There is a God, He is alive
Our Church Family

As you receive this month’s Silver Lining, you have probably experienced some of the following events: the children finishing school, planting the garden, the busyness of late spring and early summer, tending to the lawn or other chores, planning your summer vacation, or just simply enjoying the change of season. Speaking of change of seasons, my wife and I recently were reminded that we are nearing the fourth quarter of our life expectancy. When we reflect on that, it reminds us of the many friendships across the land. As you peruse the monthly congregational updates, may your heart be filled with love and appreciation for our global church family. Each of our personal journeys is precious in God’s eyes. He cares and loves us so much that He sent His only begotten Son (Jesus Christ) to redeem us by His shed blood. “Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity…”

It would be our earnest prayer that your summer is blessed and that you will be motivated and encouraged in your walk with Jesus Christ, knowing there are thousands standing by your side with a common belief.

Hebrews 12:1, 2 “Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us. Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith;”

In Christian love,
Jeff Grimm and Rick Plattner, Counseling Elders

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Front Cover: Crater Lake National Park, OR, Bro. Jason Dotterer, Forrest, IL
Back Cover: Big Sable Light, Ludington, MI, Sis. Denise Romersberger, Washington, IL
Bear One Another’s Burdens

Editor’s Note: The Bible uses the term “one another” multiple times and it is clear God is very interested in our relationships. Jesus taught that the second greatest commandment is to love our neighbor as ourselves. In 2018, we will look at several of the “one anothers” in the Bible.

Theme verse: “Bear ye one another’s burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.”

At some time in our life we will face the necessity of bearing some type of burden ourselves, and we will have the opportunity to help someone else bear one of theirs. Burdens are defined in Webster’s 1828 dictionary as that which is borne with labor or difficulty; that which is grievous, wearisome or oppressive. We usually have little or no choice in the burdens we carry, and they come upon believers and nonbelievers alike. They may be related to physical or mental afflictions, sickness or disease, financial difficulty, relational problems, natural disasters, and the list continues. These burdens can be very personal such as a serious disease or relationship issue, or they can be more corporate in nature such as an entire community that suffers from a natural disaster. In virtually all cases, burdens are much easier when shared. By doing so we are obeying the scripture, “Bear ye one another’s burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.”

Using our gifts, abilities, and energy to assist someone in need is akin to loving God “with all thy mind, and with all thy strength.”

Even though it is God’s desire that we gladly assist one another in bearing our burdens, He does not expect us to provide beyond our means. “For if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not. For I mean not that other men be eased, and ye burdened: But by an equality, that now at this time your abundance may be a supply for their want, that their abundance also may be a supply for your want: that there may be equality: As it is written, He that had gathered much had nothing over, and he that had gathered little had no lack.” This New Testament scripture refers to the time when God provided manna for the Israelites in the wilderness of Sinai. When Moses told the people of God’s commandment, their initial obedience and mutual cooperation resulted in a miraculous provision. Later on, the people forgot the miracle behind the manna, and began complaining because they found their diet too monotonous. Their continual murmuring then developed into a burden for Moses, ”And Moses said unto the LORD, Wherefore hast thou afflicted thy servant? and wherefore have I not found favour in thy sight, that thou layest the burden of all this people upon me?” God answered Moses’ request by providing seventy elders of the people that “they shall bear the burden of the people with thee, that thou bear it not thyself alone.”

Bearing one another’s burdens can take many forms. James instructs us to “To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction,” while Job gave them both food and clothing. The prophet Isaiah suggests that bearing one another’s burdens is the true purpose of fasting and sacrifice: “Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke? Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh?” Dorcas, “full of good works and almsdeeds,” made coats and garments for the needy. Jesus relieved the burdens of a wide variety of people, “The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them.”

— Please turn to pg. 65
Sermon by
Bro. Jerry Wagenbach

2 Kings 2:1-18 & Ephesians 2

I’d like to bring greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. It’s certainly a beautiful day that God has provided for us to worship Him. As we think of the day that’s set aside for Father’s Day, we do want to give our heavenly Father that honor and glory that He’s so worthy of. Those of us that have come to know Him as our Father have such a love for Him. We also have a respect and love and honor for our earthly fathers. May we ever be thankful that we have had fathers of the faith who have taught us the ways we could follow after and pointed us to salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord. May we ever have thanks upon our hearts.

It’s an account (2 Kings 2) of one of those fathers of faith that we look unto. We’re so thankful for God’s Word and provision and those fathers of faith who were willing to maintain a faith and a trust in Him. It’s a beautiful example and pattern we can look to as we read through the Old Testament of those men who loved God, followed Him, and served Him. Yet we know without exception that these fathers of faith had trials and tests in their life.

As we can read accounts of Elijah, we know he went through very tough and difficult times in life. At one point he thought he was alone. Yet God told him there were many, many more who had not bowed their knee to Baal. As we live in this world today, sometimes we can become discouraged when we see the working of the enemy and his wide spread work throughout the world and many that seem to follow his ways. Yet we need to take courage and are so thankful when we can come together with brothers and sisters of like mind and faith. We can encourage each other to continue to be that light and example so we can point others to Christ that His kingdom could be furthered yet in this latter day and time.

As we read through some of these chapters in Ephesians, we know there are two states of man, the natural state and the spiritual state. We know we each one has that nature within us. We have the flesh, and we have the spirit. We know there’s a battle that’s ongoing in our lives as children of God, and we deal with this nature that is within us. Thanks be to God that through His power and His almighty strength we can overcome that nature. We know it can be quite a battle and war that goes on within our members, yet thanks be to God He can give us the victory through Jesus Christ our Lord.

I don’t think I could have selected any better chapters for a Father’s Day. We have read the account of Elijah and Elisha in the Old Testament. We have read here in Ephesians the accounts of the Apostle Paul and how he laid out the wonderful plan of salvation for mankind. It was built upon Jesus Christ, who became the solid rock, the foundation of our faith and our beliefs. It was built upon then by the apostles and the prophets pointing toward Christ and the need to build upon that solid foundation of Christ in order to have a successful life of serving God here upon this earth, Jesus Christ being the chief corner stone.

We know over the years of time there has been a continual building upon that foundation, upon those walls of faith. Those fathers of faith believed in this Word, lived this Word, denied themselves of the pleasures of this world, maintained a steadfastness and surety that this was a faith that was good enough to live by and faith that was good enough to die by. We can look unto them, and we can have a respect unto them. Why is that? Most of all, because they loved the Lord, is it not Dear Ones? They believed God.

We can read of those fathers of faith. We can read the faith chapter in Hebrews. We can see their faith was accounted unto them for righteousness. Even though many of them lived before the days of
Christ, yet they looked forward to that day when Christ would come to bring salvation to this earth, to bring redemption to fallen man. We can have eternal hope. That is the hope and strength that helps the believer walk the pathway of life, living day by day serving Him, believing in Him, knowing that we will follow and serve Him all the days of our life and know that He has a good end for those who bring their ship of faith to a good and blessed end.

It’s encouraging when we can read accounts like we read in the Old Testament. For one, we see that these men of God who had the Spirit of God within them, they too faced struggles in life. They dealt with a nature as well in their life. We know there was no one of these fathers of faith who lived perfect lives. Yet they had a desire, a trust, a belief in God, and wanted to do God’s will. I hope we too can have that same desire in our life even though we know we live in these wicked days and times where Satan is working so hard to destroy faith here upon this earth, to destroy those who believe and trust in God. There is a war going on in our lives and in all believers’ lives upon the face of this earth. Satan wants to be victorious, but we can be victorious over him through help and grace from God.

So this was the faith that Elijah and Elisha had. They trusted in Him. God said go here. God said bring this message or go there and bring that message to the people. They were not always easy tasks for these prophets to carry out. They certainly needed strength from God. We know Elijah faced great trial. His life was being sought. We know the many things that happened in the life of Elijah. He was able to overcome the prophets of Baal and destroy them through mighty works of God and the power of God that was shown unto him.

Yet we can see the weakness in Elijah and the weakness in his faith because of these trials and afflictions he faced. He fled from the king and the queen because he was scared for his life. Yet we can see along the way that God provided for him. He provided the water and the nourishment through the ravens when he was there by the brook. When he went to the mountain and hid in the cave, God came to him. He showed him His great power that He had, trying to strengthen the faith of Elijah. We know what motivated Elijah the most, what caused him to cover himself with his mantel. God spoke to him in that still small voice. That gave Elijah strength so he could go on. That’s the strength which you and I need day by day too.

Did we hear it clearly, that still small voice? God doesn’t come to us in a loud and boisterous way. He does not come as we hear the loudness of the world all around us and causes us to look here or to look there. God speaks to us in a sweet, still, small way. As we come around His Word, He reveals Himself unto us, and He points us on the pathway that He desires to follow, revealing Himself over and over again in our lives. When we’re searching for decisions in life, when we’re going through a trial or a struggle in life waiting upon God to help us through, we can say He has been so faithful unto us and unto Elijah and then unto Elisha. I believe that God saw Elijah’s faith was weak, and so He provided Elisha to carry on the work.

That’s the chapter we read when the mantel was handed over to Elisha. We can see Elisha’s spirit was right. He did not ask for greatness. He did not ask for high stature. What did he ask for? He asked for the double spirit of Elijah which we know is the Spirit of God. So as he saw Elijah ascend into heaven. We know the double spirit of Elijah and of God was granted unto him, the Spirit we need today so much for discernment, for help, for strength that we can endure the enemy, the afflictions, the crosses, and trials we face in this life. We know God was faithful unto them as He passed the mantel on to Elisha.

— Please turn to pg. 66
The Joy of Serving in Mexico
Mexico Committee

Editor note: As we canvased brothers engaged in Mexico on topics for a Silver Lining articles, one idea was "The joy of serving in Mexico" Having served in Ixtlan for several years, brother Grant Herrmann replied with an email not intended for publication. We felt it was worth sharing.

I personally cringe whenever I see a service/mission position advertised with a strategy of "Do you want to make a difference?" or "Are you looking to feel fulfilled?" or "Do you want to find true joy?". There most definitely is joy in serving in Mexico, but service is not where joy is found. The joy must be from within, unchanged by circumstance or calling, because service will not always feel good or glamorous.

In St. Luke 10, the 70 disciples returned to Jesus on a spiritual high, filled with joy, thrilled at seeing God’s power revealed through them. I think we all can relate to that same thrill of hearing ourselves speak better Spanish than we know, or watching a convert we've been doing Bible studies with make steps in spiritual maturity, etc. But we also know the feeling of discouragement when we really turn someone off by a cultural misunderstanding or when we watch the same convert get discouraged by conflicts within the church. For me, whether in Mexico or in the States, the feeling of joy in service is sporadic.

After the 70 return, it seems to me that Jesus felt their excitement with them, but then instructed them to not base their joy in what they are doing, but simply in the fact that they are saved.

The End of the Story…
Caribbean Committee

Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear. Matthew 13:43

Ferdinand Milaire had possessed a knowledge of God for most of his life. But like many others, he had never surrendered his life to Christ and become truly converted. When Ferdinand became hospitalized at Hospital Lumiere, the hospital chaplain Pastor Etheard visited Ferdinand. Through their conversation, Pastor Etheard learned that Ferdinand was not converted and shared the gospel invitation with him.

Pastor Etheard or one of his assistants visits all patients when they arrive at Hospital Lumiere. To the chaplains office, providing spiritual support is as important as the medical care that patients receive. If a patient is a converted Christian, the pastors will visit them regularly, pray with them and encourage them and their families. If the patient is not converted, the pastors will share the gospel message. In Ferdinand’s case, 58 years old and now diagnosed with terminal cancer, it was exactly the type of message he needed to hear.

After the 70 return, it seems to me that Jesus on a spiritual high, filled with joy, thrilled at seeing God’s power revealed through them. I think we all can relate to that same thrill of hearing ourselves speak better Spanish than we know, or watching a convert we've been doing Bible studies with make steps in spiritual maturity, etc. But we also know the feeling of discouragement when we really turn someone off by a cultural misunderstanding or when we watch the same convert get discouraged by conflicts within the church. For me, whether in Mexico or in the States, the feeling of joy in service is sporadic.

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diagnosed with terminal cancer, it was exactly the message he needed to hear.

One of the pastors continued to visit Ferdinand daily. In their conversations, they shared that God has another life for him, another plan for him beyond this life on earth. Thankfully, God softened Ferdinand’s heart and he surrendered and made the decision to commit his life to the Lord. As the pastors continued their visits, Ferdinand expressed how thankful he was that had finally given his heart to the Lord. He shared that he was very happy to finally do this, as he knew he needed to do his whole life. The pastor’s daily visits to Ferdinand continued as they discipled this new babe in Christ and encouraged him with their prayers.

Typically at this point in the article, we would show a picture of the patient. And maybe share a quote of something they would like to say to those in the USA who support the hospital. For this story, we have neither the picture nor the quote. Sadly, Ferdinand Milaire passed away 2 weeks before I arrived at the hospital to do patient interviews.

Is that the end of the story … well not really. For Ferdinand we have the faith to believe it is a new beginning. The beginning of eternity in the presence of God, with no more pain, no more cancer and no more tears. We are thankful for that. Thankful that he could come to know Jesus before departing this earth. And thankful he could die at peace and with the hope of eternal life, surrounded by caregivers who loved and cared for him. Please pray that God will continue to bless the work at Hospital Lumiere, and that patients that come to the hospital can find healing for both the body and the soul.

“The mission of Hospital Lumiere is to provide excellent and effective medical care with compassion and Christian love.”
– by Rich Bertschi

If joy is based in salvation and not in service, then perhaps this article should not be "The joy of serving in Mexico", but something along the lines of "Taking our joy to Mexico". Who is God calling to live out the joy of their salvation in Mexico?

Psalm 51:12-13 Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit. Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee. Joy precedes evangelism and service.
– by Grant Herrmann
A Greater Purpose - The Marriage Decision

“...nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.”- Luke 22:42

What has God used to grow you in your life? It is a big question, and one that each person would answer differently. Many times when people look back, they can testify to the power of unanswered prayers in their lives. For individuals that are single, this may involve situations where they encountered the marriage decision.

Discerning whether or not to marry is a process of growth and surrender. It is a sacred time of communion with the Lord. This time can be sweet, but it can also be difficult. For those that are single and desire marriage, it can sometimes feel elusive. Why are my friends marrying and not I? Am I doing something wrong? Am I not desirable?

It can be especially painful for singles when people share their “recipe” for marriage. For example, a single person may be told that they just need to be content, then marriage will happen. While it is always a good idea to pursue Philippians 4:11, God’s timing may be different than expected and marriage may not come immediately upon contentment, but rather further down the road. For some that desire marriage, the event may never happen. It can be difficult to understand why, and can lead to self-doubt and discouragement.

Failure or Opportunity?
Sometimes without realizing it, people judge the strength of their faith by the “success” of the process. In the marriage decision, whether or not they become engaged becomes the metric. Failure for a marriage decision to go through signifies that I do not have enough faith or have not surrendered properly. However, by doing so, people can miss the greater work that God is doing. For the process

of surrendering singleness and marriage is not actually about the result, but is rather about the person you are becoming as you seek to understand God’s plan for your life.

Consider the following: If a proposal results in a “no,” God has the power to work in this difficult situation and it is still an opportunity. The proposal may have challenged an individual to correct unhealthy habits in their life, spend more time in prayer and God’s Word, or begin working on past unaddressed, relational hurts. The person may gain more through this journey than had the original goal of marriage been met.

Unfortunately, it is not always easy to see the situation through this perspective. For some, a “no” can make them question themselves — “Did I hear God wrong?” They may begin to question their faith, become discouraged or distrustful of God, or perhaps become bitter towards friends who have gone through the process “successfully.”

For Reflection
Whether or not marriage is in God’s plan for your life on earth, here are some questions to consider as you contemplate this possibility:

1. How is my relationship with the Lord? Am I easily distractible (a spouse will only add
to that distraction) or am I able to keep my relationship with Christ primary in my life?

(1 Cor. 7:32-33)

2. **Am I ready and willing to work on myself?**
   Are there habits or things in my past that need to be addressed? (Psalms 139: 23-24). Sometimes people expect marriage to be the “magic bullet” to fix habits or provide healing that realistically might take years of hard work.

3. **How well do I submit to others?** How well do I love and esteem my brothers and sisters?
   (Eph. 5:21-33)

4. **What is this process revealing in me?** Am I able to trust God in this, releasing control of my future?
   (Jer. 29:11)

5. **How can I continue to live a meaningful life amid the uncertainty?** Some people like their lives extremely well ordered, and an unexpected proposal or response can interfere with their plans. Can I trust in the midst of this uncertainty, giving control to God? (Prov. 3:5-6)

God can use the earthly marriage decision making process to help us grow more like Him. This conforming into His image remains God’s great desire for our lives. And we grow in sanctification, whether we become married or remain single, we prepare for a greater marriage that will someday happen — the marriage of the Lamb (Rev. 22:17).

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

For the last forty-seven years a beautiful blue spruce tree had graced our courtyard at Timber Ridge. It grew with LifePoints, keeping quiet vigil as services changed and expanded to include 160 residents, cared for by 350 staff members, in 17 facilities. But even as the tree reached great heights, like all things of this earth, it had grown old and started to decay. Disease had taken a toll and it began to die from the inside out. This spring it reached the point that we had to have it taken down. Its last contribution to LifePoints was to provide a morning of entertainment for staff and residents as they watched the contractors don their gear and climb up the tree to take it down limb by limb.

This tree is a metaphor for our individual lives and our agency. Time is relentless, and there comes a point when the old and familiar is so often replaced by something or someone new. In addition to many necessary updates to facilities and equipment, at LifePoints we have witnessed changes with our veteran staff. We experience staff who have dedicated many years of their life to serve our residents eventually reach the point where they realize it is their time to retire or move on. Time and time again we have seen God call someone new into His service here, and they step into the role providing a new viewpoint and fresh energy. The new person is like a new tree, not as strong yet as the great old tree that is gone, but flexible and fresh and ready to grow. The old landmarks are always missed, but it is also exciting to see what comes next.

Through all changes, we are thankful that there is One who is constant and unchanging. What a blessing it is to rely on our God “with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.” James 1:17. We are blessed as He continues to provide for our needs in ways we can’t even imagine. We praise Him as we walk in faith each day, looking forward to the day that He “will make all things new”. Revelation 21:5.

Gateway Woods Apostolic Christian Children’s Home
Kristin Zimmerman — Dean of Students

I’d like to introduce you to a former student of mine named Susie. Both of Susie’s parents abandoned her at birth and their whereabouts are still unknown to this day. Susie was raised by her grandmother, whose family was deeply involved in criminal activity, so Susie grew up surrounded by meth manufacturers, drug dealers, alcoholics, community misfits, and sexual predators. Susie was expelled from public school and ran the streets, doing many illegal and immoral activities.

When Susie came to Gateway Woods, she struggled big time in school. On the surface, she seemed unmotivated and lazy. She was a frustration to us teachers because no matter what lessons we planned in class, Susie would zone out and appear to be in a different world. The school kept logging these observations and asking her counselor and houseparents, “What can we do to motivate Susie?” Susie’s counselor decided to broach this subject in a counseling session. Susie opened up to her counselor and uncovered that the school staff was not wrong in thinking she was in another world when in class, because she was. Susie’s “zoning out” was her actually frequently experiencing flashbacks of the day her house burned down and the times she experienced horrific sexual assault. With sudden realization, I didn’t
see Susie as a lazy, unmotivated student anymore. I hurt for Susie. Why should she care about the War of 1812 or how to solve for a variable in algebra? She went through things that are unimaginable. I was flooded with empathy for her, which created a great desire to see this girl succeed.

She was failing my Biology class so she needed to complete additional studying at the house to have any hope of passing. My suggestion was to have her create flashcards for the vocab terms that would be on the upcoming test. The houseparents took this suggestion and gave her index cards with markers so she could make them look “pretty”, as this was something she enjoyed to do. Well, Susie studied those “pretty” flashcards she made. Prior to taking the test, Susie told me that she thought she would do well on it. I admit I was a little doubtful of this because her track record on previous tests was quite dismal. She took the test. I graded the test. I called Susie over to me and told her that I graded her test. I took a big breath and I said, “You got a 96% A!!!” Susie’s eyes lit up and the biggest smile spread across her face.

I will never forget that moment and I don’t think Susie will either. For that moment, Susie had her first taste of success and she liked it. On a Biology quiz the next week, Susie used her flashcard study method to not only get an A, but an A+ this time! I knew that these moments with Susie were worth it. Susie has inspired me. “Susie moments” are why I work at Gateway Woods School.

**News:**

We are very excited to announce the hiring of Sis. Kacie Klopfenstein (Leo) as an Assistant Houseparent. She will be joining the Oak House team.

We are also thankful for Sis. Chelsea Williamson (Leo) as an Assistant Houseparent. She will be joining the Pine House team.

We currently have these openings at Gateway Woods: **English Teacher, Math Teacher, Foster Care Case Manager, Assistant Houseparent & Houseparent Couple** For more information, please see our ad in this month’s edition of The Silver Lining or visit the Careers 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’.

Summer is upon us and that means there are lots of volunteering opportunities at Gateway Woods! If you are interested in giving your time and talents, please contact Luke Kieser, our new Summer Volunteer Coordinator, at vol.coordinator@gatewaywoods.org or via phone at 260.627.2159.

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/newsletter or by emailing jon.ringger@gatewaywoods.org.

**Arizona, Phoenix**

**Marge Lindenbaum**

“For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. … And if ye be Christ’s, then are ye Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.” Gal. 3:26, 29

This month, we celebrate our fathers. Mine has been with his Father for many years, and I still hear his voice and feel his presence, and see his influence,
very often. He was a good father, who loved his children. He didn’t often volunteer advice, but always had some wisdom to share if he was asked. In many ways, he exemplified the love and relationship of our Heavenly Father to His children. There are many things I did not understand about my dad until I had several years and more knowledge “under my belt”. Occasionally, even now, a flash of understanding (along with a wave of loneliness) will flood my mind as I recall things he said and did.

So it is with my Heavenly Father, to a much greater extent. One thing I have struggled with over the years is why blood is required for atonement. It is clear, in multiple references throughout Scripture, that blood is required. No mystery there. But why blood? This concept is foundational to our belief, and it seems important to understand it. There is a passage of Scripture that has fascinated and puzzled me over the years, as well. In Genesis 15, God appears to Abram in a vision, and makes a promise to him. He proceeds to enter a blood covenant with Abram, involving cutting animals in half and splitting them along a path, among other things. It is a somber occasion. There is an online book, “The Blood Covenant” by Russ Tatro. He tells us details of this covenant are not spelled out in Scripture because it was well-known and common in the culture of the Chaldeans and others of that time. In our culture, however, more information is helpful to fully understand its meaning.

According to this book, as well as other resources, there are eight elements to the covenant: (1) an exchange of garments; (2) an exchange of weapons; (3) an exchange of names; (4) drawing and/or mingling of blood; (5) splitting/sacrifice of animals; (6) statement of conditions – blessings and curses; (7) planting a tree and sprinkling the blood over it; (8) sharing a meal. There is another element mentioned in other articles, which is tied to #4, which is making a visible scar to evidence the covenant - to the participants and to others. Each of these elements are fulfilled in Christ’s life, death and resurrection, as well as in the Old Testament. God changed Abram’s name to include a portion of His name (Abram + YAHWEH – Abraham), and God took the name, “the God of Abraham”. He declared He was Abram’s shield and great reward; He takes our soiled garments and exchanges them for robes of righteousness. He became the Lamb, sacrificed for our sins. Many different conditions for blessing and cursing were pronounced pertaining to Abram’s seed. His blood was shed on a tree. And, He shared the covenant meal with His disciples and commands that all who are in covenant with Him share the meal, as well. The act of circumcision was given for Abraham’s part to keep, in demonstration of agreement to being in covenant with God.

