12th graders. Held at a nearby camp, Sunday School, fellowship time, an afternoon church service, and a student program were highlights of the day. Our hearts go out to the family of Sis. Ede Stoller (Bro. Glen, dec.) who passed away July 18. Ede had a large, supportive family including two children in our area: Julie (Jerry) Rager and Dale (Jodi) Stoller. We lift them up in prayer as well as Shirley (Harlan) Metzger (Eureka, IL), Sis. Connie Bauman (Bro. Steve, Smithville, OH), and Bro. Dan Stoller (Sis. Deb, Remington, IN).

We continue to lift Bill and Marian Steffen up in prayer as he recovers from surgery. What a blessing to be able to go to the Creator of the universe and know He cares!

Note of Thanks:

I want to thank all of you who blessed me with cards and phone calls on my 90th birthday. The cards and notes were very uplifting and the love of the brethren was evident. The action and kind deed was not hidden from God.

May God bless,
Bro. Epraim Kipfer

Ohio, Mansfield
Elizabeth Walter

We were thankful for two special weekend events this month. Our annual Sunday School picnic was held at the Fellowship Hall, where students enjoyed games and activities with their classes. A potluck and singing for everyone followed. Thank you to each one for your efforts. It was a beautiful evening!

It was also a blessing to host the 44th Annual Youth Fellowship Day for 7th-12th graders. Held at a nearby camp, Sunday School, fellowship time, an afternoon church service, and a student program were highlights of the day. Our appreciation extends to all those who worked hard to make the day special, and also to those who provided the meals. We hope that our youth will carry
the message they heard, and the memories they made, with them for years to come.

Ohio, Rittman

Julie Steiner, Maria Beery

How long will this last? When we purchase a car, consider options on our computer, or weigh the options for an upcoming surgery, we all wonder how long will it last? And the time is short. For children, some new plaything might last a week. Then it gets thrown aside. Even our vehicles wear out. So many decisions resemble this in our daily life. But, there are other decisions that will last. Gifts of love, consideration for those in need, or other efforts done in God’s work. Can we see the difference, and can we put energy into things that will last?


Bro. Rick & Sis. Dawn Dotterer are thankful for the safe adoption of granddaughter Praiselynn Lexley Dotterer, born on May 24, and arriving on June 30. She joins the family of Mark & April Dotterer, Max, Morgan, and Tess. Also, Bro. Matt & Sis. Gail Steiner have been given a new grandson, Ethan Alvin Steiner. He was born July 7 into the young family of Ethan & Lisa Steiner, Bethany and Joshua.

How long does suffering last? For some it is brief, while some endure it for so many years. Romans reminds us that however long it is, our suffering is not bad enough to even compare with the glory awaiting. We extend prayers for God’s nearness to Sis. Rowene Howell, Sis. Mary Jane Winkler, Sis. Luzelda Stoller, Sis. Doris Gasser, and Bro. Elton (Jeff) Rufener who recently spent time in the hospital.

This life won’t last. We don’t know how long each will live, so let’s focus on the choices TODAY that will bring lasting peace. Our Sis. Brenda Sauer (Dan) passed from this life, following days of pain and suffering. She’ll be missed by her husband, Dan, and children: Craig (Teri), Douglas (Kristen), and Andrea (Mark). May her love continue to bring glory to God.

What does last? God reminds us that HIS WORD will endure forever. Special thanks to ministers willing to come and share the Word in Rittman, including Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzel (Sabetha, KS), Elder Bro. Vic Bauman (Smithville, OH), Bro. Brent Walder (Rockville, CT), Bro. Steve Fraughier (Bluffton North, IN), Bro. John Steiner (Oakville, IA), and Bro. Dana Indermuhle (Sardis, OH).

Eternally, our names are recorded in the Book of Life. This lasts if we remain faithful to God until the end, regardless of pain, change, or death. This past weekend, we witnessed four young brothers entering the waters of baptism: Bro. David Kipfer (Bro. John & Sis. Suzanne), Bro. Tyler Atanosov (Bro. Novko & Sis. Julie), Bro. Jeremy Schar (Bro. Nate & Sis. Linda), and Bro. Devan Lanz (Bro. Jeff & Sis. Darlene). May these young brothers live for God as they journey on this everlasting path of life.

Note of Thanks:

I would like to thank everyone who thought about me during my illness. Thank you for the prayers. Bro. Jim Laukhuf

Ohio, Sardis

Faith Beard, Joy Indermuhle

Our congregation was encouraged and uplifted as many joined us for our annual New Martinsville memorial services the last weekend in June. Many from the Single Group came for the weekend. Our hearts rejoiced as we could see their vigor to serve the Lord and remember their heritage with thankfulness. Here to serve us was Bro. Tyler (Sis. Tonya) Joos, Bradford, IL, Bro.
Jason (Sis. Lynn) Dotterer, Forrest, IL, and Bro. Dave (Sis. Beth) Hartter, Sabetha, KS. We thank them for bringing forth the truth of the Word and for helping us to remember the blessings of our family and spiritual heritage.

We were thankful that many were with us over the July 4th weekend as well. Serving us that weekend was Bro. Matthew (Sis. Bridget) Rassi, Chicago, IL. We thank him for doing so.

Our young people, grades 7-12, had the privilege and blessing of traveling to Rittman and Mansfield for the annual Ohio/Michigan Youth Day Fellowship weekend July 16/17. We trust friendships were renewed or established that will last a lifetime. We offer many thanks to the brothers and sisters who travel with and serve our young people on this weekend.

Ohio, Smithville

Kara Stoller, Millie Stoller

Congratulations to Bro. John and Sis. Janice Rufener on the birth of a granddaughter. Oaklyn Grace was born to Javan and Josie Stoller (Rittman, OH) and joins siblings, Adelynn, Weston and Taryn.

Very best wishes to newly-married Bro. Josh Fiechter (Bro. Brad and Sis. Lynn, Bluffton, IN) and Sis. Jackie Wilson (Jack and Carol). They exchanged wedding vows on July 3.

Several of our church family were recently in the hospital: Bro. Larry Rufener (Sis. Susan), Sis Lizzie Gasser (Bro. Todd), Dick Lanz (Amber) and Sis. Dorothy Ramsier (Bro. Jim). We are thankful that we can fully trust the God who made us and in whom we were made. We seek abundant grace for those in suffering.

We were blessed to have many visiting ministers. They include Bro. John Reinhard (Sis. Pam, Bluffton, IN), Bro. Jeff Leman (Sis. Val, Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Chad Gerber (Sis. Jamie, Bluffton, IN), Elder Bro. Lynn Fiechter (Sis. Ronda, Bluffton, IN), Bro. Lucas Frank (Sis. Crystal, Detroit, MI), and Elder Bro. John Laukhuf (Sis. Marcia, Latty, OH).

