Shew me thy ways, O LORD; teach me thy paths. Psalm 25:4
To Our Readers

The older teaching the younger

This issue includes submissions from readers on the topic, “Advice to young parents.” There is a wealth of heartfelt, practical, and inspirational content here that we hope is an encouragement to those of you raising the next generation, our future church.

We thank everyone who has contributed to these special sections. It has been a blessing to the brotherhood. We have one topic for this year. Our next reader-submitted special topic is: How have you seen God move while on a work team? Please take a moment to share your experience about a mission trip to Mexico, Haiti, Jamaica, or to rebuild homes in the USA.

Send your contributions answering that question to editor@acsilverlining.org by September 20. We’ll publish the submissions in the November issue.

In Him,

Jeff Grimm and Rick Plattner, Counseling Elders

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Correction: Last month’s front cover was of the Grand Teton Mountains.


Light from the Word

Romans 14 – Biblical Remedy

Editor’s note: This month begins a three-part series of teachings from Romans 14.

“Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.”

As we think about our relationships with one another, it helps to first review Romans 14:10-11. Every believer who has ever lived will appear before the Lord at the judgment seat of Christ to give an account of his life. The Lord will review our life carefully, without bias, but with complete knowledge of our motives and actions. Apparently, we will start by standing before Him, but will ultimately kneel before Him. Might this be after He reviews our lives with us, showing what we did well and what we should have done better? Then, we will understand what forgiveness truly means as we look into the face of Him who blends the perfect combination of justice and mercy into love. In fact, looking back at Romans 13, we see that “love is the fulfilling of the law.” Christ has shown us His love so clearly while expecting us to also share that same love with others, knowing we fall far short of His likeness.

Far too often the hardest situations in which to practice the law of love are not with strangers, but within our own families. It can be even more challenging when there are disagreements within the family of God. When that occurs, we need to ask ourselves if the disagreement is over foundational biblical doctrines such as we find in our Statement of Faith. Hymn #191 in the Zion’s Harp (“Now and Then”) was said to have been written by a brother who was in prison because he would not deny his beliefs. We should have that same desire to not compromise the truths of the Bible.

Although some beliefs are foundational truth and not to be compromised, the Apostle Paul acknowledges that some convictions are personal expressions of faith, or lack of faith. If we hold differing convictions in such instances:

We should acknowledge we are part of the Body of Christ and not live for ourselves.

We should keep our focus on Christ and what He has done and is doing for us.

To make certain that our focus is truly on Jesus, we must do some introspection to determine which of the following motives describes us, remembering that we will in the future, appear before the perfect judge who knows, and will remember, our motives much better than we will:

Is our attitude similar to the quarrelsome one described in 1 Tim 6:3-5?

Or are we motivated by the desire to build up each other as stated in Romans 14:19?

We have a great need for each other’s perspectives as we apply the Word of God to living in our current culture. We can learn much from each other as we teach our world about the love of Christ. If our love for one another is not evident in our lives as believers, how can we expect unbelievers to embrace it?

One attribute that is so hard to put into practice is submission, which is not a word our culture likes to use. However, practicing that virtue will lead to great harmony and unity. It certainly does not give anyone the authority to demand submission from someone else, but the Lord expects each of us to submit to one another, whether it be to our spouse, church leadership, or each other. As a dear, now departed, elder once said, “Submission is very important when two people do not agree on a subject.” When we don’t agree, our relationship will struggle until we reach one of two conclusions. Both conclusions require us to humbly seek to understand each other, and in so doing reveals love, esteem, and grace.

One conclusion is that we agree to disagree on the subject, understanding that it is an appropriate

— Please turn to pg. 67
Greetings and good afternoon to each of you again in the name of our risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We’re thankful for another opportunity we have to be able to gather together and look into God’s Word and see what He would have for us.

Right here on this same page obviously is the first chapter in the Book of Joshua and also the last chapter of the Book of Deuteronomy in which Moses passes away. He’s taken up there into the mount, and God is able to show him the Promised Land. But, Moses is not able to enter in. Instead of reading about that, we’re going to read here in Joshua chapter 1 where we talk about those that still remained, those that had not yet passed on — and God still had work for them to do, God still had a plan for them — and what God’s instructions were to them through Joshua.

I wish we could understand what was going through Joshua’s mind at a time like this. Joshua, no doubt, already at this point had had a front seat to the workings of the Lord. He was one of those that was a slave in Egypt so he not only saw God’s miracles and the plagues there in bringing the people out of Egypt, but he followed with Moses as a servant, almost as his right-hand man. He saw the relationship that God had with Moses.

He saw the miracles in the desert with the quails and the water out of a rock and the manna each and every day, all of those different miracles that they saw there. He was one of the original spies that got sent out into the land 40 years ago to be able to see how amazing it was, how beautiful it was, and how true God’s promises were that this was going to be a good land. He was one of two that tried to encourage the people and said, ‘It’s not about our strength going into the land. God will give us the victory’, but he watched his entire nation rebel against God and turn away because of a lack of faith.

Then he had seen pretty much all of his generation die off in the desert, in the wilderness, in the wanderings, and now in chapter 34 of Deuteronomy he had just seen the man that he looked up to, his mentor, the one who had talked with God face to face, he just saw him pass away. Now this very humble man is called upon, and God says, ‘Joshua, you are about to do what your mentor, Moses, the one that you looked up to, the one that taught you, was not able to do. Moses led them all this way but was not able to lead them across into the Promised Land, but that is My mission for you. I’m going to give it to you. From the wilderness and this Lebanon even unto the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and unto the great sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your coast. All of it is going to be yours, and you are going to lead this people.’

Verse 5, “There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life…” When we think about this promise that God gave to Joshua and this calling and this mission, as He’s going to give him many instructions throughout this book, He begins with a promise there in the latter part of verse 5, and says, “…as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.” I can’t imagine how Joshua felt about the magnitude of the task that was before him. Even if he knew that God was going to provide, which I know that he did, but the questions of how is this situation going to work out, all of the details that needed to be worked out and before God gives him all the specific instructions. Compare it to what God told him about the battle of Jericho, their first battle, how they were supposed to march out and march around the city how many times, who was going to lead, who was going to be in the back, what they were supposed to do, what
they weren’t supposed to do, all the specifics of the battle of Jericho. I’m sure there were many of those instances throughout the time in which the children of Israel actually conquered the Promised Land.

He starts with a promise — this is going to go well, this is going to work, you will succeed because I will be with you. “…I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.” In other words, everything hinges on that fact. If God is with us, if God be for us, who can be against us? But, it says, I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. I will not leave thee alone. It sort of implies that if you were to do this alone, Joshua, you will not pass. Remember what the children of Israel tried to do? The first approach to the Promised Land, they said, ‘We don’t have faith to enter in. Let’s go back.’ Then God basically gave them the sentence — you’re not going back to Egypt; you’re going to wander in the wilderness for 40 years. After they got that verdict, what did they say? They tried to say, ‘On second thought, let’s go ahead and give it a try.’ But, Moses warned them that God’s not with you this time. If you go, you’re going to fail. They tried, and they failed miserably because God was not with them.

So as Joshua is about to embark on this journey, God says, “…I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.” But what does God require of us? If God says, ‘I’m going to be with you. I’m going to be the One that gives you the victory,’ what do you need to do, Joshua? “Be strong and of a good courage…” (v.6) Even though our strength comes from the Lord, He asks us to be strong. He asks us to take courage. He asks us to walk by faith. He asks us to trust Him. Even though we might not know all the specifics, He says you have to try. You have to make an attempt. You have to not necessarily be willing to fail because God gave him a promise of victory, but for our lives specifically, I don’t know that God has given us a specific about what He’s going to help us conquer. So our future is sort of unknown. He asks us to “Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I sware unto their fathers to give them.” (v.6)

Now He says it again. He must have known Joshua really needed it. I don’t know about you, but sometimes we find ourselves in those situations and our faith is weak, we’re struggling, we need to be lifted up, we need to find courage. We pick up the Bible, we bow down on our knees, and we pray. We feel encouraged, and then just a few moments later, we feel like we’re wandering again. So God tells him again, “Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest.” (v.7) I love this idea!

If Joshua was thinking ahead, so where is our first battle going to be? Where and how do we cross the Jordan River? There were specific instructions about that. Do we go North first, or do we go South? How long is it going to take? How many people should we send? All those ways that his mind is going to be racing for, God simply says, ‘Be strong and courageous. What do you need to know right now, Joshua? What is this going to hinge on? Not My specific instructions. I’ve already given you all the instructions you need to this point. I’ve given you my commandment, and I want you to observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest.’

So how are we going to prosper in the micro details of life, in the individual situations, all the how-to’s and how is this going to work out? He says the success on the micro things is determined on a macro level. Are you seeking My law? Are you observing to do, not some of My commandments,
Ministry Program Updates

Haiti Trade Schools Recover from Hurricane Matthew
Caribbean Committee

“It was the afternoon of Oct 4th, 2016 and the wind was starting to pick up. We were told that a hurricane was on its way but didn’t expect it to be too damaging. The winds continued to increase over the next several hours leading into the evening. We soon started to realize that we needed to take shelter in a more secure location as the roof of our home and surrounding buildings were getting ripped off with the powerful winds. Along with my family and neighboring families, a total of 11 of us packed into our 5’ x 5’ brick shelter. For the next twelve hours, we hunkered down and experienced the 130-150 mph winds that come along with the hurricane. Words cannot describe the magnitude of this horrific storm as we all thought we were going to die that evening. We were all thankful to be alive when next morning after the storm had subsided, we looked out and discovered that everything – everything – was flattened and destroyed. The next several weeks became a matter of survival for those in our community. Food and supplies became extremely difficult to acquire as the roads were blocked with downed trees and rubble from damaged buildings.”

This is a story that was shared from the administrator of the Port-a-Piment Trade School to our Haiti Trade School (HTS) committee during our March 2017 visit. Hurricane Matthew did massive damage to the southwestern portion of Haiti. Of our five trade schools, Port-a-Piment suffered the most damage, as all buildings of the school were in disrepair, and computers, solar panels, power tools, and equipment was ruined. The community at Port-a-Piment has been significantly affected. Over 40% of the local residents have left the area to find housing and work elsewhere. This will have a continued impact on the community and schools. Our committee worked with the local school board to determine if we should even rebuild. Through prayer and God’s leading, inspired by a willingness of the local leadership, the school board decided to rebuild. Over the course of the past eight months, the school buildings are being rebuilt by the students themselves, and we expect to have everything ready for classes to begin in the fall of 2017.

It is difficult for most of us in our industrialized and developed society to fully understand the hardship that a natural disaster such as Hurricane Matthew causes.

Sound Doctrine

HarvestCall, being under the authority of the elder body, is committed to maintaining sound doctrine as we minister to others. History bears witness to the difficulty in maintaining sound doctrine. Many groups of believers have succumbed to false doctrines in order to be more palatable to the society in which they live. This challenge is even more complex when our witness is brought to an unfamiliar culture. It can be difficult to sort through which cultural practices are innocent and harmless patterns of living and which are contrary to the truth of the gospel.

This issue was recognized by Paul as he left Timothy in Ephesus for the express purpose of correcting and verbally restraining those who were teaching falsely. He encouraged Timothy to dedicate himself completely to reading, exhortation, and doctrine, because through these practices and sound teaching, Timothy would save both himself and those that heard him. Likewise, Paul encouraged Titus to comprehend the necessity of uncorrupted doctrine.
to the country of Haiti. While we may experience sudden loss, it is often only a matter of hours before an emergency action plan is put in place, and help is on the way. For most Haitians, all they can see is the loss. Communication in the hardest hit areas was simply not available for days, and any hope for relief was much longer. Those that recounted the experience of surviving the long and relentless night of the hurricane could only shake their heads and say, ‘It was horrible’. But the long-term impact was not entirely felt until several months later as the reality of a destroyed fruit crop and interrupted jobs settled in. While we in America may become discouraged with setbacks, we have financial resources and can at least go to stores to buy materials and rent equipment, and start the rebuilding process. In Haiti, where they have neither vision nor options, the darkness of that dreaded night lingers on.

Other trade schools also had damage from the hurricane. Chantal School, located one hour west of Les Cayes, lost half of their roof, and Petit-Trou, which is on the north coast, lost a portion of two of their classroom roofs. Material to repair these roofs have since been delivered and installed. At the Port a Piment trade school, students who once had hope of learning a trade were given the chance to put their training to use by rebuilding their own school. With the support of outside organizations such as HarvestCall, their discouragement is being replaced with enthusiasm, and the love of God is now bringing hope to a very troubled land.

**How You Can Help**

Please pray for the Trade Schools, that they could be restored fully and be a blessing to those who want to develop their God-given talents. If you would like to financially support the HTS, contributions can be made on the HarvestCall website (www.harvestcall.org) or by a check to HarvestCall (PO Box 3797, West Lafayette, IN 47996) with Haiti Trade Schools in the memo.

—by Andy Getz and John Lehman

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Doctrine is essentially the communication of fundamental spiritual knowledge and truth. It is impossible to expect a spiritual house to endure on a shaky foundation of false teaching. As we fulfill the biblical instruction to share our faith with others, it comes with a grave responsibility to teach the full truth, and nothing but the truth, regardless of any societal pressures that run against the Word of God.

Although it may be tempting to make accommodations, John makes it clear in his second epistle that abiding in the doctrine of Christ is necessary if we do not want to lose the things that we have been engaged in. He considered this to be of such importance that he instructed his readers not even to greet, or wish anyone well, who taught false doctrine.1 If we expect our work to endure, we must commit to teaching all the counsel of God.2

—by Mike Leman

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1 1 Timothy 1:3-7
2 1 Timothy 4:13-16
3 Titus 2:7-8
4 2 John 1:8-11
5 1 Corinthians 3:10-15
6 Acts 20:27

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Missing roof at Chantal School, a frequent sight across Southern Haiti.
Temptation and Worship

We are all too familiar with temptation: being drawn away of our lusts and enticed (James 1:14). When you are in temptation, do you feel near to worship? Most do not. Worship seems miles away. What if the opposite is true? What if when we are in the midst of temptation, worship is very near?

In the “very good” garden (Genesis 1:31) which God created and placed man, He planted a tree. The tree bore fruit which was not to be eaten. In so doing, a tension descended on Adam and Eve. The tension was the ever present decision between obedience and disobedience. This tension gave way to trials and temptations. The difference between a trial and temptation is subtle yet key. The difference lies in the intended use of the tension. The tension to prove one’s love and obedience to God is called a trial. On the contrary, the tension to prove one’s sin or evil within them is called a temptation. We read in the scriptures that God cannot be tempted nor does He tempt any man (James 1:13). His trials are meant to glorify Him and benefit us. Satan, on the other hand, plays to this tension, and, through a desire to prove us disobedient, he tempts us. Adam had the choice to eat from the forbidden fruit. The “very good” status of the garden was tied to Adam’s agreement with God to partake that which God has said is good and abstain from that which God has said is not good. Sin resulted when Adam refused the good which God declared to eat and refused the good of the abstinence God required. Therefore, the seed of sin is the rejected belief that God is good. This fundamental concept is faith.

At the heart of God’s created tension, the core question being asked is “Do you agree God is good?” Eve faced this question in that moment of temptation. Satan played to the tension of the fruit using deceptive, persuasive logic to entice her to disobey God’s commands. Central to this logic was the question — “Is God good?” “Do you agree with God?” Eve answered “no” to these questions in the moment she ate the fruit. Adam said “no” to these questions the moment he ate the fruit. We answer “no” to these questions every time we yield to Satan’s temptations. When a man lusts after a woman he has said, “I don’t believe God is good and has my best interest in mind when He says I should not look at a woman to lust after her”. Consider another example: when a man boasts about himself he has, in a sense, said “I do not agree with God that I should esteem others higher than myself”. When all the layers are stripped away we find faithlessness to what God deems best and good at the core of our sin.

This should come as no surprise. Faith is central to our salvation. Faith is the cause of our good works (Rom 1:5). Faith is the seed by which obedience sprouts. “Faith without works is dead” James 2:17 declares. Our works make manifest our faith. Saying “no” to what God says “no” about shows evidence of our agreement with His goodness. Saying “yes” to what God says “yes” about shows evidence of our agreement with His goodness. It follows directly that God is worshiped through acts of faith. The tension that temptation plays on is a catalyst for this deep expression of faith. When we turn from temptation, we are saying “I agree with God. He is good.”

The nagging choice between obedience and disobedience is not to be shunned. The nagging choice is necessary for us to prove our agreement with God’s goodness. Furthermore, the more nagging the choice, the more agreement can be proved. I will show my faith (agreement with God’s goodness) most keenly in my greatest area of temptation. For example, Sam does not struggle with gambling. He has no problem walking by a casino without temptation. Since he is not tempted by gambling, it is not in this area that he most exhibits his agreement with God’s goodness. However, if you choose an area of sinful struggle, the opposite becomes true. Suppose
Sam is greatly tempted to misrepresent his earnings to the IRS to lessen his tax burden. This tendency for greed is the “thorn in his flesh” (2 Cor. 12:9) whereby his refusal to indulge will most demonstrate his faith in God’s goodness. Obedience on this issue will require a suffering of the flesh (1 Peter 4:1, 2).

This gives us a helpful lens through which we can view our weaknesses. Many men are exasperated and ask “why am I thus?” Why do I struggle with envy? Porn? Greed? Addiction? Anger? Sin originates in the heart (Matt 15). We are fallen (Rom 5). When we accept this reality, we can find resolve in the choice it provides; the opportunity to worship God by agreeing with His goodness in obedience and thereby prove our faith. The greater the temptation, the greater the faith, and thus, the deeper the worship.

The worship that comes from obedience is “deep” because it is completely void of self. In our moments of temptation when we feel dreadfully alone, we have to deny all of our senses in order to obey. We do not recognize our obedience as worship because it is void of all the usual feelings that accompany customary, usual worship. Worship that springs from temptation is not accompanied with joy, happiness and fellowship. Such attributes are present when we worship through song but not willful obedience. Worshipping with our feet or actions is worshipping with our faith. Worshiping with our actions is desired by God.

All of the above provides a bit of clarity in how a believer can live out their faith. The good news contained herein is immense. When we do not understand this principle of worshiping with our actions, we fall into sin easier and remain in sin longer. Easier because we believe we are alone in that moment of dark temptation and have no way out but to continue on toward sin. We can remain in sin longer because we believe that if I’ve done it once, I may as well do it again. These two lies have ensnared many Christians. Bouts of sin have enslaved Christian men and women because they feel hypocritical for weeks and months waiting for some undefined time to pass before they feel like they can truly worship. The reality is, one can worship now. And the sooner you do, the healthier you will be. In summary, consider these three points concerning temptation:

Temptation is not sin (Mark 1:13). Therefore, I am not separated from God when I am being tempted. Separation follows sin.

Temptation brings worship near (James 1:12). Therefore, my most trying day can be my most worshipful.

No temptation is more than we can bear (1 Cor. 10:13). Therefore, every temptation is under the sovereign hand of God. By His power, He wishes to trump Satan’s temptation and turn it into a trial which proves our faith in His goodness. (1 Peter 1: 6, 7)

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.
Christ teaches that we are to love “in deed and in truth”, but how do we do that? I do not know the answer to that in your life, but I do know that God has blessed each of you with unique and beautiful talents. One of the blessings of working here is that we get to experience so many of you living this scripture as you come here to volunteer those God-given talents for the benefit of our residents, their families, and our staff.

Apostolic Christian LifePoints has been richly blessed over the years with wonderful volunteers. In 2016 alone, we welcomed 173 different people who volunteered more than 930 hours of their valuable time. On June 22, we were excited to show our gratitude to them at our Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. We gathered with many of you that evening to share in good food, fellowship and memories. Volunteers bring a life and exuberance to our residents and staff that is visible by the smiles on their faces and joy in the hearts. If you or someone you love has a heart to volunteer, we invite you to learn more about the opportunities available by visiting the volunteer page on our website. Thanks again for all that you do!

“And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men.” Colossians 3:23

As the temperature continues to climb, our residents and staff are busy enjoying the various activities that summer brings. We celebrated our independence and freedom by watching Morton’s fireworks display together on July 3, with Oakwood Estate visiting Timber Ridge and Linden Estate hosting many from our CILA group homes. There are many outings to go swimming and bowling, horseback riding, concerts in the park, and of course… ice cream! As always we enjoy when you are able to come visit and participate in activities with us.

Please continue to pray for our residents who are planning to move between our various points of service this summer. We are anticipating a resident moving from a group home into Timber Ridge, several in group homes moving to a different house, and two ladies who will be moving from Oakwood Estate into a CILA group home. These are exciting times, but change can also be difficult and presents unique challenges to the individuals who live with us. We greatly appreciate that so many of you are “constant in prayer” on their behalf.

Gateway Woods Apostolic Christian Children’s Home

Chet Baumgartner, Teacher

In about the middle of June, a volcano erupted at Gateway Woods. A combination of baking powder, vinegar, and dyes spewed from “Mount Boom-Shak-A-Laka” as students at Gateway Woods School learned about eruptions in their earth/space science class. One student painted her volcano pink before igniting it, but all learned more about the natural processes beneath their feet. At the same time, language arts students were exploring late-1800s London through the book “Oliver Twist”. History students studied America as it rebuilt itself after the Civil War, grew, and eventually entered World War 1, and algebra students studied fractions, variables, and similar concepts.

Though enrollment can fluctuate as residents enter and leave the program, currently about 15 Gateway residents attend summer school from 1 p.m. to 3:45 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and those who finish successfully earn another credit to help them advance their academic careers.

“For these students, the majority of whom lag behind in credits and risk not graduating on time, this additional credit can encourage them to keep persevering.” Sis. Kristin
Zimmerman, the dean of students, said. 

During the seven-week summer school, though, students gain more than a credit as they learn not only facts, but also how to think through those facts and prepare them for life after high school. For instance, math teacher Bro. Brian Wenninger presented students a challenge: complete an imaginary task within a hypothetical budget. Initially, students guessed using multiple numbers until they found the answer. They used “brute force,” Brian said. However, he then taught them to create equations to eliminate the guesswork and save time and effort — encouraging them to think through their problems deliberately. As one student later said, Gateway Woods School helps her understand the material. Other students contributed to a classroom dictionary, in which they didn’t just copy down a word’s definition, but connected it to their own lives, illustrated it and then incorporated it into sentences of their own.

“Students realize through such activities that God’s gift of words can open a whole new world of communication and ideas, helping them to express themselves and succeed,” language arts teacher Bro. Chet Baumgartner said.

Not all residents, though, attended class this summer, but they were still learning.

Some students come to the school to study for the TASC, the modern-day version of the GED. These students, who are 18 years old (or approaching 18) and would struggle to earn enough credits to graduate traditionally, can earn the diploma equivalent and start searching for career possibilities while still receiving treatment at Gateway.

Other students work on landscaping projects as part of the “Top Quality” program. People in the community work through the school staff to hire these students and their supervisor to move mulch, do landscaping, and complete other tasks. Once this summer, the Top Quality students even removed a pool for a customer. The customers pay for these services, but beyond a little income, the Top Quality students learn to apply for a job, interview for a job, and keep a job through hard work and quality work.

When students aren’t in the building or attending classes, though, the school staff still works. They regularly meet to discuss goals for the upcoming school year, and they work individually to evaluate and improve their coursework. For instance, two teachers recently discussed differentiated lesson plans, in which teachers create different learning objectives and assessments that accommodate students’ different ability levels.

“Some students are more advanced academically than most of their peers. Others come reading at grade levels far below their own, so we need to develop ways to effectively reach all these students, and summer is an ideal time to challenge ourselves to meet such goals,” Bro. Chet said.

The official school year starts Wednesday, August 9, but when students return, they’ll continue learning and developing life skills that they acquired throughout the summer.

**News:**

We are excited to announce the hiring of Sis. Janice Anliker (Leo) as our Director of Education at the Gateway Woods School. After a 16 year hiatus, welcome back on staff, Janice!

Jon (Communications Coordinator) & Beth Ringger (Adoption Case Worker) welcomed their 4th boy, Ellis Cabot on July 8.

Jessica Hermosillo-Gaytan (Counselor) welcomed her first born, Aria Camila, also on July 8 alongside her husband, Migxior.

We will be hosting a 5k run/walk, affectionately known as the Hog & Jog, on Saturday,

We have several job opportunities at Gateway Woods: Foster Care Case Manager, Home-Based Worker, and a Counselor. For more information, please see our ad in this edition or visit the Career Opportunities page on our website at 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’.

You are an important advocate to help us spread the word about God’s work at Gateway Woods. Please continue to lift us up in prayer, check our website gatewaywoods.org and our Facebook page at facebook.com/gatewaywoods often for updates, and make sure that you are on our mailing list. If you would like to be added to our mailing list, please contact us at 888.443.4283 or send an email to info@gatewaywoods.org. Finally, if you would like to receive a monthly email detailing how the work at Gateway Woods is bringing help and healing to those in need, please consider joining our Restoring Hope email list. You can do so at gatewaywoods.org/subscription-form or by emailing jon.ringger@gatewaywoods.org.

Alabama, Athens
Jessica Edelman

Summer is busy. It seems that lately there hasn’t been a Sunday where all of the “regulars” have been in attendance, as many have been traveling on vacation. When life happens outside of our daily routines and our calendars fill up, often we can be tempted to take a vacation from God’s Word as well. But as it says in Romans 6:20-22, “For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness. What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.” In other words, if we’re not pursuing a life of service to God, inevitably that path will lead to death. It’s challenging to think about. Instead of mentally checking out and coasting through the end of the summer, let’s make it a priority not to give in to our earthly desires of being lazy or entertained. Instead, let’s intentionally consume truth and be a “regular” to the Word of God, that we may grow in Him.