When the Israelites refused to be circumcised, they were rejecting the covenant relationship.

What struck me in researching this covenant is how God put a deep sleep on Abram and then He walked between the animal halves in the form of a smoking furnace and a burning lamp (Gen 15:17). I believe the furnace and burning lamp signify the Trinity, with the furnace being God, the Father, the Lamp, Jesus, and the oil, the Holy Spirit. He did not expect or require man to make and keep the covenant with Him (although Abram was willing, and later willing even to sacrifice his only son). God Himself took both parts in making and in fulfilling it. In Adam, we passed the authority God gave man over the earth to His enemy, forfeiting our right to eat of the Tree of Life and introducing death to God’s creation. In Christ, that authority was won back when He conquered death, in the form of man. He is the only One who can save us by fulfilling the deep, mysterious, incomprehensible plan that was put into place even before Genesis 3, when it was pronounced. I still only catch glimpses of the magnitude of this Truth, but more and more as I read the Word, this “type” is evidenced throughout. It is a beautiful example of the relationship our Father wants to enjoy with us, His children.

“For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the
Sis. Devan Cargill will be volunteering in Magdalena this summer. Although we will miss her, we are excited that she can serve God and others in this opportunity.

While many are starting new and exciting ventures in life, some may feel weary in their everyday routine. It may not seem as if we are making an impact. Yet, if we are living in Christ, we may not see all of the ways in which we are encouraging others to seek Him. Paul encouraged the Corinthians in their daily walk. He pointed to the eternal things which matter the most and cannot always be seen.

“For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.” 2 Corinthians 4:16-18.

Arizona, Prescott

Autumn Rokey

We were blessed to share in Communion this last month with Elder Bro. Ron (Sis. Pam) Messner from Washington.

Congratulations to our high school graduate Sis. Bridget Koehl. We pray for her future as she seeks God’s direction in the next steps of life.

Arizona, Tucson

Dean and Jackie Knobloch

Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand was here for our end-of-year annual business meeting. Sis. Abbie Tabor was elected as the lower grade Sunday School teacher. Bro. Dean Knobloch was put back in for another term as Church trustee. We wish to thank those who served in offices this past year. We are always appreciative of Bro. Ben’s willingness to oversee the church and to be here to preach the word of God.

Sunday School will be ending soon and will not resume until the actual school year starts in August. We pray for safe travels in the coming summer months. Our Wednesday night services will begin again in January 2019 on the first and third Wednesday evenings, when most of our winter visitors are here.

California, Los Angeles/Altdena

Kali Sauder

Community is a key purpose of the church. Because we have obstacles to fostering community being a small church in a big city, church family spread over a large area connected by freeways often clogged with traffic, our nearest neighbor church several hours away, therefore we have to be more intentional. Those precious hours on Sunday must go deep. Showing up consistently is important. And opportunities to fellowship are precious and prioritized.

Many of us took advantage of an invitation to join San Diego church for a marriage seminar presented by ACCFS. We were reminded, healthy self leads to healthy marriage, growing healthy churches which enables healthy mission.

Another sweet time of building up our church community: Communion service, where we gathered to remember Christ’s death and sacrifice and proclaim...
His victory and soon return! Always both contemplative and joyous, we were drawn together in reignited unity of the Spirit.

Community, living life together, not separately, means noticing absence, praying for each other in times of celebration and in times of trial and pain. We lift up Sis. Adela Chavez in her recent hospitalization, her daughter, Sis. Letty, and granddaughter, Kelly, in this difficult time of unknown. Please join us in prayer, fulfilling God’s vision of church community living into its purpose even across long distances.

California, San Diego
Annaleise Wagenbach
This month we enjoyed Bro. Mike and Sis. Carol Rieker (Peoria, IL) and Bro. Jim and Sis. Hildy Koehl (Morris, MN). We shared Communion with our church family along with Elder Bro. John and Sis. Jane Wiegand (Silverton, OR) and Elder Bro. Tom and Sis. Jody Klotsle (Altdena, CA).

We had a wonderful afternoon with Altadena one Sunday this month. Bro. Justin Moser led a devotion about Creation. We appreciate our fellow California church and the sweet fellowship we share.

During a sermon recently, we were reminded of the power of God. As the children of Israel stepped forward in faith, God parted the Jordan River, which was overflowing its banks. “And the priests that bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood firm on dry ground in the midst of Jordan, and all the Israelites passed over on dry ground, until all the people were passed clean over Jordan.” Josh. 3:17

Colorado, Denver
Tess Leman
A hearty hello because of Jesus!

We wish to welcome Bro. Ryan Schlipf (Bro. Rich & Sis. Kathy), previously from Milford, IN, to our body of believers! We are grateful for the way Bro. Ryan has jumped into our church family and pray that God will bless him in his new job.

With great joy we announce that Nikki Zarkovacki (Bro. Mike & Sis. Rose) has decided to answer the Lord’s call! What delight to walk hand-in-hand with Jesus and we know that as she grows in Him, He will be ever-faithful friend.

“Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation.” Isaiah 12:3

We have three high school graduates this year: Annie Fehr (Bro. Matt & Sis. Rachel), Sis. Brooke Zarkovacki (Bro. Mike & Sis. Rose) and Sis. Gabriella Wiegand (Bro. Charlie & Sis. Naomi). Go forward with Jesus. Let Him be your guide!

Connecticut, Rockville
Marcy Bahler, Amanda Virkler
We wish Sarah Hunt (Ken Hunt & Sis. Karen Hunt) well as she moves to LifePoints. We pray she has a smooth transition. We will miss her here!

Three little babies were welcomed into our congregation this month. Owen David Luginbuhl was born on April 16 to first-time parents David & Jacqueline. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Bruce & Sis. Karen Luginbuhl and Jeff & Kim Maliga. Molly Margaret Eloise made her arrival on May 1 to thankful parents Bro. Jay & Sis. Jay Fehr. Grandparents are Mike & Jan Lemire and Sis. Margaret Fehr and the late Bro. Gene Fehr, Eureka, IL. Bro. Thomas & Sis. Julianne Gerber welcomed Savannah Louise on May 5. Thankful for her safe arrival are grandparents Guy Gottier & Sis. Beth Gottier, and Bro. Jeff & Sis. Carole Gerber.

We bid farewell to Sis. Ruth Kostuk (the late John Kostuk). Our sympathy goes to her daughters Debra Kostuk-Smith and her husband Matthew and Sis. Tanya Campbell and her husband David. We pray God will grant them comfort in their loss.

Our prayers and sympathy are with Bro. John and Erin Hoffman and their family in the passing of Erin’s dad, John Doyle. We pray the Lord will grant them comfort.

We rejoice with our four converts that have found peace with God and await baptism in the coming weeks. They are Di Kupferschmid, John & Jessie Aubin, and Emily Walder (Bro. Brent & Sis. Naomi).

Our prayers are with Connor Hany (Bro. Paul and Sis. Betsy) as he spent some time in Cincinnati Children’s Hospital.
We are thankful Elder Bro Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Remington, IN) was willing to share the word with our congregation.

District of Columbia, Washington
Henrietta Meyer
Our caretakers this month were Bro. Randy and Sis. Evie Mogler (Washington, IL). If you feel led to support one of our small churches, being caretakers here would be a wonderful way to do so. If you are interested and are free to spend 3-4 weeks in the DC area, please contact Sis. Doreen Steffen at dkgsteffen@gmail.com or 302-540-6574.

Our ministers this month were Bro. Darin Massner (Sis. Twila, West Bend, IA), Elder Bro. Brad Eisenmann (Sis. Cindy, Chicago, IL), Bro. Michael Schneider (Sis. Jodi, Junction, OH), Elder Bro. Duane Farney (Sis. Karen, Croghan, NY), Bro. Vince Pfister (Sis. Brandy, Bluffton, IN) and Bro. Randy Mogler (Sis. Evie, Washington, IL). Other visitors this month were from Rockville, CT, Philadelphia, PA, Junction, OH, and Ixtlan, MX. It is such a blessing to have visitors so often.

If you are planning to visit Washington, D.C. area for vacation or business, please contact Sis. Henrietta Meyer at 703 904-8301 or hmeyer2831@gmail.com for assistance and to let us know how many to expect for Sunday services.

Florida, Ft. Lauderdale
Renee Mangold
We were blessed to have a few visiting ministers this past month. Visiting were Bro. Virgil Kaeb (Sis. Suellen, Sarasota, FL); Bro. Troy Leyse (Sis. Kelly, Bluffton, IN) and Bro. Todd Stoller (Sis. Pam, Latty, OH). We pray that the Lord would bless them for their works.

For those that could attend, the Florida church picnic in Ft. Myers was a great time of fellowship.

A group of us visited Sis. Ruth Schneider at the rehab facility. Sis. Barb Schneider was delighted with her birthday surprise party while we were there. Sis. Ruth continues to mend. Later that week they were able to travel safely back home to Connecticut.

Florida, Fort Myers
Mary Masters
“The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to preach the good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners.”
Isaiah 61:1

This month our visiting ministers have been Bro. Jon Zeller (Sis. Christy, Morton, IL), and our Elder Bro. Jeff Streitmatter (Sis. Lynn, Sarasota, FL). Bro. Jeff shared with us more about how to deal with cultural issues as a church. Our congregation size has shrunk considerably since the first of May. We miss our northern brethren and love it when they come and visit off-season.

The New Beginnings
We have another resident to add to our “TNB family”. Lina joins us with her 10-month-old son, Aiden. When a new resident joins us, there is much to do. Besides getting them settled in their new home, a priority is to get them registered at the local college and get their financial aid application started. Their child will need daycare while they are in school and we need to sort out their financial situation to discover if they have debt that may prevent them from financial aid. Each resident has their own unique set of circumstances that we will get familiar with to enable us to help them in the most effective way possible.

Did you know that from the very first moments of a child’s life, their brain is being molded into who and what they will become? Thoughts and actions that are repeated over an extended period will leave “grooves” in the brain that will become the reservoir for all future thoughts and actions. The first few years of a child’s life should be a time of grooving them in confidence, thankfulness, joyfulness, self-discipline, and an eagerness to learn. Baby’s brains are grooved by actions toward others, emotions, and attitudes. Brains will become strong or weak, pitiful or resourceful, thankful or needy, overbearing or longsuffering, based on those early experiences. The residents
that we typically work with have had traumatic situations that have created negative grooving. Thus, it becomes a challenge to recognize that the actions that many of us view as common sense are nonexistent in a brain that has been grooved in a negative way. God’s wisdom and grace are essential tools to help us recognize these deep-rooted effects of sin that happened early in the lives of our residents. Please pray for us that we would extend the love and grace of Jesus as we continue to work with wounded souls.

We recognize that the job of parents today is getting harder by the minute. Digital media is making Satan’s job easy. He can groove the minds of our children by giving them violent games to play to give parents time to do something else. The children are entertained, but what is being stored in the brain? Our schools have outlawed prayer and mention of God, but have introduced godless principles that go against the Bible.

“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”
Ephesians 6:10-11

Florida, Sarasota
Sandra Kaeb

Many of the winter residents have traveled home leaving us to our small little church family. Reconnecting to one another draws us to a closer fellowship bond.

We were saddened to hear the passing of our dear Sis. Ann Hodel from Roanoke, IL. She has wintered with us and will be deeply missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family.

Our Sis. Erika Purj has been having knee pain and hasn’t been able to gather with us. Also, Bro. Jeff Streitmatter II has been having medical issues. We have been upholding these dear ones in our prayers.

Many gathered at Bradenton Oaks to celebrate Sis. Rosalie Dreksler’s 100th birthday. We sang several hymns, plus the younger children sang one together, followed by refreshments.

Prayers were given for Sis. Debbie Sauder as she went to Indonesia for a medical mission trip.

Our May potluck and singing was held for Bro. Jeff Streitmatter IV for his college graduation. He is the son of our Elder Bro. Jeff and Sis. Lynne. We pray that God may guide him as he embarks on a new path in life.

For the National Day of Prayer, several gathered in the fellowship hall. Prayers were offered for many and the nation.

Our all-Florida church picnic was held in Estero Community Park close to Fort Myers. It was good to be together with our brethren and friends from the other FL churches. Children enjoyed a game of baseball while the adults visited.

As one of our ministers recently meditated on Matthew 23 the last part of verse 3 reminded me of this hymn.

What You Are
“If you have named the name of Jesus. If you are known as one of his. Remember that the world is watching. To see how your victory is. Walk worthy of your holy calling. Bring praise to his blessed name. Let he through you should be dishonored. And your deeds should bring him shame. Your life may be a life of victory. If you live to him alone. Your work the master said shall prove you. And by it you shall be known.”
Chorus: What you are speaks so load. That the world can’t hear what you say. They’re looking at your walk, not listening to your talk. They’re judging from your actions every day. Don’t believe you’ll deceive. By claiming what you’ve never known. They’ll except what they see and know you to be. They’ll judge from your life alone.
-By: Mrs. H.S Lehman

Georgia, Peachtree City/Atlanta
Lexi Knapp

“But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”
Romans 5:8

We are so blessed by God’s demonstration of love in our lives in sending His Son to die for us. Salvation is a precious gift! Likewise, we are thankful that Chloe and Rudy Steidinger (Bro. Phillip and Sis. Lana) recognized their need for a Savior and surrendered to Christ in repentance. We will be praying for them as they begin their walk with Christ.
We were also blessed to have Bro. Gary Maibach (Sis. Mary Ann, Smithville, OH) with us this past month. We are thankful for his service.

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

Haiti, Bonne Fin - Hospital Lumiere

*Rick and Komari Aberle*

Our past April and May were filled with activity once again. We have been blessed by teams and visitors!

In mid-April, Elder Bro. Doug and Sis. Clara Schock (Bloomfield, IA) visited Haiti with a group of brothers and sisters to observe Communion. As is our custom, we once again gathered in Zanglais for services and for Communion. The location overlooks the ocean. It is a beautiful setting that brings many inspiring thoughts. They often include thoughts of our Lord as He ministered so often by the sea. Bro. Doug was assisted by Bro. Bob Beebe (South Bend, IN). Additionally, Bro. Dewayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN) and Bro. Jon Zeller (Morton, IL) shared in ministering the word.

Two of our missionary families received visitors as well. We are always thankful to see loved ones from home and the fellowship they bring. A surgical team visited from Pennsylvania. This team was led by Bro. Adam Luginbuhl (Philadelphia, PA) who shared the word on a Wednesday evening. A second surgical team from South Carolina focused on orthopedic patients. These two teams cared for many patients and performed over 35 surgeries while here. Finally, we were visited by a nursing education team from Illinois that shared their knowledge and teaching with over 50 staff members.

As we move into the spring and summer months, we enter the time when most of our missionary family spends time in the United States on furlough. Sis. Pat Banwart traveled this past month, and the rest of the team will be traveling in the next several months. We ask for your prayers for safety on our roads and in the air while traveling home.

The next months also bring a time of transition for our team here. Sis. Kaitlin Klotzle and Bro. Kurt and Sis. Joan Plattner and their family will all end their service terms here at Hospital Lumiere. Re-entry to life in the United States is often more challenging for missionaries than moving to a foreign country. Please keep these loved ones in prayer as they prepare to move back to the United States. Please also continue to pray that others are called to fill the places they vacate here in the mission.

Although transitions can be a challenge, we are encouraged by the following passage from Ephesians 3:14-19:

“For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.”

Haiti, Les Cayes

*Mike & Susie Walder*

Greetings and thanks for reading our news the last few years! Although there are only four couples, four single sisters and five children in the Les Cayes area presently, it is a privilege to share a little from our lives with you each month.

As some of you know, we live and work in close proximity to other missionary families from the U.S, Canada and Germany. We have a missionary school for all the kids that registers around 30 students each year. We have our primary responsibilities for HarvestCall, but we also serve on various committees to help the entire missionary community function effectively within the MEBSH organization. Our mail is flown in once a week on Agape Flights from Florida and everyone looks forward to mail day!
On Sundays, our Apostolic Christian families either attend a MEBSH church or we meet in our homes to listen to a church service online. One Sunday a month we meet for a joint service with the Bonne Fin missionaries. All the missionary families share a midweek Bible study that begins with hymns or spiritual songs, followed by the study and then we finish with a time of prayer requests and sharing. Following the midweek service is when we actually have the most fellowship time.

Almost all of us will have left on our summer furlough by June. The last ten months have flown by and now it is time to reconnect with family and friends again. As we go, it is somewhat like stepping out of one world into another. We can easily make comparisons or criticisms (which is more like it) as we experience different cultures, but God is the Creator of this diversity!

We were blessed recently to share our annual Apostolic Christian Communion service while overlooking the ocean. We appreciated the service of Elder Bro. Duane Rocke (Sis. Bonnie, Minneapolis, MN), Bro. Arlan Leman (Sis. Denise, Forrest, IL) and Bro. Kevin Fehr (Sis. Lonnie, West Bend, IA).

Bro. Duane Rocke also assisted us with sharing Communion as a family.

1 Corinthians 11:28 “But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of [that] bread, and drink of [that] cup.

We have enjoyed sharing extra love of others this month with a baby shower, a bridal shower, and anticipation for our growing congregation. It is so good to truly love as we have been taught as we look forward to meeting a new little human, and getting to know better those who will be marrying into the Belvidere family soon!

John 13:34 “A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.”

Spring has finally arrived and some days even feel like summer already. Trees and flowers are blooming, gardens are being planted. As we enjoy the weather and beauty around us, may we pause from time to time to remember those whose cross is heavy during this season, keeping them in prayer, offering them love and assistance while remaining faithful and grateful for all we’ve been given by our loving Father.

Our pulpit is always open to visiting ministers! This last month our local ministers were assisted by Elder Bro. Duane Rocke (Sis. Bonnie, Minneapolis, MN), Bro. Arlan Leman (Sis. Denise, Forrest, IL) and Bro. Kevin Fehr (Sis. Lonnie, West Bend, IA).

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

Illinois, Bloomington-Normal

Jenae Herrmann,
Wendy Zimmerman

“One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to enquire in his temple.” Psalm 27:4

We were blessed to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of Megan Edelman, Dylan Rabe, and Dayton Rabe the weekend of May 6. Megan is the daughter of Bro. Alan and Sis. Wendy Edelman and Dylan and Dayton are the sons of Bro. Derek and Sis. Julie Rabe.

It was a joy to have Bro. Art Mueller (Sis. Marlene, Belvidere, IL) and Elder Bro. Steve Ringger (Sis. Myra, Bluffton North, IN) for the baptism weekend. Thank you both for sharing God’s Word!

Our hearts rejoice along with the angels in heaven that Isaiah Streitmatter has answered the call to follow Christ and make a public confession of his faith! His parents are Bro. Mark and Sis. Sara Streitmatter.

Vienne Olivette joined the family of Bro. Andrew, Sis. Natalie, Violet, Simeon, Clara Rose, Eden and Ellis Gerber on April 14. What a sweet gift a new little life is! Vienne’s grandparents are Neil and Leesa Gerber
(Washington) and Bro. Nate and Sis. Yvonne Lehman.

Our sympathy and prayers are with our Sis. Jeannine Mariani (Bro. Larry) at the passing of her brother, Robert Rudin. We also mourned the death of Gene Myer. He and his wife, Alice, were part of our church family for many years.

On May 12, the ladies from our church had the blessing of gathering for a Ladies Prayer Breakfast. We enjoyed a sweet time of prayer and fellowship together.

**Illinois, Bradford**

*Lana Stoller, Becky Endress*

Spring rains and warmer days have prompted the bursting of beautiful spring hues. Farmers and gardeners are busy, and so are families preparing for graduations. Nine of our young people have graduated high school. Our wish and prayer for each of them is a fruitful and abundant life which can be theirs if they go to the Giver of life and ask. Congratulations and best wishes to Elizabeth Dietz (Bro. Barry & Sis. Rachel), Corbin Endress (Bro. Ben & Sis. Katie), Sis. Sarah Endress (Bro. Bruce & Sis. Elizabeth), Ana Joos (Bro. Ralph & Sis. Jenny), Jakob Kieser (Joe & Geri), Bro. Joel Kieser (Bro. Matt & Sis. Tracy), Landon Kieser (Bro. Robb & Sis. Kelly), Faith Moody (Jennifer), and Gabe Stahl (Bro. Wendell & late Sis. Linda.)

Jennifer Moody shares the happy news of the engagement of her daughter, Alexandria, to James Colwell, son of Doug Colwell and Donna Lee. They are planning an August wedding. Bro. Dennis and Sis. Becky Pyles are Alexandria’s grandparents.

We sang a farewell hymn with Sis. Jaena Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN) who has completed her courses at Black Hawk Jr College and will be moving on to an internship in another locale. We’ve been blessed to have her here. May the Lord direct her path further on.

Orin Tyler Joos was born on May 9 to Bro. Tyler and Sis. Tonya Joos. Five happy siblings welcoming him are Tori, Lane, Alex, Rhea, and Wade. Grandparents are Bro. Ralph & Sis. Jenny Joos and Bro. Brad & Sis. Teresa Gudeman. The Gudemans were twice blessed this month, as a granddaughter, Ashlyn Anne, was born to Bro. Brandon & Sis. Sarah Gudeman, Rockville, CT. Bro. Brad & Sis. Rachel, Blake, Madison, and Savannah Kieser have lots of love to share with their new baby girl. Carissa Mae was born into their family on May 17. Her grandparents are Bro. Jerry & Sis. Wilma Kieser and Ron (and the late Deann) Baer.

Seventy years ago this month, a young man and woman vowed love and faithfulness to each other as long as they live. We rejoiced with Bro. Loris and Sis. Lottie Stisser and their three children: Randy (Linda), Terry (Cathy), and Sally (Jim) Mummert and their families as they celebrated this milestone anniversary.

**Illinois, Champaign**

*Brent Young*

So we, being many, are one body in Christ . . .

Our church family gathered for a remembrance dinner and a few days later shared Holy Communion. What a tremendous blessing to reflect on Christ’s sacrifice, to feel the bond that is by Christ, and be inspired to greater faithfulness in Christ!

As a family, we grieve with those who have lost loved ones. Sis. Karen Kaiser recently lost her uncle, Bro. Orman Kasier, and Andy Travis (Kim) lost his father, Martin Travis.

We extend sincere thanks to recent visiting ministers, including Bros. Alan Schambach, Harvey Kaeb, Andrew Rassi, and Jeff Grimm.

**Illinois, Chicago**

*Diana Eisenmann*

We held our Spring Communion in April. It is always a blessing to gather together and ponder the great sacrifice of our Savior Jesus.

We enjoyed assembling medical kits and school kits at our spring Harvestcall activity day. Thanks to all who attended. We especially appreciate the enthusiastic participation of the Sunday School children. The joy of spending time together with our church family makes the work and cleanup seem to fly by!

Our second All-Church Fellowship Night was another great opportunity to spend time
together and strengthen our friendships. We enjoyed a delicious pizza dinner, song worship, and small group discussions. Thanks to all involved for their efforts and preparations to make it possible.

Church cleaning in May brought more opportunities to serve and work together. Caring for our church building is a good reminder of how blessed we are to have this facility for fellowship and worship.

Sis. Christine Eckel’s son, Frederick, is recovering from a quadruple bypass heart surgery. We rejoice with their family for God’s provision.

We mourn with Marilyn Brecher and her family following the passing of her daughter, Cindy Hall, in South Carolina. We pray for God’s peace and comfort during this time of sorrow.