Note of Thanks:

I would like to thank everyone who thought about me during my illness. Thank you for the prayers. Bro. Jim Laukhuf

Ohio, Toledo

Deanna Manz, Whitney Masters

We are rejoicing with Bro. Kent Schlatter (Elder Bro. Bill & Sis. Emily, Junction, OH) and Sis. Alisia Kilgus (Elder Bro. Dan & Sis. Jenna, Remington, OH) on the announcement of their engagement. What an encouragement to see how God is working in the lives of our loved ones. May He continue to guide and bless them as they make plans for their future together.

The single group hosted an invite recently. It was a blessing to have our church full with visitors. Also joining us for the weekend was Bro. Chris Laukhuf (Sis. Rachel, Latty, OH). We thank him for willingly speaking to the single group Saturday evening and again preaching the Word on Sunday.

Bro. Mark Ramsier (Sis. Alice, Sardis, OH) also visited this month and ministered to us. We are grateful for their visit and his labors to preach the truth to us.

Ontario, Kitchener

Johanna Fortenbacher

Our whole church had a wonderful and blessed time being with the believers in Detroit one weekend for Holy Communion and the ordination of Bro. Lucas (Sis. Crystal Frank).

“For I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, even as thou walkest in the truth.” 1 John 1:3

We are constantly amazed and thankful for all the believers and ministers who came to our church this month: Elder Bro. Tom Schambach (Sis. Connie, Elgin, IL), Elder Bro. Tim Funk (Sis. Debra, Peoria), Kurt Walter (Sis. Elizabeth, Mansfield) and Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Sis. Leonda, Leo). God bless you all!

As Apostle Paul prayed for the Colossians in Colossians 1:3 so do we. Again, we are thankful for the ministers: Bro. Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha KS), Bro. Dan Goric (Sis. Mary-Lou, Rockville CT), Bro. Lucas Frank (Detroit MI) and Bro. Paul Zimmerman (Sis. Loretta, Forrest, IL).

We were very blessed with wonderful weather for our Sunday School Picnic.
Oregon, Portland
Louisa Gallup

Our hearts and prayers go out to Bro. Garth and Sis. Connie (Cooper) Steffen, whose youngest son, Nathan, passed away at age 49 on June 17. Nathan bravely battled cancer for almost two years and during that time underwent a spiritual renewal, professing to be at peace with God and man. His courage and positive attitude will surely be remembered. He is also survived by his wife, Kristine, and sons, John Paul and Jeffrey, as well as by his brothers: Dan, Joe and James (Debbie). Our prayers for the Lord’s comfort and strength are with them all as they adjust to life without their loved one.

Visiting ministers from Silverton, OR this past month were Bro. Chris Kuenzi (Sis. Mary), Bro. Don Sinn (Sis. Linda), Bro. Ron Jones (Sis. Liz) and Bro. Jim Zollinger (Sis. Tresa). As always, we truly appreciate the support of these brethren, as well as the song leader help from Silverton. May The Lord bless you all for your kindness.

Oregon, Silverton
Kelsey Walder, Ann Kuenzi

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Jon Zeller (Sis. Christine, Morton, IL), Bro. Merlin Meyer (Sis. Marilyn, Lester, IA), Bro. Paul Kilgus (Sis. Carmen, Fairbury, IL), and Bro. Kevin Fehr (Sis. Lonnie, West Bend, IA). We really appreciate these families coming and being willing to serve us.

We grieve with Violet Kuenzi (Bro. Clifford, dec.) on the loss of her son Ken. Our hope is that she will feel our love and prayers in her time of sorrow.

Ryan Bence (Bro. Sam and Sis. Lily) has spent a little more time in the hospital, due to his accident. We are thankful to see him back at church. Talyn Dettwyler (Bro. Travis and Sis. Tammy) is recovering from a head injury. We pray for both of their recoveries.

Erika Sinn (Bro. Dean and Sis. Heidi), Dakota Koenig, Annie Walter (Bro. Chad and Sis. Megan), and Violet Kuenzi (Bro. Cliff, dec.) have all expressed that they are at peace with God and desire to be a part of our fellowship. They all welcome encouragement and counsel as they grow in love and grace. We pray for both of their recoveries.

We were thankful to have Bro. Craig Stickling (Sis. Jacqueline, Peoria, IL) here for Bible Class Weekend. The teachers and the students enjoyed their time with him, and also to be together. We appreciated that he was able to minister to all of us on Sunday morning, as well.

Bro. Nick and Sis. Mary Kuenzi want to thank everyone for their prayers. Kendon’s valve repair surgery was successful and he is making steps toward recovery. Thanks for your continued prayers.

Pennsylvania, Philadelphia
Laura Isch

“Love, that ever shall continue
Step by step doth gently lead;
Love, that sayeth: “Peace be with you,”
And for me doth intercede;
Love, I give myself to Thee,
Thine to be eternally.”
Zion’s Harp #80

We are so thankful for the love of Christ that binds our church together. We pray that we can each give ourselves to the way of love more and more.

It is precious to witness the love that binds a new couple in marriage. June 24 was the wedding day of Hunter Metzger (Bro. Shawn and Sis. Sandy) and Brittany Ringler. We pray God’s blessings on the newly-married couple as they begin their lives together.

We are thankful for the love that binds us with brethren throughout the country. Philadelphia has enjoyed many visitors this summer! Among them were Elder Bro. John Wiegand (Sis. Jane, Silverton), Bro. Cory Metzger (Sis. Jodi, Wichita), and Bro. Brett Lanz (Sis. Renee, Rittman). We are thankful to these brothers for sharing the Word with us and to all who shared the blessing of fellowship with us this month!

Tennessee, Nashville
Cynde Stoller

We were blessed with the ministry of Bro. Byron and Sis. Carol Stoller (Gridley, IL), local
visitors, and the fellowship of brethren from Smithville, OH and Bluffton North, IN. We appreciate the ability to listen and be a part of the worship service of another congregation using AC Central. This service has been a blessing for us and provided an opportunity to listen to a bi-lingual sermon from Mexico for a local visitor.

If you are traveling to or through the Nashville area, please plan to worship with us. We also meet 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 cyndelynnstoller@gmail.com 615.375.1463; or Bro. Mike & Sis. Monica Fritz, 615.866.5543, frtizmb.family@gmail.com.

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

“What a day that will be when my Jesus I shall see, And I look upon His face, the One who saved my by His grace; When He takes me by the hand, and leads me through the Promised Land What a day, glorious day that will be.”

Our congregation has been blessed to have choir practice once a month on Wednesday evenings. It has been a special time to learn music principles and improve our singing/harmony. Last night we sang “What a Day That Will Be”. As we sang together, we felt the presence of the Lord and a yearning to not only walk together in this life, but also in Heaven.

We were blessed to have the following visiting ministers this past month: our Elder Bros. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) and Duane Rocke (Minneapolis, MN); our Deacon, Bro. Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata, TX); Bro. Frank Sauder (Roanoke, IL); Bro. Clark Stoller (Sis. Cindy, Gridley, IL); Bro. Jeff Leman (Sis. Val, Bluffton North, IN); Bro. Ken Wuethrich (Sis. Lyn, Indianapolis, IN) and Bro. Justin Koch (Washington, IL).