“And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.” Galatians 6:9

We are thankful to Bro. Fred Witzig (Sis. Nancy, Washington, IL) for traveling to Alabama this past month to share the Word and hope they will visit again.

If you are planning to visit the South, we’d love to have you! For our guest house accommodations, please call Sis. Rebekah Klaus at (815) 674-541.

Arizona, Phoenix
Marge Lindenbaum

“Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.” 2 Tim. 4:8

The most commonly used Greek word for “crown” in the New Testament is “stephanos”. Its definition, primarily “that which surrounds, as a wall or crowd” (from stepho, “to encircle”), denotes (a) “the victor’s crown,” the symbol of triumph in the games or some such contest;… (b) “a token of public honor” for distinguished service, military prowess, etc., or of nuptial joy, or festal gladness, …” (from Vine’s Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words, Copyright © 1985, Thomas Nelson Publishers.) The word for crown that is a symbol of sovereignty, worn by monarchs, is “diadema”. That word is found in the New Testament in Revelation 12, 13 and 19:12, where such crowns are finally and permanently set on the head of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

There are a number of crowns we can expect to receive as believers, once our race here is complete. All of them are “stephanos”. In my opinion, the subject of the opening quote above might fall into the definition of nuptial joy or festal gladness. When Christ appears in the Heavens
We appreciate the willingness of our visiting ministers to brave the heat of the desert in summer! We thank Elder Bro. Steve Ringger (Sis. Myra, Bluffton North) and Bro. Ron Palitto (Sis. Lynelle, Akron) for serving us so faithfully. God is faithful to slow down the activities of the church at this time, which provides us more time to spend interceding for those who are experiencing difficulties. Many here have been dealing with physical challenges, and we invite you to lift them up to our Heavenly Father with us. Bro. Howard Maurer, whose lung surgery was successful (praise God!) and now faces the challenges of rehab and another surgery on his shoulder as soon as he is able to have it. Sis. Lou Ann Klopfenstein, who is battling a severe infection, and had to have her chemo port removed. Sis. Leona Siegle, who underwent surgery after she fell and broke her hip. Brad Bahler, who is having radiation treatments for cancer. Melissa Lucero, who fell and fractured her leg in several places, also requiring surgery. Sis. Cathy Emch is struggling with multiple issues and we lift her and her family up, asking for wisdom and comfort for all. We plead for complete healing for the injuries and illnesses, for strength to endure all the darts the enemy fires, and for sweet communion with Jesus, who is no stranger to our infirmities. We trust our Heavenly Father to keep each one near His heart as their lives are affected in ways they could not have anticipated or desired.

Finally, we are sad to bid farewell to the Ryan Knapp family (Bro. Ryan and Sis. Liz, Cade, Ayla, Lincoln and Connor) as they leave to return to Illinois. They have been a great blessing to our congregation and they will be missed. Yet, we rejoice with them as they follow where their Lord leads, and we wish them many blessings as they go.

Arizona, Prescott

Autumn Rokey

We are thankful for the safety of all those traveling to and from Prescott for the summer. We did not hold a VBS this summer, but did have an evening as a church family focusing on the book of James. James 4:17 was a gentle encouragement that “the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.” As Christians, within our church family and with those who do not believe, Jesus strengthens us and calls us to live in a way that brings peace and good fruits.

We are also rejoicing in another convert, Alexa Furrer (Bro. Tim and Sis JaNon) is expressing her desire to serve Christ. Prayers as she starts her journey in seeking the Lord.

We are thankful for ministering Bro. Keith...
Hinrichsen (Sis. Tammy) from Phoenix for supporting our church this past month.

Arizona, Tucson
Dean and Jackie Knobloch

Greetings to all! We have had some extremely warm days here as we reached a record 115 degrees, nevertheless we are feeling God’s love and care. All the trials and tests are only temporary. Someday we will only have the Heavenly breezes, the Tree of Life and Our Savior to fill our days.

We continue to pray for Bro. Bob and Sis. Carole Haas and Bro. Gene Denick and his wife, Karen. All have had ongoing health issues. We hope they improve daily and can soon join our worship services.

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

California, Altadena/Los Angeles
Kali Sauder

This month we said, “See you later”, to our dear Bro. Aaron Yaussi. He and his beloved wife, Ann, who passed away several years ago, immensely blessed our gathering with genuine warmth and joyful exuberance. They were quick to greet one and all with big smiles and hugs. Aaron was always telling jokes or handing out candy, and would tell anyone who would listen the story of seeing Ann for the first time on the train as he headed off for war and how he knew he’d marry her. They were powerful examples of devoted commitment in marriage and the importance of prioritizing family. Aaron is deeply missed. We are thankful we do not have to say goodbye forever because of the power of Christ’s resurrection and our mutual hope in Him!

“So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? ...But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.” 1 Cor. 15:54-58

David put into Psalms many expressions and feelings that we all experience in life’s journey. He concludes with confidence that God listens and responds to our prayers.

Psalm 6:9 “The LORD hath heard my supplication; the LORD will receive my prayer.”

What a reason to be thankful and joyful! We have access to the Creator of the universe because of Christ AND He hears our prayers.

Colorado, Denver
Naomi Wiegand, Tess Leman

Greetings of love!

We have had quite a busy month! Many young people from various churches blessed us at our Young Group Invite. Our church was nearly bursting at the seams, and the roof was nearly raised in the joyful singing! We thank Bro. Craig and Sis. Jackie Stickling and Bro. Clark and Sis. Cindy Stoller for sharing the weekend and for teaching the youth on loving our siblings in Christ.

“A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.” John 13:34-35

The next weekend, we again had reason to rejoice as we celebrated the baptism of Sis. Gabriella Wiegand (Bro. Charlie and Sis. Naomi). There is nothing in this world that can produce the peace and joy that we saw and heard. Our prayers, love, and accountability attend you, Sis. Gabri, as you continue your way to Zion.
“Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.” John 14:27

Bro. Jared Stoller (Bro. Ed and Sis. Boni) and Sis. Rebekah Herrmann (Chicago, IL), daughter of Bro. Roger and Sis. Darlene (Princeville, IL), have announced their engagement. Bro. Jared is a dear part of our church family and we are very excited to welcome Sis. Rebekah! May God bless and guide you as you grow in this engagement period and anticipate your wedding day! A December 3 wedding is scheduled.

Many visitors have come and we thank you all for taking the time to fellowship with us. Especially as a smaller church, your visits mean a lot and we appreciate you! Our visiting ministers this month include: Elder Bro. Lynn Stiglitz (Sis. Leonda, Leo, IN), Bro. Todd Stoller (Sis. Pamela, Latty, OH), Bro. Jerry Bauman (Sis. Martha, Rittman, OH), Bro. Barry Dietz (Sis. Rachel, Bradford, IL), Bro. Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata, TX), Elder Bro. Bruce Endress (Sis. Elizabeth, Bradford, IL), and Bro. Doug Brewer (Sis. Janelle, San Diego, CA). Thank you for visiting and for opening the Word of the Lord to us!

“And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, even as we do toward you: To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.” 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13

Connecticut, Rockville

Marcy Bahler, Amanda Virkler

“Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, in the mountain of his holiness.” Psalm 48:1

We were blessed with two visiting ministers this past month. We are thankful to Bro. Matthew Russi (Sis. Bridget, Chicago, IL) and Bro. Phil Schulz (Sis. Kelli, Burlington, IA) for sharing the Word.

We wish God’s blessings to Daniel Gerber (Bro. Loren & Sis. Anne) and Elisabeth Ballasy (Bro. Kevin & Sis. Jane) who were united in marriage on June 24.

We rejoice with Bro. Jacob Schneider (Bro. Tim & Sis. Dana) and Sis. Josie Gerber (Bro. Jeff & Sis. Carole) as they were united in Holy Matrimony on July 2. We want to wish them God’s grace as they begin this new chapter in their lives.

While we are saddened, we also rejoice that Bro. Joe Skipper was able to pass from this life to his eternal reward. He will be missed by his wife, Sis. Alma; his children: Sis. Peggy Bahler (Bro. Dave), Sis. Jean Bahler (Bro. Vern), Don Skipper (Cynthia) and Joan Kratzke (Scott); and his grandchildren. We extend our sympathy to the whole family, and want to keep them in our thoughts and prayers.

We also extend our prayers and sympathy to Margaret Trueb in the passing of her husband, Wayne Trueb. We also want to keep his sons: Michael (Paula), Scott (Kelly) and David, along with his sister-in-law, Sis. Adele Trueb (Bro. Ron, dec.) in our thoughts and prayers.

Little Rowan Hunter Giroux was welcomed to first-time parents Brady & Jessica Giroux. Excited grandparents are Bro. Mark & Robin Luginbuhl and Hunter (dec.) & Karen Giroux.

District of Columbia, Washington

Henrietta Meyer

This month our caretakers were Bro. Jack and Sis. Nancy Knobloch (Eureka, IL). With our caretakers here for a month, we really become better acquainted with them and they become part of our small congregation. 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. Ned Bahler (Sis. Anna, Fairbury, IL), Bro. Brad Gudeman (Sis. Teresa, Bradford, IL), Bro. Brett Lanz (Sis. Renee, Rittman, OH) and Bro. John Cottrell (Sis. Gloria, Eureka, IL). Other visitors this month were from Sardis, OH; Rockville, CT; Tremont, IL; Francesville and Bluffton North, IN; and Phoenix, AZ. We look forward to many more visitors in the coming months.
If you are planning to visit Washington, D.C. area, please contact Bro. Joe and Sis. Holly Bohart at jbohart@gmail.com or Sis. Henrietta Meyer at 703 904-8301 for assistance and to let us know how many to expect for Sunday services.

**Florida, Ft. Lauderdale**  
**Renee Mangold**

We were grateful to have two visiting ministers this past month. Visiting were Bro. David Prevo (Sis. Tara, Bloomington-Normal, IL) and Bro. Loren Schrenk (Sis. Betsy, St. Louis, MO). We pray that the Lord will bless them for their efforts.

Congratulations to Bro. Evan Sinn (Ft. Lauderdale, FL) who announced his engagement to Sis. Kristin Rufener (Rittman, OH). We are praying that God will bless and guide this young couple in their future.

**Florida, Ft. Myers**  
**Dustin Hodel**

“...I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” Matthew 16:18

This past month we’ve had some very exciting happenings at our church here in Ft. Myers. As we are a small group, we are always excited to add new members to our congregation and see our benches a little fuller. Over the last weeks we’ve seen this happen a couple of different ways.

First, we all were overjoyed to meet Brynn Christine Schumacher! Brynn belongs to new parents Bro. Zach and Sis. Abby Schumacher and we could not be happier for both! It’s been exciting to watch them grow in anticipation throughout the pregnancy and then to see the precious new little life that God has given to them to care for and raise. Would you join us in praying for Zach and Abby as they take on the great adventure of parenthood? We also praise God for His glorious goodness and faithfulness, in more ways than one, little Brynn is a testimony of God’s love and goodness toward us and we are thankful to know her!

We also have been blessed by Georgiana and Ionie, two local women who recently moved to the area and were looking for a church family. They wandered in to our building on a Sunday and have been coming back ever since and we have been blessed. We appreciate their willing spirit and desire to hear the truth preached!

While we add new faces to our little band here in Ft. Myers, we also think of those who have been faithfully coming to Ft. Myers for years. We ask for your continued prayers for Sis. Theresa (Bro. Larry Bruellman) who was in the hospital the past month. Also pray for a northern Bro. Glen (Sis. Sue Hodel) who was in the hospital for a heart attack, but we are thankful to hear he is doing much better. We ask for continued prayer for our Sis. Wilma (Bro. Dave Kieser) as she continues her bout with cancer.

**The New Beginnings**  
**Nadege Borgat**

As TNB & the Fort Myers Church prepare for Amber’s baptism. I cannot help but reflect on all the lives TNB impacted even before it was an organization. Starting with Nadege Borgat (Amy Pierre) & Robers Mesidor, long before TNB was TNB, it was changing people’s lives spiritually. Bill and Mary met Nadege at a most vulnerable part of her life. They offered love, compassion, and understanding. Through that they were able to share the love of God. It was not anything they said that changed her, but everything they did that had the impact in her life. Little by little she became interested in learning more about the Bible and eventually became a member of the Apostolic church. She is now married to a non-Apostolic, but she still attends the church. Even though Nadege is no longer a member, she has expressed that she got a spiritual foundation from the AC church that she will carry with her forever and pass on to her children.

Robers was much the same. He and Bill built a relationship over yard work. Robers grew up very sheltered and indoors and did not know much about yard work. Bill had several projects he was working on. He invited Robers to help out to give him something to do. It was then they formed a relationship that opened the communication lines for the Gospel to be shared. Robers was baptized in the Bloomington Apostolic church and has married Marykate from Roanoke.

Now fast forward to Amber. She too has had people in her life
from the Fort Myers congregation that showed her Christ in their actions and not their words, individuals who offered no judgment, but understanding and compassion that manifested into how Christ loved us and gave up his life so that we may live. Amber has a tremendous story she will share Saturday, July 22, 2017 and be baptized Sunday, July 23, 2017.

What do these three people have in common? Where would they be had someone not taken the time to invest in them, invest in their future, and invest in them spiritually? Where would they be? Would they come to know Christ?

Often we sit back in our own lives, with our friends and going to our church without giving any thought to our neighbors. These three individuals have had to overcome some of life’s greatest challenges. Some of those challenges they created and some they were born into. Many of our readers couldn’t fathom the situations these individuals have overcome. They would have probably remained on the path of destruction had it not be for one person or couple reaching out and lending them a hand up and a shoulder to overcome the pain, by allowing Jesus to enter their lives.

As TNB reflects on the last six years, we ask our readers to do the same. Do a self-reflection. How many opportunities has God given you to inspire and change someone else’s life? Will you hear the call when He calls you to serve? Will you know it is Him?

Readers: TNB is currently looking for mentors to impact the lives of single mothers and their children. We ask you prayerfully consider serving in this exhausting, aggravating, tiresome, rewarding, exciting, joyful, and Christ-centered line of work.

**Florida, Sarasota**

*Mary & Vera Martin*

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

We are rejoicing with Kyra Koehl (Bro. Mark & Sis. Tricia) who has made a wise decision to begin a new direction in her life by serving the Lord. We wish her God’s rich blessings as she seeks His will and guidance in her life.

We welcome a new baby, Beatrice Dabi, who has arrived to the family of Kendrick and Lindsey Peterson. Her grandparents Bro. Larry and Sis. DiAnne Brown rejoice with their new family addition. We cherish a new precious baby into our church family.

**Georgia, Peachtree City/Atlanta**

*Lexi Knapp*

We are continually overwhelmed by the goodness of God. He unchangingly watches over each of us and directs our steps. It is always a joy to watch where He takes each of His children! Likewise, we are so thankful that God brought Bro. Cody and Sis. Victoria Walburn (West Lafayette, IN) to our congregation. We are blessed to welcome them into our Peachtree City church body.

Also, we were blessed to have Bro. Justin Koch (Sis. Marcia, Washington, IL) minister to us. We are thankful for his service!

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.ptacchurch.org.

**Haiti, Bonne Fin - Hospital Lumiere**

*Rick and Komari Aberle*

The months of June and July were ones of coming and going for the missionary team at Bonne Fin. The entire team has been blessed to spend periods of time in the United States with family and loved ones during annual furloughs. We are thankful for the time to spend refreshing and recharging.

Because of the changes in personnel our team recently experienced, a team of several brothers traveled to support our missionary family. This allowed us to continue with our original plans for our time in the United States. We are also thankful for
Sis. Sheila Moser’s presence here as she was able to return to Bonne Fin and assist us during this time. The month of July brought the Aberle family back from their visit home. We also were blessed by a visiting team of surgeons from South Carolina who served our orthopedic patients here at Bonne Fin.

Given the team’s travel plans, the thought on our hearts is reflected in Psalm 121: 7-8: “The LORD shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul. The LORD shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore.” We thank Him for His traveling mercies.

**Haiti, Les Cayes**

*Mike & Susie Walder*

Does God still perform miracles? When we ask in faith, will He respond? Yes, definitely!

Since all of the missionaries are in the U.S. during the summer months, we will take a break from regular news and share a recent miracle that left us all rejoicing.

One afternoon, Bro. Les Kaeb, the missionary farm manager at HarvestCall’s Dairy Program, went to pay some workers and discovered that his wallet was missing. He soon figured out that it had been stolen by a painter who had just left. The wallet contained money, but also Les’ passport – and the Kaeb family was planning to return to the U.S. in just over a week. You can imagine how disheartening this was.

So Les made plans for the four-hour trip to Port-au-Prince to try to get an expedited passport. Meanwhile, the community was in turmoil, concerned that the Kaeb’s might abandon the project because of the theft. A community meeting was called. When the Kaeb’s arrived, they found the gazebo there packed with people.

Les talked about forgiving the thief, sharing Christ’s words that we have to forgive if we want to be forgiven. All the people agreed to give it to God and allow Him to be the Judge. They also encouraged each other that Satan’s attacks could be expected whenever he saw good things happening.

One man stepped forward and said he was not a Christian, but what he had witnessed had to be the power of God. He said the behavior Les was displaying was remarkable. In Haiti, thieves are usually shown no mercy.

A few hours later, Les’ right-hand Haitian assistant came running up saying he had good news! He led Les along a canal and then off the path. He pulled back some weeds behind a tomb, and there was the missing wallet! The farmer who had found it kept grinning and saying over and over, “God is here!” It turns out the farmer had been drying rice on top of his wife’s tomb. Some had dropped on the ground and when retrieving it, he discovered the wallet. The thief had discarded the wallet after taking the money, but Les’ important papers were all still there.

News spreads quickly in Haiti. A few days later when Les was filling up his vehicle with gas, one of the security guards there said, “You’re the one who had your passport stolen, and God gave it back to you.”

“But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.” Isaiah 40:31

**Illinois, Belvidere**

*Krista Anliker, Amy Hanson*

Greetings from Belvidere!

1 Peter 3:15 “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and [be] ready always to [give] an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.”

Our hearts are full and thankful to all ministers who take time to visit and serve on our pulpit. This last month, Bro. Jerry Bauman (Sis. Martha, Rittman, OH) shared his time in our pulpit ministry. During VBS for the Jr. High and High School our youth were also blessed with Bro. Rick Kaisner (Chicago, IL) and Bro. Justin Koch (Washington, IL). So much can be learned from all our ministers when we open our ears and hearts!

We are thankful Bro. Rod and Sis. Anne Anliker are able to assemble with us again! It brings joy to our hearts to worship with any of our dear brothers and sisters.

Deuteronomy 31:12 “Gather the people together, men, and women,
and children, and thy stranger that is within thy gates, that they may hear, and that they may learn, and fear the LORD your God, and observe to do all the words of this law.”

Leviticus 23:22 “And when ye reap the harvest of your land, thou shalt not make clean riddance of the corners of thy field when thou reapest, neither shalt thou gather any gleaning of thy harvest: thou shalt leave them unto the poor, and to the stranger: I am the LORD your God.”

As our garden harvests continue, let us be aware of those less fortunate who could benefit from our labors and waste no produce. When we are blessed we have a beautiful opportunity to be a blessing to others who may go without, if we choose not to share!

Illinois, Bloomington-Normal
Jenae Herrmann, Megan Kaeb

“Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.” 1 Thessalonians 5:5

This verse often comes to mind while enjoying this bright summer sunshine and gloriously long summer days! Light is an amazing thing, providing warmth, illuminating so much beauty, helping us to see clearly, and bringing growth and new life. Hallelujah, because of Christ, we can be children of light and children of the day!

It was a joy to hear the testimony and witness the baptism of Rick Schmidt on June 25. He is the son of Bro. Rod and Sis. Cindy Schmidt. We praise God for His work in Bro. Rick’s life and are so thankful to have him in our church family!

That afternoon following the baptism, we enjoyed our annual Sunday School Picnic. It was a beautiful day to enjoy fellowship and a potluck dinner together, as well as fun activities for the children.

We recently grieved the parting of our dear Sis. Ellen Vogel as she went home to be with the Lord. We also extend our sympathy to Tom Rieger and Sis. Karen Rieger at the passing of their brother and uncle, Andy Rieger.

We rejoice with Bro. Derek and Sis. Julie Rabe at the engagement of their son, Benson, to Sophia Kuhlman. Sophia’s parents are Joseph and Lisa Kuhlman.

“Anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy follow me all the days of my life and thus shall I dwell in God’s holy house, now and forever more…” The 23rd Psalm, Zions Harp #212

The words at the end of this beautiful hymn seem to burst with joy as the bride walks down the aisle to be united with her groom. On July 9, we rejoiced and celebrated the wedding of our Bro. Bryce Wegman and Sis. Natalie Steiner. Their parents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Karen Wegman, and Dale and Pam Steiner. We were thankful to have Bro. Scott Wegman (Sis. Dawn, Taylor, MO) and Bro. Harvey Kaeb (Sis. Judy, Gridley, IL) with us for this special day. We wish Bro. Bryce and Sis. Natalie God’s blessings as they build their new home together and reflect Christ’s love for His bride!

It was also a blessing to have Bro. Eric Strassheim (Sis. Jodi, Indianapolis, IN) share the word this past month.

Illinois, Bradford
Roseann Stahl, Rebecca Endress

For some fifty years, our congregation has gathered on the last Sunday in June at the same park near Princeton, IL for our Sunday school picnic. The evening begins with a short program of hymns sung by each class, and a prayer by the outgoing teaching brother. We thank Bro. Bill Stahl and also Sis. Kay Kellenberger for their years of faithfully teaching our Sunday school children.

When classes resume in August, Bro. Steve Endress and Sis. Donna Nenadov will begin their terms as incoming teachers.

Two beautiful babies are coming to church in their mothers’ arms. On June 27, Elizabeth Ann was born to Bro. Ernie and Sis. Lana Wiegand. She is joyfully welcomed by her parents and her grandparents, Dale and Sis. Freidora Wiegand (Eureka, IL), and Bro. Steve and Sis. Anna Marie Stoller.

Asher William Joos arrived the following day (June 28), the son of Bro. Chad and Sis. Joanna Joos. He is loved by big sister Adrienne and grandparents Bro. Ralph and Sis. Jenny Joos and Bro. Nathan and Sis. Sherrill Stoller.
Ministering Bro. Matthew Kaisner (Sis. Jodi, Fairbury, IL) and family visited us on a recent Sunday. We thank him for his service as he shared the Word of life.

“A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.”
Proverbs 17:17

The book of Proverbs presents so many facets of friendship and tells us how to plant, cultivate, maintain, and benefit from them. Jesus summed it all up in St. John 15:12-14: “This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.” Let’s be more purposeful in being a friend of His and of one another.

Illinois, Chicago
Diana Eisenmann

We extend thanks to ministering Bro. Nathan Rassi (Sis. Michelle, St. Louis, MO) for visiting us in July. Vacation Bible School week in June brought several additional visiting ministers: Bro. Jesse Bedolla (Sis. Bonnie, Detroit, MI), Bro. Darren Plattner (Sis. Sue, Champaign, IL), and Bro. Matthew Feucht (Sis. Jennifer, Roanoke, IL). We thank these ministers and their families for being willing to visit us and share in worship and fellowship. Our VBS topic this year was “Joseph’s Journey: From Prison to Palace”. We all enjoyed learning more about the truths that God revealed to Joseph about hope, wisdom, and forgiveness through the many trials he experienced.

Sis. Betty Schlatter and Sis. Katrina Cordero shared an “End of Life” presentation with us. We thank them for their efforts and appreciate their expertise in educating us on this sensitive, but important topic.

We rejoice to share some exciting news this month! Sis. Rebekah Herrmann is engaged to Bro. Jared Stoller (Denver, CO). Their parents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Darlene Herrmann of Princeville, IL and Bro. Ed and Sis. Boni Stoller of Denver, CO. We praise God for His work in bringing them together and pray for His continued blessing and guidance in their future.

We are also thankful to announce that Alexa Steffen has found peace with God and man and looks forward to sharing her testimony and baptism in the coming months. We also welcome Amy Hausmann from Bradford who has come to the Chicago area for work.

Illinois, Cissna Park
Amber Stuckel, Pam Walder

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

Bro. Nathan and Sis. Hillary Kaeb rejoice to welcome their precious son, Kaiden Todd Kaeb. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Todd and Sis. Val Kaeb and Marty and Lisa Hines.

Our prayers have been with those experiencing health issues recently. They are Sis. Jean Knapp, Bro. Gilbert (Sis. Kathy) Stock, and Bro. Joe (Sis. Amber) Stuckel.

VBS was held the week of June 19-23. We’re appreciative for the labors of love put into the week on behalf of the children, including the visiting ministers who spoke with our older students. We thank Bro. Willis (Sis. Lois) Ehne, Peoria, IL, Bro. Randy (Sis. Evie) Mogler, Washington, IL, Bro. Tim (Sis. Cathy) Hohulin, Roanoke, IL, and Bro. Robert (Sis. Sue) Beebe, South Bend, IN.

