Lord of all creation,
We bow down and worship.
Joy Comes in the Morning

“For his anger endureth but a moment; in his favour is life: weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.”

Psalms 30:5

Although believers have been granted eternal life and the grace to conquer sin, we still carry our human nature and live in a fallen world.

At times, the struggles of relationships, finances, doubt, or simply spiritual laziness can get us down. Thankfully, God disciplines those He loves and pain is sometimes His way of getting our attention. Aren’t we thankful that the light of each morning brings with it the hope of a new beginning? It signals another opportunity to change, to work toward healing, resolution, repentance, or renewed diligence in seeking God.

Next time you have a hard night due to God’s discipline, when the sun comes up, thank God that He does not stay angry forever, but His mercy does endure forever!

In Christian love,
Jeff Grimm and Rick Plattner, Counseling Elders
Editor’s note: this month continues a three-part series of teachings from Romans 14.

In the Word we find basic doctrines that are indisputable tenets of the Christian faith and must be believed to acquire salvation. We also have beliefs and convictions which we hold personally that can vary from person to person or from group to group, such as the meats and days discussed by Paul in Romans 14:2-6. These are “disputable matters” or issues about which brethren can have varying degrees of conviction.

From time to time, these matters can cause conflict between brothers or sisters. We are called to avoid such conflict by loving one another, and esteeming our brother higher than ourselves. If we fail to love and esteem, we must reconcile with each other in light of our differences.

Our first step in that direction is to remove “the beam out of (our) own eye.” This requires self-inspection. Paul writes, “Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind.” Our first question to self might be, “why exactly do I hold these convictions?” Are they based firmly on the Word of God, or is it simply that we have always understood or preferred thus and so. Or are there events of great pain or great joy that have shaped how we view life? How do our own thoughts and convictions reflect the whole Word of God? These are just a few examples of things to consider while coming to a conclusion that we are “fully persuaded.” Second, we must consider that, while “all things are lawful” (“all things” being disputable matters and not sin), all things are not necessarily expedient or edifying. In light of our conviction, we find ourselves willing to adjust, not necessarily our conviction but our behavior, to achieve peaceful reconciliation with our brother.

After careful inspection of self, and in a humble and loving attitude, we are now ready to receive our brother and take the second step, to discuss the mote that is in his eye.

The next condition in resolving a disputable matter with our brother or sister is to simply receive them in love. Paul instructs us to receive the one weaker in faith. Let us first consider who the “weaker in faith” person may be. It is very likely that neither party in a disputable matter feels they are the weaker in faith. In reality, each of us may fit that description at varying times in our life or as it relates to various issues. If we each lovingly esteem others, many heartaches and divisions are prevented no matter who the weaker in faith may be. We are taught to “bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves.” When we “look not at our own things, but every man also on the things of others,” we will be sensitive and tender to receive the other brother or sister with whom we have a difference. This is not to say we will agree and come to the same conclusion on the matter. Neither is it to say that we throw up our hands and tolerate anything and everything. However, it does equip our hearts to love and esteem each other in the way Christ would desire. Hence we find the solution when we follow the above Scriptures.

Let us also consider what it means to “receive” as instructed in Romans 14:1. Another word for this is to accept. Is our heart in a position to accept our fellow believer as our brother or sister in the faith even while they may have different convictions in some areas? This is certainly not to say we should compromise sound doctrine. Nor is acceptance the same as approval. But we should consider the example of Jesus. He modeled acceptance in John 13

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Monthly Sermon

Sermon by Bro. Kevin Banwart, West Bend, IA

Job 10 & Acts 12:1-17

We truly do depend upon the Spirit of God to speak to us as we assemble around His Word. How thankful we are that we have this Word that has been preserved for us over the many, many years that have gone by since these words were penned, since some of these things took place here upon this earth.

Truly it’s a wonderful miracle here that we can read about in Acts 12. It’s one of the many miracles that our Father, Jesus Christ our Lord, performed as we can read through the Word. I think it behooves us to consider the miracles that God yet performs today in our lives. They may not be such as some of these we read about in the Scriptures, and yet what a miracle it is when souls can be released from the bondage of sin, when those bonds can be broken, and souls can go free from that bondage and live in liberty in Jesus Christ. What a blessing it brings, and what a joy it brings! Even as they had much joy here as Peter was brought forth from the bondage that he was faced with in this prison, we likewise have much joy when souls break free from the bondage that sin brings in the lives of mankind.

As we read through the Acts, we can read of those that had to give their life for the Lord. Perhaps I should say they chose to give their life for the Lord. They were willing to stand up for those things that were right. They were not willing to denounce their faith. They were not willing to go back on what they had committed to do in following Jesus Christ and Him crucified. Many of us stood in the waters of baptism at some point in our life, and we vowed to denounce sin and all unrighteousness and to walk free from that and to live lives that are pleasing in the sight of God. As we examine our hearts and lives, are we faithful to that promise we made?

I doubt any amongst us have had to face this type of persecution where we were caused to be brought into bondage because of our faith such as Peter was here. We know there have been those situations in years gone by. Perhaps there are those situations yet today in some places where people are called and thrown into prison because of their faith. Perhaps they need to worship in secret or are not able to come together as we can today. Yet what a blessing it is when we can read those accounts of individuals that were faithful despite the persecution that they were faced with.

We know not what is ahead of us. We know not what we should be called to do yet in our day and time. Yet we also know that it seems in some ways Satan works in other ways, perhaps in a more deceptive ways amongst God’s people today. He tries to get people to feel like they are walking in a way that is ok in the sight of God and yet taking liberties in this life, involving themselves again with the things of the world and the things of sin.

We see so many around about us that would call themselves Christian, and yet they walk lives, at least in our sight, that appear to be walking in unrighteousness and wickedness. We know God has called us out of such a walk. We are to live a life that is overcoming of sin. We are to live a life that is pleasing in the sight of God and forsaking those things that we once walked in that were a part of this world and a part of sin.

We were reminded in this morning hour of the power of prayer. We were reminded here in this afternoon hour again of the power of prayer because there were those individuals that were gathered together and praying for Peter. It says, “…prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him.” (v.5) As we look in our own lives, are there times we become somewhat lax in our prayers? Are there times that we become somewhat careless in our prayers? Are we prayerful for the church of God? Are we prayerful that words of truth can be taught, whether
it's in our Sunday School or across our pulpits? Are we prayerful that brothers and sisters in faith, as we take the Word of God, will be willing to receive words of truth from the Holy Scripture? Are we prayerful for souls that yet find themselves separated from God that they will yet be called and feel the condemnation of sin and recognize they are lost and will come to the knowledge of the truth through a true and sincere repentance?

We see the power of prayer and the deliverance that are brought for Peter. “…Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains: and the keepers before the door kept the prison. And, behold, the angel of the Lord came upon him, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from his hands.” (v.6-7) Peter heard the angel come to him. Peter heard and was aware that this angel came, and yet he probably did not fully understand just what was taking place. He was instructed to rise up quickly.

“And the angel said unto him, Gird thyself, and bind on thy sandals. And so he did. And he saith unto him, Cast thy garment about thee, and follow me. And he went out, and followed him…” (v.8-9) Now think of the obedience of Peter. We may think, yes, anybody would be obedient in this situation. Anyone would walk free of the prison if the bonds that held them there were released, if the locks were opened and the chains came off. But, God asks each of us to be obedient when He speaks unto us, when He reveals unto us His will and His desire in our lives.

We found a need to be obedient, didn’t we, when God called us in repentance. If God would have called us and we just ignored it, it wouldn’t have done us any good spiritually would it? It probably only would have taken us farther away from God. If God directs us in this life today, and as He has directed us in the past, if we ignore that direction, it would not be well for us. If He was leading you or me today to follow in a certain way, to do a certain thing, and if we are not obedient to the leading of the Lord, it is disobedience. It is wrong. It is sin in the sight of God if we are not following Him in obedience.

So Peter was obedient. He girded himself, put on his sandals, cast his garment about him, and he followed the angel. We are called to follow Jesus Christ and Him crucified. We are called to follow the One who went to the cross in our stead. We are called to follow Jesus Christ, the One who walked perfectly here upon this earth, and are we following our Lord? Are we following Him today? Are we living for Him? Are we walking in His pathways?

As we examine our hearts and our lives and consider where we are walking and the things we are doing, do we have the faith and confidence that those choices we are making are in the footsteps of Jesus Christ? Would’ve He gone where we are going? Would’ve He have done what we are doing? Sometimes it gets a little harder than that, doesn’t it? Would’ve He thought about the things that we are thinking about? Would’ve He spent His time, when He had a little time, as we spend our time when we have time in this life? What are we doing? What are we thinking about? What are our priorities as we go through this life?

He went out and came to the iron door of the city. It opened to them of its own accord, and they passed through the street. The angel departed from him, and Peter came to himself and recognized “Now I know of a surety, that the Lord hath sent his angel, and hath delivered me out of the hand of Herod, and from all the expectation of the people of the Jews.” (v.9-11) What a deliverance Peter experienced!

As we think about that today, does it cause us to think back of the deliverance our Lord provided in our lives? Some of you it’s probably just a short time ago, some of you a long, long time ago, even farther back than I would go, and we remember and can think

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Ministry Program Updates

Eastern European Nazareans  European Committee

“Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.” Romans 12:21

“And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.” Ephesians 4:32

“The Power of Forgiveness and Overcoming Evil with Good”

Your contributions to HarvestCall have made it possible to help the Nazareans in Eastern Europe. With a common heritage of faith dating back to Samuel Froehlich, we have had many opportunities to uplift our brethren in Eastern Europe. These dear brethren thank you first of all for the prayers which sustain them and the love you show them through your financial support. However, even as we help them in their hour of need, the examples of these brethren, through the many difficult times they have experienced, have also encouraged us in America to a closer walk with God. The following story provides us with an example of the power of forgiveness and the results of overcoming evil with good.

Many years ago a dear brother in faith lived out in the country. Next to him lived a mean neighbor who was becoming increasingly impatient with this Nazarean whose life was so different from everyone else’s. One summer evening, when the corn was about waist high, the neighbor led his hungry horse into the field of the Nazarean and returned to his home. The Nazarean simply led the horse back to his yard. He also noticed that the horse was walking with a limp. He went to the horse and helping him complete his harvest. Not long after, the neighbor’s horse was being fed by the Nazarean, who was being thanked for his kindness.

A team of young sisters from various American congregations served in Shioda and Tokyo in July, helping to organize and run VBS for both churches. The children who attended the VBS sessions, which were taught in English, were eager to learn the gospel and refine their English-speaking skills. At the end of both Shioda and Tokyo’s VBS weeks, when the VBS teachers and volunteers asked the children who the one true God is and what He has done to forgive our sins, they enthusiastically responded that Jesus is Lord, and He died on the cross and rose again so that we can be forgiven. Amid the colorful crafts, joyful songs, and laughter-filled games, the children were given the opportunity to learn about the God who dearly loves them.

Members of the Shioda and Tokyo congregations opened their homes and their hearts to the VBS team, completing the picture of Christ’s kindness and His welcoming heart. During those weeks, both the Japanese churches and the sisters from America learned the beauty of how believers from vastly different walks of life can, together, seek the servanthood of Christ. From the young children to their parents, from the seasoned believers to those who have never before heard the gospel, God has shown Himself faithful through His tender, gracious
Nazarean leading his horse by the bridle back to his yard. He also noticed that the horse was walking with a very obvious limp. This infuriated the neighbor, and he lunged into a vicious verbal attack. “What did you do to my horse, you rotten horse-thief? You stole my horse, and now you’re bringing him back crippled.”

“Well, neighbor,” the Nazarean spoke in a calm and even apologetic voice, “I again found your horse grazing in my corn field. I would have just led him back to your property like I have done a few times before, but your horse stepped on a rusty nail. I took your horse, pulled out the nail, washed out the wound, and decided to return her personally to you. This horse will need daily attention. The wound will need to be cleaned every day. I know how to and would be more than willing to come over each day and clean out the wound for you.” He continued, “You know this means you can’t use your horse for a long time and with harvest time upon us, you need a horse as badly as I do. I have only one, but we’ll get your work done. I’ll be back early in the morning.” With that, he turned around and walked back to his home.

The Nazarean returned day after day for weeks, taking care of the neighbor’s horse, letting him use his horse and helping him complete his harvest. Not all of the details are known of what all transpired during this incident or what exactly was said when the Nazarean helped the neighbor, but the final result is known. This “mean, profane, and un-neighbory” neighbor eventually began to attend worship services with the handful of Nazareans of that village, and in due time, through God’s grace, repented for his sins, was baptized and became a beloved brother in faith.

May this story encourage us to be the people God expects us to be, and better understand the power of forgiveness and overcoming evil with good and the effect of truly living and sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

— by Bill Eisenmann

Students that attended this year’s VBS at Tokyo, Japan.

love. It is an honor to serve others, emulating, in however small a fashion, His willingness to open His arms to whoever calls upon His Name.

We know there are many prayers offered for the welfare of our churches and our deep appreciation and thanks extends to our precious brotherhood through HarvestCall and other avenues who give us their support.

Please pray that the seeds sown through VBS and other times of outreach may grow and prosper. Specifically, pray that souls would see the need to continue learning more about the Christ who died to save us and that they would have a desire to join our Sunday worship times and consider it a priority in their lives. For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it. Isaiah 55:10-11

— by Marie Inoue
Joseph: Rebuilding Trust

Rebuilding trust in a relationship can be difficult, painful, and at times, confusing. However, the rebuilding journey is worth the pain when it leads to the restoration and transformation of a relationship. For many, it is difficult to know what to expect in the rebuilding of trust. What realistic and unrealistic expectations should I have for someone who has betrayed my trust?

The life of Joseph provides us with some helpful principles to consider in the process of rebuilding trust in a relationship. The betrayal of Joseph by his brothers begins in Genesis 37. While we may not have experienced betrayal at the magnitude Joseph did, many of us have experienced the consequences which poor decisions or actions, made by ourselves or others, have had on damaging the trust in a relationship. The restoration of Joseph’s relationship with his brothers did not happen overnight. Rather, it was a process with multiple “markings” along the way.

Joseph had been in Egypt 13 years prior to his promotion as ruler of Egypt. During the seven years of plenty, Joseph traveled throughout the land gathering the surplus of food (Genesis 41:47-49). Thus, we can realistically speculate Joseph had been in Egypt around 21-22 years before his brothers came to bow down before him (Genesis 42:6). Two decades is a long time for someone to deal with betrayal and broken trust in a relationship. It also leads to an important insight for us - time alone does not change the pain of betrayal or rebuild broken trust.

Trust and Forgiveness
Before diving further into the story of Joseph, it is helpful to consider one other point. There is a distinct difference between forgiveness and rebuilding trust. Forgiveness is the releasing of a debt the offending party owes. Forgiveness may lead to the process of trust being restored as part of reconciliation, but rebuilding trust is not a prerequisite for forgiveness. Forgiveness is what one person extends to another. Trust is earned over time, and the person who committed the offense must accept that regaining trust will occur as a continual process and journey. Joseph may have forgiven his brothers, but as we will see, he maintained the expectation that his trust was something his brothers needed to earn and was not theirs to take.

Boundaries
Upon seeing his brothers for the first time after many years, Joseph set boundaries with his brothers (Genesis 42:7-8). He realized it was his brothers, but he hid his identity and did not expose himself or be vulnerable with them right away. Joseph remembered experiences prior to the betrayal (Genesis 42:9). It is difficult to know exactly what was going on for Joseph when he recounted previous memories, but we do know that broken trust is a significant loss in someone’s life, particularly if this happens in a close relationship. Thus, it is deeply painful and difficult to deal with. This may also mean Joseph kept his eyes on God and His involvement during this period of his life. God used Joseph to interpret dreams and Joseph experienced God’s divine presence. Joseph kept his eyes on God recognizing, while painful, forgiveness was of Him.

Setting appropriate and healthy boundaries after a betrayal is the first step in rebuilding trust. Whether or not someone is clear and consistent in boundary setting and respects the boundaries of others determines if they are ready to receive your trust. Joseph could have extended his trust immediately to his brothers upon meeting them for the first time by exposing himself and revealing who he was. However, this would have been unwise, as he did not know if his brothers were in a position to receive his trust.

Reliable
In Genesis 42:15, Joseph asked his brothers to bring Benjamin to Egypt. There may be a number of reasons
for Joseph’s request, as the text says, “Hereby shall ye be proved.” Bringing back Benjamin would not only prove their word was true (they actually have a brother Benjamin) but also prove they could follow through on what was asked. Reliability is doing what you say you are going to do, consistently. Someone who is reliable is someone worthy of your trust.

**Accountable**

Upon Joseph’s request to bring Benjamin to Egypt, we see the heart of Joseph’s brothers. This is a conversation between Joseph’s brothers, which the brothers were unaware Joseph could hear:

*Genesis 42:21-22* “And they said one to another, We are verily guilty concerning our brother (Joseph), in that we saw the anguish of his soul, when he besought us, and we would not hear; therefore is this distress come upon us. And Reuben answered them, saying, Spake I not unto you, saying, Do not sin against the child; and ye would not hear? therefore, behold, also his blood is required.”

God uses Joseph’s question to bring about the reality of their own sin. This conversation reveals to Joseph that his brothers did acknowledge their sin and recognize it was wrong. Someone who is trustworthy will admit their mistakes, take responsibility and be accountable for their offence. They show a repentant heart and Godly sorrow for what they did wrong and do not make excuses for their sin.

**Confidence**

As the story continues, the brothers return to Canaan. They recount the entire series of events to their father in a concerning manner. The brothers report back the truth of what happened. This is a noticeable detail. Scripture does not say anything about Joseph’s brothers talking about him in a negative or critical way or gossiping to others about what happened. Individuals are worthy of our trust when respect is shared and held in confidence.

**Integrity**

Jacob initially responds with a “no” to the request to take Benjamin back to Egypt. However, as the days go by, the food soon runs low and the family is faced with a difficult decision. Jacob ultimately allows Benjamin to go with his brothers to Egypt. In the process of making this decision, the repentant hearts of Reuben and Judah are revealed. Reuben is willing to give his two sons (*Genesis 42:37*) and Judah is willing to give his life (*Genesis 43:8-9*) if Benjamin does not return to Canaan safely. Later in the story (*Genesis 43:21-22*) Scripture states where Joseph’s brothers show integrity by sharing the money that showed up in their sacks and not hiding it. Individuals worthy of our trust act from a place of integrity; they choose courage over comfort and what is right over what is fast or easy.

Upon seeing Benjamin (*Genesis 43:16*), Joseph realizes his brothers have now respected his boundaries, taken responsibility, and have been accountable for the offences which were previously directed at him (*Genesis 42:21-22*). Bringing Benjamin back also showed that his brothers were reliable. However, Joseph continues to “prove” his brothers before feeling safe enough to reveal his identity to his brothers. While Joseph had forgiven his brothers, he still did not rush to give his brothers his trust. Rather, Joseph was patient and waited for his brothers to earn his trust over time.

**Consistency over Time**

The story continues with some other testing Joseph had for his brothers. In *Genesis 43:34* Joseph tests his brothers by giving Benjamin five times the portion of meal than his brothers had, even though Benjamin was the youngest brother. We are not told about the physical stature of Joseph’s brothers, but it is likely safe to assume the larger portion given to Benjamin was a test of whether Joseph could trust his brothers with his trust.

— Please turn to pg. 69
When thou liest down, thou shalt not be afraid: yea, thou shalt lie down, and thy sleep shall be sweet.

Proverbs 3:24

Recently several of our staff have been to in-services that have challenged our thinking about resident sleep patterns. There is growing research that doing frequent bed checks, lights in hallways, and staff noise disrupts sleep and leads to health and behavior concerns. It is an exciting project and one that we believe will have a positive impact on many people’s lives at ACLP. Some of the things we are doing include changing Timber Ridge’s hallway lighting and having staff wear small lamps so that when they check on residents they don’t need to turn lights on. For those residents who can, we will work to reduce the number and frequency of bed checks to give them additional hours of uninterrupted sleep. We will also be trying to reduce noise throughout our facilities. Our staff are excited and as we start with Oakwood Estate, the residents and families there are excited also.

One of our residents at Timber Ridge turned 80 this month. In her earlier years, she could walk with braces and assistance, but her cerebral palsy has confined her to a wheelchair for the past sixty years. It is remarkable that she has lived this long and is in good health! She uses a board to communicate and is able to express herself very well. She is an incredible encouragement to our staff and a living testament to the quality of care they provide.

We are very thankful for our church family that supports our mission and operations so well, allowing us to serve so many individuals like her and their families. Praise God for His continued blessings on our agency as we strive to “Bring glory to God by providing a Christian home for adults with developmental disabilities”.

Gateway Woods Apostolic Christian Children’s Home
Ed Graf – Executive Director

Thursday was overcast. It was windy. We were busy tying down large auction items to prevent trampolines and canopies from going airborne. Then it rained, hard!

Friday was a damp, cold, grey November day, except it was August. Sweatshirts popping out like fall flowers.

Then came Saturday. Auction day. The sun gloriously crested the horizon exposing misty grass and verdant fields. The early workers came. The sound of sizzling and the smell of sausage patties on barbeque grills, whetting appetites in anticipation of a breakfast sandwich. They rolled in, mostly by car, but some on foot and bicycle, coming from near and far; and the excitement was palpable. The parking field filled, and the buzz of anticipation swelled.

Eight-thirty A.M. The Gateway staff and children ascend the White Tent stage, preparing to praise God in song. A nervous titter rustles through the choir, and the White Tent swells with expectancy. Standing room only. Sweet praises, smiling faces.

Nine A.M. A brother prays, the cries of auction raise, and we’re underway! First item, a hand crafted, handmade wooden rocking motorcycle. Sold! And the auctioneers ply their trade. Only 1,612 more items to go!

Reunion. Nearly two thousand guests: brothers, sisters, families, neighbors, friends; with warm greetings, hugs, laughter, stories, and sales.

Children. Buying a toy, jumping for joy. Resident youth. Looking in wonder, pondering the splendor, and perhaps wistfully contemplating a childhood unrealized.

Noon. A moment of silence. Heads bowed, hearts raised, thanks given. Praise God for this morning, and the coming
afternoon! Now a pork chop sandwich, or a fruit cup, a deep-fried curly potato, or a salad.

Afternoon. The pace quickens, bids rise, ice cream sales soar. The thermometer, sliding upward, tracks the auction score.

Final bell. The day is done. Except for the cleanup. Long farewells, some joyful tears. “See you tomorrow?” or “See you next year!”

Clean up. Youthful faces, Sunday school students, the future church. Making short work of the stuff to store. A year in the planning, a week in the setup, and three hours cleaning up, not much more.

Sunset. Just the tents remain. Golden hues signal the coming end of summer. Tent sides gently rustling, as if to say, “Surely the Lord has been here this day.”

From the staff and board, along with the children and families that the church serves through Gateway Woods, we offer a most heartfelt thanks to you, while giving all praise and glory to God! The forty-first annual sale was day of sweet fellowship, grand generosity, and humble contemplation. The Lord blessed once again, and supplied an auction day bountiful record of $638,000. Praise God from whom all blessings flow! We hope to see you at auction number forty-two, on August 4, 2018.

News:

As the article stated, this Auction was a record breaker. Thanks to everyone that played a role. Praise God for His constant faithfulness!

We are excited to announce the hiring of Sis. Amanda Winn (Leo) as our new counselor. Amanda was our counselor intern this past summer.

We will be hosting a 5k run/walk, affectionately known as the Hog & Jog, on Saturday, September 23, 2017. Register at getmeregistered.com/GWWHogJog5k.

We have several job opportunities at Gateway Woods: Foster Care Case Manager, Home-Based Worker, and a Teacher. For more information, please see our ad in this issue 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 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

Bro. Randy Beer (Sis. Deb, Milford, IN) and family were with us toward the end of July. We are thankful for His willingness to be used by the Spirit as He ministered to us.

We were also very thankful to have Bro. Tim Roecker (Sis. Diane, Peoria, IL) in Athens this past month on minister rotation. It was a great Sunday of reflecting on God’s holiness.

In Adult Sunday School, Bro. Matthew Moore finished up our study on Zechariah. We discussed the different ways God displays His holiness in Scripture; such as with Moses and the burning bush, Moses hiding his face from God on the mountain, and how anyone who touched the ark of
any more than it would be for us.