Our church is thrilled to hear the announcement of a new convert, Santos Lopez. We rejoice to see his desire to grow in his walk with Christ. He has been a blessing to our fellowship and we look forward to welcoming him fully into the fold.

It is a joy to welcome Bro. Mark and Sis. Tania Bazzell and their 7 children (Dakota, Justus, Cheyanne, Summer, Haley, Javin, and Cole), as they have answered the call to serve our God in Austin, along with Bro. Jordan and Sis. Leahlee Rokey (daughter Ava) and Kyla Kupferschmidt. We look forward to hosting a welcome dinner and singing this Sunday and will continue to pray for them and others that are considering a move to Austin.

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 children who worship with us each Sunday. They are precious in His sight and we have such a love for each of them.

“There is coming a day when no heartaches shall come, no more clouds in the sky, no more tears to dim the eye; All is peace forevermore on that happy golden shore, What a Day, glorious day that will be.”

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

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
We have been encouraged and blessed by Bro. Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata, TX) and his willingness to minister God’s Word to us.

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 1½ blocks south. Please see the ministers’ directory for local contact information.

Vermont, Clarendon
Nathan Reutter

In a recent Vacation Bible School lesson, the creation of the animals was discussed. In it we were taught that God made the animals. The verses referenced were Genesis 1: 24-25. They read, “And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creatures after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so. And God made the beast of the earth after his kind and cattle after their kind, and everything that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that it was good.”

Taken alone, these verses have been interpreted by some, but not in this instance, to mean the idea that animals have sprung up out of the earth without the intervention of God is supported in God’s Word. Does the Bible in other places support such an idea? A close read in the next chapter suggests otherwise.

Genesis 2: 19 reads thus, “And out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof.”

This second verse from Genesis gives the idea that God took earth from the ground and molded it in his hands to produce an animal and then brought it specifically to Adam to see what he would name it. With both of these verses taken together, we can see that the constituents of earth had the components to support life, but it took the hand of God to form and shape the animal properly and the breath of God to give it life; so much for the physical life.

On the spiritual side, life was preached to us plentifully this month with numerous visiting ministers. Starting on Wednesday, June 15 we were privileged to hold a rare evening service with Bro. Joe Klotzle (Sis. Sue, Altadena, CA), and retired Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton, IL). The following Sunday, Bro. Dan Goric (Sis. MaryLou, Rockville, CT) blessed our church. On June 26, Bro. Fred Domka (Sis. Connie, Mansfield, OH) came to support our Bro. Mark in the ministry. And on July 10, Bro. Jeff Gerber (Sis. Carole, Rockville, CT) came to be with us and share the Gospel message. We literally had the true message spoken from ministers from coast to coast, generally from west to east as the month transpired.

Part of any sound biblical message is the reminder that we are mortal and need to prepare for eternity. Two of us were reminded within our families of the reality of death and the need for preparation. Sis. Sarah Wagenbach (Bro. Phil) lost her grandmother Sis. Aline Ballasy (Rockville, CT). Although Sis. Aline had been declining for some time, her loss is still keenly felt. Also, Bro. Nathan Reutter’s cousin lost her child to an extremely aggressive form of cancer called neuroblastoma. We rejoice in the fact that Noah Baker now can enjoy a time of rest from his earth extremities, but we are deeply sad for those of his family left behind (Matt, Maureen, Avery, and Landon Baker) to pick up the pieces. We weep with them in their loss, and pray for them to find comfort in the arms of Jesus. Let’s all prepare to meet our loved ones who have entered eternity ahead of us.

By God’s grace, may we be able to say this at the end of our life...

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 2 Timothy 4:7
A visitor from the community at our Apostolic Christian Church once said to my husband ‘church is part of my life, but church IS your life’. We both are so very thankful to have had fathers that led their families to live that way. Sunday was for church and the Lord.

Our parents also taught us the blessing of being hospitable. Having your house reasonably clean for Sunday gave opportunity to invite someone over should there be visitors in church with no other plans. When each of our families vacationed it was planned that we could always be at an Apostolic Christian Church on Sunday.

As we age, we appreciate more and more how fortunate we were to have had godly fathers who passed this beloved heritage on to us.

Anonymous

My father demonstrated spiritual leadership in a quiet way, much like I’m pretty sure my grandfather would have. Though I don’t remember a lot of words being spoken, it was always clear what was expected of us kids. Church attendance and good behavior were unwritten rules. There were no options regarding our salvation but through the cleansing of Christ’s shed blood and a humble repentance. This wasn’t “harped on” but we knew what we had to do. Our church was highly revered and the “keeping of the Sabbath day” commandment was rigorously practiced.

Family vacations were always taken that further emphasized the importance of family-time. The spoken prayers before every meal taught us the importance of prayer and being thankful. I’ll never forget as well hearing mom & dad reading the Bible and praying each night. Even today, many years later, I can still see the faith, trust and dependence that is placed in our Saviour as time and events unfold in his life. I’m thankful for the wonderful, steadfast example. Many lead with words….I’m thankful for a father who led by example.

Al Schambach, Remington, IN

My Dad read the Bible at meal times. He always made it a priority to go to church and attend other church functions when possible. He taught me the love of hymns and always enjoyed listening to music. Even though my dad was not in the single group, he taught us an appreciation for it and wanted us to be a part of it. Most of all he taught me how much he needed Jesus and that I did too!

Anonymous
Spiritual Leadership — leading someone down the path of spiritual life (eternal life) and helping them grow along the way. My dad shaped our family’s journey by demonstrating and sharing the love of our Heavenly Father with us. We are grateful to be his children. Here is why:

**As A Father...**

As my father you taught me from when I was small
That God was my Father and Lord over all
You told me of Heaven my true home above
And more than just taught me, you showed me His love
When my road was too steep, you held my hand
You taught me to keep my eyes fixed on God’s plan
You reminded me God has a will and a way
And that blessings are found when we choose to obey
I made some mistakes as I stretched and I grew
But rather than simply tell me, “I told you”
You loved me and helped me however you could
You helped me to see, that God’s love is good
You showed me what patience and kindness could do
When my soul was discouraged and my heart broke in two
With you there was never an end of a rope
But always the promise of unending hope
I had a wonderful dad that loved us. Dad wanted us all to eat breakfast together every morning. I didn’t always appreciate that, because I would have rather slept in. Then he would read the Bible or a Bible story to us after breakfast. It instilled in me the importance of starting my day off with God.

I also have a picture in my mind of Mom and Dad kneeling beside their bed at night praying. That instilled in me the importance of ending my day in prayer.