**Illinois, Cissna Park**

*Amber Stuckel, Pam Walder*

Several families in our congregation are rejoicing to welcome a precious new baby into their hearts and lives. Everett William Kaeb was born to Bro. Aaron and Sis. Mindy Kaeb, along with siblings Lincoln and London. Grandparents are Elder Bro. Tom and Sis. Karol Stock, and Bro. Hartzell and Sis. Denise Kaeb. Bro. Arlyn and Sis. Lanae Rudin welcome a new grandchild, Xander, born to Brian and Bree Rudin. Bro. Melvin and Sis. Marilyn Young also are thankful to be grandparents again with the birth of Fisher, born to Matthew and Jen Young.

Our prayers have been with those experiencing health problems. They are Sis. Marge Alt, Sis. Lucille Knapp, Sis. Marilyn Knapp, Sis. Doris Knapp, Sis. Mindy Kaeb, and Pete Bauer.

We had the privilege of hosting the Congerville congregation for our May monthly hymn sing. It was a blessing to all, and we trust a glory to God as we lifted our voices together in song.

Reid Walder and Angela Horn have been united together in marriage. Reid’s parents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Kathy Walder. We wish God’s blessings on their union.

We wish God’s guidance and blessings to our high school graduates. They are Bro. Phil Eisenmann (Bro. Steve and Sis. Cheryl), Bro. Trevor Kaeb (Bro. Todd and Sis. Val), and Bro. Jared Waldbeser (Bro. Mark and Sis. Janie).

**Illinois, Congerville**

*Mary Knapp, Erica Steffen*

We are always thankful for the brothers who are willing to let the Spirit flow through them. Bros. Tom Leman (Denver), David Eisenmann (Sis. Jackie, Champaign), and Jerry Wagenbach (Sis. Bonnie, Mediapolis) brought the Word to us this month.

Bro. Doug and Sis. Michelle Schmidgall welcomed sweet little Carly Kay on April 22. Big sisters Cheyenne, Danielle, and Olivia are very excited to have a little one to hold! Thankful grandparents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Dianne Schmidgall (Eureka) and Bro. Fred and Sis. MaryEllen Zimmerman.

“Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.” 2 Thessalonians 5:11

Many in our congregation enjoyed taking a bus to Cissna Park on Sunday evening, May 6, to attend a singing with the brethren there. It is such an encouragement to fellowship with those who share our struggles and joys, and to strengthen each other as we strive toward our heavenly goal.

“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations… teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world.” Matthew 28:19, 20

It is with bittersweet joy that we recently bid farewell to our Sis. Amanda McClure, as she has moved to Magdalena, MX. Bro. Andy and Sis. Erin Ott also recently announced their decision to labor in the work there as well. We will miss these dear ones very much, but it is a comfort to know they are led by the Lord to further His kingdom. Our prayers will be with them, that their adjustments will go smoothly, and they can feel God’s peace and joy.

With joy, we learned of the engagement of our Bro. Kyle Steffen to Sis. Tess Zehr in February. Their parents are Kent and Sis. Beth Steffen and Bro. Quinn and Sis. Joan Zehr (Fairbury). This announcement failed to make it into the April
issue—our apologies for this oversight! Lord willing, they are planning a June 3 wedding. We wish them God’s nearness as they plan to become one in the Lord!

**Illinois, Elgin**

**Amy Gasser**

On April 22, Bro. Fred Dietz (Sis. Shaena) and Bro. Eric Weiss (Sis. Amanda) were installed as our new ministers. Elder Bro. Jeff Grimm (Sis. Ruth, Goodfield, IL) assisted Elder Bro. Brad Eisenmann (Sis. Cindy, Chicago, IL) with the service.

We thank Bro. Art Mueller (Sis. Marlene, Belvidere, IL), who conducted an all-church topical presentation on Wednesday evening, May 2. The topic was “Evangelism.” We also thank Bro. Rick Kaisner (Sis. Michelle, Chicago, IL), who ministered to us on Mother’s Day.

We extend sympathy to Sis. Louise and Sis. Lenora Steffen in the passing of their brother, Al (Shirley) Steffen of Stuart, FL on May 3.

Sis. DeLores Kellenberger was hospitalized recently. We are thankful that she is recovering at home.

**Illinois, Eureka**

**Debra Blunier, Linda Rocke**

“Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.” Ecclesiastes 12:13

What better advice can we pass along to those who are finishing high school and moving on to new challenges in their lives? Special congratulations, along with our prayers and best wishes to our high school graduates. They include Ryan Behrman (nephew of Doug and Lori Wood), Nicole Blunier (Bro. Dean and Sis. Beth), Tamra Edelman (Bro. Keith and Sis. Nadine), Braden Martin (Bro. Tim and Sis. Becky), Olivia Peterson (Tim and Melissa Peterson), Abbie Phillips (Bro. Merle and Sis. Michelle Blunier and Kevin and Jodi Phillips), Mitch and Molly Wettstein (son and daughter of Bro. Bill and Sis. Heidi), and Sis. Lena Zimmerman (Bro. Matt and Sis. Sarah).

We were thankful for our many visiting ministers this month, including Bro. Kent Getz (Sis. Betty, Elgin, IA), Bro. Scott Schambach (Sis. Hope, Elgin, IL), Elder Bro. John Wiegand (Sis. Jane, Silverton, OR), Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, LaCrosse, IN), Bro. Dan Stoller (Sis. Deb, Remington, IN), and Bro. Todd Sinn (Sis. Janet, Latty OH).

Bro. Jake and Sis. Janell Fehr joyfully welcomed Ruby Lynn, born April 24. She is sister to Ernie, Les, Charlie, Kary, Sophie, Annie, and Lucy. Grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Sandy Fehr and Tim and Donna Carr.

The first Saturday of May was again a heartwarming, special morning for all who could attend the Ladies Brunch. Many thanks go out to those whose efforts made it possible.

Several also had to face physical trials. Sis. Charlene (Bro. Bob) Schumacher had additional hospital time, but is now recovering at the Eureka Home. Sis. Loretta (Bro. Dietz) Wiegand also was hospitalized, but was able to return to her condo. We think of them and of several others who face ongoing challenges. How good if we can also pray for these dear ones undergoing pain and trial, just as we would desire in their place.

A time of special joy was celebrated by the family and friends of Sis. Dorothy Ginzel (Bro. Elmer, dec.), as she turned 100 years old on May 18.

**Illinois, Fairbury**

**Janelle Stoller, Trish Steidinger**

“Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.” Proverbs 4:7

Our high school graduates this year are Sis. Faith Blunier (Bro. Dave & Sis. Kara), Sis. Lauren Fehr (Bro. Darren & Sis. Kendra), Levi Fehr (Bro. Anthony & Sis. Lila), Tanner Hartman (Bro. Mark & Sis. Judy), Bro. Milan Leman (Bro. Chad & Sis. Kim), Sis. Esther Moser (Bro. Jeff & Sis. Sara), Sis. Jamie Steidinger (Bro. Martin & Sis. Trish), and Bro. Milan Teubel (Bro. Nathan & Sis. Jennifer). We pray that with their accumulation of knowledge they have also obtained wisdom and understanding from the Lord, and they will follow His leading for their future. We wish them the Lord’s blessings as they navigate this change in their lives.
We extend our sincere sympathy to Sis. Kay Steffen (Bro. Chris) on the passing of her father, Bro. Wayne Honegger (Sis. Eleanor, Forrest, IL) on April 24. We also extend sympathy to Bro. Wayne’s sister, Sis. Nancy Bachtold (Bro. Lloyd).

We welcome two new Kilgus babies to our Fairbury congregation. On April 25, Nolan Matthew Kilgus was born to Trent & Kayla Kilgus. Nolan is welcomed home by his brother, Ryker. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Paul & Sis. Carmen Kilgus and Paul & Lucy Slagel. On May 16, Talin Duane Kilgus was born to Bro. Justin and Sis. Kaylee Kilgus. Talin is welcomed home by siblings Andrew, Kate and Ayden. Talin’s grandparents are Bro. Paul & Sis. Carmen Kilgus and the late Bro. Eldon & the late Sis. Stephanie Kaeb (Forrest, IL).

We extend our thanks to the ministers who visited and served us this past month. They were Bros. Dennis Rassi (Sis. Diane, Austin/Bastrop, TX), Craig Stickling (Sis. Jacqueline, Peoria, IL) and Arlen Leman (Sis. Denise, Forrest, IL).

“O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together.”
Psalm 34:3

We rejoice with Bro. Gideon & Sis. Harmony Moser, who look forward to magnifying the Lord and exalting Him as one after being united in Holy matrimony on May 20 in Gridley, IL. We wish them many blessings as they embark on this new journey together. Their parents are Bro. Kevin & Sis. Kara Moser and Dennis and Lorene Slagel.

**Illinois, Forrest**

**Carissa Knapp, Marsha Lanz**

“And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.” Revelation 21:4

We have been reminded this month that our appointed days on this earth may be numerous – or merely a few tiny breaths. We grieve with our dear friends, Jensen and Carrie Lanz, as their little son, Wyatt Troy, was born too soon for this world, but in perfect time for heaven. May it comfort them, along with Wyatt’s grandparents, Bro. Troy and Sis. Kathleen Lanz and Doug and Beth Rinkenberger, to know that he is safe in the arms of Jesus. We also extend our prayers to Sis. Jolene Mueller (Bro. Jay), in the loss of her father, John Haas, and our Sis. Eleanor Honegger as she laid to rest her dear husband, Bro. Wayne.

Spending time in the hospital this month were Sis. Doris Kachelmuss, Sis. Marge Waibel (Bro. Eldon), Sis. Debbie Nussbaum (Bro. Terry) and Carrie Lanz (Jensen). May they all feel God’s peace and comfort during the valley.

We extend heartfelt thanks to the ministers that came to serve our congregation this month: Bros. Dana Nieman (Sis. Lea, Remington, IN), Michael Schneider (Sis. Jodi, Junction, OH) and Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Sis. Michelle, Philadelphia, PA).

Rejoicing on the arrival of Layton David are Bro. Josh and Sis. Amber Coffey, along with older brother Lyndon. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Kevin and Sis. Denise Coffey and Bro. Reuben and Sis. Devra Stork.

We were also thankful to hear of God’s provision for a dear couple in Magdalena, Mexico. Our Sis. Laura Ricketts [Bro. Gary and Sis. Marie (the late Bro. Brian Ricketts) Unsicker, Peoria, IL], who currently serves at CVE, Magdalena, is engaged to Bro. Miguel Aviña from Magdalena. May God bless them as they join their lives as one for Him.

**Illinois, Goodfield**

**Judy Knapp, Melissa Rokey**

Blessings and praises—a great title for the Goodfield news article this month.

What a huge blessing to be able to host the annual ACYF Day here on April 15.

The high school students from Congerville, Fairbury, and Gridley joined our students for a day of fellowship and song. They began with breakfast at the Fellowship Hall, morning Sunday School and then joined us in the sanctuary for our afternoon service. After services, they presented a singing program of songs they had practiced earlier—what a beautiful sight to see our future church singing praises to our great God!

Praises to God for a new
convert as Jake Billingsly has seen the need for a Savior and has come to the foot of the cross in repentance. We wish you grace and peace in your walk with the Lord!

We rejoice in the victory for our dear Sis. Sarah Melton, as she passed away into the loving arms of her Lord. Prayers continue for her son, Dale, and daughter, Florella, and their families during this time of loss.

We are also praising God for several who have met with accident or medical situations and were spared serious injury or death. Bro. Dave Zobrist (Sis. Ann) escaped serious injury in a tractor accident. Sis. Verla Wiegand had a serious reaction to medication. Bro. Tony Monfre (Sis. Deonne) is still recuperating from a head injury and covets the prayers of the brotherhood.

We also lift up in prayer Bro. Mike Knapp (Sis. LuAnn) as he was diagnosed with a form of leukemia, was in the hospital for a few days, and is now at the Eureka nursing home. Sis. LuAnn is now at the home also as Bro. Mike was her caregiver. Continued prayers are needed for this dear couple and their family as they navigate this trial in life together.

On May 6, our seniors were honored with a breakfast in honor of their graduation from High School. Graduating seniors are: Kelsy Bowen, Cammi Hartman, Bro. Max Hinrichsen, Sara Knapp, Bro. Caleb Rocke, Mikaila Rocke, Sis. Tori Taufer, and Jaylee Wondercheck. We as a church certainly wish them all the best in their endeavors as they each set out on the path the Lord leads.

Mother's Day, May 13, brought Bro. Brian Huber (Sis. Jackie, Francesville, IN) to visit and bless us with such a loving message on the blessing of a mother. Thank you, Bro. Brian, for your willingness to serve us and please visit again soon.

Praise God as we approach another season of the year! School will soon be out for summer vacation. We pray for safety for all the children as they participate in the activities of summer.

Illinois, Gridley
Perry Klopfenstein

Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan, Rockville, CT, was a visiting minister on Wednesday evening, May 16. On May 9, Bro. David Prevo, Bloomington, gave a Wednesday evening topical presentation on “The Kings.”

On Sunday, May 20 Sis. Harmony Slagel was married to Bro. Gideon Moser, Fairbury. She is the daughter of Dennis and Lorene Slagel, Fairbury. He is the son of Bro. Kevin and Sis. Kara Moser, Fairbury. We wish this couple special best wishes as they face the future in a three-fold chord with God.


One of the joys of the converted life are the hymns we encounter, especially in our church hymnals. Sometimes, unexpectedly, a hymn will come to mind and linger. In this, the words and the tunes can cause inspiration and a loving feeling in our heart. One morning I awoke to the song, “The Way of The Cross Leads Home.” The tune itself is inviting and heartwarming. And certain phrases are enriching: “I must needs go on in the blood-sprinkled way, Then I bid farewell to the way of the world, to walk in it nevermore. It is sweet to know, as I onward go, The way of the cross leads home.” Songs and words are among the items in the treasure of salvation, if we are diligent and ever true to our high and heavenly calling.

Illinois, Morton
Annette Tanner, Julie Bahr

Our May Family Worship Night was in honor of our four high school graduates. They are Stephen and Jeremiah Heinold (Bro. Clint and Sis. Stephanie Heinold); Nicole Leman (Bro. Tim and Sis. Beth Leman); and Hallie Stoller (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Stacey Stoller). Our ministering Bro. Andrew Rassi (Sis. Sandy) who has taught this group in Sunday School for five years, gave a very loving message to these young people encouraging them on four points:
1. Make time to read the Word every day.
2. Make a covenant to walk after the Lord.
3. Cleanse (sanctify) your life.

This is good advice for all of us. We congratulate all graduates and wish them God’s grace to follow His direction for their lives.

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

Our Bro. Orman Kaiser entered his Heavenly Home on April 21. He is survived by his wife of over 75 years, Sis. Kathryn Kaiser. He is also survived by one daughter, Sis. Barb (Bro. Steven) Pflederer, Tremont, IL; and three sons: Bro. Bob (Sis. Diana) Kaiser, Groveland, IL; William (Augusta) Kaiser, New York City, NY; and Steven (Margaret) Kaiser, Normal, IL. May God comfort this dear family and cover them with His love and peace.

We welcome two new baby girls into our Morton church family. On May 6, Bro. Justin and Sis. Larissa Steffen were blessed with the birth of Grace Elizabeth. Her siblings are Leah, Travis and Hannah. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Phil and Sis. Cindi Witzig and Bro. Duane and Sis. Karen Steffen, Bluffton, IN.

May 7, Saylor Paige joined the family of Bro. Clayton and Sis. Trisha Monfre. Big sisters and brother are Stella, Ace and Letty. Happy grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Peg Sauder, Indianapolis, IN, and Bro. Tony and Sis. Deonne Monfre, Goodfield, IL.

On Mother’s Day we were excited to hear the engagement announcement of our Bro. Philip Huette to Sis. Whitney Stickling, Peoria, IL. Their parents are Bro. Doug and Sis. Jill Huette and Bro. Craig and Sis. Jacki Stickling, Peoria. We wish them God’s richest blessings as they make plans for their wedding and life together.

As the school year comes to a close and families look forward to summer vacation and all of the activities that go with it, we pray for special family times together and God’s protection over all.

Illinois, Peoria

Crystal Klopfenstein, Bonnie Bach

Warmer weather has finally returned to our area. With it has come the many wonders of spring! We marvel at God’s creation as flowers grow from the soil and bloom in many colors. Trees that were barren are covered with fresh green leaves. Birds with their beautiful songs fill the air! Yet we know that Heaven will be better than all this! And, our Savior Jesus awaits us there!

We rejoice that Fred Rieker (Sis. Norma) has made known his desire to walk with the Lord. Fred recently celebrated his 90th birthday.

How thankful we are that God’s word continues to be preached by faithful brothers! This month Bro. Scott Wegman (Sis. Dawn, Taylor, MO) and Bro. Rick Kaisner (Sis. Michelle, Chicago, IL) visited the Peoria church and served us words of life.

God has blest Bro. Joe and Sis. Kayla Kummer with a baby boy, Elijah Laszlo. Grandparents include Bro. Chris and Sis. Patty Kummer of our congregation.

Congratulations and God’s blessings to our 2018 graduates. The high school graduates are Kery Bello (Bro. Dan and Sis. Susan Meister), Brady Brecklin (Tom and Karen), Belem Knobloch (Bro. Zach and Sis. Daniela), Luke Sauder (Bro. Dave and Sis. Ruth) and Keenan Streitmatter (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Stephanie).

The engagements of several young couples have recently been announced. Sis. Whitney Stickling (Bro. Craig and Sis. Jacki) is engaged to Bro. Phillip Huette of Morton, IL (Bro. Doug and Sis. Jill). Also engaged is Sis. Laura Ricketts to Bro. Miguel Avina both from Magdalena, MX. Sis. Laura is the daughter of Sis. Marie and Bro. Gary Unsicker of Peoria and the late Bro. Brian Ricketts. Bro. Dave and Sis. Kathy Obergfel will welcome a new daughter-in-law. Their son Jason is engaged to Holly Serpette. We wish them the Lord’s blessings!

Our prayers for healing include Sis. Evie Hoerr who is recovering from a broken hip. May God be with those loved ones who have health problems.
Illinois, Princeville
Renee Herrmann, Melinda Christ

We were encouraged by visiting ministers who brought us God’s Word this month. They are Bro. Tom Leman (Sis. Marlene-deceased, Denver, CO), Bro. Warren Schlatter (Sis. Cindy, Junction, OH), Bro. Nathan Steffen (Sis. Susan, Alto, MI), Elder Bro. Brad Eisenmann (Sis. Cindy, Chicago, IL) and Bro. Matt Zimmerman (Sis. Kim, St. Louis, MO). May God bless these brothers for their willingness to serve.

Bro. Rick and Sis. Joyce Rumbold have welcomed a new granddaughter. Kolbie Joan was born to Zachary and Lillie Rumbold on April 18. She is also welcomed by big sister, Klaire and great grandparents Ray and Joan Rumbold. Bro. Dick Graham also rejoiced with the safe arrival of another grandson. Bro. Ben and Sis. Suzanne Graham gave birth to Locklen Brandon on May 8. Maternal grandmother Sis. Ginny Zeller (Bro. Eric-deceased), siblings Claire & Cutler and foster siblings Tristan, Adrian, Elias and Mikaya were also excited with Locklen’s safe arrival.

We were given much useful information about the Pleasant Hope Academy in Kenya, Africa at our monthly family hymn sing. It is encouraging to see God’s provision for the needs of this community.

Our hospital patients this month are Sis. Adele Martin, Sis. Ricky Stahl, Sis. Arlene Scholl and Bro. Norman Streitmatter. We pray that God will give renewed health and strength to these loved ones.

We express our appreciation to our single brothers and sisters who gave of themselves to serve the church lunch on Mother’s Day. It is a joy to see their joy in serving.

I was challenged by King David’s charge to his son Solomon which was read in church recently.

“And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the Lord searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever.” I Chronicles 28:9.

If the Lord searches ALL hearts, I believe that we can all substitute our names for Solomon’s in the charge that David gave to his son and evaluate our own knowledge of and service to God.

Illinois, Roanoke
Barb Schwind, Judy Sauder

We thank visiting ministers Bro. Ted Hirstein (Sis. Joyce, Morton, IL), Bro. Erik Givens, (Sis. Deb, Princeville, IL), Bro. Dave Zehr (Sis. Vicki, Gridley), Bro. Fred Witzig (Sis. Nancy, Washington, IL), Bro. James Fehr (Sis. Brenda, Tremont, IL), and Bro. Bill Schick (Sis. Joan, Peoria, IL) for serving us on the pulpit. Bro. Justin Koch (Sis. Marcia, Washington, IL) presented a Bible Study on Baptism: A Symbol and Sacrament.

Roanoke church hosted Invite-a-Guest Sunday on April 22. A supper and singing was held at the fellowship hall. It was a wonderful day to renew friendships, fellowship, and encourage each other in the Lord.

We rejoiced with Bro. Clayton Hartter (Bro. Brad and Sis. April), who gave his testimony and was baptized the weekend of April 28-29. It is wonderful to see the passion for Jesus that our young brothers and sisters share with us.

We are thankful that Jim and Julie Tibbs have begun their walk with the Lord.

We extend our love and sympathy to those whose loved ones have passed away. Terry Stevig (Ruth) of Wauconda, IL died on April 14. He was a brother-in-law to Jane (John) Fehr.
Sis. Marie Hohulin’s sister, Lois (Dot) Schmidt of Milford, IL passed away on April 16.

Sis. Ann Hodel went home to be with the Lord on April 18. She is survived by her sister, Sis. Kathy (Bro. Tom) Hoffman; niece, Sis. Jill (Bro. Brad) Sauder and family; and nephew, Aaron Hoffman. Sis. Ann worked as a nurse for 40 years. She enjoyed vacationing in Florida. Sis. Ann loved her church family and regularly brought candy for the little children at church who would visit her every Sunday.

Sis. Florence (Flo) Wuthrich went to her eternal home on May 13. Her survivors: daughters: Sis. Lynn Wuthrich & Sis. Bonnie (Bro. Ed) Sauder of Roanoke; a son, Bill (Kathy) Wuthrich of Peoria, IL; six grandchildren, great grandchildren & a sister-in-law, Sis. Mildred Hodel (Eureka, IL). Sis. Flo celebrated her 100th birthday in January. Sis. Flo operated the bookstore at Eureka College and started the bookstore at Illinois Central College. We will miss her kind smile and quick wit in Roanoke church.

Bethany Knobloch (Bro. John and Sis. Mary Wiegand) married Nate Boucher (Val Boucher and the late Bonnie Boucher) of Roanoke April 28. We are so happy to have them worship with us.

Bro. Jason and Sis. Emma Bradle were blessed with their first child, Ellie Jayne, born April 21. Thankful grandparents are Scott and Trish Springer of Benson, IL and Bro. John and Sis. Jill Bradle. Bro. Harold and Sis. Judy Sauder welcomed granddaughter Genevieve Ann on May 14. Her parents are Jimmy and Kim Houck of Louisville, KY. We wish God’s blessings on these dear families as they raise these little girls to know Jesus.

Bro. Nate (Sis. Jamie) Hodel conducted services at South Side Mission on April 29.

Andrew Mangold (Elle) will again be deployed to South Korea at the end of May. Nelly Mangold (Bro. Ben) has been deployed to Germany and Bro. Ben will follow in the next few months. Andrew and Bro. Ben are the sons of Bro. Matt and Sis. Jennifer Mangold. We pray for God’s provision of safety on these loved ones as they faithfully serve our country in the US Army.

We had a special service for our graduates on May 20. Our young people sang for us and they were encouraged to choose faith over fear and to purpose in their hearts to walk in a way to glorify God. Congratulations and God’s blessings to our high school graduates: Sis. Laura Bradle, Seth Durand, Joel Fehr, Sam Fehr, Ashley Fischer, Bro. Clayton Hartter, Drew Martin, Elly Sauder, Seth Schwartz, Bro. Tim Wettstein, Sarah Whitten and Alex Wuthrich.