On July 2 our congregation was blessed to witness the wedding vows of Bro. Tyler Eisenmann (Bro. Steve and Sis. Cheryl) and Sis. Julia Kaeb (Bro. Max and Sis. Beth). We pray God’s richest blessings on their union and are thankful they are making their home in Cissna Park. Several visiting ministers spent the day with us. We thank Bro. Les (Sis. Christine) Kaeb, Francesville, IN; Bro. Mark (Sis. Tammy) Roth, Congerville, IL; and Bro. Warren (Sis. Cindy) Schlatter, Junction, OH.

Our annual Sunday School picnic was held in the park. We were blessed to have Bro. Zach (Sis. Karla) Anderson, Congerville, IL with us that day.

Illinois, Congerville
Erica Steffen

Aria Joy Ott was added to the family of Bro. Andy and Sis. Erin Ott on May 10. Aria’s excited siblings are: Sierra, Malaya and Clayton. May God’s blessings be
on this dear family as they love on their new, sweet little girl!

We are, Lord willing, looking forward to baptisms of converts Landon Dietrich (Bro. John and Renee), Rose Knobloch (Jerry and Sis. Linda) and Kyle Steffen (Kent and Sis. Beth) on the weekend of September 23 and 24. Let’s keep these three souls in our prayers that peace would forever remain in their hearts as they approach this date with anticipation and joy!

On June 25, we held our annual Sunday School Picnic at the Eureka Middle School. It was a blessed evening to watch our children play and “graduate” to their next class. May the students and teachers feel the Spirit’s nearness as we enter into a new year of learning more about our Savior!

We have three young couples engaged to be married this year! Sarah Hartman is engaged to Jared West. Their parents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Lisa Hartman and David and Sherry West of Roanoke. Jill Stoller is engaged to JD Andrews. Their parents are Bro. Brent and Sis. Kay Stoller and Jeff and Melissa Andrews of Eureka. Alan Zimmerman is engaged to Karissa Wiegand. Their parents are Bro. Chuck and Sis. Ginny Zimmerman and Norman and Stephanie Wiegand of Goodfield. May God bless them as they look forward to becoming united in marriage!

We appreciated Bro. Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi, Alto, MI) and Bro. Brad Gudeman (Sis. Teresa, Bradford) as they visited our church this month and labored in the Word on our behalf. May they feel the blessing of their work for the Lord and be strengthened by the prayers of the brethren.

This week my 4-year-old son saw something he liked and told me, “Mom, I wish we had…” I told him it was nice, but we have a lot of nice things too. Shortly thereafter, he was listening to an audio book and asked me, “Mom, what does contentment mean?” Although he had heard the word in the audio book, I had to smile at the juxtaposition of his comments. We were reminded in a recent sermon of the verse, “But godliness with contentment is great gain.” 1 Timothy 6:6. The verse does not read, “Godliness with great gain is contentment.” The minister pointed out the order of the words in that verse can so often be switched around in our lives, changing the entire meaning of the statement and distorting God’s Holy Word. Do we find ourselves falling into this trap? As Christians, we should not be saying, “If I only had…THEN I would be content.” Let us be willing to be content-wherever we find ourselves, and not be deceived into thinking that only when we have achieved great gain can we be content and able to be used for the service of the Lord!

We thank Bro. Jerry Bauman (Sis. Martha, Rittman, OH) for ministering on Wednesday, June 21, while en route to their vacation. That evening, we also appreciated the brethren from Belvidere, IL who came to worship with us.

Our prayers have been with little Jakob Steffen (21-month-old son of Daniel and Samantha Steffen), who underwent his third open-heart surgery on July 13. We are praying that the surgery is successful and that he can soon be at home again to play with his older sister, Kaylee.

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

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

God’s Power Revealed in the Clouds, Zion’s Harp #67, Verse 1

Illinois, Eureka
Debra Blunier, Linda Rocke

“I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go; I will guide thee with mine eye.” Ps. 32:8

How important to be reminded, as we have been several times in recent sermons, that life is not about our “bucket list” of
goals and pleasures, but using our time as God directs and being ready to use our God-given talents for Him in the service of others.

Appreciating the ministering brothers who willingly serve us, we thank Bro. Arlen Leman (Sis. Denise, Forrest, IL), Bro. John Steiner (Sis. Carol, Mediapolis, IA), Bro. Paul Kilgus (Sis. Carmen, Fairbury, IL), Bro. Paul Zimmerman (Sis. Loretta, Forrest, IL), Elder Bro. Randy Beer (Sis. Deb, Milford, IN), and Bro. Clint Schmidt (Sis. Magdalena, Winthrop, MN).

Elizabeth Anne was born June 26, the first child of Bro. Ernie and Sis. Lana Wiegand, who recently relocated to Bradford, IL. We will look forward to their visits! Grandparents are Dale and Sis. Freidora Wiegand, and Bro. Steve and Sis. Anne Stoller of Bradford.

Bro. Joel (Sis. Sonia, dec.) Banwart continues to recuperate well after a car accident last month. We are very thankful for his returning health.

Sis. Charlene (Bro. Bob) Schumacher also was hospitalized and is now thankful to be able to return home. The skilled care of doctors and nurses is such a gift, though in addition we recognize the One who is the Greatest Healer of all!

Our sympathy goes out to Sis. Mick (Bro. Harold, dec.) Hodel on the recent death of her brother-in-law, Bro. Robert (Sis. Lorene, dec.) Hodel of Roanoke.

We rejoice with Sis. Larae Schumacher and Bro. Jordan Zimmerman, Forrest, as they were wed July 16. We wish them God’s richest blessings as they begin their lives together. Parents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Lavonne Schumacher and Bro. Kent and Sis. Paulette Zimmerman of Forrest.

Notes of Thanks:

We want to thank everyone for the many acts of love and kindness shown unto us at the passing of Ida Mae. Thank you so much for the cards, gifts, flowers, food, prayers, and expressions of sympathy. It makes us realize what a wonderful blessing our church family is. May God richly bless each and every one of you. Bro. Eldon Rocke and family

A sincere thank you to all for the many ways you shared love and kindness at the passing of Nelson. The cards, calls, prayers, and so many expressions of love, sympathy, and support mean so much. God’s richest blessings to all of you. Sis. Mary Ellen Martin and family

Illinois, Fairbury

Janelle Stoller, Trish Steidinger

We welcome Bro. Nathanael Jones (Silvertown, OR) who has come to spend some time in our area! May he feel the Lord’s blessings as he worships with our congregation.

Our annual Sunday School Picnic was held on Sunday, June 25. It was a blessing to see the students enjoying time with their fellow classmates and teachers!

We thank Bro. Nathan Teubel (Sis. Jennifer) and Sis. Melanie Teubel (Bro. Ed) for their loving service during their years teaching our children in Sunday School. Likewise, we offer our support to Bros. Ben Herr (Sis. Tessa) and Kent Steidinger (Sis. Beth) who have been called to begin their Sunday School teaching terms. We wish them God’s nearness as they seek to make relationships with our students while teaching them from God’s Word. What a truly important calling!

Our prayers have been with Bro. Tom Steidinger (Sis. Dianne) and Valerie Steidinger (Daniel) as they have spent some time in the hospital recently. May they feel our encouragement as they recover.

“Rejoice with them that do rejoice,” Romans 12:15

We rejoice with Bro. Jeff and Sis. Jannelle Stoller on the birth of their son, Clint Ryan, on July 17! Siblings: Heidi, Natalie, Darin, and Emily are excited to welcome their new baby brother into their hearts and home! Thankful grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Rosemary Hartman and Bro. Dale and Sis. Sandra Stoller.

We also rejoice with Bro. Micah Zehr of Remington, IN (Bro. Nelson and Sis. Amy, Fairbury) as his engagement to Sis. Brittany Fehr (Bro. Joe and Sis. Joan) of Kansas City, MO was announced on Sunday, July 16. We wish them God’s blessings as they plan for an October wedding.

“…and weep with them that weep.” Romans 12:15

We offer our sincere sympathy
to the family of Lavern Bittner (the late Wayne) who passed away on July 11. Our prayers are with her children: Gary (Linda) Bittner, Jane (Al) Freehill and Keith (Vickie) Bittner. May they be blessed with many fond memories of their mother.

Our prayers go with Bro. Toby Steidinger (Bro. Martin & Sis. Trish) as he relocates to SIUE in Edwardsville, IL to further his schooling. He will be worshipping with our St. Louis, MO congregation. We wish him God’s blessings and nearness.

**Illinois, Forrest**

_Carissa Knapp, Shannon Brown_

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

_Luke 15:10_

We are rejoicing with the angels as Morgan Lanz (Bro. Troy and Sis. Kathleen) and Noland Kupferschmid (Bro. Todd and Kim) have turned to the Lord in repentance. We wish them God’s grace.

July 16 was the wedding day of Bro. Jordan Zimmerman (Bro. Kent and Sis. Paulette) and Sis. Larae Schumacher (Bro. Dale and Sis. Lavonne, Eureka, IL). We enjoy having our children in church all day with us as they are on Sunday School summer break until after Labor Day.

We surely do enjoy our newly-remodeled Fellowship Hall and used it again on July 9 for a hamburger fry and hymn sing. It was a great turnout with about 140 of our church family enjoying a delicious meal, great fellowship, and topped off with an hour of singing praises to our great God. We were also blessed by a group of our young brothers who sang a few numbers for us that evening.

Thanks be to God for safe travels home from Jamaica for our Bible Class students and their chaperones. It was a very uplifting and enjoyable week for all as they worked together on various projects at the Deaf School.

We are so thankful to report that two of our students have since turned their hearts and lives over to Jesus. Brooke Wiegand (Bro. Brad and Sis. Karen) and Joan Zimmerman (Bro. Mike and Sis. Gretchen) are feeling the weight of sin lifted as they surrendered to His will.

We are also thankful for Toby Plattner (Bro. Kurt and Sis. Joan) as he has also turned his heart over to the Lord in repentance. On this note, we are thankful that he is now here in the states with his family on a summer ‘break’ from the missionary duties in Haiti.

Bro. Loren and Sis. Darcy Schock were blessed with another sweet little girl on June 20. Big sister, Kina, is excited to welcome little Renly Mae to the family as are grandparents, Elder Bro. Doug and Sis. Clara Schock, Bloomfield, IA and Bro. Phil and Sis. Jane Price, Milford, IN.

Our Bro. Cecil Nohl celebrated his 100th birthday this month. His family hosted a birthday party open house for him to mark the milestone. He has recently left his home to go into the Roanoke Nursing Home. He still has an amazing sense of humor and we are thankful for his example.

Our love and sympathies go to Sis. Verna Hartter as she bid farewell to her brother, Bro. Nelson Martin of Eureka. Bro. Nelson was also the grandfather of our Sis. Joni (Jeremy) Zacha and we extend love and sympathy to them as well.

Many in our congregation have experienced health concerns. We lift them all up to the Father in prayer. Sis. Sarah Melton has been confined to her home.
Bro. Mike (Sis. Lila) Wirtz had a hospital stay. Sis. Allene (Bro. Jerry) Steffen was hospitalized and is now back at the Eureka Home. Bro. Gale (Sis. Jane) Wiegand had another surgery, but seems to be doing much better at this time. Our dear friend, Joanne Lockwood, has been diagnosed with esophageal cancer and covets our prayers. Joanne is the only sibling of our Sis. Joyce (Bro. Wes) Hohulin and we lift them all up in prayer that the Lord’s will could be accomplished in Joanne’s life.

Finally, a loving thank you to Bro. Virgil Kaeb (Sis. SueEllen, Sarasota, FL) for willingly serving us recently during a visit to IL. We invite you to come again soon.

**Illinois, Gridley**

**Perry Klopfenstein**

Worshiping and singing are always endearing to the believer. Yet, often there are thoughts and words that leave a special impact on our hearts. I call them “take home thoughts.” They can come through preaching, reading the Word, singing, and praying. One such take home thought I had recently was from the hymn, “The Way of the Cross Leads Home.” In verse three, we sing, “Then I bid farewell to the way of the world, to walk in it nevermore.” This is a strong commitment, and sobering!

Noah William Holstine was born on January 19 to Kevin and Sarah Holstine. He has a brother, Raymond, 2. Grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Kay Hock of Minonk, and Bill and Carol Holstine of Nevada, IA. We wish this couple many blessings in raising this little boy.

Sis. Victoria Stoller was announced to marry Bro. Jesse Wuetrich of Francesville, IN. Her parents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Mary Stoller. He is the son of Bro. Bruce and Sis. Kathy Wuetrich, Francesville, IN. A November wedding is being planned.

Bro. Bob Greiner, 93, passed away on July 19 at Fairview Haven in Fairbury. His wife, Sis. Eileen Greiner, preceded him in death on November 2016. They were married for 44 years. He is survived by one step-daughter, Sis. Ardean (Bro. Larry) Stoller, Gridley; and three grandchildren, Sis. Christine (Bro. Matt) Ginzel, West Lafayette, IN; Nathan (Leila) Romersberger; and Bro. Philip (Sis. Becky) Romersberger, Gridley. Eight great-grandchildren also survive him. Bro. Bob was a gentle and kind brother in faith, and he will be missed.

Sis. Kathy Wiegand was injured in a fall and broke her wrist. We wish her well in her recovery.


Two families have been blessed with new babies. May 17, Milly Ann joined the family of Ben and Tracy Bucher. Happy grandparents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Barb Zimmerman and Bro. Tim and Sis. Julie Bucher, Valparaiso, IN. Great-grandma is Sis. Milly Zimmerman (late Bro. Joe). On July 9, Bro. Clinton and Sis. Maria Leman welcomed their first child, Joshua Reef. Grandparents from Morton who are excited about this new addition to their family are Bro. Tim and Sis. Beth Leman, Bro. Andy and Sis. Jayne Sauder, great-grandpa Bro. Joe Braker (the late Sis. Shirley) and great, great-grandma Sis. Helen Schmidgall.

**Illinois, Morton**

**Annette Tanner, Julie Bahr**

On July 16, we were blessed to have several visiting ministers. Elder Bro. Steve Sauder (Sis Mary), Bro. James Fehr (Sis. Brenda), Bro. Tom Bolliger (Sis. Jane), Bro. John Rassi (Sis. Heather) all of Tremont, IL; and Bro. Keith Hinrichsen (Sis. Tammy, Phoenix, AZ). They all came to share in the wedding day of Bro. Aaron Baer of Tremont and our Sis. Stephanie Braker. Their parents are Bro. Brent and Sis. Becky Braker, Morton and Tom and Martha Baer of Tremont. We wish them God’s blessings as they worship with the Tremont congregation.

Many were also able to witness the marriage of our Bro. Justin Schick to Sis. Angie Koch in Tremont on June 18. Their parents are Bro. Keith and Sis. Janice Schick of Morton and Bro. Chuck and Sis. Kathy Koch of Tremont. We welcome Sis. Angie to our Morton church family.


On July 9, Bro. Clinton and Sis. Maria Leman welcomed their first child, Joshua Reef. Grandparents from Morton who are excited about this new addition to their family are Bro. Tim and Sis. Beth Leman, Bro. Andy and Sis. Jayne Sauder, great-grandpa Bro. Joe Braker (the late Sis. Shirley) and great, great-grandma Sis. Helen Schmidgall.
Our Morton congregation has begun a series of Wednesday evening services on the teachings from the minor prophets. June 28, our Bro. Jeremiah Psinas spoke to us on the prophet Joel. We were reminded if we repent, God is gracious to forgive. Joel 2:13 tells us to “....turn unto the Lord your God for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness...” and Joel 2:32 “And it shall come to pass that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be delivered.”

July 12, our Bro. Jon Zeller (Sis. Christie) taught us about Hosea, the prophet of love. Once again we were told God is ready to forgive, as stated in Hosea 10:12, “Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up fallow ground: for it is time to seek the Lord, till he come and rain righteousness upon you.”

May we all continue to pray for not only our loved ones, but all people who have not yet turned to the Lord in repentance.

Illinois, Peoria
Crystal Klopfenstein, Bonnie Bach

“Ring the bells of heaven! there is joy today, for a soul returning from the wild”. Tabernacle Hymns #202.

Four more dear souls have turned to the Lord in repentance. They are Tasha Streitmatter, daughter of Bro. Ron and Sis. Lori; Jaz Schick, daughter of Bro. Bill and Sis. Joan; Dawn Boles, sister of Sis. Gina Martin; and Randy Fehr, son of the late Bro. Wade and Sis. Marge. We pray that they may increase in wisdom and love of the Lord!

Sunday, July 16, was the wedding day of Sis. Chelsea Streitmatter (Bro. Doug and Sis. Cindy) and Bro. Craig Huber (Bro. Ryan and Sis. Terri, Bloomington, IL). We wish them God’s blessings as they establish their home! Serving us from God’s word that day were Bro. Howard Plattner (Sis. Kristen, Alto, MI) and Bro. Dan Cargill (Sis. Stephanie, Prescott, AZ).

Bro. Wayne and Sis. Carol Klopfenstein have welcomed their fourth grandchild, Trinity Brielle. Her parents are Bro. Morgan and Sis. Kyra Langhofer of Indianapolis, IN. Excited big siblings are Emerson, Chelise, and Ariana.

Among those needing prayers for recovery are Sis. Norma Rieker (Fred), Bro. Mike Rieker (Sis. Carol), and Bro. Jim Hoerr (Sis. Virginia).

“God’s ways we cannot understand, we only cling to His great hand, like a child to father’s through earth’s night until we see the morning light.”
- John V. Troth

Illinois, Princeville
Renee Herrmann, Melinda Christ

Our annual Sunday School picnic was held June 25 at Hickory Grove Park, with each of the classes reciting a memory verse or books of the Bible they have been learning throughout the year and singing a couple of songs.

We rejoice with Collin Martin as he has begun his repentance. He is the son of Elder Bro. Craig and Sis. Terri Martin. May the call continue to go forth and souls young and old come while the door of grace is still open.

Bro. Seth and Sis. Samantha Kieser are happy parents to a second baby girl. Alaina Mae was born on July 5, joining big sister Addyson. Grandparents are Bro. Tim and Sis. Denise Kieser, and Bro. Geoff and Sis. Angie Ginzel of Peoria, IL.

What a privilege it is to travel and spend time with brethren in other congregations. Summer travels and reunions brought many visiting ministers again this month: Elder Bro. Brad Eisenmann (Sis. Cindy, Chicago, IL) and Bro. Kirk Plattner (Sis. Keri, West Lafayette, IN) and Bro. Kevin Fehr (Sis. Lonnie, West Bend, IA) and Bro. Ed Fritz (Sis. Barb, Washington, IL).

“Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the Lord.” Proverbs 18:22

The engagement of Sis. Rebekah Herrmann of Chicago, IL, daughter of Bro. Roger and Sis. Darlene Herrmann to Bro. Jared Stoller of Denver, CO, son of Bro. Ed and Sis. Boni Stoller of Denver, CO was made known on July 9.

We welcome Sis. Jan Hoehn to our congregation. She moved back from Phoenix, AZ and is residing at Apostolic Christian Skylines in an apartment. Jan is the mother of Sis. Cathy Stahl (Bro. Rod).

Those suffering from the
afflictions of the body and spending time in the hospital are Joan Rumbold (Raymond), Sis. Donna Gehrig (Bro. Kenneth), and Aleah Martin, daughter of Bro. Ben and Hannah Martin. “In sorrow and pain thy trust to retain in Jesus thy merciful savior.” Zion’s Harp #46

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Loretta Rumbold on the passing of her brother, Bro. Nelson Martin (Sis. Mary Ellen, Eureka, IL). He is also a brother-in-law to Bro. Ray Wagenbach (Sis. Betty) and Bro. Lawrence Wagenbach (Sis. Elaine) and Sis. Bernice Stoller.

Two couples celebrated special anniversaries. Bro. Walt and Sis. Betty Lou Herrmann had all their family together for a meal to commemorate their 60th wedding anniversary. Raymond and Joan Rumbold as well had a family gathering to celebrate their milestone 60th anniversary. May God bless them with good health and strength in the days to come.

**Illinois, Roanoke**

**Barb Schwind, Judy Sauder**

Our annual Sunday School picnic was held on June 25. It’s always an enjoyable way to finish out the year of Sunday School and Bible Class teaching. We thank all those who faithfully instruct our youth from year to year.

Taylor Sauder (Bro. Jeff & Sis. Jodie) was united in marriage to Mason Shirley (Barb McRoy & Greg Shirley) on June 30. Samantha Harris (Bro. Todd & Sis. Andrea) and Austin Meinhold (Todd & Amee) of Benson, IL became one on July 8. Also on July 8, Gary Wettstein (Bro. Gary & Sis. Elna) and Olivia Salzer (Gary & Lisa) of Washington, IL exchanged wedding vows. Jake Wacker (Jim & Sis. Cheryl) is engaged to be married to Heather Armstrong (Darwin & Carrie) of Roanoke. We rejoice with these dear couples and pray for God’s rich blessings upon them as they begin their futures together.

We are thankful to have Bro. Scott, Sis. Mandy, Sis. Bri, Chlo and Gabby Yordy worshipping with us for several weeks over the summer. They serve in Haiti with HarvestCall. We are inspired by their faithful witness and passion for the outreach of the gospel.

We also welcome Sis. Rachel Fehr home for the summer. She is a teacher in the U.A.E. May the Lord bless her as she spends time here with family and friends.

Bro. Rich Isaia recently announced his resignation as our nursing home administrator. Bro. Rich has faithfully served in that capacity for many years. We appreciate his ongoing devotion and service to the residents of our nursing home, Country View apartments and duplexes.

Bro. Nate (Sis. Karel) Hoffman was hired to be our new nursing home administrator. We pray for God’s blessing upon Bro. Nate as he begins these new responsibilities.

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

Our church is preparing to host the annual Brotherhood Conference in August. We pray it will be a blessed, spirit-filled week and bring honor and glory to God. We thank all those who have been involved in all the planning, organizing and countless details that are necessary to accomplish this large undertaking. May God bless each one.

We want to lift up in prayer Bro. Jim Wiegand, Bro. Dennis Schwind (Sis. Rita), and Wally Leman (Sis. Marilyn) for God’s nearness, healing and strength as they deal with health issues.

**Illinois, Tremont**

**Debbie Aberle, Janice Sauder**

“When pure and upright hearts, By flames of love ignited, Are by the bond of faith, More firmly yet united” Zion’s Harp #79.

We have rejoiced with three new couples this month, and wish them God’s richest blessings and many happy healthy years together. A threefold cord is not lightly broken. Bro. Justin Schick (Bro. Keith & Sis. Janice, Morton, IL) and Sis. Angie Koch (Bro. Chuck & Sis. Cathy) were united on Father’s Day. We appreciated having ministering Bros. Ted Hirstein (Sis. Joyce) and Jeff Neibouser (Sis. Sue) both of Morton, IL and Bro. Tim Roecker (Sis. Diane, Peoria, IL) here for the wedding. Sis. Katie Koch (Bro. Dan and Sis. Julie) was united with Bro. Santos Lopez (son of Juana Cabrera Sanchez,
Chicago, IL) on July 2, both Katie and Santos are from the Austin/Bastrop, TX. We were blessed to be a part of their special day. Ministers were Bro. Dennis Rassi (Sis. Diane, Austin/Bastrop, TX), Bro. Matthew Rassi (Sis. Bridget, Chicago, IL), Bro. Bill Schick (Sis. Joan, Peoria, IL) and Bro. John Steiner (Sis. Carol, Mediapolis, IA.) Bro. Aaron Baer (Tom & Martha, Tremont, IL) and Sis. Stephanie Braker (Bro. Brent & Sis. Becky, Morton, IL) pledged their lives to one another on July 16 in Morton. We welcome Sis. Stephanie to our church and trust she will feel our love toward her.

We enjoyed many visitors as our congregation hosted a Ft. Sam reunion.

“Thy love divine hath led us in the past, In this free land by Thee our lot is cast; Be Thou our ruler, guardian, guide and stay, Thy Word our law, Thy paths our chosen way.”

God of our Fathers, vs 2

"America! America! God shed His grace on thee. And crown thy good with brotherhood From sea to shining sea!”

Another special evening was the Sunday School picnic at the park. We so appreciate all those who give of their time and talent to teach our youth!

Bro. Galen and Sis. LeaAnn Huette welcome Easton Jay into their hearts and home, along with grandparents Bro. Dave and Sis. Susan Huette and Sis. Colleen Ringger (Gridley, IL). Bro. Brent and Sis. Janelle Sauder are also thankful to welcome Clay Christian to their family. Londyn, Tyra, and Cason are excited to have a new little brother, as well as grandparents Elder Bro. Steve & Sis. Mary Sauder and Bro. Todd & Sis. Rita Kilgus. We wish these families much joy and happiness!

Our thoughts are with Bro. Caleb Rassi (Bro. Curt & Sis. Kathy) as he recovers from extensive ankle surgery.

Illinois, Washington

**Kendra Funk, Patricia Knapp**

“But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things,

And bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.” John 14:26

Prayers of comfort and sympathy to those that have lost loved ones. Bro. Todd (Sis. Joellen) Martin and Bro. Harvey (Sis. Sharon) Martin said goodbye to their father and brother, Bro. Nelson Martin (Eureka). Sis. Marcia (Bro. Justin) Koch said goodbye to her father, Bro. Oliver Stieglitz (Latty). Bro. Andy and Bro. Randy (Sis. Evie) Mogler said an early goodbye to their grandson and nephew, Luke Mogler of Elk River, MN, as a result of a vehicle accident. May they feel the presence of the true Comforter.