*Anonymous*

I thank you for loving with deep father love
It has helped shaped my fellowship with my Father above
Life can be hard, but in all that I face
I rest in the hope of God’s goodness and grace
I sense God’s delight, when pleasant my ways
Whatever my lot, you taught me to praise
I thank you for helping the ways I see
How much my Heavenly Father loves me
“For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.”
Romans 8:15-16
Krista Stoller, Dallas, TX
My father turned 88 this spring, March 12. It was an unlikely event, his birthday, as he nearly died from a farm accident some 25 years ago. He was severely injured in nearly every part of his body, but the most visible lasting “scar” is his paralysis from mid chest down.

When the accident happened many things changed — most specifically instead of him being the first one to jump into any job that needed doing, he now had to sit and watch from his wheelchair. So, what does this story have to do with spiritual leadership?

His example of how to deal with adversity (which of course we all have) has been demonstrative of a Christ-centered life like none I’ve witnessed on this Earth.

In the hospital (where he endured over four months of intensive care) he taught me many lessons. Just one: “Dean, if you want the nurses to treat you well, you need to be nice to them!” And he practiced this, his nurses loved him - and I think, were a big part of why he survived. I think that was my dad’s version of the Golden Rule. (Mark 12:31)

When he got home he decided he would walk again (actually, he determined this while laying in a striker bed in the hospital). No doctor gave him a chance. Through incredible diligence to do hard work, determination, and God blessing his personal effort — he was able to walk (with the aid of “walking stick canes”). This rehab took several years.

The spiritual lesson in this? Obstacles come — period. Keep a good Attitude. Work hard. Use the tools God gives you to work with. Be thankful for what you have. Don’t wish for what you don’t have. Take one day at a time — dad has probably told me this several thousand times: “Dean, you can’t live in the past, you shouldn’t worry about the future, you have to live today — and a good attitude is everything!!”

I think that statement exemplifies Christ’s walk — He did what He could and was satisfied with that. He didn’t get discouraged, He worked hard at His mission every day, but He didn’t convert everyone, but He gave it His all. Dad wanted to heal completely, but it just wasn’t to be — and he was ok with that. His lack of making a complete recovery wasn’t the issue. His mission was to be a faithful servant in whatever capacity he could.

Final thought about dad: About a month ago, my dad was talking to me and told me, “It’s time for me to move, your mother can’t take care of me any longer. I’m making a decision to move to Restmor, and I’m going to like it”!

Consistent with his example over the last 25 years, dad, has one more time, made a decision based on the needs of those around him, particularly my mother.

He would love to stay at home, and die there. Many times he’s told me, “I don’t want your mother to live forever, just one day longer than me.” But he has always made practical decisions based on the spiritual and physical needs of his family and those in his social circle (his church friends, his students when he was a teacher, or his co-workers). I think this is living the second great commandment of loving our neighbors as yourself. (Matt. 22:39)

Last comment: This all matters. Since my dad’s accident I have endured a stroke and cancer, and made tough recoveries from both. Literally, hundreds of times as I’ve been on the track running, or been on the mat working on rebuilding my core strength I’ve thought about my dad’s example. Yes, all you fathers out there, your life matters.

Dean Beutel, Tremont, IL
He worked hard with many long hours, but always took time for family. We had lots of special suppertime meals sharing together (with lots of laughter).

Dad had a great sense of humor, but was very stern when “the boys” got out of line. We always knew where he stood. I learned more by watching him than from his words.

A vivid memory of Dad was when we were Christmas shopping in downtown Bloomington. A homeless man approached us asking for money. Dad told us boys to stay outside the café while he took the man inside and bought him a meal. I don’t remember how long we waited, but we didn’t complain! I wish I could have heard their conversation. He stayed inside with the man until he had eaten. Then he came out and we went on our way. That was probably 60 years ago, but I remember it as if it was yesterday!

He lived with lots of disappointments with us boys in our growing up years. I didn’t realize how many disappointments until I was converted.

Dad was always filled with words of encouragement, especially when I was in dark times in my life. He was always there with a listening ear.

He treated Mom like a bride from day one and never stopped in their 46 years of marriage. I never heard Mom and Dad ever have a disagreement among the two of them.

His favorite book of the Bible was Ecclesiastes. It seemed like he preached a lot on Eccl. 12:13 & 14. Maybe that’s because it was very convicting to me. During nights when he couldn’t sleep I saw him sitting in the living room reading the Bible. Dad was a man of few words, but they always had deep meaning.

Favorite “one liners” from my Dad:

“By the yard, it’s hard. By the inch, it’s a cinch.”

“No one is a complete failure. He can always be used as a bad example.”

Prayer quote: “So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.” Ps. 90:12

Saddest quote: “No one ever asks the spouse (of the one who is suffering) how he/she is doing.”

His motto for himself in his pulpit ministry: “Stand up, speak up and shut up.”

Quote that he passed on from his Dad: “You tell me who your friends are, and I’ll tell you who you are.”

In my mind, the trait that stood out the most from Dad was integrity. Stand up for what is right, no matter what the consequences.

Barry Kloter, Goodfield, IL

Every Sunday morning, my dad would get up early enough to cook everyone a tasty breakfast and make sure that we were all at the table by 9:00 a.m. This would give us some quality time to spend together as a family and to hear him read us a Bible story before we went to church. Although we didn’t thank him much at the time, looking back I can see that this was an important and special time for our family. He would also pray out loud, with my mom, kneeling at their bedside every morning and every night. Even though they weren’t advertising this to us kids, we still noticed, and it meant a lot to know that prayer was a priority in our house. Thanks, Dad!

Danny Bertsch, Bluffton, IN
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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
Phone: 309-965-2141 Email: bibledistribution@acpublications.org
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
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 center image)

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 Gateway Woods? 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.

Matthew 7:12

Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.
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.

World War II Veterans’ Testimonies from 1999 Latty Reunion Now Available on CD and On-line

In 1999, a cassette was made at a reunion of WWII Apostolic Christian veterans at Latty, OH. It told of their experiences while serving in the war. Most of those veterans have now gone to their reward.

This cassette has been converted into two CD’s. They are available by mailing a check for $3.50 (this covers postage) to: Ephraim Kipfer
713 E. Perry St.
Paulding, OH 45879

These testimonies are also available on-line at http://accentral.apostolicchristian.org/. The title of the recording is “June 5, 1999 – 55th Anniversary, The Invasion of Europe”. It is dated 2016-06-28. You can find it very quickly by inserting the keyword “invasion” in the search box at the top of the screen.

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).
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.

Mexico Work Teams

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<td>Cheryl Herrman</td>
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Scheduling Questions? Contact Mike Fiechter
mfiechter@onlyinternet.net
260-597-7330

Mexico Medical / Dental Work Teams

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HarvestCall Work Team INFORMATION

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mfiechter@onlyinternet.net
260-597-7330

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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

Haiti, Les Cayes Work Teams

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| Haiti, Les Cayes Work Teams

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SPONSORSHIP: Giving Children Hope for the Future

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
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Medical Department Intern

at Hospital Lumiere, Haiti

Seeking an energetic, self-motivated, responsible Believer to fill the position of Medical Department Intern at Hospital Lumiere in Haiti for a term of 6 months. Responsibilities include helping the Medical Director with staff scheduling, communications between departments (Nursing, Pharmacy, Radiology, Lab), monitoring inventories and medical supplies and various other responsibilities. Lodging, food and living expenses are provided. A medical background is not required, but is helpful.