The book of Jonah provides the other side of obedience to this command, or rather disobedience. I so want my heart to be like David’s – and Jesus’! Sadly, I more often identify with Jonah in such situations. I resist doing good to those who have injured me or my loved ones. I struggle with believing there will be a punishment severe enough for some who have wreaked havoc in our lives. Like Jonah, I anticipate God may repay evil deeds with an opportunity for salvation, and the natural “man” in me rebels powerfully.

Fortunately, we have been given the Holy Spirit, who whispers to us that those who do these things are not the originators of their wicked deeds. And when we realize who is that source, our true enemy, it becomes a little easier to desire good for them – not easy, but a little easier. That same Spirit reminds us, “There, but for the Grace of God, go I.” In truth, at times, there IN SPITE of the Grace of God, go I. But Grace is sufficient and I am finally able to let go and believe all will be made right, in time. And I understand that by no means will that involve my own version of what is just.

I am so very thankful that God takes this right, or duty, from our hands – clearly and indisputably. Only the One who knows all the facts can judge righteously.

We are in the midst of a time of incredible turmoil, and the power of our enemy is increasing, the covenant would be struck dead because of its holiness. God is so holy, we cannot speak directly to Him, but have to have Jesus as our high priest and intercessor.

Bro. Daron Price also mentioned the four beasts from Revelation 4 that “rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.” In the afternoon service, Bro. Tim expanded on this topic as he read from Isaiah 6, 2 Corinthians 5, and 1 Corinthians 3. He described God as being like a simple compound – He cannot be broken down any further. He is infinitely just and righteous while being simultaneously loving and kind. When we see God for who He is, pure, righteous, and holy, and then see ourselves in stark contrast as the wretched sinners that we are, how can we be anything but thankful for what God has done for each of us. “For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him” 2 Corinthians 5:21. What a mighty God we serve!

We would love to have y’all visit the South, even if you’re traveling through for the evening! For our guest house accommodations, please call Sis. Rebekah Klaus at (815) 674-5411.

Arizona, Phoenix
Marge Lindenbaum

“Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.” Rom. 12:19
as we were told would happen. I believe it won’t be long before the wrath that is foretold will be poured out on this world. When I see what is written about that time, it causes me to tremble for all who will be subject to it. In truth, there is no one I would want to experience such judgment. So, I praise Jehovah that He knows all the facts and is able to judge righteously, and I praise Him for His promises, and I praise and adore Him for the gift of His Son, whose blood reconciles me to Him, covers my sin and makes me presentable, all contrary to what I deserve. And I pray that many more sinners like me might be gathered in while grace is available.

We rejoice with Erica Emch, as she is at peace with God and looks forward to baptism. Her grandmother, Sis. Cathy (Jerry) Emch, was admitted to Hospice care recently. We continue to lift her and the family up to our loving Savior. Bro. Howard Maurer is home from the hospital. We learned he was diagnosed with Valley Fever. Please continue to keep him and Sis. Eileen in your prayers, as well as many in our congregation who are engaged in long-term battles of health issues.

We enjoyed visitors from the Midwest as the Phoenix “chapter” of the Midwest Food Bank was officially opened. We look forward to watching and participating as the Lord continues to grow and bless that good work in His amazing way. Keep looking up!

**Arizona, Prescott**

**Autumn Rokey**

“He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young. Who hath measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, and meted out heaven with the span, and comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance?” Isaiah 40:11-12

Who can compare to our God? Had they not heard? Isaiah challenged. God’s span reaches from the smallest care we have to the greatest star. Yet, we forget so quickly in our trials to trust God. At our Wednesday night Bible study, Prescott shared ways in which we can remember God in our busy days, to put Him first. He is our Creator, our Father, and cares deeply. How much more should we trust and give Him our praise in everything too?

This past month, we enjoyed hearing from Elder Bro. Herbie Knochel (Sis. Laurie) from Phoenix, Bro. Ron Palitto (Sis. Lynell) from Akron, and Bro. Greg Schambach (Sis. Heather) from Elgin.

**Arizona, Tucson**

**Dean and Jackie Knobloch**

Greetings to all! We were blessed to have Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia) here to share a day of worship and to read the memorandum. We are grateful for his service to our small church family.

It was a blessing to have Bro. Bob and Sis. Carole Haas assemble with us once again. We pray for all who have had health issues in the last months. Praying for one another is an effective way of inviting God’s mercies and help. May we ever remember how important it is in all our lives.

**San Diego, California**

**Annaleise Wagenbach**

We enjoyed Bro. Mark & Sis. Karen Wettstein (Lamar, MO) and are thankful for his service.

We wished Bro. Tom & Sis. Andrea Koch God’s blessings as they move to Kansas. They have been a huge blessing for our church and we will cherish their friendship!

Recently I’ve been in awe of the unchanging, eternal quality of God’s Word. Despite centuries of time, shifting fads, and great diversity, the Word of Life remains applicable to each of us. It has no expiration date. In fact, it is as alive and powerful today, as it was in the days of the early Christians. We don’t need to worry whether or not His Word will be applicable for future days. We can trust the Bible will stand forever. And that is a beautiful reason to be grateful!

“For ever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven.” Psalm 119:89

“The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.” Isaiah 40:8

**Colorado, Denver**

**Naomi Wiegand, Tess Leman**

Greetings of love from Colorado!

Once again, we are faced
with a season of change here in Denver. Both Bro. Joe and Sis. Lorraine Hohulin and Bro. Nate and Sis. Yvonne Lehman have felt led to move back “home”. Both couples have been here for a long time and have served the church selflessly in many capacities. The hole they are leaving will be tough to fill. We wish them God’s richest blessings and peace as they move away from their Denver church family and closer to their biological families.

We are thankful that Sis. Maria Steffen (Elgin, IL) has taken an internship in the area for the next several months. We are glad to have another young sister in our single group.

Being a state that thrives on tourism, we are blessed to have many visitors come through each summer. Among them this past month, we enjoyed the Word being shared by Bros. Brian Huber (Sis. Jacki, Francesville, IN), Stan Schambach (Sis. Norma, Prescott, AZ), Dan Cargill (Sis. Stephanie, Prescott, AZ) and Alan Schambach (Sis. Sarah, Remington, IN). May the Lord bless them richly for their willingness to make the Denver church a part of their vacation.

**Connecticut, Rockville**

*Marcy Bahler, Amanda Virkler*

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.” Colossians 3:16

We rejoice with Bro. Justin Gottier (Guy & Sis. Beth) and Sis. Joanna Schneider (Bro. Dave & Sis. Kim) as they were united in Holy Matrimony on July 30. We wish them God’s blessings in their new life together.

We are also rejoicing with Bro. Evan Beutel (Bro. Gene & Sis. Lynne) and Sis. Rebecca Moser (Bro. Steve & Sis. Janis) as their engagement was announced. We wish them God’s many blessings.

We had a number of visiting ministers this past month including Bro. John Steiner (Sis. Carol, Mediapolis, IA), Bro. Adam Luginbuhl (Sis. Jami, Philadelphia, PA) and Bro. Todd Graf (Sis. Lydia, Akron, OH). We are thankful to each of them for being with us and sharing the Word.

We are thankful Bro. Ed Lanz has been able to assemble with us again after spending some time in the hospital. We also want to extend our prayers to Sis. Marilyn Lanz (Bro. Ed) in the passing of her sister, Sis. Josie Esterling from Morris North, MN.

We were saddened by the passing of Karen Geiger. She will be missed by her husband, Don; her siblings, Bro. Dan Virkler (Sis. Dorothy) and Sis. Lynnette Goric (Bro. Bob); and many nieces and nephews. We extend our prayers and sympathy to the family as they grieve their loss.

Little Ailey Kenyon Crary was welcomed to first-time parents Chuck & Aiyana Crary. His grandparents are Bro. Ken & Sis. Deb Crary and Kathie Frome & Stephen Maye.

**District of Columbia, Washington**

*Henrietta Meyer*

This month our caretaker was Bro. Dennis Steidinger (Gridley, 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. Arlan Miller (Sis. Katie, Gridley, IL), Bro. Ted Witzig, Jr. (Sis. Donna, Morton, IL), Elder Bro. Mark Streitmatter (Sis. Sara, Bloomington, IL), Bro. Adam Uhler (Sis. Ann, Smithville, OH) and Bro. Sam Schlatter (Sis. Linda, Junction, OH). Other visitors this month were from Bloomfield, IA; Peoria and Princeville, IL; Francesville, IN and Silverton, OR. We look forward to many more visitors in the coming months.

This month we said farewell to the Metz family. Bro. Elden, Sis. Alice and Sara are moving back to Silverton. We hope they will come and visit when they visit family on this side of the country.

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 thankful to have Bro. Nathan Steffen from Alto, MI visit and share God’s word. We pray for our Lord to bless him for his efforts.

Our sympathies are with Brenda Gary whose mother, Bernice Scott, passed away on July 18. We pray that God will comfort and bring peace to Brenda and her family.

As we continue to see and hear about horrible events occurring throughout the world, it can leave us with feelings of sadness and worry. It is clear that our only course is to hold close to the Lord and trust in Him.

*Psalm 91:2* “I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in Him will I trust.”

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

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

Fun fact: Our church building is just over three years old. One of the reasons it’s easy for me to keep track of this is because we moved down around the same time the new building was put into use. It’s a very nice building with a beautiful pulpit with exquisite stonework behind it. We have new pews to sit in with Bibles and songbooks (hooray for combined hymnals!) for our use in learning and worship. The kitchen and dining room are both suitable for our needs. Even when our northern brothers and sisters come back in the winter months, they hold us comfortably. It’s a wonderful building and a tremendous place to gather.

In the front of our new sanctuary are two doors which each house a restroom. The doors are on either side of the pulpit. If you were to go into the one on the right, you would find a shiny new baptism tub. For the past three years this tub has sat unused, not for lack of desire of the church, but in a small church, there can be long periods of time between baptisms. It’s sad really, to have such a wonderful and important part of our church go unused for such a time.

But, on July 23, it made its glorious debut at the front of our church. On that day, our new Sister Amber Vanwy was baptized into our congregation. Our Elder Bro. Jeff Streitmatter (Sis. Lynne) was helped by visiting Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Sis. Leonda) from Leo, IN in overseeing the proceedings. As we gathered together on Saturday night to hear Amber’s testimony and then on Sunday to witness the symbolic baptism, it was a new experience for our church family, and it was wonderful.

I would imagine you probably do not know Amber, and if you’re an Apostolic worth your salt you’re probably trying to figure out the lineage of the name Vanwy. I would hazard a guess and say you won’t find too many. You see Amber came to our congregation through The New Beginnings program from the Ft. Myers area. Having been in the program for about two years now, Amber has been attending our church for that duration and through everyday dialogue and questioning, felt the weight of her sin and knew she needed a Savior.

I will spare you the back-story of Amber’s life, if you care to imagine a path fraught with danger, pitfalls, heartache, bad choices, bad influences and little hope you would not be far off. The greatest part of Amber’s story is now wrapped up in one word: redemption. Her past is still there and to this day, at times, reaches out and tries to ensnare her, but if you know Amber now, you know she is quick to invoke the name of Jesus, that sweet and most precious and powerful name. As a dear brother from Roanoke used to say: “It’s another miracle.”

Amber, I hope you know this writer and your church family loves you dearly. It has been a blessing to watch you grow and we look forward to learning and growing with you. The fellowship of the Church is a powerful weapon to use against the one who shall not be named. We are thankful for another warrior in the battle!

**The New Beginnings**  
**Nadege Pierre - Executive Director**

Please give a warm welcome to Brittany & Julian. Brittany Joined the TNB family June 19, 2017.
Brittany’s story is not unique or unusual. Like many of the single mothers we have encountered, Brittany’s story is filled with heartache, disappointments, abuse, and drugs. At the tender age of 15, Brittany discovered drugs. She was left unsupervised often by her mother who frequented a local bar to pick up men. She was left to care for herself along with an older brother who would throw house parties while their mother was away. Her mom and dad separated and Brittany lived with her mother. Brittany never found the guidance, structure, or love she desperately needed. As a result, she dropped out of school when she was in the 10th grade and later obtained her GED. She has also been to various rehab facilities in an attempt to clean up her act for her young son, Julian. When Brittany reached out to TNB, she had a tone in her voice. A tone that I recognized from my own life experiences. She sounded as if she was drowning, she sounded defeated, and she sounded like she was at the end of her rope. TNB was her last stop between life and death, structure or dysfunction, sobriety or drugs.

During the interview and in her application Brittany said, “I need structure and stability in a healthy positive environment for my son and I. I have a beautiful son and I am a fabulous mother. I have worked very hard at obtaining and maintaining my sobriety. God has blessed me with several people who have helped me get to this point in my life. The next step in my life is to build a relationship with God and to obtain the education I need to gain financial security. I am willing to continue to put every effort forth and work hard to get there. This program offers the stability and helps for me to focus on my relationship with God and obtain my education in Physical Therapy. I am forever grateful.”

Florida, Sarasota
Mary & Vera Martin

August in Sarasota always feels like a new chapter. Children return to their school books and our college students start another year of higher learning. We pray as we turn to another chapter in life that we all strive to put God first on every page.

We are praying for Bro. George Siladie as he adjusts to a new page in life and ask the Lord to keep him in the hollow of His hands. We are thankful to see Bro. Ernie Buser back in church after his health problems over the summer.

Our sympathy goes to the Doug Sabo family at the passing of Bro. Doug’s mother, Sis. Betty Pamer of Mansfield, OH. It always leaves an empty spot in our hearts to lose mother, but we can rejoice with her victory of an overcoming life and a promise of home in heaven.

We are sorry to bid farewell to Stephen, Crystal and Gracie Tyndall as they return to Wyoming after spending a year with us in Sarasota and wish them God’s guidance as they start a new chapter in their lives.

We are gathering in the fellowship hall for services over the next few months while a remodeling job is being completed in our church. We still welcome anyone who is in the Sarasota area to join us as we fellowship together.

Georgia, Peachtree City/Atlanta
Lexi Knapp

As summer comes to an end, I am reminded of the quickness of life and the significance of the small moments. The summer has passed swiftly and we prepare for school and Sunday School to start. It seems that I blinked and summer was gone. This gives me pause as I think about how fast it went. Did I make the most of every moment? Did I treasure the time God gave me? Or, was I quick to want things to be over with so I could move on to the next thing? As believers in Christ, every moment in our life has purpose. Are we taking each moment captive and living it to the fullest for the glory of God? It is easy to become bogged down and tired of the mundane moments, but even in those times, God is calling us to live out His work in us, to serve others, and, ultimately, bring utmost glory to Him.

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 call ahead! (Tom Waldbeser 770.463.4788 or Matt Knapp
Haiti, Bonne Fin - Hospital Lumiere  
*Rick and Komari Aberle*

July and August was a time of travel for the Bonne Fin missionary family. We are thankful for God’s traveling mercies for our team. Sis. Pat Banwart, Sis. Carrie Stoller, Sis. Anna Tieche, the Plattner family and Nussbaum family all safely returned to Bonne Fin in the months of July and August. It is a blessing to have our team complete and again united. With the return of the missionaries, we are presently embarking on a period of review and reassignment of responsibilities. We ask for the prayers of the body for grace and the Spirit’s direction in this work.

We welcome Sis. Kaitlin Klotzle from Rittman, OH to our fellowship here. Sis. Kaitlin has joined us in the capacity of Missionary School teacher. Her assignment will include the 2017-2018 school year. She is charged with leading the school for our missionary children and responsible for the education of eight students in seven different grades. Please remember Sis. Kaitlin in prayer as she takes her place here at the hospital.

We were visited in the past month by Bro. Klint and Sis. Kara Beyer and their family from Sabetha, KS. Bro. Klint shared the Word during our church services.

The hospital also received an orthopedic team from Virginia. The team of surgeons, therapists and medical professionals were a wonderful benefit as they worked alongside our staff and with the patients in the hospital.

We were also thankful to have had a construction team in August that worked to prepare our hydroelectric system reservoir for installation of a new liner. Hurricane Matthew destroyed the previous liner in our reservoir. We’re grateful to the team from Francesville for the extensive support, flexibility and planning in this project. We look forward to its completion and the hydroelectric system’s return to more efficient operation. Bro. Chris Huber traveled as part of this team and graciously served our team in sharing the Word.

Haiti, Les Cayes  
*Mike & Susie Walder*

Greetings from Les Cayes!

The summer stay in the States was very cool and comfortable overall. It was a wonderful time for each missionary family to travel or reconnect with family, friends and our home churches. This special time of reconnection is always a blessing amid the usual planning and packing before returning to Haiti and the humidity and heat that welcomes us back.

Our little missionary school in Les Cayes will resume the beginning of September, so all the families will return in advance of that. We look forward to seeing each other again as well as the visits of many this coming Fall and Winter as the team season begins anew.

It is hard to believe it is nearly a year ago that we experienced our first hurricane. One Saturday this past Spring, a sudden strong gust of wind knocked everything over on our porch, even tearing the tank off of our grill and sending the entire grill to the other end of the porch! We had such a flashback of the hurricane. Our minds and bodies went on such instant alert that after we picked everything up we all had a good laugh over it!

It would be wonderful if we could live every day a little more like that, wouldn’t it? We should be ready and actively watching for the Lord’s return knowing it could come at any moment. But Jesus said many will be sleeping or too busy with the cares of this life, while some won’t have enough oil in their lamps when the Bridegroom comes. How will it be with you? Where is your heart and where is your treasure, on earth or in heaven?

“And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.” Mark 13:37

Illinois, Belvidere  
*Krisha Anliker, Amy Hanson*

We are thankful that the Bible Class had a safe trip to Bastrop, TX for a work team with several from our Minneapolis congregation joining them. Bro. Troy and Sis. Ellie Steffen invited us over to their home to see pictures from the trip. It was nice
to hear experiences from both students and adults.

A special thank you to Dave and Sis. Sheila McCoy for hosting the Sunday School/All-Church Picnic at their home again this year!

Kit Ezekiel Vongvanith was born to Randall and Aubrey and big brother Theo. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Ted and Sis. Heidi Schock.

We are thankful for our visitors including ministering Bros. Duane Rocke (Minneapolis), Wayne Hartzler (Sis. Camille, Rittman), Tom Troxel (Sis. Luanne, LaCrosse), Ryan Hoerr (Sis. Joy, Princeville), Mark Hoffman (Sis. Luella, Claredon) and Ryan Schock (Sis. Melonie, Bloomfield).

Illinois, Bloomington-Normal

Jenae Herrmann, Megan Kaeb

“Blessed is the man whom thou choosest, and causeth to approach unto thee, that he may dwell in thy courts: we shall be satisfied with the goodness of thy house, even of thy holy temple.” Psalm 65:4

We are indeed a blessed people to be able to come together in the house of the Lord and worship Him. We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Sis. Bev) from Detroit, MI and Bro. Daron Price (Sis. Monica) from Athens, AL visit us this month and share the word of God over the pulpit.

The month of August has flown by bringing with it many reasons to celebrate.

We celebrated new life welcoming Deanna Marie Rabe to our church family. Baby Deanna was born on June 23, 2017 to Bro. Dustin and Sis. Elizabeth Rabe.

We celebrated the joy of new love with the engagement announcements of two of our young brothers. Bro. Seth Bollier (parents are Bro. Ron and Sis. Edie of Indianapolis, IN) became engaged to Sis. Hannah Sauder of Roanoke, IL (parents are Bro. Frank and Sis. Kathy). And, Bro. Caleb Plattner (parents are Bro. Darren and Sis. Sue of Champaign, IL) became engaged to Sis. Kristen Fehr of Washington, IL (parents are Dave and Sis. Linda). We wish these couples much joy as they enter into this special season of life.

We celebrated with a team of twenty who traveled to Guatemala. We are thankful for their safe journey and the opportunity they had to share the love of Christ with those they encountered throughout their travels.

We celebrated the start of a new Sunday School year. We are so thankful for the teachers who give of their time every Sunday morning to share God’s truth with our children. After the summer break, the kids were excited to gather together again for the start of a new Sunday School season.

Finally, we celebrated the return of our ISU students as another school year begins. Our church family loves the energy these students bring to our congregation. We once again enjoyed the annual ISU welcome dinner where we were able to begin to get to know the students who will be worshipping with us. Our prayers are with them, and all our students as they start another school year.

Illinois, Bradford

Roseann Stahl, Rebecca Endress

“And he commanded the multitude to sit down on the grass and took the five loaves, and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, he blessed, and brake, and gave the loaves to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude. And they did all eat, and were filled: and they took up of the fragments that remained twelve baskets full.” Matthew 14:19-20

Just as the multitude is fed, we are fed whenever we gather together and God’s Word is brought forth. It matters not if we are many or few. What a blessing this is!

On August 20, many of us gathered together to witness the wedding of Sis. Erica Kieser (Bro. Matt and Sis. Tracy) and Bro. Walter Moser, Fairbury, IL (Sis. Julia and the late Bro. Doug). We pray for the Lord’s blessings on their marriage and look forward to their visits to Bradford.

On the day of the wedding we had many visiting ministers, more than we could use in a Sunday. We would welcome a return visit. The visiting ministers were Elder Bro. Rick Plattner (Sis. Mary, Fairbury, IL), Bro. Paul Kilgus (Sis. Carmen, Fairbury, IL), Bro. Ned Bahler (Sis. Anna, Fairbury, IL), Bro. Jerry Wagenbach (Sis. Bonnie, Mediapolis, IA), Bro.
Kevin Fehr (Sis. Lonnie, West Bend, IA), and Bro. John Grimm (Sis. Julie, Columbus, OH). We also appreciated the willing service this month of Bro. Glen Steiner (Sis. Rachel, Winthrop, MN), Bro. Kenneth Eisenmann (Sis. Sharon, Cissna Park), Bro. Darren Fehr (Sis. Nora, West Bend, IA), Bro. John Hartman (Sis. Rosemary, Fairbury, IL), and Bro. Gary Maibach (Sis. Mary Ann, Smithville, OH).

Also on August 20, we heard the engagement of Sis. Samantha Kieser (Bro. Robb and Sis. Kelly) to Bro. Aaron Herrmann, Princeville, IL (Bro. Doug and Sis. Angie). We pray for the Lord’s nearness and blessing during their engagement.

We rejoice to have a new convert, Patti Joos (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Jenny). Our prayers are with her as she begins her new walk with the Lord.

Our prayers have been with Sue Eberle (Ronnie) as she is undergoing chemotherapy. We look forward to when she can assemble with us again.

**Illinois, Champaign**

_Brent Young_

Our Champaign church family rejoices that Harlan Kupferschmid (Bro. Corbin & Sis. Stephanie) has answered the call from Jesus, his personal Savior, and has begun his repentance. We are thankful for our many converts and confident in the continued work of God in all of our hearts.

We rejoice also with Bro. Caleb Plattner (Bro. Darren & Sis. Sue) and Sis. Kristin Fehr (Dave & Sis. Linda, Washington, IL) upon their engagement. What a time of joy, hope, and thankfulness!

Bro. David & Sis. Ethel Wiegand recently moved to Forrest, IL after 50+ years of life in Champaign and immeasurable service to our congregation in many different capacities through the years. I believe Bro. David to have been the first Sunday school teacher, minister, and local elder for Champaign. We are saddened to see them go, yet supportive as they begin this next phase of life.

Thanks also to our recent visiting ministers, including Bros. Kevin Knapp, Virgil Kaeb, Matthew Kaisner, and Elder Bro. John Wiegand.

As I look back over the summer, two events seem to align: a Wednesday night prayer meeting we shared as a church and our VBS theme: “The Battle is the Lord’s”. We’re in a battle and prayer is a mighty weapon!

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**Illinois, Chicago**

_Diana Eisenmann_

We extend thanks to ministering Bro. James Koehl (Sis. Hildy, Morris, MN) who visited us in July.

Our July Women of the Word topic was “Pass the Blessings, Please”. We were blessed to explore how to effectively share our faith to subsequent generations.

In August, Bro. Greg Rassi presented a topical Bible study on the Four Pillar Mission of the Apostolic Christian Church.

We welcome Sis. Abbie Kuntz (originally from Gridley, IL) back to our Chicago church family, as she has moved here for employment.

We rejoice with Brant and Audrey Westfall as they have expressed peace with God and man and look forward to baptism this fall.

Our prayers are with Ken Foxe, son of Bro. George and Sis. Velda Foxe, as he recovers from a serious foot injury.