We thank the visiting minister who served us recently Bro. Ned Bahler (Sis. Anna, Fairbury).

Indiana, Bluffton

**Suzie Fiechter, Liana Reinhard, Olivia Moser**

Summer’s in full swing here in Bluffton! Father’s Day has come and gone. We were blessed with the reminder that Father’s Day is a day for everyone to celebrate because of our loving Father in Heaven. However, our hearts still go out to those who have lost their earthly fathers or are estranged from them.

We’ve been privileged to have two visiting ministers this month. Bro. Nate (Sis. Jamie, Roanoke) Hodel was here on Father’s Day. Recently, Bro. Joe (Sis. Tara, Indianapolis) Sprunger challenged us to live a missionary life wherever God places us.

Our church has been filled with happy grandparents this month. Bro. Don and Sis. Suzie Fiechter rejoice with the birth of Mavric Jay, son of Bro. Doug and Sis. Brooke Harmon (Toledo, OH). Mavric’s other grandparents are Bro. Doug and Sis. Lanna Harmon of Toledo. Greta Louise was born to Bro. Ross and Sis. Leah Feller (Leo, IN). Bro. Mark and Sis. Barb Gerber are thankful to welcome Greta as their first granddaughter. Her paternal grandparents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Jacki Feller (Valpraiso, IN). Also rejoicing are Bro. Tyson and Sis. Amanda Frauhiger with the birth of their first daughter, Ivy Wren. She joins big brothers: Dirk, Mack, Cash, and Ty, and
grandparents, Bro. Kris and Sis. Ann Frauhiger and Bro. Jim and Sis. Rachel Isch. Lilly Grace has been gifted to Bro. Vince, Sis. Breana, Jake and Georgie Fiechter. Her grandparents are Bro. Doug and Sis. Lillian Wagenbach (San Diego, CA) and Elder Bro. Lynn and Sis. Ronda Fiechter.

Our Sis. Beth Klopfenstein appreciates prayers as she tries to adjust after relocating to Toledo to be with her family. We are thankful for the two years she has blessed our Bluffton Church!

The family of Sis. Irene Neuenschwander covets our prayers as they laid their dear mom and grandma to rest. Her children are Sis. Linda (Bro. Jeff) McAfee, Randy (Judy), Mike (Candy) and Joe (Amy). Our love and prayers are with Bro. Carl and Sis. Evelyn Hackenjos on the passing of their son, Brad. May the Holy Spirit be their comforter!

Bro. John and Sis. Pam Reinhard are rejoicing with their son, Bro. Joel, as he is engaged to Amy Goulet. They are looking forward to a November wedding.

One way that we were able to carry out God’s call to be a missionary in our everyday lives was through our ACTION project this past month. It was a blessing to help a local family with painting the exterior of their house.

“Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God.”
1 John 3:1

Indiana, Bluffton North
Corinne Stettner, Amy Moser

“Legs in chains in hands in bonds are bearable when the mind is in heaven.”
-unknown persecuted Christian

We would like to thank Elder Bro. Victor Bauman (Sis. Brenda, Smithville, OH) sharing our Savior’s word this month. We appreciate your willingness to serve.

Bro. Shawn and Sis. Mindy Yergler welcomed another daughter to their family. Bella Grace was born on May 25. She joins Colton, Braysen, Ashton, and Brielle at home. Grandparents are Jeff and Sue Yergler and Jim and Sheila VanCamp and Susan Dickey.

Bro. Dan and Sis. Sherry Pfister are pleased to announce the engagement of their son, Bro. Conner, to Sis. Whitney Stieglitz of Leo. Whitney is the daughter of Bro. Steve and Sis. Jane Stieglitz. We wish them God’s richest blessings as they begin their walk together.

Bro. Jadon and Sis. Tundy Rauch’s son Jamin was able to be released from Riley Children’s Hospital. The severe infection in his sacrum was able to be treated without surgery. Praise God!

Indiana Francesville
Mildred Clauss, Jacki Huber

We were encouraged and inspired by the testimony and baptism of our Sister in Christ, Lana Kaeb (Bro. Les and Sis. Christine). Bro. Les, Sis. Christine and their daughters, Sisters Leah and Lana are “home” in Francesville for a short time, as they have been residing in Haiti. Many visitors were with us, and we especially thank Elder Bro. Harvey Kaeb (Sis. Judy, Gridley IL), who is Lana’s uncle. Bro. Harvey assisted with Lana’s testimony and baptism. Bro. Loren Schrenk (Sis. Betsy, St. Louis, MO) also shared God’s Word. We wish to thank him and all who added blessings to the weekend by visiting us.

Thanks also to Bro. Andy Kaufmann (Sis. Marie, Bloomington-Normal, IL) for sharing the Word of God on a recent Sunday.

We are so thankful for an addition to our church family. Bro. Samuel, Sis. Carrie, Aleksandr (Alek) and Ruth Gutwein, have moved to the Francesville area from Indianapolis. We thank God for the vibrancy they add to our congregation. We pray that they will feel the blessings and nearness of our wonderful Lord as we worship together.

Our continued prayers are with Sis. Diane Clevenger and her husband, Jon, as they have been through valleys of trial with Diane’s health concerns. We pray the Lord’s nearness and sustaining peace to them.

Heartfelt prayers are also with our dear Sis. Paulette Putt as she has had surgery this past month.

Indiana, Indianapolis
Becky Ringger, Nancy Pfeifer

God is so good. We’ve had a busy month since school was finished for the summer. Bro.
Evan Kaeb has found a job in Indy after graduating and has moved here. His former home church was Francesville, IN. We welcome him.

Our Bible Class students spent a very hot week in Magdalena, Mexico on their mission trip. They learned a lot in that week: they made new friends among themselves and from Magdalena, but all under God’s care. They came home very thankful for air conditioning and having a greater respect for people who live and work in those conditions.

Bro. Tom Troxel (Sis. LuAnn, LaCrosse, IN) visited us June 18 and shared God’s word.

We’ve had two births this month. Oliver Douglas arrived on June 21 to the family of Bro. Chad and Sis. Heather Hoerr. Beckham and Creighton welcomed their new brother along with grandparents Bro. Brian and Sis. Lorene Furrer of West Lafayette, IN and Bro. Doug and Sis. Peggy Hoerr of Washington, IL. On July 9, Trinity Brielle was welcomed into the family of Bro. Morgan and Sis. Kyra Langhofer and children: Emerson, Chelise, and Ariana. Her grandparents are Bro. Wayne and Sis. Carol Klopfenstein and Bro. Eric and Sis. Cindy Langhofer. Both couples are from Phoenix, AZ.

We praise God for the faithful life of our ministering Bro. Greg Stieglitz’s father, Bro. Oliver Stieglitz of Latty, OH. He crossed over to Glory on June 29. May God give Bro. Greg, Sis. Lisa and children: Graham, Bro. Luke, and Sis. Emmy the peace that comes from knowing that he is with his Savior.

It is such a blessing when a father can announce that his son has decided to join the family of God. Bro. Eric (Sis. Jodi) Strassheim gave us the news that Landon had made that decision. Praise be to God.

**Indiana, LaCrosse**

*Julie Rocke, Meagan Frank*

“In days of youth seek ye the Lord, His love and truth with one accord, God offer Him they youthful day and walk within the Saviour’s ways.”

*Hymns of Zion 135.*

Our congregation was greatly blessed by a wonderful group of young visitors when our young group hosted an invite on June 24-25. The singing was wonderful and the joy and zeal they shared with all of us was inspiring to young and old!

On July 15, we enjoyed another invitation weekend as we hosted a reunion for the group of loved ones who traveled to Magdalena for a week this spring. There was a fabulous turn-out and I believe everyone was blessed by the number of visitors and seeing relationships rekindled and deepened.

Our appreciation goes to all of our visitors this month, and especially our visiting ministers this month. Bros. Dan Stoller (Sis. Deb, Remington, IN), Mark Wettstein (Sis. Karen, Lamar, MO), and Lucas Frank (Sis. Crystal, Detroit, MI) each spend a Sunday with us and blessed us with their service.


As summer vacation draws to a close for many of us, we pray that each of our young people from kindergarten through college can stay close to the Lord and be a light to those around them as they head back to school.

**Indiana, Leo**

*Jan Beer*

“When all my labors and trials are o’er, And I am safe on that beautiful shore, Just to be near the dear Lord I adore, Will thro’ the ages be glory for me...” *O That Will Be Glory,* Chas. H. Gabriel.

On the morning of June 29, suddenly and unexpectedly (to us), labor was over for Bro. Oliver Stieglitz. His son, Bro. Steve is one of our ministers. He also leaves a sister in our congregation, Sis. Lavada Stieglitz and a sister-in-law, Sis. Joan Stieglitz. May they all find comfort in knowing he is “safe on that beautiful shore”.

Summer time is camp time! Our high school girls were at Camp from June 9-11, our junior high school girls had Camp June 15-18 and Family Camp started on July 13 with Teen Camp, then included the rest of the family until time of departure on July 16. We trust God to have touched the heart of each camper with the message He wanted them to
receive. Now we pray that they will act upon His leading.

On Sunday morning, July 2, Bro. Ron Bollier (Sis. Edie, Indianapolis, IN) kindly taught us from Proverbs 9 and Colossians 3. We appreciate his willingness to serve God by ministering to us.

Ellis Cabot Ringger was born to Bro. Jon and Sis. Beth Ringger on July 8. Ellis is the fourth boy for the Ringgers!

Also on Saturday, July 8, Andy and Suzy Bollier brought their testimony of the saving power of Jesus’ blood! It is with great joy and much love that we welcome them into our church membership. Their children are Beau, Beri, Olivia, Andrianna, Tiege and Tait.

Welcome Bollier family!

On July 11, sweet baby Greta Louie Feller was born to Bro. Ross and Sis. Leah Feller. They, and brother Ivan, are grateful for the blessing of her presence in their family.

This present world can seem so dark, and we can feel so easily overwhelmed. I am encouraged by this old hymn; hope you will be too!

“Stand up, stand up for Jesus, Stand in His strength alone; The arm of flesh will fail you-Ye dare not trust your own; put on the gospel armor, Each piece put on with prayer; Where duty calls, or danger, Be never wanting there.” Stand Up for Jesus, G.J. Webb

Indiana, Milford
Carol Haab, Pat Mikel

We pray God will bless the union of Matt Longcor and Amber Connolly. They were married on June 17 and now reside in Wyoming, IL. Parents of the happy couple are Bro. Bill and Sis. Judy Longcor and Tim and Jonie Connolly.

Our hearts are filled with joy as Ashley Beer (Elder Bro. Randy & Sis. Deb) has answered the Lord’s call in repentance. May she feel His loving guidance.

Our annual church picnic was held recently. It was a wonderful evening of games, good food, and blessed fellowship. A big thanks to all who organized it.

Bro. Phil and Sis. Jane Price welcomed a new granddaughter into their family. Renly Mae joined the family of Bro. Loren, Sis. Darcy, and big sister Kina Schock (Goodfield, IL) on June 20.

Our congregation is excited to welcome two new babies born on July 13. Zane Allen was born to Bro. Travis and Sis. Anne Wilson. Happy first-time grandparents are Elder Bro. Randy and Sis. Deb Beer and Jack and Carol Wilson (Smithville). Bro. Jose De J. and Sis. Norma Terrazas were blessed with a daughter, Jaelie Grace. She is fortunate to have a big brother, Josiah, to look out for her. Delighted grandparents are Benjamin Terrazas & Maria Cruz Peidra and Jacinto Lopez & Maria Imelda Marquez.

Indiana, Remington
Jenni Honegger, Marcella Tyler

Visiting minister Bro. Ron Isch (Sis. Jane – Lamont Gridley, KS) shared the Word one Wednesday night last month when he and Sis. Jane were here visiting family. We are thankful for his time and effort and hope they return again soon!

We are joyful to report that Sis. Laura Walder (Bro. John and Sis. Lisa) is engaged to Bro. Lee Blume (Bro. Larry and Sis. Lynelle) of Wolcott! We are thankful that Bro. Lee and Sis. Laura waited upon the Lord and trusted in Him to bring them together. We pray that they will continue to trust in Him as they prepare for their life together as husband and wife.

We all enjoyed our annual Sunday School picnic recently. It is always so encouraging to see how our young people have grown and matured each year. Many thanks to the Sunday School teachers who have invested their time with the students and may the Lord bless teachers and students alike as they begin a new year with their new classes!

Indiana, South Bend
Joshua Martinez

“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.” Romans 12:2

We bid farewell to Bro. Caleb and Sis. Laura Schafer and their children: Liliana, Micaiah,
Simeon and Zander. The Schafers moved to Indianapolis and will worship with the wonderful AC congregation in that city.  

May the Lord bless Bro. Steve Frauhiger (Sis. Irene, Bluffton North, IN) for sharing the Good News with us this month.  

We congratulate Sis. Sharon Flis, who became a great-grandmother on June 24. Her grandson, Joe, and wife, Meagan, had a baby daughter, Alice Mae Frepan. Sis. Sharon also asked for prayers for her brother, John Heierman, who had complications following recent heart surgery, and is having a very slow recovery.  

Our Sunday School children had an active month with a gathering at Bro. Lee Beer’s pond and VBS. The theme this year for our Youth VBS was Tremendous Transformations. We appreciate the efforts of the ministers, teachers, grandparents and parents who served, taught and inspired our children.  

Our prayers were with Bro. Rich Gramm (Sis. Samantha) who travelled to Brazil. We also pray for Sterling Goins, who participated in a month-long Indiana National Guard training in Louisiana.  

We extend our love and sympathy to Sis. Lavilla Langhofer (Bro. Marty) at the passing of her mother, Sis. Frances Zaugg of West Bend, IA. Sis. Frances was 99 years old. She will be missed by her family in South Bend, but is rejoicing with our Lord forevermore.  

“Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.” 2 Tim. 4:8  

Indiana, Valparaiso  

Sherry Meiss  

We want to give a special thank you to our loved Bro. Mike and Sis. Claudia Thomas for their ministry and service to the church. Bro. Mike has retired from the ministry and no longer preaches from the pulpit, but he and Sis. Claudia continue to teach and inspire us by walking along side God and His word. A picnic has been planned for August 13 in their honor.  

God continues to bless us in many ways and our Bro. Jon, Sis. Sharon and little Silas Pratt are expecting a new addition to their family. Sis. Sharon's due date is sometime in December or January.  

Bro. Joe and Sis. Jackie Feller have been blessed with another granddaughter! Their son, Bro. Ross, and daughter-in-law, Sis. Leah Feller, with their son, Ivan, thank God for a baby girl named Greta.  

Sis. Becky Moser’s son, Grant, has moved into his own home now and starting a new chapter in his life. Keep him and his family in prayer lifting them up that this transition goes smoothly.  

Anytime you get the chance to talk with someone who might not be like you, it is important to take the time to listen and try to understand where they are coming from. You could be the one that just might be given the words to help them in their walk along life’s bumpy road. We are by the grace of God who we are, let it not be in vain.  

Let us keep each other in thought and prayer, remembering we all have special needs. Don’t forget Sis. Dawn Ailes, Bro. Bob & Sis. Marguerite Hoerr and Ted and Audrey Hitz. Come, worship and fellowship with us.  

Indiana, West Lafayette  

Libby Wahl  

Sis. Tashi Widmer and a few of the female CCDC teaching staff were in Indianapolis for a week for a valuable convention. They then blessed our local church with an update on their work in Jamaica. Upon their return to Jamaica, Bro. Blake was able to catch a flight back in time for a biennial fishing trip to Canada. We are thankful they can get breaks and fellowship away from the campus.  

Seems I am playing catch up again announcing belatedly the joyous birth on June 3 of Emma Mae Grace to Bro. Joel (Bro. Stan & Sis. Beth, Remington, IN) and Sis. Amber (Bro. Joe & Sis. Patti Greenbank, Phoenix, AZ) Virkler. Her four brothers weren't too sure about lace and ribbons, but they seem quite ok with her.  

Abundant grace to you all!
Indiana, Wolcott

Erica Blume, Teresa Earney

“It is of the LORD’s mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is thy faithfulness. The LORD is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him.” Lam. 3:22-24

We rejoice with David Lehman (Elder Bro. Greg and Sis. Mary Beth), who has found peace with God and man! Lord willing, we look forward to hearing his testimony and witnessing his baptism on September 9 and 10.

Bro. Lee Blume (Bro. Larry and Sis. Lynell) has announced his engagement to Sis. Laura Walder (Bro. John and Sis. Lisa) from Remington, IN. We lift them up in prayer as they plan for a July 30 wedding and, more importantly, a marriage that glorifies their Savior.

Kylie Blanding (Michael and Sis. Melissa) was joined in marriage to Paul Garcia on June 24. May God bless their marriage with His abiding presence.

Sis. Marjorie Hofstetter was hospitalized for a time, but we are thankful that she has now been released.

We were blessed with a beautiful day for our annual Sunday School picnic on June 25! The opportunity to fellowship, share a meal, spend time with the students, and worship together in song is precious.

Bro. Ron Isch (Sis. Jane, Lamont-Gridley, KS) allowed the Spirit to work through him as he opened the Word multiple times during a recent visit. “[My word] shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.” Isaiah 55:11. We trust in God’s promise.

Our Single Group recently hosted a large number of visitors who split their Sunday between Remington and our church. The gathering was an encouragement to our hearts!

Some in our congregation have experienced loss in their extended families. Whether young or old, unexpected or anticipated, we extend our sympathy and prayers. God’s nearness is a source of strength available to all who call on His name!

Iowa, Bloomfield

Teresa Schock

We were blessed with a visit by Pastor Lemark from Haiti. He is of a group in Haiti who desire counsel from our elders. He shared their customs and culture. He inspired us with his great trust and faith that God will provide.

July 9, Bro. Larry Bahr (Sis. Julie, Fort Scott KS) ministered to us. We thank him for his labors.

This month school starts again. I found this quote in the Elgin, IL cookbook, “The only way on earth to multiply happiness is to divide it.”

Iowa Burlington

We thank Bro. Aaron Frank (Sis. Sharla, Elgin, IA) for sharing God’s word recently. They and others assembled with us on Sunday, June 25, as they were here for the funeral of our dear retired Elder Bro. Ed Lanz on June 26. We are very thankful and appreciative of the many hours Bro. Ed spent with us over the years. We extend our sympathy to his wife, Sis. Joan, and his family, several who attend here in Burlington.

Another dear soul, Sis. Margaret Applegarth, passed away on June 28. We missed her assembling with us in recent months because of her failing health. She is survived by two sons, John and James Jones, and four step-children: Michael and David Applegarth, Lelia Wilkerson, and Ann Veith. Margaret was such a kind pleasant person. We will miss our visits with her!

Note of Thanks:

Thank you for your prayers, cards, visits, food and other acts of kindness during my recent hospital stay and recovery from heart surgery. It was appreciated very much! May God bless you all!

Sis. Elaine Eisenmann

Iowa, Elgin

Maria Rocke

“In youthful days His blessing seek, with heart that’s tender true and meek, and while the years draw on apace, you’ll praise Him for His love and grace...”

Hymns of Zion #135 vs.5

Our Sunday school picnic was held the last Sunday in June. The weather was beautiful! We missed the children that were
gone, but thoroughly enjoyed the evening together. Being a small congregation has many benefits. One of them is getting to know the youth quite well. We pray for our Sunday school children often, that God would remember them in their tender years and guide them into adulthood. Then, in His time, that He would call each one to repentance.

Maxtyn Murray Milovancev is the new grandson of Lon and Sis. Sandy Butikofer. He was born July 5 and is the son of Michael and Monica Milovancev. We wish little Maxtyn God’s blessings!

Elder Bro. Wayne Grimm (Sis. Rose, West Bend, IA) made the trip over to Elgin this month. His labors in Sunday school and from the pulpit were appreciated.

Iowa, Garden Grove

Laura Funk

I began last month’s news with greetings from hot, dry south central Iowa! The same greetings is extended this month! We have had 1.5” of rain in June and July. The crops are starting to show the stress. We must trust God who is in control of the weather, He will send the rain when we need it.

This past weekend was Princeville’s turn to send a minister to Garden Grove. We were blest to have a bus load visit us! We enjoyed much encouragement from this group!

Visiting ministers this month include Bro. Tom Schambach (Elgin, IL), Bro. Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL) and Retired Elder Bro. Marvin Leman. We appreciate the efforts to visit Garden Grove.

Garden Grove is located about three hours from several Apostolic Christian Churches. We have several families meet here for family reunions. Please consider Garden Grove as your meeting place!!

Iowa, Iowa City

Diana Butikofer

Congratulations to Matt Landherr on his completion of medical school. We wish him the best and are thankful he is planning to remain in our area.

We want to welcome all college students to our area with our College Student Welcome Picnic on September 17 after church services. Please contact Sis. Connie Gerst at (319) 310-8684 with your son or daughter’s contact information as well as an RSVP for the picnic. We look forward to seeing you!

Iowa, Lester

Audrey Metzger, Joyce Moser

We rejoice with Alex and Kendra Ita as they have come in repentance. Kendra is the daughter of Bro. Dwight and Sis. Donna Mogler. May the Lord bless them with grace and courage in rich measure as they begin their walk with Him.

What a blessing it was for the body of Christ when we could welcome 8 dear souls into the fold this month! It is so strengthening for the church family as we listen to their testimonies and remember how we all were brought out of the “mire” of sin and converted by the grace of God! Jordan and Masondra Metzger and Addie Meyer (Bro. Denis and Sis. Jill) gave their testimonies and were baptized the weekend of July 1-2. We want to thank our Elder Bro. Wayne Grimm (Sis. Rose – West Bend, IA) for his labors that weekend. Also on the pulpit that Sunday was Bro. Don Manz (Sis. Connie – Junction, OH) and Bro. Kent Mogler (Sis. Mary – Minneapolis, MN). May they be blessed for their efforts.

It was an extra special weekend for the Bro. Dan and Sis. ReJean Knobloch family on July 15-16 as the remainder of their children: Nash, Mattie and Nedd Knobloch and Trent and Sadie Loger were brought into the brotherhood! As a parent, what a blessing and answer to prayer to have all of your children gathered in! Here to assist our Elder Bro. Rod with the work was Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Sis. Julie – Mediapolis, IA). We want to thank him for his labors and willingness to share God’s Word. He pointed out the fact that there are three things that start with the letter “P” that hold the sinner back from repenting. They are “Procrastination”, “Pleasures” and “Pride”, oh how true! We pray more souls can break the bondage of sin and come in repentance.

Other visiting ministers throughout this past month were Bro. Clint Beyer (Sis. Kara – Sabetha, KS), Bro. Brad Funk (Sis.
Laura – Garden Grove, IA), Bro. Fred Funk (Sis. Diane – Morton, IL), Bro. Mark Schmidgall (Sis. Sally – Mediapolis, IA) and Bro. Damon Knobloch (Sis. Stephanie – Morris North, MN). We thank each one for their willing service.

We extend our congratulations to Amanda Metzger (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Harriet) and Jason Geringer and also to Lucy Larson (Tedd and Sis. Diane) and Mike Just as both couples became united in marriage on July 8. May they look to the Lord for His guidance and direction as they begin their lives together.

Congratulations also go out to Joshua Metzger (Bro. Kevin & Sis. Dawn) and Cali Walz as they announced their engagement. We wish them God’s blessings as they make plans for their wedding in September of 2018 and their future together!

Sam and Jill Metzger were blessed with their first child, a precious baby boy, Eli Jeffrey, on July 8. Happy and thankful grandparents are Bro. Bruce and Sis. Harriet Metzger.

Spending time in the hospital this month were Sis. Ruth Nester, Sis. Pam Bosch (Bro. Tony) and Traci Nord (Jeff). We pray God will provide healing and strength in the days ahead.

Precious little Evans Jeffrey was born July 21 to Traci and Jeff Nord, arriving a few weeks early. Happy and thankful grandparents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Janet Knoblock. At this writing, he is stable and doing well.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Karla and Bro. Monte Gerber in the passing of Sis. Karla’s grandfather, Bro. Wayne Schmidgall (Morris, MN) on June 22. May the Lord comfort all who bear the cross of sorrow.

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.

Iowa, Mediapolis
Kelsey Banwart, Tami Lanz

We would like to thank our visiting ministers who came and preached God’s word: Bro. Tom Bahler (Sis. Lanae, Rockville, CT), Bro. Todd Graf (Sis. Lydia, Akron, OH), Bro. Phil Schulz (Sis. Kelli, Burlington, IA), Bro. Greg Fehr (Sis. Denise, West Bend, IA), Bro. Matt Steffen (Sis. Deanna, Princeville, IL), and Elder Bro. Ted Steffen (Sis. Sandra, Alto, MI).

Our sympathy is with Sis. Luann Schmidgall (Bro. Aaron) in the passing of her mother, Sis. Estellyn Metzger (Lester, IA). Sis. Estellyn is also a grandma to Sis. Heidi Frank (Bro. Ryan), Sis. Tami Lanz (Bro. Dave) and Sis. Abby Lindeen (Bro. Steve), and a sister-in-law to Sis. Ada Banwart.

We also extend our sympathy to Bro. Hartzell Schmidgall in the loss of his brother, Bro. Wayne Schmidgall (Morris, MN).


We are thankful that someday there will be a heavenly reunion with our loved ones, if we accept God’s perfect plan of salvation.