If you are seeking an exciting opportunity to serve God and others, have a servant’s heart, appreciate new horizons and challenges and have six months to devote to furthering the Lord's work in Haiti, please contact Bro. Robert Beebe, Executive Director, Hospital Lumiere for a complete job description and details of the internship.

For more information on Hospital Lumiere positions, contact:
Robert Beebe. Email: robert.beebe1@gmail.com, or Phone: 574-276-6748

Items Needed for Hospital Lumiere Benefit Auction

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

The auction is November 11, but we are collecting items now. Please consider donating one of the following:

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Rich Bertschi
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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. This is a full time missionary position with a service term of 6 months, with the 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 is preferred, especially in the field of Education or Child Development. Applicants should possess the ability to communicate effectively with students, parents and visitors to the school, and have 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

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 and training employees and coordinating and 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 3 to 5 years.

For more information on Hospital Lumiere positions, contact: Robert Beebe. Email: robert.beebe1@gmail.com, or Phone: 574-276-6748
Seeking a licensed physician to fill this full-time position at Hospital Lumiere in Haiti. Qualifications include a U.S. medical license, Board-Certification 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 three 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.

Terms of Service
- Full time residing in Haiti
- Housing provided adjacent to other brethren and missionaries
- Initial year of service requires a significant period of time studying Haitian Creole and assimilating into the Haitian culture.
- Training will be provided prior to placement in the field.

Candidate selection, preparation, training, sending and supporting will be conducted using HarvestCall’s established Outreach Policies and Procedures.

For more information on Hospital Lumiere positions, contact:
Robert Beebe. Email: robert.beebe1@gmail.com, or Phone: 574-276-6748

Any board-certified physician, surgeon or specialist who has a desire to serve at Hospital Lumiere in Haiti is encouraged to contact us. Terms of service are very flexible, ranging from 1-2 weeks to several months. The mission at Hospital Lumiere has many opportunities to serve on both a short and long term basis. If you are led to the mission field but your skill set and qualifications are not a good match for any of the listed positions, please contact us. While the above positions are needed, there is flexibility on requirements listed as well as job description(s). Many times, the role that is filled can be developed to fit the gifts of the applicant.

For more information on Hospital Lumiere positions, contact:
Robert Beebe. Email: robert.beebe1@gmail.com, or Phone: 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

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:
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Wonderful Prayer

Shew me thy ways, O LORD; teach me thy paths. Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day. Remember, O LORD, thy tender mercies and thy lovingkindnesses; for they have been ever of old. Remember not the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions: according to thy mercy remember thou me for thy goodness’ sake, O LORD. Good and upright is the LORD: therefore will he teach sinners in the way. The meek will he guide in judgment: and the meek will he teach his way. All the paths of the LORD are mercy and truth unto such as keep his covenant and his testimonies. For thy name’s sake, O LORD, pardon mine iniquity; for it is great. What man is he that feareth the LORD? him shall he teach in the way that he shall choose. His soul shall dwell at ease; and his seed shall inherit the earth. The secret of the LORD is with them that fear him; and he will shew them his covenant. Mine eyes are ever toward the LORD; for he shall pluck my feet out of the net.

Psalm 25:4-15
Walking in Humility Part 2

— Continued from pg. 3

Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.” Peter’s faith did not fail—undergirded by the prayers of the Lord Himself!—and he was of great use in God’s kingdom. But only after being broken.

Humility and meekness of heart is of benefit as we interact in this world as well. Pride is off-putting and repulsive—it can create resistance in others against the very things we are trying to accomplish. And as with God, men tend to be gracious to those whose hearts are soft and humble. Sadly, when we are lifted up in pride we are quite unable to approach either God or men for help.

A heart of humility towards others is also rooted in the ongoing recognition of the sinful state out of which we were called to His marvelous light. In light of how much we have been forgiven, we remember the extent to which we are called to forgive. In the depths of the mercy which we have received, we discern the limitless mercy we are called to extend. In the shadow of the Cross we behold the love of the One who calls us to love as we are loved. Indeed, when Jesus taught His disciples (and us) to pray, He included these words, “And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us.”

Evidence of our broken-heartedness will include our esteem one for the other, “Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.” Humility will cause us to “condescend to men of low estate,” readily associating with anyone regardless of their wealth or social standing. We will never be “puffed up” or “think of (ourselves) more highly than (we) ought to think.”

Rather, the humble man or woman will rejoice to follow the words of Paul to be, “kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.”

(Footnotes)

1 Isaiah 66:1-2
2 1 Peter 5:5, James 4:6
3 Acts 5:38-39
4 Psalm 51:16-17
5 Psalm 34:18
6 Rom. 6:23
7 2 Cor. 5:21, 1 John 1:7
8 Rom. 7:18
9 1 Cor. 6:20
10 Acts 13:22
11 Psalm 51:10
12 Isaiah 6:5
13 Isaiah 6:8
14 Matt. 26:75
16 Eph. 5:8
17 Matt. 18:23-35
18 Luke 10:30-37
19 John 13:34
20 Luke 11:4
21 Phil. 2:3
22 Rom. 12:16
23 1 Cor. 13:4
24 Rom. 12:3
25 Eph. 4:32

Meekness is the noblest virtue.
— Continued from pg. 5

back into my mother’s womb? The Lord says these things that I speak unto you are of the Spirit. They’re of the Holy Spirit. He likened it to the wind. He said you see the wind moving and you don’t see the wind, you see the effects of the wind. So is the working of the Spirit (St. John 3:1-8). So how is it that we know when the Spirit’s working in our life? We see the evidence of it. We see a humility. We see a cleansing. We see a turning away from those things.

The Lord and Master went on there to Nicodemus and explained to them the condemnation. What was it? He said God sent His Son into the world because He loved the world that whoever would believe upon Him would not perish (St. John 3:16). He loves you, and He loves me. He doesn’t want us to have to perish, but He goes on and says that this is the condemnation — men love darkness rather that light (St. John 3:19). Do we love darkness rather than light? If we think about that in a deep spiritual sense of our hearts, are we willing to allow the righteousness of Jesus Christ to shine into our hearts to reveal the sin we have of our self and then humble our self?

He goes on and says he that believeth on Me is not condemned already (St. John 3:18). For myself, that’s the very scripture that spoke to me, the condemnation. We can think we’re doing things right. We can think we’re pretty good in a lot of ways, but if we have not yet believed upon Jesus Christ we are condemned. If we are condemned, we are worthy of what? Destruction!