We also extend prayers and condolences to Mildred Siepka and her family for the loss of her sister, Sis. Mary Ann Baer (Princeville, IL). Sis. Mary Ann was also the aunt of Diana Halfer. May the Lord provide comfort and grace as they grieve the loss of their dear loved one.

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**Illinois, Cissna Park**

_Amber Stuckel, Pam Walder_

We were blessed to have ministering Bro. Dan Moser (Sis. Anne, Elgin, IL) with us this past month. We extend an invitation to any that would visit us. We appreciate every visitor that comes our way.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the many in our congregation who have experienced hospital stays and/or health concerns this month. These include the following: Elder Bro. Tom Stock, Bro. Dennis Walder, Sis. Myrna Weerts, Sis. Joan Rudin, and Shayna Walder (Bro. Nathan & Sis. Denise). May each of these
individuals feel the comfort of Jesus during this time.

We extend our sympathy to those who have lost loved ones. Bro. Robert Greiner (Gridley, IL) went to his eternal reward, and our prayers are with those in our congregation who were close to him. Bro. Robert was a brother-in-law to Sis. Vi Greiner and an uncle to Sis. Sandy Rudin.

We are so thankful for those that are called and willing to serve in missions far from home. We want to always remember our Sis. Belinda Frank who is serving in Magdalena, MX.

School has started and we want to remember to pray for each of our students and teachers.

Illinois, Congerville

Erica Steffen

We rejoice with Sis. Alyssa Kieser and Bro. Aaron Beer as they were united in marriage on August 6. Their parents are Bro. James and Sis. Jennifer and Elder Bro. Randy and Sis. Deb Beer of Milford, IN. Bro. Randy was able to have the wedding service and shared much good advice on marriage, as well as our walk as Christians, with the happy couple and the rest of the church! May God bless them as they begin their journey as one in the Lord!

Logan and Keirstyn Dietrich welcomed their new daughter Brenley Rae into this world on July 13. Brenley’s grandparents are Bro. John Dietrich and Renee Dietrich. May God bless these new parents as they love and raise this little one!

Bros. Matthew Kaisner (Sis. Jodi, Fairbury), Tyler Joos (Sis. Tonya, Bradford), Ron Palitto (Sis. Lynell, Akron), Ron Isch (Sis. Jane, Lamont-Gridley), Virgil Kaeb (Sis. Suellen, Sarasota), Justin Isch (Sis. Liz, Lamont-Gridley), Chris Laukholf (Sis. Rachel, Latty), Bret Lanz (Sis. Renee, Rittman), Daren Metz (Sis. Rita, Gridley), Earl Beery (Sis. Suzanne, Rittman), Jeff Leman (Sis. Val, Bluffton North), Michael Schneider (Sis. Jodi, Junction), Elder Ken Indermulhle (Sis. Linda, Sardis), Dana Indermulhle (Sis. Joy, Sardis), Jeff Gerber (Sis. Carole, Rockville), and Brent Kellenberger (Sis. Beth, Kansas City) were willing to come fellowship and share the Word this month.

I’ll be honest, our world can have me downright fearful sometimes. Of course, the Bible tells us in Matthew 24, among other places in the Word, that “…ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars,” but it’s still scary sometimes to open a paper or a news article! These thoughts were troubling me the past few nights, wondering what would it be like to wake up to a very different world if while I slept something catastrophic happened in our country. I wondered what life would be like without the things we take for granted now, and how I would explain such a change to my young children? It brought tears to my eyes and anxiety to my mind to think of trying to protect these precious little souls from the evil that could envelope our lives. Then I woke to a beautiful morning, and a scripture waiting for me on my kitchen counter: “The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.” Proverbs 15:3 What comfort and peace that brought to my troubled heart! He sees, He knows and He cares. Matthew 24:6 goes on to say, “see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.” Later that day I saw a painting by an unknown artist of a mother and child. They are together in a tender embrace, the picture of serenity and contentment. Lying next to them is a newspaper with a troublesome headline. To me, this was a visual of the comfort God had given me that morning, as well as a beautiful picture of a mother’s love, care and protection for her child. God loves and cares for us as little children. We can rest in His arms, sheltered, no matter how the world rages outside.

Illinois, Elgin

Amy Gasser

We thank Elder Bro. Brad Eisenmann (Sis. Cindy, Chicago, IL) and Bro. Ted Schock (Sis. Heidi) and Bro. Dean Steffen (Sis. Carol, both of Belvidere, IL) for ministering to us this past month.

We extend sympathy to Sis. Jean (Bro. Dave) Martin in the passing of her uncle, Bro. Robert Greiner of Gridley, IL, who had resided at Fairview Haven in Fairbury, IL.

The Sunday School Picnic was held on Sunday, July 23, followed by a week of Vacation Bible
School. We thank the visiting brothers who spoke to the Bible Class, including Bro. Rob Parker (Leo, IN), Bro. Daren Metz (Gridley, IL), Bro. Chris Laukhuf (Latty, OH), and Bro. Troy Leysc (Bluffton, IN). On Friday evening, there was a special program at the Fellowship Center presented by the Sunday School students.

Bro. Mark Wewetzer and Sis. Debbie Kellenberger (Bro. Greg) have completed their terms in Sunday School. Bro. BJ Schambach, Bro. Eric Weiss, and Sis. Pauli Schambach were selected as the new teachers.

**Illinois, Eureka**

**Debra Blunier, Linda Rocke**

God has continued to be faithful in providing dear brothers to share the living Word. We are always thankful for our local ministers, but also appreciate visiting ministers. This month they were Bro. Tony Manz (Sis. Carole, Junction, OH), Bro. Daniel Goric (Sis. Mary-Lou, Rockville, CT), Bro. Jeff Gerber (Sis. Bonnie, Rockville, CT), Bro. Darren Fehr (Sis. Nora, West Bend, IA), and Bro. Jay Steffen (Sis. Melinda, Congerville, IL), Bro. Ryan Schock (Sis. Melanie, Bloomfield, IA), and Bro. Kent Getz (Betty, Elgin IA).

The engagement was announced of Adair Zimmerman of Hudson, IL to Jamie Lunt of Normal, IL. His parents are Bro. Loren and Sis. Mary of Eureka. Her parents are Jerry and Becky Lunt of Quincy, IL. We wish the happy couple God’s blessings.

Larae Zimmerman (Bro. Loren and Sis. Mary) was wed to Nicholas Schmidgall (Bro. Michael and Sis. Kary). May God bless them and guide them in their walk together.

We wish to welcome Kaitlin Kuenzi of Silverton, OR to our congregation while she attends nursing college in this area. She is the daughter of Bro. Aden and Sis. Becky Kuenzi.

We have been reminded again of how life is uncertain and we do not know what the next day may bring. Bro. Mark Zimmerman (Sis. Cheryl) suffered serious injuries from a fall from a tree. We are thankful to hear of his continued progress day by day. The family has attested to feeling the prayers of the church. We are reminded of others with serious health issues who may have to have the support of a church to hold them up in prayer.

Sis. Ethel Schmidtgall has also had a recent fall. May she recover quickly and soon be back in her own home.

“Joy and sorrow live across the street from one another.” This has certainly been the case for the family of Sis. JoAnne Lockwood of Peoria, IL. She died recently after a brief illness with cancer. Her parents were Bro. David (dec.) and Sis. Ann (dec.) Leman of Eureka. She attended services faithfully here in Eureka for many years with her mother until Sis. Ann passed away several years ago. Our hearts rejoice that JoAnne was able to find grace in her last few days to repent, find peace and joy in the Lord, and be baptized. We extend our sympathy to the family in the loss of their loved one, even though there is joy mixed with the sorrow.

Our Sister Joyce Crawford (Maury, dec.) has also passed on to her eternal reward. We extend our sympathy to her sons, Steve (Lynn) Crawford of Eureka, Ron (Terri) Crawford of Washington, and to Bro. Robert (Charlene) Schumacher of Eureka, who is a brother to Joyce. Her daughter, Sis. Diane Crawford, had preceded her in death.

**Illinois, Fairbury**

**Janelle Stoller, Trish Steidinger**

We rejoice with Bro. Philip Hartman (Bro. Ryan and Sis. Lori) on his engagement to Sis. Lilah Knapp (Bro. Harlan and Sis. Jean, Forrest, IL). We wish them God’s blessings as they prepare for their life together.

August 12-13 was a blessed weekend as we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of our new Sisters Darla Meiss (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Kati) and Patty Bunch. We appreciate Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, LaCrosse, IN) spending the weekend with us and assisting in this work.

Our prayers have been with Bro. Duane Kilgus (Sis. Arlene) as he spent time in the hospital. We are thankful to have him back among us!

Bro. Walter Moser (Sis. Julia and the late Bro. Doug) and
Sis. Erica Kieser (Bro. Matt and Sis. Tracy, Bradford, IL) were married on August 20. We are thankful to welcome Sis. Erica to our church family!

We appreciate the brothers who have visited and ministered to us. May God bless Bro. Brad Gudeman (Sis. Teresa, Bradford, IL), Bro. Arlen Leman (Sis. Denise, Forrest, IL), and Bro. Adam Luginbuhl (Sis. Jami, Philadelphia, PA).

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

“That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.” Ephesians 4:22-24

This past month we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of two dear souls, Sis. Heather Jamison and Bro. Jerrett Zimmerman (Bro. Josh and Sis. Molly). We want to thank Elder Bros. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, Lacrosse, IN) and Rick Plattner (Sis. Mary, Fairbury, IL) for assisting our Elder Bro. Marvin Dotterer in this work and ministering to us.

We thank Bros. Gary Maibach (Sis. Mary Ann, Smithville, OH), Brian Waibel (Sis. Wendy, Champaign, IL), Kevin Fehr (Sis. Lonnie, West Bend, IA), Darin Massner (Sis. Twila, West Bend, IA), Dana Nieman (Sis. Lea, Remington, IN), Matthew Feucht (Sis. Jennifer, Roanoke, IL), Mark Klaus (Sis. Rebekah, Athens, AL), Art Mueller (Sis. Marlene, Belvidere, IL), and David Eisenmann (Sis. Jackie, Champaign, IL), who also ministered to us this month. We also want to thank Bro. Todd Stoller (Sis. Pamela, Latty, OH) for sharing a topical presentation, “Being Joyful in the Lord.”

We rejoice with Grace Eisenmann (Bro. Dan and Sis. Abby), who has begun her repentance.

We are thankful for Mobi Singh Tanwar who has repented, found peace with God, and is now desiring baptism.

We rejoice as we congratulate Sis. Lilah Knapp (Bro. Harlan and Sis. Jean) on her engagement to Bro. Philip Hartman (Bro. Ryan and Sis. Lori) from Fairbury, IL.

We want to extend a special thank you to the Roanoke, IL congregation for all of their efforts in hosting the Brotherhood Conference. May God richly bless each one.

We pray for God’s continued healing hand upon each one who spent time in the hospital this past month: Molly Brown (Bro. Brad and Sis. Shannon), Mila Zimmerman (Bro. Josh and Sis. Molly), Sis. Jan Bachtold (Bro. Herb), and Beth Iftt (Bro. Duane and Sis. Mary).

We heartily welcome retired Elder Bro. David and Sis. Ethel Wiegand who have moved to Forrest and are worshipping with us. It is a joy to have them among us, but we know they are deeply missed by the Champaign congregation where they have faithfully served many years.

**Illinois, Goodfield**  
**Judy Knapp, Melissa Rokey**

We want to congratulate the newly-married couple Bro. Zach and Sis. Allison Sutter on their recent wedding. Their parents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Gerri Hinrichsen and Bro. Jim and Sis. Kris Sutter (Taylor, MO). It is a blessing to trust God as He leads us in our lives, and we wish this couple God’s blessing on their marriage.

We wish God’s blessing also on Bro. Ty Tafer and Sis. Brenna Waibel (Peoria, IL) as they were recently united in marriage. Bro. Ty is the son of Bro. Ted and Sis. Kenda Tafer. Sis. Brenna is the daughter of Bro. Mike and Sis. Rose Waibel (Peoria, IL). We pray the Lord will bless their life together.

We rejoice with Bro. Alex and Sis. Cassie Knepp as they were blessed with a baby girl named Indie Mae on Saturday, July 29. Her siblings are Dierks, Hudson, Crue, and Wren. Her grandparents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Trish Gerber, and Sis. Janet and the late Bro. Rich Knepp (Roanoke, IL).

We rejoice with Jeremy & Sis. Joni Zacha as they were blessed with a baby girl named Olivia Lynn on July 31. Her siblings are Wyatt, Dylan, Logan, and Lily. Her grandparents are Bro. Rick...

Momentous life occasions are certainly something we want to recognize and we had the occasion to wish congratulations to Bro. Alfred & Sis. Marie Kieser as they are celebrating their 55th wedding anniversary.

Our dear Sis. Julia Martin (Sis. Jill Martin, Goodfield, IL, and Bro. Ken Martin, Morton, IL) will be leaving for France through ISU French Education’s study abroad program. She will be missed, and we will be prayerful for her as she studies there for almost a year.

We grieve with Sis. Joyce (Bro. Wes) Hohulin as her sister, Sis. Joanne Lockwood passed away recently in Peoria. How thankful we are to know she found salvation and was baptized prior to leaving this earth.

We lifted our elder brothers up in prayer during the recent conference in Roanoke. We are thankful to hear that they felt those prayers of a praying church.

It was a blessing to see the church family working together and sharing the Gospel message with our youth during the week of Vacation Bible School. We wish to thank the speakers for the Bible class and congregation: Bros. Craig Stickling (Sis. Jacki, Peoria, IL), Tom Bolliger (Sis. Jane, Tremont, IL) and Bro. Ed Fritz (Sis. Barb, Washington, IL).

The Gateway Woods auction has again come and gone, and many from our congregation attended in support of our children’s home. Special thanks to all involved in that ministry.

Our church family gathered on a recent Wednesday evening to hear a speaker relate her experiences serving with a Bible translation mission in an area where Christianity is persecuted. We appreciated an opportunity to learn about this.

Visiting ministers thru the past month were Elder Bro. Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan, Taylor, MO), and Bros. Keith Hinrichsen (Sis. Tammy, Phoenix, AZ), Rick Kaisner (Sis. Michelle, Chicago, IL), and Don Manz (Sis. Connie, Junction, OH). We are always thankful for the opportunity to hear God’s word.

**Note of Thanks:**

I would like to say a very special thank-you, first of all, for the many prayers and cards, plus the flowers, candy, miscellaneous gifts, and the many visitors I received the past 5 months I spent in hospitals and the lovely Eureka A.C. Home. It was absolutely overwhelming and I wish to repeat my sincere thank-you from the bottom of my heart. God bless each and every one of you.

In deepest love, Sis. Elna Grimm

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**Illinois, Gridley**

**Perry Klopfenstein**

Bro. Ron Bollier, Indianapolis, IN was a visiting minister this past month. We thank him for his willingness to minister.

On Sunday evening, July 30, an all-church dinner was held in appreciation of our two retiring ministers. Bro. Byron Stoller and Bro. Steve Baner. Bro. Byron was instated into the ministry on April 20, 1975, and Bro. Steve on October 24, 1990. We truly appreciated their work in the pulpit ministry and pray God will richly reward them.

Retired Elder Bro. Edwin Ringger, and wife, Sis. Pat, are now residing at the Apostolic Christian Home in Roanoke. Bro. Edwin fell and fractured a vertebrae, and is recovering.

Bro. Ron Kinder was hospitalized overnight, and is now back home. Bro. Don Gramm is a temporary resident at the home in Roanoke, for therapy and rehab. He had fallen and fractured his elbow and hip. It is surely a blessing, and a positive aspect of our lives, that when accidents and illnesses occur, we have hospitals and nursing homes to care for us. It is a blessing of God.

Bro. Fred Ringger has been ill with cancer. Bro. Orlan Miller continues to take treatment for his cancer situation. The prayers of the brethren are heard by God above. Our congregation continues to pray for a former resident (and sister in faith) of our Gridley congregation, Sis. Tina Gramm Banwart of Fort Scott, KS. She had contracted cancer and is making efforts to recover.

The acres surrounding Gridley are lush with fields of thriving corn and soybeans. By late July, the vast greenery of crops that will produce corn and beans showed forth in
abundance, reflecting a beauty only God can produce. It is evident that man can plant and nurture the crops, but it is God that gives the increase. Our hope is for a good harvest. And further, we hope too for the harvest of souls, wherein the door of grace is still open, with the Lord Jesus beckoning the unbelievers to repent. How thankful we can be that God is rich in mercy...and may lost souls take advantage of God's ongoing mercy. As of this writing (August 19), there are 11 converts here in our Gridley church.

Illinois, Morton
Annette Tanner, Julie Bahr

We have once again been blessed this month by many teachings from the Holy Bible. We thank the following brothers for ministering to us on August 13. Bro. Nathan Wiegand (Sis. Laura, Goodfield, IL), Bro. Scott Schafer (Sis. Gigi, South Bend, IN), and Bro. Dean Steffen (Sis. Carol, Belvidere, IL).

On August 2, our Bro. Fred Funk (Sis. Diane) taught our Family Worship Night. Our new series is entitled “God Uses Little People”. Bro. Fred brought us the story of “Little Boy Samuel”. It is always inspiring to be reminded of the stories we remember from our youth.

Our home ministers continued the study of the minor prophets on three Wednesday evenings. July 19, Bro. Fred Funk (Sis. Diane) spoke on the prophet Micah and reminded us that God wants us to be obedient. Micah 6:8 reads “He hath showed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?”

July 26, Bro. Jeremiah Psinas brought us teachings from the book of Zechariah. Jesus came as Priest and King and as we are called by God’s Spirit, we are able to do what He asks of us. Zechariah 14:9 says “And the Lord shall be King over all the earth: in that day shall there be one Lord, and his name one.”

August 9, Bro. Jeff Neihouser (Sis. Sue) taught us from the book of Malachi, the last of the prophets, whose name means “angel of Jehovah - messenger”. All of the prophets’ writings are pointing to Jesus Christ. Malachi came to help bring the people back to obedience. Malachi 3:17 states “And they shall be mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.”

We extend our deepest sympathy to two dear families who said farewell to one that they loved. July 30, Jonathan Babin passed away. He is the son of our Sis. Jackie Babin (late Bro. Ken). He is also survived by his daughter, Ashley; two brothers, Kevin Babin and Jason Babin; a sister, Kimberly Babin; his fiancé, Pleshette Dodson; and several nieces and nephews. August 5, Sis. Verna Hodel of Roanoke went to her Heavenly Home. She is the mother of our Sis. Becky (Bro. Mark) Grimm.

We congratulate another couple who has become one in the Lord. August 13, our Bro. Nathaniel Leman and Sis. Tressa Sinn were married in Silverton, OR. Their parents are Bro. Tim and Sis. Beth Leman and Bro. Mark and Sis. Elsie Sinn, Silverton. We welcome Sis. Tressa and pray she will soon feel at home in our Morton congregation.

Illinois, Peoria
Crystal Klopfenstein, Bonnie Bach

Our sympathy goes out to those in our congregation who have lost loved ones. Sis. Nancy (Bro. Gary) Schmidgall’s sister and Sis. Shari Fehr’s sister-in-law, Madalyn Rosecrans, passed away recently. Also passing into eternity was Sis. Florence Schwartz. We praise God that Sis. Joanne Lockhart, the step-sister of Bro. Marge (Bro. Bob) Rumbold, passed away after becoming one of His children and being baptized five days prior.

“He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds.” Psalms 147:3.

Brett & Kari Gross have welcomed new baby Aden Eugene. Excited siblings are Noelle and Tripp and grandparents are Bro. Spark & Sis. Rhonda Meister.

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

July 30 was a beautiful day for the wedding of Sis. Brenna Waibel (Bro. Mike & Sis. Rosie) and Bro.
Ty Taufer (Bro. Ted & Sis. Kenda, Goodfield, IL). Blessing us with the message of God’s Word that day were visiting ministers, Bro. Jeff Wiegand (Sis. Janel, Goodfield, IL) and Elder Bro. Jeff Grimm (Sis. Ruth, Goodfield, IL). We also extend thanks for other visiting ministers this month, Bro. Ryan Kellenberger (Sis. Adrienne, Fort Scott, KS) and Elder Bro. Paul Messner (Sis. Jan, Winthrop, MN).

“Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.”
1 John 4:11.

Illinois, Princeville

Renee Herrmann, Melinda Christ

Bro. Ted Hirstein (Sis. Joyce, Morton, IL) led us in a Bible study on “Guarding our Tongue”. He shared the history of some common phrases that we can carelessly use and encouraged us to be careful with our speech. Other ministers that have shared this month are Elder Bro. Nick Gutwein (Sis. Suzanne, W. Lafayette, IN), Elder Bro. Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan, Taylor, MO), Bro. Josh Martinez (Sis. Keyna, South Bend, IN), Bro. Howard Plattner (Sis. Kristen, Alto, MI), Elder Bro. Steve Ringger (Sis. Myra, Bluffton, IN), Bro. Jeff Waibel (Sis. Margo, Leo, IN), Elder Bro. Bruce Endress (Sis. Elizabeth, Bradford, IL), Elder Bro. Steve Sauber (Sis. Mary, Tremont, IL) and Bro. John Grimm (Sis. Julie, Columbus, OH). We thank these many brothers for blessing us with their gifts.

Bro. Rolland and Sis. Linda Joos welcomed a new granddaughter on August 1. Elise Caroline was born to Brian and Jodi Joos. Elise was welcomed by sisters: Ellie, Emmy and Elaina. May God grant wisdom to these parents as they raise their little girls.

Larissa Herrmann (Bro. Roger and Sis. Darlene) is engaged to Rob Burroughs (Bob and Penny, Metamora, IL). May God guide them as they make this new beginning.

We celebrated with Sis. Alivia Stoller (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Mary) and Bro. Drew Shively (Bro. Andy and Sis. Cindy) of Bluffton, IN as they were united in marriage on July 30. We wish them many joys as they begin their lives together.

We rejoiced to hear the testimonies of Ethan Beutel (Bro. Steve and Sis. Kari), Andrew Herrmann (Bro. Ben and Sis. Ann), and Kip Hoerr (Bro. Ryan and Sis. Joy). It was a blessing to hear these young men share how God has worked in their lives and to observe their baptisms on Sunday. May they continue to grow in grace as they live each day in service for Jesus.

We extend our sympathies to Sis. Clara Marie Gerber at the passing of her sister-in-law, Anne Gerber of Minneapolis, MN. We also said goodbye to Sis. Mary Ann Baer (Bro. Herman, deceased). Her children are Ron Baer and Sis. Deb Klopfenstein (Bro. Leon, Latty, OH). We ask God to comfort these families as only He is able.

Our hospital patients this month are Raymond Rumbold and Sis. Hannah Herrmann (Bro. Grant). We encourage you to hold these loved ones up in prayer and ask for God to work in their lives.

In a recent service, we were given some interesting thoughts on the topic of faith. The thought was shared that faith implies some sort of promise and that the object of our faith is the character of the promise maker. God has truly given us many wonderful promises in His Word and His character is shown to be without blemish throughout the scriptures. We were also recently reminded of the importance of being thankful. Perhaps the promises of God are something that we can all be thankful for.

Illinois, Roanoke

Barb Schwind, Judy Sauder

It had been a great day at the 4H fair for our little 2 year old granddaughter, Cece. She saw animals and helped Papa hand out ribbons in the sheep show. She snacked on cheesy fries and ice cream. Cece sprinted through the grassy areas, zoomed down the slide and across the bridge and was presently playing in the rocks when her mommy said it was time to go home for a nap. A 2 year old temper tantrum ensued as her mother patiently carried her to the car. The crying and screaming stopped after she was buckled into her car seat. In a very quiet voice she said, “Sing Jesus”, referring to her favorite songs, “Jesus Loves
“Me” and “Jesus Loves the Little Children”. How it warmed my heart that she turned to Jesus for comfort! In the storms of our adult lives we often feel distress, frustration, and sadness. Do we remember to seek Jesus for comfort to quiet our souls?