On July 9, we were excited to hear the engagement of Bro. Ashton Fehr (Bro. Darren and Sis. Nora) from West Bend, IA and Sis. Raiann Lanz (Bro. Regan and Sis. Tricia). They are planning a September wedding. May they feel God’s nearness as they go through their engagement.

Note of Thanks:

God’s Bouquet
A flower picked too soon or late
Is never what you want
to do at garden’s gate.

Flowers picked just
before full bloom
Unfolds the beauty of
God’s great love.

So with the death of
our dear daughter
God picked a flower for
Heaven’s bouquet.

And in her death we have seen
Her unfolding beauty
bloom in ways unseen.

Bouquets here on earth
fade and die away

Heaven’s flowers make an
eternal beautiful bouquet.

We are humbled and grateful
for the outpouring of love with the
death of our dear daughter, Sis. Janella Zimmerman. We want to thank you for your prayers, cards,
gifts and acts of kindness. May we all strive more earnestly to be part of that eternal beautiful bouquet. In Christian love, Bro. Charles and Sis. Charlene Gerst

**Iowa, West Bend**

**Becky Virkler, Jenny Banwart**

We thank Bro. Dan Moser (Sis. Anne, Elgin, IL) and Bro. Dean Messner (Sis. Wanda, Winthrop, MN) for sharing God’s word with us.

Judy Gates passed away on June 29. We’re thankful she was able to confess her sins back in 2010 before her Alzheimer’s got worse. May God comfort her sons: Ron (Sandy) Fehr, Lakeside, MT; Bill Fehr, Chandler, AZ; and Don (Susie) Fehr, Des Moines, IA.

Sis. Frances Zaugg passed away July 11, one month before her 100th birthday. We appreciated her steadfast and faithful example. Her children include: James (Barbara) Zaugg, Mount Pleasant, IA; Bro. Martin (Sis. Doris) Zaugg; Bro. Norman (Sis. Polly) Zaugg; Sis. Lavilla (Bro. Marty) Langhofer, South Bend, IN; and Pat (Julie) Zaugg. May God fill their minds with precious memories along with the 103 grandchildren, great grandchildren and great, great grandchild.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Verda Bruellman on the passing of her sister-in-law, Sis. Marian Kellenberger (Sabetha, KS).

We’re thankful Bro. Ashton Fehr (Bro. Darren & Sis. Nora) and Sis. Raiann Lanz, Mediapolis, IA (Bro. Regan & Sis. Tricia) have felt God’s leading to become married. We wish them God’s nearness as they prepare for a lifetime together.

Bro. Josh & Sis. Lainey Banwart are thankful for the safe arrival of Clayton Bradley. Excited siblings are Thad, Addie & Mitchell. Happy grandparents are Brad & Julie Banwart and Bro. Scott & Sis. Elaine Frank (Eureka, IL).

**Japan, Tokyo**

**Anna Inoue, Marie Inoue**

The hot and humid summer days are upon us. We are thankful for cool air in our homes and plenty of water to drink. There are countries in the world who do not have these comforts and necessities. May we be better servants of our Lord because of these blessings.

We were thankful for our visiting ministers this month: Bro. Akihiro Ito of our Shioda church along with his dear son, Tomoki, and also Bro. Ron Bollier (Sis. Edie) from our Indianapolis church who have come on the rotating minister plan. He encouraged us to follow Christ’s teachings as in Romans 12. “Be kindly affectioned one to another, preferring one another, rejoicing in hope, be of the same mind to one another. He ended with the comment that there is a great blessing in obedience to these teachings and all the teachings of our Lord and Saviour.”

Other visitors who arrived last week and will assist in our VBS, held July 25-28 are Sis. Jenna Meyer, Bluffton, Sis. Sheree Waldbeser, Atlanta, and Sis. Rachel Witzig, Washington, IL. May their time and efforts here, along with the interpreters and every helper, be blessed to the honor and glory of God. All of our visitors have left their homes, families, and are spending and being spent for the Lord’s work. May they be blessed for their labors, and we thank them.

**Kansas, Bern**

**Sheri Edelman, Tiffany Menold**

“What joy I feel, what peace is mine As I my All to Thee resign!”

_Hymns of Zion #259_

I love that song. It’s so true. Yet how often do we find ourselves making decisions based on what we like, think, or want to believe? If we want to win this battle of good and evil, there is no other way, but through Jesus Christ and following the truths of the Bible. Let’s resign ourselves to God’s will and we will have that perfect peace!

We appreciate having visiting ministers this month to preach the gospel. Our thanks go to Bro. Wayne Hartzler (Sis. Camille, Rittman, OH), Bro. Brandon Emch (Sis. Maria, Kansas City, MO), Bro. Brent Kellenberger (Sis. Beth, Kansas City, MO), and Bro. Brian Metzger (Lester, IA). May God bless you for laboring in the name of the Lord!

Bro. Jeffrey and Sis. Maria Edelman welcomed their first born on July 4. We are so happy to have Lexi Lila in Bern! Grandparents...
are Bro. Wayne and Sis. Linda, as well as Bro. Dave and Sis. Shari Eisenbise (Sabetha, KS).

**Kansas, Ft. Scott**

*Karen Kellenberger*

“Bow down thine ear, and hear the words of the wise, and apply thine heart unto my knowledge.”

Proverbs 22:7

Greetings from southeast Kansas, where the stifling heat of July has been nearly unbearable. By publishing time in August, it hopefully will be cooling down some. Regardless of the temperatures, children will be returning to classrooms.

I came across an essay recently which ties into this new school year:

“The business of education is God’s business.
He gave us the minds that think.
He created the world we think about.
He wrote the book of nature.
He made the rules of logic.
He is the standard of true and false, good and bad, beautiful and ugly.
To ignore Him is to be profoundly uneducated.”

*John Piper*

We are so blessed, and have been given so much of love, beauty, peace, and joy. But sometimes there are trials also, and for several of our loved ones, those trials have arrived. Sis Gay Farney recently underwent heart surgery and is now recuperating at Wesley Hospital in Wichita. Bro. Larry Frieden is home and able to worship with us again, but it has been a slow process for him. Sis. Jan Smith is recuperating from surgery on her achilles tendon, and cannot bear weight on her foot for a number of weeks. Sis. Lois Allenbach is suffering from a very painful virus at this time. It is our fervent prayer that the God of all healing will touch each one and grant them full recovery from all the pain.

We have had the privilege of having Sis. Chelsie (Bahr) Jones (Silverton, OR) and children, Rylee (21 mo) and Walker (5 mo), in our midst for a few weeks before they leave for South Korea with husband and father, Bro. Lee Jones. They will live there for around 3 years. Bro. Lee will teach Computer Science and Robotics at APIS (Asia Pacific International School). We never know where God may lead us in this life, but pray that He will bless Bro. Lee and Sis. Chelsie and family in their endeavor, and look forward to their return to the States during the summer break.

We have many vacationing now and going back to school is just around the corner. May God bless all with safe travels and our precious children as they begin a new school year.

**Kansas, Lamont-Gridley**

*Dorene Metzger*

There are so many heartbreaking, sad events in this world: children who go missing, sicknesses, death (sometimes by their own hand), abuse, depression, etc. It seems so hard to see these things happen.

As a small church, we have had heartache recently, but I have seen our little church grow in concern and compassion for the hurting. Prayers that have been offered and the hurting brought before the Father by name. It brings solace to those of us who care for the hurting, as well as to those who hurt. For that, I’m grateful to our All-seeing, All-knowing Father in Heaven for His care for us and also for the knowledge that He knows our
beginning and our ending. What a privilege to be used as a Prayer Warrior. LIFE is not always a picnic (although that is a fun event), but it is a time of seasoning and growing each of us in our service to each other and to God.

Looking Through His Eyes

“Let me see this world, dear Lord, as though I were looking through Your eyes. A world of men who don’t want You, Lord, but a world for which You died. Let me kneel with You in the garden. Blur my eyes with tears of agony: For if once I could see the world the way You see I just know I’d serve You more faithfully. Let me see this world, Dear Lord, through Your eyes when men mock Your Holy Name. When they beat You and spat upon You, Lord. Let me love them as You Loved them just the same. Let me stand high above my petty problems, And grieve for men, hell-bound eternally: For if once I could see this world the way You see I just know I’d serve you more faithfully.”

-Mike Otto

We spent one evening at Bro. Albert & Sis. Mara Jean Edelman’s where five comforters were knotted for HarvestCall. These comforters will be dispersed locally to needy.

Sis. Julie Luthi and Sis. Maria Luthi hosted a Sister’s Brunch recently. Sharing of meaningful scriptures and songs during tests and trials in each of our lives gave proof that none of us stand alone as an island. God and His Son see each heartache and joy and never leave us alone.

July 8 found Bro. Cory Metzger and his son, Harrison, from the Wichita congregation here to show their slides from their trip to Haiti earlier this year. Bro. Doug Kraft from our church was also with them on the trip. The three of them were impressed with the faith those people have, even when they have nothing of earthly wealth.

Kansas, Sabetha

Crystal Hartter, Brenda Nenadov

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

Bro. Brett, Sis. Rosanna, Quinn, Alia, Kallie and Emery Kellenberger welcomed little Keira Lyn into their hearts on July 7. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Brad & Sis. Teresa Kellenberger and Bro. Don & Sis. Linda Sinn (Silverton, OR).

Visiting ministers that brought forth the Word this past month were: Bro. Scott Schambach (Sis. Hope, Elgin, IL), Bro. Barry Dietz (Sis. Rachel, Bradford, IL) and Bro. Kevin Banwart (Sis. Sandy, West Bend, IA). We thank these brothers for their efforts and pray God’s blessing upon them.

Sis. Marian Kellenberger passed away on July 3. Her family, including Bro. Jay & Sis. Marilyn Kellenberger of our congregation, are in our thoughts and prayers. May God comfort each one.

We look forward to the General Brotherhood Conference that will be hosted by the Roanoke, IL congregation. We pray for the elders and ministers.

Note of Thanks:

I wish to thank all of my church families and friends for all the beautiful cards sent to me for my 95th birthday July 3. May God bless each and every one of you. Lovingly, Sis. Dena Weiss

Kansas, Wichita

Max Reimschisel

“And having a high priest over the house of God; Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.” Hebrews 10:21-25.

We are grateful that each Sunday we can have a day of rest, come together and hear the word of God that renews our hearts.

As we celebrated the independence of our country on the Fourth of July, we realize how good it is to have freedom. But let us praise and thank God every day of the year, for the ability to be free from sin that He has given us!
The freedom from sin that we were given through Jesus Christ’s death and resurrection is the greatest of all! As John 15:13 says, “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.” Through Christ’s ultimate sacrifice and love for us, we are given the ability to spend eternity with him!

We are also grateful for our visiting minister this month, Bro. Ryan Hoerr (Sis. Joy, Princeville, IL). He shared some wonderful truths of God’s word that reminded us that even in difficult times God is still there with us. We were thankful that they brought their five kids with them as this gave our young kids a good time of interaction and meeting some new friends from other churches.

We would certainly like to invite anyone traveling to stop and visit and get acquainted with our small group. We would also like to invite anyone who is looking for employment to feel welcome at our church in Wichita. Just send a contact to Bro. Cory 316-253-8507.

Also, Bro. Josh and Sis. Bethany Johnson are moving to Whitewater, a small quaint town on the plains of Kansas. Pray for the moving process to go smoothly, as the Lord wills. Their new address is: 311 N. Oak, Whitewater, KS 67154.

**Mexico, Ixtlán**

**Ruth Gerber**

“And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works.” Hebrews 10:24

We have been blessed with several visitors this past month. What a privilege to have that connection and fellowship with so many that love the Lord. Thank you all for your love, your service here and the ways you provoke us to love and good works. Sis. Kelly Waldbeser (Fairbury) has given this summer to serving here in the school and the church as well. We thank the Lord for her time here, the heart she has to serve, and the gifts that she has been using to bless many.

Bro. Jose Cervantes (Sis. Cathy, Tecate) was also with us for several weeks and encouraged us in many areas. One of the passages he shared on was 1 Timothy 1. He started out by expounding on what it means to see someone as a “son in the faith,” and encouraged each of us to draw close to the young people in our lives and care about them.

One opportunity for reaching children and young people here is through Colegio de las Américas. Though not all who attend the school are interested in the gospel, we know everyone responds to love and it is our prayer that many will be won to our Lord. The end of the year program was once again a beautiful occasion for the children, staff and parents. Bro. Joe Klotzle (Sis. Sue, Altadena) was with us and shared a very fitting message on Philippians 4:8-9. He challenged the graduates especially, to think on and live out the virtues that these verses call us to.

As we desire the God of peace to be with each of us, it is our prayer that the peace of God will also keep each one, including those that are struggling with health issues. We especially think of Bro. Francisco Herrera (Sis. Carmen), and also Sis. Kike Angelito (Bro. Bartolo) from our church in Barra Vieja. Please keep them in your prayers.

**México, Magdalena**

**Alisha Ramirez**

“And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, this cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord’s death till he come.” 1 Cor. 11:24-26

On June 18, we partook of the broken body and shed blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in Holy Communion with Him. We thank Elder Bro. Mike Leman (Sis. Deb, Denver, CO) for serving us this blessed sacrament. What a blessing to think of what our Savior has done for us.

The Indianapolis work team was here on June 18 to join us in fellowship and worship and also the following Wednesday when our Bro. Joe Sprunger (Sis. Tara, Indianapolis, IN) shared the word with us. May the labors of their hands have been blessed during their week at Casa Vida Y Esperanza. We appreciate seeing
familiar faces returning year after year and meeting new friends and brothers and sisters in Christ.

We are also thankful to Bro. Wayne and Sis. Nancy Zimmerman for spending two weeks with us as part of the grandparent program at CVE. Their abundant love and willingness to help blesses all of us.

From across the continent, our church rejoices with Jazany Schick of Peoria (Bro. Bill and Sis. Joan, Peoria) who has begun her repentance. May God bless her as she seeks Him above all else!

Sunday, June 25, we enjoyed the singing of our youth choir, beginning with a moving arrangement of And Can it Be? “And can it be that I should gain an interest in the Savior’s blood? Died He for me who caused His pain? For me, who Him to death pursued. Amazing love! how can it be? That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?” Gospel Hymns, #762. They closed with a reminder that God will never desert us and therefore, we need not fear.

This month we celebrate our graduates! There was a graduation ceremony and celebration held on June 27 for the children who attend Colegio Verdad y Vida (School of Truth and Life) on the compound. Our graduates this year are:

Kindergarten: Luisa, Chui (Jesus), Soraya, and Juana; Grade School (6th): Marshal, Jose, Angel, Choline, Joselin, Alejandra, Osara, Cristina, Gisel, and Fernanda; Jr. High (9th): Aaron, Garret, Axel, Elena, Cielo, and Nereida.

“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you.” Jeremiah 29:11-12

Michigan, Alto
Renee Steffen, Heidi Kaeb

The summer is flying by and we are thankful for the beautiful weather and spiritual blessings throughout this season.

We rejoice with Sarah Sixberry (Jason and Angie) as she has begun her repentance. Our encouragement and prayers are with her as she builds a firm foundation on Jesus her Savior. Her sweet and kind spirit is such a blessing among us.

Vacation Bible School was an enjoyable week for so many. We want to thank the committee and all the teachers, helpers and parents for participating as the Word of God reached many children.

We were blessed by two visiting ministers for the topical studies during VBS week. We thank Bro. Joshua Martinez (Sis. Kenya, South Bend, IN) and Bro. Matt Knapp (Sis. Dana, Atlanta, GA) for bringing us informative, thought-provoking studies on Noah and the ark and the fear of God. We appreciated having Bro. Matt here for Sunday worship as well and thank him for serving on the pulpit. Also visiting this month were Elder Bro. Tom Klotzle (Sis. Jodi, Altadena, CA) and Bro. Bill Waible (Sis. Carol, Bay City, MI). Thank you for being a willing vessel of the Holy Spirit to teach us from the Word.

We are thrilled to welcome the Plattner family who just moved here from the Detroit area: Bro. Brett, Sis. Laura, Colette, Mitchell, and Adeline.

We continue to ask for prayers on behalf of Judah Oesch (Bro. Matt and Sis. Shelli) and his family. Judah has been hospitalized several times over the last seven months with no answers forthcoming so far. This is a heavy burden, but we continue to commit them to the Lord’s care and sovereign plan. Prayers ascend to the Father for Sis. Michele Blough (Bro. Martin) as she also has been hospitalized. Sis. Julie Blough (Bro. Jim), Kent Feldman (Dawn), and Marvin Blough (Liz) are all working through recovery after surgeries for which we thank God for healing mercies shown.

Michigan, Bay City
Sarah Knochel

We are thankful that Elder Bro. Tom Waldbeser (Sis. Susan, Peachtree City, GA) and his family were able to be with us for a Sunday as they were passing through on vacation. We also appreciate the efforts of Bro. Greg Lehman (Sis. May Beth, Wolcott, IN), as he assisted our Elder Bro. John Jackson with Holy Communion.

“Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort...
me.” Psalm 23:4

Our prayers are with Bro. Gary Wright and his daughter, Sis. Lynnette Munsel (Bro. Greg), as their wife and mother, Sis. Shirley Wright passed away recently. We also would like to remember Sis. Shirley’s siblings from our congregation: Eileen Groeschen, Bro. Gene (Sis. Carol), Dale, and Sis. Cindy (Jim) Sochacki.

We want to also remember Bro. Gene (Sis. Carol) Meylan as he had surgery recently. We are thankful he is able to again assemble with us again.

**Michigan, Detroit**
*Carrrie Ramseyer*

Snowflakes fell from the sky. A log cabin covered in snow stood nearby, nestled in the sparse woods. Light arose outside the cabin from a small campfire. A lone moose stood a few feet off from the cabin. Yes, winter had arrived in Detroit, but not in its usual manner. Children ran inside from the summer heat to find themselves transported to the artic in a polar themed Vacation Bible School. For three days in mid-July, children grades preschool through 6th grade explored God’s Word. The fourth and final day of VBS consisted of the children singing to the residents of the Woodhaven Retirement Community.

New this year for the Detroit VBS was the program for young adults in grades 7-12. Instead of following the traditional VBS agenda, these students participated in Connect Group. Different presenters came to discuss with the students what life is like to live with a disability, and how God loves and uses people with disabilities to bless the world.

The Saturday following VBS was the Woodhaven Benefit Dinner. We were blessed to host a larger number of “first-timers” this year to the dinner and choir presentation. God was certainly with us!

The following Sunday, we welcomed Bro. Andy (Sis. Elizabeth) Fetzer and Bro. Adam (Sis. Ann) Uhler from Smithville. They shared the Word and pleasantly concluded our week of praise and service.

Sunday evening was the VBS picnic and our formal farewell to the Plattner’s. Bro. Brett and Sis. Laura Plattner and family (Collette, Mitchell, and Adeline) have lived in the Detroit area for several years. Bro. Brett and Sis. Laura have both become instrumental in Sunday School and VBS. We will miss them greatly as they move to Alto, MI.

We welcome Bro. Brice Gasser back to Detroit, MI. Bro. Brice Gasser grew up in the Detroit area, and has been living in Toledo for the past few years.

Prayers are requested for the Denes and Gasser families. Sis. Sanche Denes passed away in late June. After many years of ill-health, she passed from this world to the next peacefully. Sis. Sanche is survived by her children: Sis. Manuela Denes, Bro. Ben Denes, Andrea (Matt) Young and Brianna Young, Sanche’s granddaughter.

We are thankful for the time and friendships Sanche had in our church. We also mourn the loss of Bro. Oliver Stieglitz, the father of our Sis. Sue Gasser (Bro. Randy Gasser). Their children are Brady, Sis. Alexis & Bro. Jon Stoller, Bro. Brice Gasser, Sis. Angela Gasser, and Sis. Autumn Gasser. Our prayers are also with the family of Sis. Alice Mehl.

After months of anticipation, the Detroit congregation welcomed two newborns. Andrew Jacob Harmon was born to Bro. Ben and Sis. Sarah Harmon in late June (grandparents: Bro. Doug & Sis. Lana Harmon, and Bro. Abraham & Sis. Sarah Nolan). Andrew was also welcomed by his three older siblings: Elijah, Jonah, and Naomi. Bro. Ned and Sis. Alyssa Troxel were blessed in mid-July with a baby girl and their first child, Rae Lynn Troxel (grandparents: Bro. Tom & Sis. LuAnn Troxel and Bro. John & Sis. Trudy Eisenmann). Both mothers, babies, and families are doing well. We are excited to welcome these new additions to our church family.

We would like to thank Bro. Ned Stoller for sharing the Word on a late June Wednesday night.

These past four weeks in Detroit have been a rollercoaster of activity and emotion. Whether it’s hellos or goodbyes, we are thankful that God is with us always, even unto the end of the world (Matt. 28:20).
Minnesota, Minneapolis  
Brenda Messner, Renee Messner  
We were blessed this month with several visiting ministers: Elder Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen, Kansas City, MO), Bro. Josh Zimmerman (Sis. Molly, Forrest, IL), Bro. James Koehl (Sis. Hildegard, Morris, MN), Bro. Brian Waibel (Sis. Wendy, Champaign, IL), Bro. Alan Schambach (Sis. Sarah, Remington, IN). Our small church so appreciates the efforts of the brethren who come to share God’s precious word.

We appreciate the time and efforts of Bro. Blake Widmer, as this past June, he traveled through the Minneapolis area and gave a presentation. He has been living and serving in Jamaica at CCCD Kingston. While sharing the gospel with the young men there, God has blessed them with a business venture, they call DeafCan Coffee. The seed was planted, by bringing the young men on a field trip, to visit an elderly farmer who grew his own coffee. It has grown into an amazing learning experience, character building, and purpose-filled endeavor, that only our heavenly Father could do! We also want to thank Bro. Kent (Sis. Mary) for arranging this informative evening.

A summer church potluck was held at Spring Lake Park Nature Preserve in Hastings, on Sunday, July 16. Those who attended enjoyed fellowship and God’s beauty in a natural setting.

May we be prayerful for all those who minister to us: our elders, ministers and also their wives and families. We are so grateful for the Rocke, Dill, and Mogler families and what they endure on our behalf. Please be prayerful for Bro. Dewayne Dill and family as he spends an extended time serving in Haiti.

We want to thank the Rochester Guesthouse caretakers, Bro. Mark and Sis. Sandy Stork and sons, Braden and Justin, for their loving care of our church families who visit the Mayo Clinic. They have helped in the formation of the Guesthouse and served there for five years. The family has relocated closer to Bro. Mark’s work. Bro. Randy and Sis. Brittaney Lehman, along with daughter Charlotte, have felt called to serve as caretakers for the next three years, during the time Bro. Randy finishes his residency training at Mayo Clinic and Hospitals. We feel grateful for their willingness to serve and please keep them in your prayers.

We pray for the Schmidgall family on the passing of Bro. Wayne Schmidgall (Sis. Dorothy). Having been the oldest brother in our congregation, his life was a true example that we need to keep pressing on and hold onto the faith. May God give comfort to the family.

We were thankful for the opportunity to hear a technology presentation from ACCFS given by ministering Bros. Arlan Miller (Sis. Katie, Gridley, IL) and Matt Kaufmann (Sis. Rebekah, Bloomington-Normal, IL). May God bless them. It was a good reminder to be mindful of how we spend our time and be discerning in all things.

“Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil.” 1 Thess 5:21-22

Congratulations to Kevin and Nikki Knobloch on the birth of their precious daughter, Emma Rose. Her grandma is Sis. Brenda Knobloch. We wish them God’s blessings.
ACCFS, for a presentation on “Intentional Relationships in the Church Family” at Morris North along with another presentation on “Safe Technology Use for the Whole Family” at the Morris Country Fellowship Hall. We appreciate your time and efforts in delivering great topics.

Congratulations to Erika Gramm (Bro. Ted & Sis. Wanda Gramm) and Will Flickinger who were united in holy matrimony on June 30. Congratulations to Jesse Schmidgall (son of Bro. Tom & Sis. Ruth) and Treanne Synstelien who were united in holy matrimony on July 8. May God richly bless the marriages of both of these couples.

Our prayers for quick healing go out to Hannah Schmidgall (Jeremy) who was in a farm accident.

Sad hearts have been felt, once again, in the passing of our dear Sis. Josie Esterling. We will miss her along with her specialties of homemade pickles and salsa. Our prayers are with her children: Donna, Bruce, Tim, Susan and Nancy that she leaves behind.

Maxwell Tru was born to Marcus and Lindsay Montana (grandparents Bro. Ted & Sis. Wanda Gramm) on June 19. Brother Malakai and Sister Merci are excited for his arrival and we wish them God’s richest blessings.

You really don’t know how much faith you have until your faith gets tested. Keep your eyes on Jesus in the midst of life’s storms, ask for His help, and trust Him to get you to the other side.

Psalm 73:28 “But it is good for me to draw near to God: I have put my trust in the Lord God, that I may declare all thy works.”

Minnesota, Winthrop

Becky Braulick, Julie Schmidt

“My country, ’tis of thee, Sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing; Land where my fathers died Land of the pilgrim’s pride, From every mountainside, Let freedom ring.”

Gospel Hymns #738

As we celebrated our country’s independence, we were reminded how blessed we are for the freedoms we have, especially the freedom to worship.

“Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.” Prov. 22:6

With spring bringing in new life, we rejoice with Bro. David and Sis. Bethany Messner as they bring home another baby boy, Leo Terrence born June 21st. He is welcomed home by siblings: Justin, Darren, Eric, Ruth and Peter. Grandparents are Bro Terry and Sis Ann Kuenzi (Silverton, OR) and Tony and Nancy Messner (Morris, MN).