So we might be trying to live a good life, but if we’re not clothed in the righteousness of Jesus Christ, if He’s not our righteousness, Loved Ones, we’re yet condemned because we have not believed on the only begotten Son of God. Yet that’s not His desire; He wants all of us to surrender. That’s why He sent His Son. That’s why Jesus Christ was willing to suffer, to die that terrible death, to be tormented there, to become sin for us, to bear that punishment, that condemnation. He bore it for you and me so we could go free.

So let’s have that context then as we turn to the New Testament Scripture. Once we have been to that place of transformation and rebirth, that’s really when these verses start to apply to us. Certainly they hold timeless truths that can help any of us live more effectively, but first things must come first. As we then find our self looking for our Savior which is the Lord Jesus Christ, He then gives us instruction. “Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, my dearly beloved.” (v.1) He expresses his heart here.

Sometimes it’s hard for us to fully comprehend the love that a shepherd has unto their flock, but rest assured, the shepherds are given a charge. They give their life in service unto the Lord. They do it willingly. They don’t look for accolades. They don’t look for a lifting up from us. So let’s be thankful for a moment, as the example of Paul is here, there’s a love — dearly beloved, he says. He loved these people; he longed for them.

We can think about that. First, Jesus Christ loves us and longs for us. He entreats us to come. We have shepherds, and certainly you can sense this in your own hearts. You have a love one for another, don’t we? We desire every soul to be faithful and to stand fast in the Lord. So let’s ask our self — do we have that shepherd’s heart, every one of us? God desires all of us to have that shepherd’s heart and to love and desire that every soul would be His. Stop and think about everybody who is in this room today. Do you have a desire that every soul would be Jesus Christ’s? What a wonderful thing that would be! We can just imagine it. Imagine we’re in heaven and every
one of us is there. Do we have that desire, Loved Ones, to see every soul when we get to heaven? That’s our desire! That’s our love!

Even as he goes on later, whatsoever things are good, think on these things (v.8). It’s good for us to think on those things. It causes that love to well up in us even more, even as we do that right now. He says, “my joy and my crown” (v.1). He took satisfaction and he got joy from the brotherhood, from seeing souls surrender. It wasn’t because Paul wanted anything for himself. If you think about other Scriptures he wrote where the people lifted him up too much and some said I’m of Paul and others said I’m of Apollos and others said I’m of Cephas (1 Corinthians 1:12), he said that’s not the point; you have it confused. We are all of Jesus Christ. So we don’t lift up our shepherds; we support our shepherds, and we lift up Jesus Christ.

We can be thankful for the love that we have among us. It certainly makes a shepherd’s job easier when there’s love amongst the brethren one to another, when there’s a common care among the sheep. I don’t know a lot about shepherding and sheep, but if there’s a shepherd and sheep never try to help care for each other, it would make that shepherd’s job a lot harder, wouldn’t it? But there’s probably a natural instinct in sheep to band together and take care of themselves. Probably some that have some experience, some wisdom to know where the dangers are probably help some of the others along the way. So there’s work for us to do, Loved Ones.

It starts, as we see in the next verse, “I beseech”. He has two particular people. I don’t really have any idea whether they were two ministers of the gospel, whether they were maybe a husband and a wife, whether they were two people who were serving together. Maybe they were already getting along just fine, and he wanted to reinforce that or maybe there was a struggle and they didn’t have the same mind about whatever issue they were dealing with. Certainly we take this to heart, those of us in the ministry. We work hard to be of one mind and one Spirit and to be of one judgment. Do we work that hard amongst our self?

We’re instructed here, if there’s a certain person we’re struggling with that we need to have a better oneness with, he’s asking us to step back and to reflect and think about that. If we’re in a place where we have that oneness of mind, he desires us to not take it for granted. When we walk in peace together, we walk and feel that unity, we feel that love. It’s an encouragement to maintain and to do the things that will help keep that among us, to not become a little bit lax or take it for granted or to just assume that love is naturally there. It comes through a nurturing; it comes from those who’ve gone on before us who’ve have sown those seeds who are welling up in our hearts. Then it’s our job to sow the seeds that well up in other’s hearts. He instructs this to many people.

He goes on in the next verse “intreat thee also, true yokefellow, help those women which laboured with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and with other my fellowlabourers, whose names are in the book of life” (v.3). So there’s an instruction here, and it’s to all of us, isn’t it? It’s to brothers; it’s to sisters. He speaks here to the women which labored in the gospel. We think about our sisters. Do you think of yourself as a woman who labors in the gospel? What a wonderful opportunity! For us as brothers, it’s the same thing. As a true yokefellow, fellow laborers in the gospel, there’s opportunity for all of us, isn’t there, to be shepherds one to another and to labor in the gospel.

What is the gospel? It’s what we’ve been talking about. It’s the way of salvation through Jesus Christ. It’s the encouraging one of...
— Continued from pg. 69

another to stand fast. It’s to have that heart of dearly loving one another, and then it’s to help one another do the rest of the things we read in this scripture.

He goes on “Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.” (v.4) I’m not sure, never really thought of it, relating back to the verses before this, but if we think about being likeminded in the Lord Jesus Christ, where does it start? It starts with rejoicing in the Lord Jesus Christ, with having a common bond of love that comes from love that He has for us. Surely in the midst of all of life’s struggles, wherever we find our self, how is it that we rejoice? It’s rejoicing in what the Lord has done for us and then also stopping to comprehend that the Lord has done that exact same thing for that other brother or that friend of the truth. The Lord didn’t die anymore fervently for one than for another, did He? He died for us all! He bore this pain of sin the same for all of us. His entreaty of love to come and be drawn closer to the Spirit is the same to every one of us. That’s the start of our likemindedness.

Yet we know too that likemindedness comes in a common way of living, doesn’t it? I’ve often thought about it. I enjoy music and we think about songs. The song we just sang it sounded beautiful the way we sang it. We could have sung it in a different key. If we all switched keys and sang it in that key it would have sounded just as nice, and we wouldn’t really know the difference. But, if some of us decided to sing one key and some of us decided to sing the other key, we have a big mess, even though both might be right. So there has to be a likemindedness, Loved Ones, an alignment, first around the principles of the Word, but then a commonness. So might we do our part to submit to those things that bring a blessing and a unity and allow them to increase the love that we have among us.

He goes on and says, “Let your moderation be known unto all men.” (v.5) What’s moderation? I don’t know the exact definition, but I think of it as it may be related to temperance. We think about anything that’s moderate is not too far that way, not too far this way. It’s moderate. He wants us to let our moderation be known. We could think of this as not allowing ourselves to be carried away too far one way or another to get over focused. We could also think about our pursuits of life. Just how ambitious are we? I speak this to myself first. Do we moderate the desire for success, the desire to achieve? Some of those things we sing about in different hymns — how Jesus Christ did not have ambitions on the earth. He was all about being a servant of the Lord, of God. We think about Paul - he was entreating us to be laborers in the gospel. If we want to truly be laborers in the gospel we have to temper our self from some of the other things in our life. It’s not always easy to do, is it? But I think it’s part of the moderation that he speaks of.