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Fred (Sis. Cheri) Janssen in the passing of his mother, Amelia Janssen of Benson, on July 22. Bro. Carlton (Cap) Beer of Milford, IN passed away August 2. He was the grandfather to Bro. Neal (Sis. Jessica) Beer and brother-in-law to Sis. Jean Kupferschmid. Sis. Verna (the late Bro. Stan) Hodel went to be with the Lord on August 5. Sis. Verna is survived by her children: Sis. Barb (Bro. Mike) Meece and Bro. Dave (Sis. Maxine) Hodel of Bloomington, Sis. Becky (Bro. Mark) Grimm of Morton, and Bro. John (Sis. Linda) Hodel and Bro. Phil (Sis. Lynne) of Roanoke, 11 grandchildren, 29 great-grandchildren, and sisters: Sis. Jean Kupferschmid (Roanoke, IL), Sis. Mary Ann Beer (Milford, IN) and Sis. Lois (Bro. Duane) Steffen (Congerville, IL). Sis. Verna enjoyed spending time with family and friends, traveling, crafting, and volunteering at the Midwest Food Bank. Betty (the late Bro. Jerry) Hodel passed away August 13. Betty was a sister-in-law to Sis. Betty (the late Bro. Bill) Hodel and Sis. Doris (the late Bro. Jim) Hodel. Betty was survived by her children: Kyle (Margi) Hodel of Germantown Hills and Lori (Jeff) Sparks of Roanoke, 7 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. She is also survived by her siblings, Gloria (Don) Punke and David (Orpha) Moritz of Benson. Betty enjoyed her family and working with her husband, Jerry, in their concrete business. We will miss visiting with Betty in church. May the Lord comfort the hearts of all these families.

Our church was invited to Morton for a singing on July 23. It was a blessing to worship God and fellowship with the brethren there.

Norah Kate was born to Bro. Matt and Sis. Renae Lindberg on July 27. Her older siblings are Emmett, Audrey, and Sophie. Grandparents are Bro. Chris and Sis. Theresa Bahler (Wolcott, IN) and Bro. Rich and Sis. Julie Lindberg. Grandparents Randy and Janet Pomeranke welcomed Indie Mae Knepp born to Bro. Alex and Sis. Cassie Knepp (Goodfield, IL) on July 29. Bro. Curt and Sis. Denise Knepp rejoice in the birth of their granddaughter, Janie Olivia, born August 2 to Blake and Kristin Gerber of Eureka, IL. May the Lord’s blessings be on each of these precious newborns and their families.

We rejoice with Sis. Hannah Sauder (Bro. Frank and Sis. Kathy) and Bro. Seth Bollier (Bloomington, IL), son of Bro. Ron and Sis. Edie Bollier (Indianapolis, IN) in the announcement of their engagement on August 6.

We rejoice with Bro. David Leman (Dennis and Sis. Karen) and Sis. Sadie Teubel (Bro. Mark and Sis. Marti) of Washington who became one in the Lord in marriage on July 30.

Our prayers continue for Bro. Denny (Sis. Rita) Schwind, Bro. Jim Wiegand, and Wally (Sis. Marilyn) Leman. Bro. Jim is currently at Barnes Hospital in St. Louis for rehabilitation regarding spinal cord injuries sustained in a farming accident last September. Bro. Denny spoke to the church on August 6. He shared the story of an Olympic runner, who pulled his hamstring, finishing the race last with the help of his dad. He had trained his whole life and was very disappointed. Through the experience he met a young lady who witnessed to him about Jesus. He became a follower of Christ, they married and became missionaries. He wanted a gold medal, but now he will have something even better. He will walk on streets of gold. Bro. Denny was reminded of a song that says not what I wanted, but better than I hoped for because his cancer experience brought him closer to God, his family, extended family, and church family. We have a choice to be bitter or better. Bro. Denny appreciates the church’s support through his battle with cancer and though his body is perishing, he is thankful for the spiritual growth that has occurred in his life.

Our church hosted the annual Brotherhood Conference on
August 8-11. Visiting elders on the pulpit on Tuesday, August 8 were Elder Bro. Ted Steffen (Sis. Sandy, Alto, MI), Elder Bro. Rod Bajema (Sis. Sue, Lester, IA), and Elder Bro. Brad Eisenmann (Sis. Cindy, Chicago, IL). A Roanoke sister’s comments summarized our church’s feelings about the conference, “This week our church hosted the annual church conference. The amount of people willing to work and volunteer made my heart so full! From parking cars, to making food, to ushering, to hosting people in their homes, people stepped up and made this week work. It has been such a blessing to be a part of the week! I helped in the kitchen, feeding hundreds of people at a time. Today we prepared 1200 box lunches. It was pretty awesome to be a part! I am so thankful for my church family!”

Here in the Midwest we have been plagued with a huge number of Japanese beetles this summer. This troublesome insect has stripped leaves of trees and flowers and has played havoc in our fields and gardens. As Dave and I were sitting on our patio peeling apples for applesauce, I pulled a Japanese beetle out of the apple bucket. Examining this pesky insect I commented, “It causes so much devastation, but it’s a pretty bug - purple, green, and iridescent.” “Yes,” Dave said, “It’s like Satan - looks good, but comes to destroy.” Watch and pray!

Ruth Martin, sister-in-law to Sis. Dorothy Martin, passed away August 13.

We thank our other visiting ministers on the pulpit: Bro. Cory Metzger (Sis. Jodi, Wichita, KS), and Bro. Virgil Kaeb, (Sis. Suellen, Sarasota, FL).

**Illinois, Tremont**

**Debbie Aberle, Janice Sauder**

“Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father, There is no shadow of turning with Thee; Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not; As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be. Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see, All I have needed Thou hand hast provided…”

We were blessed by many visitors when a second group this summer hosted their Ft. Sam Reunion here. We have appreciated our visiting ministers this month: Bro. Nathan Rassi (Sis. Michelle, St. Louis, MO), Bro. Tom Leman (Denver, CO) and Bro. Mark Hoffmann (Sis. Luella, Clarendon, VT) were with us on their way to the conference in Roanoke.

“But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light:” 1 Peter 2:9.

Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH) and Bro. Ryan Schock (Sis. Melanie, Bloomfield, IA) also blessed us with their ministry. Thoughts expressed were: if we ever feel malice, let us go back to Jesus on the Cross as He forgave the sinner. Let us think and live like Jesus for He is the Hope of the earth and Joy in Heaven! The earth is filled with the Goodness of our loving God!

Bro. Mark and Sis. Renee Kaiser and family rejoiced as their daughter, Morgan, was united in marriage to Travis Pflederer (son of Tim and Georgia, Tremont, IL).

Our hearts sorrowed with Sis. Jackie Babin and Kevin Babin and children as they laid to rest their son and brother, Jonathan Babin. Our sympathy also goes to Bro. Kerry & Sis. Kelly Baer in the death of his grandmother, Sis. Mary Baer, Princeville, IL.


Summer is soon over, the children are returning to the classrooms. Do you desire to dig deep into the Word of God? When we peer closely and carefully into His Word, asking the Spirit for a receptive heart, He opens our eyes to behold wonderful things. (Psalm 110:18)

**Illinois, Washington**

**Kendra Funk, Patricia Knapp**

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

We rejoice with Bro. Brad and Sis. Katherine Ricketts in the
birth of their daughter, Brielle Faith, on July 26. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Jon and Sis. Cheryl Ricketts and Michal and Ana Pucovsky (from the Nazarene Christian Congregation Church). May God grant these new parents wisdom in raising their precious little one for Him.

Our Sis. Kristin Fehr announced her engagement to Bro. Caleb Plattner (Bloomington, IL). Their parents are Dave and Sis. Linda Fehr and ministering Bro. Darren and Sis. Sue Plattner (Champaign, IL). We rejoice with them and their families and pray that God will richly bless them! We are thankful for several visiting ministers this month and are thankful for their willing service to us! They are Bro. Dan Koch (Sis. Julie; Tremont, IL), Bro. Matt Gerber (Sis. Ruth; Ixtlan, MX), Bro. John Bradle (Sis. Jill; Roanoke, IL), and Bro. Nathan Hodel (Sis. Jamie; Roanoke, IL).

We are thankful to have witnessed the wedding of our Sis. Sadie Teubel and Bro. David Leman (Roanoke, IL). Their parents are Bro. Mark and Sis. Marti Teubel and Dennis and Sis. Karen Leman (Roanoke, IL). Sis. Sadie will be missed in our Washington congregation, but we trust the Lord will use them in their church in Roanoke and that they will be welcomed there!

Abram Sauder, son of Bro. Jeff and Sis. Chelby Sauder, underwent heart surgery on July 28. We pray that God will continue to be with him as he heals.

Indiana, Bluffton

Suzie Fiechter, Liana Reinhard, Olivia Moser

What is the best thing that could happen to you? Happiness? Comfort? More money? Marriage? There is no end to the list, but they only bring a temporary thrill. The best thing that could happen to any of us is to be drawn closer to God! That can happen daily! That realization can transform the way we think and the things we value. Even trials, sicknesses and hard times can be the best things if we allow God to work and bring us closer to Him. It may not be what we desire, but we can be assured that as we embrace the best things and go to Him, He will work out His will in our lives for His glory and our eternal good, and that is truly the best thing!

Bro. Joel, Sis. Danielle, Aiden and Skye Fiechter welcome little Adaline Lucille into their family. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Mark and Sis. Shelly Fiechter and Bro. Chuck and Sis. Marcia Geisel. God has given Madden Wayne Pfister to Bro. Spencer and Brenna. Also rejoicing are grandparents, Bro. Larry and Sis. Sharon Stoller and Bro. Courtney and Sis. Jodi Pfister. We rejoice with Bro. John and Sis. Trudy Eisenmann on the birth of their first grandchild, Rae Lynn Troxel, born to Bro. Ned and Sis. Alyssa of Detroit. Paternal grandparents are Bro. Tom and Sis. LuAnn Troxel (LaCrosse, IN). Benson Charles Fiechter has been gifted to Bro. Josh and Sis. Jacki Fiechter, as well as to grandparents, Bro. Brad and Sis. Lynn Fiechter and Jack and Carol Wilson of Smithville. Bro. Rodney, Sis. Heather, Barcia and Weston Reimschisel are rejoicing with the addition of Harlow Ann to their family. Her grandparents are Bro. Todd and Sis. Lori Reimschisel and Bro. Steve and Sis. Tonia Price. Little Abe Charles Neuenschwander is blessed to share the home of Bro. Adam, Sis. Ashley and Vera. He is also blessed to have grandparents, Bro. Dee and Sis. Laura Neuenschwander and Bro. Kim and Sis. Lisa Troxel. Our prayers have gone out to newborn, Rosie Mae Rinkenberger, as she has been hospitalized since being born to Bro. Linc and Sis. Catrina. Her siblings are Bro. Chase, Sis. Caitleigh (Bro. Dan) Kaehr, Bro. Drew, Sis. Hannah (Bro. Matt) Grimm, Colt, Joel and Gracie. Her grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Jeanne Rinkenberger and Bro. Dave and Sis. Julie Westfall of Chicago. In addition to being born into Christian families, each of these babies are blessed with godly great-grandparents and extended family. We pray that they will continue to grow in and pass on this heritage of faith!

God has made His will known that Bro. Brandon Gerber (Bro. Todd and Sis. Michelle, Bluffton North) be married to Sis. Megan Fiechter (Elder Bro. Lynn and Sis. Ronda). May He guide them during this engagement time to His honor and glory!

Bro. Ken (Sis. Carolyn) Isch has been faced with difficult
decisions concerning his pancreatic cancer. We pray that God will give His guidance and peace!

Our love and sympathy have been with Bro. Larry and Sis. Deb Reinhard, Bro. Roger and Sis. Maureen Reinhard, Sis. Linda Reinhard and Bro. Jeff and Sis. Mary Jo Neuenschwander on the death of their step niece, Jan Fleming. We also pray for the Holy Spirit’s comfort to be with Bro. Harold and Sis. Violet Meyer on the passing of their sister-in-law, Sis. Lela (Bro. Bob) Meyer of Bluffton North.

Daniel Gerber (Bro. Al and Sis. Joli) has traveled to San Antonio, TX to begin training with the Air Force. May God keep His hand upon him!

Thanks to the Francesville congregation for hosting Christian Endeavor for our high school students!

Bro. Seth Gerber (Magdalena, MX) came home and ministered to us during his time here. We love it when he comes and pray God will bless his service at CVE.

We are so grateful for the sacrifices of our elder brothers throughout the year, and especially during this time of the annual conference! It is more common for them to hear complaints and problems than thanks and appreciation, so, THANK-YOU dear elder brothers! We love you! We appreciate you! May God give you grace and wisdom and bless you now and in eternity!!

Indiana, Bluffton North
Corinne Stettner, Amy Moser

At times, God allows us to hit rock bottom so we can find that He is the Rock at the bottom.

We were thankful to have a number of visiting ministers this month. Bro. Dale and Sis. Christine Frank and Bro. John and Sis. Carol Steiner, both from Oakville-Mediapolis, IA, shared God’s Word. In addition, Bro. Clark and Sis. Cindy Stoller from Gridley, IL, brought forth the Word on a recent Sunday afternoon.

Our High School Sunday School traveled to Francesville for Christian Endeavor this month. Thank you to all who made the weekend a wonderful time for our teens.

We rejoice with Roger and Sis. Cindy Lemmen, as their daughter, Elaina, made a beginning of repentance. Elaina is entering high school, and as she looks forward to growing in her walk with Jesus, let’s remember to keep her in our prayers.

Bro. Drew Shively (Bro. Andy and Sis. Cindy) and Sis. Alivia Stoller (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Mary) exchanged wedding vows on July 30, in Princeville, IL. As a married couple, they will live in West Lafayette, IN, while finishing up their degrees at Purdue. We wish them God’s blessings and wisdom as they live life together as one.

It seems each month brings with it both joy and pain, reminding us—above all things—to place our trust and hope in the only one who knows our future.

Joyfully, Bro. Adam and Sis. Jenna Leman were blessed with a new addition to their family. Willow Josephine was born August 8 and joins big sister, Violet, along with Mari, Fe, Perla, Leo, and Mili. The Lemans are serving as houseparents at CVE in Magdalena, MX. Baby Willow’s grandparents are Bro. Jeff and Sis. Val Leman and Bro. Dave and Sis. Terri Mueller.

Bro. Todd and Sis. Michelle Gerber announce the engagement of their son, Bro. Brandon, to Sis. Megan Fiechter, daughter of Elder Bro. Lynn and Sis. Ronda (Bluffton). We rejoice with them as they make plans for their future together.

Sadly, over the last few weeks, Bro. Dave and Sis. Deanna Brinneman’s family has said goodbye to both a father and sister. Bro. Dave’s father, Dale, passed away on June 13, while his sister, Debbie Carson, died after an extended illness on July 26.


We pray that the Spirit brings comfort to these grieving families.

Bro. Kelly and Sis. Lisa Aschliman are requesting prayers for their son, Logan, as he has undergone a recent corrective
intestinal surgery. Logan seems to have experienced a setback in his recovery following the surgery. Please join us in praying for Logan’s healing, and for his young family, as they walk through this time of uncertainty.

**Indiana Francesville**

**Mildred Clauss, Jacki Huber**

Our Bible Class recently hosted Christian Endeavor. The theme for the weekend being “Discernment for Making Inspired Choices”. Bro. Justin Koch (Sis. Marcia, Washington, IL) gave the morning message which highlighted timely instruction from God’s Word. The choices we make in our young years greatly impact our life’s journey.

Bro. Steve Stieglitz (Sis. Jane, Leo, IN) and Bro. Dan Leman (Sis. Tess, Denver, CO) have also visited our congregation. We are indeed thankful to them for blessing us with their messages.

Bro. Jim Bogart has completed his life’s journey. We extend our sympathy to his dear wife, Sis. Eleanor and her family: Wayne Bogart, Randy Bogart, Karen (Ron) Benakovich and Sis. Jill (Bro. Kent) Rager.

Sis. Edith Streitmatter has also gone to be with the Lord. We trust the Lord will comfort her surviving family: Sis. E. Joan (Bro. Harvey, dec.) Gutwein, Keith (Marlene) Streitmatter, Dale (Barbara) Streitmatter and her brother-in-law, Bro. Irvin Yaggie (Sis. Lois, dec.).

Bro. Wayne Putt (Sis. Paulette) recently had shoulder surgery. We pray he will be blessed with a complete recovery.

**Indiana, Indianapolis**

**Becky Ringer, Nancy Pfeifer**

This month has gone rather quickly with everyone trying to wrap up all the summer fun and getting ready for school starting. We are thankful for all the blessings throughout this month.

New Sunday School teachers are Sis. Kate Levy, Sis. Ashley Bollier, Sis. Allison Rager, Sis. Teryn Leuthold, Sis. Stacey Lichtle, and Sis. Kim Bucher. Bro. Peter and Sis. Penny Schroder are the assistant superintendents. To all Sunday School teachers, we thank you for faithfully instructing the children.

We heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of Bro. Bill and Sis. Brandy Bradford on July 23. We welcome our new brother and sister in Christ with thankful hearts.

Family dedication service was held on August 6. This service is intended to recognize the children that have been born into our church family. Being the first one, the service was to the whole church recognizing our church family and the opportunity and responsibility we have as parents and a church to provide nurturing and loving context where children can experience the Gospel.

Our annual Sunday School picnic was also on that day. The picnic is a way for all ages of the church to come together as one big family enjoying fellowship and activities. We send a special thank you to Bro. Glenn and Sis. Nancy Pfeifer for hosting this event.

We announce the engagement of Bro. Seth Bollier from Bloomington, IL (Bro. Ron and Sis. Edie) to Sis. Hannah Sauder from Roanoke, IL (Bro. Frank and Sis. Kathy). Praying that God will bless and guide them in their life together.

Grandparents Bro. Ron and Sis. Edie Bollier rejoice with the birth of Kouta Otto son of Bro. Makoto and Sis. Anna Inoue of Tokyo, Japan.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Allison Rager on the passing of her grandfather, Bro. James Bogart of Francesville, IN. We also extend our prayers and sympathy to Sis. Jodi Strassheim (Bro. Eric and family) on the passing of her aunt Sis. Joanne Lockwood of Peoria, IL.

We are thankful to have visiting ministers this month, Bro. James Emch (Sis. Gina, Phoenix, AZ), and Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS). May the Lord bless both of you for sharing the Word.

We would like to welcome Bro. Ezra Fritz to our congregation. He has moved from Nashville, TN for a job here in Indy. Also we want to welcome to our congregation an IUPUI student Sis. Lauren Moser from LaCrosse, IN.

**Indiana, LaCrosse**

**Julie Rocke, Meagan Frank**

We bid farewell to three college students this month:
Sis. Megan Heinold, Sis. Jaela Gudeman, and convert Lauren Moser. Bro. Brett Schneider will also be starting college soon, but we are excited that he is staying nearby! We wish each of these young people God’s grace and wisdom as they face new challenges and opportunities!

Our Sunday School students seem to have had a busy summer, as three of them broke a bone of some sort. Those sporting casts and drawing excited attention from their fellow classmates are: Seth Heinold (Bro. Eric & Sis. Bobbi Ann), Alivia Rocke (Bro. Brad & Sis. Julie), and Gena Sawyer (John & Sis. Melinda). We pray for swift healing for each one, and give thanks that the accidents haven’t dimmed their smiles or enthusiasm!

A new Sunday School year has begun, and we welcome our new teachers, Bro. Kurt Bachtold and Sis. Sandy Heinold. We give special thanks to Bro. Eric Heinold and Sis. Nicole Gudeman as they have finished their terms. We are thankful for the efforts of each teacher, and pray for them as they plant seeds of truth in our young people’s hearts.

In a recent sermon, verse 20 from Romans 16 stood out “And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.” What a hope-filled promise! We will not always battle this human nature, for Christ, who understands our struggles, has already won! We pray this promise of hope can fill the hearts of each one who may be struggling or hurting.

Bro. Tom & Sis. LuAnn Troxel are rejoicing in the safe arrival of their sixth grandchild. Their son and daughter-in-law, Bro. Ned & Sis. Alyssa Troxel (Detroit, MI) welcomed sweet little Rae Lynn on July 17. We pray for this dear couple as they embrace the joys of parenthood!

Indiana, Leo
Jan Beer

“When we read the Bible, it is good to ask yourself: Who is speaking to Whom about What”. Recently one of our ministers spoke this from the Leo pulpit. It has been a great help to me, so I thought I would pass it along!

On July 21, Lincoln J. was born to Sis. Maria and Bro. Jeremy Stieglitz. He joins his brothers, Jones and Max. Local grandparents are Bro. Lynn and Sis. Leonda Stieglitz. We pray God’s blessing on this dear family of “little men”!

A few days before the annual Gateway Woods auction, Bro. Cap Beer from Milford was visited by the death angel. For many years, Cap was faithful in his support of Gateway Woods by training a pony to be sold at the auction. Before the pony was auctioned off, Cap would patiently spend hours offering pony cart rides around the Gateway Woods campus. We rejoice with his son, Bro. Steve & Sis. Connie and his grandson, Bro. Shane & Sis. Steph that Cap has “fought a good fight, having finished his course and kept the faith,”
2 Timothy 4:7

August 6, the day after the Gateway Woods auction, was a more joyful Sunday than usual for the Leo church family. Many people stayed over from the auction to attend worship services. It was wonderful to have a full house, to meet and greet so many dear people and share in the blessing of visiting ministers. We thank Bro. Matt Knapp (Sis. Dana, Peachtree City, GA), Bro. Jerry Meeks (Sis. Christy, Sabetha, KS) and Bro. Kirk Plattner (Sis. Keri, West Lafayette, IN) for bringing God’s Word. Bro. Jerry and Sis. Christy Meeks’ daughter, Sis. Lydia, is an Assistant House Parent at Gateway Woods. We appreciate the joy and encouragement their visit brought to our dear Lydia.

One sentence from a prayer spoken that Sunday keeps returning to my memory: “We leave it with you, Father”. It seems that too often I pray, then once again begin to fret about the situation that I should have left with our loving Father. May this line from that sincere prayer be an encouragement to all of us to take it to the Lord, and leave it there.

The weekend of August 12 and 13, our high school students and their Sunday School teachers traveled to Francesville, IN for Christian Endeavor. The kids had a great time, and we thank the church family in Francesville for facilitating this
exchange of fellowship among our young people.

Most schools and homeschoolers in our area have resumed classes. This tends to stand as a reminder that the summer season is just about over. For some folks that causes a bit of sadness, but for fall lovers, it brings anticipation of what is to follow. It is a reminder to the Redeemed that when our “earthly season” is over, we have intense anticipation of what is to follow.

“We are all on a journey; mine just happens to include cancer.” We spent an inspiring weekend when a dear family from Smithville, OH visited Leo. The intense love that flows between them and the love of Jesus that flows out of them, and their testimony of God’s unending faithfulness through this cancer journey are a solemn reminder to us to live each moment for God’s glory.

“Two little lines I heard one day, Traveling along life’s busy way; Bringing conviction to my heart, And from my mind would not depart; Only one life, ’twill soon be past, Only what’s done for Christ will last.” excerpt from poem, Only One Life, by missionary, C.T. Studd.

Indiana, Milford
Carol Haab, Pat Mikel
July 29-30 was Invite-a-Couple Weekend. Everyone enjoyed a beautiful time of fellowship at Bro. Larry and Sis. Melinda Gramm’s pond.

With thankful hearts, Bro. Alvin and Sis. Carol Haab welcomed a new grandson into their family circle. Jensen Tate was born July 22 to Greg and Kelli Koutsouros. Jensen is blessed with six siblings: Kylie, Hannah, Carter, Mia, Brady, and Tanner. Paternal grandparents are Sue and the late Greg Koutsouros, Irvine, CA.

Congratulations to Bro. Aaron and Sis. Alyssa Beer as they became one in Christ on August 6 in Congerville, IL. Parents of the happy couple are Elder Bro. Randy and Sis. Deb Beer and Bro. James and Sis. Jennifer Kieser (Congerville, IL). May God guide them to always put their love into action by serving, encouraging, supporting, and adoring one another. They are making their home in Eureka, IL.

We mourn the loss of our dear Bro. Carlton “Cap” Beer even as we rejoice that he has begun his heavenly journey. His daily walk in life revealed to us his love for the Lord, his family and friends, his church and his community. Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to his wife of 68 years, Sis. Mary Ann, and his children: Bro. Dan (Sis. Deb), Sis. Pat (Russ) Mikel, Bro. Fred (Sis. Pat), Bro. Steve (Sis. Connie); a daughter-in-law, Sis. Shari (Bro. Mike) Fiechter; a brother, Bro. Jesse (Sis. Shirley); 22 grandchildren and 62 great-grandchildren. Two sons, Dickie and Bro. Ronn, preceded him in death. Bro. Cap will be greatly missed in our small congregation.