July 15-16 was our Invite-a-Friend weekend. It was a much smaller group this year, but we still had a wonderful time with singing and fellowship and in renewing old and making new friendships. We are thankful Bro. Joel Troxel (Sis. Amy, Lacrosse, IN) and Elder Bro Ron Messner (Sis. Pam, Washington, IL) were willing to visit and lend themselves on the pulpit this month.


Dennis Pollock (Carol), who is here visiting for the summer, has fallen and in need of prayers for healing. We also continue to pray for all those with ongoing health issues and concerns.

Missouri, Kansas City

Julie Webel

We rejoice to hear that Carolyn Geran has found peace with God and looks forward to sharing her testimony and baptism in the near future.

With great joy and thankfulness we learned of the engagement of our dear Sis. Brittany Fehr (Bro. Joe and Sis. Joan) to Bro. Micah Zehr (Remington, IN), son of Bro. Nelson and Sis. Amy Zehr of Fairbury, IL. We wish them many blessings as they begin their new journey together in the Lord.

We thank all our visiting ministers this past month which included: Bro. Jeff Fisher (Sis. Gloria, Ft. Scott, KS), Bro. Joe Braker (Morton, IL) and Bro. Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha, KS). May God bless them for their work in the ministry in serving our congregation.
Missouri, Lamar

Jayla Wettstein

We are always thankful for our visiting brethren that preach the gospel, and all of the visitors. Special thanks this month to Bro. Nathan Wiegand (Sis. Laura, Goodfield, IL), Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Sis. Leonda, Leo, IN), Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS), and Bro. Dale Moore (Sis. Cheryl, Elgin, IA).

Sis. Mindy Wettstein has graduated from college and we welcome her as she joins her family while waiting for the Lord’s leading.

Missouri, St. Louis

Sarah Fehr

As I missed last month’s submission, I have a long list of visiting ministers to thank: Bro. Jon Zeller (Sis. Christine, Morton, IL), Bro. Josh Zimmerman (Sis. Molly, Forrest, IL), Bro. Dean Steffen (Sis. Carol, Belvidere, IL), Bro. John Hartman (Sis. Rosemary, Fairbury, IL), Bro. Brad Gudeman (Sis. Teresa, Bradford, IL). Thank you so much for your willingness to serve us!

Our children enjoyed VBS the week of June 19. We were privileged to have a group of brothers and sisters from various churches come together to organize and conduct it. The theme was Jesus’ greatest commandment - “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength, and your neighbor as yourself.” What an important topic for all of us!

The adults were treated to a Bible study that Wednesday night given by Bro. Chad Leman (Sis. Kim, Fairbury, IL).

This summer we have welcomed two new families to our St. Louis congregation, for which we are extremely thankful! They are Bro. Matt and Sis. Kim Zimmerman and their children: Cambria, Jenna, Marshall, Carl, and Ayden; as well as Bro. Doug and Sis. Trisha Banwart and their children: Stryder, Ariana, and Lily. We are thankful for the growth of our church family!

Missouri, Taylor

Anneliese Lindberg, Rachel Reinbeck

Greetings!

We kicked off this year’s summer by sending seven members of our young group on Bro. Ted Hirstein’s trip to Jamaica. We are excited to have them home safe and grateful for the memories made and lessons learned.

The last week of June, we hosted our annual Vacation Bible School. The children were excited to participate and have fun making crafts, playing games, watching a skit put on by our talented young people, and learning more about God’s intricate creation.

July 5 marked the beginning of our month of July Bible studies hosting visiting ministers. Bro. Trent Banwart (Sis. Christy, Fort Scott, KS) gave the first topical lesson on mentorship and what it means to be a mentor. Bro. Clint Schmidt (Sis. Magdalena, Winthrop, MN) spoke to us on July 12; and Bro. Greg Rassi (Sis. Karla, Chicago, IL) spoke to us on July 19 on being a mentee. We look forward to learning more from God’s Word on this topic in the week to come.

New York, Croghan/Naumburg

Hope Graves

June News

We have been blessed to have several visiting ministers with us: Bro. Brent (Sis. Naomi) Walder from Rockville, CT on May 21 and Bro. Ron (Sis. Lynell) Palitto from Akron, OH on June 4. Elder Bro. Steve (Sis. Myra) Ringger joined us for the weekend of June 11 from Bluffton North, IN. We were thankful for Bro. Steve assisting with serving us Holy Communion and sharing God’s Word.

We send a special thank you to the Schamback family for serving our lunch that Sunday and to Bro. John and Sis. Joyce Schamback (Akron, OH) for serving our Communion meal Sunday afternoon. Visitors are a blessing to our congregation and we thank them for remembering us in their travels and for the Rockville brethren who again served us lunch on June 25.

We enjoyed an evening of fellowship on June 26 at the Croghan Park for our annual Sunday School picnic and hotdog roast.

Our prayers extended to
Sis. Norma Conde who was hospitalized this past month.

We were thankful for the safe and healthy arrivals of two new babies. Suzanna John was born to Bobby and Shannon Mabey on May 28. Suzanna joins siblings, Ezra and Hazel at home. Lennox Hope DeHart was born to Shirley Hellinger on June 17. May the Lord bless these growing families.

**July News**

It was a blessing to have ministering Bro. Jerry (Sis. Linda) Isch from Philadelphia, PA with us on July 2. On July 16, ministering Bro. Dan (Sis. Marylou) Goric, Rockville, CT assembled with us. We thank those who have traveled here to help spread God’s Word, offer words of encouragement, help with song leading or serve us lunch. Each visitor is a blessing.

**Ohio, Akron**

*Carmen Miller*

We are thankful for our visiting minister this month: Bro. Tom Bolliger (Sis. Jane, Tremont, IL).

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Sis. Marge Collins (Duane), who passed away on July 4.

Isla Christine Demrovsky arrived July 11, joining the family of Bro. Tom Bolliger (Sis. Jane, Tremont, IL). Our thoughts and prayers are with Nathan Botosan (Bro. Victor and Sis. Tammy) as he has spent time in the hospital.

**Ohio, Columbus**

*Nancy Banks*

We are thankful for the ministers who have visited this month. We welcomed Bro. Warren Schlatter (Sis. Cindy, Junction, OH) and Bro. Regg Beer (Sis. Bev, Milford, IN) to our pulpit this month. As the summer progresses, we enjoy the families who stop by for a visit while traveling on vacation. Sometimes our numbers dwindle during summer and holidays, so visitors are very welcome.

Our family, like many other families in our churches across the country, has learned many things from traveling down the road of grief from the loss of a loved one. The one lesson we were taught that stands out from the rest was brought to us by a young man in our community who lost his son in a tragic accident last year. He explained to us that, “we will never get over the loss we feel, but God will help us get through it.” We praise God for being ever faithful and never leaving our side.

Prayers are being offered for the many elders and ministers that attend the Brotherhood Conference this month in Roanoke, IL. May God grant them the strength and wisdom to shepherd the flocks.

**Ohio, Latty**

*Carmen Stoller, Mindy Stoller*

Our church family is mourning the loss of our dear Bro. Oliver Stieglitz (Sis. Emma Jean). We lift up the family and pray God will give the strength and grace to make it through this time. Bro. Oliver’s children include: Jerry (Amber, Rome City, IN), Sis. Susan (Bro. Randy Gasser, Detroit, MI), Jeffrey (Betty, Harlan, IN), Bro. Steve (Sis. Jane, Leo, IN), Sis. Marcia
(Bro. Justin Koch, Washington, IL), and Bro. Greg (Sis. Lisa, Indianapolis, IN).

We are lifting up Sis. Kristy Greutman (Bro. Greg) in prayer as she is undergoing treatment for cancer. We are also keeping Noel Laukhuf (Bro. Bill and Sis. Janice) in our prayers as he just found out he has cancer as well. We pray for courage, hope, and peace at this difficult time.

Our church has had two exciting new additions this month. Bro. Calvin and Sis. Bekah Sinn and Madilyn welcomed Clara Anne on July 3. Grandparents include Bro. Todd and Sis. Janet Sinn and Bro. Ron and Sis. Elizabeth Jones (Silvertown, OR). Tobin and Ashley Hartzler welcomed Theodore Wayne on July 9. Grandparents include Bro. Tom and Sis. Diane Hartzler (Rittman, OH), and Bro. Bill and Sis. Charlotte Metzger (Lester, IA).

We wish to sincerely thank Bro. Duane Rocke (Sis. Bonnie, Minneapolis, MN), Bro. Steve Stieglitz (Sis. Jane, Leo, IN), and Bro. Dale Wulf (Sis. Becky, Lester, IA) for preaching from our pulpit this month.

Ohio, Mansfield
Elizabeth Walter

Summer months always seem to bring extra opportunities for fellowship. We want to thank Bro. Doug and Sis. Connie Boliantz for generously opening their home for the Sunday School Picnic. There were organized activities for the children, followed by a potluck and singing for all. Thanks to each one who worked to make the afternoon special and also to God who provided such a beautiful day for us to enjoy.

We were also blessed to host the 45th Annual Youth Fellowship Day for grades 7-12. A worship service, Sunday School classes, fellowship time, and an afternoon program were highlights of the day. May God bless each one who traveled to join us and may the thoughts that were shared sink deep into each heart.

We were glad to have Bro. Matt Manz (Sis. Deanna, Toledo, OH), Bro. Tim Ramsier (Sis. Joni, Rittman, OH) and Bro. Bob Dotterer (Sis. Laura, Sardis, OH) visit and share the Gospel message. God bless each one for their willing service.

Ohio, Rittman
Julie Steiner, Maria Beery

Having prayed for God to lead and direct us, we go forward in faith. Does that mean we wait each day to see what we should be doing? Recently, our congregation was exhorted to continue faithfully serving God right where we are, right now…and not continually wonder if a big change will bring us closer to God. He knows best where He’s placed us, and is fully capable to clearly tell us when it’s time to take on a new responsibility, not wondering, not unsure, but diligently serving God right here right now. As Christ encouraged His followers, may we “occupy till I come.” Luke 19:13.

As God works in hearts, we are thankful to share the engagement of Sis. Kristin Rufener (John & Emily) to Bro. Evan Sinn (Ft. Lauderdale, FL). His parents are Bro. Mark & Sis. Elsie Sinn (Silvertown, OR). We thank Sis. Kristin for her care serving God in our area, and pray they will be blessed with joy beginning this new stage of their lives.

Many guests joined us for the wedding of Bro. Derrick Kuenzi (Bro. Art & Sis. Mary Beth, Silvertown, OR) to Sis. Adeline Graf (Bro. Eric & Sis. Erika) this past month. Goodbyes are hard, but faith and a firm hold on God’s promises will carry this young couple into their new home in Oregon.

Joel Kipfer (Bro. Jon & Sis. Suzanne) and Sheila Graf (Mark & Marcy) recently turned to the Lord in repentance. We are thankful they have made this decision, and wish them much grace as they build a firm foundation in Christ.

Our Sis. Kaitlin Klotzle (Bro. Wayne & Sis. Jane) is moving the end of July to serve as a teacher for the children of families at Hospital Lumiere in Haiti. As God has clearly led Sis. Kaitlin there, we wish her wisdom to be an example for these children, and a special closeness to God that can be experienced regardless of how far we travel from home.

On Wednesday evening, July 12, we heard the testimony, and welcomed Bro. Daniel & Sis. Julia
Boros into our congregation, from the Apostolic Christian Nazarene Church. They live next door at the nursing home apartments, and we are thankful for their presence in our church. Ministering Bro. George Gal (Akron, OH) was with us that evening, as he is a nephew to Bro. Daniel & Sis. Julia.

Several new babies in and around our congregation have blessed parents and grandparents! We pray God’s strength to raise each one in the fear and admonition of the Lord, so that He could add the increase. On July 17, Kambria Lynn Steiner was born to Bro. Isaac & Sis. Brittany, Koriana, Kenton, & Kalvin. Kambria's grandparents are Bro. Dave & Sis. Lynn Steiner, and Bro. Brian & Sis. Bev Indermuhle. On June 10, Chad & Heidi Elser had a baby boy named Brock Benjamin Elser. He is welcomed by grandparents Bro. Dale & Janet Gasser. Bro. Tom & Sis. Diane Hartzler welcomed grandson Theodore Wayne Hartzler on July 9 to Tobin & Ashley Hartzler (Latty, OH). Ellis Cabot Ringger, a new grandson of Bro. Bob & Sis. Mardell Dotterer was born on July 8 to Bro. Jon & Sis. Beth Ringger (Leo, IN). Isla Christine Demrovsky (Bro. Brian & Sis. Katrina, Akron, OH) is welcomed by her grandparents, Bro. Dan & Sis. Betty Baltic.

We extend our sympathy to the family of Judy Hilty (Sam), who passed away this past month. Also, Sis. Carole Widmer's (Bro. Harold) sister, Sis. Marge Collins (Akron, OH) entered eternity recently. As these loved ones leave this life, we hold dear to the memories of their kind deeds.

We prayer for healing to Sis. Anita Riggenbach (Bro. Ed), Tom Leonhard (Sis. Holly), and Ken (Shirley) Bauman who have spent time in the hospital. May God grant them energy and strength for each new day.

Special thanks to visiting ministers Elder Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL), Elder Bro. Vic Bauman (Smithville, OH) and Bro. Ron Palitto (Akron, OH). May we each continue faithfully, for we know not what hour our Lord may return.

Ohio, Sardis

Faith Beard, Joy Indermuhle

“Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved...”

1 Corinthians 15:1-2

During the last weekend in June we again hosted the annual memorial service at our New Martinsville church. We enjoyed pleasant weather and cool breezes as we gathered high in the West Virginia hills to worship and sing praises to our Lord. Thanks to Bro. Matthew Rassi (Sis. Bridget, Chicago, IL) and their family for making the effort to join us for the weekend. We especially appreciate Bro. Matthew for leading the services on Saturday evening and Sunday afternoon. Visitors for the weekend included offspring of two families who worshiped there in the early 1900’s. They expressed appreciation for our singing and the large number of committed young people who attended.

We also wish to express appreciation to Bro. Brian Waibel (Sis. Wendy, Champaign, IL) for speaking the Word on a Sunday as he and his family were traveling through during vacation. It was a blessing for us to have all of them with us for the day.

Bro. Bill Brake (Sis. Miriam) shared his last service on Sunday morning, July 2. Bro. Bill has retired from the ministry after serving almost 38 years. When called into this work, it would be hard to anticipate the time, commitment, generous giving of self at home and in other congregations, emotions and sacrifices the years would bring. We truly believe that God will be their rewarder. Special thanks to the family as well. It has touched our hearts.

“...But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. Therefore whether it were I or they, so we preach, and so ye believed.”

1 Corinthians 15:10–11

Bro. Andy and Sis. Cyndi Figel and their daughter, Caydi, spent the month of June in Maryland as caretakers for our Washington DC church. During the same month, Sis. Baylee Figel,
another one of their daughters, spent some time with other congregations in other states helping with their Vacation Bible School efforts. We are thankful for their safe travels and to have them gathering with us again. How blessed we are to have such abundant opportunity to freely travel distances to worship with other believers, and then make life-long acquaintances with many dear souls we may otherwise have never known.

Ohio, Smithville
*Millie Stoller, Connie Maletich*

On July 2 our church was blessed to witness the baptism of four souls: Bro. Adrian Dotterer, (Bro. Steve and Sis. Amy), Bro. Austin Dotterer, (Bro. Steve and Sis. Amy), Bro. Toby Stoller (Bro. Scott and Sis. Charlene, and Sis. Crystal Gasser (Bro. Ben and Sis. Sharon). Visiting ministers were Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sis. Linda, Sardis, OH), Elder Bro. Arthur Ingold (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman, OH), Bro. Doug Harmon (Sis. Lanna, Toledo, OH), Bro. Sam Schlatter (Sis. Linda, Junction, OH), Bro. Ryan Schock (Sis. Melanie, Bloomfield, IA), Bro. Dana Indermuhle (Sis. Joy, Sardis, OH), Bro. Fred Domka (Sis. Connie, Mansfield, OH), Bro. Wayne Hartzler (Sis. Camille, Rittman, OH), and Bro. Marvin Hartzler (Sis. Sue, Rittman. OH).

We extend congratulations to Aaron and Lexi Nussbaum on their recent marriage. Lexi is the daughter of Michael and Sis. Diane Jarrett. May God bless them as they establish their lives together.

We rejoice with Carl Fetzer (Bro. Andy and Sis. Elizabeth), as he has sought the Lord in repentance.

Bro. Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue, Detroit, MI), ministered the word. We thank him for his willingness to serve our church.

Sis. Carol Schuster spent some time in the hospital this month. We lift up in prayer all our loved ones with health issues.

Ohio, Toledo
*Whitney Masters, Alisia Schlatter*

As summer begins, we welcome the sunshine, along with baby Mavric Jay born to Bro. Doug, Jr. & Sis. Brooke Harmon. Grandparents Bro. Doug, Sr. & Sis. Lanna Harmon welcome him to their family. They also welcome baby Andrew Jacob, born to Bro. Ben & Sis. Sarah Harmon (Detroit, MI). These sweet blessings bring joy to our hearts and we look forward to watching these two cousins grow up together.

Our Sunday School Picnic was held on a beautiful Sunday afternoon at Bro. Matt & Sis. Deanna Manz’s home. Several visitors that weekend helped us fill the assembly and our Sunday School.

This month, we were thankful to also have several visiting ministers, including Bro. Tim Ramsier (Sis. Jonell, Rittman, OH), Bro. Todd Sinn (Sis. Janet, Latty, OH) and Bro. Chris Laukhuf (Sis. Rachel, Latty, OH). Thank you to those who have joined us in Toledo for a weekend.

With the brotherhood conference coming up, we pray for our elders and ministers, as well as, our Bro. Matt Manz as his time of interview approaches.

Our prayers go out to our Bro. Howard Harmon (Sis. Emily) who took a bad fall this month. We are thankful that he is recovering.

Ontario, Kitchener
*Johanna Fortenbacher*

It was a blessing for us to see visiting ministers who came this month. These servants were Bro. Kirk Plattner (Sis. Keri, West Layette, IN), Elder Bro. Greg Lehman (Sis. Mary Beth, Wolcott, IN), Bro. Erik Givens (Sis. Debbie, Princeville, IL) and Bro. Scott Schambach (Sis. Hope, Elgin IL).

“Teach me to do thy will; for thou art my God: thy spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness.” Psalm 143 vs. 10

Bro. Wayne Saddler has been encouraging his older Sunday school class to participate in discussions, expressing their thoughts and ideas and work with them. Sis. Michelle Davidson teaches the younger children and is creative in her own way. She has expressed that “God is good”.

Oregon, Portland
*Louisa Gallup*

We recently held our annual Communion Service and are thankful for the opportunity and the blessing of being together for this special occasion. Elder
Bro. John Wiegand (Sis. Jane, Silverton, OR) was assisted by Elder Bro. Trent Meiss (Sis. Lucy, Eureka, IL). We are grateful to both elders for their support, and to Bro. Trent and Sis. Lucy for traveling our way and being with us for the evening.

The following ministers from Silverton, OR blessed us with their support this past month: Bro. Don Sinn (Sis. Linda), Bro. Ron Jones (Sis. Liz), Bro. Jim Zollinger (Sis. Tresa), and Elder Bro. John Wiegand (Sis. Jane). We appreciate them, as well as the visiting song leaders from Silverton.

Oregon, Silverton
Kelsey Walder, Ann Kuenzi

The weekend of June 18 was our Bible Class Weekend. We’re thankful that Bro. Mark Schmidgall (Sis. Sally, Mediapolis, IA), was able to be here with our Bible Class for the weekend and then shared the Word with our congregation on Sunday as well. The weekend finished up with a potluck and singing.

We have several in our congregation relocating for varying lengths of time. Sis. Jodi Roth (Bro. Jim and Sis. Deb) has gone to Mexico for the summer. Kiara Snook (Bro. Jason and Sis. Colette) is working in Alaska for the summer. Bro. Lee and Sis. Chelsie Jones and their children are leaving soon to move to South Korea for a couple of years for Bro. Lee to further his education. Adrienne Metzger (Bro. Kurt and Sis. Koreen) is also leaving for Mexico and plans to be there for 6 weeks. Finally, Kaitlin Kuenzi (Bro. Aden and Sis. Becky) will be moving to Eureka, IL, for nursing school for a couple of years. We will miss each of them and pray for God’s protecting hand upon them, looking forward to being reunited in the future.

We are thankful to hear the engagement of Bro. Evan Sinn (Bro. Mark and Sis. Elsie) to Sis. Kristen Rufener from Rittman, OH (John and Emily Rufener). We rejoice with them as they look forward to an October 29 wedding date, and are prayerful for them as they make plans to make their home here in Oregon.

Bro. Terry and Sis. Ann Kuenzi are blessed with another grandchild. Bro. David and Sis. Bethany Messner from Winthrop, MN, added Leo Terrence to their hearts and home June 21.

We are rejoicing with two new converts! Julia Kuenzi (Bro. Adam and Sis. Lori) and Micah Kuenzi (Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Kristy) have both expressed their desire to serve the Lord.

July 9 was the wedding day for Bro. Derrick and Sis. Adeline Kuenzi in Rittman, OH. Parents are Bro. Eric and Sis. Erika Graf (Rittman, OH) and Bro. Art and Sis. MaryBeth Kuenzi. We wish this couple God’s blessings and extend a special welcome to Sis. Adeline to Silverton!

With summer, we are blessed with many extra visitors from across the country. This also included Elder Bro. Trent Meiss (Sis. Lucy, Eureka, IL), Bro. Jason Dotterer (Sis. Lynn, Forrest, IL), Bro. Jeremiah Psinas (Morton, IL) and Bro. Michael Schneider (Sis. Jodi, Junction, OH). We are thankful for their willingness to share the Word.

Pennsylvania, Philadelphia
Laura Isch

Invite-a-Friend was the weekend of July 15 and 16 at the Philadelphia Church. We enjoyed a precious time of worship, fellowship, and singing praises together. Thank you to all of our visitors for making the effort to be with us! God bless you!

Welcome Ashtyn Elizabeth! Ashtyn joins big brother, Cameron, and parents, Bro. Tyler and Sis. Mallory Lanz. Thankful grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Kay Lanz and Bro. Bruce and Sis. Amy Rosswurm (Latty, OH).

We were blessed to have elder Brother Duane Farney and wife, Sis. Karen, with us this month (Croghan-Naumburg). We appreciate him sharing the Word.

Tennessee, Nashville
Mike Fritz

“Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity.”

Hymns of Zion #188

We thank Bro. Tom Waldbeser (Sis. Sue, Peachtree City, GA), Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH), and Bro. John Hartman (Sis. Rosemary, Fairbury, IL) for helping with
our annual business meeting. We appreciate being ministered to by Bro. John Cottrell (Sis. Gloria, Eureka, IL), Bro. Gerry Hertzel (Sis. Ellen, Sabatha, KS), and Bro. Byron Stoller (Sis. Carol, Gridley, IL). Local visitors and brethren from Eureka, Gridley, Goodfield, and Princeville, IL; Elgin and West Bend, IA; and Latty, OH blessed us with fellowship and joining us for worship.

If you are traveling through the Nashville area, please plan to worship with us. We meet for worship every Sunday and the first and third Wednesday nights of the month. Please call us ahead of time to confirm our schedule. Contacts are Bro. Jeff & Sis. Cynde Stoller, 309.530.5760, cyndelynnstoller@gmail.com; Bro. Jordan & Sis. Emily Fritz, 615.852.9109, jordanmfritz@gmail.com; Bro. Ezra Fritz, 615.856.8286, ezrafritz@gmail.com

**Texas, Austin/Bastrop**

**Candy Meiss**

Sending our Love and Greetings from Austin/Bastrop

The song “Christian Friendship” #91 in the Hymns of Zion comes to mind when I think of the blessed fellowship we had with the Sunday School and work team from Belvidere, IL and Minneapolis, MN the week of July 9 as they labored in love on a project near our church and also those who worked diligently in the kitchen to provide nourishment for the team. What a sweet privilege to work beside my cousin, Sis. Betty, and her husband, Bro. Sam Bachtold, in the kitchen for a few precious hours.

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

We are thankful for Elder Bro. Duane Rocke and his support and encouragement in establishing our small church in Austin/Bastrop.

We were blessed to have the following visiting ministers this past month: Elder Bro. Duane Rocke (Minneapolis, MN), Deacon Bro. Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata, TX), Bro. Jeff Fischer (Sis. Gloria, Fort Scott, KS), Bro. Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL) and Bro. David Eisenmann (Sis. Jackie, Champaign, IL). We pray a special blessing on each for their labors of love.

Our church continues to grow and it is with much joy that we welcome Bro. Nelson and Sis. Janelle Eisenmann. We will continue to lift them up in prayer as they seek employment and settle into their Austin home.

The gift of marriage brings new ways to serve the Lord. We extend our joy to Bro. Santos and Sis. Katie Lopez as they settle into their home and their new life together as one. We look forward to their Texas wedding reception on July 23 in our Austin/Bastrop church.

“**But I prize the friendship highest of the one whose heart is true, Friends who live by truth and goodness and who live in Him anew, Friends whose hearts are up in heaven though their feet traverse this sod, find a place of highest merit in our fellowship with God.”**

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 and for those who have recently moved to the Bastrop area.