He goes on and he says, “The Lord is at hand” (v.5). We could relate that to moderation. It’s a context that says the Lord is here. Let’s think about that in our life. Wherever we are, the Lord is there. That could be a moderating factor in our behaviors, of how we respond in the difficulties of life. It could be a moderating factor of how we respond in the joys of life, not to overdo that either. Yet it is His desire to have true joy, true love, and to allow our self to feel those things.

We could think of this as the Lord is coming. His coming is at hand. In the chapter before this he talked about how we look to Jesus Christ who shall come and change our vial body into a glorious body (Philippians 3:21). He was looking. He had that context. He was thinking about someday I’m going to be in heaven
as a transformed creature there. It helped him when the earthly trials came to moderate, to just rest, and be grounded in Jesus Christ and not allow the struggles around him to move him off of that foundation in Jesus Christ.

He goes on here and he says a beautiful set of verses. He starts out here “Be careful for nothing” (v.6). What does he really mean there? I believe it means don’t be full of care. Don’t be over anxious about the things of the earth. It goes right into the rest of the verse. He doesn’t just say don’t be anxious and expects us to be able to not be anxious, right? That’s not how it works for some of us, is it? He says here’s how to work through that. Here’s one of the steps you can do. He says, “in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.” (v.6) What a beautiful thing! We think about how we started here, and we spoke of the Spirit entreat ing us to draw us closer. When we’re filled with anxiety, it’s hard, isn’t it, to draw closer to the Lord? It’s a struggle! He desires us, even in just small little ways, to allow ourselves, by prayer, by supplication, to bring those things to God. He desires us in our prayers to bring our supplications.

The Apostle Paul knew what he was talking about here, didn’t he? We can read in a different place where he had a thorn in the flesh (2 Corinthians 12:7). We don’t know what it is. We can be kind of thankful we don’t know what it is because we can think about whatever ours is. Maybe his was related to that. He had a thorn in the flesh, and he made fervent supplication. Think about supplication. It has a connotation of something that’s very fervent. We’re really in need when we bring our supplications to the Lord. We’re in need of Him coming and nurturing us. We’re feeling in a place of real struggle. We’re almost desiring the milk of the Word to just help us through. That’s what He desires us to do. Then we can take courage, Loved Ones, to know that He understands those things. It doesn’t mean our anxiety is just going to go away in a heartbeat, does it? But it does mean His grace will be there. It means His favor. We can trust in that. It will overshadow us. By that help we can help one another. We can be helped our self.

He also says here “in everything” (v.6). So if you think about everything that would encompass what each one of us are dealing with right now, whatever struggle we’ve had in the past week, whatever thing is coming in the week ahead, he says bring that by prayer to the Lord. He says bring that with thanksgiving and make your requests known. Make your requests known. It’s interesting how the next verse doesn’t say He will answer your prayer exactly how you want and He will take care of your troubles and whatever is bothering you will be gone and suddenly everything will be good. It’s not how He answers our prayers, is it? But He says here’s what I can do for you. Here’s what He can do for me. Here’s what the presence of His Holy Spirit, the knowledge of His truths and His love, here’s what He will do if we bring those things to Him in prayer.

He says “the peace of God, which passeth all understanding” (v.7). So it’s a peace that passes our understanding that will keep our hearts and our minds through Christ Jesus. Let’s just consider this again: the peace of God. That’s the peace that comes only from God and in Jesus Christ. It’s going to keep our hearts and our minds. How is that going to happen? It’s through Christ Jesus. So it takes us back to having our sufficiency. Paul would write that in another place: our sufficiency is of God and of Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 3:5).

Our faith is grounded in the knowledge of His love. In the knowledge that no matter what happens on this earth, no matter what struggle we bear in this life,

——— Please turn to pg. 72
no matter what burden and what cross we might feel we are carrying, we can be grounded in the love of God. No matter what we might experience in relationships, if others might forsake us or turn away or disappoint us, he says the peace of God that passes understanding can keep your heart and your mind and keep my heart and my mind in Christ Jesus. Depending on our nature, some of this comes easy and some of this comes hard. Sometimes our minds work against us instead of for us, don’t they? But he says the peace of God.

If we think about how he says the peace can keep our hearts and our minds, he says if you’re somebody who struggles with the thoughts that you have, he says think on these things. He gives us a beautiful set of elements to think upon. He says “whatsoever things are true” (v.8). We read about the accuser of the believer (Revelation 12:10), the devil himself, he desires to tell us lies, doesn’t he? He desires to discourage us. He wants us to think that we’re not good enough. He wants us to think we need to establish our own righteousness, and we haven’t done enough of that. He accuses us. We need to go back. Sometimes he wants us to think that even humbling our self is not going to resolve in a forgiveness that comes from God. Loved Ones, let us never let the devil tell us that.

That which is true. What is truth? It says if we humble our self and turn from the wickedness there is forgiveness. Whether we are a friend of the truth or whether we are a believer who is struggling, the truth is that, if we humble our self, we open our heart up to God, He will give us these things. He will give us mercy. He will give us forgiveness. He will cleanse us. He will give us that renewal of His Holy Spirit. He will create a new heart, an upright heart within us.

So he says, “think upon these things” (v.8). Think upon that which is true. Think upon that we are God’s creation. Think about the love that He must have for us as His creation, Loved Ones. He loves us! We might not feel that love very well sometimes if our hearts are broken or things have gone wrong in our life or if we have discouragements or disappointments, but He knows us. Knows how He formed us, He knows the emotions He made us with. It says think on the things that are true.

He says think on the things that are honest (v.8). How does that apply? Perhaps a few different ways. Sometimes we hear something. We don’t know if it’s true. Maybe we’re getting it third-hand. Does He want us dwelling on that, thinking on that, ruminating on that, and passing it on to somebody else? He says think on things that are honest. Think on the things that are just. Think on the things that are pure. Think on the things that are lovely (v.8). We can reflect. Think about it! In each of our lives, what is pure? What is lovely? What is of a good report? What has virtue? Praise? There are many things for us to think upon. We could give a big list today, but you can come up with that in your own minds.

In our prayers, let’s stop, let’s ask God, let’s meditate, and desire Him to reveal us His goodness in our life and help us just think about these things.

He goes on and says these things which ye have heard, learned, received, and seen in me, do them. If we do these things, Loved Ones, the God of peace will be with us (v.9). Paul then speaks again, and I don’t know if I could speak it as emphatically as what Paul experienced because he experienced a great depth of many extremes of joys and sorrows, but he kind of reminds them “at the last your care of me hath flourished” (v.10) which kind of meant a little while ago they weren’t taking that good care of Paul. But he didn’t complain about it, did he? He didn’t complain that their love maybe waned a little bit. Instead he was thankful that their care
had flourished. He encouraged them in that way.