Lending themselves to be used in proclaiming God’s message this month were Bro. Vince Pfister (Sis. Brandy, Bluffton, IN), Bro. Ryan Bertsch (Sis. Jessica, Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Ed Lester (Sis. Tricia, South Bend, IN), and Bro. Doug Harmon (Sis. Lanna, Toledo, OH). We sincerely appreciate their willingness to serve and pray God will bless them.

Please keep Sis. Mary Ann Beer in your prayers. Shortly after her husband, Bro. Cap, passed away, she received news of the death of her sister, Sis. Verna Hodel, Roanoke, IL. Sis. Mary Ann also spent a few days in the hospital and is now recuperating in our local nursing home. May God surround her with His love and healing power so she can soon regain her strength.

Our church was filled with many guests on August 20 due to a group celebrating their 50th Fort Sam Reunion in our area. It was so delightful to listen to the hymns sung with so many harmonious voices! We are thankful they joined us for a wonderful day of praise and worship, including Bro. Gary Maibach (Sis. Mary Ann, Smithville, OH) and Bro. John Hartman (Sis. Rosemary, Fairbury, IL) who shared God’s Word.

Once again our college students have moved back on campus and our younger children are back in school. Whether elementary school, middle school, high school, or college, every year brings challenges and changes. We pray the Lord will bless each
student and their teachers with a blessed year.

Indiana, Remington

Jenni Honegger, Marcella Tyler

We are thankful to report several visiting ministers this month. Bro. Stan Schambach (Sis. Norma, Prescott, AZ), Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Sis. Pam, Washington, IL), Bro. Jeff Waibel (Sis. Margo, Leo, IN), Bro. Calvin Schneider (Sis. Jeannie, LaCrosse, IN), Bro. Brian Waibel (Sis. Wendy, Champaign, IL), Elder Bro. Lynn Fiechter (Sis. Ronda, Bluffton, IN), and Elder Bro. Greg Lehman (Sis. Mary Beth, Wolcott, IN) all joined us to worship and to preach the Word. In addition, Bro. Jon Pratt (Sis. Sharon, Valparaiso, IN) presented a topical Bible study on John the Baptist. We were reminded of John the Baptist’s father who prayed faithfully. His prayers were answered. God wants us to pray knowing that He will answer us in due time. Many thanks and prayers to each brother who spent time and effort on our behalf!

We are excited to report the engagement of our Bro. Micah Zehr (Bro. Nelson and Sis. Amy, Fairbury, IL) to Sis. Brittany Fehr (Bro. Joe and Sis. Joan, Kansas City, MO)! We praise God that He brought these two lives and hearts together and pray that their love for Christ and for each other will grow even more over this time as they prepare to become husband and wife in the Lord.

Our Sis. Laura Walder (Bro. John and Sis. Lisa) became the bride of Bro. Lee Blume (Bro. Larry and Sis. Lynelle, Wolcott, IN) this month! We pray that God will guide Sis. Laura and Bro. Lee as they begin their lives together and make the transition to this new phase of married life. May God bless their union of hearts!

The angels are singing and praising the news that Kaitlin Waibel (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Jody) has repented of her sins and sought the new life that Christ offers to every sinner who believes! It is such a joy to hear when yet another soul seeks their salvation. Please pray for Kaitlin as she begins her new walk of life with Jesus by her side.

We are pleased to welcome Bro. Justin Waibel (Bro. Dean and Sis. Tammy) and Bro. Troy Honegger (Bro. Loren and Sis. Jenni) as brothers in faith! Bro. Justin and Bro. Troy gave their testimonies to the church of God’s work in their lives and hearts. We are thankful they were ready to make a covenant with Him in baptismal waters. May God bless these young men as they continue their journey of faith.

In the midst of all of these joys, the death of Sis. LaVina Beckley on July 29 reminded us that all of our joys on earth are in vain if we pass on to eternity without our Savior. Thanks be to God that Sis. LaVina could give a clear testament of faith and claim the hope of heaven! Surviving are her sister, Sis. Velda Beckley; brother; LeRoy Beckley of Donalou, KS; brother-in-law, Bro. Ken Schneider (Sis. Bernice); sister-in-law; Nancy Beckley of Remington, IN; and many beloved nieces and nephews. Please pray for the entire family as they grieve their loved one.

Indiana, South Bend

Joshua Martinez

“That men may know that thou, whose name alone is Jehovah, art the most high over all the earth.” Psalm 83:18

May the Lord bless Elder Bro. Mike Leman (Sis. Deb, Denver, CO) for sharing words of Truth and Life this month.

Our prayers are with Bro. Bob and Sis. Sue Beebe as they travel to Switzerland and tour the Rhine River to celebrate their 49th wedding anniversary.

We pray for Bro. Garrett Kupferschmid and our dear Arlene Kaehr as they face health issues.

We’re thankful that Sterling Goins is safely home from his month-long National Guard training at Fort Polk, LA.

We appreciate the efforts of the Sunday School teachers who serve, instruct and inspire our children. We thank outgoing teachers: Sis. Gigi Schafer (Bro. Scott), Sis. Becky Langhofer (Bro. Brad) and Sis. Kelcie Lehman for their faithful service. May the Lord bless Sis. Sue Beebe (Bro. Bob), Sis. Samantha Gramm (Bro. Rich) and Sis. Keyna Martinez (Bro. Joshua) who will take their places.

We celebrated the end of another joyful Sunday School year with our annual picnic at Gramm Pond. May the Lord bless Bro.
Rich and Sis. Samantha Gramm for blessing our church family with their kindness and hospitality.

We rejoice that Jesse Langhofer (Bro. Brad and Sis. Becky) has given his heart to the Lord in repentance. We celebrate as a church family and are happy for him and his family.

“Peace be to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen.”
Eph. 6:23-24

Indiana, Valparaiso
Sherry Meiss

Oh what a blessing it has been to have had, Bro. Randy Gudeman (Sis. Becky, Francesville, IN) and Bro. Herbert Knochel, Jr. (Sis. Laurie, Phoenix, AZ) spend time with us. Thank you for your willingness to be His vessel and share His message. Hallelujah! Praise be to God!

Plus, I would like to thank those of you who have been inviting visitors to come and worship, and for those visitors that have been so willing to spend time in fellowship as well. Thank you for warming our hearts.

It was our invite-a-friend Sunday, with a picnic after church services at Drazer Park in Kouts. The weather was hot and the sun was bearing down, but the shelter provided us shade and there was a good breeze. Many came together for a good time spent in sharing, caring and laughter. Barbecue chicken was provided. Everyone else brought the side dishes and desserts. There were so many different things to try. We played corn toss, guess how many candies in the jar (Bro. Mike Thomas walked away with those, or did he LOL), how many gummy bears in the jar went to Sis. Sharon Pratt, guess the weight of the watermelon which I took home, and how many jelly beans in the jar went to Jonathan Rocke, son of Bro. Brad and Sis. Julie of LaCrosse.

Sis. Sharon Pratt started us on a HarvestCall project for school supplies. There was a list to sign up for the things needed. One night we gathered in the fellowship hall to assemble back to school supply bags. The number of items worked out very well with even a few extra things. It was good fellowship with everyone working together to do something good.

The Gateway Woods Auction was August 5. It was a big success. Bro. Joe Feller does a great job helping to get items together for the sale, helpers needed to work and the women to bake the pies. I’m sure there is a long list of the many other things he does that we don’t even know. Thank you Bro. Joe for all you do for us and others. To God be the Glory!

Bro. Tim Bucher and Bro. Mike Thomas attended the elder conference and told me they came back blessed. Oh, how fellowship with one another can truly fill ones heart.

We had an appreciation dinner for Bro. Mike Thomas and Sis. Claudia for their active role in the ministry. It was held outside at Ogden Gardens in Valparaiso. If you’ve never been there, you should go. Many have weddings and special events at the gazebo in the garden and the flowers are beautiful. Pulled pork and beef was provided and everyone else brought the rest. Many recipes were shared. Everything tasted very good. The church gave an engraved plaque with the verse of Isaiah 40:31. They were quite touched with all the love that flowed over them that afternoon. It was so nice to see their whole family there, coming to support and honor their parents/grandparents. This brother and sister will continue to minister to us in many ways, and in ways they won’t even realize.

Our Harvest Dinner is planned for October 29. The committee has been working really hard on the program. Word has it that there will be a quartet from Francesville sharing in song and fellowship with us, which is always a treat. A meal is generally served as well. Watch for all the details later.

Keep each other in thought and prayer, remembering we all need prayer. Don’t forget Sis. Dawn Ailes. Her procedure got her heart beating in rhythm, but it needs to stay that way. Bro. Bob & Sis. Marguerite Hoerr and Ted and Audrey Hitz are always in our prayers too. Come, worship and fellowship with us, we are just south of HWY 30 on HWY 49.
Indiana, West Lafayette
Libby Wahl

We are enthusiastically occupying our church addition. The Sunday School children are thrilled with bigger spaces. The rest of us are thankful for enlargement of our dining area and baby room and (smile) reduced sound effects.

Bro. James Emch (Sis. Gina, Phoenix, AZ) recently dropped by at midweek. Thank you, James, for the blessing of the Word shared.

Thoughts and prayers continue for Bro. Leon Waibel’s health limitations; and, for Sis. Merri Schieler (Bro. Dave) in ongoing cancer treatment. As our ministers often also pray for those in our congregation struggling with any number of challenges, may we daily keep in the battle, too. God knows as we lift each other up.

Anyone near the Purdue campus these days can hear the ‘thunder’ as students pour into town while construction workers push almost 24/7 to finish a multitude of upgrades to roads, bike paths and sidewalks. Anticipation ignites the air as we look forward once again to new faces among us.

A ‘Sister’ friend and I took an hour walk and talk break a couple days ago. In the course of darting from subject to subject and back again, as we do when we catch up with people, she shared this not so subtle reminder. I’ll spare you our context, but I imagine you-all can figure out a place or two where it might be well used. James 1:19.

How interesting that the word ‘silent’ and the word ‘listen’ share the same letters.

Indiana, Wolcott
Erica Blume, Teresa Earney

“Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the Lord his God.” Psalms 146:5

We praise God that we have a new convert. Angie Furrer (Bro. Troy and Sis. Lisa) has made known her desire to fully surrender her heart to the Lord. Our prayer is that God will grant her much grace as she enriches her walk with Him.

Congratulations to Sis. Leandra Bahler (Bro. Mike and Sis. Jodi) and Bro. Kevin Dotterer (Bro. Gary and Sis. Sandy) from Rittman, OH as they have announced their engagement. We are happy for them and pray that God will bless them as they plan this new chapter in their lives.

Chris and Sis. Teresa Bahler are thankful that another grandchild arrived safely. Norah Kate was born to Sis. Renae and Bro. Matthew Lindberg of the Roanoke, IL congregation on July 27.

We rejoice with Bro. Lee Blume (Bro. Larry and Sis. Lynell) and Sis. Laura Walder (Bro. John and Sis. Lisa) from Remington, IN. They were united in the Lord with a beautiful wedding at the Remington church on July 30.

Bro. Neil Widmer (Sis. Kris, West Lafayette, IN) has been with us two times recently to share God’s word.

The Indiana churches had their annual Christian Endeavor. It’s an event where all the high school Sunday school students and teachers are invited to one of the churches for a weekend of activities, relationship building and spiritual teaching. Francesville church was the host this year. They planned a wonderful weekend and we all left feeling very blessed.


Iowa, Bloomfield
Teresa Schock

The Fort Sam reunion was held here July 22 and 23. Bros. Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata, TX) and John Steiner (Sis. Carol, Mediapolis, IA) had the services on Sunday. Retired Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North, IN) and retired ministering Bro. Nelson Beer (Sis. Minnie, Milford IN) supported them on the pulpit. It was a blessed weekend.

Other visiting ministers where Bros. Dave Huette (Sis. Susan, Tremont, IL) and Dallas Massner (Sis. Christy, Burlington, IA). We thank each one for lending themselves in God’s service.

Someone once likened life to a chess match. We are the pawns, and we are exalted when we get to the other side. Those who have reached the other side are Sis. Lori Wuethrich’s (Bro. Kenny) father, Bro. Eric Massner, and Sis. Carly Wettstein’s (Bro. Derek) grandpa, Bro. Paul Wagenbach. Both were
from Mediapolis, IA. Sis. Mary Jane Knapp’s (Bro. Harold) sister, Sis. Joyce Crawford, (Eureka, IL) has also reached the other side.

**Iowa, Elgin**  
*Maria Rocke*

“The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes.” Psalm 19:8

Recently we were reminded to be thankful for each opportunity we have to hear the Good News. The media today is generally focused on the negative events of our day and time. How refreshing it is to sit and hear the Good News; such a contrast.

Visiting us this month were ministering Brothers Tom Waldbeser (Sis. Susan, Peachtree/Atlanta, GA) and Dean Messner (Sis. Wanda, Winthrop, MN). May God bless them for coming and sharing.

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

Visiting ministers this month include Bro. John Bradle (Roanoke, IL), Bro. Dan Koch (Tremont, IL) and Bro. Wes Moser (Lester, IA). Our small congregation appreciates the efforts these brothers and their families give of themselves to further the Lord’s work. We appreciate the fellowship of those who visit us.

An update on the hot dry conditions! We have had about 2.5” of rain since May 17. The crops are suffering and our yards are brown. I was comparing our spiritual lives to the weather. Do we keep our minds watered with God’s word? Is our soul dry and lacking nourishment?

We say a special thank you to the Roanoke congregation for hosting the General Conference. The Lord’s guidance and blessing was felt.

**Iowa, Iowa City**  
*Diana Butikofer*

On July 22, we were blessed to assemble for the testimony of Sis. Audrey Landherr (Ron) and hear how our merciful God still changes hearts. We were also thankful to be able to formally welcome her into the family as a sister in Christ following her baptism the next day. We trust the Lord will bless her as she continues to serve Him.

Visiting ministers that weekend were Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Sis. Julie, Mediapolis, IA), Bro. Bruce Frank (Sis. Bonita, Cissna Park, IL), Bro. Dale Moore (Sis. Cheryl, Elgin, IA), and Bro. Joel Troxel (Sis. Amy, LaCrosse, IN). Also visiting this month were Bros. Jon Pratt (Sis. Sharon, Valparaiso, IN) and Scott Wegman (Sis. Dawn, Taylor, MO). We thank these brothers for their service and trust the Lord will reward them.

**Iowa, Lester**  
*Audrey Metzger, Joyce Moser*

Our elder brothers met mid-August with a common goal at our annual Brotherhood Conference… to uphold and preserve the doctrine of our denomination. May we each do our own part to facilitate that effort, and to support them and each other as we strive toward our Heavenly goal.

A little girl, Mesa Sue, is a precious and welcome blessing in the family of Aaron and Robyn Metzger. Born on August 21, Mesa joins her brothers: Colt, Zane, and Blaze, and is also welcomed by grandparents, Bro. Gary & Sis. Beth Metzger here in Lester. We wish all of them God’s blessings and guidance as they experience the joys of having a new little girl in their home!

Several loved ones from our congregation have experienced health problems or been hospitalized this past month. They include: Sis. Margene (Bro. David) Peasley, Sis. Barbara Moser, Melinda Popkes, Bro. Phil (Sis. Donna) Mogler, Randy Ludwig, and our convert, Brad (Sis. Linda) Klostergaard, who is spending time in the San Diego area for cancer treatment. We ask for God’s healing touch and for His grace and strength in these challenges along our journeys.

We bid “farewell” to Bro. Denis and Sis. Jackie Knobloch as they will be relocating to the McAllen, TX, area, but know they can be a blessing to the congregation there as they share of their talents in their new home. Though many miles may separate us across the land, our fellowship is a reminder that we are one body of believers.
We extend sympathy to Arlyn and Nancy Metzger in the loss of Nancy’s mother, Migulina Pagan, and ask that God can provide comfort for them and their family.

As schools and universities open again for the beginning of the fall semester, we think of our young people starting another academic year... For some, this is their very first experience under the tutelage of an adult other than Dad and Mom. For others, it’s the last time they leave home for “school” before beginning life in the working world. May each of them remember the safety net that their loving families and homes can be... their refuge if the storms of life threaten to overpower them.

**Iowa, Mediapolis**

*Kelsey Banwart, Tami Lanz*

It saddens our hearts to see our older brothers and sisters in church, pillars of faith, leaving us. At the same time, we are thankful their race is run and they can go on to their heavenly reward. Three dear ones have passed on this past month. We pray their families will feel God’s love and comfort. Sis. Edith Schrock passed away August 1. She is survived by her children: Ann and Greg Johnson, Jill Lucas, Bill and Karen, Joseph, and Daniel and Ruthann.

Bro. Eric Massner passed away August 6. He is survived by his wife, Sis. Norma, and their children: Randy and Mary Lynn, Sis. Lora and Bro. Ken Wuthrich (Bloomfield, IA), Ron and Donna, Dan and Pam, and Lynne and Matt Musselman.

Bro. Paul Wagenbach passed away on August 13. He is survived by his children: Bro. Marc and Sis. Monica (Taylor, MO), Bro. Colin and Sis. Barb, Craig and Michelle, and Gail Hudson.

Our hearts are very thankful when souls feel their need to come to the Lord in repentance. We rejoice with Krissa Lanz (Bro. Dave and Sis. Tami) and wish her God’s grace as she walks this path with Him.

We’d like to thank our visiting ministers this past month for willingly sharing God’s word. They were Bro. Darren Fehr (Sis. Nora, West Bend, IA), Bro. Mark Roth (Sis. Tammy, Congerville, IL), and Elder Bro. Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan, Taylor, MO).

**Iowa, West Bend**

*Becky Virkler, Jenny Banwart*

Once again the General Brotherhood Conference has come and gone. We are a very blessed people. May we look into the Word of Life and seek after the Spirit’s guidance as we strive to strengthen relationships.

Sis. Dorothy Zaugg and Sis. Joyce Nohl were able to spend a few days at the bedside of their sister, Sis. Mary Ann Baer (Princeville, IL), before God called her Home. Our sympathy and prayers go out to this family circle.

Prayers are also going out for those experiencing medical concerns. Hospitalized this past month were Darrell (Sis. Julie) Zaugg and Roy (Angela) Metzger. Let us never underestimate the power of prayer.

**Japan, Tokyo**

*Anna Inoue, Marie Inoue*

“He’s got the Whole World in His Hands” was the theme for this year’s VBS. Both our Shioda and Tokyo churches were so blessed by the efforts of the volunteers to plan and teach this year’s VBS. We are thankful for the record number of children who attended and pray that the message of Christ will continue to live in their hearts. A friend mentioned that her daughter has been praying and singing after coming to Bible school.

“In His Hands He’s Got the Little Bitty Babies.” Bro. Makoto & Sis. Anna Inoue rejoice in welcoming Kouta Otto. Ayana and Mika are doting sisters. Grandparents Bro. Akito & Sis. Marie Inoue and Bro. Ron & Sis. Edie Bollier (Indianapolis, IN) were all thankful to meet him as well.

All of the volunteers have safely returned to their homes. As the excitement of a busy summer comes to a close, we are so grateful for that our God truly does hold the whole world in His hands.

**Kansas, Bern**

*Sheri Edelman, Tiffany Menold*

“My sin – oh, the bliss of the glorious thought –
My sin – not in part, but the whole –
Is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more,
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
O my soul!” *Hymns of Zion #55*
Don’t these words stir up an overwhelming gratitude toward Jesus, and the price He paid on the cross? For those who have experienced that burden of sin being lifted, we can understand the joy that this verse contains. Sis. Lillian Brownlee (Bro. Steve and Sis. Selena, Sabetha, KS) shared, during her testimony, her experience of this burden being lifted in the special way God reveled Himself to her. We are thankful for her testimony and baptism, and pray for God’s blessings on her life. Elder Bro. Mike Leman (Sis. Deb, Denver, CO) was here for the weekend and we thank him and his wife for being with us.

Kansas, Ft. Scott
Karen Kellenberger
We rejoice that Kendra Bahr (Bro. Larry and Sis. Julie) has answered the call to repentance and given her heart to the Lord! May she find peace and joy as she seeks to work out her soul’s salvation.

“Come ye weary and oppressed, Jesus now is calling you; Come to Him, He’ll give you rest – Still he bids you come. Tho’ your sins like scarlet be, Jesus now is calling you; From your sins He’ll set you free – Still He bids you come. Jesus now is calling, Calling, calling, Jesus now is calling you – Calling you to come.” Gospel Hymns #539

Kansas, Kiowa
Janice Bahr, Millie Frieden
It’s that time of year again! Anxious mamas giving their babies one last hug and kiss as they drop them off for their first day at the river…. WHERE? The RIVER? No way would a mom do such a thing; maybe drop that precious child off for their first day of fourth grade; or college; or kindergarten; or maybe even day care. But no mother in her right mind would drop off her beloved child at a river where eminent danger and harm lurked at every ripple. Or would she? The Hebrew mother, Jochebed, took great pains to provide her child with safety and security as she carefully gave him one last kiss and laid him in the basket…carrying it down to the river Nile’s edge where she placed it in amongst the tall reeds. “And when she could no longer hide him, she took for him an ark of bulrushes, and daubed it with slime and with pitch, and put the child therein; and she laid it in the flags by the river’s brink.” Exodus 2:3.

She would certainly have pleaded to God above for His watchfulness over this child. She would have prayed for her baby to be happy and not cry for his Mommy. She would have prayed exceedingly for faith and courage for herself to bravely release this child of hers into the clutches and dangers of the world. And just as this Hebrew mother of old trusted God to care for her baby, we mothers of this present day must also place our trust and faith in God to care for our children as we drop them off at their first day of a new adventure! And yes, we just know that as Moses’ mother turned away to go back without her little one by her side, she would have shed tears….probably many tears. But what a great Plan our Heavenly Father had in mind for this child who began his Great Adventure that day! And likewise, we must have faith to allow our children to begin their Great Adventures in life as well….trusting in the Almighty to protect, to guide, and to surround our precious offspring with His undying Love and Mercy!

Hospital patients this month have been: Sis. Marie Tucker, who had heart stent replacements; and our little Emma, 9 year old daughter of Bro. Matt and Sis. Courtney Schupbach, who was hospitalized for a severe infection. We pray our Great God will heal these loved ones completely and they will soon be assembling with us again!

Thanks to all the visitors who have made the effort to come by Kiowa and worship with us this summer! We are situated in a rather out-of-the-way location, one that is not really on the route to anywhere, but, none-the-less, God has preserved a handful of us out here on the wind-swept prairies of the Kansas/Oklahoma border! We so covet any visitors who would worship and fellowship with us!

Kansas, Lamont-Gridley
Dorene Metzger
Bro. Glen Anliker recently fell
and fractured his ankle, which required surgery. His wife, Sis. Lorean, has not been well. Bro. Victor Edelman recently has another eye surgery. Sis. Liseten Strahm was in the hospital for 10 days with pneumonia. She has been transferred to Presbyterian manor in Emporia for rehab. Ecclesiastes 12:1-5 are a graphic picture of the aging of this body of ours.

“Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come high, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them; while the sun, or the light, or the moon, or the stars, be not darkened nor the clouds return after the rain; In the day when the keepers of the house shall tremble, and the strong men shall bow themselves, and the grinders cease because they are few, and those that look out of the windows be darkened, And the door shall be shut in the streets, when the sound of the grinding is low, and he shall rise up at the voice of the bird, and all daughters of music shall be brought low: Also when they shall be afraid of that which is high and fears shall be in the way, and the almond tree shall flourish, and the grasshopper shall be a burden, and desire shall fail: because man goeth to his long home, and the mourners go about the streets.”

Changes are hard for us as we grow older and/or we grow less able to go about capably as we once did. May we hold up those dear ones in prayer daily.

Bro. Brad Eisenmann (Sis. Cindy, Chicago, IL) added to our spiritual refreshment as he spoke the Word one weekend while they were here visiting their daughter, Sis. Julie Luthi (Bro. Michael)

We are excited that Bro. Tom and Sis. Andrea Koch have moved to Andrea’s home church from San Diego, CA. Sis. Andrea will be on the faculty of Emporia State University in Emporia. Bro. Tom will be employed with Vectek, Inc. as an engineer. As a small congregation, we are blessed to have additional brethren with which to fellowship.