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

Our prayers are with Bro. Wayne Blunier for health concerns.

I love May flowers! Dave and I spent a couple of hours today planting geraniums, petunias, and marigolds. The colors are so vibrant. The flowers stand tall, and their leaves are bright green and free of bug bites. The fragrance is sweet and fresh. However, come July, those same flowers can look parched, buggy, and bedraggled. What happens? Bugs and weeds start to take over. Summer winds and storms have battered them. They become weak from lack of water. I may have gone on vacation and not watered them. It made me think about our spiritual lives. As young Christians we are vibrant and passionate for the Lord. Then the stormy trials of life come to batter us. Worldly cares try to choke out our enthusiasm for the Word, prayer, church, and fellowship with God’s people. We take a vacation from these spiritual disciplines and lack of water and nourishment stunt our spiritual growth. How thankful we can be that just as the Lord renews the earth each spring He can renew our hearts to be passionate about Jesus, and to have a desire to draw living water from the Lord!

Illinois, Tremont

Debbie Aberle, Janice Sauder

“It is not for us to know where His mercy starts and where His justice ends. It is not for us to know where His justice starts and His mercy ends. Because He is God, and we’re His creation.”

Bro. Art Mueller (Sis. Marlene, Belvidere, IL)
This quote was shared during Bro. Art’s topical lesson on Jonah. As we look around us at the wickedness of our generation, we can be assured that God is still in control of all things. The timing of His mercy and His judgement is perfect. Our other visiting ministers include: Bro. Ted Witzig, Jr. (Sis. Donna, Morton, IL), Bro. Scott Aberle (Sis. Dorine, Washington, IL), and Bro. Matt Steffen (Sis. Deanna, Princeville, IL). May God richly bless these brothers and their families.

Our prayers of love and sympathy are for the family of Bro. Merle Sauder at his death: his dear wife, Sis. Nancy; two daughters, Sis. Cindy Sauder (Morton, IL) and Sis. Trudy Bolliger (Bro. Dean); grandchildren and great-grandson. We again extend our sympathy to Bro. Steve and Sis. Barb Pflederer and their family, at the death of another father and grandfather, Bro. Orm Kaiser (Sis. Kathryn, Morton, IL). May God send double comfort, as the loss of Bro. Jim Pflederer is still so recent in their hearts and lives.

We rejoice with those families who have new baby girls! Phoebe June is the newborn daughter of Bro. Michael and Sis. Holly Koch. Her grandparents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Julie Koch and Bro. Ron and Sis. Liz Wagenbach. Bro. Jerry and Sis. Marcia Kaiser welcome another granddaughter, Ellis Jane. Brett and Tessa Kaiser (Tremont) are her parents. Jocelyn and Brooks are her siblings. May these little ones grow up to love and serve our Lord!

We continue to pray for those in our congregation with health issues, including: Bro. Vernon Koch (Sis. Ruth), Chris Allen (Sis. Sheri), and Bro. Phil Koch (Sis. Diane). May God show Himself mightily in their lives.

“We can believe that God is good, and that He knows what He is doing!”

Bro. Herman Glueck (Sis. Sarah, Goodfield, IL) visited one Sunday evening and shared about his journey through cancer. Thanks again for coming, and may we all ever cling to these two truths!

**Illinois, Washington**

**Kendra Funk, Patricia Knapp**

“But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, The Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.” 1 John 20:31

We continue to pray for baby Witt Leman (Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Nancy) for strength and continued healing. We are thankful he is finally at home. Pray for Bro. Harvey Martin (Sis. Sharon) as he was recently hospitalized. Pray also for healing and recovery for Bro. Don Wagenbach (Sis. Marie) after his recent surgery.

We want to congratulate our high school graduates Hannah & Sarah Hofstetter (Bro. Keven & Sis. Ann), Sis. Morgan Knapp (Bro. Benj & Sis. Karen), Michael Mangold (Bro. Mike & Sis. Judy), Bro. Kyle Streitmatter (Bro. Paul & Sis. Jean) and Tate Wyss (Bro. Fred & Sis. Dianne). Pray that they seek godly wisdom and guidance in the future journeys.

Thanks to our visiting ministers who served us this month: Bro. Joe Klotzle (Sis. Sue, Altadena, CA) and Bro. Ryan Schock (Sis. Melanie, Bloomfield).

**Indiana, Bluffton**

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

“Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which entereth into that within the veil.” Hebrews 6:19

It seems that we are constantly reminded about how much we need to trust in Jesus as our hope, firm foundation and rock. In the storms of life we realize how much more we need Him.

With the topic of needing to trust Jesus in mind, I cannot help but mention that Bro. Travis and Sis. Alyssa Fiechter needed Jesus to carry them through a major trial this past month. We are thankful that God chose to spare their little boy, Gage’s, life from a near-drowning accident. We rejoice with them that Gage is doing well and for God’s healing mercy. Sis. Jennie Gerber is appreciative of the church’s prayers for her 2.5-year-old grandson, Memphis. He is recuperating after a viral syndrome and his family is thankful.

We wish to extend our thanks to our recent visiting ministers. Bro. Jeff Waibel (Leo) came and did a topical presentation over “Hedonism and Heaven”. Bros. Tom Lanz (Sis. Mary, Mediapolis,
IA) and Joe Sprunger (Sis. Tara, Indianapolis) served us on Mother’s Day.

Our Young Group and High School Students have been busy this past month. We first wish to thank the West Lafayette church for hosting ACYF for our students. We trust that God will use that day for His glory and work in hearts. The Love One Another supper and singing was a wonderful time for our older singles, widows and widowers to connect with the young group. The Young Group also hosted their annual invite. It was a joy to be able to host singles from the 25 congregations that were represented. Events like these are wonderful ways for the young people to gain wisdom and application on how to become more anchored in Jesus Christ.

We are rejoicing with a convert this past month, Daniel Gerber (Bro. Al and Sis. Joli), who began his repentance. Daniel and his family appreciate your prayers as he is serving in the Air Force overseas.

Bro. Mark and Sis. Barb Gerber and their family were blessed to travel to Magdalena, Mexico to witness their son, Bro. Seth’s, marriage to Sis. Jodi Beer (Bro. Fred and Sis Pat, Milford). We wish them God’s richest blessings as they serve at CVE.

Several families who welcomed newborns over the past month are rejoicing. Bro. Todd, Sis. Nicole and Miles Drayer opened their loving arms to Calvin Joseph, born on April 24. Grandparents are our Bro. Herman and Sis. Julie Drayer and Bro. Roger and Sis. Kathy Wiegand of Gridley. Kelsi Ann Freed was born into the family of Bro. Matt and Sis. Julie. Our Bro. Larry and Sis. Deb Reinhard and Bro. Tom and Sis. Kathy Freed of Indianapolis are Kelsi’s grandparents. Bro. Nathan and Sis. LeAnn Gerber are happy to have another granddaughter, Elsa Jae, born to Bro. Jordan and Sis. Leah Rokey of Bastrop, TX.

Sis. Rose Ringger, 97, passed into eternity. We wish to extend sympathy to her family: a son, Art (Suzanne) Ringger; a brother, Bro. Tom (Sis. Rose) Fraughiger; sister-in-law, Sis. Lucile Fraughiger; and a brother-in-law, Bro. Bill Ringger. Also, Bro. Von and Sis. Diane Heyerly’s son-in-law, Allen Etter, passed away unexpectedly. May God be their comfort in this time of grief.

Bro. Ken Isch (Sis. Carolyne) began chemo treatments again. We trust that his unknown future is in the hands of a known God!

Summer is just around the corner and it brings much excitement to many in our community. We know that many of our students are looking forward to summer break beginning soon and our children are also getting excited about our upcoming 2 weeks of Bible School happening in June. We trust that in all things we do, we are building on the Firm Foundation of Jesus Christ.

**Indiana, Bluffton North**

**Tiffani Schladenhauffen, Corinne Stettner**

“And They continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.” Acts 2:42

We were so thankful to have Elder Bro. Earl and Sis. Dixie Ringger (Gridley, IL) share Communion with us this spring. It was a beautiful evening in remembrance of the love and sacrifice of our Savior Jesus Christ.

This April, our High School students traveled to West Lafayette for ACYF. The day was a blessing for both the young adults and teachers. We appreciate the effort and love poured into our students by the Indiana congregations.

The Bluffton Churches held the annual World Invite this year on the weekend of May 4. The theme was “My Anchor Holds,” based upon Hebrews 6:19. Saturday was filled with teaching, service projects at various local ministries, and fellowship. What a joy to have young people from at least twenty-five churches come to be encouraged by the Word and each other.

Bro. Greg and Sis. Amy Kaehr are delighted to announce the engagement of their son, Bro. Gavin, to Sis. Hannah Aschliman, daughter of Trent and Amy Aschliman. We rejoice with them and pray for God’s blessings upon their future together.

The annual St. Jude’s Bike-A-Thon was another success this year. Our Sunday School children
love riding their bikes to support kids with cancer.

Sis. Phyllis Bucher (Bro. Nile) is recuperating at Christian Care from recent surgery on her knees. Please continue to pray for Sis. Phyllis during her lengthy recovery and surgeries to come.

Our hearts are grieved over the loss of our Bro. Dick Troxel. He passed away Sunday evening, May 13. He is survived by his wife, Sis. Patti; one daughter, Terri Ehle; and one son, Winter (Corrie) Troxel, along with four grandchildren. We are thankful for the healing he has now received after a long battle with Parkinson’s, but we know Bro. Dick will be greatly missed.

Our prayers are also with the family of Sis. Alice Troxel who passed away on May 15 at Christian Care.

Indiana, Francesville
Mildred Clauss, Jacki Huber

“O Sing unto the Lord a new song; for he hath done marvelous things---” Psalm 98:1

Bro. Rodney Pelsy (Bro. Roger and Sis. Lily) and Sis. Sheena Steffen (Bro. Ed and Sis. Denise, Bluffton, IN were recently united in marriage. We pray that their lives together will be richly blessed, because of Jesus’ presence and by the Holy Spirit’s guidance.

Our congratulations and prayers are with Madisyn Nuest (Bro. Chris and Sis. Jennifer) and Bro. Winston Leman (Bro. Curt and Sis. Val), as they graduate from High School, and were presented with Bibles at the annual graduation program. It was mentioned that the Bible has been referred to as the road map for life. With GPS, road maps are not used as often, but we pray that the Bible will be used constantly in both of their lives, as a road map, GPS, or whatever it may be compared to!

We extend sympathy to Bro. Dale and Sis. Terri Pelsy and their family in the passing of Sis. Terri’s mother, Dorothy Polf of Attica, IN. We also extend our sympathy to Bro. Gene and Sis. Barb Huber in the death of Barb’s brother, Joe Pesaresi of Winamac, IN, and to Stanley and Maxine Boehning in the death of Maxine’s brother, Kenneth Boze of Monticello, IN. May the Lord comfort all of them at this tender time.

We are thankful that two hospital patients have returned home, and pray for continued healing, health and strength for Bro. Doug Leman (Sis. Margaret) and Sis. Diane Clevenger (Jon).

Our thanks to Bro. Andy Kaufmann (Sis. Marie, Bloomington, IL) for visiting recently. It is always a blessing.

At this time of year, we are thankful for godly dads, and wish to thank each one for their faithful lives of example and love to all.

Indiana, Indianapolis
Becky Ringger, Nancy Pfeifer

God’s ways are always right. We so often get sidetracked from His direction and after hitting dead ends or difficulties, the Spirit finally gets our attention and helps us straighten out our thinking. Thank you, Father, for your patience. I was reminded of that at a restaurant which served us real butter. There was no optional oleo/margarine. Remember when margarine first came out? It was touted as the most wonderful invention. Now many years later studies show that we improved nothing with margarine. We can’t improve on God either! His plans are always the best.

May 6, we celebrated the wedding of our Sis. Allison Rager to Bro. Kaleb Steidinger (Remington, IN). Her parents are Bro. Kent and Sis. Jill (Leo, IN) and his are Bro. Keith and Sis. Kristine (Fairbury, IL). Our prayers go with them on this new path.

Visiting ministers for that day were Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Remington, IN), Bro. Steve Stiegitz (Sis. Jane, Leo, IN), and Bro. Todd Sinn (Sis. Janet, Latty, OH). It was a blessed day.

We are also celebrating some graduations this month. Graduating from high school are Jacob Ackerman, A.J. Bucher, Sis. Kaitlyn Gutwein, and Bro. Luke Stiegitz. Bro. Eric Frantz (Sis. Katy) finished medical school and will take a residency in Kansas City. We pray they the feel the hand of God as they move. Also, Sis. Raquel Sauder has finished her undergraduate studies and graduated, but will continue here for further studies for several more years.

The newest member of our congregation is Locklen Brandon
Graham who was born May 8 to Bro. Ben and Sis. Suzanne. His siblings are Claire and Cutler and 4 foster (2 each) brothers and sisters. Grandparents are Sis. Ginny Zeller (the late Bro. Eric) and Bro. Dick Graham (the late Sis. Jeanette) of Peoria. Bro. Tom and Sis. Kathy Freed became grandparents to Kelsi, daughter of Bro. Matt and Sis. Julie Freed on April 19. Bro. John and Sis. Peg Sauder have a new granddaughter Saylor Paige born to Bro. Clayton and Sis. Trish Monfre (Morton, IL) on May 7.

Indiana, LaCrosse

Julie Rocke, Meagan Frank

“Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.” Romans 6:4

On the weekend of April 28-29, we welcomed Jonathan Rocke (Bro. Brad and Sis. Julie) as a new brother in faith. It was encouraging, as always, to hear the testimony of how God has worked in someone’s heart and to see it spring forth with “newness of life.” Elder Bro. Duane Rocke (Sis. Bonnie, Minneapolis, MN) and Bros. Lucas Frank (Sis. Crystal, Detroit, MI), Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi, Alto, MI), Dana Nieman (Sis. Lea, Remington, IN) and Josh Zimmerman (Sis. Molly, Forrest, IL) joined us for part or all of the weekend. Their labors of ministry and teaching were greatly appreciated! It was truly inspiring to hear and feel God’s Spirit so clearly all weekend.

The following Saturday evening, Bros. Arlan Miller and Matt Kaufmann came to share an ACCFS presentation on “Effective Communication”. We send a heartfelt thank you to both of them for coming for the evening and to everyone at ACCFS for all the work that goes into these church outreach events.

We took one evening during the week to gather for a church landscaping day. It went well and we enjoyed working together in the warm, bright sunshine.

Indiana, Leo

Jan Beer

Pentecost - Sunday, May 20, 2018. This Christian holiday is celebrated on the seventh Sunday after Easter and commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and other followers of Jesus Christ while they were in Jerusalem celebrating the Feast of Weeks, as described in Acts 2:1-31.

What an excellent day for a baptism! Victor Fink gave his testimony to the Leo congregation on the evening preceding this Christian holiday, and was baptized on Pentecost. We welcome him into our fellowship of Believers. It is with much joy that we report that his mother, Kelly Fink, desires to walk in fellowship with the Apostolic Christian Church also. We appreciate Bro. Randy Gudeman (Sis. Becky, Francesville, IN) assisting our Bro. Lynn with the testimony on Saturday evening.

Another reason for rejoicing is the news of the birth of two sweet baby girls! On April 30, Caroline Joan Pfister was born to Shaye & Jordan Pfister and joins big sister Eleanor. Local grandparents are Dan and Karen Pfister. Born on May 8 to Jena & Marcus Schwab, Ensley Jo joins big sister Brielle and brother Everett. Ensley has two aunts in the Leo church family, Stefanie Beer and Marissa Bahler. We are grateful for the safe arrival of these dear little ones.

Our thanks to Bro. Jerry Meeks (Sis. Christy, Sabetha, KS) who served from the Leo pulpit during this last month. We are looking forward to more visits from them since their daughter Lydia is engaged to Brock Williamson from Leo. We hope you always feel welcome here, Jerry and Christy.

Graduation time is at hand! Our church family celebrates with our high school graduates: Connor Beer (Joe & Heather), Hannah Brooks (makes her home with Jason & Joy Huber), Devin Carter (Rob & Jennie), Kyler Donaghy (Ryan & Bethany), James Drayer (Bruce & Heather), Victor Fink (Louie & Kelly), Moriah Fritz (Jeff & Carla), Grace Gutwein (Alex & Lorelei), Kelsey Kaeb (Chad & Kristy), Luke Maibach (Mark & Julie), Abrey Plattner (Clint & Bethany), Honor Schrock (Trent & Heidi) and Josiah Schumacher (Jeff & Tina). Our love and prayers for God’s
direction in their life follow them where ever they go.

The Leo congregation is accustomed to receiving newcomers who are called to serve at Gateway Woods. Because they are already members of our church family, we now have the distinct pleasure of already knowing and loving the two most recently hired Assistant Houseparents: Kacie Klopfenstein (Loren & Rita) and Chelsea Williamson (Jason & Wendy). Both young Sisters seem well-fitted for the position, and we appreciate their willingness to serve Christ in this manner. (Even though I had reported months earlier that Kacie had gone to Mexico to work on the mission field there, I was mistaken; she had just gone for a visit. I apologize for my misinformation.)

On April 22, God joined the hearts of Bro. Seth Gerber and Sis. Jodi Beer together in holy matrimony in Magdelena, Mexico. We were so happy to rejoice with them at a reception held here in Milford on May 12. May God bless them as they begin this journey in life. Their parents are Bro. Mark and Sis. Barb Gerber (Bluffton, IN) and Bro. Fred and Sis. Pat Beer.

With delight we received the engagement announcement of Bro. Kevin Schlipf and Sis. Megan Heinold of West Lafayette, IN (Bro. Glen and Sis. Sandy Heinold, LaCrosse, IN). We pray God’s loving hand will guide them as they plan their December wedding.

Indiana, Milford
Carol Haab, Pat Mikel

We are thankful Kylie Evans has begun her walk with God and we pray His love and grace completely fill her heart during this time. Kylie is the daughter of Ron and Amy Evans and the granddaughter of Bro. Bob and Sis. Sue Cockburn.

A recent statement from the Leo pulpit really struck me. Our dear brother said, “I like to think that the opposite of love is not hate, but apathy”. Scripture makes it very clear about the importance of us loving God and loving each other. And, it is easy to fool ourselves into thinking we are not a hateful person; but can we say we are not apathetic at times? The Holy Spirit that we celebrate with the Christian holiday of Pentecost is still powerful today to convict, instruct and guide us. Praise God for His incredible gift to us.

Indiana, Remington
Jenni Honegger, Marcella Tyler

We were blessed to have Elder Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen, Kansas City, MO) and Elder Bro. Greg Lehman (Sis. Mary Beth, Wolcott, IN) here to help serve Communion. May God bless each one for sharing their time and fellowship to minister during this special time of unity and love. Please pray that we will continue to reflect on the Lord’s sacrifice and provision for us and examine our hearts throughout the year and not just at Communion time.

Although we always can find something to be thankful for and something to be prayerful about, sometimes our little congregation has little to report in the way of news. However, this is one of those months when we have much to write about!

Bro. Mark and Sis. Anna Waibel welcomed the arrival of precious little Charleston Ann on April 30! Grandparents Bro. Bruce and Sis. Jody Waibel and Bro. Tim and Sis. Lynnette Bahler are thankful to have a sweet little granddaughter to dote on. We are all glad to include little Charleston.
as a part of our congregation. We pray that Bro. Mark and Sis. Anna will continue to seek God’s grace and wisdom as their family grows from two to three.

Bro. Kaleb Steidinger (Bro. Keith and Sis. Kristine, Fairbury, IL) married Sis. Allison Rager of Indianapolis, IN (Bro. Kent and Sis. Jill, Leo, IN) on May 6. We are so thrilled to have a newlywed couple in our midst! We hope Sis. Allison soon feels at home here in Remington. We pray that their marriage will be filled with God’s blessings as she and Bro. Kaleb seek to serve Him together from this point forward.

Convert Austin Schneider has felt the amazing gift of peace with God and man and covets our prayers as he seeks to move forward toward baptism.

We have many graduates who are celebrating the end of one phase of their education this month. Isaac Bahler (Bro. Tim and Sis. Lynnette), Owen Getz (Matt and Heidi), Bro. Troy Honegger (Bro. Loren and Sis. Jenni), Alexis Koshenina (Nick and Heather Koshenina), Blaize Reyes (Megan Reyes of South Carolina and Rick Reyes of Wisconsin), and Kevin Walder (Bro. John and Sis. Lisa) are all graduating from high school. Sis. Brittany Weerts (Bro. Dan and Sis. Denise) is graduating from Purdue and will now be living, working, and attending church in Indianapolis, IN. We will miss her and feel confident she will be a blessing to the Indianapolis church! We are thankful for each graduate and pray that each one will continue to learn and grow closer to the Lord as they follow the next step in their life’s journey.

Finally, we are saddened at her loss, but rejoice with our dear Sis. Lois Bahler that she could finally reach her heavenly home. She leaves behind a legacy of godliness and a long list of loved ones: her eight children: Barry (Jacqueline) of West Lafayette, IN, Bro. Kurt (Sis. Patti), Sis. Libby Wahl (Bro. Fred) of West Lafayette, IN, Brad (Dorene) of Wisconsin, Sis. Beth Virklar (Bro. Stan), Bro. Ed, Jr. (Sis. Annette) of West Lafayette, IN, Sis. Lili Koehl (Bro. Dale) of Bloomington, IL, and Sis. Charlene Hartter (Bro. Tim) of Sabetha, KS; 41 grandchildren; 71 great-grandchildren; two sisters, Evelyn Lehman of California and Marjorie Stoller of Fort Wayne, IN; two brothers, Lloyd Frey (Thelma) and Wally Frey (Adeline); two brothers-in-law, Bro. Walt Bahler (Sis. Esther) and Ray Bahler; and many nieces and nephews. Please pray for the family as they each adjust to life without her.

Indiana, West Lafayette

Libby Wahl

Peaceful, comforting Communion was shared April 21 with Elder Bro. Harvey Kaeb (Sis. Judy, Gridley, IL) assisting our Elder Bro. Nick. It is joy to know we will come together again this fall as sometimes our schedules do not accommodate one of the dates. It won’t be long for the next memorial.

We were very blessed to host HarvestCall representative meetings April 26-28. Many hands made light work of long days. What a glorious labor of love.

More warm welcomes are extended to two couples with plans to move to our area in the next few weeks for employment. Bro. Blair & Sis. Natalie Neihouser & family are scheduled to arrive from Morton, IL. Bro. Ryan & Sis. Janessa Warren will be arriving from South Carolina with the U.S. Navy.

Our love and prayers are also with Sis. Rachel Langhofer (Bro. Craig), whose grandmother, Sis. Lois Bahler, has gone Home to be with the Lord.

“And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:7
from Cincinnati, OH, where Bro. Ryan finished schooling.

Thoughts and prayers are extended to Bro. Ed & Sis. Annette Bahler and Bro. Fred & Sis. Libby Wahl and their families and extended families as their mother and grandmother, Sis. Lois Bahler, 93 yrs, has entered her eternal home.

Convert Callie Furrer (Bro. Brian and Sis. Lorene) is our special high school graduate this year.

Callie plans to stay in West Lafayette for further schooling at Purdue.

We share the joy upon hearing of these two college students’ engagement: Sis. Megan Heinold (LaCrosse, IN) and Bro. Kevin Schlipf (Milford, IN).

Bro. Chad and Sis. Claudia Aeschlimann and family desire prayer for Sis. Claudia’s recently diagnosed health condition.