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

**Texas, Dallas-Ft. Worth**

Services are generally being held the second Sunday of each month at the Holiday Inn Express, 4450 W. John Carpenter Freeway, Irving, TX. 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 blessed by Bro. Earl Beery (Sis. Suzanne, Rittman, OH) and Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Sis. Nancy, Forrest, IL). We wish to thank them for their service to our church. We pray that the Lord will bless them for their efforts.

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.

Texas, Zapata
Mary Plattner

We are looking forward to a Zapata reunion in West Bend this fall. Shortly afterward, we anticipate the return of our winter family, with the first ones arriving in October.

We had some food donated and we made several home visits this week delivering food and visiting. It was a very hot day, there was no air conditioning, but the food was accepted with tears and gratitude. It is often easy to forget our many blessings.

At this time, we still do not have regular services in Zapata. We travel either to McAllen or Austin-Bastrop to assemble. Anyone coming to South Texas is most welcome to visit in Zapata.

We would certainly appreciate your visit, but please notify us if you are coming.

Vermont, Clarendon
Nathan Reutter

As a family, we have just finished reading the book of the Revelation of Saint John the Divine. Toward the end of the last chapter, verses 18-19, it says, “For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.” These are either exceedingly cheerful to the heart or frightening to the soul!

In doing some recent reading of the Provincial Letters by Blaise Pascal, I came across many accounts of reputed spiritual figures making arguments that were clearly contrary to the Word of God with rebuttals and refutations from the Word of God provided to clear up the controversies. As I was considering the accounts in the Letters, the Revelation scripture made me think of the punishments and curses that will be upon those who insist on holding erroneous doctrines that are more than what the Bible maintains. God help me to be faithful to His Word!

We appreciated having visiting ministers who discoursed about and preached upon the moral principles from the Word of God. It was a blessing. They were as follows: Bro. Matthew Rassi (Sis. Bridget, Chicago, IL), Bro. Scott Aberle (Sis. Dorine, Washington, IL), Bro. Dan Goric (Sis. MaryLou, Rockville, CT), and Bro. Jay Steffen (Sis. Melinda, Congerville, IL). We appreciated the fact that they brought their families. Both parents and children of small churches crave the fellowship of brethren. It helps to know there are other Apostolic Christians when you live in an area where there are none within fifty to one hundred miles. Please feel free to come and visit us. We welcome each one.

Proverbs 7:1-3

My son, keep my words, and lay up my commandments with thee.

Keep my commandments, and live; and my law as the apple of thine eye.

Bind them upon thy fingers, write them upon the table of thine heart.
Young Christian parents, we find you so engaged and aware of the challenges your children face now and will be facing in their future. The world is a different place than when we started raising our children. And I am thinking that our parents said the same thing when we began our journey of parenthood 30-40 years ago. What does that tell me? Stuff and things around us change but somehow stay the same; challenges seem to become more intense but then...there’s nothing new under the sun.

God wants us to trust him completely and especially with things out of our control. Parent your littles with confidence that He will help you and guide you with the big things and then don’t sweat the small things. If your child writes on your newly painted living room wall, for example, that might make you go crazy. I know for sure, it made me go crazy. But I am thinking now, I wish it hadn’t. Kids love to explore and learn and are always asking lots of questions.

When you are tired and about completely spent of their energy, lie down and take that nap with them. It does them a world of good to have you snuggle with them and it helps Moms and Dads regain the energy they need to be that great parent. When you are bogged down with the daily mundane tasks of caring for a home and keeping peace among siblings and getting every last chore done, remember to stop and listen to that little voice that is “learning by asking” and watching you work and wanting to “do it too!”

Pray and read with them often. It is so important to teach your children to pray and love the word of God. Christian parents, you are doing an amazing job these days! Keep it up. This nation and world need good families to promote godliness and contentment in our somewhat godless society.

— by Sis. Darlene Walder

What Advice Would You Give to Today's Young Parents?

- Sing at the table with them from little on up so they are used to it. Just one song, a couple verses or even just one is sufficient, before you pray, when everyone is sitting down, except maybe Mom. She can sing along as she does last-minute getting the food on the table.
- Of course, have devotions some time each day, reading Bible Story or Bible, maybe asking some questions or have discussion about what was read.
- Try to keep table time pleasant, ask each to tell something interesting about their day, maybe something they have learned, or maybe one thing they are thankful for.
- Give children responsibilities/chores, even little tots can put silverware on the table.
- If your child is told to do something, make sure they do it, even if you have to help them, sometimes you do when they are little tots.
- As they get older and you ask them to do something, make sure they know what is expected of them and then make sure they do it. It may be something small and it is often so easy and less stressful to let them get by without following through; however reliability is priceless as they get older.
- Never make a statement that you will not want to keep i.e. "You will have to stay home if you do not ______________." (And actually it would not be feasible at all for them to stay home.)
- Enjoy them, they grow up very fast! – by Anonymous

Teach children Bible verses (I had a tiny book with scripture verses and an illustration on each page that I read real often to my youngest, and he seems to know more verses.)

Encourage them to be thrifty (not waste food, paper, money, etc.).
As parents of young children, you have total control over your household and your children. But, over time, your control will slowly disappear, and you will have to rely on the relationship you have built with your children.

As teenagers, if they value their relationship with you more than the relationships they have with others, if they trust you and believe in you, more than likely they will heed your advice and your warnings. If they value their relationships with others more than they value their relationship with you, or if they don’t trust you, or if they don’t believe you are qualified to give them guidance, more than likely they won’t heed your advice or your warnings.

So, as you are teaching and enjoying your young children, make a conscious effort to earn their respect, esteem, trust, and love. Here are three things, I believe, will help you in this endeavor.

1) A good home learning environment
2) Good parental examples
3) Spend time with your children

When our first child was born, my wife and I really weren’t very prepared for parenthood. We thought we were. But, there were many scenarios which came along that surprised and challenged us. Our parents weren’t around, and we had difficulty finding qualified people from whom to get advice. There was one rule we agreed on. We were not going to spank our son.

We just didn’t think Jesus would want us to “hit” our child. So for the first four years of parenthood, we had no real way to enforce rules. We tried time-out and anything else we heard about or read about. But, everything seemed to backfire. In time-out he would yell in total defiance. At one time, I could get him to calm down by giving him my meanest look of disapproval. But, one day he just gave me his meanest look of disapproval right back at me.

Then, it occurred to me “I taught him that.”

When our first child was two years old, my wife gave birth to our second son. In a two-year span, our house went from being a peaceful, loving house of newlyweds to total chaos. My wife would want my help. I didn’t know what to do. I just gave her some poorly-thought-out advice on my way out the door to work. And, for the next two years, our house was far from a peaceful, loving and nurturing environment.

Don’t misunderstand, we always have and always will love our boys. But, I can’t honestly say that I always enjoyed being around them. I found myself wanting to leave the house in the morning. And, after a short time of being home in the evening, I wanted to go back out. We were raising spoiled rotten, tantrum-throwing, disobedient, selfish little brats. And really, who would want to be around them?

Then it happened. One day at the library, after one of my son’s tantrums, a friend of my wife gave her a book on tape. In the book, the author did a beautiful job of explaining the difference between Biblically instructed spanking as a tool “to train up a child in the way he should go” and hitting. Prior to this I saw them as synonyms. Now, I know, they were not. After listening to the book on tape over and over, I was able to digest its concepts and begin to apply them.

Four years after my first son was born, I was finally becoming a parent. We laid down some very basic rules and, explained them very clearly. No tantrums. No hitting. Easy rules like this. And, we explained why and what the punishment will be. When they violated the rules, which we knew they would, they always had, I would stop what I was doing (This is key. Remember, now it is time to be a parent.) and take them to their room.

I would inform them they were going to get a spanking. I would ask them if they knew why. If necessary, I would explain again “tantrums take the peace out of the house. And we want a peaceful house.” Then they would get their Biblical spanking. After which, I would hug them, and they would hug me. And, we would talk some more.

The rules expanded as they grew older, but oddly enough, the spankings diminished after the first few months. With our youngest child there were no terrible twos. It was the terrific twos. By the time he was eight, I had given my last spanking. After four years with...
children, we had started down the path of having the peaceful, loving, and nurturing household. As a word of caution, make sure your rules are reasonable and responsible. Never spank for accidents. And, never spank when you are angry.

The second key ingredient, it is so important to be a good example. I very much remember baling hay, one day, and getting a flat on one of the rear tires of my tractor. With rain in the forecast for the next day, I ran to town and bought a new tube. I came home and started trying to get the tire off of the wheel. My oldest son came out with me. He was about five years old.

Nothing was to go my way that day. It seemed I wasn’t big enough or strong enough for the job, but I had no other option. We live in the south and it was only about 102 degrees. I was working in the sun when a tool I was using slipped. In my disgust and frustration, I picked it up and threw it at the ground. Then, I realized my son was watching me the whole time. I got my hay baled up. But, in less than a week, I saw my son throw one of my tools. I didn’t like it.

Then, I realized, I taught him to do that. Now, what do I do? Tell him that it is wrong to throw the tools which God gave us to use? I got my hay baled up, but it was a failure of a day. I have heard it said when impatient, discontent, lazy, irrational, unreasonable, selfish, stubborn, semi-Christian fathers try to raise patient, content, hard-working, rational, reasonable, responsible, selfless, God-fearing children, they end up raising impatient, discontent, lazy, irrational, unreasonable, irresponsible, selfish, stubborn, semi-Christian young adults.

Having a peaceful, loving and nurturing household is almost a negative, if they are learning a bunch of bad habits from your example. Young parents, your children are learning every day whether you are making a conscious effort to teach them or not. They learn from you and those they are around.

If you will take the time to think about what character traits you think your child should have when he or she is a young adult and then, become that yourself, your parenting will go a lot easier. Remember, you are, and should be, their primary example. I quit throwing tools that day. And, as my boys were growing up, I quit several other bad habits which I didn’t realize I had until I saw them in my boys.

The third key ingredient is to spend time with them. Now, I know that we all have to make a living. And, we can’t be with our kids all day every day. But understand, time spent with your kids is like money in the bank. You can draw on it later. But, there is a price paid for time spent away from your kids. Be around them. Interact with them. Talk with them. Listen to them. Learn to communicate with them. Learn to read them. Have fun with them as they have fun with you. Do things they enjoy. Read books to them. Throw the ball with them.

Do things you enjoy, but include them. Work with them. Remember, as you work with them, your primary goal is to spend enjoyable time with them. Getting your work done is secondary. In a sense, you want precious memories with your children. Memories which, as the years go by, you and your children can talk about and remember fondly. Be sincere. At the end of the day, you want to trust them and have them trust you. If you are not sincere, they will see it and see you as a manipulator.

So, my advice to you is, take the time and make the effort to discipline your children so they have a peaceful, loving, and nurturing household within which to grow. Take the time and make the effort to look down the road and figure out what kind of character you want your children to have as young adults. Then, become that yourself. And, train your children toward that goal.

Take the time and make a conscious effort to do things with your children, allow precious memories to develop. Then, from an early age on, you will find you have a much higher level of relationship with your children than you, or most other parents, ever thought possible. I am not saying they will be perfect, but if you do your best, God will do the rest. Be sure you are doing your best. – by Anonymous

T

HE FAMILY today, as in the past, is an intrinsically unfair institution, with authority, responsibility and labor all unevenly distributed among generations. The family is also, at least for the parents, the hardest work many humans will ever undertake — with relentless decision making and seemingly nonstop obligations just two of the inescapable companions of mothers and fathers.

There is also no doubt that the sacrifices entailed by family life have real consequences. A mother and father, no matter the level of education or personal achievement, who takes their work seriously might indeed find their careers derailed by the demands of family. The family does not put individualism first.

Modern culture, however, does and is now offering some “acceptable” and legal alternatives to the traditional family of our ancestors: single motherhood, unwed motherhood, premarital cohabitation, gay marriage, and no fault divorce for those who did tie the knot of marriage — all of which, a few decades ago, were either unacceptable or at least brought some level of cultural condemnation in the Christian community. This means that traditional households now coexist alongside a growing number of nontraditional households threatening the demise of the two-parent biological family.

History tells us that humans learn their religion in communities — beginning with the community of the family. They learn it as they learn language: not by individuals independently making up their own tongues, but in a community of users sharing the same linguistic rules.

What if Christianity is like language — something that needs to be practiced and learned in groups of like mind? What if, just as people enhance their language skills by exposure to other people, those who are most connected in one’s family are more likely to develop “religious skills” too? What happens to religion if the family becomes disconnected and more individualized?

Maybe, just maybe, the family and the church are connected and as one goes so goes the other. Maybe Jesus was right in Matthew 5:13, “Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour wherewith shall it be salted? It is thenceforth good for nothing but to be cast out…”

Then in 5:16, “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in Heaven.” What if the family has a major role in the “salt” and “light” of God’s Kingdom — would that make all the sacrifices worth it? Not only am I convinced that it does — my 51 years of marriage and raising a family within the Apostolic Christian community has been visible evidence to that effect. My advice for young families is to make the sacrifices needed — for God, Family and Church. There is plenty of scripture and 2000 years of historical context to support that decision.

SEE THAT they learn to WORK. I heard a quote long ago “Have children do as much as they can as well as they can as early as they can”, such as folding washcloths at age 2, setting the table at age 3 or 4, etc.

Sing together as a family often — in the car, at home, at singings, at Sunday School.

At an early age, along with their first job, have them buy their own things; and later, their own clothes. Also, teach them how to divide their money or earnings: give, save, spend. – from a 75-yr-old grandmother.
YOUNG PARENTS, be encouraged that God is with you and loves your children even more than you do! He will bless your efforts as you go to Him for wisdom and direction.

Your priorities will be the primary influence on your children and their future. Where is your heart? What do you love? They will know — and if you have much courage, you could ask them — what is the most important thing to mommy and daddy? What are your priorities? Is reading Bible stories more important than watching movies? Are you more excited about baptisms than about the Super Bowl? Is the “beauty of holiness” more important than chasing the fashions of the day? Does serving others as a family take more of your time than computer or video games?

Our children need to see us loving God! We do this by loving His people, starting with our spouses and our families. They need to see dad and mom on their knees together seeking Him, to hear the Word being read to them. They need to hear how God brought dad and mom together and how thankful they are. They are strengthened when they feel much love along with direction and correction.

Our children need to see our love for God through our support for our church. As we submit to our authorities, they are shown how to obey their parents. They need to see our joy in attending services, from Sundays to Wednesday evenings, from testimonies to Sunday School activities.

They need to hear our thankfulness for our church and ministers and elders. They need to hear our prayers for our church, to see our support for our doctrines and traditions, as well as learn the biblical basis for each one. They are encouraged as they learn of their heritage, even of their ancestors who were persecuted for their faith. They need to hear the faith-filled hymns of old.

None of us has ever done it perfectly, but God blesses any effort for Him. He hears your prayers, and the prayers of we, your parents, who continually lift you up before His throne! — by Anonymous

**Deuteronomy 6:5-9**

And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:

And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes.

And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.

**Psalm 78:4-7**

We will not hide them from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done.

For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children:

That the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children:

That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments:
The News & Notices section of The Silver Lining provides a way for qualifying non-profit entities to make the brotherhood aware of church-related events, opportunities, needs, and services that would be of special interest to Apostolic Christian Church of America members and regular attendees. Email us at editor@acsilverlining.org for a copy of our advertising policy, which specifies who may advertise, sizes, file formats and deadlines.

News & Notices

VERSION 2 Now Available

AC Central is More than Just Sermons

Update to the latest version to find a hub of Apostolic Christian content:

- **Hymns**
  - Search by keyword to find music and lyrics to Zion’s Harp songs.
  - More books will be added soon...

- **Job Postings**
  - View employment and long-term volunteer opportunities at our national Apostolic Christian ministries.

- **Silver Lining**
  - Download and read any Silver Lining issue since Jan. 2013.

- **Sermons**
  - And of course, access past and streaming sermons and topical Bible studies from over 40 congregations.

More new features are already in the works and will arrive the first half of 2017.

Be sure to regularly check Google Play or the App Store for updates.

Want to support new feature development?

Donations for AC Central are appreciated and are currently routed through HarvestCall.

Write AC Central on your check memo or choose it when making an online donation at harvestcall.org

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: bibling distributions@acpublications.org
Lamar, MO Church asks for prayers and support in church bolstering

The Lamar, MO congregation recently started meetings with Church Establishment Committee (CEC) brethren to explore ways to “bolster”/grow their congregation. Currently, the Singles group consists of 3 brothers/sisters, but they, along with the rest of the congregation, ask for your prayers in this important bolstering work and that God would move hearts to join them. Employment opportunities abound in the medical, agriculture and educational areas. Interested? Inquire to CEC@harvestcall.org.

Christian Guesthouse and Worship Services in Rochester, MN

Accommodations for Mayo Clinic outpatients and families – two locations:
1. Guesthouse - Three bedrooms with private baths, laundry, kitchen and family room area.
2. Near St. Mary’s Hospital - two bedroom apartment within a 12 unit building.

Guesthouse Accommodations:
For information and reservations, contact caretakers:
Bro. Randy and Sis. Brittaney Lehman
4733 Birdie Lane NW, Rochester, MN 55901
(507) 288-0072

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

Mentors Needed – The New Beginnings of Southwest Florida

TNB is currently looking for mentors. Want an opportunity to serve in your own backyard? We are looking for someone who is called by God to be involved with helping single mothers and their children. We are in need of a single sister or couple between the ages of 45-60 to assist us in helping bring God’s word into these young women's lives. This person must be committed to sharing God’s unconditional and sacrificial love. If this resonates with you, please prayerfully give TNB a call for more information.

The New Beginnings,
4810 Marine Dr., Cape Coral FL, 33904
239.541.4312 | admin@thenewbeginnings.org

Light from the Word

Now available by downloadable PDF at 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).
HarvestCall Work Team INFORMATION

**Mexico Medical / Dental Teams**

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<tr>
<th>YEAR 2017</th>
<th>PROJECT</th>
<th>CAPACITY</th>
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<tr>
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**Haiti Medical / Dental Teams**

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<th>PROJECT</th>
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<td>Oct 7-14</td>
<td>Orthopedic Team</td>
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<td>Dental</td>
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<td>Dec 9-16</td>
<td>Cervical Cancer Screening – Mobile Clinics</td>
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<th>YEAR 2018</th>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 17-24</td>
<td>Pediatric Team – Mobile Clinics</td>
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<td>Mar 10-17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 31-Apr 7</td>
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<td>Dec 8-15</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**COORDINATOR FOR ALL HAITI MEDICAL TEAMS:**

Cheryl Herrmann | Email: cherrmann@frontier.com

**Jamaica Awareness Tour**

If you would like to meet the missionaries and see the ministries of CCCD, Deaf Can! Coffee and En Gedi House in person, but do not have the desire to participate on a short-term team, please consider our new Awareness Tour. This is a quick trip that gives interested parties the opportunity to meet our missionary families, learn more about our Jamaica ministry as well as other outreach supported by HarvestCall. These trips are scheduled, as needed, based upon demand.

To learn more, contact: Loren Dettwyler | Phone: 503-580-9629 | Email: lmdettwyler@gmail.com

**Haiti Work Teams**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>PROJECT</th>
<th>CAPACITY</th>
<th>COORDINATOR</th>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 10-17</td>
<td>HWA Water Aid</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Luke Fischer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Les Cayes</td>
<td>Phone: 309-242-7020</td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:lukenal@live.com">lukenal@live.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 10-17</td>
<td>Haiti Trade School</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Andy Getz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Les Cayes</td>
<td>Phone: 574-870-5046</td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:andy@getztidone.com">andy@getztidone.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 15-20</td>
<td>MEBSH/Haiti Support</td>
<td>ACHC-CC</td>
<td>Jon Zeller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Les Cayes</td>
<td>Phone: 309-266-9009</td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:jczeller1972@gmail.com">jczeller1972@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 1-8</td>
<td>MEBSH/Bluffton/Const.</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Lane Gerber</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Les Cayes</td>
<td>Phone: 260-241-4099</td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:lane.gerber@gmail.com">lane.gerber@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 5-12</td>
<td>MEBSH/Ohio/Const.</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Ron Palitto</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Les Cayes</td>
<td>Phone: 330-336-5373</td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:ronp@palittoconsulting.com">ronp@palittoconsulting.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 12-19</td>
<td>AWA / Water Aid</td>
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<td>Luke Fischer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Les Cayes</td>
<td>Phone: 309-242-7020</td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:lukenal@live.com">lukenal@live.com</a></td>
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<td>Les Cayes</td>
<td>Phone: 574-870-5046</td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:andy@getztidone.com">andy@getztidone.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 2-9</td>
<td>MEBSH/Silverton/Const.</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Harvey Kuenzi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Les Cayes</td>
<td>Phone: 503-932-3128</td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:hkloanoak@msn.com">hkloanoak@msn.com</a></td>
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<td>Feb 16-23</td>
<td>MEBSH/Roanoke/Const.</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Jonathan Hodel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Les Cayes</td>
<td>Phone: 309-361-5031</td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:jonathan.hodel@gmail.com">jonathan.hodel@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 2-9</td>
<td>MEBSH/Peoria/Const.</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Steve Leuthold</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Les Cayes</td>
<td>Phone: 309-645-2208</td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:sleuth@speerbank.com">sleuth@speerbank.com</a></td>
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<td>Mar 9-16</td>
<td>Haiti Trade School</td>
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<td>Andy Getz</td>
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<td>Mar 9-16</td>
<td>AWA / Water Aid</td>
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<td>Les Cayes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr 18-23</td>
<td>MEBSH/Haiti Support</td>
<td>ACHC-CC</td>
<td>Jon Zeller</td>
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<tr>
<td>Les Cayes</td>
<td>Phone: 309-266-9009</td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:jczeller1972@gmail.com">jczeller1972@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr 23-30</td>
<td>MEBSH/Maintenance</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Jon Zeller</td>
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<tr>
<td>Les Cayes</td>
<td>Phone: 309-266-9009</td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:jczeller1972@gmail.com">jczeller1972@gmail.com</a></td>
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**Mexico Work Teams**

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<th>PROJECT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nov 18-25</td>
<td>Magdalena</td>
<td>Rod Schmidt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>Phone: 303-718-1432</td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:rod.schmidt@watershedfoods.com">rod.schmidt@watershedfoods.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**QUESTIONS FOR MEXICO WORK TEAMS:**

Mike Fiechter
Email: mfechter@onlyinternet.net | Phone: 260-307-0001
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 you 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.

To learn more, contact:
Rich Bertschi at 309.467.2351 or hospitallumiere@harvestcall.org
Rick Wuethrich at 219.863.4163 or rick@wuethrichfarms.com

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 Hospital Administrator Bro. Rick Aberle to discuss possible dates and available projects.

Contact: Rick Aberle | Phone: 011-509-4222-1004
Email: komarick@sbcglobal.net

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 10, but we are collecting items now. Please consider donating one of the following:

• Toys
• Gift Baskets
• Electronics
• Tools
• Gift Certificates
• Recreational Equip.
• Vacation Packages
• Dinners

To Learn More
harvestcall.org/benefit-auction

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

Local Auction Representatives:
Bluffton, IN – Mike Bertsch - mibertsch@hotmail.com or 260-223-3582
Elgin, IA - Sandy Butikofer - ibutikofer@iwatelecom.net or 563-920-3768
Eureka, IL – Evan & Emily Schmidgall – schmidgall.emily@gmail.com or 503-871-4286
Forrest, IL – Ted & Teresa Bachtold – tbachtold@route24.net or 815-848-706
Forrest, IL – David & Holly Mueller – david@lanzinc.com or 217-841-0380
Goodfield, IL – Jill & Greg Wagner - wagner73@juno.com
Morton, IL – Michael & Tami Leman - mleman@elemannau.com or 309-988-6035
Princeville, IL – Carol Martin - carolmartin1126@gmail.com or 309-337-0031
Ritman, OH – Alice Widmer - alice.widmer@msmucker.com or 330-464-7402
Sabetha, KS – Don Platther - nekspromos@gmail.com or 785-532-9206
South Bend, IN – Bob & Sue Beebe - rbert.beebe1@gmail.com or 574-291-2158
Tremont, IL – Luci Koch - lucindak89@gmail.com or 309-267-3677
Washington, IL - Jon & Cheryl Ricketts - jonnicketts7@gmail.com or 309-444-9061
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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**DIRECTOR of OPERATIONS**
**OPENING at Hospital Lumiere, Haiti**

Seeking to fill this full-time paid position at Hospital Lumiere in Haiti. Qualifications include: knowledge and understanding of business administration including financial control and accounting, general knowledge of human resource management, ability to lead and manage people, be a believer in Jesus Christ, willing and capable of learning the Creole language and Haitian culture, willingness to reside in Haiti (with your spouse/family if applicable) for minimum of 3 years, willing to learn and manage other areas critical to a successful hospital — such as security, data systems and IT and labor law.

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 culture.
- Training will be provided prior to placement in the field. It is also desired that time will be allowed for a three month minimum transition period between the new Director of Operations and the existing, to allow for a successful transition in leadership.

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

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**PROFESSIONALS IN THE MEDICAL FIELD**
**Short Term Opportunities at Hospital Lumiere**

Professionals with training, skills and experience in the medical field who have a desire to serve at Hospital Lumiere in Haiti are encouraged to contact us. Terms of service are very flexible, ranging from 1-2 weeks to several months. Current specific needs include: any board certified physician surgeon or specialist, ultrasound technician or anesthesia provider (Anesthesiologist and CRNA’s).