The recent conference is past. We thank the Roanoke, IL brethren for hosting this event, praying God’s blessings on them. We are blessed to have our leadership brethren so conscious of seeking God’s will as they perform as our under-shepherds. We thank and appreciate them.

We are enjoying the combined hymnals so much. When we have singings, one selection after another is announced as young and old keep finding songs of real meaning to them. One such song is Make Me a Blessing, the chorus of which says: “Make me a blessing, Make me a blessing, Out of my life may Jesus shine; Make me a blessing, O Saviour I pray, Make me a blessing to someone today.”

Note of Thanks:

We are so humbled for all the cards and visits we have received during our health concerns. May our Heavenly Father bless all for being a Blessing in our lives.

Bro. Glen and Sis. Lorean Anliker

Kansas, Sabetha
Crystal Hartter, Brenda Nenadov

We want to express our thanks to Bro. John Baumgartner (Sis. Lori, Bern, KS) for ministering God’s Word this month.

Our prayers have been extended to Keelan Beyer (Koertland and Sis. Rebekah) as he lost part of a finger in an accident. May God’s blessings of healing and comfort be with him.

The new Sunday School term will begin September 10. We thank our out-going teachers for their years of service in teaching our youth and pray for wisdom and guidance for those who will start their term.

Welcoming Abe William into this world on August 18 are Bro. Jed and Sis. Whitney Harter and big brother Calvin. Thankful grandparents are Bro. David and Sis. Beth Harter and Bro. Rodney and Sis. Arlene Grimm. Sis. Lois Grimm is Abe’s great-grandmother also from our congregation. May God bless this family as they seek His wisdom in raising their family.

Kansas, Wichita
Max Reimschisel

What a blessing to have visitors. It was such a joy to have ministers and some other family members to come and share their love with us this month. Our visiting ministers were Bro. Rod Bajema (Sis. Sue, Lester, IA), Bro. Alan Shambach (Sis. Sarah, Remington, IN) and Bro. Christopher L. Kuenzi (Sis. Mary, Silverton, OR). We certainly
enjoyed each of them sharing the word and reminding us to give our hearts to the Lord in repentance and walk faithfully with Him.

Hymn #95 in the Zion’s Harp encourages us: “Follow me, the Saviour calleth; Come to me, I am the way! What is lacking I will give you; Trust in me and watch and pray! Follow me in true submission; I have borne all your transgression; Learn of me; both great and small, Meekly, humbly hear my call.”

Family vacations and family reunions were important events this month before school begins again. Our congregation was rather small at times, but we were thankful for the promise in Matt. 18:20, “for where two or three are gathered together in my name, there I am in the midst of them”.

A prayer of intercession to God for wisdom and understanding was made for our elder brothers at this year’s conference. We trust that they may minister insight and direction for the direction of our church.

We love to have visitors stop in at any time and share.

**México, Barra Vieja**

**Alisha Ramirez**

“For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.”

Matthew 18:20

We are a small church with a lot of love to share. This past month we welcomed Endi and Sis. Alisha Ramirez and their two children: Juana, and Tim as part of our congregation. We know they will be missed in Magdalena, but we are grateful God has led them to our area. Please keep them in your prayers during their time of transition.

This year has held a lot of changes and many difficulties for individuals in our church. During the end of March our church experienced a huge loss when 4-year-old Odalis Judith Ramirez Delgado was killed in an accident. She is survived by her grandparents, Bro. Bartolo Ramirez and Sis. Virginia Angelito; her parents, Ricardo Ramirez, and Anabel Delgado; and her sister Daniela. August 11 was an especially hard day because it would have been her 5th birthday, but we are grateful for the hope we have in Jesus that she is in heaven with Him.

The last week of July, Sis. Virginia Angelito spent a week in Morelia, MX at a cancer specialist. On August 1,, she began chemotherapy treatments at a local hospital. Please keep Sis. Virginia and her family in your prayers as she has begun her fight against cancer.

VBS started on July 31. We are thankful for the sisters who came from Ixtlán, MX to teach classes to the children. Each day about 60 children were served. Classes were held in two locations to better serve the children of the surrounding towns.

This month women’s Bible study has started here. We are beginning with the study of Ruth. At our first Bible study, six women were present, an excellent turnout.

We were all excited. Please pray that these women would have open hearts and minds, and be ready to receive the Word each time we meet together.

It is our desire to receive the support of visiting brothers and sisters and continue to pray for a local minister. We are in need of Sunday school teachers, Bible study leaders, and a community of Christians to fellowship with and help grow our small church. The people of Barra Vieja are hungry for the Word and looking for those willing to lead and teach them. Please consider visiting to support the believers here. For details on how to arrange a visit and contact information please email Sis. Alisha: alisha.ramirez@hotmail.com. For information about serving in Barra Vieja, please contact your local elder.

“Then saith he unto his disciples, the harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.” Mathew 9:37-38

**Mexico, Ixtlán**

**Ruth Gerber**

“And Asa cried unto the LORD his God, and said, LORD, it is nothing with thee to help, whether with many, or with them that have no power; help us, O LORD our God; for we rest on thee, and in thy name we go against this multitude. O LORD, thou art our God; let no man prevail against thee.”

2 Chronicles 14:11
We were reminded this morning in church that numbers do not determine the outcome in God’s work. Whether in Asa’s battle, in Gideon’s, in the shrinking group of disciples that remained with Jesus after His hard sayings…God seeks faithful men and women that will obey Him, and He will show His power.

One of the opportunities for our small church to see God’s faithfulness this summer was in Vacation Bible School. We truly are a small group of those that have no power and are going “against a multitude.” Praise God for His faithfulness and for the way He answered the prayers of so many of you that lifted us up this year! All glory goes to Him, and yet we want to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of Sisters Gloria Gonzalez, Lupita Sibaja and Hermila Montejano who planned and organized the many necessary details for this work. We also thank the Lord for those that came to help from far away: Sis. Kelly Waldbeser (Fairbury), Sis. Sarah Stahl (Princeville), Sis. Samantha Kieser (Bradford), Sis. Joelle Maibach (Rittman) and Bro. Pedro Gonzalez (Tecate). Their help was invaluable without a doubt. Several of our sisters also traveled to Barra Vieja to help with their VBS. May the Lord reward all those that gave financially for prizes and other expenses. We were privileged to work with close to 300 children and young people here in Ixtlan, and know that His presence was with us, keeping everyone safe and in peace (Yes, even through the noise and rowdiness of the young people). It is always a treat to hear so many children singing together, and it is wonderful to know that God’s love through you can touch even one little child! Though we cannot yet see the fruit of this year’s labor, we trust that His Word will not return void.

We are thankful to know that Sis. Lourdes Sibaja, who was hospitalized this month, is recovering. Also Bro. Francisco Herrera is feeling better and is able to worship with us again.

We are also glad to welcome Sis. Berta Gonzalez back to Ixtlan after an extended stay in the U.S.

**México, Magdalena**

Laura Ricketts

“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.” Lamentations 3:22-23.

As we heard recently here at church, everything we are and have we owe to Jesus Christ. The universe continues, our hearts beat, we breathe and have our being because He sustains us. Thank God for His abundant mercies and His faithfulness every day!

We wish to express a sincere thank you to all the volunteers and interns who assembled with us this summer as they served at Casa Vida y Esperanza. May God bless them as they return to school and careers in the USA. We also appreciate the many volunteers who visited us the first week of August and helped make the annual Expo Esperanza (Hope Exposition) a reality.

“The mission of Expo Esperanza is to develop leadership, responsibility, and technical skills in today’s youth through experiential learning programs that encourage proactive involvement at community and personal levels.” We witnessed this in many of our young people this summer as they learned to care for animals, grew in technical expertise, and fine-tuned their art, music, and communication skills in preparation for Expo weekend which took place August 3-5.

Just as the excitement of Expo was waning, excitement came to the Leman household with the arrival of Willow Josephine on August 5. Bro. Adam, Sis. Jenna, Mariela, Fernanda, Perla, Leo, Mili, and Violet are happy to welcome this sweet baby girl. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Jeff and Sis. Val Leman and Bro. Dave and Sis. Terri Mueller, all of Bluffton North, IN.

Our prayers are with Doña Angelica Roman as she continues to suffer health problems. Yubal and Yoani, two young boys who had been living at Casa Vida y Esperanza, returned to live with their father, Jesus Huaraqui, this month. We were thankful to have him and the boys at church the following Sunday and are prayerful that they will continue to attend.
A small work team from various churches joined us in fellowship on August 13. They were here to complete renovations in the grade school at Colegio Verdad y Vida before classes began on August 21. May God bless them for their labors.

As we transition into a new school year, our prayers go out to all the teachers and students in our midst that God would bless the teaching and the learning, and that He would be glorified through all!

**Michigan, Alto**

**Renee Steffen, Heidi Kaeb**

“As I walk through some valleys or across barren land, I must trust God completely to hold onto my hand. Never once has He left me lost or alone. If I’ve felt that way, it’s a fault all my own.

When the sun is shining bright up above, I have no doubt of God’s absolute love.

But then come the clouds and I fumble about, not listening to the Small Voice, I begin to doubt. I forget that His hand is reaching out to me and all I need do is get down on bended knee.”\textit{ibG.res}.

We are currently walking through a valley with Bro. Matt, Sis. Shelli, and Judah Oesch. Our prayers ascend to the Father on their behalf throughout every day. We are praying for Judah’s siblings: Kirs, Fritz, Truman and Weston, as well as grandparents: Bro. Tom, Sis. Michelle Oesch, Bro. Joe, Sis. Melva Oesch, and Keith and Dore Fischer. “We know He holds tomorrow and we know He holds our hand.” May this entire family, including aunts, uncles and cousins, feel the prayers holding them up and the Hands of the Father embracing them.

Our prayers were also with Sis. Joan Schrenk (Bro. Tom) as she had surgery this past month. We are very thankful to see her recovering by the touch of the Master’s Hand.

We were blessed by two visiting ministers this month: Bro. Bill Wabel (Sis. Carol) from Bay City and Bro. Myron Knobloch from Lester, IA. Thank you dear brothers for lending yourselves to be of service here in Alto. It is always a joy when we get to share in the blessings of these brothers who are visiting their families.

Grandparents Bro. Martin and Sis. Michele Blough, along with Aunt Gina, are so excited to welcome another granddaughter into their family. Joyona Shoshana was born to Peter and Melissa Schrock.

The last weekend of July we were blessed to have Bro. Ed and Sis. Deb Graf and Bro. Chad Kaeb from Leo, IN who came to give us a Gateway Woods presentation. What a blessing it was to hear about God’s work in the many facets of this ministry and to hear the life-changing stories of youth who greatly needed guidance in a Christ-centered home.

It is with mixed emotions I write this next bit of news. Sis. Mindy Wettstein has moved back to Lamar, MO and Bro. Derek Stoller is moving back to Fairbury, IL as both have completed their schooling in this area. Each one added so much to our small congregation. We will greatly miss their sweet fellowship, kind hearts, and huge interest in the unconverted youth. May God go with each of you as He leads your lives. Our prayers go with you.

**Note of Thanks:**

The Lord is faithful and prayer has been answered as Spencer received in the mail this day that the FFA has granted him a full medical clearance to continue his flying. Thanks for the many, many faithful prayers given on Spencer’s behalf. Very heart-warming to sense the faithfulness of our great God. – The Plattner’s

**Michigan, Bay City**

**Sarah Knochel**

We rejoice with Sis. Natasha Schlatter as her engagement to Bro. Heath Gerber (Rittman, OH) was announced recently. We pray that God would guide this young couple as they make preparations for their life together. Parents are Bro. Jay & Sis. Carola Schlatter and Bro. Joe & Sis. Ann Gerber.

We continue to pray for those who are experiencing trials of physical health. We want to remember Eileen Groeschen and Sis. Barb Knochel and pray that God would stand by their side during this time of suffering.
Our Sunday School Picnic was held on August 26. We also hosted an Invite-a-Friend weekend. The weekend was a blessing to all who participated.

This Michigan summer was beautiful. All too quickly it is time for our young people to return to school. Our prayers are with each of them that the school year would be safe and free from harmful influences. We pray that our children could continue to stand up for Jesus and be a positive light with all they come in contact.

"Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:6-7

Michigan, Detroit
Carrie Ramseyer

With great anticipation, the congregation begins to sing the familiar words to the Zion's Harp hymn #212: “The Lord is my Shepard, no want I’ll suffer…”

Heads turn to watch the procession. Preceded by her bridesmaids, the bride appears in the sanctuary doorway. As she gracefully begins her walk down the aisle, the groom smiles. The moment they had been preparing for has finally arrived – two shall become one in the sight of God. The marriage of Bro. Caleb Ramseyer (Bro. Mark and Sis. Kelly Ramseyer) and Sis. Autumn Gasser (Bro. Randy and Sis. Sue Gasser) this past August reminded the congregation of Christ's love for the Church.

Much as the Detroit congregation looked forward to the wedding, all Christians look forward to the day Christ will return to Earth to claim His bride. How wonderful the celebration will be when that day comes!

We would like to extend a warm welcome to Tyrel Steidinger from Champaign, IL. As part of his traveling nurse career, he will be working at a metro Detroit hospital.

Woodhaven Retirement Community celebrated its 30th Anniversary this August. Celebrating with a hymn sing and cupcakes, we thanked God for being with Woodhaven's ministry.

During the month of August, all children in elementary and middle school have been participating in the GIFT program on Wednesday nights. GIFT – Growing in Faith Together – teaches students to love and memorize the Word of God. The program will conclude at the end of August as Michigan prepares to go back to school.

We would like to thank Bro. Doug Harmon and Bro. Chet Manz from Toledo, OH, for ministering to the Woodhaven residents and friends last month. The Detroit congregation would also like to thank Bro. Ken Wuetrich (Sis. Lyn) from our Indianapolis church for sharing God’s Word the morning of the wedding. Additional visiting ministers in attendance were: Bro. Chris Wuetrich (Sis. Carla) from Chicago, Bro. Greg Stieglitz (Sis. Lisa) from Indianapolis, Bro. Steve (Sis. Jane) Stieglitz from Leo, Bro. Justin Koch (Sis. Marcia) from Washington, IL, and Bro. Bill Waibel (Sis. Carol) from Bay City. Thank you for being with us! We are thankful for the friends with which God has blessed the Detroit church. As always, feel free to come back anytime!

Minnesota, Minneapolis
Brenda Messner, Renee Messner

A special thank you to Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Tamara, Wolcott, IN) for ministering this month. We so enjoy their fellowship when they are here visiting family in Rochester.

We hold little Brysen Swinton, son of Ben & Chelsey and grandson of Bro. Doug & Sis. Sue Messner in our prayers as he recovers from a ruptured appendix and surgery. Our church family will be so thankful to have Brysen back in church healthy, happy and playing again.

Please remember Sis. Ethel Bednar's daughter, Trudy Nielsen, from Richmond, MN as she battles ovarian cancer. Trudy is also our Sis. Sandy Bentz's aunt.

Minnesota, Morris
Ashley Knobloch, Heidi Pfaffmann

We are thankful for the visiting ministers this month, including Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Sis. Clara, Bloomfield, IA), Bro. Josh Zimmerman (Sis. Molly,
Forrest, IL), and Bro. Dale Moore (Sis. Cheryl, Elgin, IA).

Our thoughts and prayers continue for the elder brothers as they have met in Roanoke, IL for the Brotherhood Conference. We are so thankful for all they do to warn and watch for our souls and trust God will guide each of us in His ways. We’ve been encouraged as we listen to the conference recordings.

“Amid life’s busy, hurrying throng,
The gay, the sad, the weak, the strong,
While I am travelling along,
I want my life to tell for Jesus.
I want my life to tell for Jesus!
That everywhere I go Men may his goodness know,
I want my life to tell for Jesus!”
Gospel Hymns, I Want My Life to Tell, #761, vs. 1

**Note of Thanks:**

My family is humbled at the outpouring of concern at the loss of our loved one, Sis. Janella Zimmerman. Our hearts are comforted that preparation for her soul in eternity was made in her young years. Shortly after her funeral, I witnessed the testimony and baptism of a loved one of three score years and ten plus three years who repented for his sins, was converted and made restitution, is at peace with God and man and was baptized. Thus, we observe the new birth of a Christian in Christ; and we observe the death of a Christian in Christ. All glory and honor is given to our Heavenly Father for His boundless love and mercy. “Thank You” does not adequately cover the gratitude we’ve experienced for each one’s kind and generous deeds, thoughts and prayers. May God bless and reward according to His Will. In Christian Love, Della Luthi

**Minneapolis, Winthrop**

*Becky Braulick, Julie Schmidt*

“Thus united and in concord let us walk the path of life; Hand in hand, O may love bind us for each other’s welfare strive.”

Zion’s Harp #237

Many prayers were offered up as our elders gathered together for the annual Brotherhood Conference. May God grant wisdom and guidance to our shepherds in this day and time.

We also want to send a heartfelt thank you to the church in Roanoke, IL for hosting the conference this year. It is a blessing that so many can come together in unity and to feel the presence of the Holy Spirit.

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

Our sympathy and condolences to Sis. Verna Bruns on the death of her brother-in-law, Eddie Bruns of Gibbon, MN; Jean Stresemann (Randy) and family in the passing of her mother, Marvel Johnson of Gibbon, MN; and Karen Smith and Colleen Waugh and families in the death of their nephew, Eric Howk of Mankato, MN. May they feel God’s comforting arms around them in their grief and sorrow.

Hospital patients this month were Andric Rubendall (Vanesa Isaacson and Kent Rubendall) and Duane Stamp (Sherri). We also continue to pray for all those with ongoing health issues and concerns.

**Missouri, Kansas City**

*Julie Webel*

This past month we were blessed to witness the baptism of our convert Carolyn Geran. We welcome Sister Carolyn into our fellowship in Christ. Bern, KS elder Bro. John Lehman assisted Bro. Randy for the weekend. Ministering Bro. Myron Knobloch from Lester, IA was also with us this month as was Bro. Klint Beyer from Sabetha who gave a Friday evening talk on HarvestCall. We thank God for the teachings from God’s Word through these brothers.

**Missouri, Lamar**

*Jayla Wettstein*

We want to express our gratitude to our visiting ministers this month. Bro. Gary Sinn (Sis. Paulette, Latty, OH), Elder Bro. Wayne Grimm (Sis. Rose, West Bend, IA), Bro. David Marquart (Sis. Lori, Taylor, MO), and Bro. Doug Brewer (Sis. Janelle, San Diego, CA).

The last weekend of July we were thankful to host a young group invite. We had brethren from, Bloomfield, Mediapolis, Burlington, Sabetha, Bern, and...
Garden Grove. We were honored to have Elder Bro. Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA), who was willing to talk on our topic of Following God’s Will. Saturday night we had an object lesson on our topic. We decided to have invisible grape juice to look like water and water with yellow food coloring to look like lemonade. The lesson was that we need to discern the spirits, because they may not be what we see. We may just need to step back and really listen to what God is telling us. We were thankful for a great weekend of fellowship and making new friendships.

Missouri, Taylor
Anneliese Lindberg,
Rachel Reinbeck

Greetings from Taylor! What a blessed and fast summer it has been. We can hardly believe it is already coming to a close!

This month we were so glad to sing “Ring the Bells of Heaven” as Christina Richardson began her repentance! What a wonderful beginning to the last month of Summer!

This month we were also delighted to celebrate Bro. Zach Sutter (Bro. Jim and Sis. Kris Sutter) and Sis. Allison Hinrichsen’s (Bro. Mike and Sis. Gerri Hinrichsen) wedding on July 23 in Goodfield. We are so excited to welcome Sis. Allison into our Taylor congregation!

We have been blessed with the following visiting ministers in the last month: Bro. David Prevo (Sis. Tara, Bloomington-Normal, IL), Bro. Jeremiah Psinas (Morton, IL), and Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS). We are grateful for the time and effort they put into traveling and sharing from God’s Word.

Taylor has had a short break over the month of August from Sunday School while electing new teachers. Those put in were Bro. Joe Knochel, Bro. Quinton Snyder, Bro. Ben Lindberg, Sis. Lindsey Knochel, Sis. Dianne Sutter, Sis. Lisa Massner and Sis. Heather Snyder. We are grateful for their willingness to teach and for the number of children in our Sunday School classes!

Missouri, St. Louis
Sarah Fehr

This month we especially think about our children who are going back to school. This year we have a few who are starting Kindergarten and many who are older. May God be with our children and protect their hearts and minds. It can be so hard to send our little ones out into the big world, but let’s trust that God is working in their lives and will continue to do so.

On the other end of the spectrum is college/university. We are thankful to have Bro. Alex Funk from Peoria, IL, attending dental school in the area. Also joining us while attending SIUE is Bro. Toby Steidinger from Fairbury, IL. We welcome these brothers and look forward to getting to know them better!

New York, Croghan/Naumburg
Hope Graves

We thank ministering Bro. Jay (Sis. Linda) Steffen, Congerville, IL, for coming to share God’s Word on the weekend of July 23. We also would like to thank those who have served lunch for our congregation. This is very much appreciated by all.

Our church enjoyed our annual picnic at Happy Hollow Campgrounds on August 5. It was a beautiful day for fellowship and the rain held off until the very end.

We share in the joy of three new births. Rochelle Cowan had baby Lilith Rose on July 6. Emery Rae was born to Bradley and Bryn Virkler on July 6. Ayla Ann was born to Ambrose and Alyssa Bush on July 26. Ayla joins brother Axel at home. May the Lord bless these families as they raise these new little ones.

Justin Hirschey was married to Caitlin Schantz on August 12. We ask for the Lord’s guidance and strength in their lives together.

Our prayers for healing go out to Sis. Norma Conde who is recovering from a fall.

We thank the Lord for safety and His presence for our annual brotherhood conference at Roanoke, IL. We wish many blessings to the many hands that worked together for this very special gathering. We look forward to listening to the recordings in the weeks ahead.
Ohio, Akron
Carla Miller

We appreciated our visiting ministers this month: Bro. Joel Troxel (Sis. Amy, LaCrosse, IN), Bro. Clint Schmidt (Sis. Magdalena, Winthrop, MN), Bro. Kevin Banwart (Sis. Sandy, West Bend, IA), Bro. Jon Zeller (Sis. Christie, Morton, IL) and Bro. Mark Steiner (Sis. Sue, Smithville, OH).

We are grateful to share that Matthew Gal (Bro. Roger and Sis. Judy) has turned to the Lord in repentance.

Cashton Henry Steidl joined the family of Bro. Mark and Sis. Megan, Conner, Maverick, Kanaan, and Jachin on August 4. His grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Nan Steidl and Bro. Ken and Sis. Carol Rupp (Rittman, OH).

Our thoughts and prayers have been with Nathan Botosan (Bro. Victor and Sis. Tammy) as he has been in the hospital.

Sympathy and prayers are extended to Sis. Evelyn Baumgartner in the passing of her brother, Delbert Winkler.

Ohio, Columbus
Nancy Banks

Thank you to our visiting ministers this month: Bro. Dan Stoller (Sis. Debra, Remington, IN), Bro. Chet Manz (Sis. Jenny, Toledo, OH), Bro. Kevin Banwart (Sis. Sandy, West Bend, IO), Bro. Rick Kaisner (Sis. Michelle, Chicago, IL) and Bro. Todd Sinn (Sis. Jane, Latty, OH). It was a blessing for us to have them here to fellowship with us and we are thankful when they bring family and friends also.

The church was invited to Bro. Nate and Sis. Becca Steiner’s for a summer cookout and potluck dinner. We appreciate their willingness to open their home for an evening of fellowship.

While driving home from church yesterday, we chose a “long way” home instead of the interstate which is pretty busy on Sundays. We noticed the green fields, lawns and crops as we were driving. This time of year usually presents us with brown grass and withering plants from lack of rain and high temperatures. It has been an unusual year with plenty of rain and lower temperatures. In today’s sermon, our visiting minister spoke of the difficulty with excessive rain during the spring planting season this year. He had to come to the realization that there was absolutely nothing he could do about it. We all have to arrive at that point in our lives that there are times there is nothing we can do, but wait upon the Lord.

Ohio, Junction
Elizabeth Manz

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

We are so thankful that God is still moving in the hearts of men and women, convicting and drawing them to HImself. Ellie Stoller (Bro. Neil and Sis. Sandy) and Nathan Schlatter (Bro. Warren and Sis. Cindy) have made a decision to follow Jesus and have turned to Him in repentance. We lift them up in prayer as they learn to listen and follow His voice.