Thank you, Bro. Vince Pfister (Sis. Brandy, Bluffton, IN) for midweek pulpit service support and Bro. Frank Sauder (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL) for a stirring Mother’s Day message.

“In ordinary life, we hardly realize that we receive a great deal more than we give, and that it is only with gratitude that life becomes rich.” -D. Bonhoeffer

Indiana, Wolcott

Erica Blume, Teresa Earney

We regret the oversight in our May issue of the passing of Nelson Lowell Blades, grandson of Sis. Karla Bahler (Bro. Lowell, deceased). Nelson leaves behind loving parents, Anthony and Patsy Blades (Missouri), as well as many siblings, nieces, and nephews. We know that only God can fill the hole left by the loss of someone so dear.

“And the mother of the child said, [As] the LORD liveth, and [as] thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee.” 2 Kings 4:30

What do we celebrate on Mother’s Day? The prophet Elisha witnessed the dedication and love of a mother’s heart. She refused to leave the prophet’s side until he attended to her dead son. As a result of her persistence and faith, the child was restored to her care. All of us desire that our children be led to a life in Christ, so we implore our merciful Father to heal them! The example of the Shunammite woman is worth celebrating.

Elder Bros. Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen, Kansas City, MO) and Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Remington, IN) jointly assisted our dear elder brother in serving our church Holy Communion on April 29. We also thank Bro. Frank Sauder (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Ryan Bertsch (Sis. Jessica, Bluffton North, IN) for joining us on other Sundays. Each of these brothers was willing to sacrifice for the spiritual gain of our congregation and we trust God to bless them.

Sis. Glenna Minniear (Bro. Mike) underwent surgery this month and is recuperating at home. How thankful we are that God has granted understanding to our physical doctors. They provide aid while we reside in imperfect flesh!

Our congregation is excited to welcome Wren Abree Bahler into the world! She is the firstborn of Bro. Shane and Sis. Alyssa. Chris and Sis. Teresa Bahler, her paternal grandparents, and maternal grandparents, Bro. Loren and Sis. Rita Klopfenstein (Leo, IN), will gladly shower her with love. We pray God’s blessings on this family!

Sis. Shari Schwab and Mark Schwab have been blessed with a new granddaughter. Bro. Marcus and Sis. Jena Schwab (Leo, IN), Brielle, and Everett can now cuddle and care for Ensley Jo.

Iowa, Bloomfield

Kendra Schlatter

We want to congratulate Hannah Teubel (Bro. Paul and Sis. Charlotte) as she graduates from high school. We wish her God’s blessings as she closes one phase of her life and enters a new one.

We thank Bro. Jay Steffen (Sis. Melinda, Congerville, IL) and Bro. Gary Maibach (Sis. Mary Ann, Smithville, OH) for ministering this month.

First-time parents, Jonathon and Kenzie Teubel, were blessed with the arrival of their daughter, Millie Rose on April 23. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Paul and Sis. Charlotte Teubel and Mark and Paula Dearborn all of Bloomfield.

We are happy for Amy Teubel and Nic Wiley as they were united in marriage on May 12. Happy parents are Bro. Paul and Sis.
Charlotte Teubel and Curtis and Kelly Short of Milton, IA.

May we be thankful for our fathers as we celebrate Father’s Day. And may we always be thankful for our Father in heaven for sending his Son to die for our sins.

Iowa, Burlington
Elaine Eisenmann, Marilyn Anderson

Our congregation was blessed to partake of Holy Communion on May 5. Bro. Brad Funk (Sis. Laura, Garden Grove) assisted Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Sis. Julie, Mediapolis). It was a blessed evening of worship and remembrance. They assembled with us on Sunday May 6 also, along with Bro. Dale Frank (Mediapolis). We thank them all for their visit!

On April 29, Bro. Daniel Steiner (Bro. Mike and Sis. Ivy) and Sis. Claire Lanz (Bro. Regan and Sis. Tricia, Mediapolis) were united in marriage at the Mediapolis church. We welcome Sis. Claire to our congregation!

We rejoice with our high school graduates: Casey Banwart, Kolten Buster and Ethan Eisenmann and also college graduate Brady Eisenmann. We wish them God’s guidance in their future.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Charity Scheitlin in the death of her brother, James Nicholson of Conyers, GA, and to Bro. Seth and Sis. Brenda Hartter with the death of their grandmother, Sis. Lois Bahler of Remington, IN. We know they are missed!

It is always a blessing when we have visitors from other churches come to worship from time to time. If it be on a Wednesday evening or a Sunday service, they are always very welcome!

Iowa, Elgin
Maria Rocke

Jonathan Douglas Schupbach was born to Bro. Doug & Sis. Tami on April 28. We wish them God’s wisdom as they raise their little blessing. John & Jill Butikofer (Gridley, IL) and Bro. John & Sis. Janet Schmidgall (Forrest, IL) are Jonathan’s grandparents.

Our sympathy is with Sheryl Schroeder in the passing of her dear brother, Larry Butikofer. We trust she will feel our love and prayers.

Bro. Dean Messner (Sis. Wanda, Winthrop, MN) was with us this month. Also, Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL) and Elder Bro. Wayne Grimm (Sis. Rose, West Bend, IA) were with us for our Communion service. May our Lord bless and provide for each of these brothers in their ministry.

“Anew, Lord, we are bound to Thee,
Through Thy blest sacrifice, which we
Partook, that joined in heart and hand;
To Zion’s realm and holy land
We journey on.”
Zion’s Harp # 200, v. 5

Iowa, Garden Grove
Laura Funk

Greetings from south central Iowa!!

Our congregation enjoys visitors! Make southern Iowa a summer vacation stop! Some of our congregation doesn’t travel much. You are the only fellowship they have other than home folks! Let us know when you will be stopping!

Have you ever ridden a bicycle built for two? It’s an experience that involves the second person putting all their trust in the driver. I heard an analogy of your life being like riding a bicycle built for two. Who is in the front pedaling and steering your bike up the hills and through the valleys? Is Jesus steering and pedaling for you? Or is Jesus riding behind you and you are steering? Jesus pedals when you run out of power or need help over a hill? Since you cannot see around the front person, the back person must have full trust in the person steering that bicycle. Who is steering and pedaling your bike? You or Jesus?

We thank the visiting ministers and all that travel with them: Bro. Phillip Schulz (Burlington, IA), Bro. John Steiner (Mediapolis, IA) and Bro. Kim Sutter (Taylor, MO). God bless you.

I was reading through a book of poems and found The Beatitudes for Homemakers. These two caught my eye.

"Blessed is she who introduces Jesus Christ to her children; for godly sons and daughters shall be her reward. Blessed is she who preserves the sacredness of the Christian home; for hers is a divine trust that crowns her with dignity." -Ella May Miller.
Iowa, Iowa City
Diana Butikofer

We were blessed by the visit of Elder Bro. Greg Lehman (Sis. Mary Beth, Wolcott, IN), who served us Holy Communion on Saturday and shared the Word on Sunday. Other visitors were Bro. Byron Stoller (Sis. Carol, Gridley, IL), Bro. Adrian Strahm (Sis. Harriet, Bern, KS), and Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL). We appreciate these brothers’ willingness to travel and speak the Truth to us.

Iowa, Lester
Audrey Metzger, Joyce Moser

The wedding of Bro. Nedd Knobloch (Bro. Dan and Sis. ReJean) and Sis. Kayla Banwart (Bro. Kent and Sis. Beth) was April 22 in West Bend, IA. We wish them God’s blessings and warmly welcome Sis. Kayla into our church family.

On April 29, it was made known to the Lester congregation that our new minister is Bro. Troy Metzger (Sis. Gwen). We pray for him and his dear family that he could be given a double portion of grace and be ready to “Preach the word; be instant in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.” 2 Timothy 4:2.

We were blessed with the presence of three visiting ministers, all on May 20, when Bro. Fred Funk (Sis. Diane, Morton, IL), Bro. Klint Beyer (Sis. Kara, Sabetha, KS), and Bro. Kevin Wulf (Sis. Annie, Morris, MN) all shared God’s holy Word. We so appreciate their selflessness in being used in this way.

We congratulate the young people from our church who are graduating from high school this month, which includes Chayla Besonen (Brant and Samantha), Becca Knobloch (Bro. Stan and Sis. Dawn), Kerrick Knoblock (Bro. Trent and Sis. Heather), Kiana Knoblock (Bro. Travis and Sis. Kathy), Emily Popkes (Bro. Greg and Sis. Lori), Riley Knoblock (Bro. Marti and Sis. Martha), Levi Metzger (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Dawn), Parker Metzger (Craig and Kelly), Quinn Mogler (Bro. Dwight and Sis. Donna) and Madison Molitor (Carol). We also recognize those graduating from college. They are Ben Feucht (Roy and Melissa), Sis. Kinzi Knobloch (Bro. Garth), Sis. Cassidy Wulf (Bro. Duane and Sis. Ann), Kelwin Knobloch (Bro. Lance and Sis. Kristi), Sis. Mattie Metzger (Bro. Neil), Micah Bajema (Bro. Rod and Sis. Sue), and Matt Metzger (Bro. Mark and Sis. Audrey). We pray God will be their Guide as they embark on their future plans.

Spending time in the hospital were Cody Moser (Bro. Stuart and Sis. Karin), Sis. Florence Knoblock, Sis. Gail Hartter (Bro. Jerome), and Bro. John Gerber. We pray God’s healing hand can be upon them as they return home.

We rejoice with Alex and Kendra Ita (son-in-law and daughter of Bro. Dwight and Sis. Donna), Katrina Gerber (Bro. Monte and Sis. Karla), Talia Knobloch (Bro. Dudley and Sis. Sara) and Molly Knobloch (Sis. Chalea and late Bro. Vern) as they have attained that wonderful peace with God and man and are awaiting baptism.

Congratulations to Cody and Shay Doorneweerd on the birth of their first child, Ridley Jay, on May 20. Happy grandparents are Bro. Lynn (Butch) & Sis. Kathy Doorneweerd. We wish this young family the richest of God’s blessings as they raise this precious little one!

We send sincere sympathy to Jed and Deann Matthieson & little Nora on the loss of Jed’s grandmother, Gertrude Harms. We pray that God’s comforting grace may rest upon them.

Iowa, Mediapolis
Janet Lanz, Tami Lanz

As spring gently slips into summer, so love gently slips into hearts. April 22 was the date our church learned of the engagement of our Sis. Molly Lanz (Bro. Keith and Sis. Tonya) to Bro. Corbin Knobloch (Bro. Cameron and Sis. Tammy) of West Bend, IA. We will miss Sis. Molly, but we know God will be with her as she takes her place in the West Bend church.

That same Sunday, our convert Cheryl Stoller (Bro. Ed and Sis. Patty) was announced for peace. We are so thankful for every soul that can answer God’s call and come to this point in their life.

April 29 was a beautiful spring day when we gathered in church
to hear the vows of our Sis. Claire Lanz (Bro. Regan and Sis. Tricia) to Bro. Daniel Steiner (Bro. Mike and Sis. Ivy) of Burlington, IA. Visiting ministers joining us for this joyous occasion were: Elder Bro. Bruce Endress (Sis. Elizabeth, Bradford, IL), Bro. Barry Dietz (Sis. Rachel, Bradford, IL), Bro. Darren Fehr (Sis. Nora, West Bend, IA), and Bro. Glen Steiner (Sis. Rachel, Winthrop, MN).

Trust and Obey, Hymns of Zion, #186, was a common thread woven into both the morning and afternoon services where we were reminded that to be happy in Jesus, we must trust and obey. Such a basic instruction to keep us near to God.

It’s always a joy to welcome back one of our “home” boys as they come to fill the pulpit and bring us God’s word. Bro. Michael Wagenbach (Sis. Erica, Wolcott, IN) and family were with us on May 6.

We again extend our sympathy to Sis. Connie Hay (Bro. Paul) as she laid to rest her mother, Marlys Kingsbury, only 3½ months after losing her father. Sis. Connie’s parents celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary in January, quite a milestone marking their faithfulness to God and to each other. So many precious memories, how thankful we are that God is our rock and fortress when the storms of life are blowing.

Graduation is a time of reflection for parents and students alike. It marks an ending and a beginning. Our high school graduate this year is Trenton Massner (Bro. Troy and Sis. Jioni). Our college graduates are Bro. Benjamin Larson (Bro. Mark and Sis. Rosemary), Austin Lanz (Bro. Monte and Sis. Kelly), and Sis. Torri Stoller (Bro. David and Sis. Stefanie). Our prayers go with them as they continue down the path of life.

Iowa, West Bend
Becky Virkler, Jenny Banwart

April 22 was the wedding day for Sis. Kayla Banwart (Bro. Kent & Sis. Beth) and Bro. Nedd Knobloch (Bro. Dan & Sis. ReJean) from Lester, IA. The same Sunday Bro. Corbin Knobloch (Bro. Cameron & Sis. Tammy) became engaged to Sis. Molly Lanz (Bro. Keith & Sis. Tonya) from Mediapolis, IA. We wish each of these couples God’s richest blessings. We enjoyed having Elder Bro. Rod Bajema (Sis. Sue, Lester, IA), Bro. Dale Wulf (Sis. Becky, Lester, IA), Bro. Dale Frank (Sis. Tina, Mediapolis, IA) and Bro. Tom Lanz (Sis. Mary, Mediapolis, IA) with us, sharing in these joys.

God has blessed three families with new bundles of joy this past month. Bro. Dave & Sis. Laura Bahler welcome Craig Anthony into their lives. Big brothers Daniel, Tory and Eli along with grandparents Bro. Andy & Sis. Becky Virkler and Bro. Tim & Sis. Lynette Bahler (Remington, IN) welcome him also. Cooper Scott was born to Bro. Abram & Sis. Jessica Frank. His brothers Keegan and Brody and grandparents Bro. Mark & Sis. Janet Fehr and Bro. Scott & Sis. Elaine Frank (Eureka, IL) are thankful for his safe arrival. John & Audrey Zaugg welcome Avery Jean. Welcoming their new sister are brothers Jaxon, Abner and Jalen. Grandparents are Pat & Julie Zaugg and Kevin & Diane Montag. May God give each of these families His Grace to teach these tender hearts of His ways.

We joyfully welcome Sis. Larae Knobloch (Bro. Jim & Sis. Sandy), Sis. Anna Zaugg (Bro. David & Sis. Melissa) and Sis. Abigail Zaugg (Bro. David & Sis. Melissa) into our church family as they shared their testimonies and were baptized. Sharing in this special weekend were Elder Bro. Dave Graf (Sis. Barbara, Akron, OH), Bro. Jim Butikofer (Sis. Diana, IA City, IA) and Bro. Kent Getz (Sis. Betty, Elgin, IA). May God bless each one for their labors.

We pray for Sis. Jami Banwart (Bro. Marc), Sis. Marvella Wickman (Bro. Larry), Sis. Verda Bruellman and Erika Nohl as they have each spent time in the hospital. May God continue to grant healing as He sees fit.

Our sympathy goes out to Michael & Marilyn Banwart in the passing of Marilyn’s mother, Iola Block.

“. . . he hath sent me to heal the broken hearted..” St. Luke 4:18

As we ponder how much our Heavenly Father loves and cares for us, we also have the opportunity to thank our earthly fathers for their love and guidance as we celebrate Father’s Day.
Lovely spring days are here, and we thank the Lord for His handiwork displayed in blooming flowers and fluffy clouds.

Even more special is His Word that we have at our fingertips and also expounded by visiting brethren, our Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Sis. Bev, Detroit) and Bro. Akihiro Ito (Sis. Carrie, Shioda). With Bro. Mark, we made the journey to Calvary to remember the sacrifice of dear Jesus on the cross as we drank of the cup and ate the bread. Bro. Mark also met with some of us on Saturday to teach us and renew guidelines for our faith and church. We pray for those who are over us in the Lord that the Lord will be with them every step of the way as they fulfill their high calling in Christ.

On another Sunday, Bro. Akihiro expounded on Isaiah 40 and Phil. 4. Again we enjoyed his ministry and encouragement.

We have missed our Sis. Hiroko Utsuki as she recently fell and injured her leg. While she is homebound, we remember her in our prayers.

Others we pray for are several converts whom we are very thankful for. We pray they can build a good foundation in Jesus our Redeemer, Savior, and Friend.

It was also special to have Megan (Bollier) Mobley here for a visit. She is a cousin of Sis. Anna Inoue, and came to spend a week with Anna and her family.

We have several in our congregation graduating from high school this year. Sonja Menold (Bro. Chris and Sis. Amy), Dillon Rokey (Bro. Dwight and Sis. Anita), Kristin Rokey (Bro. Todd and Sis. Sheila) and Sam Strahm (Brian and Christie). Our college graduate is Bro. Michael Baumgartner (Bro. John and Sis. Lori). May God direct their paths as they move on to another chapter in their lives.

Deborah, meaning “bee,” who rallied the Israelites against oppressive Canaanites and whose “sting” proved fatal to the mighty Canaanite warrior Sisera at the hands of Jael, wife of Heber, and a tent spike. In Judges 5:11, Deborah’s song shows her complete trust in God: “They that are delivered from the noise of archers in the places of drawing water, there shall they rehearse the righteous acts of the Lord, even the righteous acts toward the inhabitants of his villages in Israel.” Beyond Deborah’s role as a leader and patriot of Israel, Judges 5:7 reveals another of her roles: “I Deborah arose . . . a mother in Israel.” Deborah was a spiritual mother to her nation, helping them turn to God during their distress because of harsh Canaanite rule. The fruits of her influence were forty years of calm for the Israelites.

We look forward to the testimonies and baptisms of Austin and Kendra Bahr over Memorial Day weekend and wish them God’s blessings.

We also congratulate Austin Bahr as he graduates from high school this May.

Sis. Karen Kellenberger (Bro. Rick) has undergone a stem cell transplant to enhance the occurrence of deep remission from her bone cancer, Multiple Myeloma. Sis. Karen is very grateful for all the prayers, cards, food, and emails.
Kansas, Lamont-Gridley
Dorene Metzger

Bro. Roger (Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha, KS) Aberle spent Mother’s Day in our presence. We thank him for his discourse on Mothers. The Bible gives many attributes found in godly mothers and states that her value is above rubies. A saying that I often heard my parents and grandparents say was, “The hand that rocks the cradle can rock the world”. Mothers, please take heart and know that your daily labors with your children are not in vain. I know--some days you wonder what you got done of your daily chores and some days the children really tried your patience. But the training of your children to do their work chores well and teaching them respect for God and others is not in vain. Mothers and Fathers who work together training their children in godly attributes know there are challenges, BUT also great rewards. Seeing children become diligent and growing in the knowledge of living for our Heavenly Father--such a wonderful joy!

The following verse on a Mother’s Day card sent to me caused me to have feelings of joy, unworthiness, but thankfulness that God can work through challenges and He is the One worthy of praise.

Raised to listen-Raised to think.
Raised to shine and not to shrink.
Raised with strength and hard work, too.
Bravely, Fiercely raised by you, Mom.
Happy Mother’s Day!

Bro. Albert (Sis. Jeannie) Edelman had to have more transfusions as he continues his chemo regimen. We pray for daily trust and strength for this dear family during this challenge.

Additional landscape work and parking lot repair (to cracked concrete) has been done. Just as this is needed in everyday life, so is it needed in our spiritual lives so that God can be glorified.

We have two 8th grade graduates this year: Zane Edelman (Bro. Victor and Sis. Hope) and Haley Isch (Bro. Justin and Sis. Liz). May they remember the godly teaching their parents have instilled in them, so that they can go forward confidently by God’s grace.

Kansas, Sabetha
Brenda Nenadov, Leanna Hartter

“Count your blessings, Name them one by one, Count your blessings, See what God hath done.”

Hymns of Zion, #116

As usual, God has given us many blessings to be thankful for in our Sabetha congregation.

We appreciate Bro. Don Sinn (Sis. Linda, Silverton, OR) visiting our church and sharing from God’s Holy Word.

It was also a blessing to have Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) travel here to assist with Holy Communion on May 6. It’s always good to set the business of life aside, come together as a church family, and remember what our dear Savior did for us at Calvary.

We are thankful for the engagement of Sis. Brianna Grimm (Bro. Darin and Sis. Marci) to Bro. Jesse Hartter (Bro. James and Sis. Sandy). We pray the Lord will bless their marriage.

We had several high school graduates this year: Wyatt Beyer (Bro. Klint and Sis. Kara), Sis. Rachel Fehr (Bro. Todd and Sis. Cynthia), Sis. Brianna Grimm (Bro. Darin and Sis. Marci), Sis. Leah Metzger (Bro. Jared and Sis. Carla), and Justin Wenger (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Jean). We are also thankful for our college graduate, Sis. Naomi Wiegand (Bro. Stan and Sis. Marilyn). Our prayers will go with each of these graduates as they step into the next chapter of their lives.

We would like to extend a thank you to the Kiowa church for hosting the Jr. Bible Class youth fellowship weekend. We pray that the seeds planted in these young souls on weekends such as these can continue to grow as they learn more about our Lord and Savior.

Of course, our greatest blessing of all is the amazing plan of Salvation our Lord has provided for us. We rejoice with our two new converts Laura Edelman (Bro. Loren and Sis. Jeanne) and Grant Meyer (Bro. Alan and Sis. Colleen). How thankful we are when God brings lost sheep into
the fold! We will continue to lift these converts up in prayer as they begin their walks with the Lord.

With Father’s Day approaching, we would like to make a note of appreciation to each of our fathers. When we think of all our dads have done for us, we realize they are another blessing from above.

Kansas, Wichita

Debbie Frieden

We were blessed to have ministering Bro. John Baumgartner (Sis. Lori) from Bern, KS serve us on the pulpit March 25.

We held our annual Easter breakfast followed by the Children’s Program. It was so good to hear our children’s voices harmonizing together. Church services were held after.

Corey’s family were in Bern KS for baptisms on April 15. We were privileged to hear the word spoken by our Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Sis. Jane, Lamont-Gridley). May 6, we were blessed to have Bro. Brandon Emch (Sis. Maria) and family from Kansas City MO gave us a presentation on the day of the Lord on Saturday evening. It was a very interesting and informative topic for all of us who attended. They spent the night and were here as our guest minister for Sunday services. May God richly bless you for your labor of love.

We are glad to see Carla Holland (Sis. Gale Grimms daughter) back to church after two months recovering from her second leg surgery.

May 13, Mother’s Day, Bro. Corey spoke in Judges 4 and 5 on the women in the Bible. Some of us are fortunate to have our mothers here with us. My mother is 88 years old and helps with the youth group and others in need.

How can we show Jesus love to someone this week? The best gift you can give to others may be your time.

México, Barra Vieja

Alisha Ramirez

This month we were especially blessed by the Ugalde family. Bro. Lalo, Sis. Silvia, and their 3 children came from Ixtlan, Mexico to be with us for 5 days this month. We were blessed by the many services that were held, and the fellowship among brethren. We were encouraged, and made all the more aware of our need for a local minister. We were also reminded that even though our small flock may not have an earthly shepherd right now, we will always have a heavenly Father, or shepherd, to look to for guidance.

“I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.” John 10:11

Please continue to pray for Sis. Virginia (Kike) Angelito as she is in recovery from her surgery last month. She is gaining strength back and recovering nicely. Kike is our song leader so it is wonderful to have her voice at full strength again during our services.

This month we have begun a community service project of collecting food for our local orphanage. This food drive will run until June 15. We are hoping to collect the most needed items that the orphanage is currently asking for: rice, beans, sugar, oil, and shelf stable milk. We would ask for your prayers for our project as we go out into the community collecting food and upon delivery, that the food be used to bless the children at Marsh Children’s Home.

“Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.” James 1:27

Mexico, Ixtlán

Ruth Gerber

“The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.” Matthew 9:37-38

If we could see the harvest as God does, would we be focused on the things that we are now? Would we be using time the way we do? Would we be living where we are? One thing is sure for all of us…harvest time is approaching, and we need to pray!

Here in Ixtlán we are praying as we plan for our VBS - praying for good teamwork, for enough helpers to teach and work with the children, for the visitors that will be coming to support the work, for lasting fruit in many hearts, for
the edification of the church as we work together under more pressure than we normally face…There is much to pray about…

We are also praying for the laborers that are at this time struggling with sickness. We think of Sis. Estela Salcedo who is currently in Morelia for medical treatment. We are praying for her heart’s health and her vision as she awaits possible surgery. We also lift up Bro. Javier and Sis. Veronica Torres and their children as several of them have struggled with recurring sickness.

One of the things we thank the Lord for is the return of Sis. Berta de Gonzalez after an extended stay in the US. She is an encouragement to many laborers here and an active laborer herself. We also anticipate having several visitors from the US in the next couple months and pray that they will each accomplish the work that the Lord of the harvest has for them here.

**México, Magdalena**

**Laura Ricketts**

On April 22, we celebrated with our Bro. Seth Gerber and Sis. Jodi Beer as they became one in the Lord. May God bless their marriage and be glorified through them! We pray the Lord’s peace and protection over them as they spend the next three months in the states with family and growing in their new life together.

We are thankful to announce the engagement of our Bro. Miguel Aviña Cervantes to our Sis. Laura Ricketts. Bro. Miguel is the son of Miguel Aviña of CA, USA and Sis. Lola Cervantes of Ixtlan, MX. Sis. Laura is the daughter of the late Bro. Brian Ricketts, and Bro. Gary and Sis. Marie Unsicker of Peoria, IL. We pray that God will continue to work in their lives and bless them during their engagement.

Our Sis. Amalia Nuñez fell and broke her arm. We pray God will give her a complete recovery and patience during this time of healing.

May God bless each of the ministers who visited us this month: Elder Bro. Mike Leman (Sis. Deb, Denver, CO), Bro. Mark Gerber (Sis. Barb, Bluffton, IN), Bro. Regg Beer (Sis. Bev, Milford, IN), Bro. Mark Reinhard (Sis. Angie, Bluffton, IN), Bro. Matt Gerber (Sis. Ruth, Ixtlan, MX), and Bro. Lalo Ugalde (Sis. Silvia, Ixtlan, MX).

> “And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.”
>  
> John 14:16-17.

What a strength it is to know that our Savior prayed for us and continues to intercede before God’s throne! May the power of God’s Holy Spirit overwhelm each of our hearts, homes, and churches as we live and work for His kingdom.

**Michigan, Alto**

**Renee Steffen, Heidi Kaeb**

Our small flock here in Alto greets each of you in the name of our loving God and His Son Jesus Christ. It is with relief that I finally can say we are enjoying sunny days, green grass and springs rains.

Our hearts are still missing Bro. Vern Meyer and we continue to lift Sis. Carole and her family in prayer. We are praying for Sis. Melva Oesch (Bro. Joe) as she was hospitalized and is struggling with health issues. We are thankful Angie Sixberry (Jason) had a successful knee replacement and is back in church. We extend our condolences to Harry Erickson in the passing of his sister, Helen McCaul. May each one of these dear ones know that we love them and are here to help carry their burdens of grief or pain.

Sis. Gina Blough headed to Kenya again this spring. We were so excited for her as this truly brings her great joy. In the past, she has gone on medical missions. This time she went to help with Vacation Bible School. Of course, the photos tell of the real joy in her heart when she is loving on those little children. Our prayers were answered in her safe journey to and from Kenya.

As this school year draws to a close, we have several who are graduating: Justin Oesch, Jeffery Oesch, Joanna Link, Sis. Ellie Stoller, Tallia Rodriguez and Andrew Watson. We wish to prayerfully send them on a new journey into the ‘real’ world
where eventually they’ll have to answer all those questions they’ve been continually asked over the past four years. May each of you look to the Heavenly Father for guidance and strength as you go forward. Our prayers will be with you and continue for you.

“Hey, I hear that you are graduating?
What are you planning from here?
Are you going away to college?
What do you want to be my dear?
Were you granted any honors?
Do you need a student loan?
Where have you been accepted?
Do you plan on still living at home?
Are you excited it’s finally over?
How did your senior year go?
What really peaks your interest?
Did this last year go fast or slow?
Have you been saving up for college?
Do you realize how much it costs?
Oh, you’re not going anywhere?
Won’t you feel lonely and lost?
Don’t you wish to get an education?
Don’t you know it’s a privilege?
How can you make enough money if you don’t gain that extra knowledge?

What we really should be asking these graduates...
How can I specifically pray for you?
Do you need some encouragement?
Are you struggling with something painful?
Are you dreading another ‘should’ statement?
Are you frightened of what your future holds?

Do you know that we love you and care?
Do you have a personal relationship with the Father who’s always there?
Have you asked for God to guide you, knowing He’ll never lead you astray?
Do you understand He has the best plan and will be with you all the way?
Do you know that your identity isn’t in whether you go or not, nor is it in how much money you make or how many friends you’ve got?
Do you feel so overwhelmed with questions from every side, about where, what, how and when while wanting to run and hide?
So we say to them...
We love you with no conditions. We’ll continue to pray for you.
You were fearfully and wonderfully created by the Almighty whose Word is true!
Always keep close to your heart, what you learned in the Sunday school room.
That Jesus is the Light and the Way, through His redeeming power of an empty tomb.
No matter where you go from here, no matter how far you roam, know that God will open His arms of love and say, my dear welcome home! -ibG.res”

Congratulations to first-time parents Blake and Sarah (Oesch) Ziemont as they welcome home a darling baby girl, Zoey Kay.

Note of thanks:
On behalf of our family and myself we wish to greatly thank you all for the love and support shown us during Vern’s illness and passing, for each prayer offered, your cards, gifts, homemade goodies, visits at home, the hospital and Sunrise Care. Vern truly loved and appreciated each of you. After Vern’s passing again we cannot say enough for your continued outpouring of love, caring, at the visitation and funeral. Thanks for the beautiful floral arrangements, cards, gifts, and then for the very delicious meal provided after the funeral. We offer a special thanks to all who participated in the funeral service. Our family’s truly been blessed. And as so may each of you be blessed.

With much thankfulness and love in Jesus name, Sis. Carole Meyer and family

Michigan, Bay City
Sarah Knochel

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

Bro. Jim and Sis. Kay Knochel are rejoicing in the birth of another granddaughter, Oakleigh Marie on April 6. Oakleigh’s thankful parents are Bro. Brett and Sis. Laura Hodel (Roanoke).

“And they continued stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.” Acts 2:42
Bro. Tom Stock (Sis. Carol, Cisna Park, IL) assisted with Holy Communion the weekend of May 5-6. We appreciate his labors on our behalf.

**Michigan, Detroit**

**Carrie Ramseyer**

Memories can be fickle things. Following the 9/11 terrorist attack in NYC, researchers interviewed Americans regarding their experience. Three years later, they tested the accuracy of the participants’ memories. The accuracy of their memories: 57%.

(Research data taken from [https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/911-memory-accuracy/](https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/911-memory-accuracy/))

Sitting with His disciples at the last supper, Jesus understood how unreliable the human memory was. He understood it would be too easy to lose the sacredness of the sacrifice He was about to make. And so, passing bread and wine to His disciples, He stated, “do this in remembrance of me”.

Remembering was exactly what the Detroit congregation did in late May as we held our annual Communion. Elder Bro. John Laukhuf of Latty, OH, came to help us recall the magnitude of what occurred over two thousand years ago.

A different sort of reminder, a Gateway Woods update presentation was held in Detroit this month. A special thanks to Sis. Kristi Baran and Bro. Jeff Waibel for showing us the happenings at Gateway Woods.

Continuing prayer is requested for Sis. Linda Shaw as she continues to battle health challenges.

Thank you to visiting ministers Bro. Jeff Waibel (Sis. Margo) of Leo, IN; Bro. Ned and Sis. Heidi Stoller of Alto, MI; and Bro. Matt and Sis. Jodi Kaisner of Fairbury, IL. Additionally, thank you to Bro. Bob Knochel (Sis. Rhonda) and Sis. Maria Ruesegger for coming and ministering to the residents of Woodhaven.

Our prayers and sympathy are with Denise and Paxton Williams as they mourn the death of Denise’s grandmother, Sis. Suzanne Sauder of Mansfield, OH.

**Minnesota, Minneapolis**

**Brenda Messner, Renee Messner**

Our congregation will be blessed for the summer months with two young men doing internships here in the Twin Cities area. Grant Metzger (Bro. Jerome & Sis. Jana) from Lester, IA and David Wiegand (Bro. Ben & Sis. Michelle) from Philadelphia, PA.

We congratulate Kallianne Mogler (Bro. Kent & Sis. Mary) on her graduation from Indiana University/Purdue University in Fort Wayne, IN. We pray she feels the Lord’s direction in the next stage of her future.

We are thankful the Lord has not ceased to call His children to repentance. John and Debbie Berglund have expressed a desire to seek full membership with our church. The Lord willing, we will set a date for their testimony and baptism for later this summer.

Also, keep Will and Ericka Gramm Flickinger in your prayers as they continue to seek God’s will for their lives and to be born again. We are thankful the Lord has called these two couples to fellowship and worship in our church family.

**Minnesota, Morris**

**Ashley Knobloch, Brianna Wulf**

We were thankful to have visiting minister Bro. Adam Zeltwanger (Sis. Christy, Morris North, MN) preach the word. May God bless him for his labors.

We pray for Terry Greiner as he was hospitalized this past month. We continuously say prayers for our elderly and those suffering ailments.

What a wonderful blessing our mothers are to us. As we set aside a day, let us send a special prayer to those who care and comfort us!

“She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness. She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness. Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her.” Proverbs 31:26-30

**Minnesota, Morris North**

**Kay Feuchtenberger, Natalie Feuchtenberger**

“We cometh remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.” Genesis 8:22

We are just beginning to enjoy asparagus and rhubarb here in
western MN. It is a special treat after an extended winter. Having more snow in late March and April than the entire winter caused the aforementioned verse to come often to mind. I am thankful for the many promises contained in God’s Word that can carry me through the harder parts of life.

Our thanks and appreciation are extended to Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL) for traveling the many miles to serve Communion. Thanks also to Bro. Lowell Moser (Sis. Karen, Morris, MN) for assisting in this precious sacrament. We are grateful and humbled to be drawn together in remembrance of our Savior’s great sacrifice.

Bro. Earl also shared the memorandum. We appreciate the many practical teachings and words of encouragement.

We bid a fond farewell to Bro. Reuben and Sis. Chrystal Luthi as they resettle in Washington, IL to be close to their family. Their encouraging presence is missed here, but we wish them many blessings in their new home.

We rejoice with Amanda and Taylor Hufford in their marriage and wish them God’s rich blessings. Amanda is the daughter of Bro. Doug and the late Sis. Dawn Moser.

Our prayers are with the Sunday School teachers and others who pour love into our children through various summer activities and events. Your efforts are appreciated.

As we are headed into the long evenings of summer, I am already finding myself losing track of time as I work at various tasks outside. Suddenly it is late and supper is not yet started. It takes a good measure of self-discipline to come indoors from tasks and weather that I enjoy. Likewise, I pray that no one will not be surprised by how quickly life has passed because of being so wrapped up in things that are easier to do, but that each of us develop and maintain habits that will serve us well for eternity.

**Minnesota, Winthrop**

**Becky Braulick, Julie Schmidt**

“We, who in God’s name are here assembled, solemnly do clasp our hands;
That Christ’s death and suff’ring be remembered, faithfully for Him to stand.
Thus in unison our hearts have spoken. Lord to show Thy favor give the token;
Speak Thy blessing ever true; Amen. Peace be unto you.”

Zion’s Harp #11

We were privileged to be able to have Communion served to us by Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS) and Elder Paul Messner (Sis. Jan). It is a good reminder of what our Lord and Savior did for us and why He did it. Let us never forget.

“Honour they father and they mother…” Exodus 20:12

The Lord has so commanded it and our country has set aside a day to recognize and appreciate our mothers and fathers. We’re thankful for their labors of love and most importantly their heritage of faith.

Our prayers go out to Jane and Darrell Redmann as their health is failing, Bro. Josh Eberhart as he has finished with his chemo treatment and also all those struggling with other health issues and concerns. May they continue to feel God’s healing their lives.

**Missouri, Kansas City**

**Julie Webel**

This past month our KC church came together to partake of Holy Communion. Special thanks to Bro. Vic Bauman (Sis. Brenda, Smithville, OH) for assisting Bro. Randy during this blessed weekend of worship and fellowship.

Also, Bro. John Rowell (Sis. Nelda, Tremont, IL) visited us and served in the ministry.

We have two graduates this year from our KC area. Colton Donahue graduated with a Business Marketing degree from K-State and will be working in the KC area. Dominic Webel graduated from high school and also from a welding program at Johnson County Community College and will be working in the area. Congratulations to both of you!

We welcome Bro. Eric and Sis. Katy Frantz and their three children (Elias, Kyla, Nathaniel) to our Kansas City congregation. Bro. Eric has completed medical school in Indianapolis and will be starting a medical residency in Emergency Medicine at KU Medical Center in late June.
Missouri, Lamar

Mindy Wettstein

We would like to thank Bro. Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha KS) for ministering this month.

Bro. Jeff Fischer (Sis. Gloria, Ft. Scott KS) blessed us by serving spiritual food via preaching of the Truth, and physical food as they guest-served lunch to our congregation. Thank you for your continued efforts and commitment toward us!

Bro. Duane Rocke (Minneapolis, MN) was in the SW Missouri area for work-related activities. We are grateful the time he took out of his schedule to meet us to discuss the ongoing efforts of the vision and mission committee.

Congratulations to Jason and Elizabeth Banwart as they welcomed Archer Rowlin into their home. Older siblings are AJ and Audrey! Bro. Gene and Sis. Linda Banwart are thankful grandparents.

We were thankful to sing at the Maple Senior Living Center in Lamar, and also at the Good Shepherd home in Lockwood where our dear Sis. Corrine Marti (Bro. Dale) resides.

Sis. Bonnie Braker and Jane Braker (Edd) both have undergone surgical procedures this month. Sis. Edith Hohulin spent time in the hospital. We continue to petition the Great Physician for their healing.

We were thankful that the rain clouds cleared, creating a beautiful Sunday afternoon to share potluck and singing at the park with the Ft. Scott congregation!

I was encouraged this week when a dear sister from Bluffton contacted me to ask if we could meet for coffee, as her family would be vacationing in the Branson area. Although it didn’t work out for us to get together, I greatly appreciate her willingness to try! If you do happen to vacation near Branson, we are only a short 2 hour drive away.

We enjoy fellowship with old friends, and making new friends! (Please refer to the Minister Book for contact information and worship service times.)

Missouri, St. Louis

Sarah Fehr

Thank you to our visiting ministers this month, Bro. Ed Fritz (Sis. Barb, Washington, IL), Bro. Seth Hartter (Sis. Brenda, Burlington, IA), Bro. Aaron Luthi (Sis. Marie, Lamont-Gridley, KS), Elder Bro. Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan, Taylor, MO) and Elder Bro. Tim Funk (Sis. Deb, Peoria, IL).

We enjoyed a full but encouraging weekend early in May with our business meeting and Communion service. Both events highlighted the body of Christ, working together as one. Special thanks to the elders listed above who came to serve.

We rejoiced at the arrival of Bro. Doug and Sis. Tricia Banwart’s twins, Summer Rose and Gabriel James. They are welcomed home by siblings: Stryder, Arianna, and Lily.

Missouri, Taylor

Anneliese Lindberg, Rachel Reinbeck

Greetings in the name of God, the author and finisher of our faith, the giver of peace and the most trustworthy Friend we can ever know!

As summer finally begins, we are glad to see familiar faces returning home from college and the excitement of the Sunday School in anticipation of VBS and other activities. On May 6, we enjoyed the fresh warm weather at a local park where the Sunday School Picnic was hosted. The entire church was invited, and we enjoyed sweet fellowship and outdoor fun! We are grateful for all who participated and made the event possible. What a blessing it is to have a church family that enjoys fellowship with each other in and out of the church building itself.

We are trusting God’s blessing in the change of seasons and growth of Christian friendship! This year (2018) marks the 100th year of the Apostolic Christian Church presence at Taylor, MO. A history book will soon be available. It includes the events in chronological order, lists of baptisms, weddings, and deaths, and an index. If you would like to purchase a copy of the book (price unknown at this time), please call or email your request so an adequate number of books can be printed. Call 573-393-2230 (and leave voice mail) or email eyackley@gmail.com . Give your
name, contact information (phone number/personal email address), and the number of books you would like to order.

New York, Croghan/Naumburg

Karen Farney

The weekend of April 21 we were blessed with brethren from Akron and Rittman, OH, who came and gave of their time and talents to help a small church. They did some remodeling, church cleaning, yard work, work in the cemetery. We are thankful to God for their willingness. A lunch and evening meal were prepared, followed by an evening singing. Bro. Todd Graf (Sis. Lydia) Akron, OH was with them and Sunday ministered the word of life. What a blessing it was to see many seats filled with souls willing to be fed by the Holy Spirit.

“We’ll work till Jesus comes, We’ll work till Jesus comes, We’ll work till Jesus comes, And we’ll be gathered home.”

Gospel Hymns #180

After many weeks of being hospitalized, Sis. Rachel Snyder was able to return home. Thank you for the prayers that were offered on her behalf.

We think of the many mothers of the land, as we celebrated Mother’s Day, with all the love and care for their families.

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

Our family was recently reminded of the brevity of life when our nephew, Troy Ludden, 51 of Sodus, NY was called out of this life into all eternity.

Ohio, Akron

Joelle Indermuhle

As spring is upon us and we can see evidence of warmer weather and new life outside, it gives renewed courage to the heart to press onward with zeal.

We have four high school graduates this year who will be faced with many decisions. We pray they will have the courage to seek God’s direction for their lives. These four include Daniel Hegedus (Bro. Sandor and Sis. Gyongyi), Jozsef Kocsis (Bro. Jozsef and Sis. Susan), Orin Graf (Bro. Todd and Sis. Lydia), and Sis. Deborah Laubli (Bro. Gaius and Sis. Ilona).

Bro. Matthew Kaisner (Sis. Jodi, Fairbury) assisted our ministers on the pulpit this month.

Ohio, Columbus

Nancy Banks

On April 14, we shared Holy Communion as a church family and are thankful for the precious reminder of the light Jesus brings to our dark world. Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Lacrosse, IN) assisted our Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH) in the duties of the evening.

The next day was a farewell for our dear family Bro. Nate and Sis. Becca Steiner and precious Lillian. It was a sad day for our congregation to say goodbye, but we are glad that their move to the Rittman, OH area will surround them with family.

A nice group of young people from the Latty and Junction churches visited with us April 22. They helped with our nursing home singing after church. A meal and fellowship was enjoyed afterward.

Visits from ministers were greatly appreciated this month. Thank you to Bro. Scott Schambach (Sis. Hope and family, Elgin, IL), Bro. Ron Palitto (Sis. Lynelle, Akron, OH) and Bro. Todd Stoller (Sis. Pam, Latty, OH) for sharing God’s Word.

Our sympathy, love and prayers are with Bro. John and Sis. Julie Grimm and Bro. Bill and Sis. Becky Sauder in the loss of their beloved mother, Sis. Sue Sauder of the Mansfield church. Prayers continue also for Sis. Sue’s husband, Bro. Ken Sauder, as he mourns the loss of his wife of 65 years. We pray the Lord will grant comfort to the entire Sauder family as only He can do.

Ohio, Junction

Elizabeth Manz

Renae Schlatter (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Sheila) and Adam Snyder (James and Tracy, Lancaster, PA) were united in marriage on April 21. We wish them God’s blessings as they begin their lives together.

Sis. Sierra McCullough (Bro. Jim and Sis. Julie) and Bro. John Rosswurm (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Amy, Latty, OH) were joined in marriage on May 13. We pray that God will continue to lead and direct them as they begin their journey.
together and take their place in the Toledo, OH congregation.

We praise God for continuing to work in the lives of those in our congregation! Jerricka Manz (Aaron) and Shawn Hurd (Sis. Katie) have turned their lives over to the Lord in repentance. We pray that they will sense Him near as they seek to surrender all to Him.

We were thankful to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of Bro. Nathan Schlatter (Bro. Warren and Sis. Cindy) and Sis. Ellie Stoller (Bro. Neil and Sis. Sandy). Elder Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Sis. Nancy, Forrest, IL) was with us for the weekend.

Several other visiting ministers joined us this month. They include Bro. Fred Domka (Sis. Connie, Mansfield, OH), Bro. Todd Sinn (Sis. Janet, Latty, OH), Bro. Todd Stoller (Sis. Pam, Latty, OH), Bro. Regg Beer (Sis. Bev, Milford, IN), Bro. Marvin Hartzler (Sis. Sue, Rittman, OH), Bro. Matt Manz (Sis. Deanna, Toledo, OH), Bro. Chet Manz (Sis. Jenny, Toledo, OH), Bro. Gary Sinn (Sis. Paulette, Latty, OH) and Bro. Chris Laukhuf (Sis. Rachel, Latty, OH).

Bro. Andy and Sis. Laura Manz are thankful for the safe arrival of Elias Nelson, born on April 30. Eli is welcomed home by his brother Eddie as well as his grandparents Bro. Don and Sis. Connie Manz and Bro. Nelson and Sis. Amy Zehr (Fairbury, IL).

We lift up Bro. Alvin Manz and Sis. Vera Manz (Bro. Russ) in prayer as both have had surgeries in the past month.

We had our annual Graduation Breakfast on May 20 to acknowledge our graduates this year. They are Adam Stoller (Bro. Neil and Sis. Sandy), Audrey Manz (Bro. Mark and Sis. Cathy), Kaylen Hale (Jason and Danielle Carnahan), Kyle Kovac (Bro. Russ and Sis. Vera Manz), Bro. Nathan Schlatter and Naomi Schlatter (Bro. Warren and Sis. Cindy), Robert Manz (Bro. Bob and Sis. Donna) and Sis. Susanna Schrenk (Bro. Steve and Sis. Linda). We pray that each of them will seek God’s direction as they embark on a new season of life.

Ohio, Latty
Angie Klopfenstein, Carmen Stoller

Loving greetings! This month we were thankful to have Bro. David Maibach (Sis. Larisa, Smithville, OH) share the word when they visited our church.

On Mother’s Day, Bro. John Rosswurm (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Amy) and Sis. Sierra McCullough (Bro. Jim and Sis. Julie, Junction, OH) were united in marriage. May God walk with them as they journey hand in hand.

We rejoiced with the angels in heaven when Arlen Stoller (Bro. Craig and Sis. Ruth) started repenting. We wish him God’s richest blessings as he begins his walk with the Lord.

Ohio, Mansfield
Elizabeth Walter

We are glad to announce the arrival of Owen Zachary into the family of Zachary and Tiffany Foss. Excited big sisters are Zoe and Meya. Thankful grandparents are Rick and Sis. Susan Foss, and Steve and Kathy Neel. May God bless each one as they nurture this precious new soul.

Bro. Matt Manz (Sis. Deanna, Toledo, OH), Bro. Don Manz (Sis. Connie, Junction, OH), and Bro. John Grimm (Sis. Julie, Columbus, OH) visited and shared the gospel message this month. May God bless each one for their labor of love.

Our sympathy goes out to Bro. Don Miller in the loss of his brother, Everett Miller. May the Spirit provide comfort to each of his loved ones and friends.