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.

Terms of service are very flexible, ranging from 1-2 weeks to several months.

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

Seeking to fill this full-time paid position at Hospital Lumiere in Haiti. Qualifications include: understanding of and ability to work with electricity, general diagnostic and troubleshooting skills, general knowledge of construction and plumbing, ability to lead and manage people, be a believer in Jesus Christ, willing and capable of learning the Creole language and Haitian culture, willingness to reside in Haiti (with your spouse/family if applicable) for minimum of 3 years, willing to learn and work with the broad range of systems and equipment necessary to the hospital — such as electricity generation (hydro, diesel and solar), medical equipment and water distribution.

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 culture.
- Training will be provided prior to placement in the field. It is also desired that time will be allowed for a six month minimum transition period between the new Facilities Department Director and the existing, to allow for training in the hospital’s many different systems.

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

ASSISTANT FARM MANAGER NEEDED
HarvestCall Haiti Dairy Program (Good Vision Farm)
Opening near Les Cayes, Haiti

The HarvestCall Haiti Dairy Program is growing! The farm is currently undergoing major construction projects as it prepares for additional cows to arrive this fall, with the goal of beginning milking operations in February 2018.

HarvestCall is seeking a full-time missionary to assist Bro. Les Kaeb in proclaiming Christ and serving others while working together with Haitians on the Good Vision Farm near Les Cayes, Haiti.

Skills that would be valuable in this ministry include:
- Agronomy
- Dairy Herd Health
- Teach the local Haitians of these agronomy and dairy practices for long-term sustainability

If you feel led to serve or have questions about this opportunity, contact: Bro. Brent Hodel at Phone: 309-231-7467 or Email: htfi94@gmail.com or visit www.harvestcall.org/missionary-openings
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:
Bro. Jon Zeller
309-208-0639
Jczeller1972@gmail.com

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

Used Bibles, Bible Story Books, Hymns of Zion, Zion’s Harp, Gospel Hymns, and Tabernacle Hymns are needed.

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Seeking caregivers, single or married, willing to provide a Christ-centered family-like home for children who have been removed from their biological families. A caregiver's qualifications include: Member in good-standing; dedication and love for children and young people; good communication, teamwork and conflict management skills; openness to learn, self-motivation and flexibility; ability to speak or willingness to learn Spanish.

A caregiver's responsibilities include: Providing spiritual leadership and training for the children; provide for the daily physical, social and emotional needs of the children; continual pursuit of personal emotional and spiritual growth; continual professional growth as a caregiver; administer discipline in love and using biblical principles in accordance with CVE policies; grow in cultural knowledge and sensitivity.

Terms of Service
- Live on the CVE campus in the homes of the children being cared for.
- Language, culture and caregiver training will be provided.

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

For more information on CVE positions, contact: Keith Beyer. Email: CVEmexico@gmail.com, or Phone: 260-627-0525
COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR
OPENING at Casa Vida Y Esperanza; Magdalena, MX

Seeking a Communications Coordinator willing to support web development activities and to produce relevant and up-to-date material that can be shared with our church body and the public.

Communications coordinator qualifications include: Member in good-standing, experience writing articles for publications; experience with web development or supporting web development; have good communication, teamwork and conflict management skills; ability to speak or willingness to learn Spanish; willing to reside (with your spouse/family, if applicable) in MX for a minimum of 2 years.

Communications coordinator responsibilities include: Be the contact person in MX to support the development of an online platform for regular communication to the public; write and edit articles or other content that can be shared with the our church publications and the public; build relationships with the children and staff to be able to produce current and relevant material; support caregiving staff with errands, child supervision and/or mentoring.

Terms of Service
- Housing provided on/near CVE campus
- Language/culture training provided

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

For more information on CVE positions, contact: Keith Beyer. Email: CVEmexico@gmail.com, or Phone: 260-627-0525

SHORT-TERM MISSIONARY
OPENING at Casa Vida Y Esperanza; Magdalena, MX

Seeking short-term missionaries willing to live and serve at CVE for one year to support a variety of activities around campus.

Short-Term missionary qualifications include: Member in good-standing; dedication and love for children and young people; good communication, teamwork and conflict management skills; openness to learn, self-motivation and flexibility; ability to speak or willingness to learn Spanish.

The responsibilities could include: Support the caregiver in providing care for children; accounting support; drive church and/or school routes; prepare meals and support meal prep for work teams; work with livestock; teach work related skills to the children.

Terms of Service
- Housing provided on or near the CVE campus
- Language and culture training provided

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

For more information on CVE positions, contact: Keith Beyer. Email: CVEmexico@gmail.com, or Phone: 260-627-0525
Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel...

Is God calling you to live, love and serve His Kingdom? Serve to show God’s grace and love to vulnerable and hurting youth and families. It’s challenging, tough, gritty work with people from some very difficult circumstances. Lives will be changed, you will be challenged, God’s kingdom will be blessed.

We currently have these opportunities to serve. If you think it’s possible this could be your calling, please pray. Then contact us for more information.

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Continued Articles

Romans 14: Biblical Remedy
— Continued from pg. 3

response to differences of conscience. When we come to this conclusion, we must be certain to esteem the other higher than ourselves, even though we differ on the issue. That can be called disagreeing without being disagreeable.

The second possibility is that each of us practices submission and we find a middle ground on which we can both agree. “Can two walk together, except they be agreed?” Both of these conclusions are valid and happen continually in healthy relationships.

A middle-aged brother once gave a large sum of money toward a new church building. His son, who knew that he was not in favor of the building project, thinking it may be too extravagant, asked him why he was donating that much money. His father said that he had voiced his opinion but the church voted as a group to go ahead with the building, so it was his duty to contribute to what the church decided upon. This is an example of the first conclusion, in that he did not second guess or criticize the church but esteemed the other brothers higher than himself. However, he also practiced the second conclusion by showing submission in such a pure way that his son later gave his heart to the Lord. What a witness from a quiet, godly man! What the brother could not know is that dozens of his descendants would be baptized and some would preach in the church which he originally felt was too extravagant.

Until the Lord returns, society will always change. Every generation of believers has had to decide what it means to be in the world but not of the world. As they discuss the proper choices for their generation there will certainly be disagreements. Some will think change is happening much too quickly while others think the opposite.

The early church grew from eleven disciples to a large enough group to have a major impact on the Roman Empire, fighting the sword with the Word. Non-believers throughout the empire were amazed at the love Christians displayed not only for each other but also for their enemies. That same attitude appeared during the early years of the Anabaptist movement. Are we striving for that same love now or are we letting differences of opinions harm both our fellowship and our witness to non-believers? Let’s practice the mutual esteem taught in Romans 14 so the Kingdom can grow in numbers and in Christlikeness as it should.

(Footnotes)
1 Rom. 14:19
2 Rom. 14:10
3 Rom. 14:11
4 Rom. 13:10
5 Klopfenstein, A Treasure of Praise, p. 28.
6 Rom. 14:7
7 Rom. 14:8-9
8 John 13:35
9 Philemon 14
10 Phil. 2:3
11 Amos 3:3
12 John 17:15
but all of it? Are we wavering in any way from right to the left? He says observe to do it, and if you do it, then you’re going to prosper whithersoever thou goest.

Then in verse 8, He reiterates it again, “This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.” This is a convicting verse to me, and maybe it’s going to be convicting to you too. I want you to think about all the situations in life that you’re thinking through right now, the way that you want to be prosperous, the things in which you want to have success. As we seek God in prayer for that, ‘Lord, what shall I do? Lord, how shall I do it?’ He says if you want to make your way prosperous, if you want to have good success, then here’s what you do. I wouldn’t say forget about the details because it’s eventually going to come, but the key to that is “This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night…”

I believe each and every one of us, if we have any ounce of faith in us, any ounce of belief in God, that God is in control, that God has strength, that God can provide for us, we are praying to Him about certain situations, about certain people, about certain things that we want, about certain things that we need direction. Certain things, whether it’s a job or marriage or spouse or how to reconcile a certain relationship, how to reach a particular person, how to love someone, those types of things, you name it, how to get through a disease we’re facing, how to cope with the loss of a loved one. We want a specific answer — ‘Lord, what should I do in this case?’ We pray to Him, and we want a specific answer. God says we should pray for those things. Don’t get me wrong. We need to pray for those things. We need to seek. It says, “If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not…” He’s not going to criticize or condemn you for asking for that wisdom. It says, “But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering...A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.” (James 1:5-8)

What does it mean to ask for that wisdom, ask for that direction, ask for that provision in faith without being a double minded man? What does it mean to be a single minded man? It means that the law does not depart out of our mouth. It means that we’re meditating in God’s Word day and night. That is a high standard, but it’s one that God says, ‘Joshua, you have a massive mission ahead of you, a mission that is bigger than you, a mission that’s never been done before, and you are going to lead this people. What you really need to know in order to be successful is in my Word for you.’

Think about what the commandments were that Joshua had that God said, ‘This is all you need.’ Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy. That’s what he had! We have those five, and think about all the rest that we have at our fingertips! If I opened up to the book of Leviticus, there are probably some here that would have thought, ‘Oh boy! I hope he only reads a few verses!’ That’s what God said, ‘Joshua to meditate therein day and night, and that’s what’s going to make your way prosperous because it’s those commandments that teach you how to love Me and teach you how to love one another. If you do that, if you honor God, I will bless you. I will take care of the rest.’

So the convicting question I have for my life is of all the things that I’m praying to God for direction on and I want a specific answer, the question I have for me or maybe that God has for me is have you solely with a single mind focused on Me? Are you
putting your trust in me? Are you putting your confidence, your time, your energy in my laws? Are you starting to drift to the left? Are you starting to drift too much to the right? Are you thinking about it? Are you talking about it? He asks us sort of a rhetorical question. He asked Joshua, ‘Have not I commanded thee? Haven’t I given you your job? Haven’t I given you everything that you need?’ Could God ask us the same question? ‘What have I not done for you to give you a chance to succeed? What more do I have to give you to allow you an opportunity to prosper?’

“Have not I commanded thee?” (v.9) So the question is why can we be strong and courageous? It says, “Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed…” (v.9) Isn’t that a blessing that no matter how weak we are, no matter how timid we might be, no matter how fearful or afraid or troubled, with God on our side and with God’s Word at our fingertips, He says we can be strong and of a good courage. We don’t have to be afraid. We do not have to be dismayed. Why? “…for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.” (v.9) It’s a promise for Joshua. It a promise for us today as well.

There’s a lot in this Scripture that we read in Acts. I don’t think in the next 15 minutes or so we’re going to have time to cover everything here. I love the character of Gamaliel in this Scripture. This is really, I believe, the only firsthand experience we ever read of Gamaliel. We know Apostle Paul was taught by Gamaliel, and so this was a man that knew Jewish history, that knew Jewish Scriptures. I would imagine that Gamaliel was very familiar with Joshua chapter 1 where we just read. He knew the nation of Israel’s history. What he says in this Scripture as he counsels this group of Pharisees and Sadducees together, which was almost a miracle in and of itself, shows the wisdom and the knowledge and understanding of Scriptures.

Think about what was happening in Joshua chapter 1 as the nation of Israel took the Promised Land. God took a nation of slaves, uneducated slaves, redeemed them with a strong arm, and led them through the wilderness, provided for them miraculously for 40 years, and took over the entire Promised Land. In battles they couldn’t win, God fought the battles for them. The nation of Israel grew and increased when it put its trust in God. When they backed away from God, they suffered the curse that God had promised to Moses and to the Israelite people.

Gamaliel knew that, and so his encouragement to those people is if God is for these people, you do not want to be on the opposite side. Note that Gamaliel wasn’t taking their side. In fact, I don’t think that maybe he really believed that God was on their side. But, he said, ‘If God is not with them, they will fail. If God is with them, there is nothing that you or I can do to stop this movement from growing.’ At this time, you think about how much of an underdog the Israelite people were in taking the Promised Land. I would think if someone looked at the early Christian church at this time, they would have probably looked at them as an even bigger underdog.

They were under severe persecution by their own people, by the Jewish nation. Leaders of the church were about to be heavily persecuted. We could go forward in Acts chapter 7, and we could read about Stephen’s stoning. In Acts chapter 8, there was great persecution in Jerusalem, so much that the believers had to completely disperse out of that area. You would eventually have persecution under the nation of Rome throughout the Roman Empire — believers being torched and on crosses on the highways. Tremendous persecution!

— Please turn to pg. 70
So to think where the early Christian church was then and where the Christian church is today, we have to ask ourselves is God behind that movement? Is it true? If Gamaliel could see what we would see now, what do you think he would say? As he saw this persecuted group of believers go from this remote area in the Middle East to spread completely across the world some 2,000 years later, what do you think Gamaliel would say?

The thing is, we get to see that, but does that make it any easier for a nonbeliever to believe? The fact that we can show them Act chapter 5 — look at Gamaliel; he was a Jew and said that if this movement prospers, then that means it’s of God. We can see that it has grown and prospered — so that’s why you should believe. How good of a witnessing tool do you think that would be? Is that what believing in Jesus Christ really comes down to? Is it simply saying who’s going to win? So what is it all about?

We can see how the Christian church grew, but what did the Jews at that time get to see? What did Gamaliel get to see? He got to see the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The same counsel that condemned Jesus Christ to die, that had Roman soldiers come to them and say there was this great earthquake and we all fell down trembling and now the tomb is empty. These angels came down, and it was a supernatural thing. The body of Jesus is gone! I don’t know if they would have said He rose from the dead. So how did the Jews, how did this counsel respond to hearing that news? Don’t tell anybody! Here’s this money. If anybody asks you, say His disciples came and stole Him away. Then they see the coming of the Holy Spirit. They see the preaching. They see the baptisms. They see the miracles. They still don’t believe. They criticize Peter and John and say, ‘If you preach in this Name, we’re going to beat you. We’re going to persecute you!’ The believers prayed. There was an earthquake then too. God granted them boldness and courage to go and speak the Word. So what do they do?

Where did we start out here as we read in Acts chapter 5? The counsel threw them in prison. What happened? They set a guard. An angel came by night and opened the prison doors, brought them forth, and said, “Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life. And when they heard that, they entered into the temple early in the morning, and taught…” (v.17-21) They get released from prison, and they are right back into the temple, right back to the place of persecution, and they’re teaching! They are teaching God’s precious Word.

This counsel saw that. They’re getting ready to have their own little trial, and they say, ‘Ok, go call our prisoners, the Apostles.’ Then whoever came back — I definitely wouldn’t like to be that guy because usually when you bring word that the prisoner is gone, there is some personal accountability that goes along with that that isn’t too fun — so he comes back and says, ‘Um actually, the guys that you threw in prison are not there anymore. They’re actually back in the temple, where you guys should probably be, and they’re teaching in the temple.’ So how did they respond to that? Wow! This movement is of God! We had that prison set! We had it locked. There’s no way they could have gotten out of that prison unless God did it! Was that their response? How hard-hearted does someone have to be?

Verse 26 — “Then went the captain with the officers, and brought them without violence: for they feared the people, lest they should have been stoned.” So the counsel still wants to stone them, but they’re right in the midst of this group of people in the temple that likes them and enjoys hearing
This is a miracle that has literally never been done before, and you’re going to say this Man doesn’t come from God? ‘You’re the blind ones!’ That’s what Jesus said — if you said we have no sight, you would have been able to see, but now you claim to see. Therefore you have no sight. You’re blind.

It was true for them, but here today we talked about how the Jewish people had those first five books of the Bible. They had the Old Testament, and God said that’s enough. The question was have not I commanded you? What is Jesus Christ commanding us? What has He given us? We could go through all of the evidence, all of the facts before us. I heard, I believe it was last week, that God has given us enough evidence to make faith reasonable, but He has not given us so much evidence that we don’t need some element of faith, that we can just reason our way through it.

But the Gospel message says He needs to give you repentance and forgiveness of sins. If we don’t want to repent, if we don’t think we need to be forgiven of sin, there is not enough evidence in this world that Jesus Christ could bring to convince you to do and surrender the way you need to. We will find enough excuses.

Think about the number of people that saw Jesus give sight to a blind man. The blind man in John chapter 9 says, ‘Never before! Moses didn’t do this type of a miracle!’
We’ll just finish with some of the things he said. So this was a man that “...had in reputation among all the people, and commanded to put the apostles forth a little space;” (v.34) He wanted to put them aside so he could talk to this counsel, and He reminded them “Ye men of Israel, take heed to yourselves what ye intend to do as touching these men.” (v.35) Be careful and think about what you’re going to do, and I want to give you something to think about. He talks about these two individuals, Theudas and Judas, that had caused maybe a similar level of rapport, and they could go back and think about what we thought was happening at that time. We thought that was going to be some big thing, some big revolt that we were in danger then too. God wasn’t with them, and they failed (v.36-37).

“And now I say unto you, Refrain from these men, and let them alone; for if this counsel or this work be of men, it will come to nought:” (v.38) You have nothing to worry about. It’s out of your hands, and it’s a good message for those of us like myself that like to worry about things. If God wants it to happen, it’s going to happen. If God doesn’t want it to happen, then there’s nothing we can do to force it.

“But if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it; lest haply ye be found even to fight against God.” (v.39) There are still people today that are fighting against God, and we need to ask ourselves why? I need to ask myself, ‘Am I fighting against God in some way?’

I think about Gamaliel. Gamaliel spent hours and hours with Saul, and even Saul’s approach to these early Christians was against Gamaliel’s counsel. I wonder how many times Gamaliel tried to tell Saul, ‘Look! You’re going too far. You don’t need to kill them. You don’t need to throw them in prison. You don’t need to travel and go and bring them back.’ But I wonder if Gamaliel got to see the conversion of Paul. I wonder if when Paul came back to Jerusalem and he could see men influenced by the Holy Ghost, as he heard what Paul had to say about how the Gospel message had spread, I wonder how easy it would have been for Gamaliel to eat his own words. Gamaliel, with all he knew, wasn’t a believer in Jesus Christ. As the evidence began to mount up against him, how many times have we heard, ‘Oh it will never work. You don’t have anything to worry about. It will never happen.’

So Gamaliel said, ‘Don’t sweat this. It’s going to be fine. There were two other people who had similar revolts. People went after them. People started following
them. They thought it was going to be some big thing. If fizzled out. So will this. Don’t worry about it! If God’s not with them, it won’t succeed. You have nothing to worry about.’ But ultimately Gamaliel saw that this is of God so he had the choice of, like he said, fighting against God or repenting and receiving remission of sins.

Each and every one of us has that same choice, and it’s our duty to continue to take that message to fill Jerusalem, our Jerusalem, with that doctrine, to with love and esteem try to bring the blood of Jesus Christ upon those that we meet and talk to. How did the disciples react after they beat them and commanded them not to speak in the name of Jesus? They tried it again.

“And they departed from the presence of the council…” How would you react? They reacted by “rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name.” (v.41) That was their medal. Talk about making your way prosperous and achieving good success! They said, ‘I am so thankful that I am worthy to suffer shame for the name of Jesus Christ!’ There is no doubt they had the Holy Ghost. I believe those of us here who have experienced that, we experience those moments. We need to pray that God would fan that flame so we could experience that zest, that vigor, that passion, that we could be strong and of good courage and do the work that God has given us to do. “And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.” (v.42) May God bless us!

Apostolic Christian Men’s Sing -- August 26 & 27, 2017

Lord willing, the Fairbury congregation will be hosting the 2017 Apostolic Christian Men’s Hymn Sing on August 26 and 27. We are looking forward to a blessed weekend of singing and fellowship. We have been blessed with a rich heritage of hymn singing. Our goal for the weekend is to glorify God through song as well as record a CD that will be uplifting for many in the future.

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

If you plan to attend, please register by July 1, 2017 so we can accurately prepare for meals and accommodations. Please also spread this communication to any other brothers interested. It would also be helpful if there was a designated brother from each church who could keep us updated on the number of brothers attending from your congregation.

If you are unable to access the internet, you may write or call: Bill Schmidgall
305 E. Mirlynbeth Ln., Fairbury, IL 61739
Phone: 815-848-4730 Email: baschmidgall680@gmail.com
In the September, 1964 issue of the Silver Lining, a feature was carried entitled, “Old Church Days.” It was included in the Portland, OR news section. The focus was on Sis. Rose Steffen Miller of that congregation. She confirmed that she felt “unworthy” to tell of her spiritual journey, but relented to do so “in weakness and with the Lord’s help.”

“I repented when I was fourteen, and was baptized when I was fifteen years old, by Bro. Henry Souder of Leo, IN. [Sis. Rose lived her early years in Bluffton, IN].

When I was seventeen, I came to Silverton, OR, to my uncle and aunt, Bro. Sam and Sis. Elizabeth Kaser. I soon came to Portland, to do housework, as that is what the sisters did at that time. I found the brothers and sisters (in faith) very humble and spiritually-minded, as they had gone through many trials during 1905 (the time of the church split). There were only a few at that time and they assembled in homes.

In 1909, when I came to Portland, they had just finished building a small church on 30th and Pine Streets. As some came back here, and a few moved here from the East, we had a nice little church. We were all in peace and unity and full of love. Bro. Rudolph Diriwachter (whom many of you may remember) was our minister at that time. We were always so happy when our elder, Bro. William Kaufman from Silverton, came to Portland to hold the Lord’s Supper. I especially remember when he read the Brother Meeting reports to us — and how anxious and willing we were to listen. We highly respected Bro. Kaufman, and how much we prayed for grace to try to be obedient, and take advice from our elders.

I later went to Silverton to take care of an elderly couple in the country for three and one half years, until the old man passed away. During that time, I used to walk to the Silverton Church by the woods at Thursday night meetings. It was three miles to church. In the summer, I often walked through the fields on the way home from church, rejoicing in the Lord. How I loved our church and the brothers and sisters in faith!

I can never thank my heavenly Father enough for the great love, mercy, and grace He has given me, to hold fast to the faith. I am now seventy-two, and He has helped me through much joy and sorrow. I have found much comfort and strength by reading my Bible and the Zion’s Harp, which were given to me when I repented. With God’s help, I expect to hold fast to our church, and respect our beliefs and practices.”

NOTE: Sis. Rose later married Bro. Guy Miller and they resided in Pulaski, IA, where he was a minister. In 1936, they moved their family of five children to Gridley, IL, where he continued in the ministry. In 1947, Elder Noah Schrock (Oakville, IA) asked the Miller family to move to Portland, OR, where minister Rudolph Diriwachter was growing old, and that congregation needed a minister. Bro. Guy Miller submitted to that need and moved his entire family of five adult children to Portland to give that church a boost. He did so in the spirit of helping to spread the word of God.

-by: Perry Klopfenstein

Next Issue: Misc. History
The Light of Hope

Teamwork is Heart Work

Do you ever struggle to work together with fellow believers in Christ? Though we know we should be united, we may not always feel like trying. Aren’t we just too different? Can’t we just do our own ministry and not have to put forth the effort to communicate and coordinate with others? Let’s face it—teamwork is hard work.1 And our flesh makes it harder. Challenges with other Christians can expose our spiritual immaturity. We can feel very spiritual, until wrestling in relationships reveals our carnal desires and thinking (1 Cor. 3:3-4). We Recognize this is a painful process, but there is good news. We don’t have to stay stuck in disunity (see 1 Cor. 1:10). God’s perspective in 1 Corinthians 3:5-9 can help change our hearts.

We each have a ministry. “I have planted, Apollos watered…” (v.6). On my summer breaks, I used to work in landscaping. My favorite part of the job was seeing a dull yard transformed with green sod and beautiful plants. We left feeling satisfied over what we had planted. But what would happen if afterward no one watered? Our hard work would be lost! Watering is every bit as important as planting. God uses different people for different tasks. He calls and gifts each of us uniquely for the ministries He wants. Whatever place or season of life, there are opportunities to plant God’s Word and nurture the relationships He gives us. Some plant, others water, all are essential. We can accept the special ministry that God has given us, without trying to be exactly like someone else.

We are nothing, God is everything. “So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase” (v.7). People can plant and water, but only God gives life and growth. No scientist, engineer, or farmer can produce this miracle. All our efforts in serving are useless unless God is also working.2 We are nothing; God alone gets the credit. What does this have to do with getting along with others? When we recognize we are nothing of ourselves, and God is everything, humility happens. Even if others don’t change, we become easier to work with!

Though different, we are one. “Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one…” (v.8a). As we serve alongside others who are different than we are, our flesh can view these differences as threats. Fear and jealousy can lead to subtle competition or worse, open opposition. God’s Word corrects this wrong focus, reminding us we are one. Planting and watering are separate tasks, but the goal is the same—a fruitful spiritual harvest. Understanding this enables us to concentrate on our shared eternal purpose, instead of comparing our performance with others. We can work hard and rest in the promise that God will reward us (v.8b). Rather than being competitors with our brothers and sisters, we are co-laborers, working together with God (v.9a).

Yes, teamwork is hard work. But it is heart work. As we work with others, God works in us. That makes it all worth it!

1It’s been said that interpersonal conflicts are the number one cause for missionaries leaving the field. Might this also be the major reason people leave churches and jobs?
2Rather than making us passive, this should cause us to exert ourselves strenuously for the glory of God!

-by Matt Gerber
When the darkness appears
and the night draws near
And the day is past and gone
At the river (lake) I stand
Guide my feet, hold my hand
Take my hand precious Lord,
lead me home.