Bro. Travis and Sis. Lilly Schlatter were blessed with the birth of Jeremiah Richard on August 11. Big brothers Joshua and Danial are excited to welcome another boy into the family. Jeremiah’s grandparents are Bro. Russ and Sis. Vera Manz and Bro. Denny and Sis. Laurie Schlatter.

We recently switched our Sunday School classes for the coming year. Bro. Travis Schlatter, Bro. Scott Manz and Sis. Minnie Manz have been asked to begin their terms as teachers. Sis. Linda Schlatter has completed her term and we thank her for her dedicated efforts.

Rose Foltz has been struggling with some health issues this past month and we lift her up in prayer. We are thankful that Bro. Matt Manz (Sis. Deanna, Toledo, OH) and Bro. Fred Domka (Sis. Connie, Mansfield, OH) were with us over the past month and shared the Word.

We have started listening to the Conference Recordings and hope to continue throughout this coming month. We desire Truth and pray that we can have hearts and ears open to it.

Ohio, Latty
Carmen Stoller, Mindy Stoller

Greetings of love in our Savior’s name! We appreciate our visiting ministers this month.
including: Bro. Kent Getz (Sis. Betty, Elgin, IA), Bro. Darren Massner (Sis. Twila, West Bend, IA), and Bro. Clark Stoller (Sis. Cindy, Gridley, IL). Thank you for being with us!

We are thankful that our convert Dana Rosswurm (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Amy) has expressed feeling at peace with God and is awaiting baptism.

Congratulations and God’s blessings to Audrey Greear and Taylor Reichert as they were united in marriage on August 12.

Our love and sympathy is extended to Sis. Deb Klopfenstein (Bro. Leon) on the passing of her mother, Sis. Mary Baer (Princeville, IL). May the Holy Spirit comfort during this time.

Ohio, Mansfield
Elizabeth Walter

Bro. Anthony Baumann (Bro. Dave and Sis. Luci) and Sis. Anne Beery (Bro. Aaron and Sis. Lynne, Rittman, OH) recently began their married life together. We pray that God will bless and guide their steps as they experience the joy of walking as one in Him.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to Bro. Wayne Hartzler (Sis. Camille, Rittman, OH) for serving us over the pulpit. May God richly bless each one who is willing to be a vessel for the preaching the Word.

Our sympathy and prayers go out to the family and friends of Sis. Betty Pamer, who recently went to rest in the arms of her Savior. We think of her husband, Bro. Joe, and her children: Steve, Bro. Doug (Sis. Linda, Sarasota, FL), and Bro. Greg (Sis. Sharon), as well as many grandchildren.

We are very thankful for Sis. Betty’s place in our church, as she was a shining example of peace throughout her life and extended illness. We pray that God will provide for each one who will deeply miss her presence here.

Our hearts go out to our Sis. Marilyn Beer, who recently began a battle with cancer. We pray God will be with her and grant her grace to be strong in the days ahead.

We are thankful for the efforts of our elder brothers as they met and labored for the good of the church body at the recent Brotherhood Conference. May each one feel a special blessing from Heaven for their labors of love, and may we do our part to stay true to our Christian walk.

Ohio, Rittman
Julie Steiner, Maria Beery

We are thankful to report three engagements and four weddings that impacted our congregation this month. Joined together in marriage were Bro. Anthony Baumann from Toledo (Bro. Dave and Sis. Lucy, Mansfield) to Sis. Anne Beery (Bro. Aaron and Sis. Lynne), Tom Hilty (Bro. Roscoe and Sis. Wanda) to Angela Pollick, Jerry Riggenbach (Joe and Sis. Karen) to Sarah Wernitz, and Bro. Blake Maibach (Bro. Glen and Sis. Lois) to Sis. Tresa Hartzler (Bro. Dan and Sis. Jennifer). Announcing their engagements were Bro. Kevin Dotterer (Bro. Gary and Sis. Sandy) to Sis. Leandra Bahler (Bro. Mike and Sis. Jody, Wolcott), Bro. Jesse Stoller (Bro. Eric and Sis. Melanie) to Sis. Lydia Steiner (Bro. Matthew and Sis. Gail), and Bro. Heath Gerber (Bro. Joe and Sis. Ann) to Sis. Natasha Schlatter (Bro. Jay and Sis. Carola, Bay City).

Congratulations and God’s blessings to each couple!

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

We rejoice with our four new converts and pray many more will seek God while there is time! They are Rebecca Nussbaum (Bro. John and Sis. Cynthia), Josh Kipfer (Bro. Jon and Sis. Suzanne), Charity Gasser (Bro. Aaron and Sis. Deb), and Clint Gasser (Bro. Mark and Sis. Jill).

In the midst of our rejoicing, we want to remember Sis. Kathleen Shane (Bill) in our prayers as she laid to rest her brother, Delbert Winkler.

“And again, I will put my trust in him. And again, Behold I and the children which God hath given me.” Hebrews 2:13

We are thankful for God’s leading in the lives of Bro. Andrew and Sis. Julie Steiner as they were given two children to raise and love as their own.

On August 15, the adoption of Calvin Andrew and Rosa Lynn took place. We enjoy having them as part of our church family.
On August 4, Bro Ken and Sis. Carol Rupp welcomed another grandson, Cashton Henry Steidl. Cashton joins his parents, Bro. Mark and Sis. Megan (Akron) and older brothers: Conner, Maverick, Kanaan, and Jachin.

On August 5, Bro. Bob and Sis. Lorie Riggenbach gained another granddaughter, Lacie Marjorie. Parents are Bro. Tim and Sis. Crystal Zollinger (Smithville) and siblings are Ashlie, Sawyer, Stuart, and Kamri.

Bro. Orin Rufener (Sis. Anna), Sis. Linda Zollinger, Sis. Martha Zollinger (Carl), Malaya Stoller (Bro. Dean and Sis. Brienna), and Sis. Kim Hanzie (Tim) spent time in the hospital this month. We trust they will continue to heal.

We appreciate the ministers who have visited us this month. Thanks to Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Sis. Jeannine, Mansfield), Bro. Doug Harmon (Sis. Lanna, Toledo), Bro. Andy Fetzer (Sis. Elizabeth, Smithville), Bro. Adam Uhler (Sis. Ann, Smithville), Bro. John Steiner (Sis. Carol, Mediapolis), Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sis. Linda, Sardis), Bro. Dana Indermuhle (Sis. Joy, Sardis), and Bro. Marvin Zollinger (Sis. Pam, Smithville) for serving us.

**Ohio, Sardis**

**Faith Beard, Joy Indermuhle**

We are thankful for the many visitors we have had in Sardis over the summer months. Recently, Bro. Bruce Frank (Sis. Bonita, Cissna Park, IL) was with us for a weekend. Their visit was a blessing and we thank Bro. Bruce for bringing forth the Word to us on Sunday.

Sis. Jodi Klotzle (Rittman, OH) spent the month of July in our area as she filled an internship with one of our local companies. We were refreshed by her enthusiastic and loving spirit. May God bless her as she continues her studies this Fall.

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

Our congregation rejoices as another child has joined our church family. Welcoming Jett Liam Amos are his parents, Bro. Anthony and Sis. Jill, and big brothers, Brayden and Cruz. We are thankful for his safe arrival.

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

We thank our elder brothers for the time they spent during the week of the Conference, in meetings for our good. May God richly reward them in all Eternity.

**Ohio, Smithville**

**Millie Stoller, Connie Maletich**

Our congregation was blessed to have several visiting ministers share the Word of God. Elder Bro. Dave Graf (Sis. Barb, Akron, OH) and Bro. Marvin Hartzler (Sis. Sue, Rittman, OH) joined us to celebrate the wedding of Bro. Cole Rudy (Patty Sense and Edward Rudy) and Sis. Mariah Beery (Bro. Dwaine and Sis. Shelly).

We rejoice with Bro. Cole and Sis. Mariah and wish them God’s richest blessings.

Bro. Chet Manz (Sis. Jenny, Toledo, OH) came to encourage us on a Wednesday evening. Bro. Bob Dotterer (Sis. Laura, Sardis, OH) spoke to our congregation on the topic of Child Rearing. We thank each one who has given of himself to further the Gospel.

Babies are always a miracle. Jack and Carol Wilson feel especially blessed to be first- and second-time grandparents since Zane Allen joined Bro. Travis and Sis. Anne Wilson (Milford, IN) and Benson Charles was born nine days later to Bro. Josh and Sis. Jackie Fiechter (Bluffton, IN). Elliot James brightened the home of Jonathan and Claudia Hort and also made Bro. Andy and Sis. Elizabeth Fetzer first-time grandparents. Likewise, Bro. Tim and Sis. Crystal Zollinger, Ashlie, Sawyer, Stuart and Kamri lovingly welcomed Lacie Marjorie into their family. Lacie’s grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Becky Zollinger and Bro. Bob and Sis. Lori Riggenbach (Rittman, OH).

“I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid, I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord: and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.” Psalm 32:5

Our hearts were thrilled to hear that Noah Riggenbach (Bro. Jason and Sis. Gwen) has yielded his heart to the Lord in repentance.

Bro. Austin Beery (Bro. Aaron and Sis. Lynn, Rittman, OH) and Clay Gucker (Bro. Garth and Sis. Pam, Smithville) were with us recently. Their visit was a blessing and we thank them for their time with us during the Conference meetings.
Sheila) have both spent time in the hospital. We continue to pray for them as they regain their health.

Ohio, Toledo
Whitney Masters, Alisia Schlatter

As school begins for many children and college students, we are reminded that life continues on with many changes around us. Yet, God continues to be a constant, no matter what life brings our way.

We have had a few changes in our Toledo congregation this last month. Bro. Stuart and Sis. Sarah Kilgus have felt the Lord’s direction to move to Rockville, CT. We will miss them here, but wish them God’s richest blessings as they adjust to their new home. We welcome Bro. Clark Schlatter, who has moved back to Toledo after pursuing additional schooling in a different area.

Many of us attended the wedding of Bro. Anthony Bauman and Sis. Anne Beery in Rittman, OH. We are thankful they will be attending our church for a little while longer as they finish up their schooling. We also welcome the new and previous college students back for another school year.

We appreciated the visit of Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Remington, IN) on a recent Sunday. We are grateful to all our ministering brethren for their willingness to serve our churches across the land.

Ontario, Kitchener
Johanna Fortenbacher

We had Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Sis, Bev, Detroit MI) one evening. For a while now, he has had good visits with Emily Mathisen and her brother, Morton. Both of them have a love for God and desire to be a follower of Him. We rejoice with them and truly ask everyone to pray for them that they would to continue having the love of all things godly.

“And be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is the good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God.” Romans 12:2

As a visitor advised us to answer; “I am blessed” when we feel we are. This time we are truly blessed to have these ministers come and help us here. The ones that came are Bro. Nick Waibel (Sis. Sandra, Francesville, IN), Bro. Eric Strassheim (Sis. Jody, Indianapolis, IN) and Bro. Chad Gerber (Sis. Jami, Bluffton, IN).

We are anxiously waiting to host the baptism of Elmer and Alma Gingrich and hearing their story of their life’s journey with God on August 27. Yes, we are certainly blessed!

Oregon, Portland
Louisa Gallup

Last month we had the pleasure of having Bro. Jim and Sis. Diana Butikofer and their family visit us from Iowa City, IA. It was very nice to have them with us for the day. May the Lord bless Bro. Jim for his willingness to minister unto us. The support and fellowship of the Butikofer family was much appreciated.

Also enjoyed with gratitude, was the local support from ministers and song leaders of the Silverton, OR congregation. Visiting ministers from there were: Bro. Harvey Kuenzi (Sis. Jennifer), Bro. Don Sinn (Sis. Linda) and Bro. Chris Kuenzi (Sis. Mary).

Oregon, Silverton
Kelsey Walder, Ann Kuenzi

We were blessed with many visiting ministers this month. They were Bro. Mike Leman (Sis. Lisa, Portland, OR), Bro. Curt Walter (Sis. Elizabeth, Mansfield, OH), Bro. Brent Walder (Sis. Naomi, Rockville, CT), Bro. James Fehr (Sis. Brenda, Tremont, IL) and Bro. Merlin Meyer (Sis. Marilyn, Lester, IA).

Saturday July 22, was the annual Sunday School picnic. The children were having a lot of fun.

Sunday July 23, we welcomed Bro. Derrick and Sis. Adeline Kuenzi with a wedding reception. Parents are Bro. Art and Sis. MaryBeth and Bro. Eric and Sis. Erika Graf, Rittman, OH. We wish them the Lord’s blessings and welcome Sis. Adeline to our Silverton congregation.

Chad, Elisheba and Ayden Kerr are excited to welcome another son, Gavin Jeremiah, into their home. He was born July 28. Excited grandparents are Bro. Peter and Sis. Elizabeth Folia.

“Invite-a-family” was held the weekend of July 29 and 30. By the
looks of the sunburns on Sunday, it appears they all had a wonderful time at the beach. These weekends are a huge blessing for our church.

On August 5 and 6, the single brethren hosted an “invite-a-friend” weekend. We appreciated their joyful attitude and beautiful singing voices.

Our hearts are sad for Sis. Jennifer Kuenzi (Bro. Harvey) in the loss of her grandmother LaVerne Bittner. She was currently residing at Fairview Haven. May God comfort Sis. Jennifer’s heart, as well as her family.

Our prayers continue to be with Bro. Chuck Walter (Sis. Karen) and Sis. Peggy Young (Bro. Terry) in their ongoing health concerns. Mathew Dettwyler (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Jill) broke his arm and is sporting a cast.

Saturday August 5, Jake Rainey and Marissa Kuenzi were united in marriage. Bro. Nick and Sis. Mary are Marissa’s parents. We wish them God’s blessings.

August 13, Sis. Tressa Sinn (Bro. Mark and Sis. Elsie) and Bro. Nathaniel Leman (Bro. Tim and Sis. Beth, Morton, IL) were united in marriage. Here also for the weekend to assist Elder Bro. John Wiegand were Elder Bro. Ted Witzig, Sr. (Sis. Cindy) and Bro. Jeremiah Psinas, both from Morton, IL. We wish many blessings on Bro. Nathaniel and Sis. Tressa as they make this big step in their lives. We will miss Sis. Tressa. Our prayer is that she will bloom where she is transplanted.

Pennsylvania, Philadelphia
Laura Isch

Proverbs 15:33 “The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom; and before honour is humility.”

It is always good to sit under the instruction of the Word. We appreciated ACCFS presenting two topics to the Philadelphia church: purity and overcoming grief and hurt. It was a blessing to have Bro. Matt Kaufmann (Bloomington, Sis. Rebekah) and Bro. Arlan Miller (Gridley, Sis. Katie), and their families with us for a special weekend. We also appreciate these brothers sharing the Word across the pulpit. May God bless their efforts and may the seeds of the Word bring forth fruit in our lives.

Our prayers were with our elder brothers during their meetings and the general conference. May God grant them much wisdom and provide each of us the grace to walk humbly and sincerely.

Tennessee, Nashville
Mike Fritz

We rejoice with Junior and Micie Medina as they welcome a new daughter, Luna Joy, into their hearts and home. Grandparents are Bro. Mike & Sis. Monica Fritz. Bro. Don Sauder was recently hospitalized, but we are thankful he is now doing better.

Bro. Ezra Fritz recently moved to Indianapolis for employment. We will miss him in Nashville, but pray he will be richly blessed in this new chapter of his life. We know he will be warmly welcomed by the Indianapolis congregation.

We were recently privileged to witness the testimonies and baptisms of Sis. Patience Stoller (Bro. Jeff & Sis. Cynde) and Sis. Selena Fritz (Bro. Mike & Sis. Monica). What a joy and encouragement it is to see the Lord working in the lives of young people!

We are thankful for our numerous visiting ministers this month, who have so willingly shared God’s Word and God’s Love. Our visitors have included: Bros. Bill Wettstein (Sis. Heidi, Eureka), Kevin Banwart (Sis. Sandy, West Bend), John Hartman (Sis. Rosemary, Fairbury), Chris Wuetrich (Sis. Carla, Chicago), and Elder Bros. Tom Waldbeser (Sis. Sue, Peachtree City) and Marvin Dotterer (Sis. Nancy, Forrest). Also, we have been enriched by the fellowship of many visitors from Athens, AL; Peachtree City, GA; Bradford, Chicago, Eureka, Gridley, Roanoke, Remington, Tremont, IL; Francesville, Indianapolis, Leo, Wolcott, IN; Elgin, Mediapolis, West Bend, IA; and Philadelphia, PA, as well as some local visitors.

If you are traveling to or through the Nashville area, please plan to fellowship and worship with us. We meet for worship every Sunday and the first and third Wednesday evenings of the month, and appreciate other opportunities for fellowship. Please contact us ahead of time to confirm our schedule.
are Bro. Jeff & Sis. Cynde Stoller, 309.530.5760, cyndelynnstoller@gmail.com; or Bro. Jordan & Sis. Emily Fritz, 615.852.9109, jordanmfritz@gmail.com.

Texas, Austin/Bastrop
Candy Meiss

Sending our Love and Greetings from Austin/Bastrop!

We are thankful for all of our visitors, and for our visiting ministers: We praise God for each of them and are grateful for all who assemble with a desire to worship. Bro. Duane Reutter (Sis. Kay, Rockville, CT), Bro. Dan Koch (Sis. Julie, Tremont, IL) Bro. Kent Mogler (Sis. Mary, Minneapolis, MN) and Bro. Jeff Fischer (Sis. Gloria and family, Fort Scott, KS). We pray a special blessing on each for their labors of love.

Everyone enjoyed sharing a special celebration of the marriage of Sis. Katie and Bro. Santos during their Texas wedding reception at the Austin/Bastrop church.

John: 15:11-12 “These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full. This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.”

We also bid farewell to Sis. Joanna Gerber and Sis. Cassidy Wulf who spent their summer in Bastrop. We will miss their sweet smiles and their presence in our Austin/Bastrop church community.

It was a blessing to have Brother Garret’s family and three young members from Dallas visit.

Phil. 1:9-11 “And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment; That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ; Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.”

Let us remember to pray for our nation and its leaders as our Austin/Bastrop Bible study this week reminded us. As the world gets louder, it becomes harder to hear God’s still small voice.

“And after the earthquake a fire; but the Lord was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice” 1 Kings 19:11-12

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).

Vermont, Clarendon
Nathan Reutter

As a child I always wanted to know why. When the Bible simply states, Thou shalt not lie, I have always wondered why. The Bible gives no explanation. God feels we should believe this commandment and obey it without clarification.

I was surprised to find an answer to my question of why lying is hurtful in Fyodor Dostoyevsky’s masterpiece, The Brothers Karamazov. Dostoyevsky anticipated many principles later established by trained psychologists. One of those psychological insights is about lying. In this book is a religious leader, who makes the following comments.

Above all, don’t lie to yourself. The man who lies to himself and listens to his own lie comes to such a point that he cannot distinguish the truth within him, or around him, and so loses all respect for himself and for others. And having no respect, he ceases to love. And in order to distract himself without love he gives way to passions and coarse pleasures...

Avoid fear, too, though fear is only the result of falsehood.
Although I could never express these sentiments in words, much of what this says rings true to me. I never realized the extent of degradation lying leads to, how it is connected to an absence of love, and its profound connection to fear. Lord, keep me from the sin of lying, especially to myself!

Visiting ministers this month who encouraged us with simple Biblical truth included Bro. Jay Steffen (Sis. Melinda, Congerville, IL), Bro. Warren Zahner (Sis. Bonnie, Rockville, CT), and Bro. Jeff Gerber (Sis. Carole, Rockville, CT). We are thankful Bro. Jay and Sis. Melinda brought their family with them as it added fellowship for our children as well as us.

**Remembering...**

— *Continued from pg. 70*

has given his life to the service of the Lord, we can now believe he is resting — Safe in the Arms of Jesus.

“At the present time, I cannot say just where Dale is buried, but you can find where we were on that day from the newspapers. If there is anything else you would like to know, I will be glad to give you all the information possible under the circumstances. I will close by again wishing you comfort from the Lord in your days of sorrow.”

*by Perry Klopfenstein*

Next Issue: More on Dale Aeschleman

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**Church bolstering continues in Lamar, MO**

**Is God calling you to answer the call?**

The Lamar, MO congregation recently met with the Church Establishment Committee (CEC) to explore ways to “bolster”/grow their congregation. As a result, they are asking for your prayers in this important work and that God would move hearts to join their congregation of approximately 30 (singles, families, children). If you feel God calling you and have a heart to serve in a small church, inquire to CEC@Harvestcall.org. Employment opportunities abound in the medical, agriculture and educational areas and can be explored online on the HarvestCall Small Church Job Opportunities page or by contacting Lamar Job Opportunity Coordinator Bro. Mark Wettstein at markdwettstein@gmail.com.

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**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
Phone: (507) 288-0072

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

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**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*).
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.
- **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: bibledistribution@acpublications.org
AFTERNOON AGENDA

The agenda can easily accommodate those with just an afternoon or evening available. Please feel welcome to attend according to what your schedule permits.

3:30  Registration and Opening Songs
4:00  Welcome and Opening Prayer
4:05  Motives for Ministry:
     Why we Do What we Do
     Bro. John Huber

4:35  Introduction to Ministry Breakouts
     Five Topics — Choose Two
     Hospital Lumiere
     Eastern Europe
     Haiti Dairy
     USA
     USA Winter Ministry
     Generating Change

4:40  Ministry Breakout Session 1
5:15  Ministry Breakout Session 2
5:50  Understanding the Gospel
     Bro. Kirk Plattner

6:20  Supper

7:00  Forum Introduction
     Ten Topics* — Choose Three

7:05  Forum 1  Select a Forum Topic to Attend
7:30  Forum 2  Select a Forum Topic to Attend
7:55  Forum 3  Select a Forum Topic to Attend

8:20  Ensuring Sound Doctrine as we Minister Cross Culturally
     Bro. Stan Virkler

8:50  Closing Hymn and Prayer

EVENING AGENDA

*See brochure for Forum Topics.

For Attendance & Overnight Accommodations
Please RSVP by October 14, 2017

Bro. Fred and Sis. Kayla Manz at
Phone: (419) 769-0147 | Email: kaylajmanz@gmail.com
**Team Information**

**Mexico Medical / Dental Teams**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR 2017</th>
<th>PROJECT</th>
<th>CAPACITY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept 13-19</td>
<td>Juarez</td>
<td>40</td>
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</table>

**Haiti Medical / Dental Teams**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR 2018</th>
<th>PROJECT</th>
<th>CAPACITY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oct 7-14</td>
<td>Orthopedic Team</td>
<td>FULL</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 28-Nov 4</td>
<td>Dental</td>
<td>FULL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 9-16</td>
<td>Cervical Cancer Screening – Mobile Clinics</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**COORDINATOR FOR ALL MEXICO MEDICAL TEAMS:**
Cheryl Herrmann | Email: cherrmann@frontier.com

**Haiti Teams**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR 2017</th>
<th>PROJECT</th>
<th>CAPACITY</th>
<th>COORDINATOR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<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></td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:lukenal@live.com">lukenal@live.com</a></td>
</tr>
<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></td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:andy@getzitdone.com">andy@getzitdone.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 10-17</td>
<td>Agricultural (SEED/HDP)</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Art Mueller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Les Cayes</td>
<td>Phone: 608-751-2645</td>
<td></td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:art.marlene.mueller@gmail.com">art.marlene.mueller@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 15-20</td>
<td>MEBSH/Haiti Support ACHC-CC</td>
<td>Jon Zeller</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Les Cayes</td>
<td>Phone: 309-266-9009</td>
<td></td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:jczeller1972@gmail.com">jczeller1972@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<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></td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:lane.gerber@gmail.com">lane.gerber@gmail.com</a></td>
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**Mexico Teams**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>PROJECT</th>
<th>COORDINATOR</th>
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</thead>
<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 Teams:**

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

**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
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.

Phone: 011-509-4222-1004
Email: komarick@sbcglobal.net

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. The 2018 Awareness Tour dates are March 24-28 and September 22-26. To learn more, contact:

Rich Bertschi at 309.467.2351 or hospitallumiere@harvestcall.org
Rick Wuerthrich at 219.863.4163 or rick@wuerthrichfarms.com

Local Auction Representatives:

Bluffton, IN – Mike Bertsch - mikebertsch@hotmail.com or 260-223-3582
Elgin, IA - Sandy Butikofer - lbutikofer@iowatelecom.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@lemanauto.com or 309-988-6035
Princeville, IL - Carol Martin - carolmartin1126@gmail.com or 309-337-0031
Rittman, OH – Alice Widmer - alice.widmer@jmsmucker.com or 330-464-7402
Sabetha, KS – Don Plattner - 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 - jonricketts7@gmail.com or 309-444-9061

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

Haiti, Bonne Fin Construction 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. Phone: 011-509-4222-1004
Email: komarick@sbcglobal.net
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 _________________________

q Mr.  q Mrs.  q Miss

Spouse ________________________

Address _______________________

City ____________ St ___ Zip _____

Home Ph _______________________

Cell Ph _______________________

Email _________________________

Please check preference:

q Haiti Student  q Jamaica
q Haiti School  q Guatemala
q Mexico  q Zambia
q Wherever needed

If possible, I prefer:

q Boy – Age _______
q Girl – Age _______
q No Preference

Send to:
HarvestCall Child Sponsorship
PO Box 36
Morton, IL 61550
Phone: 309-266-6080
Fax: 309-266-5281
Email: childsponsorship@harvestcall.org

Interested in receiving a printed sermon?