We were saddened by the passing of our Sis. Suzanne Sauder. Our sympathy and prayers go out to her husband of 65 years, Bro. Kenneth; her children, Bro. Bill (Sis. Becky, Columbus, OH), Bro. Dan (Sis. Pam), Steve (Lori), Bro. Dave (Sis. Joy, Scott (Julie), Mark (JoAnn), Sis. Julie (Bro. John Grimm, Columbus, OH), and Sam (Angel); as well as her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. We are thankful for Sis. Sue’s godly example of love and humility, as well as her many years of service as a minister/elder’s wife. Her kind words, smile, and commitment to our church family will be sorely missed. May God’s comfort and peace strengthen her family and loved ones in the days ahead. May we all carry the memory of her steadfast example with us, as we continue our journey to eternity.
Ohio, Rittman

Julie Steiner, Maria Beery

Calm under fire. How do people react to sudden stressors in life? Their adrenaline kicks in, their voices get loud, and sometimes they might even display anger. They might say or do unkind things. This presents a special opportunity...is there a difference between how a Child of God reacts to sudden stresses, compared to someone who is not? Can an observer who does not know us, distinguish our faith by our reactions? Can an observer who DOES know us, see evidence of our faith? May this reaffirm to them (our friends, our converts, our children) that God working in our lives CAN bring beautiful fruit in tough times.

“My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptation; knowing this, that trying of your faith worketh patience.” James 1:2

We rejoice in the baptisms of six precious souls this past month. Bro. John (Julia) Mathys, who lives at the nursing home, gave his testimony and was baptized. The prayers of his mother, who has long gone to her rest, have now been fulfilled. Five young people gave their testimony and were baptized: Bro. Clint Gasser (Bro. Mark & Sis. Jill), Sis. Tori Ingold (Bro. Doug & Sis. Joanna), Sis. Megan Baltic (Bro. Milan & Sis. Amy), Sis. Brystal Steiner (Bro. Eric & Sis. Tricia), and Sis. Megan Hartzler (Bro. Tim & Sis. Sharon). These six souls are now born again, so that God can fill them with His Spirit, to bring good fruit in His season.

Georgann McInvale began her repentance this month. She is a sister to Sis. Ellen (Thomas) Daw. The time of repentance is a very special opportunity to make things right and to become one with our precious Lord. Our prayers are with Georgann.

On April 22, our beloved Sis. Eileen Emch completed her work on this earth. She will be missed by many of us, and especially by her children: Craig (Gale) Emch, Sis. Carol (Bro. Don) Powell, Sis. Bev (Bro. Jeff) Hartzler, Bro. Dana Emch, and Sis. Mary (Bro. Jon) Hartzler; her sisters: Sis. Inez Ramsier (Smithville), Sis. Betty (Walt) Marquart; a brother, Harold Klotzle; and sisters-in-law, Sis. Jane Klotzle and Sis. Mary Jane Winkler.

On May 9, Bro. Rod & Sis. Jill Steiner welcomed a new grandson, Emmett Joseph Stoller. He is welcomed home by parents, Bro. Nelson & Sis. Jessica Stoller (Smithville); big brother, Connor; and grandparents, Bro. Scott & Sis. Charlene Stoller (Smithville).

On May 16, Leigha Kristine Stoller was born to thankful parents, Bro. Tony & Sis. Mary Beth Stoller. Welcoming her home are siblings: Lauren, Kaitlyn, Caleb, Christopher, Heather, Jordan, & Victoria. Grandparents are Bro. Rob & Sis. Joanne Stoller and John & Emily Rufener.

Bro. Nathanael & Sis. Rebecca Steiner, and their precious daughter, Lillian, have moved back to our congregation, after working for several years in the Columbus area. We are thankful God is providing for them, and welcome them back home.

Several loved ones have experienced hospital stays this past month: Bro. Bill (Luella) Saylor, Thad Hartzler (Bro. Dan & Sis. Jennifer), Gretchen Hartzler (Bro. Tim & Sis. Sharon), Bro. Garrett Ball (Brian & Myra), Randy Riggenbach, and our retired Elder Bro. Henry Dotterer. May God make all things bearable, in His time.

Our visiting ministers this past month were: Elder Bro. Brad Strahm (Bern, KS), Elder Bro. Vic Bauman (Smithville, OH), Bro. Doug Brewer (San Diego, CA), Bro. Joel Troxel (LaCrosse, IN), and Bro. Mark Ramsier (Sardis, OH).

Ohio, Sardis

Faith Beard, Joy Indermuhle

“May we in perfect love be found When we Thy table, Lord, surround; Keep soul and body purified; Thy blessings, Lord, be multiplied Upon this feast. Then come into our midst today; Impart Thyself to us, we pray. This cup and loaf are proof and sign Of this, Thy covenant divine In Jesus blood.” Zion’s Harp #200

We gathered together on a Saturday evening to remember the suffering and death of Jesus Christ and to take of His flesh and His blood, as He asks of us. We thank Elder Bro. Art Ingold (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman, OH) for helping
with the Communion service and serving the bread and wine. Also, we appreciate his willingness to share the Word the following day during Sunday worship services.

Also serving us from the pulpit while visiting during a family vacation was Bro. Scott Schafer (Sis. Gigi, South Bend, IN). We are thankful there are so many who are willing to give of themselves for our spiritual benefit during their travels. We pray for God’s guidance and blessings upon them.

Sis. Paula Figel (Bro. John) has not been feeling well lately and has been going through some medical testing. We are thankful that she has been able to continue worshiping with us. We beseech God for His healing and presence in her life.

Ohio, Smithville

Millie Stoller, Connie Maletich

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

We have two babies to report this month. Bro. Nelson and Sis. Jessica Stoller, along with big brother Connor, welcomed Emmett Joseph to their home and hearts. Bro. Scott and Sis. Charlene Stoller and Bro. Rod and Sis. Jill Steiner (Rittman, Oh) are thankful grandparents. Bro. Roger and Sis. Jennifer Bauman became first-time grandparents with the birth of Aria Claire. Her excited parents are Kyle and Shannon Blough.

Sis. Carol Schuster spent some time in the hospital this month. We are prayerful for all those with afflictions of the body.

“Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.” Ps. 116:15.

We are prayerful for Sis. Inez Ramsier with the passing of her sister, Sis. Eileen Emch (Rittman).

“In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.” Proverbs 3:6.

We are happy to announce our graduates for this year: Sis. Heather Beery (Bro. Dwaine and Sis. Shelly), Holly Blough (Daniel and Amy), Douglas Indermuhle (Bro. Scott and Sis. Patty), Bro. Noah Riggenbach (Bro. Jason and Sis. Gwen) and Claire Steiner (Bro. Rick and Sis. Dawn).

Ohio, Toledo

Brooke Harmon, Alisia Schlatter

“For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 8:38-39.

Nothing can separate us from the love of God. It is truly unrelenting and all consuming. No person or being can remove us from this love. No one that is, except ourselves. God’s love is always present, however we can choose to distance ourselves from that love. There is no other tragedy greater than this.

After ongoing health issues, Sis. Clara Beard was transferred to a hospice facility in late April where she later passed away. She is experiencing the love of God on a whole new level as she is now face to face with her Savior. Karen Breitwieser, wife of Bro. John Breitwieser, spent some time at a skilled nursing facility, but has since returned home to continue her recovery.

As the weather continues to warm, many of our college students are recessed for the summer and have returned home. Bro. Sam Ramsier (Sardis, OH) recently moved to Medina, OH and started a new job. While we were sad to lose him, we’re happy for the new opportunities he will experience. We also want to extend a huge welcome to Bro. John Rosswurm (Latty, OH) and Sis. Sierra McCullough (Junction, OH) who were just married and will be living in Toledo for some time. We are so thankful to have another young couple with us.

Ontario, Kitchener

Johanna Fortenbacher

We have been so blessed this past month with ministers who are willing to get their passports, and head on to another country, for a quick weekend trip to serve our small congregation. Some of them have been friends for many years and some we just met, but from all of these we have felt a kindred spirit and love. We are thankful to Bro. Tim Ramsier (Sis. Joni, Rittman, OH), Bro. Mark Ramsier (Sis. Alice, Sardis, OH), Bro. Scott Schambach (Sis. Hope, Elgin, IL) and Bro. Kole
Meyer (Sis. Amy, Bluffton, IN) for their love and support. Everyone is welcome to come and visit, whether for a weekend trip, or perhaps moving here for school. We are only an hour and a half from Niagara Falls, one hour from Toronto. Your support for small group means so much to us.

1 Thess. 5:24-25 “Faithful is he that calleth you, who will also do it. Brethren, pray for us.”

1 Corinthians 16:13-14 “Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong. Let all your things be done with charity.”

Oregon, Portland
Louisa Gallup

After having assembled with us for a number of years, Bro. Rollin Nussbaum returned to Illinois where he will be closer to his family. We miss him and also wish him well in his new job. His friendship and the support he has given our small church family, is much appreciated. We are looking forward to his future visits to the Portland area.

We enjoyed the privilege of having Bro. Nathan Walder (Sis. Denise, Cisna Park, IL) coming to Portland for the minister rotation. An evening of fellowship and singing was enjoyed beforehand and we so appreciated him ministering unto us the following Sunday.

Local visiting ministers from the Silverton, OR church were: Elder Bro. John Wiegand (Sis. Jane), Bro. Ron Jones (Sis. Liz) and Bro. Chris Kuenzi (Sis. Mary). We are grateful for them as well as for the visiting song leaders.

Oregon, Silverton
Lorraine Kuenzi, Teresa Tribbett

God continues to demonstrate His grace and mercy as He calls lambs into the fold! James and Shari Klopfenstein have expressed that they are at peace with God. We are prayerful and look forward to baptism in the future.

With heartfelt joy and love we share the engagement of Sis. Brianna Zollinger (Bro. Jim and Sis. Tresa) to Bro. Paul Tribbett (Bro. Mark and Sis. Anne-Marie). God has been good in bringing them together. We are prayerful for his nearness as they grow together in Him.

We had the privilege of celebrating our seven high school graduates this month with a potluck and singing: Jordanna Folia (Bro. Peter and Sis. Elizabeth), Rob Hendrickson (Raymond and DiNae), Holly Kuenzi (Bro. Aden and Sis. Becky), Josiah Metz (Bro. Joel and Sis. Laura), Heidi Roth (Bro. Jim and Sis. Deb), Kyra Snook (Bro. Jason and Sis. Colette), and Lori Walter (Bro. Chad and Sis. Megan). Each one plans to attend college to further their education.

Bro. Jim Zollinger encouraged them to rely on the Lord, not on their own understanding. It is a good reminder for each one of us as we face different stages in life.

Morgan Kuenzi (Bro. Harvey and Sis. Jennifer) recently had surgery. We praise God for His healing power and great provision as he has returned home safely and continues to improve.

Morgan’s siblings include Sis. Nicole Dietrich (Bro. Mark), Sis. Lorraine, Logan, Sis. Janelle, Leanne, Byron, Jerome, Noelle, and Layne.

We are thankful for a new addition to our congregation! May 14, Bro. Kevin and Sis. Jill Dettwyler along with Heidi, Caleb, Nathan, Meredith, Matthew, and Leanna welcomed a little one into their family, Heather Joy. Grandparents are Bro. Loren and Sis. Marlene Dettwyler and Jim and Joan Dietrich.

Summer seems to be approaching rapidly! The sun is out and flowers are in full bloom giving off a lovely aroma. Let’s be thankful for the beauty of God’s creation and remember we are expected to give God the glory just as each flower He’s created speaks of His glory.

Pennsylvania, Philadelphia
Laura Isch

“Can we Gethsemane forget?
Or there Thy conflict see,
Thine agony and bloody sweat,
And not remember Thee?

When to the cross we turn our eyes,
And rest on Calvary,
Oh Lamb of God our sacrifice,
We must remember Thee.”

We Will Remember Thee, Hymns of Zion, #301

We were blessed here in Philadelphia to take Holy
Communion on May 5. What a small thing we can do for the Lord - who suffered and gave His life for us! Sharing in the evening were Elder Bros. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction), Vic Bauman (Sis. Brenda, Smithville), and Duane Farney (Sis. Karen, Croghan-Naumburg). We wish God’s blessings on these brothers for their efforts and willingness to serve.

We want to congratulate Sis. Dani Lanz (Bro. John and Sis. Kay) as she has graduated from college. We wish her the Father’s blessings as she looks to Him for the future.

Tennessee, Nashville
Cynde Stoller

“How now a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh.” Matt 24:32

“Now isn’t it amazing
That seeds grow into flowers,
That grubs become bright butterflies
And rainbows come from showers
That busy bees make honey gold
And never spend time lazing,
That eggs turn into singing birds,
Now isn’t that amazing?”
-Max Fatchen

The grass is green, the flowers are blooming, the weather is gorgeous, and families are traveling! God is good! We welcomed local visitors from Nashville and those from Rittman, OH; Philadelphia, PA; Fairbury, Eureka, and Gridley, IL.

We appreciate the Word brought forth by Bro. Byron Stoller (Sis. Carol, Gridley), Bro. Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha), Bro. Matthew Rassi (Sis. Bridget, Chicago), and Bro. John Cottrell (Sis. Gloria, Eureka). It was a blessing to have Bro. Roger and Bro. John’s families here during their visits!

If you are traveling to or through the Nashville area, please plan to fellowship and worship with us. We meet every Sunday and some Wednesday evenings. Please call ahead to confirm our schedule. Contacts are Bro. Jordan & Sis. Emily Fritz, 615.852.9109, jordanmfritz@gmail.com; Bro. Mike & Sis. Monica Fritz, 615.866.5543, fritzmb.family@gmail.com; Bro. Jeff & Sis. Cynde Stoller, 309.530.5760, cyndelynnstoller@gmail.com

Texas, Austin/Bastrop
Candy Meiss

Sending our Love and Greetings from Austin/Bastrop

“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace and not evil, to give you an expected end. Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.” Jeremiah 29:11-13.

The month of May brings busy days filled with celebrations as our children graduate, excited about bright hope for their future. On a personal note our entire family, including my dear mother, Nola, traveled to San Francisco for our daughter Lauren’s graduation from UCSF Medical School. Lauren will be starting her residency at Yale in June specializing in OB/GYN. She continues to face the many daily challenges of living with cystic fibrosis. God has been so merciful to her and we are so humbly grateful. He alone is worthy of our praise. The song “How Long Has It Been?” keeps coming to mind as I feel God is reminding us to pray and encourage our children to pray.

“How long has it been since you talked with the Lord and told Him your heart’s hidden secret? How long since you prayed? How long since you stayed on your knees till the light shone through? How long has it been since your mind felt at ease? How long since your heart knew no burden? Can you call Him your friend? How long has it been since you knew that He cared for you?”

We are thankful for the sweet fellowship and support that we have with our loved ones in the growing Austin/Bastrop church. What a blessing to have willing hearts as we work together to plan another VBS scheduled to begin on June 4, to conclude with a program on Friday evening, June 8. We are also very thankful for the many who have volunteered though HarvestCall to come to Bastrop to help during our VBS week.

We are thankful for visiting ministers who have willingly served our Austin/Bastrop church this past month: Bro. Justin Koch (Sis. Marcia, Washington, IL) and
Deacon Bro. Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata, TX).

Elsa Jae arrived on April 25 to bless the home of Bro. Jordan and Sis. Leah Rokey. She was welcomed home by her big sister, Ava, and her big brother, Jakob. She is so precious and we are all thankful for her safe arrival.

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.

“How long has it been since you knelt by your bed and prayed to the Lord up in heaven? How long since you knew that He’d answer you, and would keep you the long night through? How long has it been since you woke with the dawn and felt that the days’ worth the living? Can you call Him your friend? How long has it been since you knew that He cared for you?”

–Jim Reeves

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

In The Four Loves, C. S. Lewis distinguishes between various types of love among which are Need-love, Gift-love, and Appreciation-love. Need-love is well illustrated by a frightened child going to his mother for comfort. Gift-love is represented by the sharing of a man’s savings to his family upon his death. Appreciation-love can be experienced when one comes upon a beautiful scene in nature that commands his attention.

Do these three types of love manifest themselves in the spiritual realm? Of course they do. When we come flying to Jesus in repentance we are showing Need-love. When God offered his Son Jesus, Jesus freely gave Himself to us for sin, and the Holy Spirit provided conviction for sin, they were showing Gift-love. When we see and respond to the beautiful countenance of a converted heart we experience Appreciation-love.

This past month we were reminded of our Need-love, God’s Gift-love, and encouraged toward Appreciation-love by our ministers this month. They were: Bro. Don Manz (Sis. Connie, Junction, OH), Bro. Jeff Gerber (Sis. Carole, Rockville, CT), and Bro. Greg Rassi (Sis. Carla, Chicago, IL). The constant support we get from the national rotation and from Rockville, CT is surely a help to our own ministering Bro. Mark Hoffman and an encouragement to the rest of us.

We see the love and concern the national brotherhood has for us when they travel long distances to visit us in the wilderness and their willingness to be spent for us. We love you all and would welcome your visit and encourage you to sincerely and prayerfully consider relocating here. We need increased numbers to do more than sustain ourselves. We would love to reach out into our community, but find it hard to conceive with what few we have.

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 to discuss possible dates and available projects. Hospital Administrator Bro. Rick Aberle Phone: 011-509-4222-1004 or Email: komarick@sbcglobal.net
Editors’ Note: In a 2017 Silver Lining survey, we inquired among brethren from across our denomination for interest in contributing topical writings. While this is the first article to result from that initiative, please look for more to follow during certain months throughout the year.

Maintaining **JOY** in Difficult Circumstances

“**MY BRETHREN,** count it all joy when ye fall into divers (various) temptations” (James 1:2). As God allows various tests to prove our faith with patience for a good result, James instructs us to embrace them with calm delight. I have struggled with counting it all joy “when life gives me lemons.” My immediate family has dealt with some difficult things: five out of our then-seven contracted a bacterial infection that resulted in emergency room visits and week-long hospital stays, all of us became ill from bad well water, a major decrease in our income became a difficult financial situation, and we moved 7 hours away from family and friends — only to move 3 more times locally within a year-and-a-half — while homeschooling and welcoming the arrival of a new baby. While struggling to understand, accept, and submit to life’s circumstances beyond my choosing, I found myself asking where my joy was! “For what is our hope, our joy, or crown of rejoicing” (I Thessalonians 2:19)?

Of course, Christ is my ultimate joy as a believer, but why didn’t I feel it? Therefore, I wanted to understand three key elements: What is joy? How is it obtained? How do I maintain it through life?

**What is Joy?**

Webster’s 1828 dictionary gives the following definitions for joy as a noun: “expectation of good, pleasurable feelings caused by success, gayety, happiness, a glorious and triumphant state (reference: Hebrews 12:2), a term of fondness, a cause of joy or happiness (reference: I Thessalonians 2:20).” As a verb, Webster listed these meanings: “to give joy to, and to enjoy.” My favorite definition comes from the Greek word *chara*, which Strong’s Concordance defines as “calm delight.”

**God Promises Joy …**

… for strength “… for the joy of the Lord is your strength” (Nehemiah 8:10).

… in the presence of God “Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fullness of joy; …” (Psalm 16:11).

… with salvation “Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the well of salvation” (Isaiah 12:3).

… after sorrow “... weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning” (Psalm 30:5).

… during trials “… as ye are partakers of Christ’s sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy” (I Peter 4:13).

… in the kingdom of God “For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost” (Romans 14:17).

… with the Holy Spirit “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, …” (Galatians 5:22).
God Wants us to Pursue Joy …

… through fellowship with Christ and with other believers “... that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full” (I John 1:3 – 4) “... but I trust to come unto you, and speak face to face, that your joy may be full” (II John 12).

… through obedience “If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father’s commandments, and abide in his love. These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full” (John 15:10 – 11).

… through prayer “Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full” (John 15:24).

… through will “Yet, I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation” (Habbakuk 3:18).

… by the words we speak “A man hath joy by the answer of his mouth: and a word spoken in due season, how good is it” (Proverbs 15:23!)

… through peace “Deceit is in the heart of them that imagine evil: but to the counsellors of peace is joy” (Proverbs 12:20).

When we understand that realizing joy goes beyond feelings and involves doing the right thing because it is the right thing to do, we can receive joy by giving up self! “I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is with in my heart” (Psalm 40:8). “The meek also shall increase their joy in the Lord” (Isaiah 29:19). Joy is not only something we receive, but it is also a gift we can give. By loving the Lord with our whole heart, soul, mind, and strength, we can glorify God and give Him joy! “The Lord the God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing” (Zephaniah 3:17). “… likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, …” (Luke 15:7). “Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,” (Jude 24).

Through loving our neighbor as ourselves, we can give joy to others! Examples include: our parents – “The father of the righteous shall greatly rejoice: and he that begetteth a wise child shall have joy of him.” (Proverbs 23:24); our brethren – “Fulfill ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love …” (Philippians 2:2), “For ye are our glory and joy.” (I Thessalonians 2:20), “Yea, brother, let me have joy of thee in the Lord: refresh my bowels in the Lord.” (Philemon 1:20); and our church leadership – “…for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief.” (Hebrews 13:17), “I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth” (3 John 4).

So, by remembering and taking hold of God’s promises, bringing every thought into captivity, thinking on Philippians 4:8 “things,” pursuing joy, asking for it, receiving it, speaking it, and passing it on, I will count it all joy when life hands me lemons! I will remind myself of Jesus, Others, and You! I will have joy in spite of my circumstances because “… the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing” (James 1:3 – 4).

– by Sis. Cynde Stoller, Nashville, TN

Editors’ Note: If you are interested in being considered as a contributing writer for future issues of the Silver Lining, please contact Bro. Sam Manz at smanz@defcity.org.
News & Notices

AC Central is More than Just Sermons

It’s a hub of Apostolic Christian content:

- **Hymns**: Search by keyword to find music and lyrics to *Zion’s Harp, Hymns of Zion, Hymns of Christmas, and Zion’s Melodies* songs – with more to come.

- **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.

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*Declare his glory among the heathen, his wonders among all people.* Psalm 96:3

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Apostolic Christian Church Bible Distribution
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Phone: 309-965-2141 Email: bibledistribution@acpublications.org
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.