Then he gives us some timeless instruction. It’s a set of verses, Loved Ones, if we haven’t committed to memory it’s certainly a good one to have as one of those things we think upon. “Not that I speak in respect of want” (v.11). So he wasn’t speaking from the point of need, perhaps because his sufficiency was in Christ. He says “I have learned”, and Paul learned this more than perhaps a lot of us will ever learn it. He speaks this desire that wherever we are and wherever we find our self that we would learn what he has to say, “in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content” (v.11).

I think contentment sometimes is a word we need to be a little careful with. You think you would be wise to be content if we find sin in our life? Absolutely not, would it? If we find our self in a place where there are things we can do to make our situation better, it’s not that God wants us to be complacent and not use the capabilities that He’s given us to make judgments and have thoughts and do the things that are going to make our relationships better. It’s not what Paul is talking about here, is it? Perhaps he’s talking maybe more about it in an earthly sense as whether he had a lot or he had a little in an earthly sense, whether he had plenty of food or whether he barely knew where his next meal was coming, whether he was in a prison without hardly any clothes or whether he was in a place where he was well taken care of, and one of these women that labored in the gospel was providing all the things he had need of.

He says here, “I have learned”. So the first thing is he had to learn it. We find our self in that same state, don’t we? We have to learn. These things don’t come natural. They are hard to learn, they are not very fun to learn, but we can learn them. Sometimes we need to reframe our experiences - when we’re in the middle of something that’s hard, if we can think about what we’re learning. Paul learned in whatever state he was to be content. He describes more about this “I know both how to be abased” I know how to be brought low. “And I know how to abound” (v.12).

So he knew both how to behave himself and how to yet have hope in the midst of poverty. He knew when there was an abundance and he was abounding, not to set his heart on those things. He said “every where and in all things I am instructed” (v.12). So through all the experiences of life, there was instruction that he was taking from them. So might we take instruction. Whatever state we’re in, what’s the instruction for us? If we’re in a place where we’re abased, if we’re in a place where we abound, it says “I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need”. (v.12) I think we can probably assume all of us are covered somewhere in that spectrum. Once again, he goes back to where his foundation of faith was, to where his sustenance of life came from. He was abiding in the vine. He was deeply connected into the strength that comes from one place and one place alone - from Jesus Christ.

So he finished here “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me” (v.13). I’m not exactly sure what he meant, whether it was the knowledge that he could do all things through Christ that gave him strength or whether it was Christ that strengthened him. They both work the same, don’t they? In Jesus Christ, if we are grounded and rooted in His love, we have that heart of love one to another, we’re laborers in the gospel, and we know that His is our righteousness, then we can feel that peace that passes all understanding and it can keep our hearts and our minds in Christ Jesus.
Remembering Our Spiritual Heritage

This is another in a series of articles about a former minister at Oakville, Iowa. Henry K. Gerst composed a short dissertation of his life in 1951 when he was 78. He served in the ministry for many years.

Spiritual Struggle
The unbelief was so established in me that I often complained if I only could believe. The all-wise God had much patience with me. When He showed me my lost condition, I was at the point of despair, but He did not let me go under in despair. A very loving face looked at me from above, and I looked at it. I received hope and courage, but my unbelief made me afraid it was only my imagination, and I told nobody about it in my fear.

Yet, the unbelief told me I have no faith. But I had the desire to search the Scripture and found in Colossians in the second chapter, verse 12, that the faith comes through the operation of God. This showed me to pray to Him that He would also create faith in me.

Beginning in Faith
While I was praying my thought was guided to pray for a child-like faith which I eagerly did. I received the same and every hindrance was removed. O, how happy I was, more than I can say. I prayed to God not to give me more joy as I could not stand it. Now I could believe all the word of God, even the strong delusions could not sidetrack me. I fully trusted in God, knowing what I could not understand now, God could reveal to me. I was able to understand much and it will be all right what I could not yet understand. I knew everything would turn out good.

Confession and Peace
I was very willing to confess all my sins. My conversion lasted about three months and many tears seemed necessary, changing to tears of joy.

When I received the real peace of God, I asked God to give me the words for prayer, and I could only bring Him very hearty thanks. I was so slow to realize that my dear Saviour, Jesus Christ, suffered so much for me and died on the cross for my sins also, and rose again.

Entry into The Church
I was then proved, but one preacher was afraid I did not fully die from the mind of old unbelief, so I was not accepted. This was a terrible disappointment for me and Satan took advantage of this sad situation. I bore it for a few days, but then I went to an older brother to ask him if there would be any hope for me. When I walked into his yard I felt very heavy, and when he said, “Yes, there is hope,” it fell from my heart like a heavy stone. I asked him further what I should do and he told me to pray, that God would prepare me, and, after a few weeks, the Elder Konrad Fehr gave me another chance (to give testimony, and thence be taken up).

To be continued.

Editor’s Note: This account has a happy ending. The last portion of Brother Gerst’s history will be included in next month’s “Remembering”. It records the joy he felt when he was deemed ready for baptism.

-By Perry Klopfenstein
When is it right to hate?

Ecclesiastes 3:1,8 “To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.”

There is a record of things that God loves and hates in the Bible. When Jesus came He also spoke clearly about both subjects. What Jesus taught that we should hate always surprised people a great deal! We would expect Him to say we should hate evil, hate the devil and hate sin (and He does), but He goes a whole lot deeper. In that process He also teaches us what true love looks like.

We should hate the evil master.

Jesus taught we are in a spiritual battle from the day of our birth. It is a battle for souls, yours and mine. The stakes are so high that the outcome is eternal.

Matthew 6:24 “No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.” We cannot be neutral on the matter. We can only love and serve one master. Our love for God should be so superior that in comparison our regard for the other master should resemble hatred.

We should hate our life.

John 12:25 “He that loves his life shall lose it; and he that hates his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal.”

Jesus taught the concept that hating our life means giving it all to Him. The surrender of our life to God should be complete. We need to surrender our present and future plans because He alone knows exactly what we need.

Surrender is not a popular word to most people. It means giving in and giving up, weakness and failure, but not in a spiritual sense! Surrender proves the level of our trust in God, our Creator. When we are surrendered, we arrive at a place where we are no longer fighting or struggling. We simply trust.

Romans 12:1 “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.”

Colossians 3:3 “For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.”

Jesus was the perfect model of surrender. Here was all power, controlling Heaven and earth, yet He was surrendered to His Father to death on the cross. He opened not His mouth; He suffered abuse and agony when He could have sought instant revenge. He displayed the epitome of surrender and all-compelling love for us on the cross.

We should hate our family.

Luke 14:26,27 “If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. And whosoever does not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.”

What Jesus was teaching was that our love for God should be so superior to anyone or anything else that our love for anyone or anything else would look like hate instead. He was simply reiterating the first commandment: love God with everything you have.

How are you doing? I must constantly examine my heart, my commitment, and my love for Him who called me.

-by Michael Walder
Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity. For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb. Psalm 37:1-2