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

Apostolic Christian
HarvestCall

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

Apostolic Christian
HarvestCall
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.

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

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.

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

For more information contact: Bro. Brent Hodel, 309-231-7467 or 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

Openings at Cite Lumiere, Les Cayes, Haiti

Mechanic, Construction Department Assistant

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 Phone: 239.541.4312 | admin@thenewbeginnings.org
CAREGIVER OPENING
at Casa Vida Y Esperanza; Magdalena, MX

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 caregivers 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 caregivers 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

CAREGIVER ASSISTANT OPENING
at Casa Vida Y Esperanza; Magdalena, MX

Seeking caregiver assistants, single or married, willing to support a caregiver in our Christ-centered family-like homes for children who have been pulled from their homes due to circumstances out of their control. A caregiver assistant 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 assistant responsibilities include: Support or provide spiritual leadership and training for the children; support the caregiver in providing for the daily physical, social and emotional needs of the children; continual pursuit of personal emotional and spiritual growth; continual professional growth as an assistant; administer discipline in love and using biblical principles in accordance with CVE policies; grow in cultural knowledge and sensitivity.

Terms of Service
- Live on or near the CVE campus, may include living in the home 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
Caretaker Needed for TN Fellowship Area

With the planned relocation of current caretakers, Bro. Bruce and Sis. Lisa Aschilman to other property in the area, the TN Fellowship Board of Directors is seeking to fill the position of Caretaker for the TN Fellowship Area property. For those who may consider God’s call to this work, this is a fulfilling opportunity to care for this property, which includes a two-acre lake; support the Athens, Alabama church and spread the gospel into the surrounding communities.

Position Description
As caretakers, the couple or family would live in the property apartment, which can comfortably accommodate 2-6 people. In addition to keeping up the apartment, they would also be responsible for:

• Grounds keeping -- primarily mowing the grass, weeding flower beds and spraying weeds.
• Lake Richard Maintenance -- feeding the fish, chemical administration for moss and algae and aerator maintenance.
• Preparation, hosting (as applicable) and clean-up for activities held on the property annually, including Memorial Day Weekend.

Desired Personal Qualities
• Servant Heart -- willingness to serve as a caretaker and support a smaller Apostolic Christian Church in Athens, Alabama.
• Enjoy working outside.
• Integrity – demonstrate high spiritual standards and be a committed Christ-follower.

For More Information
Contact any of the following brothers or view the Tennessee Fellowship Area Facebook page:

Tom Waldbeser
TN Fellowship Board and Elder of the Athens church
Phone: 678.416.6586  Email: twald2010@att.net

Phil Witzig
TN Fellowship Board President
Phone: 815.200.9555  Email: pwitzig@kuhlco.com

Daron Price
TN Fellowship Board and Athens Ordained Deacon
Phone: 256.445.2853  Email: daronprice@gmail.com

About the Tennessee Fellowship Area/Athens Church
The Tennessee Fellowship Area is a place where Apostolic Christian people can come from across the nation to worship God in a quiet country setting, enjoy fellowship and/attend events. In all activities, our heavenly Father and His son, our Lord Jesus Christ, are to be honored. In addition to Memorial Day Weekend activities that have occurred for 24 years, the area is also used for picnics and fishing. Families traveling in the area can also stay overnight using camping facilities and RV hookups. The Athens Apostolic Christian Church is located approximately a half hour south of the property. The property and the church are located in the Bible Belt where Southern hospitality abounds.
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HOME-BASED WORKER</th>
<th>FOSTER CARE CASE MANAGER</th>
<th>TEACHER</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full-time position</td>
<td>Full-time position</td>
<td>Full-time position</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more information:

gatewaywoods.org/careers
888-443-4283
Continued Articles

Romans 14: Biblical Remedy

— Continued from pg. 3

as He washed the dust of denial and betrayal from the feet of His disciples knowing they would all forsake Him. Even with that knowledge, He still demonstrated the perfect picture of “accept” in serving and love. Is this picture a reflection of the way we treat, esteem, look at, talk to, or talk about those believers who have differences in lifestyle or conviction than us? Let us receive them in the biblical sense of this word.

The final condition in resolving a disputable matter is to seek peace. Scripture clearly teaches us to “follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.” Are we willing to put peace with our brother or sister above our passion in a disputable matter? When we overemphasize the importance of issues that vary among the brethren, it only spreads the seeds of discord. The enemy wants to use differences among us to wedge apart and divide us. Satan is well aware that it is possible to take very minor issues and turn them into some major mountain that splits apart the unity of the brotherhood. Paul states that “the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty.” This means our enemy deceives by very sneaky means. In using disputable matters to divide the flock, the devil craftily uses minor differences to win major victories against the kingdom of God.

Imagine a flock of sheep dividing and biting each other because of petty preferences in the texture and color of the grass they prefer. How much more difficult is it for the shepherds to keep the sheep together and protected from wolves? Paul exhorts us to “endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” Endeavor is an action word. It takes effort, energy, and perseverance. When we mix sincere love of the brotherhood with this endeavoring, it has the power to pull out any roots of bitterness that may be growing in our hearts. Jesus instructs us that when we love each other as He loves us, the world will identify us as His followers. When we divide and argue disputable matters, just what does the world see in the church? Are we not shining personal flashlights in each other’s eyes and compromising our born-again witness while there are millions of souls stumbling in darkness and needing the light of Christ’s truth and love and grace?

In conclusion, there are three conditions laid out in Scripture to deal with disputable matters among believers: examining our own heart, receiving each other in love, and seeking peace. Although Satan works hard to sow discord and bitterness in the church, if we are willing to pursue these three virtues, it disarms him of many of his fiery darts. Each sheep in the flock of God is special to the Shepherd. He designed us, guides us, leads us, and uses us each in a very personal and unique way. Even though all the sheep have the same Shepherd, yet this Shepherd is intimate with each of us and desires all of his sheep to be at peace with each other and Him.

(Footnotes)

1 John 13:34-35
2 Phil 2:3
3 Luke 6:41-42
4 Rom. 14:5
5 1 Cor. 10:23
6 Luke 6:41-42
7 Rom. 14:1
8 Rom. 15:1-2
9 Phil. 2:4
10 Heb. 12:14
11 2 Cor. 11:3
12 Eph. 4:3
13 John 13:34-35
about the bondage we found ourselves in. We can think about the separation from God. We can think about the condemnation that sin had brought in our life, and we wondered how can we go free from that bondage?

Then that call came, and through the grace of God we were able to lay aside the things of the old life. Through God’s grace we were able to repent. We were able to bring forth a confession of the sin that was a part of our life, and we were ready and willing, weren’t we, to allow God to take us and to mould us and to make us into a vessel that was fit for the Master’s use. We had a willingness, didn’t we, to be led by God, to be taught by God, to do whatever He asks us to do.

I think of it at times — we had a willingness to go and make right with those who we had done wrong. Yet as we go through life and perhaps put a few years behind us, do we have that same willingness? Do we have that same desire to serve God, to do His bidding, to make right perhaps where we have erred and been a stumbling block in the life of someone else? Are we still willing to go and ask for forgiveness?

It wasn’t easy back then, was it, but God’s grace was sufficient. We found the blessings in going and asking for others to forgive us. Perhaps we had some that we needed to go back to who knew very little, if anything, about our faith or what we were trying to do, and yet didn’t amaze us sometimes when we felt that forgiveness? Back in our days, the communication was a little different. We perhaps sent out a letter, and a letter came back. I know I was amazed for some who I received a response, and they were willing to forgive.

Yet why do we find it so hard yet today to humble ourselves and to seek the forgiveness first of all from God and from others when there is error in our ways or perhaps we’ve done something. It may not even be that sinful, but we caused hurt in this life. May we be willing! Sometimes it’s in our closest relationships — in our marriages and in our families — and yet we find it difficult. Satan likes us to find it difficult to go and ask for forgiveness. He tells us it’s not necessary. He tells us it’s not that big of a thing. He tells us it can wait until another day, and Satan allows those walls to be built up and those chains to again come and the gates to again be shut. What a blessing it is when we find that deliverance and we can be willing to go!

“...And when he had considered the thing, he came to the house of Mary the mother of John, whose surname was Mark; where many were gathered together praying.” (v.12) We’re reminded again that they were praying, and may we be prayerful for those in bondage, for those who have burdens and crosses to bear. May we be prayerful one for another that God will sustain them and help them and deliver those that are in bondage.

“So Peter knocked at the door of the gate. A damsel came to hearken, named Rhoda. And when she knew Peter’s voice, she opened not the gate for gladness, but ran in, and told how Peter stood before the gate.” (v.13-14) She was so excited that she didn’t even open the door for him! We wonder how that must have made Peter feel, and yet he was persistent wasn’t he? He continued to knock, and in due time they came to the door.

There were others that didn’t believe it could really be Peter. I think of those no doubt praying for his deliverance, and yet when he was delivered, they didn’t believe it! Are we praying with belief that God can deliver, that God can provide even in very difficult situations? Do we pray in hope? We recognize that we need to also pray that God’s will be done even as Jesus Christ prayed in the Garden. I believe He prayed with hope and with faith, and yet He prayed, “Not my
will, but thine, be done.” May we be prayerful and may we pray in faith, believing.

“But Peter continued knocking: and when they had opened the door, and saw him, they were astonished. But he, beckoning unto them with the hand to hold their peace, declared unto them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison…” (v.16-17)

What a wonderful testimony, and he wanted to share it, didn’t he? We think of that as souls come with repentance and they feel that bondage removed. Isn’t that desire great at that time to share that with others? May that desire continue with us to share what God has done for us and is willing to do for mankind. May we be willing, as we’re given opportunities, to share the miracles in our lives, to share the blessings that God has bestowed upon us, to share what God has done in our individual lives.

Sometimes we’re asked to share that in an obedient life. It may not even be words that we say, but I’m amazed sometimes how often people recognize a walk of faith. I’m amazed sometimes how often people recognize that there is something different about this individual or about that individual. It may be 99% of the people do not even notice it, but there may be that 1% that sees something different in the heart and in the life of one that is walking for the Lord. May we be willing to be used by God, and may we be willing to let our light shine.

“…And he said, Go shew these things unto James, and to the brethren. And he departed, and went into another place.” (v.17) Peter had a desire that there would be others that would know of the deliverance that he had experienced.

I think it is good if we think a few moments on the Old Testament Scripture that we read this afternoon. As we read through the Book of Job, we see a lot of different thoughts and emotions of Job. As we could read this chapter, it seems that Job was pretty discouraged. Job was weary. It says here, “My soul is weary of my life…” (v.1) There are times in our lives when we have a little bit of understanding of that or perhaps quite a bit of understanding of that in our lives. We become pressed down with the things of this life. There are things that we see that discourage us, things that we see that we would like to perhaps have more control of, and they’re not in our control.

Sometimes as parents we see children going down a path, making decisions that bring us discouragement. Sometimes we see those that had been close to us, and perhaps they are walking in a way that we have a lot of concern about. We can become discouraged. Certainly Job had many reasons to become discouraged. His family and things of this life were taken from him. He suffered a great deal physically. Those physical distresses can cause a lot of discouragement in our lives when they come upon us.

He cries out to God. We know he is trying to understand God and how these things could all come upon him. “Remember, I beseech thee, that thou hast made me as the clay; and wilt thou bring me into dust again? Hast thou not poured me out as milk, and curdled me like cheese? Thou hast clothed me with skin and flesh, and hast fenced me with bones and sinews. Thou hast granted me life and favour, and thy visitation hath preserved my spirit. And these things hast thou hid in thine heart: I know that this is with thee.” (v.9-13) It seems Job is torn here. He knows that God has the power to do so much. God had the power to create him and to place him here upon this earth. Yet he became discouraged because of all the trials that came upon him. We can become discouraged with those things that come upon us. Yet do we recognize that God is the creator. God is the one that placed us here. God is the one that, it teaches

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us in another place, formed us in the womb (Isaiah 44:2, 24), placed us here upon this earth. God is the one that placed us here, and He has a purpose for your life and for mine.

We may go through some times of difficulty and discouragement because God has an opportunity for us through that to be a light and a help to someone else. As I think back on my life, some of the individuals that have been wonderful lights to me have had lives that have been very difficult. They've lost spouses. They've lost children. They've had some mental difficulties. They've had physical infirmities. Yet through those distresses, they have been a light to me and no doubt many others in this life.

For some of us, when we look at our lives and think of the lives of other individuals, it seems our burdens pale in comparison. Even those that are faced with great difficulties and great burdens like some of those that I mentioned, not only do you have an opportunity to be light to others, we’re reminded through the Word that God is faithful and He will not give a greater burden than what His grace will be sufficient to bear. We can believe as Job went on in his life, he recognized that God was faithful to him.

“If I be wicked, woe unto me; and if I be righteous, yet will I not lift up my head. I am full of confusion; therefore see thou mine affliction.” (v.15) There are times in our life when we feel like Job. We’re full of confusion. We don’t understand the things that are taking place in our lives or about us. Aren’t there those times when we just need to lay it out before the Lord? Hezekiah just laid it out there, spread it out before the Lord. What a blessing it is when we can get down on our knees, or if we’re not able to do that in the particular situation, in our mind lay it out before the Lord, and God’s grace will be sufficient. He will help us, and He will guide us. It may not come as quickly as we think it should or that we would desire, but God is faithful and He will provide.

“Wherefore then hast thou brought me forth out of the womb? Oh that I had given up the ghost, and no eye had seen me! I should have been as though I had not been; I should have been carried from the womb to the grave.” (v.18-19) There can be times that we feel that way - how better it would have been in my life if I would’ve just gone from the womb to the grave or perhaps from the time I repented and became converted and was baptized to go to the grave at that point and not have to bear all the trials and discouragements that came and come in our lives! Yet as we’ve spoken about, God has a purpose. There are some that He’s going to place here for just a short, perhaps a very short time. Others He’s going to place here for many, many years. That is not ours to decide. It is not ours to take. It is God’s, and may we be willing, even in times of discouragement, to leave those things up to God.

“Are not my days few? cease then, and let me alone, that I may take comfort a little,” (v.20) When we consider eternity, the days here upon earth are few, aren’t they? When we’re in the heat of the struggle, the days don’t seem like they’re few. When the trials are pressing upon us, the days don’t seem like a few days. I believe as we visit with those that have walked many years here upon this earth, as they look back, many if not all, will say life is fleeting, the days are few. God calls us to be faithful in the days that He gives.

“Before I go whence I shall not return, even to the land of darkness and the shadow of death; A land of darkness, as darkness itself; and of the shadow of death, without any order, and where the light is as darkness.” (v.21-22) We equate death with darkness, don’t we, and yet we know that if
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Benjamin was not because he ate more. Joseph then challenges his brothers by placing his silver cup in Benjamin’s sack (Genesis 44:2). Joseph’s brothers respond to the cup found in Benjamin’s sack by renting their clothes (Genesis 44:13). In addition, Judah was willing to suffer wrong for what appeared to be the mistake of someone else (Genesis 44:16). Judah was willing to commit to all the brothers being slaves in Egypt, not just Benjamin. Judah’s devoted heart is once again revealed as Scripture recounts the pain of Jacob, and Judah pleads with Joseph to let him take Benjamin’s place in order to save Jacob from ultimately dying (Genesis 44:18-33).

Conclusion

Restoration and reconciliation in a relationship is a wonderful thing. Joseph himself weeps so loudly upon revealing himself that the Egyptians and the household of Pharaoh hear (Genesis 45:2). We see Joseph’s heart and his longing to have a close and restored relationship with his brothers. This story also reminds us that rebuilding trust is a process requiring patience and clear “markings” along the way. Joseph was patient, not rushing to give his brothers responsibility they were not ready to take. Finally, Joseph’s decision to restore trust was guided by the following principles, which are helpful for us to consider in our own relationships.

Principles for Restored Trust:

• Boundaries – are boundaries in my relationships clear and respected?
• Reliability – does the person repeatedly do what they say they are going to do?
• Accountability – is the person willing to own their mistakes, apologize, and make amends?
• Confidence – does the person hold in confidence what is shared with them and refrain from gossiping about others?
• Integrity – does the person choose to act from a place of integrity and practice, not just profess, their values?

Relationships affect every facet of our lives and maintaining God-honoring relationships throughout our life can be a challenge. ACCFS has developed numerous resources to assist individuals and the church family in the areas of boundaries, communication, conflict/forgiveness, and other aspects of healthy relationships. These resources can be found on our website at www.accounseling.org/relationships. If you would like more information, please contact ACCFS at (309)263-5536 or info@accounseling.org

Monthly Sermon

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we are ready, if we are prepared, if we have been faithful there will be a glorious resurrection. There will be a time of eternity where there will be no darkness, no death, no suffering, no loss.

There will be eternal light and joy and peace forevermore.

What a blessing to look forward to that time! What a hope we can have! When we walked in sin, we were walking in darkness. Even in this life as we repented, we felt light. We felt a measure of that change from darkness to light, and truly we have light within us today as we serve God. Beyond that, as we walk through the valley of the shadow of death, we have the opportunity to experience that beautiful light on the heavenly shore. May we press on! May we walk faithfully! May we serve God! May we live for Him each day of our life!
In 1945, Bro. Dale Aeschliman, 26, of Bluffton, Indiana, lost his life on Luzon in the Philippines. He was the son of Elder Sam Aeschliman, of Bluffton. The following is a letter to his family by Staff Sgt. Homer Reineck, Toledo, Ohio.

The Last Days of Dale Aeschliman

“Dear Brothers and Sisters in Faith. Now that I am certain you have heard of the untimely death of your son and brother, Dale, I am permitted to write you some of the details trusting these few lines may be of some comfort to you in your bereavement.

“We landed on the beach unopposed and the first night we bivouacked about eight or ten miles inland. When we had dug in for the night, someone told me that Dale was near, but it was too dark to go see him that evening. The next morning I went to see him a few minutes and as there was some delay in getting started, he came over during the morning to see me and we spent some time together. We were both thankful that we were so fortunate up to that time, but both realized there was worse ahead. His sergeant called him finally, and I saw him march past. We went on ahead in trucks and that afternoon we were sitting beside the road when Dale passed again. He was talking to someone and I had to call him several times before he noticed me. We exchanged greetings. He waved his hand and marched on. That was the last time I saw Dale alive.

“We stopped near there for the night and when our company left the next morning, another man and I stayed behind to guard a supply tent. The next day our first sergeant stopped by and told me, ‘Your old Buddy, Asch, got killed.’ I could hardly believe it and asked him several times if it could be a mistake. He finally told me he had seen his body, so I knew it to be true.

“I have heard several stories of just how he was killed, but these seem to be the facts. The day the 152nd first met enemy resistance, they were subjected to intense mortar fire during the late afternoon and several men were wounded. Dale and some of the other medics brought two of the injured men to the aid station, but there was another one farther out who needed aid. It was nearly dark, and they were still under mortar fire, but Dale wanted to go make the man comfortable in his fox hole, since it was too late to get him out that night. The other medics advised him not to go, but Dale couldn’t stand to let the man die without aid. He reached him and made the man comfortable, but on the way back, Dale was hit by a sniper.

“The bullet went in high on one cheek and came out the temple on the opposite side, so his death was instantaneous and there was no suffering. His death occurred about seven o’clock on the evening of January 31, 1945. Dale was one of the first three men killed in battle, but if he were to die, it was a blessing it came early. The rest of his outfit went through three weeks of misery beyond description and...injury.

“Dale was buried the next day in a temporary cemetery before I had a chance to see him. About a week later they moved him to a permanent cemetery and I saw him laid in his last resting place. It may be of some comfort to you to know that prayer was offered at his burial by one of his own Faith, a short prayer, but you can believe it was from the bottom of my heart. Dale was more than a brother to me, and his passing leaves a vacancy that can never be filled. Deeply as I mourn for him, I know it can never reach the depths of grief of those of his family.

“Knowing mortal words are in vain, I can only pray that God will comfort you in your darkest hours. It is hard to understand why Dale was taken, a fine Christian in his best years, but we can say, ‘God knows best.’ He died a brave man and a hero, making the supreme sacrifice for his country. Knowing Dale

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Zeal

The other day in my Bible study on Acts, chapter 9, I had as one of my prepared questions, “Why did God choose Paul (then Saul) to be a chosen vessel in his service, rather than Ananias?” Ananias was evidently a very faithful Christian to whom Christ appeared in a vision with instructions to go visit Saul because he is a chosen vessel.

In our discussion around the table, we talked about Saul’s qualifications which were his knowledge of the law and the fact that he had studied at the feet of Gamaliel, etc. Then someone said, “It is because of Paul’s zeal for the Lord.” Then I started thinking about zeal, and I am still thinking about it.

The dictionary says that zeal is enthusiastic devotion. I would add that it is that invisible and often unknown factor that causes a person to be willing to suffer discomfort and inconvenience for the cause or person in which he believes.

In Phil. 3:6 Paul later writes concerning reasons why he might glory in the flesh. He states, "Concerning zeal, persecuting the church.” He had a great zeal for preserving the status quo for what he believed, before his conversion to Christ. He was wrong, but he had zeal.

Paul writes to the Colossians, 4:13, concerning Epaphras, “For I bear him record, that he hath a great zeal for you.” To say that a Christian had zeal for serving the Lord and others, was a compliment.

In 2 Cor. 9:2, Paul writes to the church at Corinth, “Your zeal hath provoked very many.” Despite all of the problems in the Corinthian Church, at least some of them had zeal which caused others to be more faithful and more spiritually alive. Again, in the Bible, zeal for serving the Lord is complimented.

In Isaiah 9:7 we find these words, spoken of God concerning His sending the Lord Jesus Christ to die on the cross to be our Savior. “The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.” It took zeal on the part of the Lord Jesus, to be willing to suffer as He did, in order to be our Savior, so we can be saved.

There is an interesting statement in Acts 17:6, “These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also.” Paul and Silas, on their second missionary journey, did not have a very good reputation so far as the unbelievers were concerned. Actually, it was more the opposition to the Gospel that turned the world upside down in Thessalonica. The disciples’ zeal was good in the sight of God.

Believing that it was indeed Saul’s zeal that caused him to be a chosen vessel, we will examine zeal in the non-spiritual side of life. Thomas Edison had a zeal for discovery and invention. I once visited his study in a museum in Florida. If I remember correctly, he didn’t work in the daytime and sleep at night. He simply worked 24 hours a day and dozed when he became sleepy. He said, as I remember it, “Genius is 99% sweat and 1% genius.” He had a zeal that made him try, try, and try again.

Abraham Lincoln, as a young lawyer, saw slaves being auctioned off. At that time he reportedly said, “If I ever get a chance to hit slavery, I’ll hit it hard.” As president during the War Between the States, he suffered terribly, and anguished over the situation, but he did sign the Emancipation Proclamation before he was assassinated in 1865 at the age of 54 years. He had a zeal for what he believed.

I conclude that we should have a zeal for our faith that Jesus is the Son of God, who died for us.

-by Willis Ehnle
We shall come with joy and gladness,
We shall gather round the throne; ...
When the shadows have departed,
And the mists have rolled away.

Gospel Hymns #411