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*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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name _________________________</th>
<th>Please check preference:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr.  q  Mrs.  q  Miss</td>
<td>q  Haiti Student  q  Jamaica</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spouse ________________________</td>
<td>q  Haiti School  q  Guatemala</td>
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<td>Address ________________________</td>
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<td>Home Ph ________________________</td>
<td>If possible, I prefer:</td>
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<td>Cell Ph ________________________</td>
<td>q  Boy  –  Age ______</td>
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<tr>
<td>Email _________________________</td>
<td>q  Girl  –  Age ______</td>
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<td>q  No Preference</td>
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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
TEAM INFORMATION

Haiti Medical / Dental Teams

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR 2018</th>
<th>PROJECT</th>
<th>CAPACITY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 7-14</td>
<td>Cervical Cancer Screening – Mobile Clinics</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 11-18</td>
<td>Orthopedic Team</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 8-15</td>
<td>Nursing Proficiencies</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 13-20</td>
<td>Urology Team</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 27 - Nov 3</td>
<td>Dental Team</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 8-15</td>
<td>Cervical Cancer Screening – Mobile Clinics</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
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COORDINATOR FOR ALL HAITI MEDICAL TEAMS:
Komari Aberle  
Email: komarick@sbcglobal.net | Phone: 785.284.2950

Jamaica Teams

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR 2018</th>
<th>PROJECT</th>
<th>CAPACITY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 22 - Jun 28</td>
<td>Kingston - CCCD {Latty/Mansfield}</td>
<td>Full</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rick &amp; Denise Plummer</td>
<td>Phone: 419-399-4226 <a href="mailto:replum@windstream.net">replum@windstream.net</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 7 - 14</td>
<td>Jamaica Deaf Village - CCCD (Rittman)</td>
<td>Full</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeff &amp; Darlene Lanz</td>
<td>Phone: 330-858-3416 Email: <a href="mailto:cowdoc95@gmail.com">cowdoc95@gmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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</table>

If you are interested in sponsoring a work team to Jamaica contact Loren Dettwyler at lmdettwyler@gmail.com

Mexico Medical / Dental Teams

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR 2018</th>
<th>PROJECT</th>
<th>CAPACITY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept 11-18</td>
<td>Copper Canyon or Juarez</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheryl Herrmann</td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:cherrmann@frontier.com">cherrmann@frontier.com</a></td>
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YEAR 2019

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<tr>
<th>PROJECT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mar 9-15</td>
<td>Juarez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Todd &amp; Teresa Earney</td>
<td>260-273-9528 Email: <a href="mailto:tearney@adamswells.com">tearney@adamswells.com</a></td>
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Mexico Construction Teams

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR 2018</th>
<th>PROJECT</th>
<th>COORDINATOR</th>
<th>CAPACITY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nov 17 - 24</td>
<td>Magdalena</td>
<td>Rod Schmidt</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>Phone: 303-718-1432 Email: <a href="mailto:rod.schmidt@watershedfoods.com">rod.schmidt@watershedfoods.com</a></td>
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YEAR 2019

<table>
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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 7-14</td>
<td>Magdalena</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mike Zobrist</td>
<td>260-273-9528 Email: <a href="mailto:zobfam@gmail.com">zobfam@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

QUESTIONS FOR MEXICO TEAMS:

Reynosa: Kevin & Sadie Gerber Phone: 260-417-5272 kevgerber@yahoo.com
Magdalena: Daton Kuperschmid Email: Datonkup@gmail.com

Jamaica Awareness Tour

If you would like to meet the missionaries and see the ministries of CCCD, Deaf Can! Coffee and En Gedi House in person, but do not have the desire to participate on a short-term team, please consider our new Awareness Tour. This is a quick trip that gives interested parties the opportunity to meet our missionary families, learn more about our Jamaica ministry as well as other outreach supported by HarvestCall. The trip will be over a weekend and include worshipping with a deaf congregation. These trips are scheduled, as needed, based upon demand. Our second Awareness Tour is tentatively planned for mid-May. To learn more, Email or Call: Kent Mogler at 612 360-4361 or moglerkent@gmail.com

Haiti Awareness Tours

If you’d like to see the ministry of Hospital Lumiere and other Haiti projects in person, but do not have the time or desire to participate in a week-long work team, please consider our new Awareness Tours. These are quick trips that give 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 remaining 2018 Awareness Tour date is scheduled for September 22-26. To learn more, contact: Rich Bertschi at 309.467.2351 or hospitallumiere@harvestcall.org
Rick Wuethrich at 219.863.4163 or rick@wuethrichfarms.com
Are you looking for more purpose?

Consider working at Gateway Woods. A day will not pass where you will wonder if God is using you for His kingdom. There is a lot of brokenness in the world around us and we have realized that God uses our broken lives to help the broken lives of others.

We currently need an English Teacher, Math Teacher, Foster Care Case Manager, Assistant Houseparents and Houseparent Families. We are looking for willing hearts like you to come serve in a growing and vital ministry.

For more information: gatewaywoods.org/careers 888-443-4283
Cook & Residential Care Aides needed at
Country Inn Enhanced Living Center, Paulding, OH

Country Inn Enhanced Living Center, an Assisted Living Facility, is situated in rural Paulding County, Ohio, near the Latty Apostolic Christian Church. We are currently looking to add a cook and residential care aides to our staff. Applicants may pick up an application at our facility or email a resume to susie@countryinnliving.com. Country Inn is committed to providing a tranquil environment of loving care in harmony with Biblical principles and our Apostolic Christian heritage. Our goal is to Love as Christ loved, to Care as we serve others, and to Share from the heart...to Love, to Care, to Share.

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

Cook & Residential Care Aides needed at
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Country Inn Enhanced Living Center, an Assisted Living Facility, is situated in rural Paulding County, Ohio, near the Latty Apostolic Christian Church. We are currently looking to add a cook and residential care aides to our staff. Applicants may pick up an application at our facility or email a resume to susie@countryinnliving.com. Country Inn is committed to providing a tranquil environment of loving care in harmony with Biblical principles and our Apostolic Christian heritage. Our goal is to Love as Christ loved, to Care as we serve others, and to Share from the heart...to Love, to Care, to Share.

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Phone: (507) 281-2875

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CONNECT GATEWAY WOODS
Openings at Cite Lumiere, Les Cayes, Haiti

Mechanic, Construction Department Assistant

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

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

**Construction Dept. Assistant**
An assistant is needed in the Construction Department at Cite Lumiere as the work has expanded for the program and related ministries. This applicant could be a single brother or couple. Skills that would be valuable in the ministry include:
- Carpentry
- Mechanical experience

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

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

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

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Used Bible, Bible Story Book, and Song Book Distribution

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**AC Publications is now the collection center for your donated books.**

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Date Change for New Martinsville, WV Memorial Services

Services will be held June 30-July 1 weekend this year instead of the last full weekend of June as they are normally held. Contact (740)483-1593 with questions. All are welcome!
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
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 contact: Bro. Brent Hodel, 309-231-7467 or htfi94@gmail.com or visit www.harvestcall.org/missionary-openings
ADMINISTRATOR OPENING at Hospital Lumiere, Haiti

Seeking to fill this full-time paid position at Hospital Lumiere in Haiti.

**Position Description:** Responsible for the overall day to day management and administration of Hospital Lumiere. Conveying and delivering the Purpose, Vision and Mission of Hospital Lumiere Board and AC HarvestCall by applying the Guiding Principles, Reports to Hospital Lumiere Governing Board.

Qualifications include: Leadership and Administration skills and experience. Previous experience managing health care operations is not required. 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 oversee other areas critical to a successful hospital – such as facilities, security, data systems and IT and labor law.

**Terms of Service**
- Full time residing in Haiti
- Housing on Hospital Campus 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 Administrator 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

HOSPITALITY MANAGER

Opening at Hospital Lumiere, Haiti

Seeking to fill this full-time paid position at Hospital Lumiere in Haiti.

**Position Description:** Responsible for the overall day to day management and coordination of the Hospital Lumiere Hotel, Guest House and Work Teams. Reports to Hospital Lumiere Administrator

Qualifications include: Organization, planning and communication are key skills required for this position. This person will be the face of the Hospital team with full time physicians, visiting medical professionals and work team members. Must organize and schedule work team calendar, staff assignments, hotel housing assignments, meal planning and manage finances for the guest house & hotel. 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 4 years.

**Terms of Service**
- Full time residing in Haiti for a minimum of 4 years
- Housing on Hospital Campus 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 Hospitality Manager and the existing, to allow for a successful transition.

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
DIRECTOR of OPERATIONS
OPENING at Hospital Lumiere, Haiti

Seeking to fill this full-time paid position at Hospital Lumiere in Haiti. Qualifications include: knowledge and understanding of business administration including financial control and accounting, general knowledge of human resource management, 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

MEDICAL DIRECTOR OPENING at Hospital Lumiere, Haiti

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

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

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

For more information on Hospital Lumiere positions, contact: Robert Beebe. Email: robert.beebe1@gmail.com, or Phone: 574-276-6748
Are you looking for more purpose in your life?
Are you wanting to make a difference in other’s lives?
Are you an empty nester?

We have the perfect opportunity for you to finish life strong!

The New Beginnings is looking for a mature mentor couple that have a calling for working with single mothers and their children. This is an opportunity to invest in lives to break the chains of dysfunction and spiritual barrenness that are so prevalent in our society. This is a mission with an eternal goal! You will be provided a 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom furnished apartment. There is also an opportunity for a part-time compensated office job. If you feel the Spirit tugging at your heart, call 239-541-4312 or 239-699-2597 for more information.

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how Jesus answered the lawyer’s question of “who is my neighbor” in the familiar account of the Good Samaritan. Bearing in mind the context of other scriptures, it seems probable that the two men had reason to be somewhat prejudiced against each other, “for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans.” The Samaritan could easily have justified himself in passing by the unfortunate man just as the priest and the Levite did earlier. Instead, he put aside any selfish motives and simply “…went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him.”

Our motive for relieving others of their burdens should always be that of genuine love. It is not for us to determine their intentions or decide whether we think they deserve it or not. Jesus reminds us that when we bear one another’s burdens out of sincere love, we are doing the same to Him. “And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.”

We look to Christ as the supreme example of bearing our burdens when we certainly did not deserve it, “Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.” His desire is to help all of us for our eternal good, “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Endnotes
1 Galatians 6:2
2 Galatians 6:2
3 2 Corinthians 8:12-15
4 Numbers 11:11
5 Numbers 11:17
6 James 1:27
7 Job 31:15-20
8 Isaiah 58:6-7
9 Acts 9:36
10 Matthew 11:5
11 Acts 4:32-37
12 Acts 11:28-30
13 John 4:9
14 Luke 10:34
15 Matthew 25:40
16 Isaiah 53:4
17 Matthew 11:28-30
We can read the accounts throughout the chapters here. We can see the Spirit of God was able to work in Elisha. It didn’t stop there. Thanks be to God as we can see the Spirit of God continue to work throughout the years of time, through the generations of time. Just this morning we read the account of the lineage of Christ. There were fourteen generations from this point in time to that point in time to the carrying away of Babel to David and then to Christ. So there were many generations of men, but yet we see even though the faith and the trust and the believing of God were tried over the years of time, yet it did not die out. There were those that did carry it on up until the point of Christ when then salvation entered the world. We can have this new living hope through Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

We know we can read the Bible from cover to cover. It all points to Christ, does it not? From the prophets, from the very beginning of time, when God said He would send One that would bruise the head of the serpent and His heel would be bruised. From the beginning of time throughout the entire Old Testament, those prophets that prophesied, each and every one of those prophesies came into fulfillment exactly how they said it would. So God’s Word is true. It’s inerrant from the beginning of time until this very day and moment. It’s the truth that will sustain us, that will help us, that will set us free from doom, from damnation, from sin.

So we read here of this account in Ephesians of this process of what we must go through if we do want to be saved, if we want to inherit a home in heaven. God has been true and faithful to this calling throughout the ages of time, even down through the corridors of time. There were dark times throughout the New Testament. We know when Jesus left this earth He gave that great commission to the disciples, then the establishment of the church. Yet we know there was a great persecution on the church. There were severe trials, and the church was tested during those times.

Yet because of God’s faithfulness to those who trusted in Him, It spread. It spread as a wildfire throughout Europe and eventually came to the United States by those faithful brethren who we’re so thankful for. We can read the accounts of history, and we certainly have an appreciation for those who were willing to stay true unto their calling. So we’re the beneficiaries today.

They spoke the same message that we speak today, that we hear today - salvation is through Jesus Christ and Him crucified, redemption can be found through Him, and then by trusting in Him we can receive grace to live overcoming lives. We know we can read in the book of Revelation that heaven will be for those who are overcomers. So there must be some effort on our part, not as the world commonly teaches that you just have to accept Christ and you can receive salvation. We know it has to go further than that.

First of all, it has to start with believing that He is. We have to believe Jesus Christ’s blood that was shed there on the cross is sufficient to wipe away our sins. Sometimes the question comes up, how can my sins be forgiven? I have such an evil heart. There was so much sin in my life. How can a God in heaven that is so big and so righteous forgive me of my sins? We have to believe it, and we have to step forth in faith into those living waters that Jesus Christ offers. It’s for all. It’s not for just a certain group of people, but all who will come humbly, who will come with a broken and contrite spirit, He surely will pardon and cleanse and relieve the burden of sin from our life.

“And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;” (v.1) Made alive! There was a death that those trespasses and sins in our life caused so there had to be
a death, a mortification of the sin in our life. We know it could be accomplished because of what Jesus did for us. Those sins could be thrown in the sea of forgetfulness, removed from us as far as the east is from the west. I’m sure you’ve had that explained before. Sometimes we just don’t think about it. How far is the east from the west? When we go around the globe, it’s forever, isn’t it not? We can say north and south. We go north, and then we start going south. But the east from the west is so far and that’s the far reaching love of God that He has for you and me. He is willing to forgive us. He’s willing to accept us as His children if we believe in Him, if we let Christ work within us. The old man and those trespasses and sins can be mortified. We can come forth as a new creature in Christ.

“Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:” (v.2) We were very well acquainted with Satan. I believe we knew who he was. We had no control over our life. He controlled our life. He drew us one pathway into sin and another pathway into sin even though we did not like it. Perhaps some of us tried to change our lives without the power of God. We tried to change because we knew it was not right. There was something instilled within us that said I’m not walking right. I’m not pleasing God in my life. What was the difference when we tried to do it on our own and when we surrendered it all to God? We were able to make progress. We were able to be successful in overcoming those things that we could not overcome.

I can remember it well in my own life. I wanted to do better. I knew I wasn’t walking right. I would start praying. I would start reading the Bible, but then I would continue to walk that pathway because there was sin in my life. I wasn’t able to overcome it because I did not have the power of God in my life, the power of Christ, the redemptive power that allows us to overcome sin.

So we were acquainted with the devil. I believe when we totally surrendered, when we went out to the cross, when we saw the open side of our Saviour and the blood flowing from His side through those eyes of faith, that we believed. We could go back 2,000 years and look to the cross and see Jesus suspended there between heaven and earth and the terrible torture He was going through, the physical torture, but much greater than that, the sin load that He carried there. It was your sin, it was my sin that He carried there on the cross. He bore that sin to the point that God who is a righteous God could not deal with sin. He had to look away from Jesus. He caused a darkness to come upon the earth. Yet we know, we can read there in Isaiah that He was satisfied with the sacrifice, the unblemished Lamb, the perfect sacrifice of Jesus there upon the cross (Isaiah 53:11).

Do we really fully grasp and comprehend the great price He paid for us? He was willing. He was in heaven. He could have said, ‘Father, it’s too much of a price to pay.’ But He didn’t. Not only because He loved the Father and wanted to do the Father’s will, but He looked down upon the earth. He looked through the corridors of time from the beginning of time to this very day and moment. He saw the human family upon the earth - helpless, wandering, struggling, and lost in these trespasses and sins. He said, ‘Father I will go. I will pay the sacrifice. I will pay the price.’

I hope we have a daily appreciation for what Jesus did for us. When we were lost in those trespasses and sins, how did we feel? That burden, the weight of sin separated us from God. There was no satisfaction. There was no happiness in life. The pleasures of sin for a season, they did not bring that lasting peace and joy and happiness that we’ve — Please turn to pg. 68
— Continued from pg. 67

found in Christ Jesus.

When we surrendered to Him, all of a sudden there was a new purpose in life. Then we were acquainted with the enemy. We really became acquainted with the enemy when we surrendered our all to Him. Then he came at us even as he came after the Lord when He was here upon this earth to try to cause Him not to go to cross, to give it up, to trust in him, to follow him, to allow Satan to become His god. But thanks be to God that His focus was upon doing the Father’s will. He did not waiver at all from the path, from the plan of salvation that God had laid out that would be available to mankind.

Let us then have that same desire even though Satan would come and assault us and cast his fiery darts at us. We face persecution, we face physical things in life that would cause the body to start failing, perhaps when we reach an older age of life, but it doesn’t necessarily have to be. We face these crosses here upon this earth, but when they come, may there be a more fervent trust in God, more fervent prayer that God would help us through these trials so we could deal with it, and we could remain true and faithful unto Him.

It spoke of the lust of the flesh, the desires of the flesh and of the mind. How Satan wants us to go back there! He wants this nature to come alive again in our life, but we mortified it, we nailed it to the cross, we buried it in the baptismal waters and arose symbolically as a new creature in Christ to no longer have that desire.

I can remember back to my repentance. I was so sick of the things of this world that I was so glad to put them behind. I can say even though I, too, have this nature and sometimes there are these temptations out there, I have no desire to go back to that old life, to that old world that is on a crash course. It’s going to burn. It’s going to be destroyed. But the riches we can find in Christ Jesus, the joy, the pleasure in life and God’s goodness that He provides for us in our life are a continual blessing that we receive from Him. It’s so wonderful.

It’s a message, it’s a story, it’s an account that I hope each and every one of us can tell others that there are true riches in serving Christ. Yes, there has to be those sacrifices made, but it’s with joy that we’re willing to make those sacrifices in life. Perhaps we will be held back a little bit from what the world would say is stature, is gain, is pride in the world that it presents. We don’t desire that glory. We want all glory to go to God. For this may we serve God each and every day that it would not be pointing to any man but be pointing others to Christ so they too could have this fullness and this joy that we have found in serving Him.

“And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:” (v.6) The faithfulness of God. Aren’t we thankful? I believe if we could sit down and write on a piece of paper all the blessings of God, all those things that He has given us, that we have received of God and being able to sit together in heavenly places, even as we are in the morning hour.

We believe God has come, and He’s visiting us through His Spirit. He’s speaking to us through His precious Word that brings us such joy and happiness. We can have that throughout our entire life no matter where we are at. We can have those heavenly places in Christ Jesus by the Holy Spirit being a part of our life, by Him going with us, guiding, directing our lives, comforting, admonishing us when we need to be admonished to change our life. This is the God of love. So may we ever observe, listen, respond to the call of God whether He’s calling us to repentance or He’s calling us to make changes in our life that He can form us and mold us as a potter would form the clay on the potter’s wheel - that clay would be pliable, would be moldable so we can be fit vessels for Him, so we could be
pleasing unto our Father in heaven. “That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.” (v.7) I believe that it’s been shown throughout the ages of time and yet we have the wonderful opportunity to show it today - the grace of Jesus Christ that can sustain the believer, the child of God into living an overcoming life.

We read through these next few verses here. We know that grace is received and our salvation is through Jesus Christ. “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.” (v.8) I don’t believe there is anyone here that would say I can earn my salvation. I can do enough works in my life. I can do enough things that I can earn salvation. I don’t believe there is anyone here who believes that. But it took that humbling, it took that walking out to Calvary, that old rugged cross of Jesus Christ where we found our salvation.

Yet we know it does not stop there because when we become this new creature in Christ, when we love Him, when we are obedient unto Him then those actions take place in our life - to become a child of God, to become a worker in the vineyard of the Lord, to be ready to be responsive to the call of God when He says do this or do that even as He told the prophets of old, Elijah and Elisha. Are we obedient unto that calling? When He says do this, are we willing to do it? We know that’s not the way the nature works. We’re not always so willing, but we want to. So let’s pray for help and strength day by day that we would be fit workers in the vineyard of the Lord.

“Not of works, lest any man should boast.” (v.9) So it’s not the works that will save us, but they are so important in fulfilling the call of the Christian and the believer in this world today. God has placed us here to be lights and examples. Jesus was so clear on that so that others could be drawn to Him, not that we can give anyone salvation or obtain it of our own works, but He wants us to be true to our calling.

“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.” (v.10) Doesn’t it just happen? When we are obedient to the Word, when we come to Him humbly, looking to Him to direct our lives, and we want to be totally submitted to Him, those works will just naturally come forth, the works of God through our life, the fruit will come forth, the fruits He has asked us to bear. We can read of the fruit of the Spirit that He asked us to have in our life (Galatians 5:22-23).

Aren’t we so thankful for God’s faithfulness, for His love to us, that He can help us, that we can be ambassadors for Him as we’re here upon this earth?

“For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:” (v.14-16) So that’s the message today, the same message we have heard across this pulpit and the pulpits of our Apostolic Christian churches as long as I can remember and way before that. It’s Jesus Christ and Him crucified. He has brought that peace.

We have seen it in the lives of those that come to Him in true repentance. Then they go through the process of repentance, allow God to change their heart, and then He speaks that true peace, the peace that the world does not know. It’s so precious to us. May we maintain it as we go forward in life and pray that others could find the wonderful peace of Jesus Christ, the hope of eternal life that He does give to all those who obey, who will follow and serve Him.
Having arrived in America in 1848 to establish the second church of our denomination in America, it was in 1855 that he received word that there were persons in the Rittman, OH area who were interested in their souls’ welfare. Rittman was 140 miles north of Sardis, so this was no small matter to consider. The main mode of transportation was walking. So he set out on this journey which took five days. From this initial visit to the Rittman area, his preaching resulted in souls responding affirmatively to the doctrine of repentance. A congregation was formed near Rittman, and many years later at Smithville. The vigor and zeal in the heart of Isaac Gehring (empowered by the Lord) yielded much fruit, and is a good example for us today.

This dear brother made many trips on foot from Sardis to Rittman. In 1892, when he was growing older, he wrote a letter to a family in Wayne County, OH. He made reference to those long walks to the Rittman area: “Last year I had faint hope that I could visit you dear ones, but this hope soon faded; my leg got worse all the time, beside other ailments. Thirty-five, thirty-six, thirty-seven years ago, I used to walk when there were no trains. The Lord gave me strength, and I am glad I did so.”

He further remarked, “I was young and could walk good, but now I am like an old horse which at any time might break down. But if I can only receive a house not made with hands from God eternally, which from all my heart I wish for myself and all the true and for all the faithful.”

-by Perry Klopfenstein

Source: Taken from "Marching To Zion" and from research files and personal interviews garnered to write this church history.
Are We Willing?

Jesus said, “He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me.” John 14:21. The question I’m facing is, “Am I willing to keep His commandments or would I rather not think about it?” It may be that we should think about it now instead of waiting until later, with regrets.

Jesus said, “If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.” Luke 9:23. Are we joyfully anticipating what we might give up for Christ, and what we might do which goes against the flesh, but which brings glory to Christ? The danger is that we do what our flesh enjoys doing and we spend the rest of our time, besides our vocation, for Christ, although there may not be much time left. We tell ourselves, “After all, we’re saved by grace you know.”

John wrote, “He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.” 1 John 2:6. I say with a loud voice that I abide in Christ. I pray every day and I read the Bible every day and I abide in Him. But do I walk as He walked? One thing is clear about the life Christ lived here on earth, His fleshly will was out of the picture. In Gethsemane, Christ said, “Not my will, but thine be done.” This is in spite of what my salvation cost Christ. But we are apt to say, “We’re saved by grace you know. I don’t know what’s wrong with these people who are trying to earn their salvation by all the things they do or don’t do.” Maybe we better think again about how the Bible teaches us to be after we repent and are converted, and saved by grace. It seems to me that the standards are very high.

Paul wrote, “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.” Romans 12:1. If someone admonishes us about how we treat our bodies, or adorn it, we are apt to say, “It’s my body and I’ll do with it as I wish.” But we may be wrong in saying that. The Bible informs us, “What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price.” 1 Cor. 6:19,20. The Bible teaches us that Christ has bought us and paid for us with His own blood. Maybe I better not be so sure I’m my own boss.

After Christ arose from the grave, He said to His disciples, “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations.” We are apt to say that that was for the disciples, not for us. However, we accept the blessings Christ promised His disciples, such as, “In my house are many mansions.” John 14:2. If the blessings are for us, are not also the responsibilities? Maybe we should do something to help share the Gospel.

After telling the story of the Good Samaritan, Christ told a certain lawyer, “Go ye therefore, and do thou likewise.” Luke 10:37. We are apt to say, “But I don’t know the man. The government should take care of people like that. The police can help him. I have my hands full with my own business. I’ll pray for him.”

John wrote, “He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.” 1 John 2:6.
And I thank God for the lighthouse,
I owe my life to Him.
For Jesus is the lighthouse
And from the rocks of sin;
He has shone a light around me
That I could clearly see,
If it wasn't for the lighthouse
Tell me where would this ship be.

by Ronnie Hinson